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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

EDUCATION CENTER ROOM 102
Nome, Alaska
October 24, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Gray, Acting Chair
Mary Freytag
Martin Aukongak
Elmer Seetot
Robert Moses
Louis Green

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 10/24/24)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Good morning everyone. Again, my name is Gisela Chapa, for the record, I am the Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Coordinator for the Seward Peninsula RAC. And this is our fall 2024 meeting. I'll hand it over to Mr. Tom Gray.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You know what they say. You've just got to keep passing the buck. So, we've asked Mary Freytag to say the invocation, and she agreed. So, I'll pass it on to her.

MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Tom. My heavenly Father, we come to you today as we gather here with the knowledge all in our minds to share for the betterment of our people and for the area. Just give us joy and glee and respect toward each other, and we agree to disagree and just be respectful for everyone and thank you for this day and just give us joy and respect. In Jesus name. Amen.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Amen. Thank you. So, all. I'm going to be the Acting Chair and Louis is actually online but feeling kind of under the weather. So, anyway you can beat up on me if you need to. So, I'm going to call the meeting to order and ask for a roll call.

MS. CHAPA: Louis Green.

(No response)

Louis, if you can hear us, we cannot hear you yet. If you're muted, press star six to unmute yourself. And I'll go back to you. Tom gray.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Mary Freytag.

MS. FREYTAG: Present.

MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses.

MR. MOSES: Here.

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MS. CHAPA: Elmer Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Raymond Hunt.

(No response)

Martin Aukongak. He just stepped out.
We'll go back to Louis Green.

(No response)

Just confirming. I'll go back to Mr.
Martin Aukongak.

MR. AUKONGAK: Here.

MS. CHAPA Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
We have a quorum, and I also wanted to inform the Council
that Mr. Kirk was not able to travel and join us today.
His family was impacted by the recent storm in the
region. And Mr. Hunt is in town. But I've not been able
to get in touch with him. So, he has, as of right now,
an unexcused absence.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Thank
you. And I think we're going to go around the room and
have everybody introduce themselves. So, I -- if you're
listening, I think you heard all our names. We'll
start.....

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I was off the air
there. I just got back on, letting you know I'm back on.
Louis.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, we got
you counted.

MS. LIONES: I'm Anna Lionas. I work at
the Nome Nugget.

MS. CARSON: Alicia Carson, I'm the
assistant area wildlife biologist with the Alaska
Department of Fish and Game.

MS. HENSLEE: Good morning, Sara Henslee,
Fish and Game area biologist on the wildlife side.

1 MS. HUGHES: Good morning, Letty Hughes,
2 Bering Land Bridge, acting resource integrated program
3 manager.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken
6 Adkisson, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, social
7 scientist.

8
9 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. Nikki Braem,
10 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, based here in
11 Nome.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Eva Patton
14 with the National Park Service Regional Subsistence
15 Program in Anchorage. And I'm really happy to be here
16 with you all in Nome. Good morning.

17
18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi. Lisa Grediagin,
19 wildlife division supervisor with the Office of
20 Subsistence Management.

21
22 DR. VORHEES: Good morning. This is
23 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM.

24
25 MR. STONE: Good morning, Jarred Stone,
26 fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence
27 Management.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Very good. Very
30 good. Is there anybody on the line other than Louis that
31 wants to introduce themselves?

32
33 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch.
34 Superintendent Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.
35 Sorry I couldn't be there in person, but I'm also ill.

36
37 MR. WERWA: Hi. This is Eric Werwa. I'm
38 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Environmental
39 Management in the Office of the Secretary of the
40 Interior. And I'm really pleased to be here. As you'll
41 hear later, OSM has now been moved into the Office of
42 secretary. So, I've been trying to attend as many RACs
43 as I can virtually to hear directly from you about the
44 issues that are important. I apologize that I'm not going
45 to be able to attend as much of this meeting as I'd like
46 to, because I'm in Hawaii right now, and I'm going to
47 be going out for the rest of the day for some field
48 visits, but I'm glad to be here.

1 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is
2 Brian Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with OSM. Sorry I'm
3 not there in person. Hope to catch you on the next go
4 round now.

5
6 MS. COLD: Good morning. This is Helen
7 Cold, subsistence resource specialist with the Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game, Division of subsistence in
9 Fairbanks, Alaska.

10
11 MR. STEVENS: Good morning. It's Curtis
12 Stevens. I'm the north zone patrol captain for the U.S.
13 Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Law
14 Enforcement.

15
16 MS. TIRMAN: Hi, my name is Kristina
17 Tirman. I work for Ocean Conservancy as the Arctic Marine
18 Debris Manager, and I'm based in Sitka. But I support
19 cleanups throughout Alaska, including the Seward
20 Peninsula region.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is that
23 everybody? Okay. Well, I think all you folks, everybody,
24 whether you're Board member or agencies or just people
25 in the public, I thank you for taking the time to be
26 here and be part of the meeting. So, welcome. So, meeting
27 announcements. And I wrote this lady's name down and I'm
28 going to have trouble keeping track of it. Hesa, Hesa.
29 That -- I wrote, Hesa, Hesa.

30
31 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Gray. For the
32 record, my name is Gisela Chapa. You were close enough,
33 though. And I'm going to go over a couple announcements
34 for our meeting. Again, everybody, welcome to the Seward
35 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. This
36 is a fisheries regulatory meeting, and I have some
37 housekeeping items to go over to help us get through the
38 meeting productively and provide opportunities for
39 interested parties to engage in the meeting. For those
40 joining us on the phone or through Microsoft Teams, you
41 can find the agenda and meeting materials online on the
42 Federal Subsistence Program website. That internet
43 address is www.doi.gov/subsistence, under the Regions
44 tab choose Seward Peninsula and then Meeting Materials.
45 Under this same tab, you can also find a blue box labeled
46 Supplemental Materials, and this contains links to
47 additional documents shared with the Council today. For
48 those attending our meeting in person, please make sure
49 you sign at the signing table right outside of our room.
50 By that table, you have a sign in sheet and we'll have

1 a sign in sheet for every day of our meeting. And we've
2 also provided additional information about the Federal
3 Subsistence Management Program, news releases and other
4 stuff that might be of interest to you if you'd like to
5 address the council during the meeting, for people in
6 the room, we also have a blue form that looks like this.
7 They're also at the table right outside of our meeting
8 room and if you can please hand it over to me and -- or
9 a member of our staff, I will hand it over to the Chair
10 and make sure that we keep track of anybody who would
11 like to speak to the Council. Please indicate if your
12 testimony is for a specific agenda item so, that we can
13 call you at the appropriate time. For those on the phone
14 or on Teams, the Chair will address the public when we
15 provide further instruction later on how to speak during
16 public comment opportunities. The Chair will announce
17 the time for tribal and public comment on non-agenda
18 items each morning and that will be an opportunity for
19 those present, as well as those online or over the phone
20 to speak on non-agenda items. We would ask that you hold
21 any comments on proposals or agenda items until such
22 time as they come up before the Council so, that the
23 Council will hear all the pertinent information at the
24 time they're working on that item. For this regulatory
25 meeting, if you would like to provide a comment on a
26 particular proposal, you can speak during the proposal
27 process or you may consider submitting a written comment
28 instead. You can do that by emailing your comments to
29 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Those will be sent to our staff
30 and we'll share those with the Council. Again, those
31 comments can be sent by email to
32 subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

33
34 A reminder to all that our meetings are
35 conducted by Robert's Rules, which help us provide
36 structure and maintain order throughout our meeting. All
37 participants, Council staff and public members are
38 expected to be courteous and respectful in all
39 interactions as a matter of our meeting etiquette. As
40 members have discussed -- have discussions, listened to
41 staff present information in public -- and possibly hear
42 public testimony. Council members should remember to
43 address the subject matter when they comment on the
44 record. I -- I'd also like to bring everyone's attention
45 that we're capturing a recording of this meeting a bit
46 differently. The previous court reporters for our
47 programs, who probably knew all of your names are no
48 longer working with us and it will be extremely important
49 for everyone to please state your name when speaking for
50 the record each -- anyway every time you speak. We're

1 also welcoming Tanya with Talking Circle Media, and you
2 will see her at the end of our table over there. Who
3 will hand off a recording of this meeting for
4 transcription to Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp.
5 So, the actual transcriber doesn't have the benefit of
6 putting voices to faces and nameplates. So, it will be
7 extremely helpful if, again, you can state your name for
8 the record as you speak.

9
10 Couple more announcements. For those in
11 the room, please take a moment to take a look at your
12 cell phones, and please silence them to minimize any
13 disruptions. For participants on the phone, I'd like to
14 -- your lines will be automatically muted, and you will
15 have to unmute yourself to speak. So, there's a feature,
16 star six to mute and unmute yourself. And also, for
17 those of you on Teams, if you can please mute yourself
18 using the Teams feature. And also unmute yourself when
19 wanting to speak to the Council. Thank you for letting
20 me share all of these announcements, Mr. Chair.

21
22 MS. TELEMAQUE: If I might add to this
23 is Tanya Telemaque the -- your court reporter audio
24 person. For the people online when you unmute yourself
25 to speak, please speak directly into your phone or
26 whatever device you're using to do this meeting. Please
27 speak directly into your phone so that we can hear you
28 on the side a lot better. Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, okay. Well,
31 we have our boundaries and marching orders, and I forgot
32 how it all started. But we'll get through it, though.
33 And as always, I went through introductions and we're
34 at introductions now. So, anyway, I think everybody
35 knows everybody now. And we will review call to order.
36 We had a roll call. Review and adopt the agenda. So, I'm
37 going to throw it out to the members to take a look at
38 the agenda and if you're happy, we'll adopt it and move
39 on.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 MR. GREEN: I'll move on the -- accepting
44 the agenda.

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46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Louis
47 moves.

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49 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag. I
50 second.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

MS. FREYTAF:a second agenda.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: There's a second. Is any discussion?

MS. FREYTAG: Question?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question has been called. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

All right. All opposed? Same sign.

MR. GREEN: Louis is an aye, thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: What did -- I didn't get what he said. Oh, okay. So, we have an agenda. And again, for all of you guys in the public and agencies, if you have issues that aren't on the agenda, come and talk to me or Gija something. Anyway, we will fit you in. I mean, we're not that formal. So, okay, next thing on the agenda is service awards. Time flies, I guess.

MS. CHAPA: Time flies when you're having fun. I would like to call everybody's attention to our Chair for today, Tom gray. We'd like to acknowledge 21 years of service with the Seward Peninsula RAC. And we will have one of our ISC members, Eva Patton present a very small gesture of appreciation for all your years of service, and I will share some more information with everyone about Mr. Gray's service. The Office of Subsistence Management recognizes Thomas Gray for 21 years of exceptional service on the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Our Chair today, Tom Gray, has served on the Council since its appointment in 2003. He is a subsistence hunter, a fisherman, as well as a reindeer herder in a commercial hunting guide and an ecotourism business owner. He holds extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources, subsistence practices, customs and traditions, as well as sport, commercial and other non-subsistence uses. Vice Chair Gray also serves as a Chairman of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee since 2017 and serves on the ADF&G Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, the Arctic Western Caribou Herd Working Group, and as a president

1 of the Kodiak Reindeer Herders Association. Mr. Gray
2 contributes his extensive knowledge to assist the
3 Council, as his voice and experience lends a unique and
4 needed voice and perspective on the Council. Thank you
5 for 21 years of service to the Federal Subsistence
6 Management Program, and I am also pleased to finally get
7 to meet you in person. Thank you, Mr. Gray.

8
9 (Applause)

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Man, that was
12 a mouthful. Holy cow. I see why.....

13
14 MR. GREEN: Congratulations, Tommy.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yeah. Thank
17 you. Yeah. You know, you get involved in all these
18 projects and things going on, and I had to look around
19 me at one point and cut some of the programs that I was
20 sitting on out because I wanted to deal with stuff that
21 deals with my life. You know, I'm the reindeer industry
22 leader and I catch beluga whales. And so, I get involved
23 in all kinds of stuff. And some stuff is kind of -- I'll
24 throw a challenge out to OSM. Some stuff is kind of
25 interesting. Just recently I -- my beluga whale stuff -
26 - we're going to do DNA to where we can take a whale
27 from Alaska, we have six different pods of whales, we're
28 going to go into research and take -- we can kill one
29 whale, take it, and we can identify where it comes from.
30 And this is a big, big project that's coming down the
31 pike. But dream big and keep chugging along. So, thank
32 you guys. That was awesome.

33
34 All right, we have meeting minutes. It
35 looks like we have three sets of minutes. And I'm going
36 to let you guys take a few minutes to review them. And
37 we'll come back and go one by one and deal with them.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I might also
40 add -- again, this is Gisela Chapa. So, we have three
41 sets of meeting minutes to review, the one that you can
42 find on page six of your packet is the March 5th through
43 sixth Joint Councils meeting at the All Council meeting
44 in Anchorage earlier this year. March 7th the
45 Quadrilateral Winter 2024 meeting for Wildlife Proposal
46 24-28/29. And that is on page 15 of your meeting booklet.
47 And then we have the March 8th Council winter meeting
48 for Seward Peninsula. And that you can find that on page
49 19 of your packet.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: We're going to
2 move individually on these minutes. So, anytime you guys
3 are ready to make a motion on any set of minutes, just
4 go ahead and make the motion and we'll move on it.

5
6 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
7 Mr. chair. I move to adopt March five-six meeting minutes
8 of and Anchorage for that date.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is there a
11 second?

12
13 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Second. Any
16 discussion?

17
18 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, (indiscernible).

19
20
21 ACTING CHIRPERSON GRAY: Pardon? Oh,
22 question. All in favor, say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 All opposed. Same sign. Motion is
27 carried.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot -- Elmer from
30 Brevig. Mr. Chair moved to adopt a March 7th meeting in
31 Anchorage of the Councils of the northwest -- North
32 Slope, West Interior.

33
34 MR. GREEN: This is Louis, I'll second.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And a second.
37 Is there any discussion?

38
39 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question has
42 been called. All in favor, say aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

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46 All opposed. Same sign. Motion is
47 carried. So, we have one more set of minutes. When you're
48 ready, we'll cross that bridge.

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50 (Pause)

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MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig. Mr. Chair moved to adopt March 8th meeting of the Seward Peninsula Advisory Council meeting in Anchorage.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Looking for a second here.

MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And there's a second. Any discussion?

MS. FREYTAG: Question.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question has been called for. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

All opposed. Same sign. Motion is carried. Very good. Okay. So, next we have Council reports, and I guess we can go around the table. We'll start with you and give reports.

MR. AUKONGAK: I guess everybody know that fishing is a little bit slow compared to what it used to be. And crabbing went pretty quick for the commercial, I believe. It's, you know, that time of year we got storms and everybody think about, you know, the Northwest Arctic right there, the flood. You know, times are changing, I believe, and we're getting a lot more water. So, hopefully everybody have a safe fall and, you know, good freeze up for catching the caribou coming up. And that's about what I got.

MS. FREYTAG: Good morning everyone, Mary Freitag, Unalakleet. This will probably be my last meeting with you all. I really enjoyed sitting here sharing knowledge and just learning from everyone. I just want to fully thank all of the agencies that play a critical and important part in all of our decision making as we co-management [sic] our subsistence. We thank you, and we want to keep this working relationship in concrete, make it always there for everyone. But thank you and welcome.

MR. MOSES: Robert Moses from Golovin. This year it's been lots of berries. Lots of salmon berries, lots of blueberries, blackberries. The fish

1 came late this year in our village. People were able to
2 put silver salmon away and some dry fish. People did
3 caribou -- moose hunting this fall in our region. There
4 were some people in our home that got moose, which is
5 good. A lot of storms, a lot of wind this year in our
6 region. We noticed that there was lots of seaweed on the
7 beaches after the storm. Usually it comes up later, but
8 there was a lot of green seaweed on the beaches during
9 this year. The storms. We just had another storm, which
10 it wasn't as bad as Merbok and we did catch caribou this
11 last winter. We have to go over 200 miles to catch
12 caribou. Tomcod showed up late last fall. Along with the
13 smelt, seemed like there was more smelt than tomcods.
14 The trout have been fair. Not as many as last year or
15 years before. A lot of people got -- were able to get
16 greens and the other plants they use for medicinal use
17 at home, in our region. Commercial fishing was good this
18 year, but it was slow, the silver showed up late. They
19 said -- Fish and Game said we were the top fishing
20 village in our region, which was one of the lowest
21 numbers that I seen. And there was not too many fish
22 taken, but we were the region -- top fishing region in
23 our region commercial fishing wise. Crabbing was good
24 this year, a lot of people did good crabbing. People
25 were able to drive fish and put them away. And there was
26 a couple of beluga caught this year in our region with
27 net and also by gun, where they go out and catch beluga.
28 And I guess we seen some fall herring this year in our
29 bay. They come every year, but usually we don't get to
30 see them very much. But the elders say they show up
31 every year in our region and our bay. And that's all I
32 have from Golovin. Thank you.

33
34 MR. SEETOT: (In native) Elmer Brevig.
35 Our spring harvest for marine mammals was very short.
36 Again, our Port Clarence Bay, our main source of
37 transportation, springtime melted pretty fast due to
38 rain. Our sockeye run was good this year. First time I
39 caught so many sockeye in one year then how many --
40 maybe 15 years put together. That's how good the red
41 salmon were. But what was missing was a chum salmon and
42 the pink salmon in and around Grantley Harbor and Imuruk
43 Basin area. So, even though we were excited with the
44 fish that were there, you know, some species were still
45 not there. We had a good low tide out a couple weeks
46 ago, and then a couple days ago or a couple -- a week
47 ago, we had a high-water storm, and then we had a low
48 water tide a couple of weeks before that. Snow is here
49 earlier than last year. So, winter temperatures are
50 probably going to be a little bit earlier this year. Our

1 clam harvest in Wales was good. No one died from PS --
2 whatever that syndrome is. We harvested walrus or my
3 sons and their hunters harvested walrus. East in between
4 Fairway Rock and King Island, wherever they were
5 harvesting. They harvested some clams and were able to
6 eat those though so, we didn't get any no side effects
7 from the clams that were harvested in the spring or in
8 the -- recently, last week, even though there were
9 advisories, you know, to be cautious of what they might
10 produce in the way of sicknesses to people that eat
11 them.

12
13 I did try to go to Ken's retirement
14 party last May, but I didn't know that they had moved
15 all the way up, up that way. So, I walked, walked, walked
16 down to the original place. Oh, I got to go to my medical
17 appointment without even knowing and then knowing that
18 a couple days later, they had moved their place up that
19 way. I have many issues that need to be talked about,
20 but I guess when the time comes, I will put them forward.
21 Anyway, like Mary say, I told the Council, you know,
22 might be my last time to, you know, be there. But, you
23 know, you have people encouraging you to be on there
24 because there are very few people in each region that
25 speaks out. They expect the representatives that like
26 us or from the NSEDC or other places to speak out for
27 them. But we need to be more communicative with each
28 other because you know there's some things that always
29 -- are always left out in every meeting. But like Mary
30 said might be my last time, but you know, there's always
31 opportunity for you to comment on many of the issues
32 that are coming before us, especially now. And the
33 prophecies, the prophecies of our elders. I'm starting
34 to see them come into being. If you want to learn more,
35 talk to the local elders. Talk to the local people, they
36 know, they heard from their elders. It's not written
37 like our meeting books are here. This is knowledge,
38 knowledge that is passed down. And that's what we need
39 to keep on doing in meetings, like here. To share
40 whatever knowledge is passed down. We should at least
41 practice it or keep it going. I thank you for that, Tom.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
44 Louie, you with us online? Do you have a report?

45
46 MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I had to wait
47 to the unmute works. Thank you. Going back to the spring
48 like caribou hunt in our area here 22, people have to
49 go, you know, 80 to 100 miles and the caribou are pretty
50 scarce up in that area, I guess. But I heard of several

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1 successful hunts. I did not take part in that myself
2 this year. On the crab through the ice subsistence
3 fishing. I heard, you know, lots of success there from
4 people. Facebook was pretty busy about crabbing. So, the
5 -- it seemed to be that it was a good year for
6 subsistence king crab fishing. There was good spring sea
7 mammal hunt. A lot of successful hunters out there that
8 brought the good food to the beach. And when that was
9 over, when the ice departed, the ice was a little slow
10 again this year, I didn't quite track the dates, but it
11 hung around a little while longer than we've seen in the
12 past decades. There was a fishery open or closed up at
13 Port Clarence and that was really kind of disappointed
14 to see Fish and Game do something like that. When the
15 folks over there are, you know, generally first to get,
16 their fish early on. You need to catch your fish in June
17 because there's a time where it starts raining towards
18 the end of the month of June into July, and it's very
19 difficult to preserve your fish. So, I did not like to
20 see what Fish and Game did there. I don't think they
21 should have had a closure. It's a mixed stock fishery.
22 There's several rivers there that contribute to the runs
23 that those folks in Brevig and Teller live off of. I'll
24 -- I understand that the Fish and Game was practicing
25 the conservation for the Salmon Lake red run, but the
26 folks that are sitting there at the mouth where the --
27 at Port Clarence and Grantley Harbor certainly should
28 not have to wait for anybody to harvest, especially when
29 the peak harvest season is early on because of the
30 weather, which deteriorates quite rapidly and it did
31 this year. Hopefully that does not take place again.

32
33 I heard that the red run was a success.
34 Elmer spoke towards that by getting more reds than he
35 usually got, which is good. The summer season here at
36 Nome was -- I targeted the marine waters and the Nome
37 subdistrict, and it was, you know, give and take. You
38 got fish, and then you had bad weather. So, I'd like to
39 see that subsistence fishery in the Nome on the west
40 side of Cape Nome be open seven days a week as it is on
41 the east side. I don't think that the management for
42 commercial fisheries should override the subsistence.
43 Subsistence is the priority period. And they don't --
44 there's not that many fish taken through subsistence on
45 the west side to where I think that it needs to be closed
46 off and have every other day type of thing going on so
47 that the commercial fisheries can conduct them -- be
48 conducted. That's another thing that Fish and game needs
49 to adjust, in my opinion. (Indiscernible) when we talk
50 about TEK, I'm 66 years old and I'm just about as old

1 as Tommy, close and the experiences that Tommy and Elmer
2 and all of us that are on this RAC have had in our
3 lifetime should be you know, clearly spoken by ourselves
4 and clearly received by the staffs of Fish and Game and
5 Federal side fisheries. We have been around for a while.
6

7 The other -- the summer season was good.
8 People were out active in the rivers. I -- and along the
9 road systems. And the berry season was a pretty good
10 berry season this year when -- I heard a lot of success
11 there of people that took part in it. When we got to the
12 moose season, we got into hunting on the 1st of
13 September. And prior to that, there was an August season
14 that a lot of folks from the Teller and Brevig area got
15 moose early on, which is really a good to see. But then
16 when it was the September 1st Moose Hunt season, it was
17 -- it became a three day hunt again. I'm just wondering
18 when over -- when we were going to move away from hunting
19 and in a mad rush. Wonder when the management's going
20 to tailor back something. I know it's popular for
21 everybody to go get moose on, but when we saw that
22 happening down in Unalakleet, where there was very few
23 moose to go around, they did a -- I think a five year
24 or six year moratorium down there themselves so that the
25 moose population could increase. We need some younger
26 moose to be part of the herd. When we have a three day
27 hunt, we take many moose, many young moose and then some
28 of the breeders. So, there's something that might need
29 to be considered to be adjusting how our -- how we manage
30 our moose herd on the Seward Peninsula in Unit 22, and
31 especially in the Nome subdistrict and along the road
32 system. I heard that 22C went above and beyond, the
33 target number, I think I'm thinking it's around 27. And
34 I heard as high as 40 moose were taken in 22C. We can
35 attribute that to the economy going on here, that it
36 costs less money to go 20 miles out of town than it does
37 to do 60 or 80 or 100 miles out of town to go get a
38 moose. It all depends on how much money you have in the
39 bank when it comes time to hunting season. So, it seems
40 to me that the people concentrated more on the 22C around
41 Nome because of that fact. So, gas prices are pretty
42 high and makes it hard for people to go out and venture
43 like some of us -- other ones that go out farther out.
44

45 The Kuzitrin whitefish harvest was going
46 along pretty good. I took part in it with my sons and
47 there's many, many people that were out there and did
48 well. So, the whitefish in the Kuzitrin seem to be
49 keeping up their end of the deal and supplying us with
50 good nutritious food. Even though there's not much

1 salmon in that river, there still is a whitefish
2 population, which we probably ought to keep an eye on
3 also. The beluga season was going well. And some sharp
4 hunters out there were doing their job and brought plenty
5 to the beach and I think it's still ongoing. And so,
6 that brings us around the corner to caribou fall hunting.
7 And I haven't had a chance to talk to any hunters, to
8 see how that's going, but I imagine there are a few
9 being taken.

