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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 7, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Robert Wright, Chairman
- Andrew Bassich
- Eva Burk
- Linda Evans
- Amanda Pope
- Dorothy Shockley
- Donald Woodruff

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/7/2024)

(On record)

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. We're going to call this meeting to order at 1:45. If we can have a roll call, please. Who's going to do that today? You? Council Coordinator, could you handle that for us or Don can do it. Thank you, Don.

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start at the top of the list. Sue Entsminger.

(No response)

MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, are you online?

MS. MCDAVID: Sue is unable to attend today. Thank you.

MR. WOODRUFF: Amanda Pope.

(No response)

MR. WOODRUFF: Amanda, are you online?

(No response)

MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans.

MS. EVANS: Present. Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Eva Burk.

MS. BURK: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Wright.

MR. WRIGHT: Here.

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1 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

2

3 (No response)

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Dorothy Shockley.

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Here.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: And I'm here, Don
10 Woodruff.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

13

14 Mr. Chair, we have a quorum.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I wanted to add that
17 Charlie had to leave a little early for some things he
18 had to do that were important just so people know.
19 We're going to start off with welcome and
20 introductions. Start with Don, please, or we could
21 start with you. Go ahead, Don.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 This is Don Woodruff from Eagle.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Good afternoon, everyone.
27 My name is Brooke McDavid and I'm the Council
28 Coordinator for the Eastern Interior RAC and I'll be
29 the designated Federal officer for this meeting. Thank
30 you.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Andy Bassich from the Eagle area.

34

35 MS. SHOCKLEY: Hi. Dorothy Shockley
36 from Manley Hot Springs in Fairbanks.

37

38 MS. EVANS: Linda Evans from
39 Rampart/North Pole.

40

41 MS. BURK: Eva Burk from Nenana and
42 Manley Hot Springs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Charlie Wright,
45 Rampart. At this time if anybody wants to introduce
46 theirself in the crowd you can come do so. Come up to
47 the mic so we can have it on record if you would.
48 Otherwise we'll continue on with the meeting.

49

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1 MR. VICKERS: Good afternoon. This is
2 Brent Vickers from the Office of Subsistence
3 Management. I'll be representing the leadership team
4 for Office of Subsistence Management. For the sake of
5 time let me just introduce others who are from Office
6 of Subsistence Management. Cory Graham is fisheries
7 biologist. Brian Ubelaker is wildlife biologist. Tom
8 Plank, another wildlife biologist, will be coming in at
9 some point. They're swapping off between Council
10 meetings right now. Liz Williams as the cultural
11 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
12 Management. I believe that's all we have here right
13 now.

14
15 Thank you very much.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Would anybody else
18 like to come and introduce theirselves. You may at
19 this time.

20
21 MR. RANSBURY: Good afternoon,
22 everybody. My name is Shane Ransbury. I work for U.S.
23 Fish and Wildlife Service under Holly Carroll as a fish
24 biologist.

25
26 MS. COHEN: Good afternoon to the
27 Council. My name is Amber Cohen, Wrangell-St. Elias
28 National Park and Preserve. I work as the cultural
29 anthropologist. Also here in the room is Benjamin
30 Pister, who is our team lead for resource stewardship
31 and science.

32
33 MR. DOWDLE: Good afternoon. I'm Mark
34 Dowdle with the National Park Service, Superintendent
35 of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates
36 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. On his way,
37 I don't believe he's here yet, but biologist Matthew
38 Sorum will be with us this afternoon as well. Thank
39 you.

40
41 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon. My name is
42 Jill Klein. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
43 Service and I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator
44 and also the Interagency Staff Committee member for the
45 Service. I'll be here for about an hour in person and
46 then I'll transition to listen online. Thank you.

47
48 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon. Amy
49 Craver with Denali National Park and Preserve. I'm the
50

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1 Subsistence Coordinator and Cultural Anthropologist.
2 Thanks.

3

4 MS. KOSBRUK: Good afternoon. Deanna
5 Kosbruk. I'm with Ahtna Intertribal Resource
6 Commission. I'm the regulatory specialist and THPO
7 project coordinator. Thank you.

8

9 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
10 name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief
11 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mahalo.

12

13 MS. CANFIELD: Good afternoon,
14 everyone. My name is Gabe Canfield. I work for the
15 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association as the
16 policy coordinator. I'll be here for about an hour and
17 a half until I head over to the youth subsistence
18 session at 3:30 in the other room. Thank you for
19 having me.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Anybody else want to
22 come up? If not, we'll give a chance to anybody online
23 that wants to introduce theirselves.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes, go ahead. I
28 hear you.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
31 Cellarius. I'm the subsistence coordinator for
32 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Thank
33 you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead if there's
36 anybody else.

37

38 MR. HERRIGES: Good afternoon. I'm Jim
39 Herriges. I'm a wildlife biologist with the Eastern
40 Interior.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, we'll
43 continue on.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I
46 believe Jim Herriges was introducing himself. It's
47 really difficult to hear you, Jim. Real faint.

48

49 MR. HERRIGES: Okay, thank you.

50

0006

1 MS. MAGNUSSEN: I'll jump in. Good
2 afternoon. I'm Emily Magnussen, the Assistant Refuge
3 Manager with Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Anybody else online
6 please feel.....

7
8 MR. HERRON: I'll jump in here.
9 Good.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

12
13 MR. HERRON: Can you hear me?

14
15 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes. Go ahead.

16
17 MR. HERRON: Good afternoon. My name
18 is Keith Herron. I'm Assistant Fisheries Manager on
19 the Yukon River and I'm also the tribe liaison for
20 fisheries. I'm just listening in.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. Anybody
23 else?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. We're
28 going to move on with the agenda. Council Coordinator,
29 do you have any meeting announcements?

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Just a couple brief announcements. First, welcome
33 again to everyone that's joined us both in the room
34 here in Anchorage on Dena'ina lands and those joining
35 us virtually online. We are having a hybrid meeting
36 today. Hopefully the IT hiccups have been worked out.
37 We ask for your patience if there are any additional
38 issues that arise with that.

39
40 A reminder to folks in the room.
41 Please sign in on the back table if you haven't done so
42 yet, especially if you didn't come up and introduce
43 yourself. That way we just have a record of folks that
44 attended the meeting.

45
46 I did want to let folks know there will
47 be an opportunity for public comment today. The
48 Council always welcomes and invites that. If you'd
49 like to comment on an agenda item or non-agenda item,
50

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1 there are little blue cards on the back table. You can
2 just write your name. If there is a certain agenda
3 item you want to comment on, you can put that topic on
4 the card and I'll give those to the Chair so he can
5 call on you when that item comes up.

6
7 The public comment opportunity for
8 non-agenda items today is going to be after the action
9 items on the Council's agenda. Typically we do that
10 first after Council member reports, but because we have
11 a really compressed meeting today, we have a half-day
12 meeting when we typically have two or more day
13 meetings, we do have to be cognizant of time and the
14 Council is required to get through their action items
15 before they can adjourn. So I just wanted to make you
16 aware of that.

17
18 If you are online and you would like to
19 give a public comment on any of the items on the agenda
20 or during the public comment period, if you're using
21 Teams you can use the raise hand function or put a note
22 in the chat. We'll be paying attention to that. It
23 doesn't look like we have anyone that's joined via the
24 phone, but you can press *5 on the phone to raise your
25 hand if you'd like to give a comment. If we do have
26 anyone joined by phone, I'll repeat that later.

27
28 We have a full agenda to get to today
29 in a short amount of time, so just a reminder to
30 everyone to be cognizant of that. We don't want to cut
31 off an important discussion. I just want to keep that
32 in the forefront of our minds. Charlie is not afraid,
33 if he needs to, to ask you to speed it up a little bit,
34 which he's probably wanting me to do right now.

35
36 With that, just a reminder to be
37 respectful. We welcome discussion on all these items.
38 They're all really important. We thank you all for
39 being here.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Brooke.
44 So at this time we can review and adopt the agenda. If
45 there's anything that people see on there they want to
46 talk about or changes or anything to add, now is the
47 time. We will review at this time.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yesterday at
50

0008

1 our All-Council meeting there were a number of bullet
2 points that were identified as possible letters to be
3 written. I'm just wondering if we're going to be
4 addressing those and where those would go on the
5 agenda.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Andy. We have
10 an item, the first thing under other business, to
11 follow up on any Joint Council action items. If you
12 would like to move that up to another point in your
13 agenda, you could choose to do that. It's currently
14 12(a).

15
16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Do you want to add
17 that there, Andy?

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yes. Sorry, I didn't
20 know I needed to respond. I just wanted to identify
21 that that would be on the agenda and confirm that.
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: I'll just ask this
27 question to the Council. Do you want that -- because
28 right now it's not under Item 10, which is action
29 items. Do you want that to be under your -- to move up
30 before public comments or is it okay where it's at?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I think it might be
33 good to move it up before public comments. That way
34 people can hear it and maybe have comments about it
35 further down the line. Thank you.

36
37 Can I ask you all if there's any other
38 changes you want to make to the agenda.

39
40 MS. SHOCKLEY: So do we need to make a
41 motion to add the letters to the agenda?

42
43 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: You can just add them
44 and then it will just be one motion at the end when you
45 guys make a motion to approve the agenda.

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Even if we move
48 it up from the public comment, right?

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yeah.

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I just want to
4 make sure too that we have (d)(I) and the National
5 Standards for the Magnuson Act on those as well.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Dorothy.
8 Anything else?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: If nothing else, then
13 we can entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll make the motion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any question? We can
22 ask for unanimous decision on this. All those in favor
23 say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any against.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. Passes
32 unanimously. Moving on. We are now to election of
33 officers. Thank you.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
36 in your Charter and per FACA every year in our winter
37 meetings we elect officers that will serve for the year
38 for the meeting. I will be running that for the Chair
39 seat and then we will turn it over to the new Chair to
40 do the Vice Chair and the Secretary elections.

41

42 Anyone can nominate anyone else on the
43 Council to serve in any of the seats. There doesn't
44 need to be a motion. There doesn't need to be a
45 second. It's up to you all if you are okay doing an
46 oral roll call vote or if you want to do like a ballot
47 on a piece of paper for voting.

48

49 Just for the record and so folks online

50

0010

1 know, Sue Entsminger has been the Chair of this Council
2 for many years and she has decided that she's ready for
3 a retirement role. She is going to remain on the
4 Council, but she has requested that she step down as
5 Chair. If anyone nominates her, she has decided to
6 decline that. Thank you. Also, anyone else that
7 wishes to decline a nomination you're able to do so.

8

9

Thanks.

10

11

12

13

14

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd like to
nominate Charlie Wright as our Chair for the Eastern
Interior RAC.

15

16

17

MS. MCDAVID: Any other nominations for
anyone else.

18

19

(No comments)

20

21

MR. BASSICH: Do we need a motion to
close and then vote?

22

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

MR. BASSICH: No, okay.

27

28

29

MS. MCDAVID: All those in favor of
Charlie Wright as Chair please say aye.

30

31

IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33

34

MS. MCDAVID: Okay. We have unanimous
consent. Congratulations, Mr. Chair.

35

36

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38

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you all for
your vote of confidence. I appreciate it. We'll open
the floor at this time for nominations for Vice Chair.
Go ahead.

39

40

41

MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to nominate
Eva Burk.

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any other nominations
at this time.

45

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

50

MS. MCDAVID: I'm sorry to interrupt,
Mr. Chair. It looks like Council Member Amanda Pope

0011

1 has joined us online. Amanda, can you hear us?

2

3 MS. POPE: Yes, I can.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Please let the record
6 reflect that Amanda has joined us. Amanda, I'm sorry I
7 wasn't aware of when you joined, but we have moved on.
8 We're on election of officers, on Vice Chair, and Eva
9 Burk has been nominated. If you would like to nominate
10 anyone else as Vice Chair you may do so at this time.

11

12 MS. POPE: I don't have any

13 nominations.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Amanda.
16 Can you introduce yourself for the record and the
17 people online and in the room, please.

18

19 MS. POPE: Yes, Mr. Chair. My name is
20 Amanda Pope. I am from Circle and I'm a Board member
21 for this Board.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you so much.
24 We're still on Vice Chair. Eva Burk has been
25 nominated. If there's no other nominations at this
26 time, I will ask for unanimous consent. All those in
27 favor please say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So moved.
34 Congratulations. Moving on to Secretary. Do we have
35 any nominations for Secretary. Please.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I'd
38 like to nominate Donald Woodruff as our Secretary for
39 the Eastern Interior RAC.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any other nominations
42 at this time for Secretary of the Eastern Interior RAC.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. I
47 would also like to ask for unanimous consent on this
48 vote. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

49

50

0012

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those against
4 same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none.
9 Congratulations, Don.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you for your
14 continued service. Appreciate you so much.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: It's been a pleasure.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: At this time we want
19 to review and approve previous meeting minutes.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: For the Council members'
22 awareness, those minutes begin on Page 5 in your
23 Eastern Interior meeting books.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd like to
28 make a motion that we adopt the minutes as presented to
29 us in our booklet.

30

31 MS. EVANS: Linda Evans. I'll second
32 the motion.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Linda.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
37 unless otherwise stated by another Council member, I've
38 read the minutes and feel that they are complete and
39 accurate and would like to enter them into the record,
40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. I'd like
43 to entertain a motion to accept the minutes from the
44 last meeting, please.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, we do have a
47 motion on the floor by Andy and a second by Linda.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Oh, excuse me.

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: You could entertain the
2 question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I'll ask for question
5 at this time. Sorry for the confusion.

6
7 MS. EVANS: Question.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The question has been
10 called. I'll ask for unanimous consent on the motion
11 on the floor. All those in favor signify by saying
12 aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 (No opposing votes)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So moved. Moving on
19 to reports. We'll start with Donald, please.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Welcome, everyone. It's a pleasure to see all these
23 shiny faces today. For my Council report I would like
24 to focus on a Federal subsistence meeting that I had
25 with the Park Service in Eagle.

26
27 As the result of that meeting we had
28 two action items that I thought the Council would be
29 interested in and one was a Special Action Request by
30 the Staff of Park Service to close sheep in
31 Yukon-Charley south of the Yukon, just as it was done
32 last year because there's still a tremendous loss in
33 the sheep population in that area. Seventy-nine
34 percent decrease in the last survey, 2022.

35
36 The other action item that resulted
37 from that meeting was the need for development of an
38 Eastern Interior sheep management plan that we do not
39 have now. I talked with the wildlife biologist that's
40 going to be here today and we talked a little bit about
41 using the template from the Western Interior Sheep
42 Management Plan that they just developed to help us so
43 that we don't have to start from zero.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Amanda, do you have a
48 report for us, please?

49
50

0014

1 MS. MCDAVID: Amanda, if you can hear
2 us, you're muted.

3
4 MS. POPE: No, I don't.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you.
7 Even something short and sweet would be really nice,
8 Amanda. You have to give us something, please. Thank
9 you.

10
11 MS. POPE: I'm not sure what you're
12 asking. I don't have the agenda in front of me.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: It's just a simple
15 report of what you're seeing in your area. Just a
16 Council Member report of any concerns in your area,
17 marten trapping, beaver trapping, what you're seeing.
18 Just something simple from your area, please, if you
19 can.

20
21 MS. POPE: Oh, yeah. I have spoke to a
22 lot of folks and they have expressed a lot of interest
23 to find resources and tools to help build their
24 capacity, their ability to have their own data and to
25 have a way to be involved more with hunting and fishing
26 resources and management of the resources that we have.

27
28 I also have personally noticed there's
29 dramatically declined numbers of moose and caribou and
30 all of the life cycles of the animals are really down.
31 It's a really big concern not only for myself but for
32 the people of the area.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Is that all you have
35 today, Amanda?

36
37 MS. POPE: Yes, sir.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you so much for
40 that report. It's so important to hear from you and I
41 appreciate your time. Thank you.

42
43 I'll move on to Andy Bassich.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 have a number of items, but I'll be very brief on them.
49 I'll touch on some of them during some of our other
50

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1 discussions.

2

3

4 I wanted to report moose populations in
5 my area are extremely low. I've basically mushed over
6 1,500 miles this year and I've seen two moose tracks
7 and no moose, no living moose. So that greatly
8 concerns me.

8

9

10 Moving on to fish. Again, no fall
11 chum, which is vital to my lifestyle and many people in
12 Eagle. No king salmon. I believe we're on year number
13 four for that. I spend a great deal of time in the
14 summertime trying to mitigate those loss of salmon with
15 non-salmon species. I've been working to try and
16 develop methods and means for harvesting non-salmon
17 without impacting salmon. I've had limited success.

17

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I will report that it is possible to
kind of feed yourself in the summer with non-salmon
fish, but it's virtually impossible in our region of
the river to put up fish. The abundance isn't there.
So that's a great concern. And continue to work on
fisheries issues is my highest priority.

Yukon River Panel. I'm the co-Chair of
the Communications Committee. We've had some very good
successes with the communications and outreach in the
form of the Educational Exchange and we're developing
plans and ideas for the upcoming meeting to formalize
that into the future.

I'm trying to push more engagement of
youth and culture camps. I believe that's kind of the
future of our fisheries and we need to begin to move
and develop those plans cohesively on the Alaska side
Yukon River.

About a week ago or so I attended the
ABON meeting in Fairbanks. That's the Arctic Beaver
Observation Network. A fascinating network. I learned
a tremendous amount from scientists all around the
Arctic Region and also from scientists down in the
Lower 48. The reason I went to that is because of the
impacts of beavers moving north due to climate change
and primarily on salmon and salmon spawning habitat,
but it's also impacting many other aspects of people's
lives.

It was really interesting for me

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1 because in my region I always look at beaver as a very
2 sustainable, very reliable resource and probably going
3 to be one of the resources that we're going to have to
4 depend on for food security into the future. However,
5 in other regions, such as Western Alaska, Inuvik,
6 Nunavut, and over into Norway they're being seen as a
7 nuisance and a real obstruction to subsistence
8 lifestyles there.

9

10 So it was interesting to see the
11 differences. What I'm realizing is that we live in a
12 really hungry country, compared to most other people,
13 here in the Eastern Interior Region. So that really
14 kind of solidified that reality to me when I hear of
15 all the different resources that people have that they
16 can move to in lieu of salmon. If one species dies
17 off, they have other resources.

18

19 Here in the Eastern Interior we
20 oftentimes don't have that abundance. So I just wanted
21 to report that to the Board because I think that's a
22 very important factor in dealing with the Eastern
23 Interior region and our options.

24

25 Then finally I just want to report in
26 this entire winter I've seen one caribou. After that
27 caribou left I saw no tracks, no other caribou. So I
28 think it's very critical that we pull the Forty-Mile
29 Coalition back together, that we have a meeting to work
30 on management plans and try and figure out what we can
31 do.

32

33 In my region, in Eagle, we rely about
34 70 percent on salmon and then the vast majority of us
35 rely on the caribou as our second form of protein.
36 Moose populations are fairly low. Although it's a part
37 of our food uses in the area, it's always been very
38 low. So caribou and salmon are two of the most
39 critical subsistence resources for the Eagle area and I
40 believe also in Circle and they're not available. So I
41 wanted to report that to the Board.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's my report.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Dorothy Shockley.

46

47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Hi. Thank you. Well,
48 as I mentioned earlier in our All-Council meeting is
49 that because of regulations I can't feed myself.

50

0017

1 That's fisheries, moose. So looking at the State to
2 adapt hunting and possibly fishing according to climate
3 change, whether that's moving their moose season
4 hunting season later in the season and looking at our
5 fisheries as well.

6
7 I attended another wood bison meeting
8 and when I reported earlier at our meeting in October
9 in Arctic Village we had this great plan. The villages
10 and the State were going to make a plan that -- you
11 know, where we all are equally involved in whatever
12 decisions are made with the wood bison. In the interim
13 the governor directed the Department that he wanted
14 wood bison on the land by the summer.

15
16 So instead of trying to figure out work
17 together it was kind of a scramble to decide where
18 would be the best area. He wants it in the eastern
19 part of the refuge around Minto, but we're hoping to --
20 we all got together and thought, well, south of the
21 Tanana River would probably be best. So that's kind of
22 what we're looking at or we're asking, which is really
23 unfortunate. After everybody put their comments in
24 that was probably the best area.

25
26 Like I say, I'm very concerned about
27 food security, culture. I think everything that we
28 talked about. I hope that we can make some changes in
29 regards to the process so that we can become more
30 effective in making changes. I was here at an
31 All-Council meeting in 2016 and looked at my notes.
32 Unfortunately, we're talking about the same things
33 still.

34
35 I hope we can make some progress and
36 look forward to that.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead, Linda,
41 please.

42
43 MS. EVANS: Linda Evans, Rampart. I
44 did go to a bison meeting. I believe it was in
45 October. I don't remember the date, but sometime this
46 winter. Our elder who's passed, Paul Williams, was
47 there and he talked about the need for everybody to
48 work together, you know, because we have no fish,
49 because we have no -- our Native foods are being
50

0018

1 depleted or they're not rebounding like they used to.
2 We really need to figure out how to preserve our
3 subsistence way of life and our culture for our younger
4 generations.

5

6 That really resounded with me because I
7 can remember growing up in fish camp in Manley, at the
8 mouth of Manley Slough with my father, my mother and my
9 grandmother. Grandmother would always talk about you
10 have to take care of this food, you know. You have to
11 take care of your animals. You have to treat them with
12 respect so we'll have them for the future generations.
13 I don't know. Somewhere along the line we lost track
14 of that, I think.

15

16 I think what I'm really concerned about
17 is the way we treat our Yukon River, pollution. You
18 know, we don't take care of our land. It's affecting
19 us now. In Rampart I went around and looked for
20 berries. No berries. You know, I used to feed the
21 birds all the time in Rampart. No birds, you know.
22 Going down traveling around on the river, there used to
23 be ducks and geese and stuff like that. There's not
24 anymore.

25

26 I agree with Dorothy. We need to work
27 on something concrete, you know. Year after year we
28 talk about the same things. This is no more, this is
29 no more. We need to make a plan on how to replenish
30 those stocks, you know. I just got done going to a
31 salmon workshop a while ago. At the end of it the
32 presenter said that we need to take care of the habitat
33 and I believe that's what my grandmother was talking
34 about. Taking care of the habitat, taking care of the
35 resources.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you, Linda. Go
40 ahead, Eva. Are you ready?

41

42 MS. BURK: Yeah. I was going to talk
43 about the bison a little bit too. I think this
44 environment and this All-RAC meeting has been a lot
45 different from what we see in other spaces. Really
46 like in the state of Alaska. I'm thinking about the
47 bison. They said why are you upset and it's because
48 when they first brought the idea they told us that we
49 would have a say in it. If we didn't want the bison in
50

0019

1 communities, they wouldn't bring them there. Well,
2 that's not the truth. This year they got the bison.

3
4 I just went and actually saw them up at
5 the large animal research station on Yankovich Road in
6 Fairbanks. I can't say that I rejected them when I saw
7 them. It was kind of cool to see them and to think
8 about what they might look like. I'm still concerned
9 about those bison having a chance because our moose --
10 we just lost 40 percent of our moose I think in Unit
11 20B. We lost 40 percent of our moose and it was
12 because of rain on snow creating a hardship for the
13 animals in the springtime or late winter months.

14
15 And then that same thing happened down
16 in Innoko to the bison. They say it had the same rain
17 on snow and they lost a bunch of their bison. I forget
18 what year they brought the bison into Innoko, but they
19 haven't had a hunt because the bison can't establish
20 themselves in climate change.

21
22 To me, if your habitat is not well,
23 your climate is not well or predictable, trying to do
24 things like have hatcheries or put more large animals
25 like bison on the landscape, that's probably not the
26 solution. So I don't know about the bison if they're
27 going to make it.

28
29 I don't agree with not working with the
30 people in the region and telling them that it's okay,
31 that they're going to have a voice and released
32 actually within about five miles from where my family
33 owns Native allotments on the mouth of the Kantishna
34 River. I'll be there this summer on the river in that
35 exact area, so I'll probably go over and see them.

36
37 We did have some people fishing this
38 fall for chum. We did a little bit in August,
39 whitefish, and then we also went to the Yukon and
40 fished with a 60-foot net and put up whitefish and had
41 a few incidental salmon. A good number of them
42 appeared to have ichthyophonous and were not good.

43
44 I think for me too also salmon
45 continues to be a priority. I am a little new to these
46 faces and catching up really quickly. So it's good
47 when Linda and Dorothy are like we've been talking
48 about this forever, what are we going to do. I think
49 yesterday we had some really good discussions about our
50

0020

1 asks and needs of Federal Subsistence Board and OSM to
2 support us and help us.

3

4 Right now salmon, the decisions that
5 are impacting salmon the most are happening in the
6 marine environment. There's a lot of hatchery fish, a
7 lot of chum and a lot of pink, and they're affecting
8 the habitat. There is a continuation to allow salmon
9 to be intercepted and to be caught as bycatch. Those
10 decision-making spaces are outside of this arena, but
11 we all need to be in all those spaces which takes an
12 incredible amount of time and an incredible amount of
13 resources.

14

15 I think yesterday we did have some good
16 discussions. I'm excited to see that in the letter. I
17 wonder about the beavers as well and are the beavers
18 creating salmon habitat in any way. Are the sockeye
19 going to move north. We heard this morning that
20 there's more sockeye in the Kusko than there has been.
21 So I wonder about maybe the beavers making some
22 habitat. I'm not sure, but it's a hypothesis.

23

24 I think we did see more little bugs and
25 we saw a lot of grouse, so maybe there's a new cycle
26 that's happening. I do the culture camp for the
27 community of Nenana and we have a lot of people from
28 Fairbanks come in and a lot of different tribal
29 members.

30

31 We fly in sockeye for that camp, which
32 I have mixed feelings about it, but the kids are really
33 excited. It gives them a lot of joy to work on the
34 fish. It is the favorite thing for them at culture
35 camp. So I'm of the mind that at least they're
36 touching fish and we're touching their hearts and
37 that's what we need to continue to do.

38

39 This year we were able to work with the
40 Herring Protectors out of Sitka who helped raise some
41 funds and got fish to culture camps other than Nenana,
42 so we got some to Minto, Tanana, Rampart, Nenana, as
43 well as Denakkanaaga: Elders Mentoring Elders Camp in
44 Fairbanks. People are kind of catching on to let's try
45 to work on salmon even though it's not idea. I'm
46 hoping that maybe there really will be sockeye one day.
47 I don't know. I really hope that, but I don't know if
48 that's crazy.

49

50

0021

1 Thanks.

2

3

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you all for
4 your reports. In my mind, in the Eastern Interior, in
5 my area especially, we're at a really huge tipping
6 point. We're losing our salmon, our moose, our
7 caribou. The bears are down. Those animals feed
8 bears. They don't live off just those animals, but
9 we're seeing the bigger bears eating the smaller bears.

10

11

We are kind of boxed in by the
12 highways. The amount of people coming into the area
13 it's just crazy. It looks like Kenai fisheries, the
14 trailers everywhere. Small villages of trailers. It's
15 just really hard on the whole system along those roads.

16

17

I have seen a lot of big changes in the
18 last 20, 30 years in my life and I'm not even close to
19 being an elder yet. I've seen things go from riches to
20 barely nothing. There's hardly any fur around my area.
21 I know that some parts of the Eastern Interior are kind
22 of fortunate to have a little bit more animals, but
23 it's not really looking good due to climate,
24 overhunting, disease.