10
11 This -- the other thing that we need to
12 be concentrating on as time goes on here, is this trawler
13 issue needs to be met. There needs to be a change. The
14 trawlers are out there in the Bering Sea, in the Gulf
15 of Alaska, and they're stripping the food web out. There's
16 been plenty of discussion about this lately and there's
17 -- the numbers that are being talked about are data from
18 NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service. And we see how
19 -- as I've attended a few of those meetings, we see how
20 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
21 regulates. They regulate for the pollock trawlers. They
22 regulate for the trawlers. Period. There's an issue
23 about the pelagic gear that's -- that the pollock boats
24 use. They call it pelagic gear because it's supposed to
25 be midwater, which is, if there's 600ft of water, your
26 ship is up on top, towing it at the surface, and maybe
27 300ft down of a 600-foot deep area is considered
28 midwater. These midwater trawlers are going -- their
29 gear is all the way down on the bottom, taking the bottom
30 out. So, people need to be mindful of what's going on,
31 and people need to speak out about that more. Because
32 if you want your salmon back, you want things back to
33 normal, we need to find a way to have those trawlers
34 removed from the Bering Sea. The Russians and whatnot
35 are all the way up around the corner already with theirs,
36 on the other side of the International Date Line. So, I
37 just want people to be aware of that. And I want it on
38 the record that there are people that are against those
39 trawlers for -- and for a good reason. And with that,
40 Mr. Chair, that'll be all for me. Thank you very much.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Thank
43 you, Louis. Is that all the Council members? It is. So,
44 I guess it's my turn. So, you know, I think all of us
45 that live up here realize the weather is a huge, huge
46 factor in what we do and what we can't get done, and so
47 on and so forth. We -- we've definitely had a change in
48 weather over the years and at freeze up this year was
49 the lowest I've seen the river I live on in probably
50 three years. It hasn't -- it hadn't gone down in a long,

1 long time. And it finally was getting normal and then
2 it froze up. So, with that being said, our fish runs you
3 know, we can all toss that back and forth, my opinion
4 on fish runs is we need to improve on it. We have no
5 fish, you know, this this year is probably the first
6 year in again, maybe 2 or 3 years that we were able to
7 dry fish and we had pinks that we could dry. And we had,
8 I think a one week period that we could dry fish. If you
9 didn't dry them in that one week or two-week period, you
10 didn't get dry fish. So, you had to hit it just right.
11 The kings and silvers, we have no king run. It's gone.
12 I mean, we need to back off on it. Even subsistence
13 people need to back off on it and let what's left try
14 and bring it back. Silvers, you know, they ran commercial
15 fishing and I have moved -- I don't want to say I moved
16 to White Mountain. I'm starting a reindeer herd down in
17 White Mountain, and I bought a house down there. I'm
18 living there part time. I lived there all summer. I run
19 a hunting and fishing lodge all summer upriver from White
20 Mountain. So, you'll hear me talk about my river and so
21 on and so forth. You know, I have a house here in Nome
22 and I live in Nome part of the time, but I live between
23 my lodge and my house in White Mountain. I probably
24 spend most of my time on the river. So, anyway, silver
25 salmon, you know, I had complaints from commercial
26 fishermen that fishing Golovin Bay, I don't know why
27 they opened commercial fishing for a handful of silvers
28 and that was 48-hour openings. And you know, we saw it
29 in the river. I have clients come from all over the
30 United States, and out of 50 some holes, 56 holes on my
31 river system, three holes were productive. So, that
32 tells a story. Seal hunting, oogruk hunting out in the
33 ocean last year was awesome.

34
35 The birds, you know, everybody gets a
36 lot of birds. There's a lot more snow geese now than
37 there has been in the past. My grandson just raves about
38 shooting snow geese. Crabbing, you know, we had this
39 real low period of crabbing where they shut everything
40 down and for years we didn't get crabs, and -- or I
41 would set crab pots and go out to set crab pots, and
42 there'd be a couple hundred crab pots out in front of
43 Nome. It's a wonder there was anybody getting crabs. But
44 then you throw the commercial side into it and, you
45 know, it just tanked. And last year was the first time
46 in many, many years that commercial crabbing because it
47 had been shut down, the resource came back. What -- I
48 have a kid that's 35 years old now, and I took him out
49 last spring and hand lined, and he's 35 years old, had
50 never hand lined. He thought that was the greatest thing

1 around that. We caught like 25 crabs hand lining. But
2 that was the first time in 30 years we had done that,
3 and I hope the management of crabs takes into
4 consideration the subsistence lifestyle that we live and
5 leave enough crabs for us instead of rape and pillage
6 and take as much as they can. The moose hunt, you know,
7 I spent the fall basically in White Mountain and it was
8 warm, rainy, warm. The moose never came out of the
9 mountains. It was really, really slow on the river.
10 Nobody was getting moose for a long time. At the end of
11 the hunt, they started getting moose and I do know that
12 there was talk about putting a proposal to open 22B
13 later than the way it's set up right now and in my eyes,
14 that's justified. I mean, we're -- it's always been too
15 warm. This hunt, I feel, has been set up and built around
16 Labor Day weekend or something. And, you know, all the
17 working group can go out and go hammer the moose and
18 have three-, four-day weekends or whatever. We need to
19 build that hunt around subsistence first and accommodate
20 our clientele, so to speak, our people in the region.
21 So, rain, rain, rain, I mean, I we've had so much rain
22 over the last few years. The caribou -- Louis touched
23 on the caribou. Some of the guys touched on caribou.
24 Caribou in White Mountain has come back to a point.
25 People are -- I don't want to say come back. People are
26 traveling more and being more aggressive, going further
27 and going that extra distance to get caribou. I don't
28 know that there's more caribou. But anyway, they've got
29 a handful of them. The red run you know, some people
30 feel closing the Imuruk Basin -- not Imuruk Basin --
31 closing Teller and Brevig to the red run was unjustified.
32 Well, as it turns out, it was unjustified. But if you
33 look at the last how many years there was no red run.
34 And so, in a sense, I feel it was justified, closing it
35 until they are reassured that there's reds coming into
36 the system. And, you know, maybe there could have been
37 a quicker response by Fish and Game to monitor this and
38 open it up for the Teller people earlier. But the past
39 history of that run, it's been pretty dismal over the
40 last few years. And, and you know, I think people got
41 fish, but I do know I went up and I got my 100 fish or
42 whatever I got. And I mean, it's a big, big thing to
43 Nome. And, when you look at all these resources, Nome
44 is a big player in it. Moose hunting, caribou hunting,
45 fishing. Nome is a big, big player and we need to take
46 that into consideration. Beluga stocks -- I'm the head
47 of the Beluga Whale Committee and you know, all around
48 Alaska what stocks we have left are in pretty good shape.
49 Kotzebue is a stock, it's not officially a stock. We're
50 trying to get it named as a stock. Kotzebue is pretty

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1 wiped out, it's -- that stock is gone. Cook Inlet, that
2 stock is gone. There's about 300, 350 animals. It's been
3 like that for 20 years. So, that -- those two Stocks
4 were not really producing anything. The rest of the
5 stocks, though, are, you know, the Canadian/Alaska
6 borders 40,000, up by Barrow 20,000 were -- Norton Sound
7 is what did I hear 12,000 and Dillingham a couple
8 thousand. So, beluga whales is doing as good as we can,
9 I guess.

10

11 But, you know, my -- part of the reason
12 I'm sitting here is, is the core of me is subsistence.
13 And subsistence gets cheated when it comes to fisheries
14 or any of these entities that the State or whoever can
15 attach a Federal program to or you know, I look at the
16 caribou and the local people up, let's say Kotzebue you
17 know, this is a Federal program hunting caribou and yet
18 people are protected through this program, and that's
19 good to see. Outsiders are held at bay until the local
20 people get what they need. And I, you know, again, I'm
21 sitting here because of subsistence and I -- I'm real -
22 - the heck with the commercial side of things until
23 subsistence is taken care of. Once we're taken care of,
24 manage carefully for commercial fishing or caribou
25 hunting or whatever it is and I'm a guide -- I'm a
26 hunting guide, and I understand the other side of the
27 coin. But money, you know, we're all -- the commercial
28 side of things is a money hungry pit and you can't give
29 them enough resources. You can't so manage wisely. So,
30 with that said, I'll get off the soapbox and we'll move
31 on. And where are we? Public and tribal comments. So,
32 do we -- did we get any blue cards? Anybody want to
33 talk?

34

35 MS. CHAPA: No, Mr. Chair, we didn't. We
36 didn't get any blue cards. But well, I'll remind
37 everybody who might want to speak on the record on non-
38 agenda items. You can fill one of these blue cards if
39 you want to speak on non-agenda items to the Council,
40 and you can also take this opportunity to address the
41 Council and share any comments on non-agenda items.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And those of
44 you online or in the room, I'm not so much worried about
45 a blue card. You can raise your hand, and I'll recognize
46 you. So -- and we got a new guy in here. Why don't you
47 stand up and introduce yourself?

48

49 MR. MENADELOOK: I'm Chuck Menadelook.
50 I'm the subsistence director for Kawerak.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. We do have somebody on Teams who raised their hand, George Yaska.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Can you.....

MR. YASKA: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead.

MR. YASKA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is George Yaska. I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm a tribal member from Huslia on the Koyukuk River, which runs into the Yukon near Galena and I'm working for science applications U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as indigenous knowledge liaison. And so, it's a part of my job to work with the Regional Advisory Councils in an advisory role on how the Federal Government or the Fish and Wildlife Service may use and include indigenous knowledge. And so, this, of course, is what you're doing here. So, I'm just keeping track and attempting to remain informed. So, thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you. Is there anybody else that hasn't introduced themselves online that need to introduce themselves?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, this is Louis.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead, Louis.

MR. GREEN: Yeah. Thank you. I'd just like to say hi to George. It's been a long time, George. We've been at this for a lifetime. It's good to hear your voice.

MR. YASKA: We sure have, Louis. Nice to hear yours. Thank you.

MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay so, if nobody -- if everybody's too bashful, I'm just going to move on.

1 MS. PILCHER: Good. Mr. Chair, sorry. I
2 was waiting for anyone else to go first. This is Nissa
3 Pilcher, Council Coordinator for Western Interior and
4 South Central. I just wanted to call in and listen and
5 say hi to everyone.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
8 Okay, here we go again. Public testimony and non-agenda
9 items. And anybody have anything that they want to bring
10 out. Awesome.

11
12 MR. MENADELOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 just wanted -- oops, excuse me. I just wanted to bring
14 up that this summer -- I am Chuck Menadelook. I'm the
15 Kawerak subsistence director. And I just wanted to say
16 that this summer was the first time I did beach surveys
17 for dead animals and dead birds and sick animals and
18 sick birds. And this summer I found over 48 dead --
19 they're called short-tailed shearwaters. They were all
20 starved. Every single one of the birds that I sent in
21 for testing were emaciated. They had what's called
22 keels. They were keeled, which is a scientific term for
23 being starved. I found numerous gulls -- kittiwakes at
24 first throughout the summer and then I found a lot of
25 glaucous gull starting in August. And that was the bulk
26 of the dead birds that I found. We haven't had a chance
27 to get them sent out. They should be out this week,
28 hopefully. The reason I bring this up is because I talk
29 to people in the North Slope, Taqulik, who's a good
30 friend of mine up there at the North Slope. She mentioned
31 that she has a grant program to do the stuff I'm doing
32 right now. By the way, this isn't the first time this
33 is done. It's been done over the last, you know, 7 or 8
34 years. And all of the -- actually, the numbers back then
35 were even worse than what I found here. Yeah. But up --
36 this year, up in the North Slope, they found over 100
37 short-tailed shearwaters, and they were all emaciated,
38 starving. I just wanted to bring that up. I'm going to
39 apply for funding to get a couple more interns to help
40 me out. All of this stuff I did by myself. It was from
41 Solomon to Cape Nome, from West Beach to Penny River.
42 And the only reason -- the only limitations on those is
43 I couldn't get across to Penny River all summer. There
44 was too much rain, and I couldn't go past Solomon. So,
45 that's just to point out that the numbers I'm giving you
46 are only -- the only beaches that I have access to.
47 There's, I don't know, 5-600 miles worth of beach that
48 nobody knows what's on them. And from what I've heard
49 from other people I've talked to in other villages,
50 there's more. So, something is happening to our sea, and

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1 a lot of the birds are starving. I just wanted to bring
2 that up. Thank you.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
5 That's kind of interesting because you know, I guess my
6 thoughts are -- is what is in the system that's lacking,
7 that's these birds are dying from. And anyway, is there
8 any other public comments or concerns anything doesn't
9 have to be real relevant? I'm easy to work with.

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Okay, well now we're going to go into
14 council training issues. What have we got on that?

15

16 MR. GREEN: Mr. Gray.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yeah.

19

20 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yep, yep. Go
23 ahead.

24

25 MR. GREEN: Yeah, I would just like to
26 speak to that on this comment period and non-agenda item.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, go ahead.

29

30 MR. GREEN: What Chuck is describing --
31 thank you. What Chuck is describing is this -- the lack
32 of food in the food web. There's only one thing out
33 there that's doing this and it's done it from the East
34 coast all the way around to our coast. And that's trawler
35 industry. People have to face that fact. They're pushing
36 back really hard, folks. They don't want to be the bad
37 guys, but they're pretty much the bad guys. The All RACs
38 meeting, we drafted a letter up to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board relating to the trawler industry issue
40 and so, people are taking it pretty serious along the
41 way there that are part of the process. Maybe -- I'm
42 trying to remember if it's going all the way to the
43 Department of Commerce. Department of Commerce is over
44 NOAA, NOAA is over NMFS and NMFS is over the North
45 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I'll give you one
46 example of what the North Pacific Council did this last
47 year. When the trawlers were bumping up against the big,
48 huge -- they call it the bycatch quota of herring, wanton
49 waste basically. They doubled the quota so that the boats
50 could keep fishing. These boats are out there fishing

1 day in and day out and we have issues with these boats
2 because we're sitting on the beach with no fish, and
3 they're out there gutting the ocean and the sea floor.
4 So, I'm, you know, being real direct about this because
5 if we don't start all looking at it hard and talking
6 like I'm speaking now, we're liable to lose everything.
7 And those birds are indicators, it's like the canary in
8 the coal mine. There's been interceptions -- there's
9 been a, you know, the trawlers have been cleaning up.
10 They were allowed more king salmon than subsistence
11 fishermen on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim this year.
12 Thousands, to just catch them and then throw them over
13 the side dead. King crab, all the crab species are
14 getting hammered too, out in there, out in the Bering
15 Sea. I seen a photo of a -- what do they call them? A
16 sleeper shark. They get to be 250 years old. They're
17 killing these things too. So, nothing gets away. Ten
18 killer whales or orcas, whatever you want to call them,
19 were killed this last season by trawlers. So, I know I'm
20 hammering on trawlers. I'm not going to stop. We need
21 to have that Magnuson-Stevens Act looked into. It's a
22 congressional act to find a way to police these boats,
23 these -- this gear group or get rid of them and have
24 them completely abolished out of the -- out of our
25 oceans. Our salmon are the most important species pretty
26 much because if it wasn't for salmon, the Pacific Rim
27 wouldn't be as rich as it is. Those fish have to go up
28 these rivers of ours to bring those marine driven
29 nutrients up there for everything else to succeed. The
30 Nome subdistrict has probably been hammered the longest,
31 and that's been over 40 years. When I got involved in
32 this with the Board of Fish in 1993, representing Sinta,
33 I was also the Vice Chairman of the Northern Norton
34 Sound Advisory Committee of Fish and Game. I got involved
35 in this stuff, and a handful of us started talking about
36 how the trawler industry and Area M, another salmon
37 industry that's a state Fishery, needed to be co-managed
38 and the quotas needed to be kept in check. And our thing
39 was if you don't, Nome is not going to be where it stops.
40 It's going to go down to the Unalakleet, it's going to
41 go to the Yukon and it's going to go to the Kuskokwim.
42 Well, we've seen that we didn't have a crystal ball, we
43 just had some common sense. We were young back then, in
44 our 30s. Apparently, we had a little bit of TEK then
45 from living off the land the way we did. So, I
46 experienced some small -- I was worried about what would
47 happen to Bristol Bay reds. They flourished down there
48 because they have a different food. Well, they're fish
49 down there -- and I got some of them sent to me -- were
50 smaller than usual. So, when Chuck tells me there's a

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1 bird problem starving, there's a starvation issue for
2 shearwaters.....

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, did we lose
7 them? Yep. We'll give him a few -- couple of minutes to
8 call back in. Pardon?

9

10 MS. CHAPA: Hi. Good morning. This is
11 Gisela Chapa, for the record. Can y'all hear us online?
12 I see George Yaska has his hand up. Can you hear us,
13 George?

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, take your
16 hand down if you can see us or hear us.

17

18 MS. TELEMAQUE: So, I think it dropped
19 on my end. If you just give me a moment, I will try and
20 get back on their internet.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Why don't
23 we take five minutes break, go to the bathroom, five,
24 ten minutes and we'll try to get this resolved.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: I know it could be more than
27 five minutes. That's what they say, 5 minutes, all the
28 time. (In Native)

29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yeah. Oh, let
31 me turn that.....

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, folks.
38 Mary's back. So, we're going to start again. And Louie
39 had the floor. He was busy talking and got cut off. So,
40 Louie, you're on.

41

42 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I
43 was talking about the shearwaters that Chuck was talking
44 about that are starving to death. Something's missing
45 in the food web. The salmon that are starting to show
46 up in Bristol Bay, the reds down there are starting to
47 show up smaller. I got a few of those and saw what they
48 looked like. I was talking about an old man that
49 understood the Bering Strait region and, you know, the
50 Bering Sea pretty good. And he was an educator here in

1 Nome, a longtime resident, and he told me that if
2 everything needs a steak, vegetables and potatoes, you
3 remove anything out of the system, you start changing
4 the health. Generally, the health goes down. This has
5 been going on for a good 40 years. All the trawlers have
6 been out in business for probably longer than that. The
7 Magnuson-Stevens Act was put into place, I recall Ted
8 Stevens coming to attend a boys state meeting that I was
9 -- convention that I was part of in 1970, 1975 at UAF
10 in Fairbanks, and he was describing what they were doing
11 about getting rid of the foreign fleets by pushing the
12 line out to 200 miles. Well, we've got our own and that
13 old man was Vic Goldsberry. And what he said was very
14 true. You start stripping the food web, you're going to
15 see a collapse in the whole thing. So, we've seen it on
16 the East Coast. They're still trying to recover the cod
17 over there, the Atlantic cod all the way around. They
18 have removed them out of the Southeast area around, I
19 think, Sitka. They pushed them out there. I know it's a
20 really hard subject to talk about, because the CDQ
21 program is part of the trawler industry, and it's hard
22 to speak out about it, but, you know, to see what's
23 going on now, if we don't speak out, we will lose
24 everything, our children and our grandkids and great
25 grandkids won't have anything. They'll be just like they
26 are over there on the East coast, waiting for the
27 recovery decades later. So, thank you for the ability
28 to speak on this non-agenda item, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Very good. And
31 you had a comment you wanted to come up to the mic.
32

33 MR. MENADELOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Chuck Menadelook. I forgot to mention that during my
35 animal surveys, I found eight dead belugas. Two of them,
36 which were -- or not eight, six dead belugas and two
37 baby belugas that had washed up and I had to euthanize.
38 And we sent the whole carcass out both of them to for
39 testing. We still waiting on the tests. Two dead seals,
40 I think in the region, there's been 12 dead porpoises,
41 and three of them were found here in Nome. They were
42 maybe two feet long so, they were just babies. I don't
43 know how long the porpoises grow, but they look like
44 little, tiny you know, I used to have a toy almost as
45 big as that. But it was alarming to see all of that and
46 to witness it, I guess. And somebody asked me what was
47 the impetus for my starting this, it all happened when
48 I went and attended a meeting with another Federal
49 Advisory Board, and I got pushback about asking them,
50 hey, why am I having to look out for dead birds and

1 animals? So, you know, to send out for testing? Isn't
2 it your job and or your responsibility? Maybe not so
3 much their job. But I got pushback. And then they said
4 to me, to me directly, they said, show me the regulation
5 where I have to do that, where I have to do that, that,
6 you know, made me boil. If I was a younger man, I
7 probably would have punched that person. But that's
8 where I got my impetus to start it -- to start monitoring
9 the -- for dead animals. Because my big push in the past
10 was for HPAI, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and
11 HABs, Harmful Algal Blooms, which you've had last year.
12 But that's the reason I started all of that for myself.
13 Not necessarily for anybody, but for my own peace of
14 mind and it does so happen that it affects my job
15 directly. So, I just wanted to bring that up and thank
16 you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, Chuck,
19 before you go, the beluga whale stuff kind of strikes
20 me because I'm the head of the Beluga Whale Committee,
21 And if you're willing, I would like to get my scientists
22 to send you a sample kits that you can have on the shelf.
23 And if you find a whale somewhere or anything, we can
24 get a sample, or you can get a sample and we'll have
25 names and all that stuff. And the other side of the coin
26 is, as a subsistence director at Kawerak, we would love
27 to have you come to our meeting in Anchorage next month
28 -- middle of the month, we're having our annual meeting,
29 and we've asked Kawerak to come time and time and time
30 again, and nobody's ever come. But if you're interested
31 in coming and need a letter of invite or anything, I'd
32 be happy to make that happen for you.

33
34 MR. MENADELOOK: Yeah. I'm a big advocate
35 for subsistence because it's part of my job. It's part
36 of who I am. So, please send me an invite. I'll go and
37 talk your head off about everything that I work with.
38 So -- and belugas are really important to me because
39 it's such a big part of our life. And it's a -- it's
40 wonderful when somebody catches one and they, they share
41 it with their family, with their community. I still
42 remember when I caught my first beluga, we had a big
43 potluck at my house. All the hunters were invited, you
44 know it made me feel like a man. So, thank you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Thank
47 you. Did we have somebody online that wanted to talk
48 about something?

49
50

1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I
2 guess I just need to comment on one thing with Mr. Louis
3 Green was talking about the trawlers. Most of us that
4 are sitting -- used to talk about the harvest of wildlife
5 resources until they're depleted. We just have to look
6 at the other side of the coin. I live in the community.
7 You live -- most of us live in the communities where we
8 see life come and go. From the day we were born to the
9 day we die. We have had many improvements within our
10 villages to make life easier for us. One is water and
11 sewer. Sewer discharge into the ocean depleting the --
12 I think for me, the saltiness of the water. More rain
13 you have more the salt water goes down below the surface.
14 That's a common -- when we hit a seal sometime in late
15 or early spring or late fall, you hit it, it sinks, but
16 you can see it down there because the salt is holding
17 the water up. The rest is fresh water. So, there's more
18 fresh water coming in and that I think that -- what that
19 discharge from the ground, from the earth, whatever man
20 puts spills, petroleum products that aren't cleaned up
21 right away. Drums -- petroleum that wash out. Those are
22 not many of the things that people talk about when they
23 talk about fish depletion, they talk about overharvest.

24
25 Other thing, like I say, the ecosystem
26 of the water, the water pollution in our villages coming
27 and then I think about Seward Peninsula our community
28 being so close to Russia, who knows what they put into
29 the waters over there. I heard many things that they put
30 into the waters that I would assume that contributed to
31 the outbreak of rashes on seals, marine mammals a couple
32 of years ago. They don't know where we come from. We
33 just have to think that whatever they pollute or put
34 into the waters, you know, it's going to harm us. Our
35 sewer system in Brevig Mission discharges right into the
36 ocean. And then I know they have a freshwater thing
37 there that kids used to swim, used to swim in, and then
38 past couple years they have to quit swimming there
39 because of whatever was coming from the sewer system was
40 going into our waters. And main -- or that the main
41 thing that people talk about trawlers, trawlers,
42 trawlers. Other side of the coin, like I said, pollution.
43 Other side of the coin. Also, we got marine mammals that
44 feed on fish and that that's one thing that is being
45 overlooked. We have increased shipping over the Bering
46 Straits. More noise pollution underwater. What is that
47 doing to fish? What is that doing to our animals in and
48 around our area? Fish going belly up, is there anybody
49 taking water temperatures? Because I know that fish like
50 cold water. And many people talk about Port Clarence

1 Bay, I'll talk to that more about Port Clarence fishery,
2 what I think was the main problem. But anytime I hear
3 something about harvest -- oh, I forgot, marine mammals.
4 Marine mammals have to have food too. So, that's one of
5 the things that they kind of overlooked, that that's one
6 of the counterpoints that I had to kind of mention to
7 Mr. Green's presentation on trawling. I know trawling
8 is a very bad thing that would come to our area, but we
9 have to look at the other side of the coin. If there's
10 too much hostility in and around our talks, I guarantee
11 you what our elders say more, more things, more bad
12 things you talk about are natural resources. They won't
13 be there for you. It's not written. It's something that
14 was passed on to me and to many others that lived in
15 these communities before we had modern conveniences like
16 talking on the phone, looking at the books. Now, not a
17 lot of people have their private screening on phones.
18 Oh, I guess that's their main thing, but I -- our main
19 concern I think is trying to help our younger generation
20 be more involved in meetings like these here. Because
21 every time I go to the villages or to places -- oh you're
22 doing a good job, I don't want to hear that. You get out
23 and, you know, try to represent communities while you're
24 at a young age, you know. Many things that I hear are
25 kind of one sided, but in my point of view, if that's
26 what I learned from my ancestors, because that's what
27 they say was coming from them, and they know that they
28 keep passing on. And that was one of the points I was
29 making. If they're talking about overharvesting. Talk
30 about the other side. The marine mammals. Anything that
31 other than man, you know, can harvest. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Thank
35 you, Elmer. And, you know, I sat at this table for a
36 long, long time. And I've sat at other management tables,
37 Fish and Game Advisory Committee, on and on. And unless
38 our people and you know this, in my mind, this isn't a
39 Native white man issue. This is we all use subsistence
40 things like reds down the Pilgrim River on and on. Us
41 as human beings, as peoples need to come to the table
42 and sit down and talk about this and resolve some of
43 these issues and get a game plan put together, or we'll
44 be sitting here for another 20 years and it's not going
45 to be Louis Green bringing the issue up. It's going to
46 be maybe his grandson, and nothing has happened since
47 then. And you know, we as drivers in the system need to
48 take an approach of let's have a workshop, let's air
49 this thing out, flesh it out. And it isn't going to be
50 Tom Gray or a half breed. You shouldn't have the power

1 to talk or whatever. You know, everybody's going to be
2 equal at this table. And we're going to talk about
3 trawlers and overharvesting management issues on and on
4 and come up with a game plan. You know, I see that as
5 big time being missed. We all bring up these issues and
6 they just get lost in the dust somewhere. So, you know,
7 I'm planting seeds, trying to get people thinking a
8 little bit, how can we go that next step instead of
9 sitting here for another 20 years. Make this ball roll
10 a little bit. So, food for thought. Mary.

11
12 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
13 Freytag. I -- speaking of overharvest like everyone
14 talking about it. I just wanted to share what Unalakleet
15 done back in the mid-90s. We didn't have no more moose
16 in our area, and that's our food on the table. And it
17 was -- it got so bad to where fall times there was
18 nothing. Nobody was getting anything. So, the residents
19 in our village, of the village of Unalakleet, we took
20 it upon ourselves and put a five-year moratorium. Nobody
21 tell us, we did it on our own. To not hunt moose for
22 five years and this past fall, I proudly to say we
23 harvested close to 60 moose for the village. You know,
24 for all the residents and stuff. And it just goes to
25 show when you take those initial steps to help make the
26 animals come back, those necessary steps, they do help
27 in the animals do come back eventually. So, I just wanted
28 to share that and on another side note, speaking of the
29 youth, getting the youth involved, more involved in
30 stuff like this, because it's important, you know, to
31 talk about putting food on our table from our land that
32 is us, that identifies us as one of the things that I'm
33 real passionate and want to -- would like to see is see
34 ANCSA and ANILCA in our children's curriculum. It must
35 be mandatory for our areas so that all of the children
36 under ANCSA will have an understanding. I had -- it was
37 very -- I had spoken to my nephew last night and my
38 sister had given him all her regional shares and he had
39 no clue what it's all about. So, that's one of the things
40 I want to bring back so that the youth have an identity.
41 Oh, okay, this is why -- this is how it is. This is an
42 Act. This is where we are. So, thank you for sharing all
43 of that. And I just wanted to share that. Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And thank you
46 for the exercise or letting us know what happened in
47 Unalakleet. I sat here and I thought 60 animals. My
48 gosh, that's a lot of animals. And what I would do if I
49 was Unalakleet is throw that back to Fish and Game and,
50 and say, show me that this is sustainable. Is this

1 reality? Because that I mean, that's a huge number of
2 animals out of that one drainage, so. So, anyway, food
3 for thought because if it's 60 animals this year might
4 be 65, next year might be 85. And there's, there's an
5 end to all this stuff. And that's, you know -- king
6 salmon in my river has been tore up and spit out. It
7 never really took off. But right now, it's a free for
8 all. We can get every king salmon in the river and kill
9 it, and there's nothing anybody can do. So, be aware of
10 that. There's an end to it and I would urge Fish and
11 Game to work with you guys to justify numbers. Okay, is
12 there anybody else that has anything they'd like to
13 share. Mary, I saw you reaching for your thing. Did you
14 want to add something?

15

16 MS. FREYTAG: No, Thank you. You touched
17 upon it. Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, okay, I'm
20 going to -- going, going. Oh, we got somebody else.

21

22 MR. GREEN: One more comment.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, go ahead.

25

26 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Louis.
27 I wanted to point out something that I'm hearing from
28 people on the CDQ about the trawlers. It's taken them
29 twice as long to load their net now. They're burning
30 twice the amount of fuel. That means the -- that
31 something's going on with the resource. It's not as
32 plentiful as it used to be. The land of plenty is, you
33 know, like Tommy, you're bringing that up about the
34 moose, how many are coming out of one river system? The
35 land of plenty is getting squeezed to the point where
36 it's not the land of plenty anymore. And the programs
37 that are going on right now that are protecting the
38 trawler industry, we're a part of, and that's the tough
39 thing. There's a lot of money benefiting the region from
40 trawling. Unfortunately, the other side of the coin to
41 that is that when you strip the ocean of the food web,
42 you start seeing things like starvation, you start
43 seeing sores on animals, you start seeing unhealth --
44 unhealthy marine creatures. I'd really be interested to
45 see what's going on with those beluga that Chuck has
46 found. It is our responsibility to wave the flag and
47 say, hey, we need to know these things. I'm really glad
48 that Chuck is out there. That's an indicator that we
49 need. But when you start tilting the balance of what
50 Mother Nature produces, you start creating unhealthy

1 situations. Maybe those plankton blooms that we've heard
2 about are because there's something else, not in the
3 water, to keep them in check. So, you know, there might
4 be something else out there that keeps that plankton
5 bloom in check. People talk about the point of climate
6 change. Well, we all know the climate's changing. It's
7 been changing since the beginning of time. One of the
8 things I'll point out is salmon have been around for 5
9 million years and those salmon at that point in time
10 were about eight feet long, way back when. So, if they've
11 been around for all these climate changes, how is it
12 that the last 60 years under State management, we see
13 such a bad showing of things? When Tommy talks about the
14 reds on the Pilgrim River, both him and I grew up where
15 we'd seen thousands, 1,500 of them in that river. Those
16 were the old counts. It takes 400, which is like equal
17 of 200 pairs to be considered a run. Fish and Game
18 started calling it non run and then they let everybody
19 target them every year. And that's just wiped them out.
20 But we grew up when there was great big kings running
21 up that river, even the Kuzitrin river. Something is
22 wrong with the food web. It's causing a problem for the
23 shearwaters, it's caused problems for the seals.

24
25 What I know is the numbers -- the data
26 that I've seen, I think it was from 2015 where trawlers
27 are allowed. I think it was rockfish or something. There
28 was an allowance of some 9,700 bearded seals to be --
29 that could be caught in a trawl. There was 8,700 ribbon
30 seal that got in the trawl, and they would never shut
31 it down. Those fisheries, they're targeting marine
32 mammals. Legally, no one outside the native community
33 can actually kill a marine mammal. There's laws to
34 prevent that. Why does the trawler industry get to do
35 that? Why does the Federal Government okay through NOAA,
36 through NMFS, through the North Pacific Fisheries
37 Management Council to allow anybody to kill any marine
38 mammal. It's time to put our foot down as a people. And
39 I probably won't be the only one speaking towards this.
40 There's others. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you,
43 Louis. And again, I urge OSM or you know, some of these
44 players that are at the table agencies to work with the
45 local subsistence users in maybe holding a workshop or
46 something that talks about the impacts that are
47 happening on our resources, whether it's trawlers or
48 commercial guides or whatever it is. And you know, I
49 can't say it loud enough. If you don't have a game plan,
50 you're going to be here 20 years from now with the same

1 problems. And you know, I think us as subsistence users
2 need to push people like OSM and the Park and the
3 whoever's -- and the whoever's to step up and help us
4 come up with a game plan. You know, I and when you talk
5 trawlers, I mean, gosh, that's going to go back to
6 Congress to fix those issues and it's a big, big,
7 powerful program. But subsistence, the word subsistence
8 should be more powerful and for some reason it's not.
9 And we need to address that. So, with that, I'm going
10 to move us on and I -- oh, I'm sorry, Martin had a
11 comment and I -- if anybody online had a comment, they
12 need to speak up because I'm going to keep us rolling
13 here. Martin.

14
15 MR. AUKONGAK: Real quick, not to open
16 up another can of worms, but I you know, I feel the pain
17 with Louis and Tom on the trawler part. But those ain't
18 the only big boats out in our water. Our ship traffic
19 is well over 500 going through up and down, and that is
20 bad. Plus, we do have a very bad problem with the non-
21 friendly countries of China and Russia. Going out here
22 and everybody knows down in Nome Nugget are a big old
23 Navy boat out here. And, you know, it's microwaves that
24 definitely affect our Marines too. So, everybody think
25 about that and hopefully, you know, it's not going to
26 go away. It's only, you know getting a lot bigger with
27 massive boats. I mean these ain't tiny. They're very big
28 and when you have something on that boat, you know, you
29 got massive power engines on them. And it's definitely
30 going to affect every whale, every fish out there and
31 it is definitely a problem.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
34 Okay. Was there anybody else on the line that had a
35 comment? All right, we're going to move on to the next
36 item on the agenda is Council Training. So -- and Anne
37 has a we have a new name. Now we're going to practice
38 Anne, Ana.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: For the record, this is
41 Gisela Chapa and my full name is Ana Gisela Chapa, so I
42 know it will work as well as he said.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, here we
45 go.

46
47 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Can people
48 see? Yeah, they can see that online. Okay. All right.
49 Well, thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council.
50 My name is Lisa Grediagin, and I'm the wildlife division

1 supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.
2 The meeting materials for this agenda item begin on page
3 25 of your meeting book, but you're also welcome to just
4 look at the screen there, just whether you prefer to
5 look at the screen or in your meeting book. All right.
6 So, I'm here to present the delegation of authority
7 training. Moving forward, OSM plans to hold one training
8 session at each Council meeting. We feel this will help
9 new Council members become more familiar with the
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program and serve as a
11 refresher for the more seasoned members. Today we will
12 go over the basics of delegation of authority. This
13 training is informational and is not an action item. All
14 right so next slide.

15

16 The objective of this training is to
17 provide information about delegated authority, show that
18 Councils where to find information about delegated
19 authority and discuss the Council's role in delegated
20 authority. This training is meant to be a broad overview
21 of delegated authority. There will be some time for
22 questions and answers at the end of the training, to get
23 into specifics and to discuss region specific delegation
24 of authority issues.

25

26 Here is the regulation that allows the
27 Board to delegate their authority to agency field
28 officials. The regulation describes what kind of actions
29 can be delegated, for example, setting harvest and
30 possession limits, opening or closing seasons. We will
31 try to use plain language in the next few slides to
32 define and describe delegation of authority. So, what
33 is delegation of authority? In the broadest sense,
34 delegation of authority is the transfer of limited
35 decision-making power from the Federal Subsistence Board
36 to local Federal in-season managers. Delegated authority
37 is what gives Federal managers the legal authority to
38 make in-season decisions to manage fish and wildlife
39 populations. As mentioned in the previous slide, the
40 Board transfers the decision-making authority to federal
41 managers. For example, this may be National Park Service
42 superintendents or U.S. Forest Service District Rangers
43 or Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge managers. Local
44 Federal managers often have a greater connection to and
45 understanding of the resource than anyone in Anchorage.
46 Beyond giving decision-making authority to Federal
47 managers who have boots on the ground, why is this
48 delegation of authority important? It is important for
49 multiple reasons. It allows Federal managers to make
50 quick management decisions as data and local knowledge

1 become available in season. For example, perhaps the
2 pre-season forecast for a fish population is strong, but
3 in-season data and local observations indicate the run
4 is actually really weak and will not meet escapement
5 goals. The Federal managers delegated authority allows
6 quick action to close the fishery to all users, to
7 protect the population or close the fishery to non-
8 federally qualified users to protect and continue
9 subsistence uses. It also allows for input from locals
10 when there is a close relationship between managers and
11 subsistence users.

12
13 Authority can be delegated to managers
14 in two places. One place is in unit specific regulations.
15 Currently, only wildlife regulations have delegated
16 authority in unit specific regulations, mainly because
17 wildlife has a lot of routine management actions. For
18 example, a Federal manager has delegated authority to
19 announce the harvest quota for a moose hunt each year
20 before the season opens. This optimizes harvest
21 opportunity and conservation, since the quota can be
22 adjusted annually in response to the size of the moose
23 population. Authority may also be delegated through
24 delegation of authority letters. These letters allow
25 Federal managers to issue special actions. We will
26 discuss these letters more in a little bit. How the
27 Board delegates authority depends on if the authority
28 is delegated in a letter or a unit specific regulations.
29 For delegation of authority letters or DALs, D A L. The
30 Board may delegate authority at any time. This is done
31 through an administrative action. Administrative actions
32 require a Board to vote either by email, poll, or during
33 a Board meeting, but do not go through the regulatory
34 process. This allows for quick action by the Board and
35 for the Board to be responsive to changing conditions.
36 This method does not require public input. However, the
37 Board understands the value of public feedback and may
38 ask for feedback from the Councils before creating or
39 modifying delegation of authority letters. Delegation
40 of authority and unit specific regulations may only
41 happen through the public regulatory process. In other
42 words, it requires a proposal to change existing fish
43 or wildlife regulations during the regulatory cycle,
44 while public input is at the Board's discretion for
45 delegation of authority letters, public and Council
46 input is required through the public regulatory process.

47
48 Here's an example of authority that is
49 delegated to a manager in unit specific regulations.
50 Again, these currently only occur in wildlife

1 regulations and are for routine annual management
2 decisions. The authority is more limited in scope than
3 in delegation of authority letters. In this example, the
4 authority only pertains to setting permit conditions and
5 announcing closures for a winter hunt. If anyone, the
6 Councils or the public wanted to change or modify this
7 authority, they would need to submit a regulatory
8 proposal. In contrast to authority outlined in
9 regulation, managers may also be delegated authority
10 through delegation of authority letters. These letters
11 give managers authority to issue special actions. The
12 special actions issued by Federal managers are subject
13 to regulatory requirements. For example, public hearings
14 are required for temporary special actions, which are
15 special actions that last more than 60 days but may not
16 extend past the end of the current regulatory cycle, and
17 public hearings are encouraged for emergency special
18 actions, which are actions that may not exceed 60 days.
19 The managers must also seek Council recommendations when
20 the timing of a council meeting allows. Delegation of
21 authority letters can be issued or rescinded by the Board
22 at any time. Issuing or rescinding the letters does not
23 need to take place at a Board meeting or during the
24 regulatory cycle. This gives the Board flexibility to
25 adapt to changing conditions and make sure managers have
26 the tools they need to manage and protect populations,
27 as well as optimize subsistence opportunity. Changes to
28 delegation of authority letters may be requested by the
29 Councils or the public, by letter or during a Board
30 meeting. Delegation of authority letters are not
31 currently published online. If the Council or the public
32 ever wants a copy of a delegation of authority letter,
33 you may contact OSM or your local in-season manager.

34
35 While letters issued to managers are
36 specific to the areas and species covered, the general
37 language and requirements are the same across letters.
38 For example, all letters require communication with
39 affected parties such as the Council Chairs and ADF&G.
40 Tribal consultations must be conducted if practicable.
41 Managers may also defer decisions to the Board with very
42 controversial issues if immediate action is not needed.
43 The Federal program has fisheries regulations and
44 wildlife regulations, fisheries and wildlife delegated
45 authority are issued in separate letters. For fisheries,
46 the scope of the letters is broad and consistent across
47 letters. They cover all fish species in an area. A list
48 of Federal fisheries managers with delegated authority
49 by area can be found on page 98 of the regulations book.
50 This contrasts with wildlife delegations, which tend to

1 cover specific hunts, species and management actions.
2 Most wildlife actions are routine and occur every year.
3 In the unit specific regulations of the Federal Wildlife
4 Harvest Regulations booklet, a white exclamation mark
5 inside a red triangle indicates that additional
6 management actions may be taken by the Federal in-season
7 manager, and you should consult the delegation of
8 authority table in the back of the book. All of the
9 authority delegated through letters are listed in this
10 table, beginning on page 152 of the Wildlife Regulations
11 booklet. They are organized by Federal manager and list
12 the area species and authority delegated. Each row
13 corresponds to a separate letter. For example, on page
14 154, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge manager has
15 authority to close the moose season in Unit 9D when ten
16 bulls have been harvested, and the Wrangell-St. Elias
17 National Park and Preserve Superintendent has authority
18 to manage the Chisana Caribou Herd or Chisana Caribou
19 Hunt in a portion of Unit 12. Specifically, they can
20 open and close the season, announce the harvest quota
21 and the number of permits to be issued.

22
23 So, in summary, we have delegation of
24 authority, which means the Board transfers limited
25 decision-making ability to Federal managers. This
26 authority can be a unit specific regulations or
27 delegation of authority letters. For unit specific
28 regulations delegated authority can only be added or
29 modified during the public regulatory process. The
30 delegation tends to be for routine annual management
31 actions. They are currently only in wildlife regulations
32 because wildlife has more routine management actions,
33 such as closing seasons when harvest quotas are met.

34
35 The Council's role in delegation of
36 authority and unit specific regulations is submitting
37 proposals to change the delegated authority and
38 regulation, making recommendations to the Board on the
39 associated regulatory proposals and consulting with
40 managers before they take action. Delegation of
41 authority letters are easier for the Board to change or
42 rescind, giving the Board more flexibility to act
43 quickly and respond to changing conditions. Again,
44 changes to the letters can happen outside the regulatory
45 cycle. Delegation of authority letters give Federal
46 managers the ability to issue special actions. The
47 letters are generally broader in scope, but are subject
48 to more requirements, such as requiring public hearings.
49 Both fisheries and wildlife regulations have delegation
50 of authority letters. The Council also has a role in

1 delegation of authority letters. The Councils may
2 request to add to or modify them through letters or at
3 Board meetings. The Board may ask Councils for feedback
4 on proposed changes to a delegation of authority letter
5 when time allows. The letters also require that managers
6 consult with Council Chairs before issuing special
7 actions. The Chair is encouraged to seek feedback from
8 other Council members. Delegation of authority allows
9 for quick in-season management actions. This allows
10 Federal managers to protect fish and wildlife
11 populations and the continuation of subsistence uses.
12 Managers are required to consult with affected parties
13 before taking action. This commonly includes the
14 Council's ADF&G and OSM. Council Chairs are encouraged
15 to bring in other Council members when consulting with
16 managers. Please contact OSM or in-season managers if
17 you have any additional questions or would like more
18 information. All right. So, thank you so much for your
19 time and attention today. I'd be happy to answer any
20 questions.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you, and
23 do we have any questions? Mary.

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. This is Mary Freytag. Speaking earlier about
27 ANCSA and ANILCA for our youth. I was very appalled when
28 I spoke with my nephew last night. He had no clue what
29 ANCSA and ANILCA was all about. And he's my nephew, you
30 know. I guess maybe I should be talking to him and
31 educating myself, but I would like to -- what I would
32 like to see. Is there any way that we can get ANCSA and
33 ANILCA -- the Acts into the curriculum for our youth
34 here in Alaska? Because it - I -- it gives us an
35 identity, because it's an Act of Congress. You know,
36 it's something we have to follow. So, I just wanted to
37 ask that and bring that up and maybe put it out there.
38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sure. Lisa Grediagin, for
41 the record. And I mean, I agree with you. That would be
42 amazing and wonderful, and ANILCA and ANCSA were kind
43 of a mandatory part of the statewide curriculum, but
44 that's certainly outside the scope of our program. I
45 mean, I'm not sure exactly, yeah, who we'd work with,
46 you know, in the State and the Education Department to
47 require that. I don't know if anyone else has any more
48 information, but as far as the Office of Subsistence
49 Management goes and the Federal Subsistence Management
50 Program, you know, getting things in the school, you

1 know, statewide school curriculum is outside the scope
2 of our program and what we can do. But I'm inviting, you
3 know, anyone else who might have information to chime
4 in, so.

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MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Ana.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Any other
comments before I jump up and down.