25

26

I think we need to step back and really
27 assess the moose count and do a better moose count in
28 the Eastern Interior and a lot of places. They're not
29 doing the moose count with a visual, they're doing it
30 off of permits or hunt reports I would say. They need
31 to look at the amount of days it takes for a man to get
32 a moose or a woman. They're not doing that.

33

34

Twenty years ago it would take me one
35 or two days to find a moose because they were
36 everywhere like rabbits when they're thick. Now it
37 takes me almost the whole season. Lately I've missed
38 the -- I've not gotten a moose in a couple seasons.
39 That's never happened before in my lifetime. So a lot
40 of people are into the point where there's no other
41 means with nothing to eat.

42

43

This year was an especially cold
44 winter. People have to struggle and decide whether to
45 buy gas, fuel, wood, electricity, because everything
46 costs so much out in the Bush. Some communities don't
47 even have a store anymore or never had one. So things
48 are getting rough on people out there.

49

50

0022

1 I'd like to say a little bit about the
2 bison. It's a really good idea when you first hear
3 about it and then you figure out what the share is
4 going to be in the future. With the uncertainties, it
5 probably wouldn't be in my lifetime before we start
6 sharing any part of it, which would be a really small
7 percentage.

8
9 I think there'll be more to look at for
10 a while because of the uncertainties that are hitting
11 the other animals. I feel that the bison are going to
12 get them just the same. With the warming climate even
13 moose are falling through the ice. The bison have to
14 get used to lakes and rivers. Some of them are -- or
15 quite a few of them I understand are falling through
16 the ice and now we're seeing moose falling through the
17 ice in the Yukon River.

18
19 I saw a picture not very long ago of
20 eight moose in one place frozen in the ice. There's
21 bulls and cows and there was a herd of them trying to
22 cross the river and the ice wasn't thick enough and
23 they were in too big of a pile and they all fell in
24 together and half frozen and half sticking out of the
25 ice. It's really hard to see. So there's a lot of
26 uncertainties out there that need to start being
27 incorporated in management in my mind.

28
29 And the salmon. Salmon is the closest
30 to my heart. It's what raised me, my family, my
31 elders, past elders. I worry about the future
32 generations myself. Are they going to be able to
33 practice that tradition and be part of that being our
34 well-being. Mental, spiritual and physically. It's
35 just so hard to see everything dwindling and going
36 away. We have a big job in front of us.

37
38 I'm really happy about the letter that
39 was crafted yesterday and that's being sent forward to
40 the proper places. I think that was a big milestone
41 and I appreciate everybody that was part of that and
42 crafting that and putting it together.

43
44 Since we've got such a crammed agenda
45 today I'm going to cut myself short there. I really
46 appreciate all you guys's words. Ladies and gentlemen
47 I should say. We'll move forward with the agenda now.
48 Thank you.

49
50

0023

1 At this time we're on Action Item (a),
2 Deferred Wildlife Proposal WP24-34, Unit 25D West;
3 Recognize the customary and traditional use of moose by
4 residents of Circle and Fort Yukon. I'd like to say a
5 little bit that this was a proposal that was put in
6 after (whispered conversation). Okay.

7
8 So since WP24-35 was pulled and these
9 ones kind of went together I would like to entertain
10 the idea of pulling this one also so we could eliminate
11 the conflict between the communities up there that
12 these proposals -- they kind of caused a fight between
13 the villages and that's the last thing we want to do.
14 I think that it would be a really good idea, with you
15 guys's vote of course, to pull this one. The same as
16 the other one was so there's less conflict. I think
17 we'll try real hard going forward in the future to not
18 get ourselves put in this place.

19
20 If anybody else has anything to say
21 about it and can agree with pulling it, then go ahead
22 and say so now. I see Andy wants to say something. Go
23 ahead, Andy.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 I just wanted to know if you needed a motion to
27 officially remove that.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct. You
30 would need a motion to withdraw the proposal.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
33 I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior RAC
34 withdraw Proposal WP24-34 for consideration by the
35 Federal Subsistence Board.

36
37 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I
38 second the motion.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Speaking to
41 the motion, I'd just like to say that I'll reference
42 the comments made by the Chair prior to my motion in
43 regards to the reason for pulling this proposal because
44 it was co-aligned with another proposal that had been
45 removed. That's all. Thank you.

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll call for the
48 question.

49
50

0024

1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Anybody online or
2 anybody else want to say anything to this motion?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing nothing. I'm
7 going to ask for unanimous consent. All in favor of the
8 motion please signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All opposed same
13 sign.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, motion
18 passes. Thank you.

19
20 We'll move on to 10(b), wildlife
21 proposal to reconsider, WP24-32, Units 12, 19, 20, 21,
22 24 and 25, extend marten trapping season to March 15th.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
25 the reason this was brought back on our agenda is
26 because it came to our attention after the fall meeting
27 cycle. This was a crossover proposal because -- first
28 off, let me back up. This was a proposal that was put
29 in by our Council and it included units that also are
30 within the Western Interior Region. When it came
31 before the Western Interior Council they were opposed
32 to it.

33
34 So there is an opportunity if you would
35 like to modify this proposal before it goes to the
36 Federal Subsistence Board to potentially remove the
37 units that are in the Western Interior or even other
38 units within Eastern Interior to narrow it down. You
39 have the opportunity to do so now and Andy may wish to
40 speak to this a little bit more since it was initially
41 brought forth by him.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. If I may, Mr.
46 Chair. Just a procedural question. Do we need to get
47 an analysis or anything like that or because we've had
48 that before we don't need to address that right now?
49 We can speak right to the motion or right to the
50

0025

1 proposal? Sorry.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: You don't have to go
4 through all the procedures. If you wanted to ask if
5 there was any public comments or anything, you could
6 certainly do that.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 would like to speak to this. In reviewing this
10 proposal, initially when I made this proposal and
11 brought it before this RAC I was looking at Unit 20
12 only. The reason why I chose Unit 20 only is because
13 it's a very sparsely populated unit with very few
14 trappers going out there and utilizing it.

15

16 There are some concerns with trapping
17 marten in some people's views later in the season,
18 saying that they're a little less prime. I stated in
19 my motion that I am not seeing that due to the fact
20 that winters are protracting longer into the springtime
21 and I'm noticing that fur is staying prime -- marten
22 fur is staying prime longer. It was for an opportunity
23 for trappers that are out with -- trying to go after
24 lynx to also have the opportunity to catch an
25 additional marten or two.

26

27 I was a little concerned when I saw all
28 these other units added to it because I think trapping
29 pressures in those areas may be very different from
30 what we see in 20 and 20E, as far as the State area.
31 So I still think this is a very good proposal for
32 people to have additional opportunity without impacting
33 in a negative way marten in 20 and 20E. I would like
34 to see this moved forward.

35

36 I would like to maybe strike -- I'm
37 sorry. I'm going to need to have a little help on how
38 we would modify this, but essentially what I would like
39 to see is that this proposal go to the Federal
40 Subsistence Board with Unit 20 as the only unit to be
41 included, Mr. Chair.

42

43 So I need a little bit of help on how
44 we proceed for that.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: I can respond. So you
47 would need a motion to modify the proposal and then a
48 motion to support the proposal as modified. Also,
49 Andy, just for clarification, Unit 20 is pretty big, so
50

0026

1 you might want to get feedback from other Council
2 members. I know there was a little bit of concern
3 about some of the areas of 20 that are road accessible.
4 So if you even wanted to narrow it to certain subunits
5 of 20, you could certainly do that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Andy, I'd like to say
8 I did talk to some people from the other RACs and my
9 experience of living in multiple places in the Interior
10 along the river. It seems like right below Tanana
11 there's a split in the weather. Up from Tanana is
12 colder. Down from Tanana it gets more of the ocean
13 effect. It snows 16 to 30 inches in one night below
14 Tanana on down.

15
16 So they get that warmer weather. They
17 said that that's one thing that -- the reason why they
18 didn't want to support it down there or wanted to see
19 it. They were just fine with you doing it in your
20 area. I know that it's way colder in the mountains.

21
22 It's just crazy how the weather changes
23 at the mouth of the Tanana River. If you go up the
24 Yukon and the Tanana where they meet together, there's
25 a ridge up the middle. If I go over to the Tanana
26 River side, it's summertime and there's ducks flying
27 around. I go back down to Tanana and I go up the Yukon
28 20 miles and it's just wintertime. No water at all.

29
30 So there's different weather and I
31 support you talking for your area and wanting to redo
32 things there and make changes. So I just wanted to let
33 you know that.

34
35 Go ahead.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Brooke, what was the Western Interior's justification
39 for their refusal?

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: One moment. Let me see
42 if that's in our book. Okay, so on Page 70 of your
43 EIRAC meeting books the Western Interior recommendation
44 can be found and I'll go ahead and read it. The
45 Western Interior Council opposed WP24-32. The Council
46 members are concerned that within the Western Interior
47 region, marten fur is not good at that time of the year
48 and that more females end up being trapped as well.

49
50

0027

1 The population is stable but low, and
2 Council members feel the population couldn't withstand
3 any additional harvest. Additionally, if the fur is not
4 worth using or selling, then there should not be the
5 opportunity offered, even if trappers have been known
6 to self-limit their efforts.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 I'd like to make a motion to modify WP24-32 to be
12 proposed regulations for Unit 20E to be included and
13 25B as in bravo to be included in this motion only.

14

15 MS. SHOCKLEY: We're amending the
16 proposal, right?

17

18 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes.

19

20 MS. SHOCKLEY: So I second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Andy.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Speaking to the motion. I'm going to reference my
26 earlier comments. The reason why I included 25B is
27 there are no residents in 25B or very few residents.
28 There may be one or two. I'd have to go look at the
29 map again, but it's very, very sparsely populated.

30

31 The main point I want to make is that
32 there are very few trappers currently in 20E operating.
33 Literally less than a handful in our region in 20E and
34 25B that are still active and going out and trapping.
35 It's basically almost a weekend type thing for most
36 trappers now. I believe very strongly that given that
37 situation impacts to marten will be absolutely minimal.

38

39 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'll call for the
40 question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Does anybody have any
43 more discussion in the room or online on this proposal
44 modification?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. I will
49 at this time ask for unanimous decision in lieu of time

50

0028

1 and ask everybody that supports this to signify by
2 saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any opposed same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, moving
12 on. Thank you.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: I might need
15 clarification for Robert's Rules, if we need to
16 actually then vote on the proposal as modified. You
17 might want to just do it to be safe.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I
20 was just trying to speed things up, but obviously I
21 slowed it down.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
24 make a motion that we move forward Proposal WP24-32 as
25 amended by the Eastern RAC.

26
27 MS. SHOCKLEY: Second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The question has been
30 called. All those in favor of the modification of this
31 proposal -- do you guys want to have a roll call vote
32 or unanimous decision? I want to make sure I don't go
33 backwards here. Okay. I'll be asking for unanimous
34 decision. All those in favor of this motion please
35 signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any opposed.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. Moving
44 on. We're moving on to 10(c), Wildlife Special Action
45 Request WSA24-01 Dall Sheep.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I don't
48 believe we have a presentation on this from Staff.
49 Just this past week we did receive a request from Don
50

0029

1 to bring this up at this meeting and Don spoke a little
2 bit earlier about the reasons for him submitting a
3 Special Action Request. There was one submitted last
4 year. The reasons to have it again this year stand the
5 same as those last year. I'd ask Don if he would like
6 to say a few more words about that.

7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes. For some years
9 I've noticed that the sheep populations in our area,
10 especially in a walk-in hunt area only in Glacier
11 Mountain, of major sheep population decline. I
12 requested that the Federal Subsistence Board ask all
13 the agencies to increase their cooperation amongst
14 themselves for more surveys because it's unconscionable
15 to deplete a population through harvest if the
16 population is in decline or in total failure.

17
18 The Park Service and Fish and Game
19 obviously worked together and did these surveys and
20 they found out that there was a huge decline that they
21 hadn't seen since 2018. Well, they didn't know and now
22 they know. Seventy-eight, seventy-nine percent failure
23 in the sheep population, which is critical.

24
25 So Park Service staff asked me to
26 submit the SAR, Special Action Request, through the RAC
27 rather than through them doing it again, over again
28 like they did last year. I agreed that that would be a
29 positive thing and that it would have a very powerful
30 voice if it went through the RAC rather than it came
31 from me personally.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Don. Just to
36 follow up on that and explain the process a little bit
37 more. So the Special Action has been validated by OSM
38 and it will go to the Federal Subsistence Board. There
39 will be a public hearing for folks that can call in and
40 comment. That has yet to be scheduled since it was
41 just received this past week. Because it was validated
42 before the EIRAC meeting you all have the opportunity
43 to discuss and provide a recommendation to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board if you support the closure for that
45 Dall sheep population again.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

50

0030

1 MR. BASSICH: Sorry. Is there
2 information on that in our booklet or anywhere that we
3 can review? Is that something we're going to discuss
4 right now? I'm just a little bit lost here.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: There has not yet been an
7 analysis completed because just the timeline right
8 before the meeting. You were presented the analysis
9 last year at your winter meeting for the same action
10 that Don is requesting again. I know that's a long
11 time ago and hard to remember. We do have some
12 wildlife staff in the room that might be able to speak
13 to any questions you might have. Sorry I don't have
14 more information for you.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: I can respond to that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Andy, I can
21 respond to that. Maybe we can ask Mark, the
22 superintendent, to step forward and I'll speak a little
23 bit about that.

24

25 MR. DOWDLE: Through the Chair. This
26 is Mark Dowdle. I'm the Superintendent of
27 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. With me is
28 Mathew Sorum, a biologist with us as well.

29

30 Just a little background. Do you want
31 to just give a brief update on the most recent survey?

32

33 MR. SORUM: Sure.

34

35 MR. DOWDLE: That might be a good place
36 to start.

37

38 MR. SORUM: So, yes, we were able to
39 conduct the survey this summer 2023 and we found that
40 there was a 78 percent decline in sheep populations
41 from the long-term average. The sheep in Yukon-Charley
42 hover around 3-350 sheep and it's kind of the core area
43 within the broader region of Glacier Mountain, Mt.
44 Harper and West Point area. So that's like the major
45 population and then those outer populations are about
46 75 to 100 sheep.

47

48 Within our area, and actually those are
49 the adjacent sheep areas, they all declined by 75

50

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1 percent or more. So it's more than just in
2 Yukon-Charley we're seeing it, but I was just kind of
3 speaking Yukon-Charley. I guess maybe just going
4 forward we have plans of doing future surveys.

5
6 MR. DOWDLE: Based on those surveys in
7 August of last year the Federal Subsistence Board
8 approved Wildlife Special Action 23-05 to close the
9 sheep season to all users in Yukon-Charley Rivers
10 National Preserve within Units 25E and 25C from August
11 10th to September 20th. That's essentially the lands
12 south of the Yukon River and Yukon-Charley Rivers
13 National Preserve.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry. I misspoke
16 earlier. This actually didn't come before your Council
17 to vote on it at a previous meeting because it was an
18 emergency special action they did these surveys and
19 realized, oh, my gosh, yeah, we can't hunt this
20 population this year. So the action was taken prior to
21 your meeting last fall.

22
23 I just wanted to correct that for the
24 record.

25
26 Thanks.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you very much
29 for coming up and giving us that information. We
30 appreciate it. Any questions from the Council or
31 anybody online?

32
33 MS. SHOCKLEY: The special action is
34 what?

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Could I get Wildlife
37 staff to please -- thank you.

38
39 MR. UBELAKER: For the record, Brian
40 Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with OSM. I believe the
41 request is to close Federal public lands in the area to
42 any and all sheep hunting for this coming year, for
43 2024.

44
45 MS. MCDAVID: I can look it up, but
46 it's a small area that's within Yukon-Charley and the
47 other parts of 20E that are on Federal lands if I'm
48 correct. If that can just be added in their minutes.
49 I'm sorry. The biologist who is in charge of this
50

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1 particular special action is in another meeting right
2 now. So if you guys don't get the clarification you
3 need -- go ahead.

4

5 MR. VICKERS: Can you repeat what the
6 specific -- I just pulled up the request. What was the
7 specific question?

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: What units this applies
10 to and I believe Tom had given Don a call to clarify.
11 It's supposed to be the same units as last year.

12

13 MR. VICKERS: Yes. This is Brent
14 Vickers for Office of Subsistence Management for the
15 record. I just opened up the request that I received
16 and it's to close Unit 20E sheep to all hunters on
17 Federal lands, which is the Yukon-Charley. So that's
18 just 20E and all hunters.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, a question for Park
23 Service. The area around the upper Tatonduk region
24 there, part of that is in -- I guess that would be 25B.
25 So is that also going to be closed, only Yukon-Charley
26 proper?

27

28 MR. SORUM: Only Yukon-Charley from
29 what -- north of -- south of the river. South of the
30 Yukon. Not north of the Yukon.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: I guess maybe a follow up
33 is how come you're not addressing that area up in the
34 upper Tatonduk region? That's still within Park
35 Service lands, is it not?

36

37 MR. SORUM: Correct. Yeah.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: And those populations are
40 healthy enough?

41

42 MR. SORUM: So we surveyed the
43 Ogilvies. That's the Ogilvie Range.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Right.

46

47 MR. SORUM: And we saw a 34 percent
48 decline, so it wasn't the 75 percent decline that we
49 saw. It's also on the edge of a much broader

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1 population that's in Canada and we partially think that
2 the population is influenced by immigration/emigration
3 out of Canada. So we didn't feel like the declines
4 were as great or we didn't observe the declines to be
5 as great in that area.

6

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Maybe one
9 more follow up. How close are you going to be watching
10 this? You know, a 24 percent decline is also fairly
11 significant and we know the sheep are doing very poorly
12 all throughout the Interior of Alaska. So I'm just
13 curious how you're going to monitor that in the future
14 so that this could be expanded if that population
15 declines.

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MR. SORUM: Yes. So we put a proposal
together and we just were supported or got an abundance
of surveys in '26, '27 and '28. So we'll be surveying
those three years and monitoring. Then hopefully that
will give us information -- to help provide information
to reopen or maintain the closure.

MS. SHOCKLEY: My question is we're
going to continue to close 20E, right? I mean is 25B
open as well?

MR. SORUM: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So right now it's
open.

MR. SORUM: Yeah.

MS. SHOCKLEY: And we're just closing
20E.

MR. SORUM: Correct.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So can we --
Council close that as well or is that something you do?

MR. SORUM: Were you saying 25C?

MS. SHOCKLEY: No.

MR. SORUM: Okay. Well, I'll just
clarify too that 25 -- we also lands in Yukon-Charley
south of 25C as well because just a small portion of
that area we survey and there's sheep, so we said all

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1 lands south of the Yukon River in 25C, which is like
2 the Cold Creek region, Woodchopper Region, then also
3 20E. Ours was the only Federal land within
4 Yukon-Charley south of the Yukon.

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. That's all you
7 have jurisdiction over.

8

9 MR. SORUM: Correct. Yeah.

10

11 MR. DOWDLE: Well, additional to your
12 question, I think a portion of Yukon-Charley Rivers
13 National Preserve north of the Yukon Rivers in 25B.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Point of clarification
16 also. You're making this recommendation for the
17 Yukon-Charley Preserve. Glacier Peaks also has BLM
18 land. Is that going to be affected by a Federal
19 closure or are you just talking about within the
20 Preserve boundaries?

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: I believe the request
23 was only for Park Service managed lands, not BLM lands.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Then that begs
26 the question are the -- Don referred to the fact that
27 Glacier Peaks was also showing a reduced amount of
28 sheet. Is that also accurate? Was that surveyed, do
29 we know? Quite frankly from my experience living in
30 Eagle that's probably the most accessible, most hunted
31 area by people within the state. It's much harder to
32 get across the river. It's fly-in only into the
33 Ogilvie Range and Glacier Peaks is one of the few
34 places you can actually walk in for a sheep hunt or go
35 in by horseback.

36

37 So I'm just curious if the populations
38 were surveyed there and what the status of that is
39 because if that's BLM land there and this is on Federal
40 lands, I'm not sure how jurisdictions work, but it
41 would make sense to close that down until populations
42 are improved. Just a suggestion. I don't know the
43 extent of the surveys, but that would be my
44 recommendation as a Council member to protect that.

45

46 MR. SORUM: I can provide some
47 information. So BLM funds the survey and works with
48 Alaska Fish and Game out of Tok to do the Glacier
49 Mountain survey and they've done that for the last 15,
50

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1 20 years annually. So normally the population is at 70
2 to 100 and right now it's 12. There's 12 sheep. I
3 think the last there was no full-curl rams. There was
4 one ram in the population.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: So following up on that
7 line of thought, that confirms what I was suspicious
8 of. Would it be prudent then for the Special Action
9 Request to also close the area within Glacier Mountain
10 on Federal lands? I know the State probably won't want
11 to, but we're asking for the Federal program to protect
12 our resources.

13
14 MR. UBELAKER: I believe that the
15 requester can ask for an amendment or change it and the
16 analyst will probably reach out to contact to clarify
17 everything that's requested. I believe -- anybody
18 correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe that with the
19 discussion today any input that's going in that changes
20 like that can be considered and wrapped into the new
21 analysis.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Charlie. My
24 point of clarification is OSM called me on the phone
25 and asked me did I mean 20E and 25B and 25C or whatever
26 and I said I want the SAR, Special Action Request, to
27 reflect last year's Special Action Request. I never
28 heard from BLM if they were concerned about the sheep
29 in Glacier Mountain, but I certainly am. That's all I
30 got.

31
32 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Andy. I just
33 wanted to jump in and say as a Council you can make
34 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board to
35 modify this to include other Federally managed lands if
36 you feel that is important. Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that
41 clarification. Thank you for your information. Based
42 on the information and testimony by biologist from
43 Yukon-Charley and OSM I would like to extend the
44 Special Action Request for sheep in Yukon-Charley to
45 also be expanded to Glacier Peaks hunting area, which
46 is BLM land.

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

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1 MS. MCDAVID: In what unit?

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MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion, that would then -- in Unit 20E that would expand not only from Yukon-Charley, which is primarily in 20E, the BLM lands in 20E known as Glacier Mountain, which is a very popular walk-in sheep hunting area. That would afford protection in that area based upon the low sheep counts in the most recent surveys.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, I don't know, do you want justifications for this other than what I did?

MS. MCDAVID: Well, what I just heard is you suggested a motion to modify the Special Action Request WSA24-01 to include the BLM land within Unit 20E in the Glacier Mountain Region. We would need a second, please.

MR. WOODRUFF: I think that this is a smart choice to modify this proposal. I was hoping that maybe BLM would contact us or be present for this meeting. If they are, I would like to have them speak up.

But just as a caveat, I was in the hospital. I got Covid and I was admitted to the hospital overnight. My attending physician said he walked into Glacier Mountain two years ago with his wife and harvested two sheep. You know, in my stunned and sort of demented state I asked him, well, how many sheep did you see and he wouldn't answer me and he walked out of the room. I'm sure if he saw 20 or 30 sheep he would have bragged about it. So I don't think he saw many and he took the two he wanted.

Thank you.

And that's a second if you need one.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I hear that BLM is on the line. Do we need to finish out our motion first or do we let them speak first?

MS. MCDAVID: It sounds like you might want to hear what they have to say as part of your discussion.

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1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. BLM, if you're
2 on the line, you have the floor, please.

3
4 MR. HERRIGES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 This is Jim Herriges. Can you hear me okay?

6
7 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: If you could speak a
8 little louder, please. It's a little muffled.

9
10 MR. HERRIGES: Okay. How about this?

11
12 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: That's better.

13
14 MR. HERRIGES: Okay. I just want to
15 point out -- I agree that there's a similar decline in
16 Glacier Mountain sheep that's concerning and it's
17 similar in magnitude to what's happening in
18 Yukon-Charley, but one complicating factor that you
19 should consider is that only a minority of the lands
20 around Glacier Mountain are BLM, Federal, subsistence
21 lands. The rest I believe are -- well, I'm not sure.
22 I believe they're mostly State lands. There may be
23 some Doyon lands there as well. That is something to
24 consider in implementing regulations is how that would
25 work to have a small piece of lands closed with most of
26 the area open.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy Bassich.
29 Thank you, Jim. I appreciate that. Mr. Chair,
30 speaking to the motion, recognizing that BLM lands do
31 not comprise the entire area, I still feel this is an
32 appropriate modification for protection of sheep. I
33 think having BLM lands posted as closed will also help
34 to deter hunters from putting the arduous work into
35 going and hunting them in that region. My hope is that
36 the State will also align with this Special Action
37 Request due to the fact that it is purely biological
38 and it makes sense.

39
40 So those are my thoughts and comments
41 on this motion, Mr. Chair.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Any more comments?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The question has been
2 called. Can we restate that motion, please.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: There's been a request to
5 restate the motion. The motion is to modify Wildlife
6 Special Action request 24-01 to close the harvest of
7 Dall sheep in.....

8
9 MR. BASSICH: I'm just going to help
10 the coordinator. I'm much more familiar with those
11 lands. It's in my backyard. So the Special Action
12 Request is to close the lands within Yukon-Charley for
13 Dall sheep in 20E within Yukon-Charley Preserve and to
14 also close off BLM lands in 20E in the Glacier Mountain
15 sheep hunting area. Walk-in sheep hunting area.

16
17 I hope that helps to clarify.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: I think there was a small
22 portion of 25C south of the Yukon also just for the
23 record. Okay. I'm getting thumbs up. Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Can we do it one more
26 time?

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I can try again.
29 So modify WSA24-01 which requests to close Dall sheep
30 hunting to all users in Yukon-Charley in Units 25C and
31 20E, to also include a closure on BLM lands in 20E in
32 the Glacier Mountain region. That's all south of the
33 Yukon.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. The question
36 has been called. I'm going to ask for unanimous
37 consent if that's okay with everybody. All those in
38 favor of this modification please signify by saying
39 aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those opposed
44 same sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. Motion
49 passes. Thank you, everybody.

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1 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie, I've got a
2 procedure question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Charlie. To
7 prevent having to put in SARs every time, can we work
8 on a proposal for the next cycle or do we have to wait
9 for a wildlife cycle?

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: You can work on a
12 proposal at any time, but you wouldn't be able to put
13 that proposal in until the call for proposals comes
14 out. So there's not a particular advantage to doing it
15 right now, but at your next winter meeting this time
16 next year would be the perfect time to put that in.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I agree. You have
19 time to craft it the way you want, so you have some
20 time. Thank you.

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Charlie.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: One more procedural
25 thing. We do now need a vote on the amended to support
26 WSA24-01 as amended. Thank you. So we made the
27 amendment, but now we have to adopt -- not adopt. We
28 don't adopt. The Board is the only people that adopts.
29 We have to support the amended.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Yes. Support the
34 amended Special Action Request should be the motion.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 I'd be happy to make a motion to support the Special
38 Action Request 24-01 in regards to Dall sheep hunting
39 area closures.

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: As modified.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Excuse me. Thank you.
44 As modified.

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Just speaking to the
49 motion, I'll reference all the previous discussion on
50

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1 the Special Action Request. Thank you.

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MR. UBELAKER: You can also -- sorry. Brian Ubelaker for the record. If you're concerned about this in the future and wanting to put in a proposal to close this outside of the Special Action timeframe, you can also request to extend this until the next regulatory cycle for the next two years rather than just this season.

MS. MCDAVID: So you could withdraw your second and make another amendment. Don, could you withdraw?

MR. WOODRUFF: I could withdraw my second. Thank you.

MR. BASSICH: As the proposer of the action, I'd like to modify the action to extend the Special Action Request 24-01 until the next regulatory season. Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Cycle.

MR. BASSICH: Cycle.

MS. MCDAVID: Let's restate that in the form of a motion.

MR. BASSICH: For the record I would like to modify my motion for the Special Action Request 24-01 to extend the closure until the next regulatory cycle in 2000 and.....

MS. MCDAVID: Through 2025.

MR. UBELAKER: It would start in -- yes, through 2025. The next regulatory cycle would start in 2026. So, yes, 2024, 2025.

MR. BASSICH: For the periods of 2024 and 2025. Thank you.

MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

MR. BASSICH: Again, all the previous commentary on this topic. Thank you.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Question.

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1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. The question
2 has been called on the motion on the floor. So we'll
3 ask for unanimous consent. All those in favor of the
4 modified motion please signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those opposed
9 same sign.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, motion
14 passes. Thank you.

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: I think Don could
17 reinstate his second for the other motion, which was to
18 adopt WSA24-01 as modified.

19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Yes.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair, I call the
23 question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. As
26 modified again, I'll ask for unanimous consent on the
27 modified motion again. All those in favor please
28 signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those opposed
33 same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, passes
38 unanimously. Thank you. Now we move on to 10(d).
39 Thank you all for coming up and talking. I really
40 appreciate you and your time. Review and approval
41 FY2023 annual report.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Council members, I'll
44 direct you to Page 73 of your Eastern Interior meeting
45 books.

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair, I have a
48 question.

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0042

1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY: On the Annual Report's
4 background it says the Secretaries delegated this
5 responsibility to the Board. So it's a little bit
6 confusing, I think, for me when it says -- in the next
7 paragraph. The Board is required to discuss and reply
8 to each issue in every Annual Report and to take
9 action.

10

11 MS. BURK: What page are you reading
12 from?

13

14 MS. SHOCKLEY: That's 71. It says the
15 Annual Report background. It's like, you know, we
16 write the letter to the Secretaries, right, and then
17 they give it back to the Board. It goes to the Board,
18 then goes to the Secretaries, then it goes back to the
19 Board and the Board takes action within the Board's
20 authority.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: What's the question?
23 You want to know if that's true?

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry. I was
26 multitasking. Dorothy, I can try to respond and then
27 we might need leadership to jump in. I believe that
28 the Secretary has delegated that authority to the
29 Board, so that means that the Board is basically in
30 charge of reviewing and replying and taking action on
31 your Annual Reports. They go to the Board. I'm not
32 sure that they go to the Secretary because she's
33 delegated that to the Board.

34

35 MS. SHOCKLEY: I just wanted to clarify
36 that.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: I'm going to ask for some
39 support here, please.

40

41 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers,
42 Office of Subsistence Management. I was doing
43 something about that Wildlife Special Action that just
44 passed. From my understanding you are asking -- or
45 from what you read, the Council report -- sorry, lack
46 of better words -- is going to the Board or does it go
47 to the Secretary of Interior. Is that the question?

48

49 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, but also I guess my

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0043

1 ultimate question is who actually takes action.

2

3

4 MR. VICKERS: Takes action on the
5 Annual Report. What kind of action are you talking
6 about? Because the Annual Reports include a lot of
7 things. You know, quite often they ask for the Board
8 to take action, they ask to write a letter to the
9 Secretary, they ask for just comments. I'm trying to
10 get a better idea of what exact action you're talking
11 about. Hopefully that makes sense.

11

12

13 MS. SHOCKLEY: From what I understand
14 the Annual Report is our asks on action, on what we
15 want to have done, because that's our only avenue of
16 taking action. Correct? So when I read this it was
17 like, okay, we write -- well, I don't know. Writing to
18 the Board, write to the Secretary or some things are
19 going to the Secretaries. And then they delegate the
20 responsibilities to the Board. So I mean -- I mean the
21 Board is ultimately responsible for taking action for
22 all of our asks, correct?

22

23

24 MR. VICKERS: So my understanding --
25 and I'm going to get clarification on this. I'll be
26 honest. I wasn't prepared to respond to these
27 questions right now. The Board takes actions or tries
28 to take actions at the very least on those things for
29 which it can take action. Those things within its
30 jurisdiction. It sees what it can do.

30

31

32 Basically tells the agencies that it
33 affects BLM, Fish and Wildlife, what you are requesting
34 and tries to get feedback and respond to you with what
35 they were able to do with it. It quite often will say
36 this is something that lies outside of our
37 jurisdiction. Here's what steps we think you can take
38 to do this. So ultimately, yes, it's the Board who is
39 given the responsibility of responding and acting on
40 your behalf.

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I have a question,
43 Dorothy. Is there another question in your question?
44 Don't be shy.

44

45

46 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, the way it's
47 written it's just really confusing in regards to the
48 background. I mean -- I don't know. As we get into the
49 report I think it might be more clear as to who
50 actually takes -- who's being addressed and who takes

50

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1 action or the action we're requiring.

2

3

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Andy.

4

5

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I think I understand what Dorothy is getting at here and I think from my interpretation, correct me, but she's wondering exactly what these actions are that the Federal Board is going to do and are they actionable items, like meaningful actions by the Federal Subsistence Board or are they informational.

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I think it's kind of a combination of both in areas where they have the ability to affect a change. They will take action, such as a proposal, game proposal or whatever, and then in other areas it's oftentimes informational like the Fisheries Monitoring Program or something like that.

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So the reply is not always an action. Sometimes if they can make actions through proposals or management decisions, they can do that, but oftentimes a lot of what's in our report ends up being informational needs to help us guide them. Hopefully that clarifies or summarizes it fairly well.

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MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, OSM. I think that summarized very well. The Board does what it can. There's a lot of things -- and I'm not speaking specifically to this Council. There's a lot of things in the Annual Report that are just outside of what the Board can do and there's a lot of things, as Member Bassich said, that are good -- keeps the Board updated on information from that region; climate change kind of stuff, changes that you want the Board to be cognizant of. But, yes, things that only really what it can act on a proposal or write a letter to the Secretary on your behalf or something like that that it actually has some capacity to do.

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MR. BASSICH: I'm just filling in on that. I think what's really important for Council members to understand is that for the Federal Board to take action we need to build a record for them, whether it's through our traditional knowledge and/or data collection. It takes both oftentimes to make meaningful actions at that level.

So oftentimes in our Annual Report we

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1 are asking for data to be collected or information to
2 be collected that then builds a record to allow them to
3 make decisions and take actions. But all those things
4 have to happen in unison for them to be able to take
5 action without litigation coming by afterwards.
6 Hopefully that summarizes it a little bit and clarifies
7 it a little bit.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. I think we
10 were on the Annual Report at this time. So that's what
11 we'll go back to and review and approve the Annual
12 Report. Council Coordinator.

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Charlie. This is
15 the Annual Report that I drafted based on your all's
16 comments at the fall EIRAC meeting in Arctic Village.
17 We went through the Board's replies to last year's
18 Annual Report and you all did express some frustrations
19 about the lack of actions. So we resubmitted almost
20 all of the same topics this year and did try to get a
21 little more specific about the actions or information
22 that you would like the Board to take.

23

24 We did also decide to write a couple of
25 letters at the last meeting because for some items --
26 and this is a good example, Dorothy. Like you all had
27 brought up the issue of cabin use for subsistence on
28 Federal public lands, specifically BLM lands, and you
29 wrote about that to the Board and the Board let you
30 know that they don't have jurisdiction. BLM said that
31 they didn't have a system in place to allow for the use
32 of cabins for subsistence.

33

34 So you all decided to write a letter to
35 the Alaska BLM Director requesting that they give you
36 information on how you could change that so that you
37 could implement a system. We have not yet got a
38 response to that, but we did hear on the first day --
39 the BLM Director, Steve Cohen, was on that panel of
40 Board members and he did reference that cabin issue.
41 So that made me hopeful that they heard you or he heard
42 you and that there might be some discussions happening
43 that we just haven't heard yet.

44

45 At this meeting, as you know, it's very
46 compressed and we didn't have time on the agenda to
47 invite all the agencies to give reports, but I'm sure
48 that at our fall meeting they would -- we could invite
49 them to come and discuss that further with us. So

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1 that's just one example.

2

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4 At this time for this action item on
5 our agenda we could go through each topic if you guys
6 want to make any edits or additional asks of the Board
7 so that we could get this final draft submitted. How
8 it works is after you all submit your final draft of
9 your Annual Report in the summer, the Board holds a
10 work session and they go over all the Annual Reports of
11 all the Councils.

11

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13 That is a really good time if you can
14 attend that meeting or call in to provide more feedback
15 and let the Board know just how important some of these
16 issues are and be on the record specific at the Board
17 meeting about what your asks are. In the past there
18 hasn't been a lot of participation by Council members
19 during those meeting, so that's something that we could
20 change. Thanks.

20

21

22 So I don't know if it would be helpful
23 if we just ran through each topic item real quick.
24 I'll just read the topic and if there's any discussion
25 from the Council about edits or additions to that topic
26 you'd like to see. The first one is about sheep
27 population declines and the need for coordinated survey
28 efforts.

27

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: I can speak to that, Mr.
30 Chairman. Thank you. I think this is a real
31 opportunity to put this in our annual letter to show
32 that co-management is working and that more
33 co-management would work better. That's where I think
34 we're at.

34

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: We could also let the
37 Board know that you did support that Special Action
38 that you just voted on and Don had brought up earlier
39 about the need for an Eastern Interior sheep management
40 plan. If that's an addition you would like to add to
41 this topic, we just need you guys to say that on the
42 record.

42

43

44 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I would like
45 added to -- I'm not sure exactly where. Maybe the last
46 paragraph. But to use local knowledge as well.

46

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48 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm a little fuzzy, but
49 I think what Brooke said was very positive and we

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1 should put that in there. Thank you.

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MS. MCDAVID: So currently we just had referenced that you all were aware of the WIRAC's sheep management suggestions, but it sounds like you would also like to see something similar for Eastern Interior, so we can make that addition. Thanks.

Any more discussion on sheep?

(No comments)

MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Next topic, Fortymile Caribou.

MS. SHOCKLEY: On the first sentence it says the Council remains concerned about management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd or are we just concerned about the Fortymile Caribou Herd? Do we want to leave that management in or out?

MR. BASSICH: In.

MS. SHOCKLEY: In? Okay. And then on the third paragraph I think it says more conservative harvest strategy. I think that's too general. the Council recommends that a more conservative harvest strategy be implemented in the immediate future. So do we want to put a number in there? I mean is that.....

MR. BASSICH: So our Council has actually two members on the Fortymile Coalition Planning Team, Don Woodruff and myself. Don represents the RAC and I represent the Eagle AC. That body is what makes recommendations to management on harvest and all aspects of the Fortymile Herd basically.

So I think what we are asking for -- it's been two years, I believe, since we've had a meeting, so we're asking very strongly through our AC, we can reiterate that here, that that Fortymile Coalition group meet given the population declines and the trends in the Fortymile Herd so that we can hopefully make some adjustment.

I think this is good wording and I think the only thing we have to make sure that OSM is aware of and the Federal Subsistence Board is aware of is that we really need that coalition meeting to

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1 happen. If they can apply any pressure or help that to
2 come to fruition, that's going to be very important for
3 that herd and our management.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Andy. We do
6 include in paragraph two we request an update on when
7 the coalition will meet. That might be a very delayed
8 update if we wait for the Board to respond to this. We
9 do have Jim HERRIGES online and he might be able to
10 give us an update from BLM.

11

12 Jim, if you're listening online and
13 able to respond, the Eastern Interior Council is
14 interested to know if there are plans to have a
15 Fortymile Caribou Coalition meeting this year. Thank
16 you.

17

18 MR. HERRIGES: Hi. Yes, this is Jim
19 HERRIGES. I have not heard of any plans to get a
20 meeting pulled together. That is something that Fish
21 and Game has always organized. Yes, it's been a couple
22 years. It seems worthy of setting one up, but I can
23 reach out to my cohorts there and get an answer for
24 that.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that, Jim.
27 I was just wondering if you could please try and
28 emphasize in your discussion with Fish and Game that
29 this is a very strong request. I'm talking
30 unofficially with a number of people in the Tok region
31 as well and they are also seeking the same thing. We
32 need some pressure applied to make sure that the State
33 of Alaska, ADF&G initiates that process as soon as
34 possible.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. HERRIGES: I can say that in
39 discussions with biologists there when they were
40 putting together plans for this year they were
41 considering trying to minimize cow harvest and allow a
42 large enough bull harvest to provide harvest
43 opportunities, but also not so large as to affect
44 negatively the bull:cow ratios. To keep the bull:cow
45 ratios in a good zone. That I think you could say is
46 kind of their management strategy.

47

48 They did allow cow harvest in the
49 winter hunt, but expected that that would not be more
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1 than 50 cows. So the harvest has become more
2 conservative, but there is still some cow harvest and
3 there's still a considerable bull harvest.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you. I can
6 give you a little update on the coalition's function.
7 It's a multi-agency coalition. We have the Canadian
8 government, Canadian tribes, the home ACs, which would
9 be Delta and Tok and Eagle and those ACs. Southcentral
10 is part of the Harvest Coalition, but they do not have
11 a vote.

12

13 So we talked to Fish and Game at one of
14 our AC meetings and they said the Canadians are not
15 going to come to a Harvest Coalition meeting. So that
16 totally holds us hostage for any progress in the
17 future. The Harvest Management Plan expired in 2023,
18 but I think Fish and Game still have a few tools in the
19 toolbox.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Charlie. I
22 would like to get on the record that the Fortymile
23 Coalition was formed by the stakeholders within the
24 Fortymile Caribou Region and it was formed for the
25 reason that it was identified as such an important part
26 of cultural food security for people in that region
27 that they wanted their input in management directly.
28 They wanted to work with the State and Federal agencies
29 and the Canadians, all stakeholders.

30

31 So it's very imperative that the onus
32 of management for the Fortymile Caribou Herd is not
33 purely for ADF&G. It is for the stakeholders and that
34 is that process and that is that process that has been
35 touted as being one of the more successful programs for
36 management in the past within the state of Alaska and
37 they're failing to continue that process and involving
38 stakeholders and that's what we're asking for.

39

40 It's a critical food source and it's
41 affecting our region very dramatically with the lack of
42 caribou. There are many of us who feel that management
43 has not been doing a good job with their management
44 decisions and we're losing a lot of confidence in their
45 ability to manage that herd. So we want our input into
46 that discussion on management.

47

48 Thank you.

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1 MS. BURK: Andy, didn't they just do a
2 drawing hunt on that, ADF&G, on the Fortymile this
3 winter? There was an application due.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, my understanding
6 was they -- this is a perfect example. The reason why
7 they did a draw hunt is the area where the caribou are
8 hanging out they recognized that it's road access and
9 that they would not be able to control the harvest. So
10 they opened it up for a draw permit to still continue
11 to allow harvest even though the herd is declining and
12 they don't have a full handle on the declines and the
13 long-term impacts.

14
15 So it's another perfect example of
16 opening up harvest in an area to allow harvest to
17 happen for people that -- just because of caribou
18 location. So they closed the region originally,
19 recognizing they couldn't control the harvest and then
20 they opened it up again hoping to still allow some
21 harvest yet the herd is still in decline. They don't
22 know quickly it's going to decline.

23
24 They can't answer questions for us on
25 what numbers they feel is stable enough to have a
26 long-term sustainable harvest. These are all questions
27 that the Fortymile Coalition stakeholders need to
28 address with the agencies to formalize a long-term
29 sustainable resource for people in our region.

30
31 In regards to the Canadians not coming,
32 that's their purview. If they want to come, they are
33 more than welcome and they're an important part of it.
34 If they choose not to come, still we need to make those
35 decisions on that herd and the management strategies
36 moving forward.

37
38 We need a subsistence users sustainable
39 -- long-term sustainable access to the resource. We
40 cannot have these up and down. This year you get it,
41 next year you don't. That does not work for
42 subsistence. I've said that for 22 years on this
43 meeting, in this platform at every single meeting, so
44 I'm going to state it again now. That is the
45 fundamental killer for subsistence, not to have a
46 sustainable resource to harvest. It does not work when
47 you have this boom/bust cycling.

48
49 Thank you.

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1 MS. BURK: Andy, they said the hunt was
2 because of collisions. Is there actual data on
3 collisions with caribou and traffic up there?

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Well, you know, I think
6 it's -- if you look at the long-term history of the
7 Fortymile Herd, both the Steese Highway where there's
8 road access and the Taylor Highway are the areas where
9 they've -- they try to be very cautious, but there have
10 been multiple years documented where they have no
11 control over the harvest because it is not a draw
12 permit. They cannot control the amount of hunters in
13 there. It's high-density hunting that takes place.
14 The only thing they can control is time.

15
16 Oftentimes what has happened in the
17 past with these fall hunts is that they open it up and
18 two days later or three days later they have to close
19 it because they've already harvested over the quota for
20 that season. So it's a clear demonstration that in the
21 road access areas where there is State access all users
22 in the state can hunt.

23
24 There's such a tremendous volume of
25 people that go into that area there's absolutely no way
26 as a manager you know what your harvest is going to be
27 because of the vast number of hunters in the area.
28 Draw permits help that process, but the point that I'm
29 making on this draw permit is there's still -- even
30 knowing that the herd is declining, they're still
31 allowing harvest to take place instead of taking and
32 putting in place a precautionary principle when there
33 are declines in resources.

34
35 This seems to be a systemic problem in
36 ADF&G's management strategies in my opinion. They
37 oftentimes continue to open up harvest even when
38 resources are showing a decline. Then you get to a
39 tipping point and you brought it up -- I'm going to
40 continue for just a second because the point I wanted
41 to make that you made earlier on in regards to the
42 bison is that most species in Alaska that are very,
43 very important for long-term sustainability for
44 subsistence users are high-abundance populations.

45
46 Doesn't matter if it's fish or game.
47 If it's caribou, they survive and they do very well
48 because they have a buffer when they have high
49 populations. If it's salmon or other species of fish,
50

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1 if they have high populations, they can withstand
2 impacts by climate or harvest. Once a population drops
3 down below a certain point, it cascades into a collapse
4 very, very quickly and its rebound takes a very, very
5 long time. That is a fact. That's what we're
6 experiencing and that's what we need to change within
7 the management of Fish and Game in Alaska in my
8 opinion.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay, Andy. Would
13 you entertain the motion to reactivate the coalition
14 and to state that not only the Fish and Game should
15 manage that, but the other management regimes, being
16 BLM and the Feds, be part of it?

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Well, if I was to make a
19 motion, I would make a motion that the Department of
20 Fish and Game -- that OSM and the Federal Subsistence
21 Board strongly encourage the State of Alaska to conduct
22 the Fortymile Coalition meetings so that stakeholders
23 have input into a very important subsistence resource
24 for food security within the region.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Is that a motion for
27 a letter?

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yes, Mr. Chair, that
30 would be a motion for a letter.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. Could you
35 restate that again for us.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Oh, boy. Okay. So my
38 motion would be that the OSM and the Federal
39 Subsistence Board strongly urge the State of Alaska to
40 initiate another round of discussions through the
41 Fortymile Coalition so that all stakeholders have input
42 into a very important resource for food security within
43 their region.

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: Second again.

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47 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
48 I'm just going to reference my previous diatribe.

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1 MS. BURK: Question.

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CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: The question has been called. I'm going to ask for unanimous consent on this motion made by Andy. All those in favor.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

MS. SHOCKLEY: I had a question. So we're going to write a letter. A separate letter from what's in here?

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Are we going to change any of this, yes, to reflect that?

MS. MCDAVID: We certainly can and that's noted for the record, thanks.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am, noted for the record. It can be added and the letter can be sent.

MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Are we good with Fortymile?

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: We have to vote first. We'll ask for unanimous consent on the motion on the floor. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those against same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none. Moving forward. Thank you.

MS. SHOCKLEY: I have one comment on paragraph four of the Fortymile Caribou Herd in regards to the safety, hunter ethics. On the last sentence it

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1 says, "However, due to the sheer number of hunters we
2 still feel that more needs to be done in this regard."
3 I would like to take out still feel and just say that
4 more needs to be done.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: We just included that
7 specific "still feel" because this is an issue that the
8 Council has brought to the Board multiple times and it
9 hasn't changed, but it's up to the Council if you want
10 to strike that or not.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I was just
13 curious why that was there.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Since we're crunched
16 for time I think we should move on if you wouldn't
17 mind.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: If you guys do have
24 small, little grammar things that don't affect the
25 intent and you want to point those out to me outside of
26 this discussion, as long as it's not changing the
27 intent, we can make grammatical and sentence structure
28 changes.

29

30 Moving on to topic three, the Ongoing
31 Yukon River Chinook and Fall Chum Salmon Crisis.
32 Perhaps to help the discussion this is a topic that
33 you've also brought to the Board multiple times. You've
34 sent joint letters with other Yukon panels. You've
35 asked the Secretaries to liaise with the Department of
36 Commerce and you have not received a response on
37 whether or not the Secretaries did that. You have
38 requested here in this draft that you get an update on
39 whether or not the Secretaries did actually meet with
40 the Secretary of Commerce and discuss those issues that
41 you raised. So I guess we're still waiting for a
42 response.

43

44 Thanks.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Add that too.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: We can add that to this
49 report. Thanks.

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1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes, sir.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I think what
4 I'd like captured most importantly is that -- I know
5 this kind of sounds redundant, but I think the most
6 important point that we're trying to get across is that
7 we really need OSM to elevate this to the Secretary of
8 the Interior and Commerce because there are a number of
9 other action items such as what will come up in the
10 hatchery discussion in regards to trying to seek
11 international -- open up international discussions on
12 the issues of the viability in marine environment.

13

14 So I think it's really important that
15 the Federal Subsistence Board and OSM and all the
16 entities involved on the Federal Subsistence Board
17 through their agencies work together to stress to the
18 Department of Commerce and Interior the importance of
19 this and their hopefully quick action to begin to look
20 into international discussions on the marine
21 environment.

22

23 That's critical. That's an absolutely
24 critical part to being successful in many people's
25 view, not just my view. We have a lot of scientific
26 data that shows that the marine environment is
27 struggling and we're going to need this. This isn't
28 something we can do as only the state of Alaska. This
29 is something that's going to require our Federal
30 government at the highest levels to work on. I just
31 wanted to get that on the record.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. The next topic
36 will be number four, OSM's inaccurate characterization
37 of the impacts of Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals
38 to subsistence. This is also a response. We're still
39 waiting on you, voiced some concerns to OSM related to
40 their comments on proposals and the Alaska Peninsula
41 Board of Fish meeting last year for Area M proposals,
42 and you've asked OSM to review their comment policy on
43 Board of Fish proposals. I do believe we have a
44 scheduled -- a really quick LT update later, but Brent
45 could probably let you know now what the status of that
46 is.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yeah, go ahead.

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1 MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, Office of
2 Subsistence Management. Your comments were definitely
3 heard. We've talked a lot about it. Pretty upsetting.
4 So, you know, just to know really here how our policy
5 of trying to keep comments to only direct impacts on
6 subsistence is being heard by you guys.

7
8 So we are current -- we are working
9 with the ISC, the Interagency Science Committee, the
10 representative for subsistence from the five land
11 management agencies. It's currently -- we're drafting
12 a new policy. It's not done yet, but we are drafting a
13 new policy to increase our capacity to make comments on
14 your behalf to the Board of Fish and Board of Game for
15 more indirect impacts if you will.

16
17 That draft policy is not out yet, but
18 you will -- when we have a draft policy that's ready,
19 it will be open to -- presented to your Councils and
20 open for comments. That's really the only status
21 update I have right now, but I'm here to take some more
22 comments on that from you guys.

23
24 MS. BURK: I don't agree that the
25 impacts specific to this Board of Fish last year were
26 indirect. I feel like those were direct impacts.

27
28 MR. VICKERS: I'm sorry if I was
29 confusing. We were only -- the policy was to only
30 comment on direct impacts. We heard that you didn't
31 like that and we're trying to change that policy.
32 We're trying to make it as good as we can. Obviously
33 working within the system, but we're trying to
34 incorporate -- we are incorporating your comments. So
35 we'll have a draft what the new policy can look like
36 and you guys can comment on that draft when it's ready.
37 Hopefully at least by your next fall meeting.

38
39 MS. BURK: I was at the Board of Fish
40 meeting. Were you there when you heard OSM's comments?
41 Sir, the comment was that this was out of our area and
42 we had no comments at this time. So it was really
43 completely disregarding what we were saying.

44
45 And then also I just want to point out
46 and flag -- I don't know if we need to add another
47 number in here, but since you're here and I don't want
48 to make you come up again, similarly in the North
49 Pacific Fisheries Management Council we have a U.S.

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1 Fish and Wildlife seat that could voice and backup and
2 support.

3

4

5 That person has not shown up for at
6 least the past three North Pacific meetings and we have
7 a huge agenda item coming up in April. It would be
8 really great to have somebody present at that April
9 meeting because if you're not, you're probably going to
10 hear about it. So I just want to kind of prepare a
11 little bit maybe and see if there's any way you guys
12 can have some type of capacity.

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Fish and Wildlife seat that could voice and backup and support.

That person has not shown up for at least the past three North Pacific meetings and we have a huge agenda item coming up in April. It would be really great to have somebody present at that April meeting because if you're not, you're probably going to hear about it. So I just want to kind of prepare a little bit maybe and see if there's any way you guys can have some type of capacity.

You know, it is a complicated issue, so maybe -- I am the tribal seat for the advisory panel for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and I can be happy to answer any questions you might have or show you some of the data reports, written reports that you might need.

MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, Office of Subsistence Management. Thank you for those updates. As I tried to say before, when we heard your comments about the Board -- your comments about our comments to the Board of Fish or let's just say our lack of comments, and hearing it from your voice. Like I said, I read that and that's like, Jesus, like that's pretty hurtful. So we've taken that to heart and we're trying to do our best.

So I look forward to seeing the new policy and I look forward to seeing your comments on it because I'd really like to better represent you guys. I hope we can.

As far as the North Pacific Fisheries, you know, that seat is -- is anyone here from Fish and Wildlife that has any knowledge of that seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council? Hey, all right.

MR. RANSBURY: Just real briefly. My name is Shane Ransbury for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That's definitely on our radar and we are planning on doing something, but I don't know exactly what at this time.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I got a question. Is that the people's seat? Can we take that too?

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1 (Laughter)

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MR. RANSBURY: I just want to say real briefly I don't know about that, but it's definitely something that Holly has talked about a lot in conversations I've had with her, so I do think that is something she plans on addressing, but we don't have any like formal plans at this time.

MR. BASSICH: I guess maybe this might be appropriate. I was listening in on some hallway conversation with representatives from Fish and Wildlife Service and this was brought up and it was spoken to the fact that the entity that hasn't been showing up was not from Alaska, did not have much knowledge of Alaska issues and that they are working to try to resolve that by finding someone with a little bit more ability. Maybe a representative on the Federal Subsistence Board, but due to scheduling and things like that oftentimes that person is not able to attend.

So they're aware of it. However, they haven't come up with a solution at this time due to the fact that it may be multiple people, which my thought in that process is if you really want someone to advocate for you you need to have a very well-educated person to advocate for you at that level.

MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to follow up because, Eva, you made a comment about potentially adding another number to this Annual Report. Unfortunately at this meeting we can't add new topics to last year's Annual Report, but I've written that down as a topic you can add to the Annual Report for this year.

We can add items to that at this meeting and you'll finish up adding items at your fall meeting. So I've noted that down. Also that topic is included in that Joint Council letter that you guys will be talking about later. So that will be a more immediate way to get that heard by the Board.

Thanks.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A quick question for you. You know, we are advisors to the Federal Subsistence Board. They are the entity and

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1 OSM is the entity that basically advocates for our
2 positions on a lot of this. So I'm just wondering in
3 this report is it worth putting in under almost all of
4 these bullet points that we seek for stronger advocacy
5 from OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board.

6
7 I don't want to say that in a
8 disrespectful way. I want that to be very clear. I
9 really value this process and I really value the
10 attempts and I understand the limitations, but I think
11 as you're hearing over the past two days we're at
12 critical points and we don't have a lot of time right
13 now. Especially in regards to our chinook salmon on
14 the Yukon River.

15
16 So we need to elevate advocacy to the
17 extent possible. The highest extent possible. I don't
18 know how to get that through. I can speak those words
19 here. I don't know where it goes from here, but I
20 think everyone in this room would probably agree from
21 our Council that that's what we really need from OSM
22 and the Federal Subsistence Board. We need them to go
23 above and beyond what they're even capable of and
24 challenge some of these systems that are in place so
25 that we can get the decisions and the actions to take
26 place that we need to save our resources.

27
28 I guess that's the best way I can say
29 it, but I don't want to come across as you're not doing
30 a damn thing for us because I know they are, but we're
31 asking to elevate, take the next step, take some
32 chances. I think, you know, being a person who lives
33 out in the Bush you get your nose kicked in every now
34 and then, but you've got to pick yourself up and learn
35 from it and keep getting punched in the face sometimes
36 until you get what you want. That's my way of working
37 and I think all 10 RACs, if I could get that clear to
38 them, I think everybody would sign on. That's what
39 we're looking for from this program.

40
41 I listened to the testimony from a lot
42 of people and I kind of cringe because a lot of it is
43 direct criticism towards this process, but I think deep
44 in their hearts they understand. They're frustrated
45 and they understand this is the process that's set up
46 to try and protect them as subsistence livers within
47 the state and under the Federal program. They value
48 that but they're frustrated with it.

49
50

0060

1 I think it's because of that lack of
2 deflecting. Oftentimes things are just deflected. Oh,
3 sorry, we can't do that. Oh, sorry, that's a different
4 agency. That process isn't working for us and that's
5 what we need changed. Change is only going to happen
6 at a very high level for it to work for us. That's
7 what we need OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board to
8 start working towards is helping to change this.

9
10 All the .804 -- I'm sorry, not .804.
11 All the Federal subsistence processes were developed a
12 number of years ago and things have changed a great
13 deal since this was all ratified and put into place.
14 We need the program to modify with the times is I think
15 what I would like to have on the record and maybe
16 hopefully get the Board and OSM to be aware of, which
17 I'm sure they are.

18
19 Thank you. I'll stop there.

20
21 Sorry, Mr. Chair, for going on, but I
22 think it's a really important part. I often think
23 about long term. I'm always thinking about five, ten
24 years from now. That's what I'm always working towards
25 is five or ten years from now. Not next week. Not
26 next season. I'm always thinking and working towards
27 what are we going to have to do now because this
28 process takes a long time and I recognize that.

29
30 I've learned that after being here for
31 20 years. At the same time I've been speaking about
32 hatcheries for 20 years now and we're still not there.
33 We're starting to address it. We're still not there
34 and we're really frustrated with that. Please pass
35 that on in your talks with the people and I know you
36 will. That's the best I can do in explaining some of
37 the frustration I think most people are feeling right
38 now.

39
40 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Member
41 Bassich. I'll quickly -- I mean I understand. I'm
42 sitting -- forget everything else outside of this room.
43 Just sit in this room and you guys don't have
44 subsistence resources. You want food. So I understand
45 you wanting more from us.

46
47 I'll say that the co-stewardship
48 symposium that was up in Fairbanks, I didn't have the
49 opportunity to go, but Amy Howard, our Regional
50

0061

1 Director, who is temporary Regional Director until we
2 get a new one, she attended with Brooke and she came
3 back and had a meeting with us and said basically we
4 need to do more. We need to take more. We need to
5 stop so much deflecting, punting, saying we don't know.
6 She has ideas. She really wants to get into it.

7

8 We have this All-Council meeting to
9 really focus on. We're going to make changes to what
10 we can do. If it means making extra phone calls to
11 people and finding out who to contact. Like let's do
12 better. Let's do more. So that is something that's in
13 OSM right now. If you want to make a report of it and
14 add it to the report for next year specifically what we
15 can do more of, suggestions, we'd be happy to hear
16 them.

17

18 We can sit in our room in Anchorage and
19 come up with all sorts of ideas, but it's you guys who
20 need -- I mean it's affecting you people. I hear, you
21 know. We want to make this a collaborative process, so
22 your ideas coming from the actual lived experiences of
23 the subsistence users are invaluable to how we're able
24 to approach these things. So continue to comment on
25 these. I will definitely at our next meeting say what
26 you've said.

27

28 Kim Jochum from NPS had something she
29 wanted to add that she remembered from a letter, so if
30 you don't mind, speaking of Department of Interior.

31

32 MS. JOCHUM: Thank you. Kim Jochum,
33 National Park Service. I'm on the Interagency Staff
34 Committee as well. So I just wanted to maybe share
35 with you that the Federal Subsistence Board did request
36 an in-person meeting with Secretary Holland when she
37 was here in November and she did accept. So they did
38 meet in person for a few hours and it was I think a
39 very meaningful meeting.

40

41 We did write a follow-up letter from
42 the Federal Subsistence Board and the ISC and support
43 staff. The number one topic on there was to advocate
44 for ecosystem scale, collaborative salmon management in
45 Arctic, Yukon-Kuskokwim and Southeast Alaska Regions
46 that ensures continuation of subsistence uses. So that
47 was the number one topic we were -- or the Board
48 obviously was elaborating.

49

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0062

1 I just wanted to share that with you
2 that that happened so we are hearing you and are trying
3 to do more.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. BURK: Hi. I was also at the
8 Co-Stewardship Symposium. I get around. One of the
9 comments that I made there was that corporations were
10 co-stewarding the lands. What I meant by that was
11 multi-national corporations and also big local ones,
12 big industry.

13
14 One of my recommendations when we had a
15 breakout session with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
16 that Crystal Leonetti helped facilitate and one of the
17 questions I asked people in there -- I said how many of
18 you have actually gone to Board of Fish? How many of
19 you have actually gone to North Pacific Fishery
20 Management? Because at the end of the day the
21 decisions made in those rooms have some of the biggest
22 impacts on our people.

23
24 So even though we're doing all this
25 awesome work to set up co-stewardship, it's not going
26 to work unless it is ecosystem-wide. We're having
27 meetings with NOAA and NPFMC and we brought it up to
28 NOAA and NPFMC too. Like why are you not at Federal
29 Subsistence Board to hear from the people on why you're
30 impacting them. They were like that's a great idea.
31 We should go to the Federal Subsistence Board.

32
33 So one thing I've been noticing is like
34 I think there is like recognition that people need to
35 work together, but because of lawsuits and bad history
36 it's made it hard to develop those relationships and
37 trust. It's kind of unfortunate that the
38 co-stewardship talking circles that we're having here
39 is like we kind of do need to have something like that
40 and we do need to have a space to hash some things out.
41 I think that is really important.

42
43 When it comes to salmon it's going to
44 take all the people. It's going to take offshore,
45 onshore, Federal, State and Tribal governments to make
46 it happen. So I just wanted to note that. Even in the
47 co-stewardship when we do a Special Action Request and
48 the in-season manager for Federal subsistence program
49 follows what the State of Alaska is doing and doesn't
50

0063

1 work with tribes to set openings and closures, that's
2 problematic. Those decisions were not intended to be
3 made in a vacuum when we put in the SAR.

4
5 So I just wanted to kind of note the
6 like operational kind of challenges that need to be
7 sorted out as we're thinking about how do we really do
8 co-stewardship and do it well.

9
10 So just wanted to add that.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Eva, I just wanted to
15 follow up because co-stewardship is a topic in here and
16 I think a lot of what you said could beef up that part
17 of the Annual Report. We could certainly add to that
18 based on some of your points there. I did also want to
19 say, because Andy had some really strong comments, and
20 I think that an opportunity to get those heard by
21 others at higher levels is to make similar comments at
22 Federal Subsistence Board meetings.

23
24 You know, a lot of times in our
25 regional meetings it's a smaller group of people.
26 There are opportunities for public comments at those
27 meetings. There's opportunities for our Chair to give
28 a regional report and voice some of the Council's
29 concerns. So there is a board meeting coming up next
30 month. There will be a work session this summer. So I
31 just wanted to flag that also.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Is there the opportunity
34 for online commentary? Because oftentimes there isn't
35 and oftentimes a lot of these meetings happen at times
36 when I can't physically leave my place of residence due
37 to environmental conditions. So I'm always happy to
38 voice my opinion, as you all know, probably often
39 sometimes too much.

40
41 I agree with what you're saying and I
42 think the most important thing is for these agencies
43 and these people higher up in the process to
44 consistently hear it and eventually it's going to be so
45 consistent that hopefully they won't tune out. They'll
46 adapt is what I'm hoping for.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: I'm going to bring us
49 back to the Annual Report. Really great discussion
50

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1 everyone, but I want to make sure to keep us on track.
2 So the next topic in the Annual Report is about
3 hatchery salmon and competition with wild salmon.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Andy.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Do I have the floor, Mr.
8 Chair? Thank you. You know, I think one of the -- I'm
9 happy with what's in here. The only thing I would
10 maybe add is some reference to some of the
11 presentations being given at this meeting by Dr.
12 Shindler and Mr. Rigaroni and McMillen. I think that
13 might be really important. I think if more people were
14 to really read that and understand some of those
15 presentations this would be a no-brainer, but obviously
16 there's also political aspects of it.

17

18 That would be my only addition on
19 hatcheries is that maybe the inclusion of those two
20 reports be somehow in here so that if a Board member or
21 somebody wanted to access that they could.
22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks for that
25 suggestion, Andy. I do see a footnote for one of
26 Rigaroni's papers, but we can certainly add more
27 references.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. On the
30 second sentence it says particularly concerning the
31 vast numbers of pink salmon. Can we change vast to 1.9
32 billion?

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: We sure can. Thanks for
35 the edit.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. We all
38 learned that this morning.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair. On the
41 second paragraph where it says reduce hatchery
42 production. In my experience I think it's important
43 that we put a percentage, a number there. If we just
44 say reduce, I mean that's like -- well, you know, I
45 think it would have more meaning or more teeth if you
46 put a percentage.

47

48 MS. BURK: I support that, but you also
49 have to look at each hatchery individually. There's

50

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1 also a lot of hatchery chum, especially in the Gulf of
2 Alaska. So it's kind of hard to put that number
3 blanket. One number that I have seen that I still
4 don't know the status of the proposal that was just in
5 front of Upper Cook Inlet at the Board of Fish.

6

7

MR. BASSICH: Forty-three.

8

9

MS. BURK: Forty-three. And they asked
10 for a 25 percent production. Andy, was that at a
11 specific hatchery?

12

13

MR. BASSICH: No.

14

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MS. BURK: No, just in the Upper Cook
Inlet area wide?

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MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I believe
that was statewide reduction. I guess if I could maybe
add to that. I think one of the things we have to be
very careful of is that if we're going to be successful
into the future, we have to recognize that many of the
commercial entities who are Alaska stakeholders, Alaska
residents rely on hatchery production for their
commercial harvest.

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So it's going to be a very delicate
balancing act to reduce hatchery production and still
not cut the feet out from under fellow Alaskans.
That's the real challenge that we have in this issue.
So I think trying to put numbers on something right now
is maybe a little bit premature. I think we need to
have some discussions statewide and then address that.

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I'm quite comfortable saying hatchery
reductions because if I was a commercial fisherman --
I'm putting myself in their shoes. If I was a
commercial fisherman and my livelihood relied on
hatchery production, I would be very put out by any
threat of hatcheries being closed down.

A lot of times when you say hatchery
reduction people think you're trying to close them
down. That's not what we're trying to do. We
recognize the need for that. So I think we're a little
premature. We're not quite there where we need to make
these adjustments for long-term sustainability of
salmon within the region. Within the state I should
say.

1 I don't know. It's a good point and I
2 think in another year, maybe a year and a half, it
3 would be smack on. I think it's a little premature
4 right now. So I'm comfortable with the wording from my
5 perspective, but that's up to the Council.

6
7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just for a little more
8 context. Before the Bristol Bay sockeye were booming
9 most of our salmon fishing economy was because of
10 hatchery. So it's a very touchy subject. I just
11 wanted to add that.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Maybe just for the record
14 if you look at some of the reports that we're having
15 during this meeting you'll see a crossover of hatchery
16 production and then salmon declines. They cross over
17 at a certain point. That happened in approximately
18 1980, early '80s.

19
20 So that's something that my mind draws
21 to as maybe a happy medium, but, like I said, we're not
22 there yet. We need a lot more discussion. I think a
23 lot more people need to be educated and we need to have
24 a lot of discussions with the commercial entities who
25 are Alaskan residents who depend on that. Ultimately
26 we're all going to have to work together on this to
27 create a long-term sustainable salmon fisheries in the
28 state of Alaska.

29
30 So we don't want anybody to go away.
31 We want everybody to get along and we want everybody to
32 benefit. That takes time, a lot of discussion. It's
33 going to take a lot of -- I think it's going to take a
34 lot of introspective thought from everybody involved to
35 really come to the proper way to achieve that.

36
37 MS. BURK: If I may. So there is talk
38 about -- the governor and the Commissioner, Department
39 of Fish and Game, are talking about hatcheries on the
40 Yukon. So does this sort of address that?

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Well, if you want my
43 opinion I think everybody knows my position on
44 hatcheries. These presentations going on are a direct
45 correlation to me that hatchery production affects wild
46 stocks and the only stocks we have on the Yukon River
47 other than a small mitigation hatchery in White Horse
48 is wild stocks. That's one of the reasons we're --
49 that's probably in my mind one of the largest impacts
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1 as to why we've had this long decline.

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I think it's been going on a lot longer than we realize. We're just seeing the end results of it right now. But I think hatchery production, as I said, if you look at that, it looks like it's been having a long, slow impact. We're just at a tipping point now because of climate change. I don't know. I guess that's all I can really say to that, Dorothy, at this point.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I understand. I mean hatcheries have not been good to our natural stocks. In working with the -- what was that plan? Comprehensive Salmon Plan. I mean, you know, we voted and said zero hatcheries. I don't know where the Commissioner and the Governor are coming from in regards to hatcheries on the Yukon, but I just want to make sure that if we can cover that, that's fine.

MS. MCDAVID: Real quick. I just wanted to address what Dorothy -- I think what you're trying to get at Dorothy. Would you like to see the Council add something in here about your all's position about hatchery on the Yukon? If that is what the Council desires, you can do that.

One other thing I want to say is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does have a position paper about hatchery on the Yukon in opposition. I believe that work was done by Randy Brown several years ago. That's something that I could definitely send you guys if you're interested and we can reference that in here as well.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Just for clarity, the Comprehensive Plan said no large scale hatcheries for the next 20 years, until the next revision of that Comprehensive Plan. I think that's what it stated.

MS. BURK: Dorothy, I am following this issue that you're referring to. It's with the House Bill 169. It's permitting the take of eggs for in-stream incubation. That I think is where you're getting that idea. They're saying that by doing this in-stream incubation it gets past the large scale hatchery language that's in the Comprehensive Plan. So

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1 it's really important that we follow this bill.

2

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4 There are people working with the
5 creators of this bill so that they know, one, there's
6 not a lot of money in the State budget to do this
7 project and, two, if you're going to do this taking of
8 eggs there has to be significant money and a set-up to
9 do monitoring and assessment to see how well they do.

10

11 So it's definitely an issue, but the
12 venue is there. So if you talk to those people, Maxine
13 Diver and other representatives, one suggestion was to
14 start just talking to the fisheries committee that's at
15 the Legislature and getting information to them from
16 us. The Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission at
17 this time does not support this or a hatchery.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: I'll just remind the
20 Federal Subsistence Board, OSM and every other entity
21 that we have an international treaty through the Yukon
22 River Panel that states there will be no large-scale
23 hatchery production on the Yukon River. That's in the
24 treaty.

25

26 I also just want to make sure that
27 everyone understands it doesn't matter how many
28 hatcheries you build, if you're sending fish out to a
29 desert they're going to come back hungry or they're not
30 going to come back at all. That is exactly why our
31 fish are not returning, why they're returning early,
32 why they're returning hungry and why they're dying off
33 before they get to the spawning grounds. There's a lot
34 of scientific research that's beginning to show that
35 that is, in fact, true.

36

37 I think that will be -- well, the
38 problem is a lot of people will take a peer-reviewed
39 paper and even if there's 10 they'll maybe point to the
40 one that says it's not true and there will always be
41 one or two that say it's not true. So that's the
42 problem we're up against right now. It's more
43 political than anything else. Scientific research
44 shows that the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska have reached
45 their carrying capacity.

46

47 So it doesn't matter how many
48 hatcheries you build, you're going to send fish out
49 there. I think, you know, I've stated in one of these
50 meetings that one fish was close to five or six

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1 thousand dollars to get it back. Well, that's not
2 sustainable at all on any level. Anyway. I could go
3 on on that topic for a long time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead, Dorothy.

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I went on a river
8 trip with TCC and other folks to the Lower Yukon and
9 the Commissioner of Fish and Game was there. He
10 brought up hatcheries at every single village saying
11 this is what they're thinking about to help the
12 fisheries on the Yukon. So it's on the radar. That's
13 what the governor is proposing.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I heard stated and
16 stated myself that we'd just be adding to the problem.
17 We've seen the science this morning and it's clear.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Just a point of
20 clarification. Since you do want to add your Council
21 position on hatcheries in the Yukon, I just want to be
22 clear. Do you want to say no large-scale hatcheries or
23 just none, blank? Could you turn on your mic and get
24 that on there for the record. Thanks.

25

26 MS. SHOCKLEY: No hatcheries.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: And I will add no
29 incubation boxes. We are opposed to small-scale
30 incubation boxes as well.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Do we have consensus from
33 everybody on that? You can just nod your heads.

34

35 (Council nodding)

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, I'm seeing yes.
38 Thank you. Mr. Chair, do you want to move on to the
39 next topic or do you think we need a little break?

40

41 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I want to give people
42 the option in the room to get a cup of coffee and use
43 the bathroom. So we'll just make it as fast as we can.
44 Run.

45

46 (Laughter)

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48 (Off record)

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1 (On record)

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CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay, we're coming back to order now. We'll continue with the reports -- the annual report, thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, maybe we can try to speed -- speed up our discussion a little bit. I know these are like the most important issues for the Council, but for the next item, Item No. 6, in your annual -- in your draft annual report was the need for updated moose counts along the Yukon River Corridor in Unit 20F. And after the last meeting you did write a letter to Fish and Game asking them to provide information, if possible, and we have also received a report from Nowitna Refuge about recent moose survey data. So I know there's not really time to go through those reports at this meeting, we might be able to schedule an informational call sometime with Nowitna if you're interested in hearing more about what's in this report, or we could certainly invite them to the fall meeting to discuss this further especially since we have a wildlife cycle coming up next year.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to add Manley if that's possible. Because it says Rampart and Tanana, I'd like to add Manley.

MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Dorothy, we can certainly do that.

Okay, moving on, food security -- food insecurity and food sovereignty. Any additions, edits.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair. In -- I'm not sure exactly where we might be able to add this but it was brought to my attention earlier today in regards to the ANS, amounts necessary for subsistence, and if we could recommend changing it from the lower end to middle, medium, middle, like the king salmon is 45,000 to 66,000 roughly, and if we could maybe change that so that it's not -- so we're not dealing with minimum amounts, we're dealing with more amounts so that we have more fish to subsistence -- to fish for subsistence.

MS. MCDAVID: Dorothy, are you talking about ANS for salmon or escapement goals?

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1 MS. SHOCKLEY: ANS for subsistence, for
2 fishing.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Just so you know, the
5 Federal Program doesn't use ANS, it's a State -- it's
6 something.....

7
8 MS. SHOCKLEY: Right, I understand
9 that.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID:that's something
12 used by the State so just to add that on.

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY: I understand that.
15 Yeah, I understand that.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Maybe
18 addressing Dorothy -- Ms. Shockley's concerns. I'm not
19 sure if you're aware but the Yukon River Panel
20 basically has an escapement goal now of 71,000 fish for
21 the next seven years, which will, in all likelihood,
22 and almost guaranteed mean that there will be no
23 directed harvest of chinook salmon on the Yukon River.
24 So anything referring to harvest needs, ANS, whatever,
25 are almost a moot point at this point. This is a
26 severe conservation action to be taken to try and keep
27 chinook salmon from extirpation.

28
29 So just informational but that might
30 address what your concerns are. There will be no
31 directed harvest more than likely of chinook salmon on
32 the Yukon River for one life cycle.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: He's referring to the
35 agreement from the -- and it's 71,000 for rebuilding
36 purposes because the egg sacs in the fish and the fish
37 are so small, I think that was the whole thought behind
38 it.

39
40 MS. SHOCKLEY: But in order for us to
41 feed ourselves.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Better start hunting
44 moose. That's sad to say.

45
46 (Conversation Shockley/Burk no
47 microphones)

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: We need mics please.

50

0072

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: But we don't want that,
2 we want fish, we want salmon. And I know that the
3 numbers, you know, I mean we tell that story but at the
4 same time if we could recommend, you know, amount
5 necessary for subsistence, a change in those numbers.
6 I mean I know people are fishing, they are getting
7 salmon. I mean we, you know, if you use a 4 inch mesh
8 you can and do catch fish. I mean you catch salmon and
9 people are harvesting them. I mean that's common
10 knowledge. So if we were to change the number, or
11 recommend a change in the number.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: You could.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: I'll address that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Dorothy. I
20 think, you know, you are exemplifying the need for
21 subsistence and traditional foods for people, the
22 unfortunate reality is is that resource is no longer
23 even there. It's gone. You can't afford to take any,
24 no matter what. I know people are fishing, that's what
25 we need to change if we want to save them, in my
26 opinion, and in many people's opinion. So the reality
27 of the situation is we have to make a change as people
28 on the river. Do we want to save salmon for the future
29 or do we want to fish them to extinction. Because
30 that's exactly the two decisions we have to make right
31 now, and you can't have both. It's one or the other.
32 And that's what we need to educate the people on the
33 river to understand. If you want salmon now, well,
34 just keep doing what you're doing, but you're not going
35 to have them in one life cycle from now and you'll
36 never have them again because they'll be extirpated.
37 That's the reality of the situation, sadly.

38
39 So wanting is one thing, the reality is
40 you have to make that choice as an individual. That's
41 the bottom line for the future, and for the foreseeable
42 future.

43
44 MS. EVANS: It's Linda Evans. It's
45 really hard for me to think that I can't put salmon on
46 my table but there's fishermen out in the ocean able to
47 fish, you know, and catch that bycatch, they catch
48 salmon and what they do with it, I don't know. But
49 that's really a hard thing to swallow, you know. We
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0073

1 can't put fish on our table for our families but
2 there's people out there with big boats and trawlers
3 and stuff catching fish for commercial purposes. It
4 seems to me like if we have such a decline in our fish
5 where we can't even fish then I don't know why other
6 people are allowed to fish.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Linda, I think your point
11 could be emphasized in this about the, you know, we
12 keep hearing over and over about this burden of
13 conservation being placed on subsistence users and how
14 that is really causing this food insecurity and we
15 could make that point stronger in this topic.

16

17 MS. EVANS: I agree.

18

19 MS. BURK: I think it's really
20 important to note too, that where this fishing is
21 occurring, where the bycatch and the intercept is
22 occurring, there are a number of other species that can
23 be fished on. There are a number of other species that
24 can be consumed as subsistence and we just don't have
25 those species in the Interior and that's why the
26 criteria is we have no other means for subsistence.
27 Those are our species that come in and they're all
28 down, moose, salmon, caribou, are all down. So I think
29 that's just important to note that too, like these
30 fishermen that are taking things, there are other
31 opportunities for them, they have another choice and we
32 don't.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you all for that
35 discussion.

36

37 The next topic is co-stewardship and
38 co-management. I did note in here that you would like
39 to see more co-management and that you request some
40 information on current co-man -- sorry -- co-
41 stewardship projects that the Federal agencies in your
42 region are doing. Also noted that at the fall meeting
43 you guys identified two opportunities for co-
44 stewardship that you'd like to see the Refuges take
45 action on and that is working with Arctic Village on
46 the sheep -- Arctic Village sheep management, and also
47 Yukon Flats working with tribes and communities more
48 because of the complexing of the Refuges and the
49 decreased -- the decrease in their Staff.

50

0074

1 So any other things that you'd like to
2 add to this.

3
4 Thanks.

5
6 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'd just like to say we
7 discussed co-stewardship in the meeting, the Program as
8 it is now is -- we discussed it in our protecting our
9 way of life working group with First Alaskans and then
10 just this morning, again, we talked about it and, you
11 know, the term co-stewardship is not what it says it
12 is. You know I'm not sure exactly -- you know, I think
13 that the Federal -- I don't know the regulations or the
14 policies that are set up for that, but from what we
15 understand and we had an attorney look at it, it's an
16 advisory posi -- or advisory at best and according to
17 the Kuskokwim Fish Commission it really doesn't have
18 any teeth, you know, it's, I think, co-stewardship is
19 being misused and it's, you know, something that I
20 think, as indigenous people we know what co-stewardship
21 means, and from what, you know, the Federal or whoever,
22 you know, the policies, this is not what we have in
23 mind. So.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Dorothy. Does
26 the Council concur that should be reflected.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

31
32 MS. EVANS: What if we just say
33 stewardship and management.

34
35 MS. BURK: I think you really want to
36 leave co-stewardship and co-management in there because
37 they're referring to the cooperative agreements. It's
38 like a -- I know for our own terms it makes sense to
39 say stewardship and management, but co-stewardship and
40 co-management have specific definitions for -- co-
41 stewardship is like lands and waters, and then co-
42 management is like a specific agreement, like the
43 marine -- like the whaling -- the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
44 Commission.

45
46 MS. MCDAVID: So what I'm hearing,
47 Dorothy -- I think we might have too many mics on, yeah
48 -- so what I'm hearing Dorothy say is that, you know,
49 this idea of co-stewardship, it sounds great if there's
50

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1 actual equal partnership and right now that's not
2 happening and more needs to be done to make that
3 happen, changes need to be made.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, but I think that
6 takes time and we're in the process of trying to make
7 that happen in a number of different entities in
8 regards to wildlife -- fish and wildlife. So the
9 process is in place, we're just emphasizing that here
10 and asking the Federal Subsistence Board to continue to
11 work towards co-stewardship and co-management. I
12 think, you know, this is pretty good. So like some of
13 these other topics we're not quite there yet but we
14 need to keep pressure and we need to keep the topic in
15 the forefront.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Great discussion
18 on that and some points that you noted, we can add that
19 to the new draft -- to the final draft.