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MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer Seetot,
before you jump up and down. I -- Mary was kind of
mentioning some about lessons in ANILCA and stuff. I
think you should be more you know, region specific since
the Bering Land Bridge program is up around north --
northern Seward Peninsula area between Wells and
Shishmaref. I think you should -- or no, I think you
should contact National Park Service to see if they can
offer anything in that line of those laws being passed
because there are residents or maybe young people that
would like to be part of the Bering Land Bridge
workforce. And instead of trying to say, okay, you're a
Fish and Wildlife, you have blanket authority over these
regions, I think you should be more specific. We have

1 the Bering Land Bridge should kind of be with Seward
2 Peninsula, other places, you know, have their own
3 national preserve, their own parks and for them to put
4 out information what's what the Federal Government
5 provides or will provide to these residents. I think it
6 should be more area, more area specific for these
7 agencies. My point of view. Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I'm going
10 to jump up and down a little bit. You know, I've been -
11 - I've watched people come up with school programs for
12 caribou, for example, you can go into a school and they
13 have a curriculum for caribou. One of the downfalls that
14 this group has, OSM, is you're struggling, trying to get
15 people to fill these seats. Nobody understands what's
16 going on, nobody and it just irks me when somebody says,
17 that's not part of my job, I don't need to do that. I
18 just -- it galls me and OSM needs to look at themselves
19 and evaluate themselves to see where they're lacking.
20 And if it's creating a curriculum to put in the school
21 to educate the kids about subsistence -- Federal
22 subsistence programs, I personally think that needs to
23 happen. I you know -- are we going to let all these
24 internet programs take over our kids, or are we going
25 to have something that's solid and a good foundation for
26 our kids in the school system? And, you know, it's part
27 of our lifestyle that that some -- somebody in a high
28 up place says, I got enough to do, I don't need to do
29 that. Well, if you did it, maybe you'd create support
30 for your own programs. I just can't say that loud enough.
31 And I come back to, you know, I'm getting off track here
32 because I shouldn't -- anyway, coming back to this
33 presentation on obligation and roles, you know, I come
34 back to this issue of trawlers and hunting guides and
35 whatever it is that is impacting our subsistence users.
36 We have come here -- I've been here 20 years, and the
37 same issues are here, for 20 years, nothing is happening.
38 It's a dead program. You guys sit out there and report
39 to us and we say what we want, and nothing happens. And,
40 you know, I try to bring it up earlier. We need a
41 workshop to kind of I don't -- I don't want to say iron
42 out some of these things but put them on the table and
43 this is what we can do. And believe me, I've heard the
44 policies. We have a policy, we can't do that. Well. I
45 have told so many people I'm here to break your policy.
46 Your policies don't mean crap to me. What means crap is
47 subsistence. Subsistence is a big issue and let's deal
48 with it. Not your daggone [sic] policy. So, anyway, I'm
49 sorry I'm getting so passionate, but, you know, it's
50 important that we figure a way to make ourselves survive

1 as a program. You guys, you're going to lose it. You're
2 not going to have players at the table pretty soon if
3 you don't work with your clientele. And you know, Louis
4 has been here since the 70s fighting the trawlers. He's
5 -- and he'll be there till he dies. But the bottom line
6 is, how can we fix some of these issues, whether it's
7 moose, whether it's ducks, whatever it is. And, you know,
8 that's why I'm here thinking that we're going to do
9 something, but every year it's the same old story. So,
10 anyway, I thank you for the presentation. You know, we're
11 a little smarter, I guess, than we were a little while
12 ago, but I'm here planting seeds, I guess. And hopefully
13 somebody grabs one and runs with it. Yes.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: One more comment before you
16 go. I think what most of the organizations that get
17 funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, like Eskimo
18 Walrus Commission, they do partner with other nonprofit
19 organizations to get, you know, that extra dollar for
20 your -- what you call meal allowance and then honorarium
21 and stuff like that. That -- the main sticking point, I
22 think, that you're going to find in Seward Peninsula
23 Regional Advisory Council. I've been representing the
24 regions since I first applied. I seen applicants from
25 the three communities, Wales, Teller, Shishmaref that
26 applied that were sitting on the Council with me during
27 those times and their main concern was, money, money,
28 money. They don't have the commitment, I think, within
29 their heart or system to kind of continue representing
30 what they've been really fighting for over these years.
31 It takes a lot from a person to go to these communities
32 and then not sacrifice and say, okay, I'm not going to
33 earn much money, but at least I'll present my views, you
34 know, to the people that are listening. And I think
35 that's one of the main setbacks, what this organization
36 is, number one money, two money, three money, four money,
37 that they don't -- they don't -- the ones I talked to
38 that were on the Council before me or with me said that
39 they don't have the money to -- or money to, you know,
40 back them up to what they do. So, I think that that was
41 one of the main reasons that you don't see very many
42 people being on the Councils or Boards representing
43 their people in the right way. Because, because they
44 have that commitment, from the get-go. I grew up with
45 outboard motors, with oil stove and stuff like that right
46 from the start. From no electricity to now look what we
47 have and now most of our younger generation that are
48 supposed to take our positions with the Council and stuff
49 like that, they're just looking at this constantly. I
50 don't know, this represents something to me. I don't

1 know what it represents to you, but that's the iPhone.
2 That's what I see, completely tearing apart the kids
3 from actually doing active stuff and then constantly
4 look -- oh, yeah, look at this. Sometimes when I'm alone,
5 when they're playing games, I -- am I getting spooked
6 or something? It's been so quiet. I hear my children in
7 the background. I don't know, you know, all of a sudden
8 they start screaming and oh no, I'm not, being spooked,
9 you know, they're doing their own thing. I think we lost
10 the incentive to teach our children the right way. Many
11 people still do that, but most of them have that
12 inclination to take the iPhone and say, oh, well, this
13 going to be good. You've got to have a lot of knowledge
14 to know where the way ahead of time, two days. And that's
15 how most of our young people get stranded or get left
16 out in the elements because they're just looking at this
17 12 hour window in their iPhone that gave them a false
18 sense of security, of how the weather will be and
19 compared to people that that grew up from an early age,
20 learning or listening to their parents, how everything
21 would be, and that how the knowledge that they either
22 they will pass on or not pass on to their children. So,
23 that's something that you need to look at and then we
24 just keep talking about problems, same way. Nobody's
25 going to be on the Regional Council because you got no
26 incentive or no honorarium. I would think, I can do with
27 the meal allowance. I'm doing fine. Like we ask one
28 young woman, one young girl, you better take your sleep
29 bag with you. She's going to get cold. Answer was, it's
30 all right, I'm Native. What does that mean, You know,
31 when you're sleeping out in the cold. But, you know,
32 some have a false sense of security that everything will
33 be all right, but that's fine, what I say. Thank you
34 very much, Mr. Chair.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. And thank
37 you. And, Lisa, thank you for putting up with the off
38 the -- off of your subject. But hopefully some of the
39 message got through to OSM and you know, it's very
40 frustrating. Change in regulations and stuff like that,
41 there's a process and you did well in explaining that
42 to us, but you know, I think there's issues that are a
43 lot bigger and deeper that need to be addressed. And,
44 and hopefully that message got out. So, thank you again
45 or.....

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47 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I'm just -- I'm
48 staying up here because I have the next agenda.

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50 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay.

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MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may as well.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You got the floor, go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, for the record and all of this discussion, I sense a lot of heart and desire from the Council to engage the younger generations. And I'm going to make a suggestion, and I hope that I'm looking at the room for my superiors to make sure that this is okay. If this is an issue that the Council feels strongly about, you -- we will have an opportunity later in the agenda to go over Annual Reports and topics of interest of the Council to share with the Board. So, this -- I'm looking for an agreement that this could be an item that you could include in your Annual Report, so that the Board is informed of your desire to ensure that we stay relevant, that OSM stays relevant, that we can do a better job at recruiting and backfilling for positions within our RAC and engaging the younger generations. If you all believe it's that important to communicate that with the Board. So, I'm assuming there will be an opportunity later on in the agenda to make sure that we materialize some of these requests and hopefully make them happen.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. We're moving on to the next item.

MR. SEETOT: One thing is that sometimes we put out information because that's the only thing we put out. And then when it came time for the subject -- what did I say? Sometimes those are forgotten in the way that, you know, we talk about whole range of subjects or not relating to the issue at hand, but it does come to mind. And then we forget all about -- but I'm not too sure if that's the way to run Robert's Rules of Order of meetings. But that's the way, you know, Eskimos have lived over the years. They consult with each other. They agree -- oh, we're not going to do this. We'll wait. So, that's my perspective way of thinking. It's okay. It's all right.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Very good. Okay. We're on to the next item.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name is Lisa Grediagin, and I'm going to

1 provide a brief overview of proposed changes to wildlife
2 delegated authority. This is just meant to be a brief
3 introduction to the effort. And the Councils will have
4 additional opportunity at future meetings to further
5 review and comment on this.

6

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8 The Office of Subsistence Management is
9 proposing to move the authority and the existing
10 delegation of authority letters back into wildlife unit
11 specific regulations. While staff have not thoroughly
12 reviewed every single wildlife delegation of authority
13 letter, the vast majority of them are for routine
14 management actions that happen every year, such as
15 announcing harvest quotas. Having the delegated
16 authority for these routine decisions in unit specific
17 regulations is more appropriate than issuing special
18 actions year after year. This also provides a clear
19 public process for changing delegated authority through
20 regulatory proposals and decreases the administrative
21 burden on Federal managers by eliminating all the
22 regulatory requirements associated with special actions
23 and the delegation of authority letters.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, before it
goes too far, I -- my suggestion is you come in with
some examples of this is how it's going to change and
this is going to be the future process. And I mean, I
look at what you're talking about, and I heard letters
of authority a while ago. I haven't got a clue. So, you
know, I think it's important that everybody understands
the process is going to be through a proposal. The --

1 there's going to be a regulation, and the managers can
2 change it themselves, whatever it is. Have a good example
3 and that'll be the end of that discussion as far as I'm
4 concerned. Have a good example at the next meeting.

5

6 MS. GREDIAGIN: Are you at -- are you
7 talking -- for this -- this is just, yeah, just a
8 briefing. Next year, you'll have the proposal with the
9 analysis and, you know. Yeah...

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And it sounds
12 like you're trying to streamline the system and make it
13 easier and sometimes I agree, and sometimes I don't.
14 Sometimes I think that we need to air the thing a little
15 better through a different channels. So, anyway, I'd
16 like to understand it a little better. Okay.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. And again, we all
19 have, you know, a lot more information at your next
20 meeting. And just again, I probably should have
21 mentioned this during the training, but examples of
22 delegation of authority letters are included in your
23 meeting books starting on page 34. So, if you'd like to,
24 you know -- most of the delegation authority letters.
25 It's boilerplate language. It's the same across letters
26 and it's just kind of changes who the manager is, what
27 the scope of authority is, and like the species and
28 area. But everything else is pretty much the same across
29 letters, but.....

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. If we're
32 done with that one. Thank you so much. Where are we at
33 now? Action items? Okay. Well, right here. Right? So,
34 sit down. That seat's warmed up. Okay. If you're the
35 guy, you got the floor.

36

37 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
38 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Jarred
39 Stone. I'm a fish biologist with the Office of
40 Subsistence Management. It's been a couple of years
41 since I've seen your faces so I'm happy to be here today
42 and be with you all. This morning we'll be looking at
43 closure reviews, and the Federal Subsistence Board has
44 directed OSM to periodically review existing closures
45 to see if they are still necessary. These closure reviews
46 follow the same process as proposals do. They are
47 analyzed by OSM staff and then presented to the Councils
48 this fall for Council recommendations. There is one
49 closure that will be reviewed this cycle, which is the

50

1 Unalakleet River chinook salmon closure and this closure
2 review can be found on page 44 of your Council books.

3
4 Briefly, I'll state what the closure
5 reads. Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River,
6 upstream from the mouth of the Turofsky River, are closed
7 to the taking of chinook salmon from July 1st to July
8 31st by all users. The BLM field manager is authorized
9 to open closed areas to federally qualified subsistence
10 users, or to all users when the run strength warrants.
11 This closure is located in your region, and as you might
12 recall during the last cycle, the Council chose to
13 maintain the status quo on this particular closure, and
14 cited the need for conservation efforts to help rebuild
15 the run. Additionally, this closure does preserve the
16 in-season manager's ability to lift the closure if the
17 run size improves and is sufficient for harvest. The
18 Unalakleet River is primarily accessed by people living
19 in Unalakleet, and the closure begins at the mouth of
20 the Turofsky River and is closed upstream.

21
22 If the closure is rescinded, the closed
23 area would open. Residents of the Norton Sound Port
24 Clarence area have a customary and traditional use
25 determination for salmon in the Unalakleet River. If the
26 closure were opened only to federally qualified
27 subsistence users, only residents in the Norton Sound
28 Port Clarence area would be able to fish. You could see
29 a map of the Norton Port -- Norton Sound Port Clearance
30 Area and the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulation
31 book. If the fish -- I'm sorry. If the closure were to
32 be opened to non-federally qualified users, anyone could
33 fish in this area. If opened to everyone, it would likely
34 add clients from the lodge who fly in to fish
35 recreationally. If the closure is removed, the general
36 Federal regulations that cover the entire Yukon northern
37 area would apply, which are generally very liberal
38 regulations. So, with that, OSM's preliminary conclusion
39 is to retain the status quo. Given the Unalakleet River
40 chinook salmon run has not shown any signs of rebounding.
41 That concludes my presentation, and I would be happy to
42 take any questions, and look for the Council's
43 recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I'm trying
46 to look for numbers before I go to Mary and whoever. And
47 it looks like on page 50, is that the numbers that we're
48 talking?

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1 MR. STONE: Yes. Through the Chair.
2 Jarred Stone, for the record. Yes, you are correct. Page
3 50 does have a table that shows the Unalakleet River
4 weir count and you'll have to take some of those years
5 with caution. Some of the years, you'll notice very low
6 run counts. And those are times -- some of those years
7 did have, not complete census. The weir was taken out
8 early because of Covid or for other reasons. And so, I
9 try to mark those years, well, with an NA so like in
10 2020, there's no count for 2020. Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And is there a
13 commercial harvest in the ocean for these fish?

14
15 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
16 would be through the State if they have a commercial
17 fishery there. I'm not aware I would defer that question
18 to anyone in the room that maybe has more knowledge than
19 I do, on if chinook salmon are harvested commercially
20 in the ports -- or Norton Sound Port Clarence area.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I guess a
24 suggestion to you and to OSM and whoever you know, when
25 we're reviewing these proposals, we need the players in
26 the room to answer the questions. You know, it's hard
27 for us to make a decision on something that -- if they're
28 commercial fishing in looking at these numbers, I'm
29 wondering why commercial fishing is taking precedence
30 over subsistence fishing, and I'm probably going to
31 stand on subsistence side and open it up if commercial
32 fishing is open. But if it's closed and looking at these
33 numbers, I'm probably going to say status quo, leave it
34 closed. But, you know, we all got to play our part in
35 this thing. And I don't know how to make OSM say State,
36 you got to be in there to answer any questions that come
37 up. But it should be, you know, the state whether it's
38 fish or game or whatever, you know, Sara is always here
39 to represent the wildlife side of this thing. Fish and
40 game, the fish part of this thing. These people haven't
41 been here for years. And it's frustrating that now I've
42 got to make a decision for my people without all the
43 cards on the table. I'm sorry that it's not fair. So,
44 Mary, what are your thoughts on this proposal? You live
45 there, so.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 would just doing a little bit more reading. I noticed
49 on page 46 for the northwest area sport fishing that
50 they have the following -- are the exceptions regulation

1 for the sports fishermen. But I'm trying to see where
2 the subsistence and commercial harvesters play into this
3 because unless I'm overlooking something, the thing that
4 really sort -- our king salmon are not there like we
5 [sic] used to. I grew up watching, helping my parents
6 with big king salmon, you know, huge. When I was small,
7 my dad and his friend, they had gotten so many king
8 salmon, you know, to put away, there was such a big king
9 my dad even asked me to lay down by the king salmon in
10 the king salmon was bigger than me. So, that just goes
11 to show -- where are they? Can we have those come back
12 for our children? Not these little king salmon jackings,
13 you know that (In Native) you know all of these other
14 big king salmon have those omega three fatty acids that
15 are really good for your human body. And that's, you
16 know, that's sustained us as a people.

17
18 So, it does put a hamper, you know, us
19 as residents would like to go out and, you know, get
20 what we need. Usually, we just take what we need and
21 then we're done. You know, we don't need to keep getting,
22 getting, getting. We just take what we need. And that's
23 how we were taught from our parents and their parents.
24 And that's how it sustained us from year, decade to
25 decade. So, overharvesting and all the other factors,
26 the weather, the trawlers, the regulations, the time of
27 the year, those things all play into a factor, as we try
28 to harvest these. But where are they? You know, I --
29 it's frustrating when you want to put something on your
30 table, but somebody's saying, no, you can't do that right
31 now because the numbers are low. So, Thank you. Thank
32 you.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, we have any
35 other comments on this proposal? And I -- it seems --
36 are you looking for a motion to -- okay. Any other
37 comments?

38
39 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr. Brevig
40 Mission. I -- the fishing question, the chinook salmon
41 where do they spend their growing up? I mean, once they
42 get up from the Unalakleet River, which specific waters
43 do they go to? Are they close by and being caught by
44 trawlers and other fishermen?

45
46 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the Chair
47 and Council member -- Mr. Seetot. That's a great --
48 that's the million-dollar question. And I spent part of
49 my graduate work looking at juvenile salmon as they out
50 migrate out of the river and out into the Bering Sea.

1 And you know, we're just now learning some of where
2 these juvenile salmon and adult salmon circle and
3 migrate through the ocean. And I can't directly answer
4 that question because that is the -- that's the question
5 that biologists want to know. And also, you know, what
6 they're eating and how that plays in effect in their
7 growth and their ability to come back as healthy fish.
8 I'll leave it there, with that. Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Mary.

11
12 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
13 Freytag again with Unalakleet. One quick question. Do
14 you guys foresee perhaps tagging juvenile salmon before
15 they go out into the ocean, back out into the ocean,
16 wherever they go? That way, we have an inclination on
17 where they're going to and what they're doing before
18 they come back and do their thing and replenish with
19 more fish.

20
21 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Also,
22 another great question. And it's a tricky endeavor
23 trying to tag those fish as juveniles when they out
24 migrate as smolt out into the ocean. They're 5 to 8in
25 long. They're pretty small. And so, you're limited into
26 the types of tags that you can put on the fish. And the
27 Canadians, I believe in Whitehorse have a small hatchery
28 and they actually tag some of their fish. And so, when
29 we're out doing surface trawling efforts, looking for
30 juvenile salmon to sample occasionally we catch some
31 that we're able to identify because they've been
32 previously tagged. So, there are some studies that are
33 limited and there might be other studies that I'm unaware
34 of. But I hope that answers your question or at least
35 part of it.

36
37 MS. FREYTAG: You said previously tagged,
38 do you know how they were tagged and how they got the
39 information?

40
41 MR. STONE: Good question. So, they used
42 what's called a coded wire tag, and it's a really small
43 implant and they're observed visually from the ship when
44 we capture them, the adipose fin is usually missing. And
45 so that's our first indication that, hey, this fish might
46 be tagged and there's a scanner on the boat that is able
47 to read and scan those tags and be able to tell if it's
48 a marked fish or not. Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I just
2 spotted something very interesting and, you know, all
3 of us, my river, I -- we had an escapement goal of 100
4 fish in my river. And I went to escapement goal meeting
5 one time, and the biologists wanted to get rid of it.
6 And I argued against that and was able to salvage it.
7 Well, the biologist was very patient. He waited a couple
8 of years, and he went back to that escapement goal
9 meeting again. Tom Gray wasn't there. I make a motion
10 to get rid of the escapement goal on the Fish River.
11 Boom! It was gone. Now there's no management of kings
12 on the Fish River, in my river system, period. But I
13 just noticed something in here that is very interesting.
14 On page 44, OSM says maintain the quota, the status
15 quota, maintain the closure, basically what it says. And
16 I'm going to stand on that side. But the thing that I
17 caught was the state of Alaska recommends for original
18 closure oppose and they want it open back up is what I'm
19 reading. Is that right? On page 49.

20
21 And by opening it up is going to
22 eliminate the fishery more and more. It's going to put
23 a burden on that fishery, if that's what it's saying.
24 Yeah. I mean -- go ahead.

25
26 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah.
27 That's interesting. You bring up an interesting point.
28 You would think that -- and I'm not here to speak on the
29 State's -- on their position, but I do find that
30 interesting that they would oppose this given the
31 conservation concerns on the river. Their recommendation
32 is saying that adoption of the proposal wouldn't improve
33 the health of the Unalakleet chinook salmon run and won't
34 improve the opportunity for subsistence access and use.
35 And yeah, I'll leave it there.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead.

38
39 MS. GREDIAGIN: I just wanted to clarify
40 that the State's position on page 49 is for the original
41 closure back in 2009.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: What does that
44 mean?

45
46 MS. GREDIAGIN: And so, the State doesn't
47 have a position for this closure review currently yet
48 in what? 2024. But this closure originated in 2009.....
49
50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And they
2 opposed it!

3
4 MS. GREDIAGIN: They opposed it at that
5 time, in 2009.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, 15 years
8 ago they basically opposed closing that fishery.

9
10 MS. GREDIAGIN: Correct, yeah. But right
11 now we don't have an ADF&G position.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And I urge --
14 I can't urge you guys loud enough that if we're going
15 to address proposals that folks are invited, I mean, I
16 -- how can I make a decision on half the resource or
17 half the information. So, anyway, okay, so is there any
18 more discussion before I push to a vote here?

19
20 (No response)

21
22 And what this proposal is saying is do
23 we support the status quo? Status whatever of the
24 proposal or do we want to open it back up? Either we
25 support the closure, or we open it back up. That's the
26 motion that I'm taking for.

27
28 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair. This is...

29
30 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. This is Louis...
31 Go ahead, Mary. I'll second the motion behind you. I
32 think you're going to make the motion. This is Louis.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Hold on. We
35 have one more point here. Go ahead.

36
37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin for
38 the record, yeah. You guys haven't gone through the whole
39 process. So, like that -- yeah. The tribal, agency
40 comments, public comments. Yeah. I mean.....

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And the
43 policies and stuff. I usually break the rules. So, you're
44 pretty fortunate, you caught me. So, has it been
45 introduced? You introduced it? Report on Board
46 consultation. Do any tribes -- do -- is there any tribes
47 that want to talk? ANCSA Corporations?

48
49 (No response)

50

1 Agency comments? Alaska Fish and Game.
2 Is there somebody from Fish and Game to talk about it?
3 All right, we got a Fish and Game guy here.

4
5 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Hello. My name's Luke
6 Henslee, for the record. I'm sorry, I'm late. I was at
7 a conference across the hall. I'm the assistant manager
8 for Norton Sound and Kotzebue, and I was just reading
9 this over. And I can't really speak to why the State
10 would have been opposed back when this was presented.
11 And I'm guessing it just has something to do with a
12 subsistence availability issue. So, from a State
13 perspective, subsistence harvesters should always have
14 opportunity. And then I -- you know, the State already
15 has that fishery restricted in the early part of the
16 season. So, I'm guessing it was more of something to do
17 with wanting to maintain State management where we would
18 have had that fishery closed anyway. So, like I said, I
19 can't really speak to why they would have been opposed
20 back then, but that would be my guess, if that's helpful
21 at all to the board.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Don't run away
24 here.

25
26 MR. HENSLEE: I'll be here. Don't worry.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, today, last
29 summer, August, September was -- or July. Was there a
30 commercial king salmon fishery?

31
32 MR. HENSLEE: No, we haven't had a
33 commercial fishery in Unalakleet in quite a number of
34 years.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And what's the
37 State's recommendation on this proposal to keep it
38 closed?

39
40 MR. HENSLEE: I haven't been part of a
41 discussion for that. If I had to guess based on, you
42 know, my experience and talking with my coworkers and
43 peers, I don't see why the State would be opposed to
44 this, if this is something the Council wanted for Federal
45 waters. And I guess I don't know enough about subsistence
46 practice for this part of the river. If folks usually
47 target chinook higher than the Chirokey River. Usually
48 in -- to my knowledge, folks are more concerned with
49 being closer to the river mouth. So, I think there's
50 maybe a larger discussion on how this would actually

1 impact subsistence practices that I'm not really
2 familiar with, but I can't see a reason why the State
3 would be opposed to the closure of these Federal waters.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And I don't
6 know if you heard earlier, I kind of beat up on him
7 about Fish and Game not being here to address this issue.
8 And, you know, my feeling is you guys should have been
9 notified months ago that this is going to be an issue.
10 And we would like to see you here to give us comments
11 on that particular issue, whatever it is. And that's not
12 only you, that's the wildlife side and the park and all
13 the players. I'm all about, we got to talk and we got
14 to keep everybody informed and you know, again you said
15 it was closed in the ocean, but you don't -- you haven't
16 said much more than that. And so, we got half of the
17 State stance, sort of speak and we don't have the real
18 stance. You know, the numbers are what's going to drive
19 my decision. So, and, and I do know, I was the one that
20 that push to get the Fish River Council weir back in.
21 And I was very frustrated. I was going by that tower
22 time and time again, and it was closed. And I could see
23 the panel on the bottom of the river...

24
25 MR. HENSLEE: That's an NSEDC project,
26 not.....

27
28 (Simultaneous speech)

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY:and I
31 understand that, but it's going to come back to numbers
32 again. And those are your numbers.

33
34 MR. HENSLEE: Okay.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So,
37 irregardless [sic] it's there's a failing there. So,
38 back to this issue. Mary, you had a comment.

39
40 MS. FREYTAG: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
41 Mary Freytag. Going back to page 46 on the sport fishing
42 under the following under B or -- let's see. Under 9A,
43 the bag and possession limit of king salmon is two fish,
44 of which only one fish may be 20 inches or greater in
45 length. This is for the sports fishermen we're talking
46 about. And then they have -- but that's way up the river.
47 But the fish still got to go up to their spawning
48 grounds. Why is it only closed up there and not down
49 here? That way the fish have a chance to get up to go
50 spawn and do their thing. If they're getting caught down

1 here, they won't make it up there. And then we got these
2 sport fishermen, sport fishing them up there because
3 they're allowed to take to into possession annually.
4 According to this, the annual limit for king salmon,
5 20inches or greater is two fish. You know, for sports
6 fishermen on the Scenic Wildlife River that's above.....
7

8 (Simultaneous speech)
9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, Mary,
11 there's a couple of different issues here. One is that
12 lower section of the river is probably a State section.
13 The upper part is a Federal section. And we only have
14 authority in the Federal section. So, I would suggest
15 that if there's a big push that the lower portion should
16 be closed, then the southern Seward Peninsula Advisory
17 Committee should receive a proposal to close that lower
18 section. That's a Fish and Game Advisory Board should
19 be the one to close it. We have no authority down there.
20 Go ahead.
21

22 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
23 clarifies everything. I was aware of that, but that's a
24 really refresher. I lost my train of thought, but I'll
25 get back to it. Thank you.
26

27 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
28 just to add to that conversation so on page 50, in that
29 table under the column Sport Harvest, there's little
30 asterisks by some of the numbers. And so, that's just
31 to denote that those years the sport fishery was actually
32 closed. The area management biologist has been closing
33 that for decades almost. And there's a couple of years
34 in there, 2020, 2022 where I didn't put an asterisk. And
35 that was possibly just due to my not being able to find
36 the emergency orders. You know, some of them I was able
37 to find and some I was not. And so, it's quite possible
38 that those years too were closed. I was just unsuccessful
39 in finding whether or not those were open or not. Thank
40 you.
41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, any more
43 discussion with Fish and Game? Okay. I'm going to move
44 on to Federal agencies. Any Federal agencies?
45

46 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, yes, this is
47 Mary Freytag again, just going back to what you said
48 about Alaska Department of Fish and Game needing to be
49 here at our table. That would be great. That way we're
50 all on the same page. We know what we're talking about,

00054

1 and we can discuss it. We can agree to disagree. Thank
2 you.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
5 Okay. And just for the record, we do have a Fish and
6 Game fishery guy here. So, thank -- and thank you for
7 coming. Tribal entities, native village and other.
8 Anybody want to get up and talk? Tribes. Go ahead, Chuck.
9 You got the floor.