20

21 Yes?

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Whenever this
24 conversation is done. Just to note that people have
25 requested to speak closer to the mics, sometimes you're
26 getting far away and it's not being heard.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just to add, you know,
31 using local knowledge, local -- well, I don't know if
32 we can use indigenous knowledge in regards to
33 traditional stewardship.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So noted. That sounds
36 good. (No microphone) Andy.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: And then on (no
39 microphone)

40

41 REPORTER: Andy.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Sorry, in the first
44 paragraph, second line there it says incorporation of
45 local and traditional knowledge into fish and wildlife
46 management so that's in there right now.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah, but (no
49 microphone).

50

0076

1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay, let's move on or
2 we're going to be here all night.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hunter ethics. I
5 noted some things in here that the hunter ethics
6 working group of this EIRAC has put forth that they
7 would like to see done. And we were able to have one
8 short working group meeting, there's ideas still in
9 development, we're hoping to meet again before the
10 Board meets this summer. There just wasn't a whole lot
11 of time to make this a big priority prior to this All-
12 Council meeting. So it's definitely still something
13 this Council is trying to keep the ball moving on so
14 there's more work yet to be done on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I would like to be
17 included with that next time so if there's some way
18 that it might help through the programs and where I
19 work. We might be able to add something to that.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: All right, Charlie, we'll
22 make sure you get included on that working group, and
23 it's open to any Council members that want to
24 participate.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Thank you.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Next is climate
29 change impacts. You guys have talked a lot about this,
30 the need for, you know, more precautionary management
31 and looking at longer term management trends and, you
32 know, changes you're seeing in the region. You've
33 asked to be briefed on how the agencies -- the Federal
34 agencies within your region are monitoring climate
35 change impacts and adapting management and how local
36 observations and traditional knowledge is being
37 incorporated into that research and monitoring. So we
38 will hopefully get some feedback on some of the work
39 that's being done related to that.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Not seeing anyone jumping
44 up. The next is a topic we included last year, support
45 for more culture camps and youths. You've posed a
46 question to the Board about how to potentially get
47 funding through FRMP that's not tied to research
48 projects, funding that could specifically be earmarked
49 for education and culture camps as stand-alone
50

0077

1 projects.

2

3

4 The next is the use of cabins on
5 Federal public lands. Primarily BLM lands in your
6 region, but you've requested that BLM -- you've sent a
7 letter to BLM separately of this, you're requesting
8 feedback from them on how to get that process changed
9 and initiated and you've asked them to work with the
10 other Federal agencies to make sure that there aren't
11 inconsistencies on the ability to use cabins on the
12 different public lands.

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CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I'd just like to say
that I ran into Steve Cohn in the hallway the other day
and he told me -- assured me that they were working on
it and we would hear from him soon.

MS. MCDAVID: Great to hear, thanks.

MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Go ahead.

MR. WOODRUFF: I was talking to BLM
Staff a couple days ago walking over here, and they
admitted that they're not adhering to ANILCA, which is
a subsistence priority for their cabin permit process,
or any other cabin permits, so they're in violation of
ANILCA as far as I'm concerned.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Well, I'll say I don't
know what way they're working on it.

MS. MCDAVID: Well, it's great to hear
that they're working on it. I know that's something
that you guys have really wanted to see so, good job,
on helping get that action going.

The next item on the report is the
potential impacts to wildlife about the mines, the
trucking, the increased trucking on the highways, the
Alaska, Richardson, Steese Highways by -- Ken Ross Gold
from Tetlin, I know that mine isn't Ken Ross, it's Manh
Choh but you're a little bit concerned about increased
collisions, wildlife, because of all that trucking and
you're -- and you want that to be monitored and
mitigated and you're asking how that's going to be

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1 monitored and mitigated.

2

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and I don't know if
5 we need to put this specifically in there but I think
6 it'd be really important to see the creation of a
7 dataset that shows a past history of collision of
8 moose. I don't think caribou are so much a problem in
9 that area but moose. So if we could see a history of
10 what that death rate is through collisions, and I think
11 that would serve as a good starting point to
12 potentially, if we need to, have datasets into the
13 future. It's just long-term datasets are really
14 important when you want to track something that's very
15 subtle. So I think it's -- that would be, just in that
16 brief, I don't know if we need to put that in this
17 wording but for those of you here in the room with OSM,
18 that -- I think that would be very beneficial.

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MS. MCDAVID: It's good to be specific
so I can certainly add that language. Thanks, Andy.

MR. BASSICH: I guess to word that
would be, in the brief, long-term numerical history of
moose incidents on the highway between Tok and
Fairbanks.

MS. MCDAVID: And I know there aren't
always a lot of caribou crossing the highway but it
might be nice to know for that, too, it was -- that was
brought up for the fall.

MR. BASSICH: It doesn't hurt to bring
it up but I'm not really sure that there's a lot in
that region there. The Nelchina Herd is a little bit
farther south and the Fortymile Herd doesn't really go
over there, but there may be incidental.

MR. WOODRUFF: At the ungulate
conference, we learned a little bit about barriers to
migration of wildlife and disruption on the one, two,
three, fifth -- fifth line down, if we could insert the
disruption to migration. If we could put barrier
instead of disruption, I think that will increase the
potential impact and also reflect modern science.

Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Thanks Don. I can
definitely change that language, and I can even add a

0079

1 footnote. You guys have cited those studies before in
2 previous letters so thanks. Noted.

3

4 All right, the last topic is request
5 for updated technology at Council meetings and, you
6 know, there's been some discussion going on at OSM
7 about how we can accommodate that so we're working on
8 it. That's all I can really say at this point.

9

10 But if there's any changes that you
11 guys would like to see to your annual report, please
12 note them now.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Do you want a motion, do
15 we (no microphone).

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, let's have a motion,
18 please, to adopt the annual report with the
19 modifications mentioned.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern
23 Interior RAC adopt the annual report with the additions
24 addressed in this discussion to be presented to OSM,
25 the Federal Subsistence Board.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I think we have a very
30 comprehensive annual report and I feel very comfortable
31 with it and I think it's -- I look forward to the
32 responses and hopefully some action out of this.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: You guys have the longest
35 annual report of any of the Councils. I don't know if
36 that's an award you want to celebrate or not but thanks
37 for all the work you make me do.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. BASSICH: I was just going to say
42 we're giving you job security.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: I think the Board will
47 understand that we're really concerned about food
48 security for our people. We can't just eat rabbits and
49 muskrat, it ain't going to work.

50

0080

1 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: And we're heavily
2 impacted by highway and roads and we are losing all of
3 our food. All of the animals and fish we eat is
4 dwindling fast in our area. So I think you're going to
5 have more work going into the future.

6
7 Can we call for question.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. I'm going to
12 ask for unanimous consent for the motion on the floor.
13 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: All those opposed,
18 same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Hearing none, moving
23 forward. Thank you for all your hard work.

24
25 Okay, we're going to move on to 10E,
26 fisheries special action request, FSA24-01 Yukon
27 salmon, OSM fisheries.

28
29 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair and members of
30 the Council my name is Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries
31 Biologist with OSM. I'm presenting Fisheries Special
32 Action Request FSA24-01. The request can be found on
33 Page 111 of your Council book. And we don't have an
34 analysis so we're just going to be presenting the
35 request today.

36
37 So today we're requesting your Council
38 make a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board
39 regarding this special action request. The special
40 action request was submitted by the Yukon River
41 InterTribal Fish Commission. The Commission is asking
42 the Board to uphold the conservation and priority
43 consumptive use provisions under Title VIII of ANILCA
44 and uphold the Yukon River Salmon Agreement by
45 reassuming management of Yukon River chinook, chum and
46 coho salmon throughout the 2024 season. It's
47 requesting the Board do this by closing Federal waters
48 of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of chinook,
49 chum, and coho salmon except by Federally-qualified
50

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1 subsistence users in 2024 and requiring Federal
2 subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closures and
3 fishing methods within Federal waters be determined by
4 the Federal Fisheries Manager.

5

6 Because you have the request I'm just
7 going to briefly summarize the proponent's
8 justification.

9

10 Yukon River chinook, summer chum and
11 fall chum and coho salmon populations have steeply
12 declined resulting in a failure to meet applicable
13 escapement goals and Treaty obligations in recent
14 years. Subsistence opportunity for salmon has been
15 severely restricted and subsistence salmon needs are
16 not being met. Needs are unlikely to be met in 2024
17 based on preseason forecast and recent years run
18 strength. Salmon runs have not improved since the
19 Board approved a similar special action request in
20 2022. Any Federal management actions to open or close
21 subsistence fishing in Federal waters of the Yukon
22 River must uphold provisions of ANILCA and the Yukon
23 River Salmon Agreement, and the proponents stated they
24 are very concerned with a precedent set in 2023 wherein
25 the actions of the Federal Manager were solely reactive
26 to management actions by the State of Alaska, an
27 entity, as a matter of State Constitutional law cannot
28 provide a rural subsistence priority.

29

30 The proponents continue that preemptive
31 closure of Federal waters to non-Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users and uses and assumption of Federal
33 management is both warranted and required as necessary
34 for the conservation of declined populations of Yukon
35 River salmon while providing a reasonable and
36 sustainable subsistence harvest based on ANILCA,
37 Section .815.

38

39 So there was a summary of the
40 proponent's justification for submitting the request.
41 We are presenting the request to all Councils with a
42 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
43 in the Yukon River drainage so this includes Eastern
44 Interior, Western Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and
45 Seward Peninsula Councils and you all are being asked
46 to make recommendations to the Board.

47

48 OSM is in the process of scheduling
49 public hearings and tribal consultations. A public
50

0082

1 hearing has been scheduled for March 20th from 5 to 7
2 p.m., the public hearing will be held via
3 teleconference and more information regarding this will
4 be posted on OSM's web page and I believe Brooke will
5 forward you the information.

6
7 So for the last, we're updating an
8 analysis -- or we're providing an updated analysis to
9 the Board to be presented to them. The Board is
10 tentatively scheduled to act on this special action
11 request on April 15th from 1 to 3 p.m., and you will
12 also be provided more detailed information in the near
13 future.

14
15 So thank you for your time. Again,
16 this is an action item and we're asking you to make a
17 recommendation to the Board to either approve, reject,
18 modify the special action or to defer the special
19 action request to the next fisheries regulatory cycle.
20 Again, this special action request closing Federal
21 waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of
22 chinook, chum and coho salmon except by Federally-
23 qualified subsistence users in 2024 and requiring
24 Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings,
25 closures and methods within Federal waters be
26 determined by the Federal Fisheries Manager.

27
28 And I'll standby to answer any
29 questions you may have.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion
34 that we support the special action request presented to
35 us here by the InterTribal Fish Commission to the
36 Federal Subsistence Board.

37
38 MS. EVANS: Second the motion.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: I second, as written,
41 right Andy?

42
43 MR. BASSICH: I guess speaking to the
44 motion I kind of -- I understand why this was
45 submitted. Obviously with the agreement that was done
46 at the Yukon River Panel meeting, in some ways it makes
47 it a moot point because there probably will not be any
48 openings but I do foresee the value of this special
49 action request in law enforcement. So I will be in
50

0083

1 support of passing this.

2

3

4 MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair. I have a
5 question in regards to Federally-qualified subsistence
6 users. How do you clar -- or how do you -- or how do
7 they qualify, I guess, in regards to that, and -- but
8 the numbers need to be if there's any other -- you
9 know, if there's other criteria?

9

10 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: (No microphone)

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MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
maybe I'll just take a quick stab at that for the sake
of time and, please, correct me if I'm missing
something. But basically to qualify for Federally-
qualified user, to be one, most of it depends on where
you live. So if you live in Fairbanks you will not
qualify, if you live in Anchorage, there are some areas
in the Kenai Peninsula and I believe down in Southeast,
possibly in Juneau, but it's primarily based on your
location of your residency.

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: So at this time I
have a blue card. At this time I have Stanley Pete
wants to address the Regional Advisory Council and now
he can come up, unless you guys have more to add, but
we want to give him a chance to speak because he has
someplace he needs to be. Come on.

MR. PETE: Thank you, Chairman and
fellow Board members for this opportunity. I've sat
through your report as it goes to show the absolute
affection you guys have for the people of your region,
very impressive, one of the longer reports I had to sit
through.

Now, the reason I wanted to speak in
regard -- or speak to FSA24-01, it goes to show what
the people that rely on a resource are willing to do to
their fellow brothers and sisters that live in urban
Alaska, to lessen the pool of people that are going to
be able to harvest the salmon. What it fails to do is
to recognize the other influencers in the decline of
salmon, whether it be the intercept fisheries, the
bycatch fisheries, even the changes in stock
composition, the effects of the hydroelectric power,
the hatchery release numbers. You heard the astounding
numbers of -- massive amount of fish being released by
the hatchery people. It really shows that the people

1 are willing to let their brothers and sisters who rely
2 [sic] in urban cities, even my brothers and sisters, to
3 deny them the opportunity to harvest because they would
4 not fit in the category of Federally-qualified users.
5 I'm in support of something like this but it really
6 fails to address the real problem of why the decline is
7 happening.

8

9 You heard a comment earlier, they did
10 it in past years, it didn't improve the run. You heard
11 Mr. Bassich state earlier they're considering no
12 fishing for the next one full life cycle. Me,
13 personally, if they don't address these other problems
14 that I mentioned earlier, no fishing for one cycle is
15 not going to do nothing if you don't address all the
16 other problems. It's one -- one solution is not the
17 solution. Just because you don't let the people
18 subsist, that doesn't address the other problems that
19 are ongoing. I really commend Ms. Evans for her
20 comments saying, she can't imagine not putting fish on
21 the table. I can't imagine putting no fish on the
22 table. It's -- its unthinkable.

23

24 You know I mentioned earlier I had
25 another Council meeting, you know, salmon heals people.
26 The last time we wanted salmon to honor our elderly
27 dead, requested to the State of Alaska, we were denied,
28 could not even honor a family member, a deceased, we
29 wanted one king salmon, we were denied that
30 opportunity.

31

32 Now, prior to the decline of salmon,
33 salmon was a bonding agent for families, and a healing
34 agent for families. If I had a -- if me and my brother
35 were not seeing eye to eye, when the salmon were
36 coming, oh, we were hugs, holding hands and forgiving
37 each other and making amends; there's none of that
38 anymore. It's really devastating.

39

40 I thought I wanted to comment on this
41 because I am affected. I'm not from the Eastern
42 Interior, I'm from the Yukon Delta. One of you made a
43 comment earlier, I do have other sources of fish to go
44 after, unlike in Eagle, you know, but I have Bering
45 cisco, smelts, Tomcods, but those are going away also.
46 We finally seen them this year after three years. So
47 even we're affected by climate change, we live right
48 next to the ocean but, still, they're not there anymore
49 and it's -- I heard another comment by another Board
50

0085

1 member earlier, why are they allowed to fish, when I go
2 out into the ocean from where I'm living there they
3 are, there's the big factory trawlers, there's the big
4 longliners chucking my salmon overboard all in the name
5 of the big dollar. You know, as I've gotten a little
6 older I've come to recognize that money's not all that
7 valuable if it's not going to keep the family bond
8 together and we're seeing that bond of family slowly
9 eroding. You know, salmon was the key. It's so
10 unfortunate and I don't know if the seven year
11 moratorium on salmon is ever going to rebound them
12 stocks if we don't address the other problems.

13

14 So with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd like to
17 just ask you a few questions. I really want to thank
18 you for your testimony because you highlight many of
19 the things that we're trying to address, not only in
20 this room, but throughout the state. You're absolutely
21 correct on your testimony. And I guess the question I
22 would ask you, living in the Delta, you do have a lot
23 of other resources, do you feel that catching summer
24 chum would fulfill, maybe not to the same extent as the
25 traditional fishing of chinook salmon in regards to
26 celebrations of a life or a death of a family member,
27 so I guess the question I'm asking you is if summer
28 chum is available to you as salmon for a potluck or for
29 ceremonial purposes, do you feel that that would meet
30 the needs that chinook would, given that chinook is so
31 low in abundance?

32

33 MR. PETE: When you have nothing, when
34 you're denied the opportunity for even some salmon
35 also, anything's welcome. You know I testified today
36 to Bristol Bay, I said, thank you. Thank you for the
37 sockeye, the red salmon, we're so thankful. I mean I
38 heard the communities up in -- father up the Yukon
39 River got sockeye and I went and thanked them
40 personally this morning and I said, thank you, it meant
41 so much to us. So even salmon that aren't, you know,
42 Yukon salmon, were a big welcome just so we can, you
43 know, practice cutting fish with the youth like one of
44 you Board members said, that they utilize sockeye to
45 bond the people of the river, or to keep that bond that
46 was once there, that we would -- you know, that our
47 community would be willing to take chum salmon if
48 nothing's allowed. It's -- you know, in --
49 traditionally it was king salmon because it was -- it

50

0086

1 had so much meaning, it was a sign of prosperity,
2 longevity, endurance, that they -- it was -- it was
3 respected more than chums. It had a place of, I don't
4 know, I think the right words may be honor, to honor
5 someone, you don't want to give them chum, you want to
6 give them king salmon.

7

8 I hope that answers your question.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I
11 really appreciate your testimony and I think -- I hear
12 what you're saying and I think everyone on the river
13 feels the same way about it and the fact of the matter
14 is we're near extirpation of a stock. And from -- I
15 think what the InterTribal Watershed [sic] is trying to
16 do is to make sure that we have the least impacts on
17 the Yukon River on a stock that's near extirpation.
18 And from my interpretation of this it's trying to clean
19 up its own backyard before you start demanding things
20 from other people. So if we're going to ask Area M, if
21 we're going to ask for bycatch to be reduced to almost
22 nothing, or even be reduced, we have to make sure that
23 we're not guilty of harvesting fish. Because if you
24 think about it, all of us on the Yukon create bycatch,
25 because very few of us live on a spawning ground.
26 Right. Very few people live right where the fish are
27 spawning on the Yukon River. Most of us catch fish on
28 their way to spawning grounds. Now, that's a very
29 loose interpretation of intercept fisheries but it is
30 if you want to get down to the nuts and bolts of it,
31 we're all intercept fisheries.

32

33 That's not the definition, so I don't
34 want you to think that's my interpretation.

35

36 But I do really want to thank you
37 because you did a great job of highlighting how
38 important king salmon is to the culture and to the
39 people on the Yukon River and how important it is to
40 make sure that they don't go away forever. So thank
41 you very much for that, I think you did a great job of
42 highlighting the importance of salmon, king salmon
43 here.

44

45 And also just recognizing that we
46 recognize that this isn't going to fix the problem. We
47 all recognize that it's going to take many -- many,
48 many avenues coming together to fix this problem and
49 you did a great job of highlighting that in your
50

0087

1 testimony so I thank you for that.

2

3

MR. PETE: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I'd also like to add
6 that people from Fairbanks and Anchorage are still able
7 to fish too if there's opportunity. Because they could
8 go -- your brother can go -- if he lived in Anchorage
9 he can go home and you could cut -- set the net, you
10 could check that net and bring it to the beach and you
11 guys can enjoy cutting it together still and create
12 that bond. This is just protecting what we both love
13 the most and cherish the most out of the river, and
14 that's king salmon. It's spiritual. I heard you say
15 it yourself many times, the spirituality of it, the
16 well-being for our people. It's all we're striving
17 for, is the future generations and to make sure that
18 they can do exactly that, what you say, all the time.

19

20 I hear you and I really appreciate your
21 good words every time I hear your testimony no matter
22 where you're at. I really appreciate you.

23

24

Thank you.

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MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chair. I want to
thank you very much for your testimony and I really
feel your passion. And the other thing I want to ask
is what do you see as the one, eel population, doing in
the lower Yukon because that's an important food
source?

MR. PETE: I, for one, am a little bit
farther down where -- probably where the eels are very,
very sparse, I'm in the Delta. Before they -- when
they go up the Yukon -- I'm on the Delta, so I'm on the
south mouth, so we don't see them -- we don't target
them where I'm from because they're so sparse. They're
more concentrated up around Mountain Village where the
whole Delta turns into one river, that's where they're
concentrated. So where I'm from they're so sparse and
spread out it makes no sense to go after them, you may
never get one. But 50, 60 miles away where all the
rivers merge into one that's where they're concentrated
and that's where they go after them. But, you know,
I've seen them as -- I don't know if you would call an
eel a fry, I don't know what's the word for a small
eel, but I've seen them in my area, they're like two or
three -- three or four inches long, I don't know if I

0088

1 live in the rearing grounds or not but where I'm from,
2 to answer your question they're just so sparse, spread
3 out, it's really hard to get them. Even if you tried
4 you may never get one. But maybe 60 miles away where
5 the river converges into, you know, half a mile wide,
6 that's where they're really concentrated and that's
7 where they go after them.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you for your
10 testimony. And I really feel your passion, you're very
11 well spoken. Thanks again.

12

13 MR. PETE: All right, thank you, bye-
14 bye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Okay. So we still
17 have a motion on the table.....

18

19 MS. BURK: I want to comment, do you
20 want me to do it now (no microphone)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: Yes, go ahead.

23

24 MS. BURK: Can I switch my hats now and
25 be the InterTribal Fish Commission so stepping off for
26 a second. We submitted this SAR, this is the third
27 year that it's been submitted so, of course, we support
28 it. And I just have a couple words that, you know, in
29 response even to what Stanley just said.

30

31 You know, for migratory species like
32 salmon we need all management bodies to come together
33 to work across jurisdictional boundaries. The work of
34 protecting and rebuilding salmon populations must be
35 led by tribes through co-stewardship and co-management.
36 Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission, Tanana Chiefs
37 Conference and the tribes in our region are working
38 together to build the framework for co-stewardship and
39 we are working with Federal agencies and the
40 Secretaries to do that. The SAR is a necessary step
41 for this work and is the only path to conservation
42 based management and protecting the sustainability of
43 wild salmon populations for future generations.

44

45 Unfortunately the State of Alaska is
46 failing to meet its own Constitutional requirements to
47 prioritize subsistence and sustainability of wild
48 salmon stocks. Subsistence needs are not being met in
49 Alaska and not on the Yukon River as mandated by the

50

0089

1 State Constitution and ANILCA Title VIII. Since 2001
2 we have not met our subsistence needs for 17 of the
3 past 23 years. Commercial fishing has been
4 continuously prioritized over subsistence fishing. For
5 example, from 2000 to 2023 there are 18 examples of
6 Fish and Game allowing a commercial fishery on a
7 chinook, summer chum or fall chum run and then failing
8 to meet one or more escapement goals on that population
9 in the same year. Along with climate change impacts
10 like marine heatwaves that are affecting habitat
11 quality, Alaska continues to release record amounts of
12 hatchery salmon which compete with wild stock for food
13 sources. Statewide annual hatchery releases from 1995
14 to 2021 range from 1.3 to 1.8 billion fish mostly
15 consisting of pink salmon from Prince William Sound,
16 0.5 to .08 billion, and chum salmon from Southeast
17 Alaska, 0.3 to 0.6 billion.

18
19 The SAR is only part of the solution.
20 We need a clear strategy to improve the marine
21 environment limiting bycatch, intercept fisheries and
22 hatchery production. We need a salmon rebuilding plan
23 that brings together all user groups and fishery
24 managers. We need the support of OSM and the Federal
25 Subsistence Board in these efforts, it's crucial.

26
27 So I just wanted to share, we are in a
28 dire crises and we ask for the action and support from
29 this Federal Subsistence Management Program.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Do you want to say
34 anything.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: I'm -- go ahead.

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Just want to note for the
39 record, Charlie Wright, our Chair has to leave and
40 catch a flight back to Fairbanks and so our new Vice
41 Chair will be stepping up as Chair in his absence. And
42 we thank you, Mr. Chair, for all your work and guidance
43 and leadership throughout this meeting and we hope you
44 have safe travels.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT: (No microphone)
47 Thank you. And appreciate you guys who have been here
48 awhile to give her a hand and help her get through the
49 meeting and I really appreciate you all. Thank you.
50

0090

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Charlie.

2

3 (Applause)

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Do you want a drum roll.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Go ahead.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: I can help you out a
12 little, Eva, if you want with the process stuff.

13

14 So we're currently on Council
15 discussion and there is a motion on the floor so if you
16 guys want to add any more to the justification of why
17 or why not you support this, now would be the time.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Is there anyone online
20 that wants to discuss this?

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Is there anyone joining
23 us online today that has any public comments on
24 Fisheries Special Action FSA24-01 related to Yukon
25 salmon and closure to non-Federally-qualified users.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: I'll just note that
30 Amanda is no longer online so we are down to our
31 minimum for quorum so no one is allowed to leave.

32

33 MS. EVANS: Could you restate the
34 motion that we're talking about please.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Sure, the motion, Linda,
37 is to support the fisheries special action request that
38 was submitted by the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
39 Commission which seeks to close fishing on the Yukon
40 for this season for chum, chinook and coho to non-
41 Federally-qualified users. So if any fishing were to
42 be allowed, it would be limited to Federally-qualified
43 subsistence users within Federally-managed waters on
44 the Yukon.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: I call the question.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I was just going to
49 do that.

50

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1 Question's been called, are we ready to
2 -- can we take a vote for unanimous consent. Okay, so
3 all those in favor say aye of supporting the motion.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All opposed same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Motion passes. And
13 then are these, are we voting on these next proposals
14 or is one of them deferred, can you clarify?

15
16 MR. BASSICH: It had.....

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BURK: It was previously
19 deferred to today, okay, that was what I needed to
20 know.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: But you also don't have
23 to vote on them, but, Cory, our Fisheries Biologist
24 will be able to explain that if you want to turn it
25 over to him.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Go ahead, Cory,
28 thank you.

29
30 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 So I'm also here today to announce our call for Federal
32 fisheries proposals. So essentially the Federal
33 Subsistence Board will soon be accepting new proposals
34 to change regulations for the subsistence take of fish
35 on Federal public waters for 2025 through 2027
36 regulatory cycle. The Board will consider changes --
37 proposals to change seasons, harvest limits, methods
38 and means, customary and traditional use determinations
39 and -- customary and traditional use determinations for
40 Federal fisheries, excuse me. If the Council wishes to
41 submit a proposal you can -- or you need to do so
42 during this meeting. The public will also be able to
43 submit proposals to change Federal fisheries
44 regulations and OSM will publish a news release
45 describing how this is done. The proposals will be
46 analyzed by OSM Staff and presented to the Councils
47 during your fall meetings for Council recommendations.
48 Proposal analysis and Council recommendations will be
49 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
50

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1 action during the January 2025 fisheries regulatory
2 meeting.

3
4 So I first wanted to ask if the Council
5 has any proposals to put forward and, if not, I can
6 talk more about the closure reviews that are listed on
7 your agenda. But I just wanted to see if you had any
8 other proposals to put forward before that.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. GRAHAM: So kind of transitioning
13 to closure reviews, the Federal Subsistence Board has
14 directed us, OSM, to review all closures, existing
15 closures to see if they're still necessary. And these
16 closure reviews follow the same process as proposals do
17 and will be analyzed by OSM Staff and presented to
18 Councils during your fall meetings. But as we've gone
19 through this process a couple of times, we've listened
20 to concerns from the Councils, and based on those
21 concerns we've adjusted the closure timeline to give
22 Councils an opportunity to submit proposals related to
23 closure reviews.

24
25 So why would we be asking you to do
26 this?

27
28 Well, submitting proposals will give
29 the Councils more flexibility in shaping the final
30 regulations for the systems that are closed. So for
31 example, maybe the Council wants to remove a closure
32 but also make sure that harvest is sustainable by
33 establishing gear type or harvest restrictions, but
34 these changes to gear types or harvest restrictions
35 cannot be done through the closure review process, so
36 they have to be done through a proposal.

37
38 So that's the background.

39
40 And at this meeting we're providing you
41 with background information regarding the closures that
42 we're going to be reviewing next cycle to see if you
43 want to submit a proposal to change those regulations.
44 You don't have to do that but, again, it'll give you
45 more flexibility. And I also want to make a note that
46 the closures that are listed, you're not making a
47 recommendation on those today, again, those are only
48 informational items for a little bit of background if
49 you decide you want to submit a proposal on those. So
50

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1 if that makes sense I have some background -- like some
2 talking points prepared for the closures. They've come
3 to the Council before, they were deferred -- one of
4 them was deferred from last cycle and the other one was
5 considered two cycles ago.

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: What cycle, what page?
10 (No microphone)

11
12 MS. MCDAVID: So the fisheries -- the
13 closure reviews, is that what you're talking about
14 Andy?

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, I didn't put that
19 page number on the agenda, I'll find it quickly for
20 you.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: 99 (no microphone)

23
24 REPORTER: Andy.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Excuse me. 99 is where
27 I'm seeing it.

28
29 MR. GRAHAM: The.....

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: 85 for Delta River
32 closure and 99 for the Nome Creek closure. So just to
33 follow up on what Cory said was an example. So if you
34 all are interested at the fall meeting on voting to
35 rescind, you know, the Delta River closure you could
36 put in a proposal now, that would suggest, you know,
37 harvest restrictions or gear restrictions, you know,
38 whatever is allowed under, you know, for proposals on
39 that system. So that if you rescinded the closure then
40 there would be a proposal being submitted at the same
41 time that would address any concerns related to methods
42 and means and harvest limits.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR BURK: So we don't -- so
45 this is just informational then?

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay. So then do
50

0094

1 you -- do we need to move on to the next item?

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: It's up to the Council.
4 If you guys aren't really super concerned about these
5 closures and you think, you know, they'll probably stay
6 in place then yeah.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I think
9 at this point in time I don't feel like I need to make
10 any modifications or any suggestions on these. So I'm
11 quite happy to move on at this point in time.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Go ahead Cory.

14

15 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry. I don't -- I don't
16 mean to interrupt but last cycle, the Delta River, for
17 example, was deferred, the closure was deferred and
18 this Council said one of the reasons for doing that was
19 conservation concerns with essentially rescinding the
20 closure and opening it up to all gear types. So,
21 again, if the Council's comfortable with hearing the
22 closure again, but your options are going to be
23 limited, you're either going to be able to rescind it
24 and it's going to be wide open, you're not going to be
25 able to institute any kind of harvest limits or
26 anything like that, and if that's what the Council
27 wishes to do there is no problem with that, but I just
28 want to make sure that that's clear so we don't get to
29 the next meeting and have you feel like your hands are
30 tied in what you can suggest.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you. If I
33 can have the floor. I guess I need a little more
34 discussion on that because I'm a little confused about
35 what you're suggesting there. So maybe go through that
36 one more time and maybe I'll pick up on it a little bit
37 better.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry. It's been a long
42 day and I'm kind of running on fumes, I apologize.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: No, I'm sorry, it was me,
45 I'm just not understanding you, and the process.

46

47 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah. So to take a step
48 back, the closure review process, again, we've done
49 this before and because the -- the modifications for

50

0095

1 the closure review process are limited because of
2 public participation and public comment, so the
3 Solicitor's office essentially said that certain
4 modifications to say like we want to put in harvest
5 limits, are outside of that modification, like outside
6 of the scope because the public won't be able to
7 comment on it and because that's such an important part
8 of this whole program, we just can't make those
9 changes.

10

11 So next time you'll hear about the
12 Delta River closure, and if you want to remove that to
13 provide, say, a subsistence priority because State
14 sportfishing is allowed, you can rescind the closure
15 but you're not going to be able to say what the harvest
16 limits are, it's going to allow the current regulations
17 in the Yukon northern area which are generally pretty
18 liberal, right, because you've got a lot of remote
19 areas but this is road access system, so you're just
20 going to have fewer options with that.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to reiterate,
23 I'm not prepared at this point in time to make any
24 changes or recommendations or whatever, it's just not
25 where my focus has been, sorry, I apologize. I'm not
26 prepared to make any changes.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR BURK: So, and this is in
29 the upper Tanana River, part of this?

30

31 MR. GRAHAM: The Delta River is located
32 near Delta Junction and Nome Creek is located in, I
33 think, the White Mountains about 50 miles north of
34 Fairbanks.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR BURK: And right now
37 there's Federal Subsistence Board allowed -- allowed in
38 Delta -- subsistence fishing allowed in Delta because
39 it's in.....

40

41 MR. GRAHAM: The Delta River is
42 currently closed under Federal regulations for
43 subsistence however State sportfishing is allowed.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I thought -- so
46 currently State sportfishing in the Delta is still
47 allowed for kings, chinook?

48

49 MR. GRAHAM: Salmon -- so salmon spawn

50

0096

1 in the lower Delta River but they don't inhabit the
2 closure area so we're talking more about non-salmon
3 species.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, that helps me
6 a lot so I don't have to panic.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I feel with Andy
11 that I'm also a like, like I'm not really sure what to
12 do here with this one other than just.....

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Yes, please, Don.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to make a
19 motion to maintain the status quo on the Delta River
20 closure.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify Don, that
23 will be the motion -- if you want to keep the closure
24 at the fall meeting, that's the motion the Council
25 would make and then you wouldn't be worried about these
26 proposals because you're not opening it up. This would
27 be if you, as a Council, want to rescind that closure,
28 since sportfishing is allowed but subsistence not, to
29 allow some sort of subsistence fishing opportunity but
30 put some limitations on it because of conservation
31 reasons, you would need to put in a proposal now, but
32 you don't have to vote on those proposals or the
33 closure review until the fall.

34

35 I know it's a very confusing process.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: I'm beginning to follow
38 (no microphone)

39

40 (Council talking)

41

42 MR. BASSICH: If I can make a comment,
43 I know in a lot of game issues we're always trying to
44 seek alignment between State and Federal regulations
45 and I apologize I'm not really up to speed on what the
46 conservation issues are, can you maybe update us on
47 what the latest data is showing as far as stocks in
48 those areas, are they endangered, are they not
49 performing?

50

0097

1 MR. GRAHAM: So I will look through my
2 notes here to make sure I give you the right
3 information. So in the Delta River, there's previous
4 research that found that there's actually a really
5 abundant population of grayling in the closure area.
6 The population had one of the highest density estimates
7 ever recorded in the state. There are other species of
8 non-salmon fish, lake trout, Dolly varden, burbot,
9 however, there's just not a lot of information about
10 those species in the area so I can't really say how
11 their populations are doing.

12
13 In Nome Creek, the other closure, this
14 closure is limited to grayling. We don't 'really have
15 a lot of information about grayling in the area. There
16 was a study conducted, I think, a little while ago but
17 it wasn't really successful in getting the data that
18 they wanted so ADF&G and BLM are conducting a study
19 right now but the information from that study is not
20 going to be available until, I believe, the fall --
21 it's scheduled to be released -- I have it in my notes
22 -- the results won't be available until fall 2024.
23 That's when they're scheduled to be released. So we
24 don't have a lot of information about grayling in that
25 system. And currently in that system no Federal
26 subsistence is allowed for grayling but there's a catch
27 and release sport fishery for grayling.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: In Nome Creek?

30
31 MR. GRAHAM: In Nome Creek, correct.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: And just for the record,
34 also, maybe, Cory, you could let the Council know what
35 the OSM preliminary conclusion is for both of these
36 closures.

37
38 MR. GRAHAM: Well, for the closure
39 review which would be coming up in the fall it would be
40 to rescind, but we kind of talk about how there may
41 need to be some in-season management by the Federal in-
42 season manager until a proposal could be submitted to
43 say limited to rod and reel and either match sportfish
44 regulations or increase over their -- have higher than
45 sportfish regulations -- harvest. Sorry.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: So the -- I think I'm
48 coming around here so bear with me. If I were to make
49 a motion for the Delta River to align grayling with the
50

0098

1 current State regulations for sportfishing, that's what
2 I'm thinking, there's no conservation concern there; is
3 that correct?

4

5 MR. GRAHAM: That's correct. And for
6 an example, so we've gone through this process with
7 Western Interior and they put in a proposal to limit to
8 rod and reel only so when you do that you're going to
9 match State sportfishing.....

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. GRAHAM:harvest and
14 possession limits, but then they provided subsistence
15 priority above that and increased the harvest limit
16 from grayling from five to 10. So that's how they
17 decided to take action on it. You don't need to do the
18 same thing but it kind of gets at some of the
19 conservation concerns, lines some regulations but then
20 also provides a subsistence priority above that for
21 grayling, which they felt is the most important species
22 in that drainage.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Cory, when was
25 those numbers, when you said the highest density, what
26 years?

27

28 MR. GRAHAM: I'll need to check in
29 here, I believe it was in 2008 or '09.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MR. GRAHAM: And there's been no
34 subsequent research in my understanding.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Quickly, that gives
37 me a little concern because I have seen grayling get
38 leaned on too hard. We've seen whitefish get leaned on
39 a little too hard in Chateneeka, so I -- I'm a little
40 concerned about those numbers being older but I get
41 what you're saying about wanting to align -- giving a
42 subsistence priority when there is sportfishing. But I
43 guess I just wanted to have on the record that I have
44 seen grayling get leaned on too hard, especially if
45 there's no sportfishing for king and I think it's just
46 something to note and be careful with.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: If I may, just to
49 clarify. If we just rescind the closure to align, it
50

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1 really is not doing anything, because a person who is
2 Federally-qualified can also fish under State
3 regulations as well so the only reason you would want
4 to modify this is to give increased opportunity for
5 Federally-qualified harvesters, correct?

6
7 MR. GRAHAM: (Nods affirmatively)

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Okay. That being said I
10 -- without really studying this a little bit more, I'm
11 fine with other RACs that may have allowed for greater
12 opportunity for Federally-qualified users and I would
13 -- I just feel like I'd be comfortable with the Board's
14 decision on that. I just don't feel that passionate
15 about it but maybe you can educate me some more.

16
17 MR. GRAHAM: No, and this is -- this is
18 fine, I'm not trying to.....

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Yeah.

21
22 MR. GRAHAM:push anything.....

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

25
26 MR. GRAHAM:on the Councils.
27 It's just like this is the time to make those
28 proposals. The other ones that I spoke of are in the
29 Western Interior, they're not these proposals, they are
30 different systems, it's just what they came up with to
31 solve some of these problems and provide subsistence
32 opportunity. But, again, if you don't -- if you're
33 comfortable moving forward, you don't need to submit a
34 proposal it's just now is your time to do it. You'll
35 see these closures in the fall, you can make a
36 recommendation on them at that time, so.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that's fine.

39
40 MS. SHOCKLEY: If I may. Just note
41 that I have a hard time closing anything to subsistence
42 harvest and then allowing sportfishing. I mean to me
43 that just doesn't make sense so.

44
45 MR. VICKERS: If you don't mind I just
46 want to -- kind of what you just said, because I'm
47 taking from the other Council meetings that I've been
48 to, they're going through this process and it's
49 confusing why we do this here, and as Cory has said
50

0100

1 it's because the closure reviews, it's so limited what
2 you're able to do, it's basically rescind or keep, you
3 can't change the season. And so other Councils have
4 gone through this -- Kodiak/Aleutians went through a
5 lot of them, and basically what they considered a lot
6 of the time was well right now there's no Federal
7 season, there is a State season, so maybe we can, as
8 you said, align it with the Federal -- so at least we
9 have a Federal season that we can adjust later, but
10 right now all we can do is -- and, you know, if we
11 rescind it it's unlimited harvest, but as you said
12 since people are -- you're still able to harvest under
13 State, but without an existing Federal season there's
14 no opportunity in the future to create a priority until
15 we go through this all again at some point.

16

17 So that's what other Councils
18 reasonings have been and I just wanted to let you know
19 since I've been through those.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted to note too
24 that, putting in a proposal, if you wanted to, now, you
25 will have the opportunity to discuss that and make a
26 recommendation on it in the fall. So if you get more
27 information between now and then, you hear the analysis
28 in the fall if you do put in a proposal, you can decide
29 to vote against that or vote for it based on, you know,
30 what you hear in the analysis and the other information
31 that you learn.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'm understanding
34 what's going on here and beginning to wrap my head
35 around the process so I think I'd like to make a motion
36 that we modify the Federal regulations for the Delta
37 River to align with the State sportfishing in the Delta
38 River for grayling.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Do we need to be specific
41 or do you know what those regs are Cory?

42

43 MR. GRAHAM: Well, I would just say
44 that part of the concern are other gear types, right,
45 like driftnets, other things like that, so it would be
46 really hard to set those -- to align those regulations
47 because they don't have gillnet opportunities and it'd
48 be hard if it's five a day to have that kind of -- it
49 would be hard to control your harvest, right, so I

50

0101

1 think in the past, other Councils have decided to use
2 rod and reel only and then that.....

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Isn't that in the State
5 (no microphone)

6

7 REPORTER: Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Sorry. Isn't that in the
10 State right now?

11

12 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah, yeah, I guess I just
13 would want clarification on the record that you were
14 wanting to limit to rod and reel only and then that
15 would in turn.....

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Okay. For the record
18 I'll restate my motion. I would like to make a motion
19 that the Federal Program for the Delta River be aligned
20 with the State of Alaska's methods and means, which
21 would mean that it would be rod and reel only for
22 grayling fishing in the Delta River. That wasn't
23 really well done but you get the gist of it. You can
24 wordsmith it later.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: And you're also wanting
27 to align with the harvest limit that the State has?

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Correct. I'm sorry, yes,
30 I left out harvest, yeah, so methods, means and harvest
31 to align with the State on the Delta River. Does that
32 work for you?

33

34 MR. GRAHAM: Can I ask for more
35 clarifying, I'm sorry Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

38

39 MR. GRAHAM: Are you just wanting to
40 rescind the closure for grayling only or are you
41 wanting to rescind it for all species within the Delta
42 River?

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Grayling only.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR BURK: What's the limit,
47 is there a limit?

48

49 MR. GRAHAM: Let me check really

50

0102

1 quickly.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MR. GRAHAM: I believe it's five per
6 day but I want to confirm.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: For the.....

9

10 MR. GRAHAM: Sportfishing under State
11 regulations.

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:Delta River,
14 I believe it's all five a day.

15

16 MR. GRAHAM: The Arctic grayling, the
17 bag and possession limit is five fish with no size
18 limit.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

23

24 MR. BASSICH: A question from Member
25 Shockley is why just grayling and I don't know the data
26 for whitefish or other species that are there so unless
27 I get a little bit more information on the abundance of
28 other non-grayling fish in the stream -- grayling fish
29 seems to be the most sought after sportfish and I'm
30 assuming that most people are after that. But,
31 honestly, Dorothy I just don't have enough information
32 to really feel comfortable to opening it wide open
33 because obviously they rescinded it for a reason in the
34 past and I'm not really familiar with the history.

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Do you have other
37 numbers for like Dolly varden and what else, what are
38 the others?

39

40 MR. GRAHAM: I don't believe there's
41 any population information or abundance information for
42 the other species.

43

44 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So you mentioned
45 Dolly varden, grayling and what?

46

47 MR. GRAHAM: So the non-salmon fish
48 community in the Delta River is comprised of Arctic
49 grayling, burbot, round whitefish, long nose sucker,
50

0103

1 lake trout, and Dolly varden.

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. And right now the
4 State is just sportfishing for grayling or is it all
5 species?

6

7 MR. GRAHAM: I believe it's all species
8 within the area.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Can you educate me why
11 the closure was put in place initially and when that
12 was done?

13

14 MR. GRAHAM: The current Federal
15 closure has been on the books since the beginning of
16 the Federal Program and it was carried over from State
17 regulations and we don't really have -- I don't think
18 there's a -- I don't know exactly why it started back
19 then.

20

21 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers,
22 OSM. I have a little like off the books conversation
23 on how this happened and these happened because -- this
24 is -- we have this across the state, why there's a
25 subsistence closure. It's because -- a Federal
26 subsistence closure. We inherited this from the State,
27 these all come from the State, and when the State did
28 this, this -- because the -- for subsistence meant all
29 methods other than rod and reel, so they would just
30 close their subsistence to -- their fisheries to
31 subsistence so that you couldn't use any of the methods
32 -- other methods, nets and everything, and so we
33 inherited that and even though for Federal subsistence
34 you can use any methods, those closures have just
35 stayed as a legacy and that's why we have these
36 situations in which the State is open, the Federal
37 qualified -- or the Federal fisheries are -- are closed
38 because it's inherited from the State when they would
39 do -- subsistence meant everything except for rod and
40 reel.

41

42 I hope that makes sense.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: And so to clarify that
45 even more, currently under State it's strictly rod and
46 reel in the Delta, there is no net fishing.....

47

48 MR. VICKERS: I don't know.....

49

50

0104

1 MR. BASSICH:or anything like
2 that?

3
4 MR. VICKERS:anything about the
5 subsistence.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Okay, do we have a second
8 on my motion, I don't think we do, do we?
9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'd like to change
12 my motion, modify it, so I'd like to make the motion
13 that we align the Federal subsistence fishing
14 regulations with the State for all species on the Delta
15 River but restrict it to only rod and reel fisheries.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: And I guess speaking to
20 the motion -- thank you for clarifying a lot of this,
21 I'm just not that familiar with it and thanks, you
22 know, we always try and align things, we're trying to
23 make things so that rural Federally-qualified users are
24 able to harvest and I know this doesn't really give
25 them an advantage and maybe in the future when we get a
26 little bit more time to learn a little bit more about
27 this then we can make it a little bit more liberal for
28 the Federal people in the fall time or whatever. So
29 that's my reasoning for the motion.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Any more
34 discussion.

35

36 MS. EVANS: So this will -- by making
37 this proposal that we're doing, will allow us to
38 discuss this again in October?

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

41

42 MS. EVANS: Okay, thank you.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct, Linda.
45 It's just a proposal that will be submitted and then,
46 yep, you'll review them in the fall.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'll call
49 question.

50

0105

1 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, I'm going to
2 -- question's been called, I'm going to ask for
3 unanimous consent to support this motion. All those in
4 favor say aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All those opposed
9 same sign.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right, motion
14 passes, thank you.

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: Are you guys interested
17 in doing something similar for the Nome Creek closure?

18
19 MR. BASSICH: I would just like to get
20 a little more clarification because I heard you allude
21 to the fact that there may be a conservation concern on
22 Nome Creek.

23
24 MR. GRAHAM: I don't know if there's a
25 conservation concern per se, but there's not a lot of
26 population information right now and ADF&G and BLM are
27 currently conducting a study and the information from
28 that study is not going to be available until at least
29 fall 2024 and that's for grayling. So we have data
30 coming in soon, we just don't have it yet to say much
31 about how the population is doing, it could be doing
32 really poor, it could be doing really well, we just
33 don't know at this time.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So if we were to
36 make a motion to align with the State with their, then
37 we could always, if there was an issue we could rescind
38 our proposal at the fall meeting if that information
39 came to us prior to that; is that correct?

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: You could.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Withdraw. Withdraw our
44 proposal.

45
46 MS. MCDAVID: Or you could vote to
47 oppose it for conservation concerns, but Cory has
48 something else.

49
50

0106

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

2

3

4 MR. GRAHAM: There's always a
5 complicating factor. So because Nome Creek is catch
6 and release only, if you aligned there would be no
7 harvest, there would be just catch and release only.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: (No microphone)

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: So what -- okay, thanks.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Moving right along.

13

14 (Conversation with no microphone)

15

16 MR. BASSICH:spent an hour and a
17 half to get wrapped around the axle.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Then the next one
20 is to develop priority information needs.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: I believe it's the
23 selection of volunteers to help -- it's not worded
24 great on the agenda. But Cory can give a real quick
25 explanation. But basically we're -- never mind, I'll
26 let Cory do it, sorry.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair. I would
29 like to request from OSM, since we're having so much
30 fun with fisheries that we send someone to the North
31 Pacific Management Council to testify. I went in '06
32 and I think it's somebody else's turn.

33

34 (Conversation - no microphone)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I'm on the AP for
37 the tribal seat for the North Pacific and I would
38 really appreciate somebody coming in to testify and to
39 testify at both the AP and the Council if you're able
40 to because I -- it's worth the trip to discuss with the
41 AP members who you're -- who people are going to have
42 more of an ear than you will with the Council members
43 so much.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: I could just follow up,
46 if you all want to request that you don't have to
47 identify the specific person right now, you know,
48 Charlie's not here, Amanda's not here, so you could put
49 in that request and it could be to be determined if OSM
50

0107

1 allows that.

2

3

(Conversation - no microphone)

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: I think we're on a side
6 bar, and that's okay.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I think that's
9 under other business. Yeah, let's just finish it
10 though.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: I guess, Don, do you want
13 to make a motion to send someone, I wasn't sure if that
14 was a motion or just a comment to send a representative
15 from the RAC to North Pacific Council.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that we could do
18 that in the fall just so we can move along and get
19 over.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay. You would need a
22 motion to send someone?

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: I actually don't think
25 you have to have a motion for that, it's a request to
26 OSM, you're not voting on something, so, thanks.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR BURK: And just to note
29 for the record, the chum bycatch is coming up, initial
30 review in April and we're fleshing out alternatives to
31 be analyzed in that chum bycatch so there is testimony
32 needed there. But there is going to be more testimony
33 needed in the future too. So to just align that --
34 make sure we have an agenda item that we really need to
35 testify on.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: And just as a reminder,
38 that person that does get sent, they won't be able to
39 speak freely necessarily, you know, there are some
40 constraints about the things that have been discussed
41 at this meeting and in our joint letters and the
42 positions of the Council and the joint Councils have
43 put forward. So you have to kind of stick to certain
44 talking points but you then you could always provide
45 additional testimony of -- personal testimony. I just
46 wanted to get that on the record.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: So, question, if we send
49 someone from our RAC, do we pay their way and all that
50

0108

1 good stuff?

2

3

MS. MCDAVID: Yes, ma'am, and that's
4 why we have to request that OSM permission to send
5 someone -- you know, they have to review the budget,
6 it's not like a guarantee, as long as there's -- if
7 there's funding available they've generally allowed it
8 in the past.

9

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MR. BASSICH: I guess to add to Don's
request to that I would just like to reference all of
the discussion through the joint RAC and this RAC
meeting in regards to the importance of getting
testimony and action by the Northwest -- or I'm sorry,
the North Pacific Management Council to help to resolve
our salmon issues. It's highly important that we get
as much representation, as much information there.
Just putting that on the record.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Madame Chair, I agree.
And, you know, if nobody else volunteers I would
volunteer to testify as well so.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Are we talking
about going for the April meeting or some time after
the fall?

MS. MCDAVID: I think April and fall.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Perfect. We will
be helping with testimony, just so you know, it won't
bite you.

MS. SHOCKLEY: I've testified before.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Yeah.

MS. MCDAVID: Perhaps, Madame Chair, to
get us back on track, Item 10G, the volunteers for
developing PINS. Cory might have a few words to share
with us about that.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
So OSM is currently in the final phase of the 2024
Monitoring Program funding cycle and the Federal
Subsistence Board met in early February and approved
the final Monitoring Program Plan and with this cycle
coming to an end it's time for the Councils to begin
developing priority information needs for the next

0109

1 cycle.

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And priority information needs are a really important component of the Monitoring Program. They highlight and identify issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries and they also guide the Monitoring Program funding process by determining what types of projects are submitted for funding and providing a framework for evaluating and selecting project proposals.

So what we're doing is we're asking for one or more volunteers from this and other Yukon region Councils to meet by telephone sometime this summer to identify knowledge gaps and information needed for the management of subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands. The draft list that's created by the volunteers will be presented to the Councils for your final approval during your fall meetings.

And this concludes my presentation and are there any Council members who would like to volunteer to develop priority information needs.

Thank you.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would like to volunteer and I volunteer our Chair and I volunteer our Vice Chair. No, seriously I'd be very happy to be a part -- I've been a part of that in the past and it's a great process and if there are other members on the RAC that want to join, I would welcome them for their perspectives is the point I was trying to make. But you can count on me, just let me know when it's happening.

MS. SHOCKLEY: So where can I find more information on this?

MR. GRAHAM: I'm not sure anything's listed in the books or not. But if you want to find more information about FRMP we can always provide you with background information then and you can decide whether you want to volunteer or not.....

MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

MR. GRAHAM:at that time.

0110

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Just so you guys know
2 that I volunteered the last cycle, and it was a really
3 rewarding experience but because of my diminished
4 capacity I don't think I could do that now.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Well, and I'd just like
7 to say to that, thank you, Don, for all the things
8 you've volunteered for, I know you've gone and
9 represented us at the Board of Fish and numerous other
10 agency things and you've always done a great job. And
11 I think it's important to always spread those things
12 around our Council to avoid burnout as well. So, thank
13 you. I just wanted to commend you because I know
14 you've done a great job representing our views here in
15 many of these meetings.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Did you have
20 something Dorothy.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, Andy, and if
25 we have time I would like to be involved as much as I
26 can so I'll coordinate with you on that. I did notice
27 on the FRMP that we had something for culture camps, so
28 to not forget that one. And then also there's a number
29 of projects, monitoring projects and things going on
30 around the state, so to kind of make sure that we might
31 want to align or collaborate even with some of those.
32 So that's some of the type of input I'd like to
33 provide.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 And then so it sounds like we have Andy
38 to volunteer and then by support by Charlie -- I'm
39 going to volunteer me and Charlie on that one and
40 anybody else.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay. So then
45 we're on to Agenda Item H, the proposed rule to add
46 three tribal seats to the Federal Subsistence Board.
47 And then do we need to make a motion for discussion
48 or.....

49

50

0111

1 MS. MCDAVID: You could -- so all
2 motions by the Council are always made in the positive
3 so you could make a motion to support and then you
4 could discuss.

5
6 And I will note, if you guys still have
7 your joint Council books with you there is a copy of
8 the proposed rule that starts on Page 32. If you don't
9 have it in front of you I have extra copies I can pass
10 to you, or if it's not easily accessible.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

15
16 REPORTER: Can you turn your microphone
17 on.

18
19 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oops. I move to support
20 for -- yeah, support the Federal Subsistence Board's
21 proposal to add three more members to the Federal
22 Subsistence Board.

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. So there
27 was a presentation by Raina on the first day of the
28 joint Council meeting and she provided a lot of, you
29 know, background information on this. There are a lot
30 of questions that they're asking for feedback on on how
31 to go about this, that they list out in this so you
32 might just want to kind of discuss some of those things
33 that came up on the first day, you know, about how to
34 make this an equitable, you know, like a fair process,
35 you know, considering there are 229 tribes in Alaska,
36 you know, whether or not the nominated folks should
37 have some background or involvement on the RACs or
38 within the Federal processes, also things like if there
39 should be term limits to get different people cycling
40 through, things like that.