10

11 MENADELOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
12 wanted to say that in my personal opinion, like, if we
13 don't have all the facts protecting the resource should
14 be the priority. So, I would you know -- if you don't
15 have all the facts, like the numbers about commercial
16 fishing, I would on the side of caution and say, keep
17 it closed on that. But that's just my opinion. I don't
18 think Kawerak has a stance either way, so. Yeah.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Anybody
21 else with tribes?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Okay. We're going to go to advisory
26 group comments, Regional councils, Fish and Game
27 Advisory Boards, committees. I am on the Fish and Game
28 Advisory Board for here, but I've talked too much
29 already. So, Subsistence Resource Commissions? Do we
30 have any written comments?

31

32 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, there were no
33 written public comments for this. Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Public
36 testimony. Anybody from the public want to get up and
37 chew us out?

38

39 (No response)

40

41 Okay. Regional Council recommendation,
42 motion to support. That's us. Yeah. So, we're at -- it's
43 time to make a motion. And the OSM'S recommendation is
44 to keep it the way it is.

45

46 MR. STONE: Yes. Through the Chair. Yes,
47 that's correct. OMS's preliminary conclusion is to
48 maintain or retain the status quo. Meaning keep the
49 closure in place. Thank you.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is there a
2 motion to keep the closure in place?

3
4 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, Elmer Seetot, Jr.
5 I move to make a motion to maintain status quo or to
6 keep the closure.

7
8 MR. GREEN: Louis, seconds.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is there any
11 more discussion at all?

12
13 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question's
16 been called. All in favor, say aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 All opposed, same sign. Okay. Motions
21 passed. All right, so now we know how -- re -- restate
22 the final motion. You got the motion, huh?

23
24 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may, I think
25 that we still need the Council to elaborate a little bit
26 more on the justification for the motion.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: There's no
29 fish. The end.

30
31 (People laughing)

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

40
41 MR. SEETOT: Are there justification? I
42 think there, other than no fish and then the weather
43 changes within the river systems are probably keeping
44 them out or over harvesting the gray area. False Pass
45 or whatever. That that's a bad place to talk about False
46 Pass over the years. Never really go any place with that
47 place.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. We are
50 at lunchtime.

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(Whispered conversation)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: But we're on a roll.

MR. SEETOT: But give us more time to think about other things, because I think sometimes we kind of put out some issue matters without we put out issue issues that really don't paint to this meeting but really affect us in some way that associated with that harvest or this and that of a certain species or resource. So, we're all interconnected in one way or another if we get fish too much. Oh, I guess I gotta wait until another five years before the next round comes around. So, that's something that we constantly look at, our constant way of life versus the competitive way of life. Oh, I'll make you guys regulation. This is the policy that you need to follow. This is all the information that we need for us to justify this and that. That's your point of view. Our point of view is different. We live with a lifestyle that is very different than the computers. I don't even have a phone. I don't even look at Facebook. Only silly ones, I think. Mostly what my wife shows me of things happening like the big flood, like the big water drains and certain animals, these things that you come to your mind, talk about -- from what I heard, I'm not too sure if it's true, 93 bowheads killed by orcas, killer whales. This past summer, 93. That's comparable to the state of Alaska, going after the grizzly brown bears, Southeast Alaska. Many things we don't know, but they're there until they tell us. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Is there a motion from the agencies to go to lunch? They don't want to go to lunch. All right, we'll go to lunch. You can stay here and have a plan. We'll be back at 1:15, if that's okay. Huh? Okay, 1:30. He talked me into it. 1:30. But that doesn't mean we start at 1:45. Yeah. Okay. All you guys online were at a standstill till 1:30.

(Off record)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome back to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence

00057

1 Regional Advisory Council. We will resume in just a
2 couple of minutes.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Knock, knock.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Who's there?

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: I don't know.
9 I just want to see if anybody's awake here. We're going
10 to go ahead and start the meeting. And now that we know
11 how to address proposals and stuff, we can move on, I
12 guess. So, the next thing is Fisheries Resource
13 Monitoring Program PINs development. Boy, that's a
14 mouthful, whatever that means. Does somebody know
15 anything about this? All right, you've got the floor,
16 and I -- I'll be real quiet.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. chairman, this is Mary
19 Freytag. I just wanted to see where we are on the agenda
20 item?

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, we're on
23 13B.

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: 14B.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: 13, 13B.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: 13B. Thank you.

30

31 DR. VORHEES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
32 Members of the Council. This is Hannah Voorhees. I'm an
33 anthropologist with OSM and my colleague Jarred Stone,
34 a fisheries biologist with OSM is here as well.

35

36 The Office of Subsistence Management
37 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring program,
38 and will announce the 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity
39 for the monitoring program this winter. We will be
40 seeking proposals for projects that gather information
41 to manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources in
42 Federal public waters. The monitoring program is also
43 directed at supporting meaningful involvement in
44 fisheries management for Alaska Native and rural
45 organizations, and promoting collaboration among
46 Federal, State, Alaska Native, and local organizations.
47 The first step in this process is for the Regional
48 Advisory Councils to identify the Priority Information
49 Needs for their respective regions. These are research
50 needs or gaps in information needed to manage federal

1 subsistence fisheries. These Priority Information Needs
2 provide the framework for soliciting, evaluating, and
3 selecting projects for funding through the monitoring
4 program. The development of these Priority Information
5 Needs is an important process for the Council. Your final
6 version of the needs determines the types and subjects
7 of project proposals that are sought for your region.
8 Council member Mary Freytag of Unalakleet worked with
9 myself and with Jarred back on June 25th to exchange
10 information and discuss Priority Information Needs for
11 the Seward Peninsula region. So, thank you, Mary. No
12 needs were removed, but two were added to the list for
13 your consideration. We will discuss the results of that
14 meeting with Mary, and then ask this Council to finalize
15 and adopt the 2026 Priority Information Needs for the
16 Seward Peninsula region. These needs will be added to
17 those identified by the North Slope and Northwest Arctic
18 Councils. Together, they make up the Priority
19 Information Needs for the Northern region. Are there any
20 questions before we begin reviewing the draft list of
21 Priority Information Needs?

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I know of this
24 material found in our packet or this supplemental
25 information.

26
27 DR. VORHEES: This information is not in
28 your packet. These are draft pins. So, Jarred has put
29 these up on the screen for you to see, and I'll be
30 reading through those, but nothing for you to refer to
31 in the book. Okay. If there are no other questions,
32 first, I'll read each of the Priority Information Needs
33 to you. This is a draft list and can be modified by the
34 Council. We would greatly appreciate your input on these
35 and once we have agreed on the list, a motion can be
36 made to formally adopt the list.

37
38 So, number one, chinook salmon abundance
39 estimate for the Unalakleet River. Number two --
40 actually I'm sorry, this is not going to be in exactly
41 the same order so bear with me. Changes in grayling,
42 dolly varden and sheefish populations related to climate
43 change. Third, chinook, chum and coho abundance estimate
44 for the Pikmiktalik River with comparison to historical
45 counts. Next, chinook, chum and coho salmon abundance
46 estimate for Boston, Fish, Pargon and Wagonwheel rivers.
47 Summer and fall chum salmon abundance estimates for the
48 Agiak -- Agiapuk or Agie River drainage, including
49 American River and Igloo Creek. Investigate causes of
50 salmon decline in Norton Sound freshwater drainages. And

1 finally, we have priority information that's -- probably
2 needs a little bit of wordsmithing, but this came out -
3 - of this is one of the ones that came out of our
4 conversation with Mary. And this one reads right now,
5 historical analysis of postseason salmon harvest surveys
6 for residents of Unalakleet fishing in the Unalakleet
7 subdistrict, combined with assessment of causes of low
8 harvest years and overall declines. Investigators should
9 present results to the residents of Unalakleet. Thank
10 you, Mr. Chair, that concludes my initial presentation,
11 and we're happy to take any questions or turn it back
12 over to you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You don't want
15 to turn it over yet. So, number three, talking about
16 arctic grayling and sheefish and whatever. Where is the
17 main focal point of this?

18
19 DR. VORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
20 actually, I was going to ask the Council the same thing
21 whether you would like to specify any waters of concern.
22 This was a PIN that was on your previous list exactly
23 as written. So, many -- so, besides the two PINs that
24 were added by Mary, which is the last -- the historical
25 analysis of postseason salmon harvest surveys. And then
26 the other one is investigate causes of salmon decline
27 in Norton Sound freshwater drainages. All the other pins
28 are just cycled over from your last, last cycles list
29 of Priority Information Needs. So, when we're discussing
30 changes in grayling, dolly varden and sheefish
31 populations related to climate change, yes, if the
32 Council would like to be more specific about where they'd
33 like to see that work done, that would, I think, be
34 ideal.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Anybody have
37 any thoughts or questions or anything?

38
39 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Mr. chair on
40 pinpoint number seven I -- during this past summer hardly
41 any chum were caught, hardly any pink salmon, I mean
42 pink salmon were caught other maybe during the early
43 parts of the month in July -- June, last part of June,
44 probably first part of July when ADF&G closes fishing
45 for a couple of days at a time. And that was, I think,
46 when they finally got there -- or when they finally got
47 to the Pilgrim River all of a sudden, boom! fishing is
48 open for everyone. No limit. Boom! You know, stuff like
49 that. What -- are they in the same line with the -- are
50 they in the same line with the regulations, or are they

1 just -- they're just not going out in the field to do
2 work? I know with the herring fishing that they do test
3 fishery to see how ripe the herring eggs are. Why didn't
4 they do that with the red salmon that were going through
5 Port Clarence, Grantley Harbor, Toksook, Imuruk Basin,
6 Pilgrim River, and Salmon Lake. I know that Mr. Gray and
7 Mr. Green talked the subject about the Port Clarence
8 closure this past summer. Majority of the fish had gone
9 through before they open it. Boom, all of a sudden and
10 then during the rest of our fishery, after the closure
11 or after the opening mid-part of July, we had constant
12 rain. Constant. Couldn't even -- only way that we could
13 put away fish was from the sea to the freezer, sea to
14 the freezer. Sometimes we let them dry out for half
15 dried fish or I just call them drip dry fish. But this
16 was the first time that -- you know, a big difference
17 from last year's catch. It was mostly chum salmon, pink
18 salmon. This year they were caught maybe in the early
19 part of the fishing season, but then pretty much non-
20 existent rest of the time, maybe when they went up to
21 the rivers. But, the way they -- the way ADF&G looks at
22 the regulations, I think they need to go more out in the
23 field and do some test fishery. Like do -- they do
24 herring. It gave us a disservice because the prime reds,
25 I don't mind, you know, if they pass through here, but
26 if they're going against our wishes because the person
27 that -- ADF [sic] employee went up to Brevig to talk
28 about the fishery regulations before the start of the
29 season. And there were some people that were
30 disappointed, angry that, you know, that they would have
31 to close and then they met some opposition from some of
32 the people that were up there, young people, younger
33 than the ADF&G employee. So, there's something going on.
34 I know that State goes for, you know, all the population
35 or for the general population of Alaska. But for them
36 to do that successfully, you know, they have to talk
37 with the people. Where's the fish? When are they going
38 to come? That's how we -- that's how we go by our
39 seasons. But anyway, summer and fall chum were pretty
40 much -- they were there, but they weren't there in big
41 numbers. Other fish, first time I seen a red salmon like
42 that. But I think ADF&G was looking at past data and
43 past stuff that when the fish go up there and they were
44 assuming that it would be the same. It's not the same
45 all winter. You got [sic] to look at fall storms, major
46 fall storms. After the fish lay their eggs, they get
47 wiped out. I see so many thousands or maybe million or
48 so pink salmon, area the size of this opening. Where
49 they were caught from the river and they were blocked.
50 And then you could just see this young, young, young

1 little one just -- the seagulls never -- they just got
2 there. I was trying to help them out, but the wind, the
3 weather conditions weren't in our favor. But when we
4 just talk about consumption by humans, we gotta look at
5 the other side. I gotta feed my beluga, I gotta feed my
6 seals, stuff like that. That other stuff that we depend
7 on. But a good indicator, where did the -- were they
8 wiped out during the fishing season? Were they wiped out
9 when -- from a fall -- extreme fall storm 5 or 6 years
10 ago? Were they intercepted by our -- by other people?
11 So, many things we don't understand. But the main thing
12 that we can go talk about, it's them people. It's your
13 people. You know, we just talk about blame people all
14 the time. Look at the other side of the coin. If you're
15 going to have a successful management, consider all
16 options that are on the table. But that's the way I
17 think we have been trying to preserve our fish for our
18 residents, whatnot, and also for the Nome people. I know
19 that they were getting a lot more fish than I was, but
20 I still look at that point if I -- if you harvest -- if
21 you use your resource wisely, which we did in the past,
22 it will be there for you. If you don't, it's going to
23 disappear on you that's one of the TEK's that I
24 constantly remember and also don't kind of argue about
25 the resources. They're coming around. Whatever was
26 taught, whatever was talked about when I was growing up,
27 I didn't give them too much attention because I was
28 still growing. These people can take care of this stuff
29 that they're talking about. But now that you grow older,
30 oh, like Thomas say, this is a habit. We've been talking
31 about for 20 years. Nothing has happened. But real life
32 or real time is no, hardly any chum and hardly any pink
33 this past fishing season. That's the one thing I just
34 want to point out. Thank you.

35

36 MS. FEYTAG: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 MR. GREEN: Yes, this is Louie.

39

40 MS. FREYTAG: May I add on to what he
41 just said? The locals in the villages, they've been
42 harvesting for millennia, the food that they put on the
43 table. So, they know in their mind they have the
44 knowledge of when -- with all the weather involved, all
45 the other factors involved, they know when their fish
46 are going to be there. We shouldn't have to have somebody
47 tell us, okay, now you guys can go fish. Like he said
48 that sometimes they'll open after the fish are already
49 gone to where they're going. So, I just wanted to point

50

00062

1 out the local knowledge is very precious and important
2 for everyone. Thank you.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Louis, did you
5 have a thought?

6

7 MR. GREEN: Yeah, I was just -- I had a
8 find a charger here to get my phone back on. Sorry.
9 Where are we at?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: We are on 13B
12 and.....

13

14 MR. GREEN: Okay.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And we're
17 talking about, list of issues. The list disappeared. I
18 don't know who took it away, but maybe it'll come back.
19 And this is funding -- the funding cycle that's coming,
20 I understand. And these are suggested action items for
21 that cycle. In the past, I have ranted and raved, Fish
22 River, Niukluk River. We need projects. OSM has ranted
23 and raved, show me some Federal lands and we'll do
24 something. And I showed you Federal lands and the best
25 we could come up with is we're going to do a monitor
26 fish or whatever. I was just involved this summer with
27 what do they call that? Corps of Engineers did a study
28 up in my river, and I was personally involved. They
29 hired me to run them around looking at fish. You know,
30 they're looking at silver salmon and DNA and eco-
31 something studies about the water testing the water and
32 DNA stuff. So, I'm pretty excited about that project.
33 But, you know, it's -- it would be nice to see. That's
34 why I asked about the grayling, in my river I've got
35 tons of grayling. I -- and you know, I keep talking to
36 the water quality -- my tribe does a water quality
37 program, and I keep telling them get a baseline on bugs
38 and the river that, you know, they contracted with me
39 for ten weeks -- of ten days over the summer, taking
40 people out and looking at bugs and looking at things.
41 And, you know, this line in the sand, I can't cross that
42 line because whatever it -- you know, again, I really
43 think that we need to hold some kind of workshops to
44 address some of these problems. You know, Fish and Game
45 has they want to get projects done. OSM needs to get
46 projects done. Were the clientele. How do we fix some
47 of these issues. And you know I'm not going to be here
48 that much longer. I've been here for 20 years, and I
49 have gotten no satisfaction on the fish stuff, I really
50 haven't. And frustrating, it's very frustrating and, you

1 know, to -- that's why I asked about the Arctic grayling.
2 Grayling, I've got lots. I'd love to see a study on that
3 in my river. Trout, why did the trout disappear? We used
4 to have tons of trout. No more trout. And I know dolly
5 varden's are not loyal to a certain river. They just
6 bounce around wherever you know, and they end up in your
7 Federal lands above -- on my river system. So, there's
8 -- we can do studies like that. So, anyway, I guess
9 that's my pitch to -- let's look at the Fish River,
10 Niukluk River system and include them somehow in this
11 money thing and I think the olive branch needs to reach
12 across these lines. The Fish and Game and the OSM need
13 to work together to address some of our needs. It -- we
14 can't just keep drawing lines in the sand. So, where do
15 we go from here?

16
17 DR. VORHEES: Mr. Chair, are you
18 recommending an additional PIN? I'm just checking.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Well, I --
21 yeah, I have to. I mean, I can't ignore my river system.
22 I think we need OSM and also Fish and Game, need to
23 address the fish in our rivers. Silver Salmon, we hardly
24 had any silvers this year, and yet they're commercial
25 fishing out in the ocean. Commercial fishermen are
26 grumbling because they're only getting a half a dozen
27 fish during opening and yet their commercial fishing.
28 And you know, I told you earlier, we only had a few
29 holes that were productive this year, ridiculous. Out
30 of 50 -- I'm a fishing guide. I know every hole on the
31 river and it was horrible. And you know, weather played
32 a factor in that. But irregardless [sic] the numbers
33 weren't there. They just weren't. And what I've heard
34 time and time, year after year is, oh, we can't justify
35 a project because Federal lands. Well, let's you guys
36 and the State or whoever talk together and talk about
37 Federal lands. No trout go in -- salmon also go into
38 Federal lands in the Bendeleben Mountains. So, there is
39 justification to get these projects. But anyway.

40
41 DR. VORHEES: Mr. Chair, I hear your
42 larger point here, and I'm glad that's on the record,
43 and I hope it reaches a wider audience. In terms of
44 Federal jurisdiction and Nexus, I think it's -- I mean,
45 there are some -- there's at least one PIN on the list
46 where I know this has been a question in the past, as
47 you mentioned. I think the best strategy is to add a PIN
48 and let anyone who applies for funding under that
49 Priority Information Need make their argument about
50

1 Federal Nexus. Because I think there, you know, there
2 are different reasonable opinions on this.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, tell me
5 what Federal Nexus means. I'm just a dumb Eskimo.

6
7 DR. VORHEES: So, there would need to be
8 --- we need to be talking about waters that within --
9 are within or adjacent to the exterior boundaries of
10 conservation system units or we could also be talking
11 about non-navigable waters in -- on BLM lands that are
12 general domain lands. So, yeah, pretty hard to tell in
13 some cases, unfortunately.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, how can I
16 see this? I want to drop this PIN, but I'm not sure if
17 I want -- what would be the best way to go about this?
18 I mean, I know silver salmon my -- in my system is
19 dire straits and with commercial fishing, I doubt we're
20 going to have a very good silver run for -- in the near
21 future. I mean, we've been dismal for years, and nobody
22 wants to perk and hear up and go forward so -- and silver
23 salmon go into the Bendeleben Mountains which go into
24 the Federal lands and they spawn in there. I've been
25 there with bear hunting. I've seen dead fish up there.
26 So, anyway, if it's saying study silvers, whatever, I
27 I'd like somehow to be included in this.

28
29 DR. VORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
30 would just recommend maybe just summarizing what you'd
31 like to see done in a sentence and we'll add it to the
32 list.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Study silvers
35 in my river system.

36
37 DR. VORHEES: Are there specific aspects
38 of their life cycle?

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: I want more
41 silvers. We're about ready to have a crash in, and
42 there's not enough silvers to accommodate. We have
43 three, basically three users. We have the subsistence
44 users; we have Tom Gray and the commercial in-river
45 users. You know, and my part is so minimal, it's
46 ridiculous. But we have the ocean, and all those people
47 feed off of that. We've got Golovin, White Mountain
48 Council, you know, hundreds of subsistence users feeding
49 off of that. And our silver run has crashed. I mean,
50 it's - it -- it has -- there isn't much of a run there

1 anymore and it's still being beat up commercially and
2 subsistence wise. And I'm the kind of a guy that will
3 piss off my people to save that run. I'll tell them to
4 close that damn thing. Close it down to everybody. Let's
5 bring it back. And I mean, we have to pay attention to
6 that resource. Go ahead.

7
8 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. chair. For the
9 record, my name is Jarred Stone, fish biologist with
10 OSM. You bring up some great points. And when I look at
11 this pin here that we have listed number six. What I'm
12 hearing well, just a suggestion is perhaps remove 1 or
13 2 of those species and have it just be coho salmon to
14 really reiterate the fact that you're concerned with
15 coho salmon on the rivers. Go ahead.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, this PIN,
18 if I remember right, was adromonous [sic]. Is there a
19 word, adromornous? [sic] It was related to that. And it
20 was only in Federal lands, if I remember right, it --
21 you know, of those three fish, coho salmon all but dead.
22 I mean, and -- I mean not coho, the king salmon, chinook
23 salmon. There's one river that has a -- used to have a
24 major run and they have -- they're still part of a run
25 up there. But there is no escapement goal. And so,
26 everybody's saying we're not going to manage for it. The
27 chums are -- I mean some years we got good chums, some
28 years we don't. But the chums feed the cohos and the
29 kings. That's a food base. So, if we have a lousy chum
30 run, we're going to -- they're going to starve to death.
31 So, but somehow, we need to look at the bigger picture
32 than this we're going to count fish, or we're going to
33 justify fish. We need to look at the resource and see
34 what the resource is and do something about it. I mean,
35 I don't think in your guy's platforms, so I don't -- all
36 I know is I want fish.

37
38 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jarred
39 again here. You bring up a great point. I guess I want
40 to remind the Council, too, that, you know, it's a kind
41 of two-part puzzle that we're putting together. One is
42 right now we're creating PINs to try and identify
43 research needs for the region. But then the second part
44 of this puzzle is getting investigators to commit to
45 apply for funding for these Priority Information Needs.
46 And so, you know, as much as -- what I'm trying to say
47 is you could build up this beautiful list, but we need
48 investigators. We need people that are going to apply
49 for the funding. And when you have a region maybe that's
50 not receiving many proposals, I would just suggest

1 perhaps to try and limit the PINs to be very explicit,
2 as you can be with the research needs that you want. And
3 by having a grand list, a larger list, it gives
4 investigators more room, more freedom to go and choose
5 and pick which projects they would like to apply for.
6 On one hand, that's great. On the other hand, if there's
7 specific issues in the region that you're sincere about,
8 I would say limit the list and make it small and make
9 it very poignant. That's just a suggestion.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, so I
12 guess this list is key. It was here last year, and it
13 went through a cycle of bidding or whatever proposals.
14 Is that true?

15
16 DR. VORHEES: Mr. Chair. That's correct.
17 And I believe there were no proposals received for the
18 Seward Peninsula region. Is that -- okay, we might double
19 check that, but -- and something that happened. So,
20 basically even for regions that did receive proposals
21 last year there -- they weren't funded. So, and that was
22 due to internal budget reasons on OSM's side. So, nothing
23 was funded last cycle and that's why we come to you. I
24 mean, that -- the foundation of the draft list we're
25 bringing to you is essentially a rerun because you know,
26 you might -- you run these through the NOFO again and
27 receive some good proposals this time. So, but then we
28 did add the two through consultation with Mary.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I like your
31 suggestion of - if -- I mean, in my eyes, we're just
32 going to run this thing through again and nobody's going
33 to pay attention. I mean, if we have to take it out and
34 just leave the coho's in that place and, you know, just
35 look at coho's, I'm good with that. I -- somehow, I --
36 you know, in my mind, it would be great if you guys
37 could advise us that I don't understand this process. I
38 haven't got a clue, and I doubt anybody at the table
39 does. And how can we make it better and more appealing
40 and you know, it's your own system that you're dealing
41 with that we really don't understand. And if it's take
42 everything out but co-ho's I'm good with that because
43 that's what impacts my people probably the most on the
44 river system that besides pink salmon, which I'm not
45 worried about pinks right now, coho comes in second. And
46 that's -- I mean we have Council, White Mountain,
47 Golovin. Those three villages are dependent on these
48 coho's. And you know, there's a lot of BLM land out
49 there. There's lots of land that we can justify this

00067

1 project with. And, you know, the big thing is where are
2 we at and how can we improve on the resource.

3

4 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, great comments.
5 My suggestion, and if I heard you correctly. So, for
6 this number six PIN, you're recommending to perhaps
7 remove chinook and chum from that to make it directly
8 related to coho. And is there any other things that
9 you'd like to add to this PIN?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Do you suggest
12 anything? I -- you know your system better than I do.

13

14 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
15 know, on one hand, if you have these Priority Information
16 Needs somewhat vague, it allows the investigator room
17 to perform those baseline studies that maybe are not
18 even there. And the flip side of that coin is you make
19 a PIN that's extremely explicit, almost to the point
20 where, like you say, okay, we want a fish tagging study
21 here on this river, and we want to know where these fish
22 go. That's the other side of the coin. And so, you can
23 be as you can make these as complex or as easy as you
24 like, but you have to remember, the investigator has to,
25 to want to grab hold of it and spend considerable amount
26 of time making the proposal for them. It takes time to
27 craft the proposal for these. Thank you.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
30 Freytag. We can be making these PINs. We can make pins
31 and make pins, but we're going to need action on these
32 PINs. Does the government -- you guys are here to, you
33 know, delegate or authorize is there funding available
34 to address these PINs? Is their funding going to be
35 available to address them to take the action needed to,
36 you know, bring these to the table and deal with them?

37

38 DR. VORHEES: Through the Chair, member
39 Freytag. Yes, there is certainly funding available for
40 these projects. And proposals have a fairly good chance
41 of being funded, depending on the year. The -- as Jarred
42 has discussed, the key step is getting proposals from
43 investigators.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, so where
46 do we go from here? I'm, you know, I'm all about taking
47 away the king salmon and the chum salmon and flying with
48 the cohos. And you know, if somebody doesn't -- I guess
49 if the way I look at it, if somebody doesn't jump on

50

00068

1 that, that's going to tell us a story. Yeah. And anyway,
2 so what do we have to do now?

3
4 DR. VORHEES: Mr. Chair, are there any
5 other Priority Information Needs that you'd like to edit
6 or remove from this list?

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I've
9 looked at it from my river system. Anybody else have any
10 comments or concerns? I think Mary kind of worked on her
11 area. It's too bad Raymond isn't here because he comes
12 from the Shaktoolik River, which is probably one of the
13 last king salmon runs that we have.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 Do you need a motion or anything to go
18 forward here?

19
20 DR. VORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair. I would
21 invite a member of the Council to submit a motion to
22 approve the draft list of Priority Information Needs,
23 and I'm -- I do want to note that the language on the
24 screen is a little bit different than for one of them,
25 as it pertains to Unalakleet harvest surveys. So, I'm
26 just going to read that one more time. Historical
27 analysis of postseason salmon harvest surveys for
28 residents of Unalakleet fishing in the Unalakleet
29 district, combined with assessment of causes of low
30 harvest years and overall declines, investigators must
31 present results to the residents of Unalakleet. So, with
32 that change and then the edit to remove chinook and chum
33 from PIN number six there and -- Yes. Okay. So, with
34 those changes the list is ready for you to consider and
35 make a motion on at this time.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Anybody
38 interested in making a motion to adopt this PINs list?

39
40 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
41 Freitag, Unalakleet. I moved to adopt the draft PINs,
42 Priority Information Needs for the year 2024. Is that
43 correct?

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: As presented.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: As presented. Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is there a
50 second?

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MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Is there any more discussion?

MR SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig. The reason I would talk about fall chum, was that the -- when our people had dog teams up there after the Chum used to go spawn, our dog teams used to go up to the American River or Agiapuk River and get the spawn out salmon for frozen food, for quaq, what we call quaq, frozen fish. And that was occurring pretty much every year until pretty much dog teams kind of got replaced by snow machines. But whether the chum in the rivers were fresh or stayed out in the elements, that was the fish that was used by our people and that might have been one, two, three months old. So, you know that that's something that was -- I have witnessed that, I have eaten that. So, it was part of our winter food, you know, other than having fresh salmon all the time, you know, you have different varieties of cheese, you have different varieties of other things, but that's what was very prominent when I was growing up. Not very much in practice. No more up that way. But there's still some people that do harvest that. And the other thing with the coho, by the time coho reach our place, it's berry picking time. You know, for us. We got their sockeye salmon, number one, we got we got the chinook salmon number two. But the best dry fish is the small one, the pink salmon that are pretty much the 3 fish that we pretty much kind of depend on. One for drying is the pink salmon and then you go chinook and then red. So, those were kind of abundant over the past years. But I think they -- we weren't able to get any king salmon other than the jack kings, because ADF&G had closed -- closure system right from the start. Known fact that the king salmon travel under spring ice to reach their spawning areas. And I heard people say otherwise. No, you go live in a country where some of these people, hunters, they'll show you everything. They don't need -- they don't need no -- they don't need no computers. They don't need no textbooks to survive out there. They know how to survive because information was already passed on from parents to children, children to grandchildren. So, knowledge that we know they're still

1 saying, no, I don't think that's relevant. Why? It's not
2 written. Why do we have to depend on written information
3 so much. For us it just, you know, one adventure after
4 another, you know. Low water, high water, bad storms,
5 storms. Oh, what are we going to cook? Oh, we got to
6 pluck them. What are we going to eat? Oh, we got to cut
7 them up. These are the stuff that we grow up with. You
8 know, store bought food is good whenever we're hungry
9 but it's not the long-term suggestion for people that
10 have depended on native food for such a long time. And
11 that was one of the things that I kind of looked, oh, I
12 guess no more quaq for our people from the Agiapuk River.
13 But that's one of the practices that I seen and I had
14 experience before. Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Very good. And,
17 you know, I think the message that needs to be sent out
18 there is, you know, we have all these different runs of
19 salmon, some river have five runs, some -- my river has
20 four. And we use all these different fish. I mean, chums
21 got dried by people this summer and we didn't put any
22 kings up because we didn't have kings. But if they were
23 there, we'd put them up, we'd smoke them. So, we're
24 opportunist people and we're going to capitalize on
25 whatever's there. And so anyway, I heard that Martin
26 needs to go on record on the mic saying he seconded the
27 motion.

28
29 MR. AUKONGAK: I second the motion.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Is she
32 happy over here? Okay. Is there any more discussion on
33 this list?

34
35 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
36 Freytag. I just wanted to piggyback on observation of
37 knowledge. Not in the books, but through our minds. What
38 he was talking about. Me, growing up in Unalakleet, we
39 had a lot of dog mushers and the dog mushers -- we --
40 fall time seine for trout, gunny sacks, upon gunny sacks,
41 upon gunny sacks of trout. You know, we consume it quaq,
42 but we also feed it to the dogs and these trout, you
43 know, when we get them fall time and put them into gunny
44 sacks, usually in springtime, they're eating the fry,
45 you know the thing. But if there's less trout to eat the
46 fry, then there's more fry going out, going to come
47 back, you know, and I noticed just observation the
48 decline after the dog mushers. No more dog mushers. No
49 more fishing for the trout like we used to. Gunny sacks
50 full. So, there -- you know it -- I from just my personal

00071

1 knowledge, I do feel that the trout eating the salmon
2 fry do play a big role also in the return of our salmon
3 to our rivers. Thank you.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Any more
6 comments?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Okay. All in favor of adopting the
11 motion on the PINs, say aye.

12
13 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh! You're
16 almost late. What's up?

17
18 MR. GREEN: No, I'm -- I was trying to --
19 - I wanted to make sure I understood what the list was
20 again.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, we'll
23 have her read the list to you. Hold on.

24
25 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

26
27 DR. VORHEES: Hannah Voorhees, for the
28 record. All right. I will now read the revised list of
29 draft PINs. Number one, chinook salmon abundance
30 estimate for the Unalakleet River. Changes in grayling,
31 dolly varden and sheefish populations related to climate
32 change. Chinook, chum and coho abundance estimate for
33 the Pikmiktalik River with comparison to historical
34 counts. Coho salmon abundance estimate for Boston, Fish
35 Pargon and Wagonwheel Rivers. Summer and fall chum
36 salmon abundance estimates for the Agiapuk River
37 drainage, including American River and Igloo Creek.
38 Investigate causes of salmon decline in Norton Sound
39 freshwater drainages. And finally, historical analysis
40 of postseason salmon harvest surveys for residents of
41 Unalakleet fishing in the Unalakleet subdistrict,
42 combined with assessment of causes of low harvest years
43 and overall declines, investigators must present results
44 to the residents of Unalakleet.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, did
47 you.....

48
49 MR. GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY:you got
2 that? Okay, so we are at a point, all in favor of
3 adopting the motion for the PIN -- PINs, say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 MS. TELEMAQUE: In the mic, please.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All opposed,
12 same sign. All right. One more hurdle done. Thank you,
13 guys. Isn't this fun? Okay, where are we? Annual Report.
14 All right so, it says Council Coordinator.

15
16 MS. CHAPA: That would be me.....

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Ana

19
20 MS. CHAPA:Mr. Chair. Ana Gisela
21 Chapa, for the record. Everybody's going to know me by
22 my full name. Okay. Thank you. Again, for the record, I
23 am the Council Coordinator for the Seward Peninsula RAC,
24 and I am just going to provide the Council a very brief
25 overview of the FY2023 Annual Report replies. So, you
26 can reference page 55 of your book and that is the
27 materials that has the -- the materials that are bound.
28 And this is not an action item. Again, very briefly, the
29 Council presented five topics of interest to the Board
30 through its 2023 Annual Report, and what you see in your
31 book is the reply from the Board.

32
33 The first topic was in reference to
34 impacts to marine mammals in the Bering Sea and Aleutian
35 Islands by the trawl fleet. The U.S. -- as a result of
36 the report, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reached
37 out to NOAA Fisheries and on the subject, and they
38 provided the following response. And I'm going to quote.
39 "While marine mammal -- while the Marine Mammal
40 Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals, it
41 allows for specific exceptions, one of which allows for
42 commercial fisheries to incidentally take marine mammals
43 provided those fisheries comply with MMPA section 118.
44 Section 118 includes a framework for addressing
45 incidental take, with the goal of reducing mortality and
46 serious injury to significant levels approaching zero"
47 End of quote. And the Board also recommended reaching
48 out to NOAA Fisheries or NMFS to provide the Council
49 more information on the subject. I also wanted to point
50 to your supplemental materials and this is the packet

1 that has a staple. Additional information was provided
2 and this was a presentation provided to the North Pacific
3 Fishery Management Council on gear modification to
4 reduce potential for killer whale entanglements. That
5 is pages 1 through 11 of your supplemental packet and
6 these again, were presentations provided to the North
7 Pacific Fisheries Management Council on their April 2024
8 and October 2024 meetings. Any questions on this
9 subject?

10
11 (No response)
12

13 Okay. I'm going to move on if that's
14 okay? Okay. So, the second topic was in reference to the
15 impacts of Norton Sound bound salmon in commercial
16 fisheries and the Board will keep your concerns in mind
17 as it explores avenues for collaboration with relevant
18 Federal agencies, but urges the Council to continue to
19 provide recommendations on the issue to the North
20 Pacific Fishery Management Council and the state of
21 Alaska. The board also continues to engage with the
22 secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on the
23 matter, and has forwarded correspondence as requested
24 by Councils recently. I also wanted to point out, again,
25 to your supplemental materials on page 23. Here we go.
26 On page 23, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
27 is considering new management approaches to reduce
28 bycatch of chum in the Bering Sea pollock fishery and
29 plan to conduct outreach with some Councils in 2025 and
30 again, I'm just making reference to this information
31 because I will provide a lot more information later in
32 an agenda under correspondence updates, item 14D. Any
33 questions from the Council?
34

35 (No response)
36

37 Okay. I'm going to move on. The third -
38 - the third topic of the Council's FY 2023 Annual Report
39 was in reference to development impact in caribou
40 movement. The Council presented this topic to keep the
41 Board apprised of the Council's concerns and the Board
42 thanks you for bringing this to their attention. Next
43 is the topic of climate change concern. Also, it was an
44 informational item that the Council brought to the Board
45 and the Board thanks the Council for sharing your
46 concern. The fifth one is regarding pollutants
47 accumulating in the Arctic environment. This again was
48 an informational item to the Board and the Board agrees
49 that Arctic pollution is a concern and provided a list
50 of agencies monitoring and tracking these concerns. They

1 also shared that NOAA's Marine Debris Program is leading
2 a statewide effort to produce an Alaska Marine Debris
3 Action Plan. In addition to the information that is
4 provided by the Board, I also wanted to note that the
5 Council will be hearing from the Ocean Conservancy under
6 agency reports. Also, under efforts to address marine
7 debris in Alaska and more information that can be found
8 on page 120 of your meeting books. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
9 and I can address any questions if there are any.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Anybody
12 have questions? Concerns? We can't let her off that easy.
13

14 (No response)
15

16 Well, if nobody wants to jump up and
17 down, I guess we'll move on to the -- okay. Go ahead.
18

19 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer Seetot, Jr.
20 Brevig Mission. I'm kind of concerned about number five
21 because looking at TV, they're talking about
22 microplastics entering the Arctic system. Arctic
23 environment. Microplastics. So, that's one of the big
24 main concerns, I think, for our marine mammals, whether
25 they mistake the plastic for food or just ingesting a
26 certain food that they will get it into their body. So,
27 like I keep saying, over the past years, water pollution
28 is a main concern because that's the ecosystem where all
29 the fish, where all the marine mammals, everything
30 resides. Our system itself, example -- I can give you
31 example. If the air is smoky in this room, we're having
32 a meeting. We move out. Same way with the fish, with the
33 marine mammals. We don't know what they go through. Noise
34 pollution. Water pollution. We're so close to Russia,
35 we don't know what kind of chemicals they got over it.
36 They're still denying it. Our local communities that
37 accidentally get pollutants like petroleum products. One
38 thing is sewer discharge. So, that's pretty much
39 affecting our waters. More fresh water you got in in our
40 ocean, the less buoyant the marine mammals that you try
41 to get, they'll sink to a certain level. And that's it,
42 pretty much. I seen that happen in Lost River area,
43 other places where we do hunt. So, it does happen. And
44 the current erosion, who knows what high water uncovers
45 from past developments within our communities, within
46 the state of Alaska. You see a lot of dead natural
47 wildlife resources, like they said, the shearwater
48 population up north. I seen them in Brevig, where they
49 just kind of, I think, like you say, they just starve.
50 There's -- some of them are so weak, so weak to fly.

1 They just kind of hang around. But many of these things
2 that you see, that we see in the communities where
3 indications, you know, that our future was wasn't going
4 to be too bright from what our elders, our parents,
5 grandparents, community members told us. So, that's one
6 thing that I kind of keep in mind. Take care of our
7 environment and supposedly will care -- take care of
8 you. I'm assuming that some of it has already, you know,
9 destroyed some of the delicate ecosystems that these
10 natural wildlife resources depend on. So, we do get a
11 lot of low-pressure systems from the East Coast -- I
12 mean, from the West Coast, what do they carry? We have
13 so much low systems in our area that it's hard to predict
14 weather anymore. So, it just comes and goes. So, that's
15 a big concern. And pollutants. Pollutants are constantly
16 coming in. So, that's one of the things I think I
17 constantly talk about is if the place is dirty nothing's
18 going to be there like the bearded seal. They like clean
19 white ice. They'll swim until they find. So, that's some
20 of the things that we can kind of look at, you know, a
21 person that takes care of the environment, hopefully
22 will teach it to their other members of the community
23 with the state of Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All right. Now,
26 are we -- we're identifying new agenda or annual items
27 for the Annual Report. Anybody have any suggestions?

28
29 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You got it.

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa and I just have
34 a brief overview about the Annual Report. If the Council
35 is interested in hearing before formulating topics.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead. We're
38 okay sitting on the edge of our chairs.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Okay so this is an
41 opportunity for the Council to communicate information,
42 concerns or requests to the Federal Subsistence Board
43 to or to address the directors of each of the four
44 Department of the Interior Agencies and the Department
45 of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as
46 members of the Federal Subsistence Board. There ii -
47 there are additional guidelines on page 54 of your
48 meeting book, that document is called Annual Report
49 Briefing, and it's intended to provide additional
50 information when identifying topics for the region's

1 report. I -- as a Council is discussing these important
2 topics to include in its Annual Report. I may follow up
3 with some questions specifically to ask if the topic
4 discussed is as an informational type of topic to the
5 Board or if the Council is asking for specific action
6 from the Board. And this discussion and these Q&A will
7 also help me draft the topics for the Annual Report that
8 will be submitted to the Board. And I also wanted to
9 point out that earlier during our meeting, there was a
10 discussion on youth engagement. I also wanted to perhaps
11 remind the Council that this could also be an opportunity
12 to include that in -- as part of the Council's Annual
13 Report. And yeah, so that if anybody has any questions,
14 I might be able to follow up on that.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Anybody
17 got some ideas here?

18

19 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
20 Freytag. Just going back to the youth and their education
21 on all of this information. Just to put a spark into
22 their minds so that they're interested in subsistence
23 and what -- all it takes and how it impacts us. I would
24 like to -- what is it? Recommend including youth
25 somewhere in the organization so that they, -- they're,
26 they're getting educated, like, like I am today. I love
27 to learn something new every day. So, I, like you, said
28 I just wanted to reemphasize the need for the youth
29 education. Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And, you know,
32 I guess I would like to go one step further and how do
33 we interact or inject with the youth of Alaska, not just
34 a handful of people. You know, create a curriculum that's
35 implemented in the school system. Something, something
36 that touches people. You know, sadly, as our Native lives
37 go on, we -- we are losing the battle to keep our Native
38 lifestyle together. Our language is going, our food is
39 going. And you know, subsistence is a big, big, big,
40 huge thing in our lives. And how do we nurture that and
41 keep it alive? You know, I really think that somehow
42 creating a curriculum or something that we can implement
43 in the school, it will plant seeds that would come out
44 later in life. So, anyway, I'm -- I like to think big
45 and sometimes it don't work. The other thing that I
46 brought out earlier was workshops. And how do we address
47 hard issues that have been on the table for a long, long
48 time and it gets thrown out here and we all go home and
49 it's out of sight, out of mind. It's forgotten. And you
50 know, I personally think that OSM or the power players

1 in the system need to create a workshop that brings
2 people together to create goals and objectives and keep
3 some of these issues from coming to a halt, you know,
4 trawlers I mean, what's -- where's the problem at with
5 trawlers? And we all know they're overharvesting, but
6 how do we stop it? It's a bigger thing than Tom Gray
7 understands and I think it's bigger than a lot of people
8 understand, which maybe we got to go back to Congress.
9 I don't know. But you know, I think we can bat the ball
10 around the yard for the next 20 years, and we're still
11 at the same place. And some of these hard issues, I
12 think we got to stand up and be counted. Our fishery,
13 you know, we've been bitching and harping about the
14 fishery for 40 years. And, you know, it's about time the
15 feds and the State and everybody sit down at the table
16 and talk about these issues. So, I don't know. Anyway,
17 anybody else have any thoughts?

18
19 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, Elmer Seetot.
20 Going back to Mary's comment on school information, I
21 think it should be kind of agency specific. We got
22 National Park Service. National Park Service should come
23 into the Sewer Peninsula and do their thing. They got
24 different Arctic wildlife system up north. They can do
25 their thing up there, like they said that they were
26 doing with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the Selawik
27 Wildlife program or National program, they were, you
28 know, teaching the young people up there. So, it should
29 be area specific here. Since we got the National Park
30 Service, take care of the Bering Land Bridge. They should
31 deal with that -- whatever you're trying to get for the
32 students to learn in National Park Service, all these
33 are under one umbrella. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
34 So, they can delegate authority to each area. For us,
35 it would be the National Park Service. Develop a program
36 for the youngsters or for the public. Go to Kotzebue,
37 you get the agency in charge up there and down to their
38 programs. I think that they're there ahead of us, up on
39 Kotzebue area. But each place is different so, it doesn't
40 need to be under one umbrella, but area specific, you
41 know, like National Park Service because they dealt with
42 the Bering Land Bridge that that was my add on comment
43 to your proposal. Thank you.

44
45 (Off record conversation)

46
47 MS. CHAPA: Yes, miss -- our chair is
48 getting some snacks. So, it might be best if we break
49 for five minutes, and I am not the Chair of this meeting.
50 I'm just conveying what was said into the room.

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MR. GREEN: This is the other Chair. This is Louis. We'll take a five-minute break.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Co-chair Louis.

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I'm going to call this back to order. And I got to find an agenda to find out where we're at.

MS. CHAPA: Still under Annual Reports.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Annual Reports. And we're talking about -- what are we going to put in our annual report? So, anybody have any ideas? Why don't we let Ana, I'm going to call her Ana, because that's easy. Tell us what is on the list?

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ana Gisela Chapa, for the record. And so far, I only have two very broad items to include in the list. The first one was the discussion of trying to get youth more engaged, and I think the discussion specifically asked for curriculum to be implemented within the school system. And I'm not necessarily sure how that would fall within the purview of the Board, but there might be opportunities to request for outreach, maybe target it to youth that might be tailored to the region and to address some of the more relevant subsistence issues, or for them to be more engaged with the Regional Advisory Councils. That might be a slight modification to the first topic that was discussed. The second one was on workshops to try to address some of the difficult issues that have been on the table for a long time, and that's exactly what I typed. So, maybe a little bit more discussion on that would be best to try to identify like the heart of the issue that the Council wants the Board to be aware of and I also wanted to note that earlier during the discussion of the annual report replies member Seetot brought up issues on microplastics and water quality issues, etc. that could also be an item that could be added to the FY2024 Annual Report to the Board if that is the wish of the Council.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Anybody want to jump in here?

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(No response)

Did I hear Louis wanting to say something?

MS. CHAPA: And member Green, if you're on the -- online, you're muted. If you want to unmute yourself, you press star six.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay.....

MR. GREEN: I'm on now.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. There you go.

MR. GREEN: So, I just can't help but stress the idea that these trawlers are an issue for us out there and I can't say that enough. There's a lot of information out there nowadays about what the deal is out there. So, the All RACs meeting, we wrote letters. They're in this book somewhere towards the back there. And, and there's different RACs that are -- there's one that I think that the caribou but, you know, our shortage is that we've had, we've -- you know, we've had two DNA studies. There was a Jim and Lisa Seeb study that was done in the early 90s with the DNA of the salmon. Yet when they were pressed to the point where they -- the Board of Fish, wanted to know, can you tell us a specific river of the salmon goes in by its DNA? They couldn't do that. Then they had the WASSIP study, and I think that was around 2006, Western Alaska study. You know, you can study fish to death if you want, I guess. But I'm trying to figure out how to approach the Federal Subsistence Board with any kind of stuff with our annual letter to them. I just don't see us doing it without something about the trawler industry and the issues that are have -- that they've caused.