41
42 MR. VICKERS: If you don't mind, this
43 is Brent Vickers, Office of Subsistence Management. To
44 add to what Brooke has been saying -- sorry, I'm a
45 little brain -- brain not there. This is your
46 opportunity -- after given what Raina said, and given
47 what you've read, this is your opportunity right now to
48 discuss this here as a Council, thoughts that you have.
49 Also it's your only opportunity to submit a comment as
50

0112

1 a Council. You can submit comments as individuals up
2 until April 26th through -- it has to be a written
3 comment. We can make sure you know how to submit the
4 comments, it's on the egovdot thing, I think it's
5 listed on the -- in the book, but if you wanted to make
6 a comment -- submit a comment as the Council, it would
7 have to be -- you'd have to vote on that today, on what
8 comments you want to make and, of course, your amazing
9 Coordinator would help write that comment but the idea
10 would have to be voted here, right now, you don't have
11 another opportunity to do that, since the comment
12 period closes April 26th.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: I need a little bit of
15 clarification, my brain is kind of mush right now. But
16 if you could refresh my memory, these seats, are these
17 voting seats or non-voting seats?

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: They are voting seats and
20 they can be any member of the public but they -- the
21 current proposed rule is that they should be nominated
22 by tribes but you don't have to be a tribal member,
23 necessarily, a tribe could nominate a non-tribal member
24 if they wanted.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: I guess from my
27 perspective, I would like to see that all
28 qualifications would be for a Federally-qualified user
29 who's familiar with fish and game in the region, and
30 what I would really like to see that there be good
31 representation from all regions within the state of
32 Alaska. So certainly someone from Eastern and Northern
33 Alaska, someone from Western Alaska and someone from
34 Southeast Alaska would be my preference. And then
35 identifying that their qualifications would have to be
36 knowledge and experience of subsistence activities,
37 practices and also rulemaking processes.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I also want to add
40 comments to this one too. Because I do really think
41 that this person should have knowledge of the other
42 State and Federal processes, like North Pacific, so I
43 do want that language in there for them to have
44 knowledge of those other processes, and also -- I'm not
45 sure, when they said like when a person is nominated
46 but how they're going to weigh and evaluate different
47 nominations. I think something that worked well for,
48 being on the tribal seat of the North Pacific was that
49 you have to be nominated by a tribe and then the more
50

0113

1 letters of support that you get, that is what weights
2 it.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Weights it.

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Yeah, and also they
9 had -- and I don't really feel too strongly about this
10 but they also had in there that -- not just like
11 subsistence needs, but that if you had local and
12 traditional knowledge, that that was a priority, and
13 that if you had a science background, that that's even
14 a higher priority and so, you know, when -- I don't
15 want to get too in the weeds about having an education
16 or science, I don't think that's as important as having
17 the knowledge of the processes, being a subsistence
18 user. So.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Clarification on process.
21 Do we need a motion to do this or is this just more of
22 a letter, I'm a little bit fuzzy here.

23

24 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, there is a motion
25 to support the three members, addition, it was seconded
26 and this is just discussion and to get comments on how
27 we want to do it, I guess, right?

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. So this will be
30 submitted in the form of like a letter or a comment so
31 based on your discussion and the points that you would
32 like to include. We don't have to modify the proposed
33 rule or anything like that as far as process goes.

34

35 MS. SHOCKLEY: Madame Chair, if I may.
36 I like the idea, during discussion, on the full floor,
37 if you want to call it that, so, you know, it was
38 brought up that each member should represent two
39 regions. I think that's a good idea except, you know,
40 we have four members that are subsistence users, I
41 believe, the Chair is from Southeast, you have somebody
42 from the west, you have somebody from the Interior, and
43 let me see -- let's see, oh, and then somebody from
44 Barrow, yeah, so I definitely agree that, you know, the
45 three members -- or the three additional members that
46 all regions should be recognized. I like that, you
47 know, of course that they be very knowledgeable about,
48 you know, not only subsistence but also all of the
49 other entities that make decisions in regards to

50

0114

1 subsistence. Somebody mentioned that the members come
2 from the RACs, I kind of like that idea as well because
3 there is experience on that so -- yeah, so I think all
4 regions should be represented and then -- and then I
5 like the idea that the people come from the RACs as
6 well.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. Just a
9 point of clarification, Dorothy, since I'll be helping
10 craft this, so when you say come from the RACs, are you
11 okay with previous experience on the RACs or does it
12 need to be a current sitting member?

13

14 MS. SHOCKLEY: I guess either or would
15 be good. I mean as long as they have experience, you
16 know, I think that's the most important thing.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you. Yeah, I
19 think the other thing I'd like to do is have a term
20 limit of five years. I think it's -- the three years
21 is too short, a lot of times it takes a year or two to
22 just kind of come up to speed, but I don't like the
23 idea of someone being appointed and then they just stay
24 on forever. I think that's -- that can be beneficial
25 but it also makes it really hard to change. So a five
26 year term limit would be my preference.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Clarification, Madame
29 Chair, if that's okay.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR BURK: (No microphone)

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Good point, Andy.
34 Do you think they could be renominated after five
35 years?

36

37 MR. BASSICH: (Nods affirmatively)

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So they could
40 serve multiple terms but there would need to be a
41 reevaluation or you would allow other incoming
42 applications or.....

43

44 MR. BASSICH: (Nods affirmatively)

45

46 MS. MCDAVID:and then -- okay.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I think that they should
49 not have the preference or the waiting from being a
50

0115

1 current member. I think the whole process should start
2 from scratch and they would need to have letters of
3 support, just like a -- put it on equal playing grounds
4 is maybe the best way to put it because -- well, I'm
5 not going to go down that rabbit hole, but, anyway, I
6 think you understand what my perception is.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Sure.e Thank you for
11 that clarification, and just to follow up, related.
12 These items that you're discussing, how do you feel
13 that they should apply to the Board Chair and should
14 the Board Chair have term limits, how should the Board
15 Chair be nominated or selected?

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: I guess from my
20 perspective it's a little bit different with the Board
21 Chair. I think it's really important to have a
22 relationship and these processes are so complicated and
23 it does take even longer for a Chair to fall into
24 familiarity with it, so -- you know, I think the
25 current process is working for us well. And I'm not
26 really sure what the process is for removal of a
27 Chair, do they have to resign, or how is that -- can
28 you educate me?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. BASSICH: You don't know. Nobody
33 probably knows whether we can get rid of a Chair or
34 not.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. VICKERS: I have no idea.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

41

42 MR. VICKERS: I enjoy Anthony so I've
43 never questioned his tenure so maybe in a couple years,
44 you know. I'll ask and I'll try to get a question
45 [sic] on that, that's a great question.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

48

49 MR. VICKERS: So we'll see. But I

50

0116

1 don't know off hand.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Just to follow up, do you
6 think the Chair should be reappointed every five years
7 or just be allowed to serve until.....

8

9 MR. BASSICH: You know, maybe that's
10 not a bad idea, if the Chair is doing a great job and
11 people are in support and he's moving in the right
12 directions, it's a pretty easy rubber stamp and if
13 there's issues that are happening then that may be able
14 to be brought to light as well, so, yeah, I guess maybe
15 it would be good to have terms for Chairs, or at least
16 an evaluation if nothing else after five years. You
17 know it's always good to evaluate performance.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: So question. So is
20 there a term limit now for the Chair?

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: There is not.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I was just looking
25 for policies and procedures, there's not -- that's not
26 available.

27

28 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Just an FYI, you
29 know, they want to do this before the next election so
30 we have like eight months to recommend for them to seat
31 these three people, so just an FYI.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Maybe this is a
34 question for you, but on April 26th, once those
35 comments are in, when is the decision, the final --
36 there's no final date for that?

37

38 MR. VICKERS: I don't have a date
39 written. All we know at this point is the proposal --
40 when the comments are for the proposal. I suppose --
41 there's so many things involved in getting these things
42 to a final rule and everything, and I've heard that
43 this -- that because this is an election year things
44 are going to move even slower, just because of the
45 amount of things trying to get through the process and
46 that's affecting us, in how we got our fisheries final
47 book today and reasons why these things are taking so
48 slow [sic]. Maybe this will be prioritized, I don't
49 know.

50

0117

1 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Thank you for that.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: There's a couple other
4 things you guys might want to weigh in on. There's
5 another question in here about whether the public
6 members of the Board should have alternates that can
7 seat for them when they're not available. Currently
8 the Federal agencies that sit on the Board do have
9 alternates but the public members do not.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I would say yes on
12 that and how does everybody else -- any comments on
13 that.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: I concur. Yes.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. And there's one
18 other question in here that stands out, do you think
19 that the Secretaries should broadly solicit nominations
20 and recommendations from all tribes, or at their sole
21 discretion one or more specific Federally-recognized
22 tribal governments?

23

24 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I'm a firm believer
25 that should go wide, I don't like the idea of a
26 backdoor deal. That's what it almost sounds like to
27 me.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I concur.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Is there any more
32 discussion on this item or can we vote for our motion
33 to support it with the comments that we made?

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Call for the question.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Call for question
38 then. Okay, then I'm going to seek to support this
39 with the comments, all in -- and do unanimous consent
40 please, all in favor say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All those opposed
45 same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right, motion

50

0118

1 passes to support that, thank you.

2

3 And then Brooke, this is probably you,
4 uh, future meeting dates. We're getting there guys,
5 we're getting there.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: We are getting there. So
8 let me get you on the right page of your meeting books
9 for your calendars. All right, Page 120 of your
10 Eastern Interior meeting book has the fall 2024 RAC
11 meeting cycle calendar. And previously at your last
12 meeting you all selected the dates of October 8th
13 through the 10th of -- three days -- a possible three
14 day meeting, it could always end earlier. Fall
15 meetings tend to go longer because that's when you're
16 taking up proposals and making recommendations. You
17 all asked if you can meet in Tanana. Tanana is a non-
18 hub community in your region. You did ask to change
19 Tanana to a hub community but OSM leadership has not
20 approved that yet so Tanana would still be pending that
21 approval, and OSM leadership would have to take in the
22 request -- compare that with the request -- consider
23 the -- I'm sorry, I'm getting lost in words -- the
24 request of other Councils to meet in rural communities,
25 in non-hub communities, just to make it equitable, you
26 know, they can't just allow one Council to continually
27 meet in non-hub communities and not others, there's
28 limited budget, et cetera. So you're back up location
29 is Fairbanks, and if you guys are still okay with that,
30 and those dates.....

31

32 MR. BASSICH: What about Cancun.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Cancun is not on your hub
35 list either, Andy, I'm sorry.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. BASSICH: We could change that.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Ooh, that would be a good
42 one. So I guess I would just ask if the Council is
43 still okay with three day meeting October 8th through
44 the 10th in Tanana, possibly, if we get approval, or
45 Fairbanks.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR BURK: It looks good.

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: All right, thanks for

50

0119

1 confirming. So the next page, Page 121 is the winter
2 2025 calendar. There have been a couple Councils that
3 selected dates. So the week of October.....

4

5 (Council talking no microphones)

6

7 MR. VICKERS: Winter.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Wait, winter, wrong
10 Council -- no wrong calendar. So any of the weeks are
11 still open, there haven't been two Councils that have
12 selected the same week. Just ask that you keep in
13 mind, if possible, to not start your meeting on a
14 Monday or end on a Friday because we have members of
15 this Council that can't travel on weekends due to
16 flight schedules.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Yeah, I
19 guess from my perspective, you know, I like the
20 February meeting, March is the prime time for people
21 who live out in the Bush and it really takes away a
22 lot, so the earlier the better, from my perspective.
23 I'm pretty flexible, but the earlier in February the
24 better, from my perspective.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 So I guess saying that, maybe I would
29 -- I will say -- let's see we probably can't start on
30 the 18th because President Day possibly is no fly
31 zone, but maybe -- maybe we could do a travel of
32 February 8th and meet the 9th -- or the 19th and 20th,
33 sorry, I was saying the 8th -- 18th -- so February 19th
34 and 20, and can we get it done in two days, that would
35 be a preference too.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Usually your winter
38 meetings are quicker.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: So I guess my proposal
43 would be for the Eastern Interior RAC to meet on
44 February 19th and 20th of 2025.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: And that will be the
47 start of wildlife regulatory cycle, you will be
48 developing wildlife proposals at that meeting, if that
49 -- if you want to consider that when you're thinking
50

0120

1 about location, Fairbanks is an option. Gosh, your
2 other hub communities, I think, are Fort Yukon and Tok
3 or Delta, I can't remember which one, I'm sorry.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Well, given that our last
6 day would be a Thursday and Friday would be a last
7 possible chance to return home, at least for myself and
8 Don, I would recommend that that meeting be held in
9 Fairbanks. It gives us a lot more latitude for getting
10 home than trying to fly in and then connect up or
11 whatever. I spent too many years sitting over the
12 weekend waiting for a flight to get home and that
13 really kills me.

14

15 MS. SHOCKLEY: So I have a question,
16 what communities do they call hub villages,
17 communities, that we can meet in?

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: I'm going to need one
20 moment to pull up a file.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: I think it's Fort Yukon
25 and Tok. They changed it last fall that's why I can't
26 remember what they -- they took some places off --
27 okay, Katya's there.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, thank
30 you. For the record Katya Wessels. You can actually
31 agree to meet in any communities, hub communities is
32 just something that Brooke will not need to do the cost
33 analysis. And, you know, if you select a non-hub
34 community then you just want to select a back up in
35 case, you know, the budget cannot handle bringing your
36 Council to the non-hub community. Yeah, I think Tok,
37 Fairbanks and.....

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Fort Yukon is.....

40

41 MS. WESSELS:Fort Yukon, yes, I
42 think those were the only three that we have in the
43 Eastern Interior now.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Thank you. Well, I'd
46 say we meet in Eagle.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Uh? Talk to Tina about
49 that one.

50

0121

1 (Laughter)

2

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MR. BASSICH: That was an all timer. A lot of times when we meet that'll be a wildlife proposal one, usually when we meet in some of these communities, if it's fisheries it's more like Tanana, Fort Yukon, or potentially Eagle, and then wildlife ones in other areas that might be more impacted like Tok, would be a good wildlife one as well. So just throwing that out there.

I'm not opposed to it. It's just the town of Eagle is kind of -- I don't know, what would you say, Don, it's kind of in regress at this point in time but maybe -- you know, maybe the Village of Eagle would want to host something like that, I don't know.

MS. MCDAVID: You might also consider that at this meeting you won't actually be voting on proposals and so like we did, when we met in Arctic Village, that was a good opportunity for the community to provide feedback to you when you were actually voting on proposals, instead of developing them, so take that into consideration as well.

MR. BASSICH: Well, I will say one thing, other than weather, we do have good air service in and out of Eagle now and there is somewhat of a hotel and I don't know, maybe we could always run that by -- we could put that on as a potential and maybe Don and I could poll the community and see what they think about it and the village has expanded quite a bit there, it has a lot more capacity than it used to, a great meeting hall. So it's more of a matter of the housing of people. So -- and I'd put a lot of people up but I only have a couple of snowmachines to get them from my place up to Eagle and that's an hour trip every day so.

MS. WESSELS: You know if you think that Eagle has an infrastructure the Council can also propose to add it to the hub communities list, you know, when we're reviewing it again.

MR. BASSICH: For the record we'll research that and get back to you. You know I think it would be nice to have a meeting in Eagle whether it's a fall or winter into the future here, especially if it was a fisheries meeting. But let us research that and

0122

1 we'll get back to you. I would hate to impose upon the
2 infrastructure there with people unless they were
3 onboard with it.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: You'll get to review this
6 at the fall -- at your fall meeting, so if you want to
7 have Fairbanks now, for February 19th and 20th and then
8 at the fall, after you've spoken with folks in your
9 communities, and somebody wants to propose a different
10 location than Fairbanks, you could change it.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, maybe we could
13 even put Manley. It would be a good wildlife place.
14 Okay.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR BURK: That's not a bad
17 idea with the bison too. Do -- so are we going to --
18 do we need a motion, yeah, just pick that day then.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: You don't need a motion,
21 I'm just confirming Fairbanks tentative for now and
22 that can be changed at your next meeting because this
23 isn't until the winter of 2025 that we're talking
24 about, sound okay.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR BURK: (Nods
27 affirmatively)

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Let's move on then
30 to fall 2025 next page, 122, there is one week that is
31 not available because two RACs have already chosen,
32 that's that last week there on the calendar, October
33 27th, so don't consider that one but your other weeks
34 are available.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: And this is a long ways
39 out, I know, so you can, you know, at future meetings,
40 like at this coming fall and the next coming winter, if
41 you, you know, become aware of some conflicts you can
42 change the dates. It's going to be harder to change
43 the dates once other RACs have, you know, chosen their
44 dates because we can only accommodate -- Staff-wise,
45 only accommodate two RAC meetings in one week. But I
46 know there's always lots of things going on in October
47 so.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Do we want to stick

50

0123

1 in the same timeframe where it's like the second week
2 of October or like maybe the -- well, this would be
3 October 21st. I guess for us, the thing is -- the
4 thing that gets in the way is Alaska Federation of
5 Natives.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, from my perspective
8 getting out of my place I always count as October 20th
9 my last day on the river, generally speaking, because
10 of ice flow.

11

12 (Council talking no microphones)

13

14 MR. BASSICH: In October, or is that
15 what you're talking about for next year -- yeah, no,
16 I'm just letting you know, you know, that's -- in my
17 head, traditionally, 20th of October a lot of times the
18 river is -- I can't travel much after that with a boat.
19 It's not frozen and the ice is flowing that's why I've
20 always kind of preferred either earlier October or that
21 mid-October range, you know. What we did last year
22 worked fine and I think with global warmer it seems
23 like it's being a little bit more friendly but you know
24 how the ice is, it's there one day and if I got a boat
25 up in Eagle, the only way home is a helicopter. So for
26 OSM's willing to fly in a helicopter and get me, I'm
27 all in.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. BASSICH: But I could always -- one
32 thing I do want to let the Council know, I can always
33 attend virtually to any meeting. I do have good
34 internet now so that's always an option. So I'll go
35 for whatever works best for Council members, I'll make
36 my end happen one way or another.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Can we -- so do you
39 -- is everybody okay with maybe thinking about doing
40 that same week, the 7th, 8th, 9th.

41

42 MS. SHOCKLEY: That's what I was
43 looking at too, and maybe we can put Manley on that one
44 so we could drive.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR BURK: That sounds nice to
47 me, 7th, 8th and 9th and I agree with Manley. Dorothy,
48 do we have space in Manley for our people, though.....

49

50

0124

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, there are cabins
2 that are available with the Roadhouse. It just depends
3 on whether the Roadhouse is open. I know that the
4 resort is expanding. But there are cabins for rent as
5 well through the Council and, yeah, they have a school,
6 it could possibly be a place for people to house as
7 well.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Sounds good. And you
10 could have a -- always have a back -- Fairbanks is
11 probably going to always be your default back up but
12 you'd have opportunity to change this location if you
13 want in the future before it's final. So I have
14 October 7, 8 and 9 preference for Manley Hot Springs
15 for fall 2025.

16
17 Okay, thank you all for your comments.

18
19 And, just, Madame Chair, we did add the
20 follow up items from the joint Council meeting as the
21 next agenda item. Bumped that up so.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay. Do -- and
24 then do we want to talk about the letter again, does
25 everybody have the letter, how do we want to do this,
26 do you have any input Brooke?

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: My thought would be if
29 you guys were happy with the discussion that was on the
30 record the other day, you could make a motion to
31 support the letter, reference the discussion that was
32 had and support it that way.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: (No microphone)

35
36 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: There was one on fish,
39 there's one on caribou and there are a couple of others
40 if you want me to pass them out. If you want to do one
41 big motion or.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Can we break it up?

44
45 MS. MCDAVID: Yep.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to just make a
48 motion that we approve the letters from the full RAC
49 discussions -- let me say that again. I make a motion
50

0125

1 that we sign on to the fisheries and the caribou
2 letters as discussed during the joint All-RAC meeting
3 to be forwarded to OSM and the Federal Subsistence
4 Board.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And then speaking
9 to the motion, I'm just going to reference all the
10 discussion that took place on the development of both
11 of those two letters and that I'm sure we'll see a
12 reviewed copy or a draft letter at some point in time.
13 But I'm quite comfortable with the discussion we had,
14 it was quite thorough and I feel like it represented my
15 views, anyway, on the RAC, and probably the entire RAC
16 here from what I sensed.

17

18 MS. SHOCKLEY: My question was, when
19 can we see a draft?

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: That's a good question,
22 Dorothy, and I don't have an answer for you. We're
23 going to try to get a draft out as quick as we can
24 after the All-Council meeting, back to you all. You
25 know, there's a lot of follow up things after these
26 meetings but we do recognize, you know, the North
27 Pacific Fisheries meeting is coming up in April.
28 There's an item in there that addresses, you know,
29 things that are coming up at that meeting, so we want
30 to definitely work to get that, you know, before that,
31 so I mean within a month, if not sooner.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: And just for the
34 record I'm going to state again, the item about -- in
35 the letter that supports putting positions on the North
36 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, if that process
37 was similar to selecting tribal seats for the Advisory
38 Panel, then I think that I would support that. Just --
39 because we had a comment in there about we want two
40 more seats added to the North Pacific Fisheries
41 Management Council and the language, which I don't want
42 to have in there because it causes too much
43 controversy, was, not from CDQ or connected to
44 commercial fisheries, so I think if that process
45 follows the same process as selecting the Advisory
46 Panel seat, which is me, then that process will put the
47 right person in the place because the tribes will work
48 it out by their letters of support.

49

50

0126

1 I hope that was a clear comment.

2

3 That's the only thing strongly I really
4 wanted to make sure that the letter -- that that edit
5 was clear. So question.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, let's support
10 it then. I'm going to call a vote for unanimous
11 consent. All those in favor of supporting the letters
12 -- are we going to do both chum and caribou here or
13 chum -- okay, we'll support both chum and caribou in
14 this motion. All those in favor say aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All those opposed
19 same sign.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, motion
24 passes.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: And just for
27 clarification, it wasn't just chum, there's other
28 bycaught species in fisheries, thanks.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Oh, I (no
31 microphone)

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: That's okay, just wanted
34 to clear that up for the record. Dorothy was going to
35 have a heart attack.

36

37 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR BURK: (No microphone)

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair, if you want
42 there were a couple other things that were brought up
43 as joint items I can help you work through those if you
44 want. Two that were brought to our attention, well,
45 let's just start with the d(1) lands issue. You know,
46 the Eastern Interior Council didn't have any lands
47 within your region that came up for review, but other
48 Councils have submitted letters about the importance of
49 keeping those lands with Federal subsistence

50

0127

1 protections on them, and if you all wanted to sign on
2 to a joint letter in solidarity with those other
3 Councils, now would be the time to make a motion for
4 that.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Maybe -- would this maybe
7 be a little faster if you went through the bullet
8 points of all the different letters that we discussed
9 in the joint meeting and then we could do one motion to
10 sign on all of them or do you want us to do them
11 individually. I'm just thinking, if you went down the
12 list then I can make a motion and we can have some
13 brief discussion and eliminate any of them that we
14 don't want to. It might be quicker.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: I like that suggestion,
17 Madame Chair, are you okay with that?

18

19 ACTING CHAIR BURK: (Nods
20 affirmatively)

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. All right. So one
23 was the d(1) lands.

24

25 The second item was dealing with the
26 national standards in the Magnuson-Stevens Act that
27 need modified.

28

29 The next item was about Council member
30 compensation when participating in meetings on behalf
31 of the Council.

32

33 And the next item was about
34 correspondence between -- Council correspondence, the
35 Board -- okay, let me just read this real quick, it's
36 like one sentence. Highlighting issues relating to
37 Council correspondence and requesting the Board to
38 address these issues, the issues include the timeliness
39 of Board replies to or transmittal of Council
40 correspondence and the lack of direct replies to the
41 Councils from the Offices of the Secretaries of
42 Agriculture and Interior for correspondence which the
43 Board forwards or elevates to them.

44

45 So basically like a process needs to be
46 agreed upon for getting replies back from that level to
47 you guys when you forward.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0128

1 MR. BASSICH: If I can, would it be
2 safe to call that correspondence response?

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Sure.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

7
8 MS. MCDAVID: And one more thing that I
9 have is if you all want to support this House Joint
10 Resolution about modifying the Alaska.....

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. MCDAVID:Constitution to
15 include a rural preference. That's not the exact
16 language but you could decide.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: What was the name of that
19 one (no microphone).....

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: It's really long.

22
23 MR. BASSICH:(no microphone)
24 government.....

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: It's also really --
27 HJR22. And there might be one or -- I got to find
28 stuff -- if you guys want to have any discussion while
29 I'm looking for -- make sure I didn't miss something.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Dorothy.

32
33 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. In regards to the
34 d(1) lands and I have the map here, it looks like some
35 of that land is in the Eastern Interior and that's the
36 land just below Tanana, south of Tanana. So just an
37 FYI on that.

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, my recommendation
40 is I'll make a motion to include these items and then
41 maybe we could very quickly go through each bullet and
42 say yes or no and have a brief discussion on it, right,
43 and then we're getting on the record that we support a
44 letter to say d(1) -- support d(1) lands national
45 standards, so on and so forth. And then if there's one
46 that we don't want to do then we just defeat that -- we
47 take that off. Does that work process-wise for the
48 motion or do they all have to be supported or rejected?
49 That's the point I'm trying.....

50

0129

1 MS. MCDAVID: It might be easier if you
2 guys decide which ones you want on the list and then
3 make a motion to support the ones you want.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Okay.

6
7 MS. SHOCKLEY: And I was just starting
8 the process.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, yeah, no, I got it,
11 thank you.

12
13 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just (no
14 microphone).....

15
16 ACTING CHAIR BURK: The one that I feel
17 that we don't have enough information on is the HJR22.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Given the nature of
22 the lawsuits that are happening right now about this
23 specific issue, it could be really dangerous and I've
24 been trying to talk to some of my colleagues about it
25 and so right now, not having enough time to do the
26 homework, I'm not really comfortable just blanket
27 supporting this HJR22 right now. So that one I'd like
28 to leave out unless anybody else feels strongly and
29 wants to talk about that.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: No.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: No. Okay, so
34 that's the only one.....

35
36 MR. BASSICH: We'll go for the easy --
37 we'll go for the easy route on the motion.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Unless, do you have
40 other stuff?

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: No. I mean there's a
43 bunch of other topics that came up in the joint Council
44 session but it didn't seem like there was as much like
45 concurrence on some of those.....

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Right.

48
49 MS. MCDAVID:other topics and so
50

0130

1 I think that's the core.....

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Right.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID:of the items.

6 Thanks.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Madame Chair, if
9 you'd like a motion I'd like to make a motion that we
10 draft letters as discussed and brought up by the All-
11 Council RAC regarding the d(1) lands issue, the
12 national standards of the Magnuson-Stevens issue, the
13 compensation for members of RACs issue and the
14 discussion on timely correspondence responses to our
15 letters or request.

16

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Second.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So maybe just to
22 start the discussion, the d(1) lands, is there anybody
23 opposed to us addressing that in a letter? We don't
24 need to get into the nuts and bolts so much because we
25 talked about it at the All-RAC section, right. So
26 we're basically here, we're just trying to identify the
27 letters that we will draft, we don't have to get into
28 the nuts and bolts of it at this point.

29

30 MS. SHOCKLEY: Send (No
31 microphone).....

32

33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: And I like the idea
34 that Brooke said, the aligning with the regions like
35 Western Interior and their comments, I think, is
36 strong. And then I think just one comment, in Ambler
37 Road, one of the EIS' that came out said the
38 significant impact to subsistence resources is
39 necessary to manage the other potential uses of this
40 land, and referring to the economic activity and so I
41 think it's just really important that we support the
42 Western Interior and keep these d(1) lands.

43

44 MS. SHOCKLEY: But it looks like we
45 have some lands in our area as well so.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Dorothy, there's some
48 details to this that I don't have complete answers to
49 but I think there's some issue that because a resource

50

0131

1 management plan for the Central Yukon area was not
2 passed under the past Administration, and some of the
3 public land orders that are related to this only
4 applied to areas that have those plans in place and I
5 may be butchering that but you would need -- we would
6 need some clarification from someone from BLM about --
7 about that.

8

9 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: I'm not trying to confuse
12 it more.

13

14 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, do you have this
15 map?

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, I have this map.
18 I'm not trying to say there's not BLM lands in our
19 region because there definitely are but there's
20 something related to the withdrawals that might not
21 apply in our region because we don't have the right
22 plans in place at the moment. But.....

23

24 MS. SHOCKLEY: As long as we know (no
25 microphone) and we support it, I means.....

26

27 REPORTER: Turn your mic on.

28

29 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oh. All land.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: All land.

32

33 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah, we support in all
34 lands regardless of where they are.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: So I guess I would ask,
37 are there any other comments in reference to the d(1)
38 discussion topic. Any other additions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Seeing none, then
43 the next one I would say is we want to address the
44 national standards in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and
45 I'll also reference the discussions at the All-RAC
46 meeting. Were there any additions that weren't
47 discussed during that, or maybe something we want to
48 highlight?

49

50

0132

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I have some changes

4 -- I'm sorry, I do have some specific language, do you

5 want me to read it about the things that we're looking

6 for or do you.....

7

8 MR. BASSICH: I guess that would be

9 helpful just to get it on the record and then, you

10 know, when Brooke starts drafting this and working with

11 whomever from our RAC they'll have that information.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Should I (no

14 microphone).....

15

16 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just say (no

17 microphone).....

18

19 ACTING CHAIR BURK: For the sake of

20 time I'm just going to highlight, national -- we're

21 looking for updates specifically to guidelines for

22 national standards 4,8 and 9. No. 4 should make clear

23 the overall benefit must include cultural, well-being,

24 food security, historical dependence, ecological

25 health. National Standard 8, you know, make clear that

26 the burden of conservation for declining fish stocks

27 should be shared by all user groups, including those

28 that catch fish stock as bycatch and measures should

29 provide for continued participation of subsistence

30 fishing communities of the fish stock. No. 9, NMFS

31 should ensure that its implementation guidelines

32 clearly define practicability and emphasize what is

33 achievable in terms of bycatch reductions. And that may

34 not be easy or convenient for fishery participations.

35

36 So it's kind of a quick summary, I hope

37 that helps.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: So I'm just going to keep

40 moving along here. Is there any other additions on

41 that topic from any other Council members.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Not seeing anything,

46 we'll move on to the next one, No. 3, was compensation

47 for members. I think that was fairly well covered in

48 our All-RAC discussion, the desire to seek compensation

49 above and beyond per diems. Any other additions there

50

0133

1 from Council members. Thoughts.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Well, I don't know
5 if this really -- but it's kind of a side note. At the
6 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council we do get a
7 stipend for being on the AP. It's, I think \$150 per
8 day and I have to say the North Pacific has less budget
9 than us because they can't even offer coffee for the AP
10 let alone coffee for the public as was offered here, so
11 just, I think go for it.

11

12

(Laughter)

13

14

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MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, yeah, we'll
just keep on moving then.

(Laughter)

MR. BASSICH: Go ahead.

MS. MCDAVID: Can I add one thing to
that. I just want to say that, you know, a lot of the
reason why the YKDelta put this forward was to, you
know, to recognize the immense contributions that you
all have to this Program and, yeah, making sure that
you're recognized for that. So thank you guys, again,
for everything you do as volunteers.

MR. BASSICH: I can appreciate that
but, however, you know, like on the Yukon River Panel,
only Panel members are compensated, advisors or
alternates are not, so this would add a tremendous
amount to the budget for OSM so I understand.

Okay, moving on, No. 4 bullet was
timely correspondence responses to our letters by OSM
and entities that they forward these letters to, i.e.,
agencies, or State Department, or Commerce Department.
So any other things we want to add to that in regards
to responses to our correspondence.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Just a -- I think
it's just a point of clarification, when can -- and we
were talking about this. When we send -- when we're
sending a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and
we want them to send a letter on our behalf, can we
send that letter and CC the person that we want it sent
to; is that allowed.....

0134

1 MR. BASSICH: Unh-unh.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BURK:it's not
4 allowed?

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Unh-unh.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay. I just
9 needed that clarification, thank you.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, no, we've gone
12 round and round on this for many, many years from my
13 recollection and it is a little bit of a stone in the
14 craw for many of us Council members but it's the
15 process that's in place unfortunately. So I guess what
16 we're asking for, primarily, is that OSM continue to
17 send these letters but maybe also maybe follow up
18 reminders that we haven't gotten responses for some of
19 these tardy responses. You know it's mainly the high
20 level government entities that are probably swamped
21 with a lot of other stuff, but, still we are taxpayers
22 too.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: And I just wanted to add
25 to this, I don't believe that currently the Federal
26 Subsistence Board has a correspondence policy like the
27 Council's do, you know, like a formal policy, you know,
28 we can refer to yours in the book so that could be
29 something you might suggest be developed.

30

31 MS. SHOCKLEY: I -- yeah, I would like
32 to suggest that or -- yeah, suggest that. My brain is
33 also failing. But I mean we want response to our
34 letters but do we -- I mean does that include action?

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Sometimes.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Can we add action as
39 well?

40

41 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Well, in these
42 letters we are asking for action and so that's -- I
43 think maybe the question we should be asking is how are
44 we tracking, how are we tracking, when did we requested
45 and so maybe in the letter, maybe we need to be
46 responded to by a certain date.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I think that the issue is
49 not necessarily what the response is, it's that

50

0135

1 sometimes we send letters and we never get a response
2 from them and so that's the issue that we're seeking to
3 resolve, is that we -- we're taking our time and our
4 efforts and using our knowledge to send letters and
5 request actions but we're not even getting a reply that
6 we've even received your request, right, so some kind
7 of -- I guess the word, timely, in this is very
8 important and so I'm not sure how we can work with OSM
9 and the Federal Subsistence Board to do that. Maybe
10 through your inner-office you can brainstorm and add
11 that into the letter or suggest it when we compose.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: One thing that has been
14 discussed is potentially adding an item to Board
15 meetings about Council correspondence so that it has a
16 place on the agenda for discussion and review and
17 action, potentially, depending on what the letters are
18 about. So if you have any comments or feedback on
19 whether or not that should be something that should be
20 a little more formalized as a policy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Formalized as a
25 policy, I like that language.

26

27 MS. SHOCKLEY: And I think -- and I'm
28 not sure how this letter is being written, but
29 emphasize that as RACs our roles and responsibilities
30 are to -- I think our only action, really, is to write
31 letters, right, and so it's important that, you know,
32 our roles and responsibilities are being taken
33 seriously and responded to.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So those four
36 bullet points are what was in the motion and I think
37 we've modified those and made some additional
38 clarification on that. Is there any other discussion
39 on this topic.

40

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Want to call
45 question.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and you're the
48 Chair so.....

49

50

0136

1 ACTING CHAIR BURK: So then I'm going
2 to ask for unanimous consent to support the motion.
3 All those in favor say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All those opposed
8 same sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right, more
13 work for Brooke, great job.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: I do have one question
16 and that's just our procedural, it's super minor but
17 when you ask for unanimous consent, generally don't you
18 just ask for any nay votes?

19
20 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: And so instead of saying
23 I'm asking for a consensus vote, then all you're asking
24 for is a negative at that point otherwise it just --
25 consensus means that everybody's in agreement.

26
27 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: So it's kind of a
30 technicality but the proper way to do it would be to
31 then say, I'm asking for unanimous consent, are there
32 any opposed.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

37
38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yep.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: I just wanted to clarify
41 that because it might be a little confusing at times.

42
43 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yep.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: And after we just had our
46 great training the other day, or yesterday or the day
47 before it's all a blur, there we go.

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: Well, unfortunately.....
50

0137

1 MR. BASSICH: We got to show Katya we
2 listened to her and we're doing what she said we're
3 supposed to do.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Well, unfortunately your
8 Coordinator did not receive Robert's Rules training
9 because I was drafting bycatch letters but thanks for
10 helping with that Andy. We're all learning as we go so
11 we appreciate feedback from folks that have been on
12 this Council and know these processes really well.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay, so we're good
15 on that item and then the next item is public and
16 tribal comment on non-agenda items, right.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct. And I
19 think unfortunately we've lost all the members of our
20 public.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: We had Melanie Brown, she
25 wanted to speak to the d(1) and national standards but
26 we assured her that the Council would be speaking about
27 that. And then Jan Woodruff also said that it was okay
28 if we didn't get to her. So, those were two folks that
29 -- hopefully if they would like to get in touch with
30 the Council they know how to find us.

31
32 I guess before we move on to any non-
33 other non-action item stuff, if.....

34
35 MS. EVANS: Can you read us -- can you
36 let us know what those people's comments were?

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, if I wasn't
39 clear.....

40
41 MS. EVANS: Or could we acknowledge
42 them or something?

43
44 MS. MCDAVID: So just a -- sorry I
45 wasn't clear, Linda, they had signed up to give
46 testimony.....

47
48 MS. EVANS: Oh.

49
50

0138

1 MS. MCDAVID:orally, they didn't
2 actually submit any written comments to us so.....

3
4 MS. EVANS: Oh.

5
6 MS. MCDAVID:yeah this was for
7 oral testimony and we just didn't get to that point in
8 time for them to be able to do that, understandably.

9
10 MS. EVANS: Okay.

11
12 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, no worries. I
13 guess I would ask if there are any other correspondence
14 that the Council is interested in sending. The only
15 thing that I had noted down that I heard come up was
16 about wood bison because you guys previously sent a
17 letter supporting the continuation of that planning
18 process and it sounds like there might be some new
19 concerns about how that's going. I don't want to like
20 derail the meeting and get on a whole thing but if
21 anyone has any thoughts on that you could decide.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: I guess from my
24 perspective, we've invested two decades now into wood
25 bison, we are learning a lot about it. It may not
26 prove to be successful, but I think it's a good road to
27 go down given food security and, you know, wood bison
28 do very well in the Yukon territory to the point where
29 they're almost like beaver now, they're almost a
30 nuisance. So I think we need to give it more time,
31 give it support, let it continue to happen. I don't
32 think it's harming the land. I don't think it's
33 harming the people. It just may not be as productive
34 as what we had maybe hoped it would be at this point in
35 time. But from my perspective I think it's worth still
36 supporting and maybe down the line, you know, if it's
37 going to fail, it's going to fail, the way I see it.

38
39 But I think anything we can do to try
40 and put meat on the table for people or potentially
41 into the future. We don't know what's going to happen
42 with climate change in 10 years and we don't know where
43 subsistence living's going to be in 10 years so
44 anything that might benefit that I personally am going
45 to be in support of.

46
47 That's my feelings on all those types
48 of programs even though we recognize they may not prove
49 out.
50

0139

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, as a land owner
2 and for our village corporation lands, we strongly
3 oppose this in our area. And it does disrupt land. We
4 are getting reports that they are, you know, tearing up
5 land. And so, yeah, I totally oppose this. But I
6 would also like to see more discussion, I guess, at our
7 fall meeting if that can be put on our agenda.

8
9 But, you know, in attending the lower
10 Tanana -- upper Tanana, I don't know, lower Tanana,
11 upper Tanana meetings, yeah, Rampart/Manley and Tanana
12 opposed the wood bison. And, you know, I don't like
13 the way that, you know, the current Administration of
14 the State is mandating that these be put in the
15 Interior and, you know, my comments at the first --
16 just observing the first meeting that I went to last
17 year, and I've been involved with wood bison, you know,
18 since the inception around Stevens Village in the early
19 -- or late '90s. I know they were all supportive of
20 that. But, you know, in the process, you know, we
21 have, I think -- I think in my perspective anyway, you
22 know, the Safari Club was there and they donated money
23 to the project and that was very concerning, you know,
24 they wanted -- they want sporthunting and, you know,
25 all the village corporations and people in these -- in
26 this area, you know, we have -- you know we are
27 inundated with trespassers and this is just going to
28 cause more because, you know, in the Delta -- with the
29 Delta Herd they get, I think they said like 40,000
30 permits, or requests for -- or, is that, yeah, they buy
31 lottery permits or something. And so, you know, it is
32 huge as far as sportshunting. Sporthunting. And so we
33 just don't want anymore.

34
35 And then the other thing is because of
36 the Constitution, they cannot guarantee that this would
37 be food -- food security. None. I mean they cannot.
38 And so, you know, when they say, well, this is food
39 security, that's -- that's not the case at all.

40
41 So, thank you.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Our AC had a meeting, I think it was the 20th or 27th
45 of February and our Chairman asked for Tom Seaton to
46 come and speak to us more about the wood bison but from
47 discussions I've had with Carma, the AC Chairman, it
48 seems to be that the wood bison is going towards a high
49 dollar hunt and that does not include local residents,
50

0140

1 obviously. And I think it's just another revenue
2 source for the State. But as our testimony of our
3 friend, anything is better than nothing.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I have a little bit
6 more information on this too. So right now I need to
7 figure out -- because we're the people -- we're the
8 people of the lower Tanana, I am lower Tanana Dena' so
9 is Dorothy, and Linda is Koyukuk I'm pretty sure, but
10 so am I.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY: (No microphone)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Yeah, we're all --
15 we're everything. But those are our lands and the
16 villages of Minto had a meeting and I need to figure
17 out if their Council decided to support or oppose this
18 but I can tell you that Nenana Native Village does not
19 support the bison so, we in our AC, to respect Minto
20 tribes, did not vote on whether or not to support
21 bison, we're going to do that later. So given -- I --
22 I even initially supported bison but because I need to
23 respect the wishes of the communities and the people
24 that live in this area, the people that are actually
25 indigenous to the lower Tanana, I think that -- I don't
26 know if this Council should support that, the letter
27 anymore, because it's -- the people have spoken and
28 their opinions have changed. So I personally am
29 uncomfortable supporting bison at this time.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. A lot of new
32 information for me. When I remember hearing about wood
33 bison it had to be accepted in the communities and they
34 had to want it, it wasn't jammed down their throat, so
35 maybe things have changed and if it is an agenda item
36 in the fall we can maybe educate ourselves a little bit
37 more and make a more informed recommendation. So that
38 would be my recommendation.

39

40 Madame Chair.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: I have it noted as an
43 agenda item for the fall meeting. There's no guarantee
44 that Fish and Game would come and give a presentation
45 or anything but it doesn't mean that we can't discuss
46 it with our Federal partners that might be land owners
47 and managers.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Just ask one question, in

50

0141

1 these follow -- in these last items here, are these all
2 things that we want to address right now or are there
3 some that we just want to pull out given the time and
4 effort that we have tonight, the important ones.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. I could
7 just give real, like bullet points, for each of these
8 and not go into real deep discussion. If you guys
9 wanted to go into discussion based on anything I say
10 you could.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Let's do that,
13 Brooke. Because I think we've already heard a little
14 bit about some.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. So we already did
17 A under other business.

18

19 B. WIRAC is submitting a statewide
20 Board of Game proposal to remove the counting of the
21 rings -- I always forget to pronounce the -- annuli or
22 whatever they're called -- I'm not a wildlife
23 biologist, but as a way to age sheep in the field when
24 you're hunting, they want to solely rely on the full-
25 curl. And they basically wanted us to know that
26 they're submitting that proposal. You could sign on as
27 a co-proponent or at the fall meeting you could
28 probably submit a comment if you support or don't.

29

30 Next item, charter changes. You heard
31 from Katya during the joint session that the non-voting
32 young leaders seat was added to each Council's charter
33 but actually implementing and getting someone in that
34 seat, there still needs to be a process worked out for
35 that and we don't know if that's going to involve, you
36 know, going through the Secretary like we do for you
37 all to sit on this Council which would make it a lot
38 more complicated.

39

40 Hunter ethics. I let you guys know we
41 did have a working group meeting, we're planning on
42 having more. I'll reach out to you guys when we're
43 able to set up a date for that next one and anyone's
44 welcome to participate.

45

46 It sounds like Andy wants to.....

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I just wanted to
49 forward a few thoughts by Charlie -- Charlie Jagow,

50

0142

1 who's not here. Before he left he said that -- and I
2 don't always necessarily agree with Charlie but on this
3 one I'm going to -- I'm just joking.

4
5 He said that -- actually we're alike
6 this.

7
8 He said that he thought that it was
9 really important for the Council to have some positive
10 messaging from time to time. That it seems like
11 everything's always doom and gloom and everything.

12
13 And so when it came to hunter ethics, I
14 wanted -- I told him that I would bring this up and
15 that I would jokingly disagree with him, but I would
16 say that I think hunter ethics is a positive thing in
17 our process and I think we're going to begin to see
18 some progress in this, some movement, we got delayed by
19 Covid a lot but I think there's a lot of potential.
20 And then listening to a lot of the discussion on the
21 Western Herd and other areas it's very plain to me that
22 hunter ethics is very much needed around the state so
23 I'm hoping that we can set the tone and develop that.

24
25 So anyway I just wanted to pass that on
26 and jokingly let people know that Charlie made that
27 comment to me, I guaranteed to him that I would get
28 that on the record.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: That's the longest
31 comment that Charlie's ever made at a Council meeting
32 and he didn't even say it.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: That's because it came
35 out of my mouth.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. BASSICH: And we all know how that
40 goes.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, keep going.

45
46 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks Andy for jumping
47 in there.

48
49 You already heard about OSM is working
50

0143

1 with the ISC to review the comment policy for Board of
2 Fish proposals, what you all requested, but also other
3 comment policies.

4

5

6 And Council correspondence. I include
7 copies of all the letters that we sent after the last
8 meeting in your meeting books. If you guys have any
9 questions about those I tried to give updates on
10 whether or not we had responses when we went through
11 our annual report and for the most part we don't have
12 responses yet, which, hopefully that will change before
13 the next time we meet. And as a reminder the Board
14 will go over your annual report topics at their work
15 session this summer and that would be an opportunity to
16 provide any additional feedback to them or information
17 at that time.

17

18

Thanks.

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ACTING CHAIR BURK: So we don't need to
take any actions on any of these that I can see, right.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Okay. So do we
need to do agency and organization reports, I see all
the written things so we're good on that, I'm thinking.

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, for this meeting
due to the shortened agenda we just requested written
reports if any agencies wanted to give you updates.
That's -- they're in your book and if you want to hear
oral reports at your fall meeting on any of these you
can request that when we develop the agenda for the
fall.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right. So I'm
going to ask -- I think we made it guys, just two hours
late, that's all. We really wanted to do that annual
report.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Is there any more
closing comments this evening.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thanks. First of
all, always thanks to OSM and the Staff for all the
dedication that they put into this and all the work. I

0144

1 know that sometimes the Eastern RAC kind of gets you
2 wrapped around the axle and you guys get us wrapped
3 around the axle but it all ends well usually and that's
4 part of the process.

5
6 I really wanted to make the comment on
7 the record that I think the time spent over the past
8 few days and the All-RAC process is, I think one of the
9 most beneficial things that I've seen happen in a long
10 time. It is vitally important on, especially these
11 fisheries issues, to have complete statewide efforts
12 and all people at the table. We may not have consensus
13 on everything but that is the process that we are going
14 to need to have happen to get through this. And I know
15 that OSM had to do a little bit of rearranging of
16 schedules, but I really appreciate that they allowed
17 that to happen. I think that was time well spent, and
18 it set -- hopefully set a precedent into the future to
19 where we can have more discussions. I've met a lot of
20 people in the hallway and had a lot of really great
21 discussions and it's building bridges like that that's
22 going to solve the problem and I really appreciate the
23 effort that went into putting this together. I realize
24 it's not going to happen a lot but I think it is
25 important for it to happen occasionally. I also wanted
26 to throw in that I think, from my perspective being on
27 the Council for 22 years now, Tri-RAC meetings for us
28 on the Yukon are very beneficial because basically when
29 you can get user -- when you can get all user groups
30 from a region in Alaska to work on an issue, you
31 usually make a lot of progress. And in Alaska what
32 I've noticed is we -- it's a big state and we do have
33 regions that have an awful lot in common with each
34 other in certain species, whether it be fish or
35 wildlife, and the one problem -- or the one solution
36 that might fit our region may not quite work but
37 through working with other RACs that have the same
38 concerns or the same problems I think we get to
39 solutions a lot quicker. So I do encourage that into
40 the future. I know that's also complicated and
41 expensive but I think it's very productive to do
42 occasionally. So I just wanted to get that on the
43 record.

44
45 I think the letters that we were able
46 to formulate as an All-RAC was probably, in my opinion,
47 one of the nicest and most effective things and kind
48 of, for me, heartwarming, to see that we were able to
49 do that since I've been on the RAC. I think that was
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1 incredibly valuable. I think that will become even
2 more apparent as we move forward working on these
3 issues but I wanted to get it on the record that that
4 was a very unique thing to happen and a really positive
5 thing to happen. And I appreciate the effort by
6 everybody that went in to doing that. And I especially
7 want to thank Brooke and Eva and Charlie because they
8 drove the cart on this, they drove the horse on this,
9 they made it happen and, Eva, you are an absolutely
10 incredible person when it come to these policies and
11 you're so focused and I really appreciate how you can
12 streamline things and make them happen like that. You,
13 and I know you both worked on those letters together
14 and I know a lot of this came also from Charlie, so I
15 really wanted to just acknowledge that that was an
16 incredible thing to have happen and you need to be
17 commended for that, so thank you.

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(Applause)

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MR. VICKERS: I just wanted to say we
didn't have a real OSM support, so I just want to, on
behalf of the Office of Subsistence Management, thank
you all, Council, and Council Coordinator, but Council
members this is just a -- if I could go to your Council
meetings every time, I would. You're an absolute
pleasure to work with, you're very thoughtful, very
intelligent and good people. So thank you for all your
efforts and for being here this week, it's great.
Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR BURK: Any other comments.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes. Well, thank you.
Thank you, Brooke. Thank you everyone. Our new Chair
-- Co-Chair, and Secretary, right, thank you, really
appreciate this. I know it gets very discouraging, it
seems like, when we're giving our reports, the energy
in the room goes really low and that, you know, is just
the way it is. And I know that, you know, it is very
discouraging at times but, you know, we just got to
continue pushing through.

But I would like to add to our fall
agenda, I guess, wood bison, I mentioned that, d(1)
lands, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. And it seems like
there was something else but I can't remember.

Thank you.

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair, I -- oh,
2 sorry.

3
4 MS. EVANS: I'd like to thank everyone
5 who did the hard work putting this meeting together. I
6 especially enjoyed the All-Council session where we
7 were able to hear from other people from around Alaska
8 and it's very eye-opening to hear the different issues
9 that people are dealing with but also the common -- the
10 common core issues we all deal with, especially on
11 fisheries and our subsistence resources.

12
13 I'm very happy that I was able to
14 attend and give my input. I think there's lots --
15 there's so much knowledgeable people on our Eastern RAC
16 here, it just kind of amazes me how they're able to
17 just drum up all this information from since they've
18 been here from 20 years, you know, I think that's
19 pretty neat.

20
21 I do have concerns, just like everybody
22 else, and I think instead of just talking about the
23 issues we need to set some plans in place and
24 coordinate our efforts with other agencies who are
25 working with these same issues. It's very important
26 that we figure out a plan to -- how to get our fish
27 back on the table, you know. Just not having our
28 salmon, king salmon, chinook salmon is -- that's a hard
29 one. That's really hard to take especially when you're
30 grown up and raised on it, you know, and it is for me
31 and I just think of all the other people around the
32 state of Alaska who have resources that are also being
33 depleted by various, you know, natural things that are
34 going on with like climate change and stuff. But I
35 know as we work together and we continue to strive to
36 provide or to support each other in our subsistence
37 uses of our resources in Alaska, I mean I just think
38 that we'll get to the -- we'll get to where we can see
39 salmon back on the table again.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Any more comments.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 One of the things that I think really prompted us to
47 move for these two letters that we formed in the Joint
48 Council and one of them was Brooke asked us on our pre-
49 Council meeting, roundtable lobby, she asked us how can
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1 we be more effective, and I think Eva and Charlie took
2 that to heart, and they stepped up to the plate and
3 Katya supported us, which was really welcomed and so we
4 got it done. I mean it was two big steps forward for
5 us and I appreciate everybody's effort to make that
6 happen.

7

8 And thank you to the OSM Staff that are
9 still here holding on and all the support they give us.
10 I really welcome them to Eagle when the chance comes.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I just really want
15 to thank everybody for the kind words. This is only my
16 second meeting on the EIRAC and then to have been in
17 this space yesterday and I think I haven't been here
18 long enough to appreciate what a moment it was and so
19 I'm really grateful that I got to be part of that,
20 extremely grateful, and that I also appreciated the
21 Staff -- I can really tell that a lot of work and
22 thought has been put into this meeting -- this meeting
23 space and it shows and so I really thank all of you for
24 that hard work. And then just going with the flow and
25 allowing us to do our thing and then actually coming up
26 and saying that was great -- to hear that from Staff
27 did -- it did feel really good and also, you know, when
28 it comes to these big issues and just thinking about
29 future meetings and, you know, the need to do more All-
30 RAC meetings, to just know that sometimes to not cram
31 the agenda and to think of people who have been sitting
32 in here watching presentations for years and they're
33 not just watching your presentations because we're
34 often presented this information in a different format
35 in other meetings and so we do need more time for
36 discussion and we need to just make more room in the
37 agenda for that discussion and the magic will happen.
38 You put the right people in the room and the magic will
39 happen.

40

41 So I just wanted to end with that.

42

43 And then did you have anymore -- and
44 Brooke, you are amazing, like it was such an honor and
45 awesome to have the chum letter done last night and to
46 know that, you know, you had put all of that work into
47 it to make it so that we had something really meat --
48 like some real meat to go through, that was a real huge
49 lift on your part, so thank you for that.

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1 (Applause)

2

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4 MS. MCDAVID: Oh, thank you. Thank you
5 guys so much. I do really love working with all of
6 you. I take pride in doing my best to help you advance
7 the things that you're trying to advance and I'm always
8 looking for feedback if you think there's things we can
9 improve and do better and I think the rest of OSM is
10 also open to that feedback so when you bring up these
11 things, we hear you, and, yeah, great meeting guys.
12 Awesome. It's been a long week, so thank you all.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: (No microphone)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR BURK: I was just going to
17 ask for that.

18

19 MS. EVANS: I make a motion to adjourn.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Double second it.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Thank you very much
24 everybody. Very much appreciate it.

25

26 MS. SHOCKLEY: All in favor.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR BURK: Oh, I was just
29 going to say we're done. Oh, all in favor say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right. All
34 opposed same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR BURK: All right, we're
39 done, thank you.

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41 (Off record)

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43 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 7th day of March 2024;

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

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th day of March 2024.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26