Our salmon are depleted and, you know, back in the early 90s, serving -- taking -- serving on the Northern Norton Sound advisory committee, representing the Board of Fish meetings, we were already talking about the trawler industry is going to be a problem. Even back then, there was a handful of us, and disappointingly, we called it the what -- just what has happened, how the failures of Nome subdistrict were going to lead to the failures of Norton Sound in southern

1 Norton Sound around Unalakleet, the Yukon, the
2 Kuskokwim. And now there seems to be something going on
3 with the size of sockeye down there in Bristol Bay. It's
4 disturbing to see them smaller. So, I'm not sure how to
5 word it did any more direct than we need the Federal
6 Subsistence Board to engage through the Secretary of
7 Interior with the Department of Commerce. The Department
8 of Commerce is over NOAA NMFS in the North Pacific
9 Fisheries Management Council. So, we haven't really
10 discussed that in this meeting. There was discussion in
11 the spring meeting there with the -- at the All RACs
12 meeting. Is there any anybody else that has anything to
13 add to this at all that we don't want to just let it go
14 by the wayside? There's other people that I'm working
15 with through the AFN and there's -- that we're talking
16 about. We don't want to back off. We don't want to stop
17 pressing this thing.

18
19 MR. YASKA: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 MR. GREEN: Go ahead. If somebody wants
22 to speak.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yep, go ahead.

25
26 MR. YASKA: Yeah. This is George Yaska.
27 I can speak to, if you were to do that, you were to send
28 a transmittal through the Federal Subsistence Board to
29 the Secretary of the Interior, communicate to the
30 Secretary of Commerce. Then they actually have a form.
31 There's actually a way to do that. They both sit on the
32 NOAA Ocean Policy Committee. They are co-chairs. The
33 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce
34 are Co-chairs of the Ocean Policy Committee and that
35 would be the form that they would discuss it in. So, I
36 don't recall exactly who your Coordinator is today and
37 I could work with that Coordinator, if you wanted to do
38 that. Mr. Chair.

39
40 MR. GREEN: That would.....

41
42 (Simultaneous speech)

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yeah, I think
45 that.....

46
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48
49 MR. GREEN:go ahead.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: I was going to
2 say, I think that's a good idea. This is Tom and Louis.
3 I think we need to roll this trawler issue into the
4 workshop issue to get in -- you know, that particular
5 issue has been around for forever and, you know, none
6 of us -- and maybe you understand the process, but the
7 majority of us haven't got a clue of how far back it's
8 got to be dealt with. And my personal opinion is it
9 began with Congress, and it's probably got to go back
10 to Congress. But I don't know. And anyway, that's why I
11 wanted workshops on the agenda to address issues that
12 have been around forever.

13
14 MR. GREEN: Yeah, that -- maybe that's
15 it there, Tom. I just don't -- I don't think we should
16 sit down and not keep pushing that button.

17
18 MR. YASKA: Mr. Chair, this is George
19 again.

20
21 MR. GREEN: Mr. Yaska said something in
22 there that was pretty something that I didn't know.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, George,
25 you had some more?

26
27 MR. YASKA: Yeah, I do. And that is that
28 this Ocean Policy Committee, it's right there on -- if
29 you go to the NOAA's website and scroll through it and
30 find the NOAA Ocean Policy Committee, you'll find that
31 they have several different tasks or charges and this
32 is where they would discuss an issue like this. And if
33 they don't agree or if they want to bring it further,
34 then at that level, they would bring it to the White
35 House and at the White House, it would be the Council
36 on Environmental Quality. So, at that point, the White
37 House would make the decision. The White House is already
38 aware of the marine protected area petition from Huslia
39 Tribe to close the Bering Sea to trawling. They support
40 it. It doesn't go anywhere, though, without broad
41 support from Western Alaska. So -- but the
42 administrative steps are for the, not the MPA, but this
43 discussion of going to the Federal Subsistence Board to
44 the Secretary to sit down and talk to the Secretary of
45 Commerce. That's an administrative step that has to
46 occur. So, you say I talked to your Coordinator. I
47 actually don't know who your Coordinator is, Mr. Chair.

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49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, her name
50 is Ann. No.

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MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, this is Ana Gisela Chapa, for the record. And George, I can follow up with you. But I also wanted to check back with the Council and make sure that I fully understand. Is this going to be an item that the Council would like to include in the Annual Report in addition to submitting a letter through the Board to the Secretaries. Is that correct?

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And I'm good with that. I think the more ways we make out there, the more attention we're going to get. And the other issue that I heard George talking about some outfit was trying to get some trawlers out of an area but needs Western Alaska support. I'm very interested in how that came to be. And how do we make that happen for this area up here -- on behalf of this area up here?

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MR. YASKA: And Mr. Chair, this is George. I could respond to that briefly. Huslia Tribe has prepared a petition to NOAA and in this case it's NOAA Hawaii, which makes determinations on all petitions for what they call Marine Protected Areas. And they close areas off. They restrict areas. Sometimes they're light restrictions, sometimes they're heavy restrictions, or sometimes they're outright bans on activity. In this case, the Huslia Tribe has said we want all fishing to occur -- to continue to occur in the Bering Sea, except for trawling, bottom trawling, no mid-water or bottom trawling. So, there would still be longlining, crab pot, purse, seining, driftnet, etc. but not what they call demersal fishing or bottom trawling. So, that petition cannot go forward until there's broad support. If Huslia sent it to NOAA they'd send it right back because it doesn't have broad support. So, right now, just a few organizations have signed on, and they had asked me to bring it to the Gravel-to-Gravel Initiative discussion a couple of months ago or a month ago. So, I did that. So, as long as you are talking, I am allowed to bring that up, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. And you'll get together with our Coordinator, and we can get our support on the table.

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MR. YASKA: Cool, will do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yeah. And, you know, thinking out loud, I just wonder if we should -

1 and somebody tell me whether I'm right or wrong. We
2 should make a motion supporting that process or whatever
3 they're doing there. So, it's on record by this group.
4 Somebody smarter than me has to tell me, yep that's
5 doable or nope, that's not doable.

6
7 So, again, what I'm -- what he's talking
8 about is, in order for this, ban the trawlers out of the
9 system, he needs more support in the Western Alaska. And
10 what I'm saying is it possible for us to make a motion
11 to support whatever is being proposed? So, we're on
12 record now and not six months from now when we come back
13 to have a meeting.

14
15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, for
16 the record, and I mean, yeah, you guys -- sure, make a
17 motion and support, whatever, you know, whatever you
18 guys want to support and make a motion about. I'm just
19 not clear, George, like, would this go on some letter,
20 like, you know, when you have a -- is that what he's
21 asking for? So, then when he -- a letter he's writing
22 it would just say also supported by the Seward Peninsula
23 Council? Okay. Yeah.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: Or a letter from the Seward
26 Peninsula RAC in support of that petition?

27
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Yeah, I think that
29 because I guess I'm not -- I mean, you know, the
30 correspondence policy, but assuming we're writing -- if
31 the Council wants to write a letter to the Board asking
32 the Board to forward that letter to the Secretaries,
33 that's certainly within your purview to do that. I'm not
34 sure where this letter that George is writing is going
35 to.

36
37 MR. YASKA: Our work would go to Huslia
38 in support of their petition. Mr. Chair.

39
40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, but the petitions
41 going to the Secretary of -- to NOAA.

42
43 MR. YASKA: To NOAA Hawaii. It doesn't
44 go to the secretary. It goes to NOAA Hawaii. That deals
45 with the totally separate office. They only deal with
46 marine protected area petitions.

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48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I guess I'm not
49 clear enough on, like, all the details to know if that
50 falls within your correspondence policy or not.

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MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes, ma'am.

MS. MCDAVID: Hi, this is Brooke McDavid. I'm currently the acting Counsel Coordination Division supervisor with OSM, and I think I can help guide you a little bit on the process here. You all would be welcome to make a motion to write a letter of support for this petition and send it to the Huslia Tribe, and then I would recommend that you include it as an informational topic to the Board in your Annual Report, and let them know that you have supported this petition. It sounds like you might also be making another motion later to send a letter to the Board about trawling. So, you could also include in that letter to the Board any information that you would like about this as well.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, we're almost on a roll here. Okay.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

MR. GREEN: Yeah. So, just listening to the comments there, would we be doing this through the -- a workshop process before this next meeting that we have, or are we trying to put something in there today?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I guess my thoughts are, you know, how long is it going to take to get Western Alaska to support this proposal? I mean, it's going to go out on the street. It's going to be six months. I guess we have time to wait. If it's going to be six weeks, then I would say we need to kind of act fast. My gut feeling is it's going to be six months before it gets anywhere. But that doesn't mean we have to wait. You know, I'm good with whatever the Board wants to do. You know, my position on this thing is, this is exactly what we're asking for. This is what we've wanted and to pass that opportunity up to put another notch in our belt or another tick in the system is, you know, we may not understand the whole thing, but the intent of getting rid of trawlers is -- is out there staring us in the face.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Louis.

2

3 MR. GREEN: Yeah, thank you. This is for
4 George. George, these -- I want to say that -- did you
5 say safety? Safety areas or what was that again?

6

7 MR. YASKA: With regard to the petition
8 or to the letter to the Secretary?

9

10 MR. GREEN: The petition.

11

12 MR. YASKA: Okay, so the petition would
13 go to NOAA Hawaii and it would state -- well, it states
14 it has reasoning, it uses NOAA's own information, own
15 research, and which NOAA has provided to the North
16 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. But the Council
17 has ignored that advice. So, it uses NOAA's information
18 is very clear and then makes the decision to allow for
19 all fishing long line, crab pot, purse seine, driftnet,
20 etc. except for demersal fishing which is groundfish
21 bottom trawling.

22

23 MR. GREEN: Was that in savings areas or
24 safety?

25

26 MR. YASKA: No, no, there's. No there's
27 no savings area. It's the entire Bering Sea.

28

29 MR. GREEN: So, entire. Okay. Thank you.

30

31 MR. YASKA: Yep.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
36 Chapa. And I don't want to impede any traction on the
37 discussion that the Council has going on right now, but
38 -- so I'm going to try to summarize the discussion up
39 to this point. I'm going to try to go slow and steady
40 to make sure that I am understanding the requests from
41 the Council, as well as the topics to include in the
42 Annual Report for the Board. Okay. I'm going to try to
43 start at the beginning and hope that I haven't lost any
44 of the detail in the process. In reference to the annual
45 -- the topics for the Annual Report. The first topic
46 that the Council brought was about basically youth
47 engagement. It was discussed as potentially developing
48 curriculum to go into the school system. But again, I
49 don't know how feasible that would be within to do
50 specifically within the school system. So, I'm going to

1 ask a couple of questions and perhaps get nods from the
2 Council and make sure that this is what you -- what you
3 mean. Is the Council thinking that you would like to
4 conduct youth engagement and youth outreach to -- well,
5 I guess engage them into the RAC process, educate them,
6 tailor some of these programs, perhaps interpretive
7 programs, youth programs on the needs of the region.
8 Does that sound accurate?

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, okay. I --
11 you know, I guess my thoughts are, why are we sitting
12 here? We are subsistence users trying to protect
13 subsistence rights. How do we teach that to our kids?
14 How do we instill that in the system? You know, I
15 understand OSM and they have a regime. They've got an
16 empire and there's a process and all that stuff and Tom
17 Gray's probably -- the little bit I understand about OSM
18 is nothing compared to what I should know. But the
19 problem I see and I'll just say it, I've got kids, 35
20 year old kids that I've -- I'm the Chairman of my Native
21 corporation, I sit on the RAC, I sit on all these Boards,
22 I'm the head of the Beluga Whale Committee and I tell
23 my kids, step up, I'll step down. I'll -- I'm almost 70.
24 It's your turn. And they're going, no, hell no, no, no
25 and if my kids are doing that, you know, what's the rest
26 of Alaska doing? So, somehow we've got to instill the
27 hunger or the passion or the whatever it is. You know,
28 I'm the head of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee. I
29 never caught a whale till I was 40 years old. I never
30 even understood what a whale was and yet I'm the big guy
31 now. But I have a passion for it. How do we instill that
32 in our kids? You know, and that -- that's what kind of
33 I'm after is whatever is being built, you know, I think
34 we can build that program or what it looks like down the
35 road. But the end result is what I'm after is planting
36 seeds and throwing them out there. You know, I'm a
37 Christian, I believe in God, and I plant seeds, and I
38 throw them out there. I'm not going to chase you or
39 pursue you or make you think my way of thinking. Let the
40 seeds do it. And, I mean, that's what we need to do with
41 these kids. So, anyway. Go ahead.

42
43 MR. AUKONGAK: I would reach out to
44 Nactec out here in the Board, and we have all family
45 members that travel through there and learn different
46 programs, you know, with the hospital. You know, I got
47 the CAT sims out there back in '09 and that'd be a great
48 start to reach out to them. I'm pretty sure they'd make
49 room and that'd be a great start.

50

1 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
2 Chapa for the record, and I just also wanted to clarify
3 if this topic to be included in the Annual Report is
4 going to be shared with the Board as an informational
5 type of item, or is the Council requesting something
6 specific from the Board, like action from the Board?

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, you know,
9 I think if we throw it out informational, all that's
10 going to do is go by the wayside and you'll get dust on
11 it. You know, I think OSM -- our lead into this thing
12 is go fix this, go create whatever it is or go make it
13 part of the program and come back and show it off to us
14 after it's built. I don't think we want to just give it
15 to them and say here, if you like it, whatever.
16 Informational? I don't think so. I think we need to act
17 on it.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And so,
20 what does the Council envision the Board would do to
21 help support this topic or to create traction, produce
22 end results.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, I guess I
25 know a little bit about curriculums. There's a caribou
26 curriculum out there. There's a reindeer curriculum out
27 there, there's different curriculums. All we can do is
28 build a curriculum. OSM, you know, my vision is OSM is
29 going to hire somebody to build a curriculum. And
30 hopefully it instills the -- some of the thoughts and
31 ideas that we have. The -- actually making a school
32 district use that curriculum, we're not going to do that.
33 They're going to take interest in it and run with it.
34 They'll take it on and use it, or they'll throw it by
35 the wayside. And it may sound like a waste of time, but
36 the bottom line is it's our Native history, our -- it's
37 us that we're pushing. It's not OSM, it's not whatever.
38 It's our subsistence lifestyle. And it's just a
39 different avenue to get there. And in the meantime --
40 in the process, we're -- how can I say this? We're paving
41 the way for future directors to sit at the table for
42 OSM, and that's their benefit. That's what they're going
43 to come away with. So, I lost track of what you were
44 after.

45
46 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I was asking what
47 specific actions the Council would like the Board to
48 take in order for this -- what you're talking about
49 curriculum could also be like a program, right? An
50 outreach program. So, like, what specific actions the

1 Council is expecting from the Board to get these --
2 develop these programs or get these programs on the
3 ground? Is it in the form of funding, maybe, or personnel
4 or is it just like support from each agency?
5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And to be real
7 frank about it, I don't know how you build a curriculum.
8 I don't know how you offer it to school districts,
9 whatever. You know, I -- my feeling is maybe OSM needs
10 to work in conjunction with the State and other groups
11 like us and in -- form a consortium or something and go
12 forward. Maybe that's the better way. So, there's
13 ownership by everybody. But the bottom line is
14 somebody's got to hire somebody to build a curriculum
15 or build a program, and they got to figure out where to
16 put that program or curriculum, whether it's in the
17 school system, or send it to all the IRAs and hold
18 training programs, whatever it is. So, you know, I
19 personally think it's got to at least have a chance to
20 survive in the school system and, you know, the saving
21 grace to OSM is their plug in is going to be the future
22 leaders coming out of the system. So, I don't know. I'm
23 -- I vision too far ahead sometimes.
24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin.

26 (Simultaneous speech)
27

28 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, Louis.
29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Lisa's got the
31 floor. And then whoever tried to jump in there.
32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: It was Louie. Lisa
34 Grediagin for the record. And so, just to clarify, for
35 the Council's for every Annual Report topic, OSM is
36 asking the Council to be explicit in whether the topic
37 is just informational for the Board -- they want the
38 Board to be aware of that information, or if there's a
39 specific ask of the Board and the reasons, I mean, when
40 we respond to these topics, we know how to respond to
41 them and what to put in the response that's useful to
42 the Council's. You know, because a lot of the time the
43 Councils will have all this information and we're like
44 you know, what do we respond other than, you know, thank
45 you for that information sort of thing? So, this time
46 around and from here on out, we're trying to be really
47 intentional on what the -- if it's just informational
48 or if there's an ask of the Board being specific in what
49 that ask is so, that then when we -- when we -- the
50

00089

1 Board responds to the topics, you know, it's actually
2 useful information. And we're responding to the Councils
3 versus trying to make something up. So, thanks.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Louis, did you
6 have something?

7

8 MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
9 Following up on what was just said, I think that we
10 should be asking for -- our ask is asking the Federal
11 Subsistence Board to come up with some kind of a
12 curriculum that we could work with in our communities.
13 I mean, you know, the idea is to promote this process
14 with the younger people so we could bring them up and
15 fill in our shoes that we leave behind. So, I would
16 think it would be in the best interest of the Federal
17 Subsistence Board to find some way to create that avenue
18 for us. Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You said it
21 better. I've been trying to say that for an hour, and
22 you said it better than I could. Chuck, did you have
23 something you wanted to say while ago?

24

25 MR. MENADELOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Chuck Menadelook. I just wanted to say I did support
27 what Louis Green was saying about the trawling industry,
28 but I wanted to add something else. And this was
29 something that I testified to at the -- on the Board of
30 -- the Fisheries Council was that in every report that
31 they gave during that entire week, none of them said how
32 many chum were in the Bering Sea, okay. My argument was,
33 you know, we're seeing a diminished returns in fish,
34 okay. I used from 2018 to 2023 as an example, five years.
35 In five years, our 14 -- in accordance with the State,
36 our 14 rivers suffered an 80% decline in salmon
37 population, okay. I brought that up to the Fisheries
38 Council. The reason I bring it up now is because I said
39 to them, and this might be something that you could
40 mention to them. During that whole week, all of the
41 reports that you saw that they gave to the public or to
42 their Board, none of them, none of them said how many
43 fish were in the Bering Sea and they were talking --
44 literally talking about bycatch limits okay. My question
45 to them was how can you make bycatch limits without
46 knowing how many salmon are in the Bering Sea? They
47 don't have that, and I told them, if you're going to
48 argue that, you know, the Bering Sea is so big -- I said
49 I was going to tell them that they have -- they've had
50 27 years to figure it out, and none of them did, okay.

1 And that's what I wanted to -- maybe that's a question
2 that this body could ask the Board of Fish or, you know,
3 through the board of -- I mean, the Subsistence Board
4 to the Chamber of Commerce. Where are the numbers? You
5 know, how are you managing these fish without knowing
6 exactly how many salmon are in the Bering Sea? It doesn't
7 matter which species because they don't have any other
8 than halibut and pollock. I think those are the only two
9 numbers that ever -- I've ever seen in any kind of report
10 that they give biomass numbers. Salmon aren't even in
11 there. So, I just wanted to bring that up. Thank you.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
14 That's interesting. You know, and I can relate to 80%
15 of the fish aren't coming back cause my rivers are pretty
16 dismal right now, so. Okay I'm going to throw it
17 back.....

18
19 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Hold on. Oh,
22 go ahead.

23
24 MR. GREEN: Yeah. Okay, Mr. Chair, this
25 is Louis. So, you know, the -- one of the -- couple of
26 things that come out -- I like, what Chuck had to say,
27 you know, they haven't got any estimations when they
28 could have estimations. They will take that -- the
29 trawler industry, what they do is they tell you that
30 climate change is an issue, yet they're ripping up the
31 bottom of the ocean floor creating CO2 to escape from
32 ocean floor to the open air. They're hammering the bottom
33 of the ocean floor carrying crab. You ever seen a king
34 crab ball on a picture? That could be a, you know, 30ft
35 in circumference or up in the air, wonder that any of
36 that gear hits those crabs in a crab ball is going to
37 tear it up anyway. They use climate change, and they
38 just brought back to the CO2 coming up from the sea
39 floor. The other one is they keep hammering at well,
40 there's too many hatchery fish out there. Well, rewind
41 the tapes about 20 years. The hatchery fish were no
42 issue. Co2 was no issue. It might not have even been
43 that far back. I'm just -- I'm dating it, just for an
44 example. At one point in time, the food web was still
45 intact. So, whatever was getting into the Bering Sea,
46 whether it was whether it was hatchery fish or naturally
47 spawned fish in our rivers, they had enough food. Okay,
48 so now we're seeing indications over the last two
49 decades, at least, that more -- there's unhealthy
50 species of different marine mammals, salmon, things that

1 are smaller, returning. Jack kings, you hear about jack
2 king's I think what jack kings when they don't get enough
3 out in the ocean, they just go back to the river to try
4 to complete their cycle, you know, so they can try to
5 spawn and die. It's too hard to continue anything out
6 in the ocean. They're not getting their steak, potatoes
7 and vegetables out there maybe, I don't know. And so
8 they're going into the river systems early. And so that
9 -- the idea of climate change and the idea of hatcheries
10 is kind of goes by the wayside with me, because what's
11 really happening in my mind is that the food web is
12 getting stripped by the trawler industry. It's happened
13 everywhere they've been. It's nothing new. And yet they
14 want us to have another study. So, if you study what
15 happened on the East Coast, you can probably pretty much
16 lay some of the -- most of that information down on the
17 Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska and probably come up
18 with your answer. But anyway, thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: You're
21 welcome. I was out of the room. I missed all of that.
22 So, okay. Where are we at, guys?

23
24 MR. GREEN: That's okay. I'll call you
25 up on the phone and talk to you and tell you what I
26 said. I'm kidding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
29 since we're on the subject of trawling, I also wanted
30 to go back to topics for the Annual Report and make sure
31 that this is a topic that the Council wants to include
32 in that report. And the Council is requesting the Federal
33 Subsistence Board to work through the Secretary of the
34 Interior and Agriculture so that through them, they work
35 with the Department of Commerce on impacts of commercial
36 fisheries on salmon in the region. Does that sound
37 accurate?

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, you got me
40 excited there and you said commercial fisheries of
41 salmon. Let's see that part again because I'm all about
42 subsistence. And if it's shutting down commercial
43 fisheries of salmon then I'm okay with it. But what was
44 the intent of what you said?

45
46 MS. CHAPA: Oh, I was -- just wanted to
47 capture some of the discussion that has been going on
48 and make sure that I am capturing the topic accurately.
49 So, if this is inaccurate, then feel free to correct me.
50 What I captured earlier was a request for the Federal

1 Subsistence Board through the Secretary of the Interior
2 and Agriculture to work with the Department of Commerce
3 to address the impacts of commercial fisheries on
4 salmon. Does that sound accurate?

5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: That sounds
7 good. Sorry, that sounds good.

8

9 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And I'm thinking this
10 is an action item, is there anything in particular that
11 the Council wants the Board to forward to the
12 Secretaries? Like so the.....

13

14 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

15

16 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, go ahead.

17

18 MR. GREEN: Oh. I'm sorry. I was just
19 going to say, when you talk -- Gisela when you talked
20 about the commercial fisheries, it might be good to
21 mention whether it's a statewide or Federal fisheries.
22 Trawlers -- trawling is Federal. What are we talking --
23 are we including all, Mr. Chair? Which would be statewide
24 -- State fishery and Federal fisheries.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, my thoughts
27 on this is, we have to address both of them, State and
28 Federal fisheries and the impacts from commercial
29 fishing to our resources that come back to the river
30 system.

31

32 MR. GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

33

34 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary
35 Freytag. I'm reading the correspondence to the -- from
36 the Federal Subsistence Board. Actually, from Chairman
37 Green with the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional
38 Advisory Council, and it's addressed to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board concerning the impact to marine
40 mammals in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands, where
41 the trawl fleet probably -- and the impact to Norton
42 Sound bound salmon in commercial fisheries. In this
43 correspondence is basically what we're talking about now
44 is the same thing that they talked about last year. So,
45 has anything happened since then? That was my question.
46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, so the.....

49

50 MR. GREEN: I have the response.....

1

2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: the
3 avenue that we're talking about taking now is totally
4 different than what was taken last year, my
5 understanding. We're going to some Secretary of Interior
6 and Department of Commerce and blah, blah, blah. It's
7 like going upstairs. So, we've -- this this issue just
8 addressed the Board last year, and now we're talking
9 about going up in NOAA in a whole different strategy.
10 You -- Lisa.

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. So, Lisa Grediagin
13 for the record. And so, my understanding which Gisela
14 or Brooke might correct me, but that the Council can't
15 just directly send letters to the Department of
16 Commerce. They have to send it to the Board. And then
17 the board forwards those letters to the Secretaries of
18 Commerce and Interior and Agriculture, so.

19

20 So, that I mean, yeah, I guess to be
21 honest, I wasn't aware of that letter Mary just read,
22 but -- oh, it's an annual report reply. Okay. So, yeah.
23 So, what I was going to recommend is that if -- Okay.
24 But I mean -- okay. Well -- just for the sake of the --
25 in your report that if you just say we want the Board
26 to do this, it might be more effective if you guys have
27 that as an informational item in your Annual Report, but
28 then write a letter asking the Board's to forward it to
29 the Secretaries. So, it's kind of two related actions.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, yep.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Hi, this is Brooke McDavid
36 again. I just wanted to say that what Lisa just suggested
37 is the correct avenue. Currently, there's not really a
38 process to elevate concerns that are in the Annual Report
39 to the Secretary of Interior or Agriculture. The
40 leadership team has asked that request that you wish to
41 be elevated to the Secretaries be sent in the form of a
42 letter to the Board with a request to elevate it. So,
43 you can definitely include it in your annual drawing as
44 a topic, in your Annual Report, as an informational item,
45 and then send your request and your ask to the Board to
46 elevate those issues through a letter. Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.
49 Well, go ahead, Mary.

50

1 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary
2 Freytag. One of the things I wanted to mention, the
3 Magnuson-Stevens Act. Is it working for us? Do we need
4 to make it broader? Do we need to make the boundaries
5 longer than what it is? Is the Act working for us? Is
6 it is it working for both sides? Everyone at the table?
7 Maybe it's something that we need to revisit. I'm just
8 trying to throw out ideas there to try to find answers,
9 to try to find solutions. Thank you.

10

11 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. Louis.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Louis, go
14 ahead.

15

16 MR. GREEN: Yeah. Mary. I was looking for
17 that letter again. On what page is that on? They seem
18 to keep missing it somehow.

19

20 MS. FREYTAG: Page 55.

21

22 MR. GREEN: ...from last year. Sorry,
23 again. What was it? I didn't hear.

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: It's to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board from Louis Green. The Chair, you,
27 dated August 7th, 2024.

28

29 MR. GREEN: Yeah, okay. Thank you, Mary.
30 Yeah, we brought that up last year. I was told by Richard
31 Foster at one point in time here, several years ago,
32 that only the squeaky wheel gets the grease. And that's
33 where I'm at in my thoughts on this. If it needs to be
34 an informational thing. Was that you saying that, Lisa?

35

36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hey, Louis, you made me
37 run across the room. Yeah, this is Lisa. So, I was just
38 saying, for the sake of the Annual Report, it might make
39 sense to just include it as an informational item and
40 then write a letter to the Board requesting them forward
41 that letter to the Secretaries of Commerce, Agriculture
42 and Interior.

43

44 MR. GREEN: And I'm fine with that. What
45 I wanted to do is I got the -- I'm the dog that's got
46 the person by the ankle. I don't want to let go. I think
47 we need to keep pushing it forward. Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. You got
50 the floor.

1

2 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I also -- Gisela Chapa
3 for the record, I also wanted to remind the Council this
4 is -- the discussion from today's meeting I'm going to
5 use to create a draft Annual Report that the Council is
6 going to get a chance to review during your winter
7 meeting. And at that time, if I captured anything
8 incorrectly, the Council can make the corrections, so
9 it will not -- this will remain in draft form until the
10 Council approves during the winter meeting. And so, if
11 I understand correctly, this is going to be an
12 informational topic to the Federal Subsistence Board
13 very similar to what was already included in last year's
14 report.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, here's Tom
17 Gray thinking outside the box again. I think we need a
18 list of all items that went into these reports or
19 requests for the last five years and if there was
20 anything done or not done. So, we have an idea -- I
21 mean, we've done stuff from look at salmon to crabbing
22 issues to all kinds of issues. And I don't remember what
23 all we've sent to them. But, you know, I think us as a
24 Board kind of need to review where we've been and how
25 effective we were in whatever we asked for and then take
26 a new game plan and go forward. Just thinking out loud
27 here. So, with that said, is there any other items you
28 want in this plan, this letter that's going to the big
29 Board?

30

31 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
32 Freytag. Going back to the curriculum for our youth, I
33 wanted to mention that while we're on the topic, but I
34 didn't get a chance. One of the suggestions from myself
35 would be for our Board to write a letter to the school
36 boards here in Alaska. All of the school board members
37 addressing the need to include ANCSA and ANILCA in our
38 curriculum, because it is part of our identity. We need
39 to be specific in the letter to the school board so that
40 they -- oh wow, look at this, yes, it's something we can
41 implement, you know, to really grab them. So, that was
42 one of my suggestions was to write to different areas,
43 school board members and throw in that idea of putting
44 the curriculum in there for the children for the state
45 of Alaska. Anyways, thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I'm back
48 to the Annual Report. Is there any other items we want
49 to put on there?

50

1 MR. SEETOT: Not any other -- Elmer
2 Seetot, Jr., Brevig. In regards to Mary's comment on how
3 Federal Subsistence Board can help the Regional Councils
4 get that into the curriculum. I was going to say that
5 you can probably direct the Federal Subsistence Board
6 to appoint or direct the agencies within the region to
7 provide equipment. We got National Park Service. We can
8 afford a letter to National Park Service. What do you
9 have that is in the Federal regulations that the people
10 of, of this region should know? And in regard to that,
11 our representation by the Seward Regional Advisory
12 Council is going down because, you know, they really
13 don't know either the subject area or they, they're not,
14 you know, too comfortable with the financial
15 compensation, you know, that they're getting compared
16 to, you know, the other private corporations or Councils
17 that they do attend. So, I would kind of add if you're
18 going to try to direct the Federal Subsistence Board or
19 coordinated was kind of mentioning, is there any
20 specific action that they need to do? I would say direct
21 the FSB to contact the different agencies within the
22 region so that so that they can provide a curriculum.
23 We're not near National. We're not near force. So, we
24 would need to contact them. We would just kind of contact
25 National Park Service because they're in charge of
26 Bering Land Bridge. Same way with other places.
27 Kotzebue, they got preserves, monuments, whatever. They
28 got designations by the Federal Government. But I
29 noticed that in Western Arctic Caribou Herd working
30 group that The Selawik and those people associated with
31 the caribou, they had some kind of information material
32 about the resource. If I say it correctly.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: They have a
35 curriculum.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: I know that they had a
38 curriculum. But, you know this is, I think this is the
39 only Wildlife or Regional Advisory Council supported by
40 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, where we don't have no outside
41 wildlife agencies going talking or supporting our group.
42 Never see that. Just the Federal Government and us, as
43 representatives of the Seward Peninsula Regional
44 Advisory Council. Eskimo Walrus Commission received
45 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Yet they partner
46 with others to provide us compensation. Stuff like that.
47 This is the only organization I've seen so far. Whether
48 you ask, I think you can get additional compensation
49 from your Native villages, councils, organizations. But
50 I never seen anything from RAC that say, okay, we'll

00097

1 partner with some other outdoor organization to help you
2 with this and that. Only one I know so far. Thank you.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I'm back
5 to the report and items to put on the report. Go ahead,
6 you got the floor.

7

8 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa. For the record,
9 I want to summarize what I think the Council has
10 identified as topics for the Annual Report. And again,
11 this is an action item. So, if these are accurate the
12 Council would need to make a motion to approve these
13 topics. The first topic was in general about youth
14 engagement programs. The second topic was an
15 informational item to the Federal Subsistence Board on
16 the impacts of commercial fisheries on salmon in the
17 region. And that might be State and Federal, if I'm
18 accurate. The third one was about workshops for inner
19 agencies or other organizations in the region to
20 collaborate and work together on some of these
21 subsistence issues that have been persistent in the
22 region. And the fourth one I had heard Council member
23 Seetot about water quality and microplastics and air
24 pollution and it was during the discussion of the Annual
25 Report replies. But I want to confirm that that is a
26 topic that the Council wants to include in, in the FY
27 24 Annual Report.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, to make
30 this fast and painless, if somebody made a motion to
31 adopt those, we would be done with this.

32

33 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary
34 Freitag. I moved to adopt the list of items to address
35 in the annual meeting report. What else?

36

37 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

40

41 MR. GREEN: Oh, you got a second? Yep.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yep.

44

45 MR. GREEN: Okay, good.

46

47 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question has
50 been called. All in favor, say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, I thought we were going to start over for a minute. All opposed, same sign. Very good. Well, that was a long process. I.....

MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I may interrupt for a second, because I know that mixed in the discussion of the Annual Reports, there were a lot of requests on correspondence. So, I want to make sure that we don't forget about those. I've heard a couple of requests on correspondence, and I'm going to look at these notes because my computer is not working. Okay. There was a request for the Council to submit a letter to the Board in support of the Huslia Tribe petition. Give me just a second to make sure that I have it right. Okay, let me rephrase that. There was a request for a transmittal letter to the secretary of -- to the Board, to the -- sorry. Let me start over. There was a request for the Council to submit a letter to the Board to elevate concerns of the trawling fisheries with the Department of Commerce. I'm sorry, my computer isn't working so, I'm looking at my notes through my phone. Okay. There were two requests. One was in support of the Huslia Tribe petition to NOAA and I'm looking at Lisa to make sure that we're good with the process, that it would have to be a letter to the Board in support of this petition.

MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Brooke.

MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead.

MS. BROOKE: You can -- I -- it sounded to me, and I might have interpreted this wrong, but the Council can send a letter directly to Huslia Tribe in support of their petition, that Huslia could attach going forward. You could let the -- if you write a letter to the Board about trawling to just let them know in that letter that that's something that you did. You don't need the Board to forward that letter to Huslia.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Thank you.

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin for
2 the record. And so just to summarize, it sounds like
3 there's two follow up potential action items with this
4 trawler issue. And so, the one is if the Board or if the
5 Council wants to kind of sign the petition for -- with
6 the Huslia Tribe. And I guess it's up to you whether
7 you'd want to just submit your support in general or
8 write a specific letter about that to the Huslia Tribe.
9 And then the second follow up action item is sending a
10 letter to the Board requesting the board for that letter
11 to the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior and
12 Agriculture. And so, both of those would require a
13 motion.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. So, the
16 one thing with the action of the proposal for the Huslia
17 Tribe. You know, they're opposing or trying to bless
18 everything but trawlers. And I think that's been the
19 message from this region for a long time. So, in a sense,
20 I don't have a problem writing a letter of support to
21 address that. A typical way of addressing it, though,
22 is have the proposal in hand, read the proposal. So,
23 there's no mistakes being made and then go forward from
24 there and earlier I tried to allude to -- I think this
25 is going to be on the table for a long time, and we're
26 probably going to have time to look at it in a meeting
27 later on this winter. But on the other hand, I really,
28 you know, I think the action is going to be the same out
29 of this Board. So, it's up to you guys. I mean, if you
30 want to be safe, let's hold off on blessing that part
31 of the things we're blessing. And I don't think it's
32 going to affect the outcome of that proposal, if that
33 makes sense. Did you have any more you wanted to bring
34 out?

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think
37 earlier Council member Freytag also mentioned the
38 Council writing a letter to the school district to
39 incorporate curriculum on ANILCA, correct?

40
41 MS. FREYTAG: That is correct. Yes.
42 Directly to the area school boards. There are several
43 different school boards specific to their areas, and if
44 we can include all of them, that would be great because
45 they are part of Alaska and they -- it is what identifies
46 us as a people. So, it's very important. And I thank
47 you.

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1 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Mr. Chair, so,
2 that is three letters that the Council would need to
3 take action on.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Is that
6 everything then? And do you need motions on each of
7 these letters or what's the story here?

8
9 MS. CHAPA: I'm looking at the motion on
10 each of the letters or motion on the three letters as
11 discussed.

12
13 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, this is Brooke. You
18 could -- it sounds like there might be still some
19 discussion about which three letters you might like to
20 send. When you make a motion, you could include more
21 than one letter in the motion if you want to. Someone
22 wants to make a final recommendation on which ones to
23 send.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Very good.
26 Okay, I'm going to take them one by one because I think
27 one of the letters, we have time to deal with it and
28 we're really not clear on it. So, I'm going to start
29 with this Huslia proposal. If, if we want to wait on
30 doing the Huslia support letter that would go to NOAA
31 in Hawaii if we want to wait till the winter meeting. I
32 would say we have time, and if we don't make a motion
33 to address that right now, we can bring it back up in
34 in the winter meeting.

35
36 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary
37 Freytag. Can Ana please reiterate what Huslia is asking
38 for again, please.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, Huslia is
41 -- has a proposal to know what to cut out trawlers out
42 of the Bering Sea and leave everything else, all the
43 commercial like halibut fishing, salmon fishing,
44 whatever. But it's talking about taking the trawlers out
45 and making trawlers can't fish anymore.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you for the
48 explanation. This is Mary Freytag. I think that's a very
49 awesome thing to jump and be included with. I mean, it
50 doesn't hurt us at all. And I, as an individual, do

000101

1 support that only because we haven't tried it. That's
2 an avenue that we can look into and maybe it'll -- maybe
3 that's a solution. Maybe that's the culprit. We don't
4 know until we find out. So, thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, again, you
7 know, I'm in favor of writing that letter also. But the
8 problem I have with taking action right now, is we don't
9 have that proposal in our hand. We don't know how it
10 reads. We don't -- we've been told that it takes a
11 trawlers out of the system, but we don't know anything
12 about the proposal. And that's what I've tried to throw
13 on the table, is time is on our side. And if we wait
14 till the winter meeting and address that proposal at
15 that time, they've got time to get that proposal to us
16 and we can go through it and make sure it's something
17 that we support.

18
19 MS. FREYTAG: That's a very good idea.
20 We can go through it with a fine-tooth comb. Thank you.
21 That's a great idea.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. If that
24 is going to get put on hold, we'll move on to the next
25 letter, which is -- tell me what it is.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: It was a letter to the Board
28 on concerns of the impacts of commercial fisheries --
29 on the trawling issue.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, so.....

32
33 MR. GREEN: Informational, correct?

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yep.
36 Informational. And is there a motion to write a letter
37 on the impacts of commercial fisheries that trawlers are
38 doing? I'm looking for a motion, anyway.

39
40 MR. GREEN: I'll make that motion, Mr.
41 Chair, to submit that as an informational.

42
43 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: There's a
46 motion and a second. Any more discussion?

47
48 (No response)

49
50 All in favor, say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All opposed, same sign. Very good. Okay and she'll explain the last letter that we're talking about.

MS. CHAPA: Yes. The third letter was brought up by Council member Freytag on writing to the school districts of the region to try to incorporate ANILCA into curriculum.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I'm looking for a motion.

MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary Freytag. I move to -- move on that motion to write a letter to the area school boards suggesting including in their curriculum -- to include ANCSA and ANILCA because it identifies us as our Native people and how we are related to our lands. Thank you.

MR. GREEN: Louis makes a second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Is there any discussion?

MS. FREYTAG: Question.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Questions been called. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All opposed, same sign. Very good. And did we finish the motion to adopt the annual meeting items?

MS. CHAPA: Yes.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: No? I'm -- so, we are here now. Okay. We are -- golly, we're going too fast. You guys got to slow down. Future meeting dates confirm winter 25 meeting date and location. I move, we go to Hawaii.

MR. GREEN: I second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: I can't move. Anyway, thoughts? Anybody have any thoughts on where you

000103

1 want to have a meeting? You know, Nome has been the
2 place we've held this meeting for as long as I can
3 remember. There's no reason we can't hold it in a village
4 or somewhere else. Just depends what you want. I mean,
5 logistics is a lot of what's going on here, and we can
6 all, you know, this Board can afford to get us to Nome.
7 But that's not to say go crunch numbers and figure it
8 out and we'll have it in Savoonga or Shaktoolik or
9 somewhere. But anyway, I'm -- you had a comment?

10
11 MS. CHAPA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Gisela Chapa for the record. And the next meeting is the
13 winter 2025 meeting. The calendar is on page 115 of your
14 books. The meeting dates for the Seward Peninsula region
15 are set for Tuesday, April 1st and Wednesday, April 2nd,
16 2025, in Nome.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, so we don't
19 need to change anything.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: If the Council doesn't want
22 to change the meeting location, then, no.

23
24 Yeah, this was discussed during a
25 previous meeting and so we just basically want to confirm
26 that the dates and the location works.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, all --
29 if all, I'm going to throw it out there. If you want to
30 change the date for the spring meeting and location, you
31 got a few minutes or few seconds to do it, I guess.
32 Okay, we're moving on to the fall. We are listed October
33 14th, 15th, next fall. Is everybody good with that?
34 Going, going, gone. Okay, so we're all good. Good with
35 that. Yep. All right. What's next on our long agenda?

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. So, both of these
38 will require a motion.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: So, is there a
41 motion to bless those two meeting dates and meetings in
42 Nome.

43
44 MR. GREEN: Louis will bless them.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: There's a
47 motion. Is there a second?

48
49 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

50

000104

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Any discussion?

2

3 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Question has
6 been called. All in favor, say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All opposed,
11 same sign. Motion is carried. Very good. So, are we
12 going to take a break here?

13

14 MS. CHAPA: That is up to the Council.

15

16 (Simultaneous speech)

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: I want a five-
19 minute break. Five-minute runs to ten minutes, usually.
20 Go smoke a cigarette or leave a go to the bathroom or
21 something.

22

23 MR. SEETOT: Or you -- why don't you try
24 to go the end of the agenda?

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: All right.
27 We're going to go till about 10:30 tonight. I jokes, I
28 don't know. I do know I'm going checking my crab --
29 pulling my crab pots tomorrow, so buyer beware. I may
30 not be here after a certain time tomorrow.

31

32 MS. CHAPA: So, we have five-minute
33 break.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Five-minute
36 break. Go, go!

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On Record)

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay, I'm going
43 to call us back to order, if you guys don't mind. And
44 we're at a part in the agenda that's going to come to a
45 grind here pretty quick. So, the question is, we have
46 reports from agencies and other things. Some of it's
47 going to go fast, some of it's going to go slow. The
48 million-dollar question for the Board is do you want to
49 continue tomorrow or do like I want to do and go till
50 midnight? No, I don't want to go to midnight. But if you

1 want to continue this meeting tomorrow, I need a motion
2 to adjourn and come back tomorrow or something. I don't
3 know what -- recess. A motion to recess and come back
4 tomorrow if you want to keep going, I'm -- I'll stay
5 here as long as you want me to. Oh, just a minute. One
6 more thing. Is anybody in the public, is there anybody
7 that wants to address this Board before we recess for
8 the day? And now is a chance to talk to us if you don't
9 want to talk to us, we're probably going to recess, and
10 I'm looking at the audience, but there's also an audience
11 online. If somebody wants to throw something out to us
12 before we adjourn for the day. Now is the time to do it.
13 Okay. And I appreciate you guys having patience and I'll
14 probably be here for a little bit tomorrow, but I've got
15 a few things to address. Oh. I'm sorry. I can't read
16 that small print. Oh, go ahead, Gayla.

17
18 MS. HOSETH: Oh, hi good afternoon, Mr.
19 Chair. Hi, Mr. Chair and Council members. My name is
20 Gayla Hoseth and I'm with the Alaska Federation of
21 Natives. I'm the subsistence chair, and I just wanted
22 to let everybody know of the -- If it wasn't already
23 covered. Of the three tribal seats that are being added
24 to the Federal Subsistence Board. And I've been
25 listening in to your meetings a little bit throughout
26 the day. And if anybody is interested in serving as one
27 of the three tribal seats on the Federal Subsistence
28 Board that those nominations need to come from a Tribal
29 Council and sent to Raina Thiele and Secretary Deb
30 Haaland in D.C. But I just wanted to put that on your
31 guys' radar in case you guys -- in case that wasn't
32 covered during your meeting.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Super. Thank
35 you for bringing that out. And if somebody's interested,
36 make sure you make it known so we can move it along.
37 Anybody else have a comment or want to address us?
38 Someday I'm going to learn how to do what she just did.
39 Have a picture of me. I do this kind of stuff. I don't
40 do that when I do the other one, but Zoom.

41
42 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes, go ahead.

45
46 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Mellisa
47 Johnson. I serve on the advisory panel to the North
48 Pacific Fishery Management Council. I am also a tribal
49 member for Nome Eskimo Community. And I wasn't sure if
50 the letter of support to the -- regarding the Huslia

1 conversation, if it was timely in matter. In regards to
2 any potential changes in our Presidential
3 administration, that if, you know, if it is a timely
4 issue that maybe the information can be reviewed sooner
5 rather than later is one thing. And then in addition,
6 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, we have
7 call for nominations to serve on the advisory panel and
8 the social science or the Science and Statistical
9 Committee. And that deadline is October 31st of this
10 year. So, thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: And thank you.
13 That's -- I -- it seemed like their seats all over being
14 opened up an opportunity for folks. So, thank you very
15 much.

16
17 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chairman, this is Mary
18 Freytag. One quick question. Does the person that
19 interested -- do they need to be on a tribal council
20 from their village, or can they be nominated from RAC?

21
22 MR. AUKONGAK: As long as you're a tribal
23 member. The lady said.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay.

26
27 MS. JONHSON: And regarding.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go -- go ahead.

30
31 MS. JOHNSON: Regarding the North Pacific
32 Fishery Management Council, it is open to any member of
33 the public involved in fisheries. And you do not need
34 to be a tribal member.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay.

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Go ahead. Who's
41 that?

42
43 MR. GREEN: Do we have to be -- do we
44 have -- okay. How do we get nominated through a tribe
45 or outside the tribe?

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, this is Brooke
48 McDavid with OSM. I just wanted to add. So, I guess
49 there's two things that are being talked about here. One
50 that the lady sorry, I think it was Mellisa brought up

1 about that North Pacific is accepting nominations for
2 their science census statistical committee. Also, what
3 Gayla brought up about the new seats on public, three
4 public member seats on the Federal Subsistence Board.
5 Those do need to be nominated by tribes. But it can be
6 anyone that the tribe wishes to nominate, whether they
7 are a tribal member or not. Thanks.

8

9 MR. GREEN: Were they also AP seat?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: What? What was
12 that? Louis, I didn't -- I didn't get what.....

13

14 MR. GREEN: I'm sorry. Was that -- Yeah
15 sorry, Mr. Chair, wasn't there advisory panel seats
16 open.

17

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Yes.

21

22 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. The advisory
23 panel and the Science and Statistical Committee, the
24 nomination to the North Pacific Fishery Management
25 Council. It closes 5 p.m. Alaska time on October 31st.

26

27 MR. GREEN: And is that an application
28 process or tribal nomination or other organization
29 nominations?

30

31 MS. JOHNSON: So, it could be individual
32 letter of intent. It could be a tribal or it could be
33 any nomination regardless of sector representation. So,
34 for example, if you work for the industry, then you can
35 apply or you can be nominated by your coworker. If you
36 work in the, like, regular, you know small commercial
37 boat fisheries, you know, that are like, say, the
38 (indiscernible) NSEDC. Someone can nominate you or any
39 member of the public that is involved in fisheries.

40

41 MR. GREEN: So, for instance, with the
42 say for me, if I wanted to AP -- to be nominated for AP
43 or submit, it's either individual letter of intent or
44 could the RAC submit a letter on my behalf?

45

46 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Yes. So, as a
47 member of the public, you can submit your letter of
48 intent and then as many letters of support, whether it
49 be from this Regional Advisory Committee, your tribal

50

000108

1 council any other -- any organization out there that you
2 communicate with to put in those letters of support.

3

4 MR. GREEN: Okay, thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Okay. Any other
7 questions? Any other thoughts? Any anybody have
8 something they want to throw at us before we adjourn for
9 the day?

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Okay. Well is there a motion to recess
14 for the day?

15

16 MR. AUKONGAK: I'll make that motion.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Second.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Second,
21 there's a motion and a second. Any discussion?

22

23 (Off record conversation)

24

25 Okay, all in favor, say aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 All opposed, same sign. All right. See
30 you guys tomorrow.

31

32 MR. GREEN: What time in the morning?

33

34 (Simultaneous speech)

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRAY: Oh, Martin
37 wants to be here at six 9 o'clock, 9 o'clock. All right.
38 Thank all of you guys for coming and being part of this.

39

40 MR. GREEN: Thanks. Thanks for sharing.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (END OF PROCEEDING)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 108 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 24th day of October;

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 Isabela, Puerto Rico this 19th day of November 2024.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager