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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

VIRTUAL-TELECONFERENCE  
October 29, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Dunaway, Acting Chair  
Richard Wilson  
Kenneth Nukwak  
William Trefon  
John Rhyshek  
Robert Hill

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

Recorded and transcribed by:

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Info.@lighthouseonline.com

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

(Virtual-Teleconference - 10/29/24)

(On record)

MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you, everybody. I really apologize for this debacle this morning. I am not sure what happened, but let me -- so, I think we're just waiting on Togiak Refuge staff to switch on over. Okay, I see Andy made it on. So, I think Togiak Refuge switched over. Yay! Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: We are here.

MS. HONIG: Okay, wonderful. Thank you all so very much for the patience this morning with all of this technical difficulties. So, I guess we can get started. And so, all the meeting materials are available online, doi.gov/subsistence. You'll go to the Regional Advisory Council tab, Bristol Bay, and then the Meeting Materials, and you'll be able to find all of -- the current agenda and all of the meeting materials. And so, real quick, Dan, if I could just do a couple housekeeping announcements and then we can just jump in. If that sounds good.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Please do so.

MS. HONIG: Okay, so since we're all calling in or on via Teams, please make sure that everything is muted. If you're calling in, you can mute yourself by doing star six. And also, if you're calling in and you would like to raise your hand to address the Council, you can push star five and it will raise your hand, and we can call out by name or by the last four digits of the phone number to call on you, and you can address the Council. If you're using the Teams platform, you can just simply use the raise your hand function too and the Chair will call on you. So, I'd like to remind folks that this is a public meeting and it is being recorded and transcribed. So, the Council will be discussing and deliberating on fisheries proposals, and there will be an opportunity for tribal and public comments during the proposal period. And you can see these steps on the proposal presentation available online and if you have a copy of the meeting book, that's on page 35. And I'd also like to remind folks that there will be time for tribal and public comments on non-

1 agenda items and the Chair will announce this each  
2 morning, and there'll be an opportunity for those  
3 present, and as well as those on the phone to speak on  
4 these non-agenda items. We'd ask for you to hold any  
5 comments on proposals or agenda items until such time  
6 as they come up before the Council, so that the Council  
7 will hear all pertinent information at the time they are  
8 working on. However, the Chair can make an exception.  
9 And so, if you would like to also submit a comment via  
10 email, you can do that. You can submit your comment to  
11 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Please indicate your name,  
12 affiliation, what proposal you would like your comment  
13 to be addressed on. Written comments will be accepted  
14 until the start of the presentation of each proposal and  
15 closure review analysis. All right, thank you. Mr.  
16 Chair, if we wanna [sic] start off with an invocation,  
17 and then we can move into roll call and establish quorum.  
18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. I  
20 can't even see who all is on at this point, but I wonder  
21 if Richard, if you're on, would you be willing to get  
22 us started with invocation.  
23

24 MR. WILSON: Good morning, Dan.  
25 Certainly, I sure can here. Everybody listening in, this  
26 is the start of our morning meeting here, and we always  
27 start with the invocation, which is we look to God, our  
28 Lord for guidance. So, let's take like 30 seconds,  
29 everybody's got something on their mind, of course. I'll  
30 give you guys about 30 seconds and then we'll -- I'll  
31 finish the invocation, please. Our gracious Heavenly  
32 Father, we thank you for opportunities that you give us  
33 in this life to gather together, Lord, even though we're  
34 on a phone line here, Lord. You know our hearts and our  
35 minds. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity and ask  
36 your blessing upon this meeting and the people that are  
37 attending, and that we would be diligent in how we handle  
38 ourselves, and most importantly, that we look to you for  
39 guidance on how to deal with our resources that you've  
40 allowed us. So, we ask your blessing here in Christ  
41 Jesus name we pray. Amen.  
42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Amen. Thank  
44 you very much. Okay. I guess we can call this meeting  
45 to order. I have 8:57, and whoever official record keeper  
46 is, whatever the time is. For people's information, I  
47 was contacted by Nanci, our Chair, that she was gonna  
48 [sic] be unable to attend this meeting and she wouldn't  
49 take me with her to Argentina. So, I'm gonna be Chairing  
50 the meeting. I'm not very experienced with being Chair,

0004

1 so bear with me and we'll try to accommodate everybody's  
2 needs best we can. With that, I want to welcome everybody  
3 and shall we start with the roll call? Do you do that,  
4 Leigh?

5

6 MS. HONIG: Yeah, I can certainly help  
7 out with that. Since we're all online, I can just --  
8 I'll start off with members of the public if you can go  
9 ahead and introduce yourself.

10

11 MR. KANULIE: Hello, can you hear me?

12

13 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

14

15 MR. KANULIE: This is Walter Kanulie. I'm  
16 listening in by phone from Togiak.

17

18 MS. HONIG: Thank you for joining us.  
19 Okay, are there any tribal governments online that would  
20 like to introduce themselves?

21

22 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Gayla Hoeseth,  
23 Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham, also here as  
24 Bristol Bay Native Association.

25

26 MS. HONIG: Good morning, Gayla. I'm glad  
27 you could join us.

28

29 MS. HOSETH: Good morning.

30

31 MS. HONIG: Sorry for the mishap with  
32 having to switch over to teleconference last minute. So,  
33 thank you for joining us. Okay, is there anybody  
34 from.....

35

36 (Simultaneous speech)

37

38 MS. HONIG: Sorry, go ahead.

39

40 MS. DRAY: Sorry. I'm Jorjana Dray. I am  
41 the programs activities coordinator in the natural  
42 resources department at BBNA. Thank you.

43

44 MS. HONIG: Thank you. Alaska Department  
45 of Fish and Game. Is there anybody on from that  
46 department?

47

48 MS. VANDERVOORT: This is, Amy  
49 Vandervoort. I'm the area biologist for the king salmon  
50 for (distortion) for Fish and Game.

1

2

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'll jump in there. (Distortion) I was texting Tim Sands, I think he's trying to get to Dillingham and possibly in the Anchorage airport. I haven't heard from other Fish and Game guys I reached out to. I'd also add that Courtenay Carty is called in trying to listen in, I think she's not sure what capacity at this point, but anyway.

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MS. CARTY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, good morning. This is Courtenay. Sorry you guys, when I heard roll call, I thought it was going through Council roll call to establish quorum. Member of the public, Courtenay Carty. I live and work here in Dillingham, I work for First Alaskans Institute as the Indigenous Advancement Director, but I'm participating as a member of the public, traditional harvester here in Dillingham and I'd say long time Federal subsistence management program fan. Thank you.

21

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MS. HONIG: Thank you, Courtenay. I did kind of jump around on the agenda. We probably should've started with roll call and establishing a quorum, but we can do this after introducing the public and agency staff. So, once again, sorry for the confusion. A little frazzled this morning with all the technical difficulties. Okay, let's move on to anybody from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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MR. ANDERMAN: Andy Aderman, with Togiak Refuge.

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MR. GERKEN: Jon Gerken, Fisheries in Anchorage.

MR. MOOS: Kenton Moos, Togiak Refuge.

MS. HONIG: Wonderful. Okay, so, National Park Service.

MR. STURM: Good morning, Mark Sturm. Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alagnak National Monument Preserve, and the -- Alagnak Wild River, and the Aniakchak National Monument Preserve.

MS. HONIG: Good morning.

MS. RUPP: Good morning, this is Liza Rupp, from Lake Clark National Park and Preserve subsistence and cultural team lead. Good morning.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Morning,  
welcome.

MS. RUPP: Thank you. Sorry, I'm not in  
Dillingham.

(Distortion)

UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible) Katmai  
National Park cultural resource and subsistence. Nice  
to see you guys.

MS. HONIG: Good morning.

MR. HAMON: And this is Troy Hamon with  
Katmai, Aniakchak, and Alagnak also. Good morning.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Morning.

MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, everyone.  
This is Dillon Patterson with the National Park Service  
regional subsistence program in Anchorage. And good to  
see you all online, but sad we couldn't make it out to  
Dillingham to see everybody in person.

MS. ZHAROFF: Hello. Mallory Zharoff,  
subsistence coordinator and Katmai tribal liaison. Nice  
to meet you guys.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Welcome. A  
last name I haven't heard for a while.

MS. HONIG: Okay, and then Office of  
Subsistence Management staff.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. STONE: Good morning.

MS. GREDIAGIN: .....Grediagin, Wildlife  
Division, Supervisor with OSM.

MR. STONE: Sorry, Lisa. Jarred Stone,  
fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
Management. Good morning.

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1 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. Kendra Holman,  
2 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management.

4  
5 MR. KOHLER: Hey, good morning. My name  
6 is Justin Kohler.....

7  
8 (Simultaneous speech)

9  
10 MR. KOLLER: Pippa, is that you?

11  
12 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner,  
13 and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence  
14 Management here in Anchorage.

15  
16 MR. KOLLER: And one more shot. This is  
17 Justin Koller with OSM. I'm the acting regulation  
18 specialist right now. I'm also a fisheries biologist.  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. HONIG: Wonderful. Okay, did I miss  
22 anybody that would like to introduce themselves?

23  
24 MR. WERWA: Yeah, hi. This is Eric Werwa.  
25 I'm Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and  
26 Environmental Management in the Office of the Secretary  
27 of the Interior. Excited to be here. As you'll hear  
28 about later, the Office of Subsistence Management was  
29 moved into the Office of the Secretary earlier this year  
30 and is my portfolio. And so, I've been trying to attend  
31 as many RAC meetings as possible to get a chance to meet  
32 people and better understand the issues that you're  
33 working on. So, thanks.

34  
35 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, good morning. This is  
36 Kenneth Nukwak, Bristol Bay RAC. My phone had cut off  
37 and I'm back in.

38  
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Hey, good  
40 morning, Kenneth. Glad you could make it back.

41  
42 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, good morning, Dan.

43  
44 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris McKee,  
45 statewide subsistence coordinator for the Bureau of Land  
46 Management, out of the State office in Anchorage.

47  
48 MS. HONIG: Alrighty. Well, I think we  
49 made it through all of the welcome and introductions if  
50 we want to jump back around on the agenda. Mr. Chair, I

0008

1 can do a roll call of the Council members and establish  
2 quorum if you'd like.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. Please  
5 do, and the reason I was asking you is I'm having trouble  
6 reading some of the names here on the screen and all.  
7 So, I was hoping you could see them better, but, yeah,  
8 we do need to get our Council members on the record  
9 here, please.

10

11 MS. HONIG: Okay, wonderful. So, I'll  
12 start off with Nanci, who has an excused absence. William  
13 Trefon.

14

15 MR. TREFON: Here.

16

17 (Simultaneous speech)

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, here.

20

21 MS. HONIG: Okay. Kenneth Nukwak.

22

23 MR. NUKWAK: Here.

24

25 MS. HONIG: John Rhyshek.

26

27 (No response)

28

29 Richard Wilson.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Here.

32

33 MS. HONIG: John Christensen. (Pause) He  
34 said he might not be able to call in, he had another  
35 work conflict. Same with John Rhyshek, and just for the  
36 record, we can call him once we get to the proposals to  
37 -- or other action items too and he'll be available.  
38 Robert Hill.

39

40 MR. HILL: Here.

41

42 MS. HONIG: Great. Thanks for joining us.  
43 Okay, we have five Council members present, and that is  
44 enough to establish a quorum. So, okay. Mr. Chair, I  
45 will pass it back over to you, and if you wanna start  
46 on agenda item 6, which is gonna be review and adopt the  
47 agenda. Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. With  
50 that, I'll open a -- he opened a motion to adopt the



0009

1 agenda. And if there's items to add before we move --  
2 make that motion, I'd like to hear them.

3  
4 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may  
5 interject, I just see you online with the meeting book.  
6 There is an updated agenda posted online. It doesn't  
7 differ very much from the one you have in your meeting  
8 book. The only additions were the possibility of  
9 discussing Board of Game proposals and then there's also  
10 the Joint Council letter from two other Councils that  
11 we can review, and the Council can choose to write a  
12 letter if they would wish. So, those are the only two  
13 items that differ from the printed one. But once again,  
14 there is an updated agenda available on the website at  
15 doi.gov/subsistence.

16  
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
18 you for that. I've been scrambling the last week, so I  
19 didn't know that. Where would you suggest putting each  
20 of those items. I'm particularly interested since I see  
21 Amy's on and I haven't been able to go through all the  
22 State proposals, especially for her side of the Bay. And  
23 certainly want to give her and, I don't know if John or  
24 Evelyn over here in Dillingham are gonna jump in, but  
25 where could we put those in the agenda?

26  
27 MS. HONIG: Yeah. Mr. Chair, so the  
28 agenda that's posted online, I did add those to the  
29 agenda under item 12, action items, and they're listed  
30 as I, the Board of Game proposals and then letter J, for  
31 the Joint Eastern Interior in YK Delta letter.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

34  
35 (Pause)

36  
37 With that, do I hear a motion to adopt  
38 the agenda?

39  
40 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair. Richard Wilson.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

43  
44 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I have not had an  
45 opportunity to look through any of those Game proposals.  
46 This fall has been a very busy one, and I don't -- I'm  
47 not prepared to discuss any of those Game proposals in  
48 this meeting. I'm not sure why they added them at the  
49 end. Is there a reason why we have to add those in this  
50 meeting?

00010

1

2                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: We probably  
3 don't. In a lot of ways, I was thinking it might be an  
4 opportunity, if nothing else, just a heads up of what's  
5 coming or if they were -- if the Wildlife was interested  
6 in -- the State Wildlife was interested in hearing our  
7 perspective on anything. Okay?

8

9                   MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm just not prepared  
10 to have discussions on Game at this point so, I'll leave  
11 that up to you.

12

13                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,  
14 maybe we leave it up if Amy wants to bring things up.  
15 And I don't know that Evelyn or John here in Dillingham  
16 are on, they might be tied up with other items. So,  
17 still open for a motion here to adopt.

18

19                   MR. TREFON: I'll make a motion to adopt  
20 (distortion - indiscernible).

21

22                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
23 Billy. Billy's moved to adopt with these additions. Is  
24 that correct? Thank you. There a second?

25

26                   UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

27

28                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
29 Any discussion?

30

31                   (No response)

32

33                   With that, I'll.....

34

35                   (Simultaneous speech)

36

37                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

38

39                   MR. WILSON: No. Richard. I just said I'm  
40 not prepared for.....

41

42                   (Simultaneous speech)

43

44                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

45

46                   (Simultaneous speech)

47

48                   MR. WILSON: .....the discussion on the  
49 Game side of things, but go ahead.

50

00011

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
2 All those in favor say aye.

3  
4                   UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Aye. I'll  
7 vote yes.

8  
9                   UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

10  
11                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any  
12 oppose?

13  
14                   UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

15  
16                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think I  
17 heard five of in favor. So, a motion carries. Thank you  
18 very much. What's next here? Call to order, quorum,  
19 meeting announcements. We've kinda done some of the  
20 introductions. In the interest of time, unless somebody  
21 felt left out, I'd like to move on. Is there anybody  
22 wants to introduce themselves before we move further?

23  
24                   MR. LANSIEDEL: Mr. Chair, his is John  
25 Lansiedel with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I  
26 just wanted to let you know that I am here.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, good,  
29 great. Thank you, welcome. Okay, at this point, since  
30 we've adopted our agenda, looks like review and approve  
31 the meeting minutes. We have a couple sets. Does anybody  
32 want to make a motion on the draft winter meeting minutes  
33 from the last winter 2024.

34  
35                   MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson here. I'll  
36 move to adopt, approve.

37  
38                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
39 Richard moves. Is there a second?

40  
41                   MR. TREFON: I'll second.

42  
43                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
44 Billy. Is there any discussion?

45  
46                   MR TREFON: Question.

47  
48                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
49 somebody start. I have one comment a very small one, on  
50 the book on page 6, under Council member and Chair

00012

1 reports the very first paragraph about Norman Anderson.  
2 About third line down, he says he shared a hundred bounds  
3 b-o-u-n-d-s, and I think that's just a typo, should be  
4 pounds. That's the only thing I found. Has anybody else  
5 seen any corrections needed for the minutes?  
6

7 (No response)  
8

9 Hearing none. Did somebody call for the  
10 question? Billy's call for the question, I'm gonna kinda  
11 go for a unanimous consent and then listen for any  
12 objections. Can I call for unanimous consent on this --  
13 on the minutes, or is there an objection?  
14

15 (No objection)  
16

17 Hearing none. I'll assume that's  
18 approved and now we need a motion to approve the Winter  
19 Joint meeting minutes. Do I hear a motion to adopt?  
20

21 MR TREFON: Yes, I move.  
22

23 MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson here. I moved  
24 to adopt the All Council meeting minutes.  
25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, Billy  
27 and Richard moved to adopt. Is there a second?  
28

29 MR. HILL: I second, Robert Hill.  
30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
32 Robert. Good to hear you. Is there any discussion on the  
33 joint meeting minutes?  
34

35 (No response)  
36

37 That was a heck of a big meeting. I kinda  
38 [sic] boggling, I found nothing to discuss on there  
39 myself. Anybody else?  
40

41 (No response)  
42

43 So, shall we -- I ask for unanimous  
44 consent, unless there's objection.  
45

46 (No objection)  
47

48 With hearing no objection, then I'm  
49 gonna assume unanimous consent on the All Draft Council  
50 meeting minutes. Moving to reports. You can go through

1 the Council member reports. Need to keep flipping back  
2 and forth in this book. These are our kinda accounts of  
3 what's [sic] have been happening since the last meeting.  
4 See, I don't -- Robert, do you have something to cover  
5 on that? Oh, page. Thank you, Billy. We have read this.  
6 Page 6, these reports. Oh, that was actually last year's.  
7 I think at this point, don't we give a report on what's  
8 happened since the meeting. Maybe you can clarify for  
9 me, Leigh?

10  
11 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair, you are  
12 correct. If the Council members would like to go around  
13 and share information about their area and their  
14 harvesting for the past year. You can call on folks.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
17 that's what I was gonna ask Robert if he had anything  
18 for us and kind of just go down our member list here.

19  
20 MR. HILL: Oh, sorry about that. Yeah,  
21 I'll just keep it short. But I guess most noticeable  
22 recently is just there's -- this fall, there's been a  
23 good abundance of reds up around the lake area here for  
24 harvesting and that's I guess off the cuff. The main  
25 thing that I've noticed here.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Always good  
28 to hear abundance. How is moose hunting or any other  
29 hunting?

30  
31 MR. HILL: There was a decent amount of  
32 moose taken here around Kokhanok this fall. I want to  
33 say I think I've heard of four, which is a good number  
34 for the village. Ptarmigan have made a comeback pretty  
35 steadily, and still quite a few rabbits and lynx in the  
36 area. So, yeah, good to see things moving around.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
39 that's good news. Nanci is not here. Is John on, John  
40 Rhyshek?

41  
42 (No response)

43  
44 Maybe we get to him later. Billy.

45  
46 MR. TREFON: Okay, not really much  
47 happening, especially for the moose hunt. Even though  
48 we got ten days extra out of that moose hunt up in our  
49 area, but due to the weather, not a whole lot of people  
50 got to remove them. It was raining and cold and Hyder

1 time. I did notice when I was up in Chulitna, up there  
2 where we've been having problems with the air traffic  
3 flying over. All the aircrafts have been flying over  
4 Chulitna and actually been flying right up against the  
5 mountains. Not even near the near the Chulitna River.  
6 Didn't see any no low flying aircraft, but that could  
7 have been because of the weather in the area. I think  
8 it might've been three moose that might have been taken  
9 out of our area, I'm not totally sure. Everyone got  
10 their fish, as we always do, and (indiscernible) was a  
11 little confusion on the five days extended for the Park  
12 Service moose hunt, it was on a Preserve or was it on a  
13 Park but that was straighten out. It would take a couple  
14 of years (indiscernible), motivated and just realize you  
15 got ten days extra hunt. But it's a good thing. Doesn't  
16 seem like we have any problems -- this year was a little  
17 different with brown bears, we didn't have no brown bear  
18 issue. They just came through and went right on up toward  
19 the ponds. Nobody talked about their fish net being  
20 broken into, nothing like that, it's been pretty quiet.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's it?

23

24 MR. TREFON: Yep.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,  
27 that's good news. No bear problems always welcome. I  
28 think I saw where it was pretty good abundance went into  
29 the whole system so, maybe they didn't have to take --  
30 you didn't have to share. Thank you. See, Billy. Kenneth,  
31 what do you have for us?

32

33 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, good morning. Yeah,  
34 starting from springtime when me and my wife started out  
35 hunting, we've been seeing a lot of cows with twins --  
36 twinning calves. Starting at Igushik and then on up to  
37 Igushik River. I haven't heard any report from the Wood  
38 River and the Nushagak River, how they're -- how they've  
39 been doing on their calves and those cows. And then  
40 there's been a whole bunch of ptarmigans we've been  
41 seeing when we were moose hunting. It seems like they  
42 have more than quadrupled, I think, to my guess. And  
43 then when me and my wife were hunting for moose and our  
44 son -- we've been seeing a lot of bears on the Igushik  
45 River. Up the Amanka, up the (indiscernible) and Ongoake  
46 River, on the map it's o-n-g-o-a-k-e. But the Yup'ik  
47 term for that river is (In Native), where a majority of  
48 the hunters that know the river that can champion that  
49 rocky river. That's where we go hunting a lot and there's  
50 been a lot of bears there, and that -- I think that

1 forces the cows and the calves and the bulls to go a  
2 little further up into the mountain sides -- hillsides  
3 away from the river and away from the predators, wolves  
4 and especially bears in the summertime. And that's a  
5 problem down here in Manokotak side where it is -- to  
6 my opinion that it is overlooked. Hardly any monitor in  
7 our section, I think. And just that one spot on the  
8 (indiscernible) that separates from the Ongoake River.  
9 Within that one square mile, we saw 10 to 15 bears.  
10 That's one spot, a little bit too many. And we saw a  
11 young bull and a cow, but we didn't want to shoot it,  
12 cause after we cut it up, we'd have to pack it down, and  
13 then that would attract the bears to steal it away from  
14 us if we had hunted the bull moose.

15  
16 And then on our fish camp down at  
17 Igushik there's been a lot of break-ins, even one family  
18 member lost their brand new toyo stove -- or monitor to  
19 whomever was stealing stuff from the cabins down at  
20 Igushik beach. And that's not -- to top it off with a  
21 bear, there was a bear also that was ravaging the cabins  
22 and tearing the walls down to get inside. Hopefully not  
23 drugged up like the other people that were stealing. And  
24 then there's been a lot of good count of red salmon up  
25 Igushik River. And let's see, and Manokotak is still in  
26 -- still interested in a State Advisory Committee for  
27 the community of Manokotak. The other communities I  
28 haven't heard from, except that when I called  
29 (indiscernible) that -- that's Coopchiak, how they're  
30 doing with their Kake Pierce caribou. He said he'd call  
31 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge on that on his own, I  
32 think, and that's for them to decide how they're going  
33 to approach that. Other than that we had a good summer.  
34 Could've got [sic] a moose, but I didn't shoot it. And  
35 that's it.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
38 you, Kenneth. That's unfortunate, having bad bears and  
39 bad people, so. Richard, do you have something for us?

40  
41 MR. WILSON: Good morning, Dan. Yeah,  
42 just a little here. Of course, last winter, you know,  
43 that North Peninsula Caribou Herd was -- not a whole lot  
44 of them moved far enough north here to where we had  
45 access to them. There was a few people got on what little  
46 came off of the hills or was accessible. The winter of  
47 course, have change course a little bit. And with the  
48 river freezing up and thawing and stuff was -- created  
49 problems throughout the winter. But there was a few  
50 caribou taken. I'm not quite sure, I'm sure we'll have

1 some reports on what that looked like in the final draft  
2 there. But of course, through the summer, we all  
3 recognize that the fish were a lot smaller. We did get  
4 a, you know, a fair abundance of fish. Of course, kings  
5 are pretty hard to find and what we did have were pretty  
6 small. That's still an issue in these systems over here  
7 in the Naknek and the branch. In our fall season -- we  
8 took advantage of the early but didn't see anything  
9 early. The Kvichak side of things seemed like on the  
10 lower two thirds of the system there is -- we saw very  
11 few cows. I think we saw one cow and two calves in the  
12 week to ten days, early part of the season. Of course,  
13 a lot of that is because of the warming of the weather  
14 and stuff. They're probably not along the river systems  
15 where we're used to seeing them. And so, the early part  
16 of the season, it wasn't -- didn't sound like a whole  
17 lot of takers. Some on the upper part of the Kvichak  
18 there, got an early one. The Naknek side of things, it  
19 seemed like it was pretty slow also, and they didn't --  
20 I don't think people got a whole lot until towards the  
21 end of the season there where there -- were the moose  
22 finally started moving because all the foliage, it was  
23 hard to see them. But that's nature.

24  
25                   Yeah, we didn't get a chance to do any  
26 harvesting of the fall fishery here, and just -- I just  
27 know that in some of the reporting here, they indicated  
28 that there was no subsistence in the National Park, which  
29 is untrue. We do have a red fish take in the fall in the  
30 Park here. But we didn't utilize that one here this year  
31 because of personal reasons. But -- and then that kind  
32 of ends my report there. But I've gotta bow out here in  
33 about an hour, I have -- we have a funeral to go to. My  
34 aunt Marie Alvarez funeral at 11. So, I'm gonna bow at  
35 about 10:30, and I can try to get back on here later  
36 this afternoon. But that's gonna be my schedule here for  
37 today. Thank you.

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
40 Richard. And yes, my condolences to Alvarez. I didn't  
41 know the family. I know Randy, consider him an excellent  
42 friend, and by all accounts, his mom was a wonderful  
43 lady. So, our condolences. Yeah, thank you. I have been  
44 wondering if that red fish fishery gets used very much.  
45 I know it was hard -- a hard tour to get that access  
46 allowed, and I hope people are able to get it as needed.  
47 Thank you.

48  
49                   Well, I'll take my turn on the report.  
50 And see, I even wrote a few things down. Reds were



1 abundant over here in Nushagak area, but as Richard said,  
2 they're small, and they really hit me how small they  
3 were when I was up on the Wood River later in the fall,  
4 and it looked like a goldfish pond up there, these itty-  
5 bitty males. But I think people got plenty of fish.  
6 Kings are low number, I think there was a lot of  
7 closures, I don't think subsistence was closed. Chums  
8 were more -- much more numerous this year than we've  
9 seen for a while, but I didn't catch very many. Silver  
10 seems sparse in the Wood River. People I know, that are  
11 pretty avid anglers and such, they ended up running over  
12 onto the Nushagak and getting a few, but they weren't  
13 real abundant. I haven't heard on the size.

14  
15 My impression is that moose hunting was  
16 pretty successful. There was an extension, but there was  
17 some tough weather. Personally, my -- had boat motor  
18 problems. It totally knocked me out of the moose hunt.  
19 I got two days that we could call it hunting, while I  
20 was anxiously trying to get my motor first up the river,  
21 and then even more worried about getting it back.  
22 Salmonberries were really abundant in my -- from my  
23 observations, I didn't have as much chance to pick  
24 berries later cause of moose -- of problems, but when I  
25 did look for blueberries, they seemed kind of sparse.  
26 And I haven't heard really about huckleberries, I think  
27 some people were getting them, but you had to work for  
28 them, and I didn't see a lot of lowbush cranberries. But  
29 there again, I didn't look real hard. We had some bear  
30 issues around Dillingham, but the City is not been doing  
31 well on their landfill management, but I think they're  
32 working hard to get it better, and I think that'll  
33 hopefully fix it -- get it under control. I get the  
34 sense that grouse hunting's been all right, and I've  
35 heard a few people getting ptarmigan. That's about all  
36 I have for subsistence reports. If I missed anybody or  
37 anybody wanna add to what they covered? Now, I don't  
38 know if I have anything beyond that kind of a report to  
39 make. Leigh, as far as Chairs reports.

40  
41 MS. HONIG: Yeah, that was perfect, Dan.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, thank  
44 you. That's not often for me. So, okay here's a  
45 opportunity for public and tribal comment on non-agenda  
46 items. I guess raise your hand or speak up. And we'll  
47 try to make sure everybody gets a chance to speak, okay?

48  
49 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, it looks like we  
50 have Gayla available for raising her hand.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Go ahead, Gayla. Welcome.

MR. HOSETH: Thank you. Hi, good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. Gayla Hoseth with Curyung Tribal Council and also Alaska Federation of Natives Subsistence Chair. I just wanted to bring up the attention to the Council of the three tribal seats that will be up for the Federal Subsistence Board. And that's for tribes to nominate somebody -- excuse me, my voice is not with me this morning. If you know of somebody who wants to serve on the Federal Subsistence Board, that they're seeking nominations from tribes, and those nominations could be tribal members or non-tribal members to serve on the Federal Subsistence Board. So, if you know of somebody in the Bristol Bay region or statewide who's interested in serving on the Federal Subsistence Board, please work with your local tribes to get your nomination letters in as soon as possible.

And that will change the whole makeup of the Federal Subsistence Board. And as you guys all know, we've been advocating for tribal seats for quite some time to have that tribal input and with the addition of those three tribal seats, it will bring that Federal Subsistence Board to an 11-member Council, which will be really good for when it comes time for proposals. They'll be no more even votes and we won't have to wait so many years for decisions to be made, that decisions will be able to be made at the Federal Subsistence Board, with a yes or no vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, I think I heard you speak a little on this, some of the AFN coverage. It be interesting to watch this unfold, thank you. Anybody else?

MR. KANULIE: Hello?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

MR. KANULIE: This is Walter Kanulie, I'm calling from Togiak. This fall, I wasn't on the hunt, but the village got, like, two walruses from Round Island. I was on -- in Anchorage on a medical thing, but my niece called and said that two had been caught. Peter (indiscernible) was the one who went -- I -- you know, I don't -- I haven't asked who all went, but we finally got two this year after the last unsuccessful -- two

1 unsuccessful years. But that's -- I just wanted to make  
2 a comment on that.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's good  
5 to hear, that you got an opportunity. I kinda missed the  
6 days when they brought him into Dillingham here. I  
7 actually kinda got to learn how to cook them, so. But  
8 I'm glad people are getting them. Anything else, Walter?

9

10 MR. KANULIE: We try to -- tried to  
11 extend the season here for the moose. Just like somebody  
12 I overheard earlier, the weather was -- it was the same,  
13 like, rainy, you know, wet and then there's like -- I  
14 don't remember how many, I think the last I heard was,  
15 like, 11 bulls and three cows, but I'm not sure. And  
16 that's, you know, for the amount of moose that have been  
17 reported here in our -- in the river system. So, I didn't  
18 go, but that's what I heard from Peter (indiscernible).  
19 And like that -- you know, other than that I've seen  
20 people getting like red, reds from Upper Lake. And people  
21 will probably start going out for seal. The seagulls are  
22 here, so the smolts are probably running. But Jimmy told  
23 me about this, and he wanted me to listen in Jimmy  
24 Coopchiak.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,  
27 that's excellent, Walter, thank you very much. Good  
28 information, we'll probably -- when we get to the agency  
29 reports, maybe we'll have a -- updates on moose harvest  
30 and some of the other things like that. Okay, Walter.  
31 Who else, with public and tribal non-agenda items?

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Well, I'm gonna move on. If anybody  
36 joins or has something they want to talk about, we try  
37 to be pretty accommodating as we go. So, raise your hand  
38 or speak up. Yeah, I also do wanna try to move the  
39 meeting along. Honestly, if we can get this meeting done  
40 today would be, I think, probably ideal for everybody.  
41 This -- these electronic meetings are challenging. Next  
42 is Council training and delegation of authority and I  
43 guess at this point maybe OSM wildlife can bring us up  
44 to date on that.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman.  
47 Leigh, are we trying to run this through Teams at all  
48 or just, this -- the slideshow so people can see it  
49 or...?

50

00020

1 MS. HONIG: We definitely can, if you  
2 want to.

3  
4 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah, for anybody who can  
5 see it, might be helpful. For those who can't see the  
6 actual Teams presentation, the presentation is in the  
7 meeting materials online. I think I just have the Adobe  
8 version that it's online so, let me.....

9  
10 MS. HONIG: Let me know if you want me  
11 to share, Kendra.

12  
13 MS. HOLMAN: Where's the slides? Okay.  
14 Can -- I guess, let me know when you can see my screen  
15 here. I'm trying to make it a little bigger.

16  
17 MS. HONIG: I can see your screen,  
18 Kendra.

19  
20 MS. HOLMAN: Awesome, thank you.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, it  
23 looks pretty good.

24  
25 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So, I guess, good  
26 morning.....

27  
28 (Simultaneous speech)

29  
30 MS. HOLMAN: .....Mr. Chair, members of  
31 the Council. My name is Kendra Holman and I'm a wildlife  
32 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
33 We're here to present the Delegation of Authority  
34 training. Moving forward, OSM plans to hold one training  
35 session at each Council meeting. We feel this will help  
36 the new Council members become more familiar with the  
37 Federal Subsistence Management Program and serve as a  
38 refresher for the more seasoned members. Today, we will  
39 go over the basics of the Delegation of Authority. This  
40 training is meant to be informal and is not an action  
41 item. With this, we might as well get started. Oh, sorry,  
42 my talking points just closed on me. The objective of  
43 this training is to provide information about the  
44 Delegation of Authority, show the councils where to find  
45 the information about delegated authority, and discuss  
46 the Council's role in delegated authority. This training  
47 is meant to provide a broad overview of the delegated  
48 authority. There will be a time for Q&A at the end of  
49 the training, to get into specifics and to discuss region  
50 specific delegation of authority issues.

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Here is the regulation that allows the Board to delegate their authority to agency field offices. The regulation describes what kind of actions can be delegated, for example, setting harvest and possession limits, open and closing seasons, etc. We'll try to use plain language in the next few slides to describe and define delegated authority.

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What is delegated authority? In the broadest sense, delegation of authority is the transfer of limited decision-making power from the Board to Federal managers. Delegated authority is what gives Federal managers the legal authority to make in-season decisions and manage fish and wildlife populations. As mentioned in the previous slide, the Board transfers the decision-making authority to Federal managers. For example, this may be the National Park Service superintendents, or the U.S. Forest Service District rangers, or Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge managers. Local Federal managers often have a greater connection too and understanding of the resource than anyone in Anchorage. Beyond giving decision making authority to Federal managers who have boots on the ground, why is delegation of authority important? Delegation of authority is important for multiple reasons. It allows Federal managers to make quick decisions as data and local knowledge becomes available in-season. For example, many of the preseason forecasts for a fish population is strong, but in the in-season data and local observations indicate that the run is really weak and will not meet escapement goals. The Federal managers delegated authority allows for quick action to close the fishery to all users, to protect the population, or close the fishery to non-federally qualified users to protect and continue subsistence uses. It allows for input from locals when there is a close relationship between managers and the subsistence users.

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Authority can be delegated to managers in two places. One is in unit specific regulations. Currently, only wildlife regulations have delegated authority in unit specific regulations, mainly because wildlife has a lot of routine management actions. For example, Federal managers have delegated authority to announce the harvest quota for a moose hunt each year, before the season opens. This optimizes the harvest opportunity and conservation, since the quota can be adjusted annually in response to the size of the moose population. Authority may be delegated through

1 delegation of authority letters. These letters fall  
2 Federal -- allow Federal managers to issue special  
3 actions, and we'll discuss this more in a little bit.

4  
5                   How the Board delegates authority  
6 depends on if the authority is delegated in a letter,  
7 or in unit specific regulations. For delegation of  
8 authority letters, the Board may delegate authority at  
9 any time. This is done through an administrative action.  
10 The administrative action requires a Board -- the Board,  
11 to vote. But do not have to go through the regulatory  
12 process. This allows for quick action to the -- by the  
13 Board and for the Board to be responsive to changing  
14 conditions. This method does not require public input.  
15 However, the Board understands the value of public  
16 feedback and may elect -- may ask for feedback from the  
17 Councils before creating or modifying delegation of  
18 authority letters. Delegation of authority in unit  
19 specific regulations may only happen through the public  
20 regulatory process. So, in other words, it requires a  
21 proposal to change the existing Fish and Wildlife  
22 regulations, during the regulatory cycle. While public  
23 input is at the Board's discretion for delegation of  
24 authority letters, public and Council input is required  
25 for the regulatory process.

26  
27                   Here is an example of authority that is  
28 delegated to a manager in unit specific regulations.  
29 Again, these currently only occur in wildlife  
30 regulations and are for routine annual management  
31 decisions. The authority is more limited in scope than  
32 in delegation of authority letters. In this example, the  
33 authority only pertains to setting permit conditions and  
34 announcing closures for a winter hunt. If anyone, the  
35 Councils or the public want to change or modify this  
36 authority, they need to submit a regulatory proposal.  
37 In contrast, the authority outlined, to authority  
38 outlined in regulations. Managers may also delegate  
39 authority through delegation of authority letters. These  
40 letters give managers authority to issue special  
41 actions. The special action issued by Federal managers  
42 are subject to regulatory requirements. For example,  
43 public hearings are required for temporary special  
44 actions, which are special action that will last no more  
45 -- that lasts more than 60 days but may not extend past  
46 the end of the current regulatory cycle. Public hearings  
47 are encouraged for emergency special actions, which are  
48 actions that may not exceed 60 days. The managers must  
49 also seek Council recommendations when timing of Council  
50 meetings allows.

1

2           Delegation of authority letters can be  
3 issued or rescinded by the Board at any time. Issuing  
4 or rescinding the letters does not need to take place  
5 at a Board meeting or during the regulatory cycle. This  
6 gives the Board flexibility to adapt to changing  
7 conditions and make sure managers have the tools they  
8 need to manage and protect populations, as well as  
9 optimize subsistence opportunities. Changes to  
10 Delegation of authority letters may be requested by  
11 Councils or by the public, by letter, or during a Board  
12 meeting. Delegation of authority letters are not  
13 currently published online. If the Council or the public  
14 ever wants a copy of a delegation of authority letter,  
15 they can contact the Office of Subsistence Management  
16 or your local in-season manager.

17

18           While letters issued to managers are  
19 specific to the area and species covered. The general  
20 language and requirements across the letters are -- is  
21 the same. For example, all letters require communication  
22 with effective parties such as Council Chairs and ADF&G.  
23 Tribal consultations must be conducted if practicable,  
24 and managers may also defer the decision to the Board  
25 with very controversial issues if immediate action is  
26 not needed.

27

28           The Federal program has fisheries  
29 regulations and wildlife regulations. Fisheries and  
30 wildlife delegated authority are issued in separate  
31 letters. For fisheries the scope of the letter is broad  
32 and consistent across letters. They cover all fish  
33 species in an area. A list of Federal fisheries managers  
34 with delegated authority can be found on page 98 of the  
35 regulations book. This contrasts with the wildlife  
36 delegation would tend to cover specific hunts, species  
37 management actions. Most wildlife actions are routine  
38 and occur every year. In the unit specific regulations  
39 of the Federal Wildlife Harvest Regulations booklet, a  
40 white exclamation mark inside a red triangle indicates  
41 the additional management action may be taken by the  
42 Federal in-season Manager, and you should consult the  
43 delegation of authority table at the back of the book.  
44 All of the delegation of authority listed letters are  
45 listed in the table beginning on page 152. They are  
46 organized by Federal manager and list the area, species,  
47 and authority that is delegated. Each row corresponds  
48 to a separate letter. For example, on page 154, the  
49 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager has authority  
50 to close the moose season in Unit 9D, when ten bulls

1 have been harvested, and the Wrangell-St. Elias National  
2 Park and Preserve superintendent has authority to manage  
3 the Chisana caribou hunt in a portion of Unit 12.  
4 Specifically, they can open and close the season,  
5 announce harvest quota, and the number of permits.

6  
7 So, in summary, we have delegated --  
8 delegation of authority, which means the Board transfers  
9 limited decision-making ability to Federal managers.  
10 This authority can be in unit specific regulations or  
11 delegation of authority letters. For unit specific  
12 regulations, delegated authority can only be added or  
13 modified during the public regulatory process. The  
14 delegation tends to be for routine annual management  
15 actions. There are currently only in wildlife  
16 regulations because wildlife has more routine management  
17 actions, such as closing seasons when harvest quotas are  
18 met.

19  
20 The Council's role in delegation of  
21 authority in unit specific regulations is submitting  
22 proposals to change the delegated authority in  
23 regulations, making recommendations to the Board on the  
24 associated regulatory proposals and consulting with  
25 managers before they take action. Delegation of  
26 authority letters are easier for the Board to change or  
27 rescind, give the Board more flexibility to act quickly  
28 and respond to changing conditions. Again, changes to  
29 the letters can happen outside the regulatory cycle  
30 depending -- delegation of authority letters, give  
31 Federal managers the ability to issue special actions.  
32 The letters are generally broader in scope, but are  
33 subject to more requirements, such as requiring public  
34 hearings. Both fisheries and wildlife regulations have  
35 delegation of authority letters.

36  
37 The Council has a role in delegation of  
38 authority letters. The Council may request to add or  
39 modify them through letters or at Board meetings. The  
40 Board may ask Councils for feedback on proposed changes  
41 to a delegation of authority letter when time allows.  
42 The letter also requires that managers consult with  
43 Council Chairs before issuing special actions. The Chair  
44 may encourage (distortion) to seek feedback from  
45 other.....

46  
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48  
49 Oh, you're not on mute. The Chair is  
50 encouraged to seek feedback from other Council members.



1  
2                   So, delegation of authority letter  
3 allows for quick in-season management actions. This  
4 allows Federal managers to protect fish and wildlife  
5 populations and continuation of subsistence. Managers  
6 are required to consult with affected parties before  
7 taking action. This commonly includes Councils, ADF&G,  
8 and OSM. Council Chairs are encouraged to bring in other  
9 Council members when consulting with managers. Please  
10 contact OSM or in-season managers if you have any  
11 questions. Thank you so much for your time and attention  
12 today. I'd be happy to address any questions. And we  
13 have a couple other people online that can help answer  
14 any questions if there's anything that I am unable to.  
15 So, that's the end of that part of the presentation, Mr.  
16 Chair.

17  
18                   MS. HONIG: Kendra, this is Leigh. Gayla  
19 has a question in the chat, and it looks like Lisa just  
20 answered it, but.....

21  
22                   MS. HOLMAN: So, for those who cannot see  
23 the chat. Gayla's question was, has the delegation of  
24 authority letter been utilized in the Bristol Bay  
25 region, and if so, were tribes contacted for  
26 consultation? Yes. The Bristol Bay region has several  
27 delegation of authority letters, including for the  
28 Nushagak Caribou and Mulchatna Caribou. For fisheries,  
29 the Chignik River Federal in-season manager. So, the in-  
30 season managers would be the ones to be able to answer  
31 the question as far as reaching out for the tribal  
32 consultations.

33  
34                   (Pause)

35  
36                   I guess, Gayla.

37  
38                   MS. HOSETH: Yeah, and thank you, through  
39 the Chair. I just wanted to have follow up to remind the  
40 people, the different -- the in-season managers for  
41 fisheries and for management of Nushagak Caribou and  
42 Mulchatna Caribou. I know that we have some working  
43 groups and those aren't considered tribal consultation  
44 that if there's anything affecting the tribal area of  
45 the -- wherever the decisions are being made, that the  
46 tribes at least receive a letter of possible  
47 consultation outside of meetings that are convened.

48  
49                   MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, I see Mark has his  
50 hand raised.

1

2 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Mark  
3 Sturm, superintendent, Katmai National Park and  
4 Preserve, and I just wanted to follow up on Gayla's  
5 comment. The -- we're referring to the animals, at least  
6 for the letter of authority that Katmai Preserve has in  
7 relation to the preserve as the Kokhanok shelf animals  
8 and we have been in extensive conversations with both  
9 Kokhanok and Igiugig, who are the qualifying communities  
10 that can potentially harvest animals. Starting this  
11 winter we will be reporting out about it, but we've had  
12 extensive conversations, many of the park staff were up  
13 in Igiugig recently for a multi-day meeting talking  
14 specifically about this. So, at least in our instance,  
15 we are trying to consult extensively with the tribes.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
18 Mark. Yeah, I -- we inadvertently ended up muted and  
19 Andy was trying to answer also regarding delegation  
20 authority here in Dillingham area, if you go ahead, Andy.

21

22 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, this is Andy Aderman  
23 wildlife biologist, Togiak Refuge. I'm not aware of any  
24 delegation of authority letters pertaining to fisheries.  
25 I believe that's somebody else in Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service. The two delegation of authority letters that  
27 I'm familiar with are the Mulchatna Caribou, which  
28 Kenton Moos the refuge manager has that authority to  
29 open and close seasons on Federal lands. In this case  
30 the most recent one was closing harvest of caribou on  
31 Federal public lands. Consistent with what the Alaska  
32 Department of Fish and Game had done. So, all the lands  
33 essentially in the realm of the Mulchatna Herd are closed  
34 for taking care of caribou. And the other one is for  
35 Nushagak, the caribou. I don't know of anything recent,  
36 we have a committee that meets every year, usually late  
37 July. Just before the new hunting season comes about  
38 and, yeah, that's the two that I know of, and I'll leave  
39 it at that, I'll try to answer any questions, I think  
40 Kenton Moos might be on as well.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
43 Andy. Is there anybody else that can add some answer to  
44 Gayla's question on tribal consultation?

45

46 (No response)

47

48 Hearing none. Oh, Jonathan.

49

50

1 MR. GERKEN: Yeah, good morning. Thanks  
2 through the Chair, Gayla. My name is Jon Gerken. I work  
3 out of the Anchorage office. I'm the Federal in-season  
4 manager for the Bristol Bay area. In the past, we have  
5 not done many consultations in the Bristol Bay area.  
6 However, we do many of them in the Chignik area. So,  
7 that was -- I think this year we had eight meetings in  
8 the villages. We certainly work hand in hand with the  
9 Chignik Inter-Tribal Council. There's pre and post-  
10 season meetings. So, with respect to the Chignik area,  
11 I do think we've got really good collaborations with  
12 tribal entities and local villages in those areas. So,  
13 but less so in the Bristol Bay area. At least in my time  
14 as the Federal in-season manager. Thank you.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
17 John. That's real helpful cause I didn't know what goes  
18 on in Chignik. So, anybody else wanna fill in or do we  
19 move on to another question?

20  
21 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, I see that there  
22 was a question in the chat, and then I see that Gayla  
23 has her hand raised as well. For those that can't see  
24 the chat, I'll start there. The question is, what goes  
25 into deciding if a tribal consultation is practicable?  
26 Is there a list of factors to be used in making that  
27 determination? I don't know if Lisa or Jarerd want to -  
28 - or Kendra take that question.

29  
30 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa Grediagin  
31 with OSM, and there is not a list of factors to be used  
32 in making that determination. And so, I guess I would  
33 defer to the in-season managers on, you know, how they  
34 decide whether or not a tribal consultation is  
35 practicable. I mean, I'd imagine it -- a lot of it has  
36 to do with timing. You know, if they have the time to  
37 schedule something with the tribes or if a decision, you  
38 know, if a harvest quota is met, you know, they're gonna  
39 close the season. There's not really time to schedule a  
40 tribal consultation to decide whether or not to close a  
41 season if the harvest quotas met. But again you know,  
42 if any of the in-season managers would like to address,  
43 you know, in their particular cases, you know, how they  
44 decide to have one or not if it's practicable you know,  
45 is that up to them. But no, there's not a list of  
46 factors. Thanks.

47  
48 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, Gayla has her --  
49 oh, it looks like Jon might have a response to that, and  
50 then we'll get to Gayla. Thank you.

1

2           ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I can't  
3 always see people's hands up or I'm still learning how  
4 to read the screen. So -- but if John can add more,  
5 please go ahead.

6

7

8           MR. GERKEN: Yeah, Through the Chair.  
9 This is Jon Gerken just commenting on the -- on that  
10 question. So, I don't necessarily think we call it tribal  
11 consultations formally, but you know, we have  
12 established these relationships through a number of  
13 years. And so, I feel like we are having conversations  
14 year round, and we're doing post-season evaluation with  
15 many of the folks that are located there, both in the  
16 villages as well as the Chignik Inter-Tribal Council,  
17 as well as the State. When -- then we do pre-season  
18 meetings and then we do in-season meetings. So, when we  
19 are making decisions with respect to, you know, some  
20 level of restriction or, you know, even getting rid of  
21 restrictions, it's typically done with some type of  
22 public meeting or, you know, public meeting that may  
23 happen in advance and, you know, the expected changes  
24 that are coming in a week or two weeks. So, I feel like  
25 just with respect to Chignik, we have a really good  
26 network of getting information out, and I don't think  
27 we catch too many people off guard. That being said, you  
28 know, nobody likes restrictions and so there might be  
29 different feedback from different perspectives. But  
30 anyway, we try to do what we can and I don't think that  
31 anything is formally called a tribal consultation. It's  
32 more collaborative decision making, at least in my mind.  
33 So, thank you.

33

34

35           ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
36 Jon. And Gayla, I see your hand now, but Kenton walked  
37 in the room here. I think he wants to fill in more  
38 answers to your questions. So, I'm not ignoring you,  
39 but, Kenton, would you go ahead?

39

40

41           MR. MOOS: Yeah, sure. Again, Kenton Moos  
42 refuge manager for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. When  
43 it comes to the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd, the  
44 working group that we have is vital in what we're doing.  
45 Again, it comes back to what Lisa said earlier, as far  
46 as timeliness. When we're gathering our biological  
47 information between that time to when we actually have  
48 a meeting to when the season begins is a very, very  
49 compressed time frame. So, in order to set up a official  
50 tribal consultation with each of the villages and so  
51 forth, it's not practicable in order to get hunting

1 permits in the hands of hunters in a timely manner. And  
2 that's why we depend on the representatives in that  
3 working group to communicate with their communities, as  
4 far as how many permits are going to be issued, where  
5 they're going to be issued and all that information.  
6 Again, most of the time our working group meetings are  
7 held like, I believe this year was July 25th with an  
8 August 1st start of the hunting season. So, again, that's  
9 just a few days that we have to get the information out,  
10 the permits out, and so forth. So, in order to be timely  
11 to get those permits in the hunters hands, we depend  
12 heavily on that working group and the representatives  
13 in that working group to get that information out. If a  
14 community wants a tribal consultation after that, we'd  
15 be happy to do it. But we just feel it's important that  
16 the hunters actually have the permits in hand so they  
17 can get out and harvest. So, thank you.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
20 Kenton. Gayla, does that help answer your question or  
21 do you have an additional question?

22  
23 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
24 asking the question for in terms of process and  
25 understanding. This is -- the delegation of authority  
26 is statewide. And I just wanted to know how that was  
27 impacting the Bristol Bay region. If Lisa's comment that  
28 in-season managers are directed to have tribal  
29 consultations, I'm a part of the Nushagak working group  
30 as a tribal entity and it's not necessarily just about  
31 that. It's just about how is the process across the  
32 State and how is that working. So, that was just my  
33 question to get it on the record. If there's any follow-  
34 up that needs to happen at the Federal Subsistence Board  
35 on this issue. Some Refuges work well with the  
36 communities that they represent and some don't. And so,  
37 if it's -- if they're directed to have tribal  
38 consultations if practicable maybe that wording needs  
39 to be looked at and there maybe needs to have like a  
40 checklist of factors and who's gonna be making that  
41 determination for tribes. So, I understand that as we're  
42 working on these issues, we do work together in the  
43 Bristol Bay region with the Chignik fisheries. I know  
44 that that's a really big issue within the Bristol Bay  
45 region, and then also our caribou are important as well.  
46 I just -- terms of process and what are we following and  
47 how is that delegation of authority working. Just asking  
48 the question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50

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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
2 Any other questions?

3  
4                   (No response)

5  
6                   Let's see. Well, maybe we can move on  
7 to, I think there's a -- item 11 is proposed changes.  
8 And is that also your deal, Kendra?

9  
10                   MS. HOLMAN: It is, Mr. Chair. So, again,  
11 this is Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with OSM. So,  
12 I'm gonna provide a brief overview of proposed changes  
13 for wildlife delegation of authority. So, this is meant  
14 to be a brief introduction into this effort and the  
15 Councils will have additional information at future  
16 meetings to further review and comment on this. The  
17 Office of Subsistence Management is proposing to move  
18 the authority in the existing delegation of authority  
19 letters back into wildlife's unit specific regulations.  
20 While staff have not thoroughly reviewed every single  
21 wildlife delegation of authority letter, the vast  
22 majority of them are for routine management actions that  
23 happen every year, such as announcing harvest quotas.  
24 Having the delegated of a -- delegated authority for  
25 these routine actions in unit specific regulations is  
26 more appropriate than issuing special actions year after  
27 year. This also provides a clear public process for  
28 changing delegated authority through regulatory  
29 proposals and decreases the administrative burden on  
30 Federal managers by eliminating all the regulatory  
31 requirements associated with special actions and the  
32 delegation of authority letters. The timeline for this  
33 proposed change is as follows. In March of 2025, during  
34 the next open window to submit wildlife regulatory  
35 proposals, the Office of Subsistence Management will  
36 submit a proposal to move wildlife delegated authority  
37 into unit specific regulations and to rescind many of  
38 the existing letters. In the fall of 2025, so, next  
39 fall's meetings, the Councils will consider and make  
40 recommendations on this proposal and April of 2026, the  
41 Board will take final action on the proposal at the next  
42 wildlife regulatory meeting.

43  
44                   So, there are some delegation of  
45 authority letters that are for things like cultural and  
46 education permits that we will be looking at, and some  
47 of these may be determined to not be put into the unit  
48 regulations. So, that still is yet to be determined,  
49 exactly which ones will not be, we have to go through  
50 them all still, but just to give you an idea. So, that

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1 completes the brief overview of the proposed changes to  
2 the delegation of authority, wildlife delegated  
3 authority. And I'll be happy to address any questions  
4 that you have on this topic as well.

5  
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
7 you, Kendra. Maybe go before, go further out. So, if I  
8 understand you right, you're gonna try to get more of  
9 these just written into the regular reg book instead of  
10 having to have these special letters and so on. Is that  
11 what you mean by unit specific regs?

12  
13 MS. HOLMAN: Correct, Mister -- Ccorrect  
14 Mr. Chair. So, we will -- that'll be a proposal again  
15 submitted this coming March. So, you'll hear those  
16 proposals next fall at the meeting and then the Board  
17 will take them up. But yeah, the goal will be to have  
18 it in the regulation. So, you'll see them in the book  
19 like in the handy dandy books. You'll see what that  
20 delegation of authority letter or delegated authority  
21 is, right in there.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And  
24 so, like, what I'm aware of for the Mulchatna Herd, I  
25 believe Manager Moos here is in -- the Mulchatna Caribou  
26 may cross at least two, if not three game units, that  
27 would require adjusting wording in all of those game  
28 units to get it matched up. Is that correct?

29  
30 MS. HOLMAN: Again, this is Kendra  
31 through the Chair? Yes, that is correct. It will --  
32 it'll change for the entire area that the delegation of  
33 authority letter covers. All of the unit specific  
34 regulations will change to address that.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
37 great, thank you. I thought I saw somebody else wanted  
38 to say something. Please speak up.

39  
40 (No comment)

41  
42 I'm not seeing anything. One more chance  
43 to raise a question.

44  
45 (No response)

46  
47 Okay. I wanna make a note, Billy Trefon  
48 has moved, he's gonna be moving back to his room to do  
49 the -- to rejoin the meeting. He got too chilly in the  
50 Refuge office here. So, we're moving down to action

00032

1 items, and we have a lot of people that aren't here  
2 right now. That makes it hard. I'm looking a little  
3 guidance here, Leigh, but I'm wondering if we could just  
4 jump to reports. Sometimes is better to have the reports  
5 before we take any action anyway, but I'm looking for a  
6 little process guidance here on if we could do that,  
7 okay?

8  
9 MS. HONIG: Yeah. Mr. Chair, we can  
10 definitely alter the agenda. I do have listed, since  
11 it's a fisheries regulatory meeting, I didn't know if  
12 it would be most appropriate to -- if there's any  
13 relevant agency fisheries reports that want to be  
14 presented now before we jump into -- the Council jumps  
15 into deliberations on the fisheries proposal. How do you  
16 feel about that? Mr. Chair.

17  
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think  
19 that's a great idea. Because, yeah, looking at some of  
20 these proposals, I was eager to hear agency input and  
21 possibly some numbers updates to go with that. Well,  
22 even the process of switching the agenda here somewhat  
23 with Billy kinda between spots, Richard is out, I don't  
24 think John Rhyshek is on.....

25  
26 MS. HONIG: He.....

27  
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: John -- go  
29 ahead.

30  
31 MS. HONIG: Sorry to interrupt you.  
32 Correct he is not on as well so, I can try to get ahold  
33 of him since we lost Richard for a moment so we can  
34 regain quorum. I don't know if you're interested, maybe  
35 we should take a little break until Billy joins us and  
36 I can try to get ahold of John, and then we can -- we  
37 don't really have to move around the agenda per se. 12A  
38 was already listed as the relevant fisheries report.

39  
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, okay.

41  
42 MS. HONIG: So, that works at least. But  
43 yeah, in the meantime, if you would like to take a break,  
44 I can try to make sure we have quorum.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
47 You're good, you're good. Cause that was kinda  
48 eyeballing that we might need a de-coffee break here  
49 around 10:30. So, let's break now, and we can de-coffee  
50 and re-coffee, maybe. So, thank you. Any objections to



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1 a break?

2

3 (No response)

4

5 Hearing none. Thanks again, Leigh,  
6 you're good.

7

8 MS. HONIG: Yeah, do you want to say be  
9 back at 10:30?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, let's  
12 try for that, thanks.

13

14 MS. HONIG: Okay, perfect. Thanks.

15

16 MR. TREFON: It's super cold in that  
17 conference room, right? Ambient air, about 33 degrees.

18

19 MS. HONIG: You were quick, Billy.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Billy  
22 you're exgerating it's 36.....

23

24 (Simultaneous speech)

25

26 MR. TREFON: I'm back in my room now.

27

28 MS. HONIG: Okay, wonderful. You are a  
29 fast walker, great. So, we'll take a break till 10:30,  
30 thank you.

31

32 MR. TREFON: All right.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (On record)

37

38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. It's  
39 -- I have 10:35 or so. I've been trying to contact some  
40 Fish and Game folks to get some of their perspective on  
41 these coming proposals. I don't know how quickly they  
42 can get back on. And I think Leigh may be trying to  
43 contact some as well.

44

45 MR. HILL: Hey, Dan, this is Rob Hill  
46 here. I just want to let you know I'm back on. I tried  
47 to keep it on, and didn't realize I needed to call back  
48 in. So, I'm here.

49

50

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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, well,  
2 there was a hiccup going on there. The screen changed  
3 and everything, but luckily, I haven't had to do anything  
4 or I'd be in trouble. So, thank you, glad you're back  
5 on.

6  
7                   MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh.

8  
9                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Uh-huh.

10  
11                   MS. HONIG: So, I have not been able to  
12 get ahold of Mr. Rhyshek yet so, at the moment, we don't  
13 have a quorum. So, if I may suggest if there's agency  
14 staff that wants to do fisheries reports, we could move  
15 into that. And then if we still don't have quorum, we  
16 can hold off on the action items for a moment, move into  
17 the rest of the agency reports and other business that  
18 doesn't the Council to take any action.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.  
21 I just sent those links that you provided me with -- to  
22 Lee Borden. And then in the past, Fish and Game had --  
23 Mark Burch was often the mouthpiece for the State. His  
24 position has changed, but he's trying to reach the people  
25 who may wanna call in. I think it's especially important  
26 given the -- it's a lot of fishing gear types who we're  
27 talking to. So, we'll see, but if there's other agencies  
28 -- I guess let's first see if we got everybody back on  
29 board here, right now, especially Council members. I'll  
30 just run through the names pretty quick. I just heard  
31 from Rob Hill. I think Billy's on, he was back at his  
32 room.

33  
34                   MR. TREFON: Yep, I'm here.

35  
36                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Some people  
37 say they had to call back in, so. Oh, good. How about  
38 Kenneth?

39  
40                   MR. NUKWAK: I'm here, looking out the  
41 window. Beautiful day.

42  
43                   (Simultaneous speech)

44  
45                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You  
46 probably wanna be out doing stuff. I'm here and Richard's  
47 not. So, what's our minimum quorum, Leigh?

48  
49                   MS. HONIG: We need to have five members.  
50 So, currently, we're at four.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Okay, well, in case of Fish and Game can get on. In the meantime, are there other agencies that wanna weigh in on a relevant -- fisheries reports, relative to these action items?

(No response)

I'm gonna note that we re-started the meeting around 10:35. Well a -- I'm not hearing any agencies bringing up information relevant to these action items and fisheries related. I don't know if -- do we have anybody on from the oh, dang, the Refuge over there on the (indiscernible) side?

(No response)

Pretty quiet. I see there was a suit -- they haven't filled Susan Alexander's place and there's an assistant that provided some stuff. Courtenay did you wanna say something, or are you just logging back in?

MS. CARTY: Mister -- on the fisheries proposals or in general?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, specific to the relevant fisheries information for the action items.

MS. CARTY: Sure. Sorry, I was preparing a different section, but if you just give me one moment. For the record, Mr. Chair, my name is Courtenay Carty. I am representing myself for this section of public comm [sic] or providing public comment on the fisheries proposals. First, I just wanna take a moment to thank BBNA. I don't think we'd have a single proposal on the agenda if it weren't for BBNA submitting every proposal, at least that I've read through and prepared comments for. I do support all of the proposals in the book as proposed by BBNA.

I think it's important to note that what you see in your Board book today, and what's reflected in this meeting, is a true demonstration of what people like to say co-manage -- is co-management, right. But what I'm really happy to see is the absolute amount of work, research, advocacy, voice that's been put in to really try to codify our traditional practices, what people use today, the word subsistence. So, a huge thanks

1 to BBNA for all of their work putting in these proposals  
2 today. And I think it would be wrong to not take a moment  
3 to try to advocate for continued support of their funding  
4 through the Partners Program, as well as perhaps an  
5 extension or invitation call on our State and Federal  
6 partners to do a better job of maybe in the philanthropy  
7 world that I work in now, we call it friendraising [sic]  
8 instead of fundraising, but working with BBNA on our  
9 FRMP proposals. I think the technical research proposals  
10 that guide our regulatory processes are strengthened  
11 when we work with our local and Native people. And with  
12 that, I would just like to again say thank you so much  
13 to BBNA. Qu yana, qu yana for putting together all these  
14 proposals. Thank you, (indiscernible) for me for now.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
17 Well now, I'm thinking that since we don't have a whole  
18 lot of input and we don't quite have a quorum, that I  
19 hesitate to move any farther on action items, maybe we  
20 can get more input from some of the agencies when we can  
21 take action. So, I'm proposing we move to number 13 on  
22 the agenda and invite agency reports, starting with  
23 tribal governments.

24  
25 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry to  
26 interject. I failed to realize that the Partners Update  
27 that's under agenda item 12D, that is not an action item  
28 so, I don't know if you would like to kinda jump back  
29 up the agenda and do the Partners Update. There's two  
30 items with that. I believe that Jarred Stone can -- is  
31 gonna give -- from our OSM Fisheries Division, will give  
32 an update on the partners and program and overview, and  
33 then Cody Larson from BBNA also has an update to the  
34 projects in his area.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,  
37 nobody was beating the doors down to start at 13 either.  
38 So, let's go with 12D and again we're jumping, but we're  
39 doing what we can, when we can. So, Jarred, go ahead on  
40 12D Fisheries Resource Monitoring Programs.

41  
42 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the  
43 record, this is Jarred Stone, fish biologist with the  
44 Office of Subsistence Management. And it's actually a  
45 nice segue after Courtenay's comments come in about the  
46 partners program. And so, what I'm gonna be doing right  
47 now is giving a brief update as to where we're at with  
48 that program.

49  
50

1                   The Office of Subsistence Management  
2 will soon post a notice of funding opportunity for the  
3 partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program later this  
4 year, or possibly early this winter. This is a  
5 competitive grant for Alaska Native tribes, tribal  
6 organizations, or rural nonprofit organizations. The  
7 intent of this program is to strengthen Alaska Native  
8 and rural involvement in Federal subsistence management  
9 by providing salary funds to organizations so that they  
10 can hire a professional biologist, social scientist, or  
11 an educator. The grant also provides funds for science  
12 and culture camps and paid student internships. More  
13 information on this funding opportunity will be  
14 available soon on grants.gov or grantsolutions.gov. And  
15 the main point of contact in our office for this program  
16 is Karen Hyer, and you can reach her via email or phone.  
17 Her contact information is on the Office of Subsistence  
18 Management Programs Partners webpage, which can be found  
19 at [www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners). And if anyone here  
20 in the meeting is interested you know, you're welcome  
21 to contact me as well and I'd be happy to provide you  
22 with more information about the program or put you in  
23 contact with Karen Hyer. And at this time, Mr. Chair,  
24 that concludes my updates for the Partners Program, and  
25 I'll be happy to address any questions if you have any.  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
29 Jarred, you're cutting out a little bit on Karen's name.  
30 could you spell her last name?

31  
32                   MR. STONE: Yes, that's a Karen Hyer last  
33 name, H, y, e, r.

34  
35                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay and  
36 maybe again, the website or the link.

37  
38                   MR. STONE: Yep. The website is [www.doy](http://www.doy)  
39 -- I'm sorry, [doy](http://www.doy) -- [doi.gov/subsistence/partners](http://doi.gov/subsistence/partners) and  
40 if you would like, I'm happy to share my screen and just  
41 navigate quickly to the website so that people can  
42 visually see where to find that information.

43  
44                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
45 please do give us maybe a 30 second, 45 second flash of  
46 it.

47  
48                   MR. STONE: Sure, can do.

49  
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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: He should be  
2 freezing sitting out there in the mountains.

3  
4                   MR. STONE: We just got this fresh snow  
5 and I'm all excited, winter is here. Okay, can everyone  
6 see my screen?

7  
8                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Now we can.

9  
10                  MR. STONE: This is the -- perfect. This  
11 is the main home page for our office, and down here on  
12 the left you'll see these various tabs. And we have two  
13 funding programs, and Courtenay kind of alluded to this.  
14 We have our Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, which  
15 we'll be discussing later today or tomorrow. Regarding  
16 the priority information needs that we'll adopt. The  
17 program I'm discussing right now is different, this is  
18 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, and when  
19 you click here on this, you'll see just below applying  
20 for funding. And if you are interested in applying for  
21 funding watch this webpage closely and we'll be  
22 announcing what we call the Notice of Dunding  
23 Opportunity, which is basically a call for proposals.  
24 And we'll have an updated webpage here leading  
25 investigators to the appropriate place to apply for  
26 funding. And if this is your first time applying for  
27 funding, or if you're nervous about what looks to be  
28 like a lot of work to apply for this funding, Karen host  
29 consultation sessions prior to the deadline so that if  
30 you have questions or need to navigate to something that  
31 you're maybe unfamiliar with, she is happy to, you know,  
32 get you around those roadblocks and get you to where you  
33 need to be. This is a current list right here of our  
34 current partners. And as you'll see, Bristol Bay Native  
35 Association is a current partner as well as these other  
36 Native organizations as well. And I hope that answers  
37 your question.

38  
39                  ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, that's  
40 very helpful. Andy and I were briefly, during the break  
41 talking how out here public information is actually  
42 struggling to get aired -- we don't have as heavy a  
43 public announcement coverage on the local radio station  
44 and it's pretty brief and pretty limited, about twice a  
45 day. So, maybe if there's ways of doubling down on  
46 getting the word out, possibly reaching out to village  
47 corporations in addition to -- I know BBNA has got a  
48 pretty good network, but you know, I'm trying to -- I  
49 don't know if there's other groups that would wanna know.  
50 But anyway, what you can do to get the word out is

1 highly encouraged.

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MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that comment. Yeah, and we're open always to ideas to try and spread this more so that more people can, you know, learn about this opportunity. And so, I'm always all ears and I appreciate that comment. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, something I've become aware of recently is we do have a private radio station that's FM as KRUP, that's a jointly broadcast with -- I don't even know what the station is out of Bethel. But I think their listenership [sic] to that radio station has grown. I'm finding out people are listening to it. And then there's a radio station based out of King Salmon that just installed new transmitter antennas here in Dillingham, and that's KKD and I don't know what it is over there in King Salmon again, maybe Rob would know, but there's a fairly strong listenership to that as well. And this could apply to other things besides just your funding information or maybe you can get ahold of me or somebody after the meeting, we can track down the right contacts, okay?

MR. STONE: Appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair and I also failed to mention that we also have a Facebook page as well and we try our best to update that as well. So, anyone that's able on social media, you can find our Federal Subsistence Programs Facebook group and find those same announcements that we have as well. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, that's good to know. Of course, my kids says only old people are on Facebook, but we are. So, it's another place -- this sounds like it might be pretty easy to find. So, thank you very much.

MR. HILL: Hey, Dan, this is Rob Hill.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

MR. HILL: Can you hear me? Hey.....

(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, go ahead.

00040

1 MR. HILL: I believe that station over  
2 over in Naknek, I believe is KAKN.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I  
5 should know that. So, yeah, duh. Just blanking on it,  
6 thank you, Rob. That was -- that's the main station,  
7 Jarred, that drives a number of repeaters. I think you  
8 can find them in the phone book there for King Salmon.  
9 But I've been surprised to listen to it now and then,  
10 and at times they have pretty good announcements and  
11 news, and sometimes their weather is at a better time  
12 of the day when I'm out moose hunting. So, anyway, just  
13 to share it with you and any other agencies that want  
14 to reach out to the public. Did we have another item  
15 under item 12 to cover at this point?

16  
17 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair. Yeah, Cody  
18 Larson has a presentation. Cody, I don't know if you're  
19 ready to go, but we could do that one on the Partners  
20 Program.

21  
22 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, are you able  
23 to hear me?

24  
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir. Go  
26 ahead. Thank you.

27  
28 MR. LARSON: Okay, great. So, I'm in two  
29 devices here, through my phone and through the Teams  
30 meeting here, but so, yeah, I'll just give a quick  
31 update. Thanks for introing, Jarred. So, yeah, for the  
32 record, Cody Larson, work for the Bristol Bay Native  
33 Association and run the Partners for Fisheries  
34 Monitoring Program. BBNA in the eight and a half or nine  
35 years I've been with the organization has continued to  
36 focus on the position being a social scientist position,  
37 as Jarred mentioned. Depending on the program, there  
38 are, you know, different routes of focus. And hopefully  
39 BBNA will be in the position to continue to apply to be  
40 part of the Partners Program here in the future. So,  
41 just a brief background. What our focus on, is  
42 maintaining research collaborations with tribal, State,  
43 Federal, nonprofit, university partners, and we also  
44 focus on community-based subsistence monitoring  
45 projects. And so, I'm sure some RAC members are aware  
46 of the long list of projects that BBNA is done through  
47 the Partners Program. But some of the recent ones that  
48 may spark some interest is a publication that we co-  
49 authored in August of 2024 with the University of Alaska  
50 Fairbanks. It was collaboration with Penn State



1 University and the Department of Fish and Game division  
2 of subsistence, specifically looking at wild food  
3 harvests in Dillingham. Dillingham is the largest  
4 community in the Bristol Bay region. It really was a lot  
5 of work, and I've been on a number of projects in other  
6 communities within the region, and Dillingham for me  
7 took it to another level. But that was about a three  
8 year project. I think the process was longer than that,  
9 but it got delayed a couple of years with Covid in the  
10 interim. But that publication came out in August of this  
11 year, fantastic, part of the technical paper series for  
12 the Division of Subsistence, and it's available online  
13 now. It's technical paper 499. And I think some key  
14 takeaways from that, at least for the community of  
15 Dillingham where I live so, it was interesting to write  
16 about where I live, was caribou harvest, of course, was  
17 down. There wasn't the resource availability as it was  
18 in past examinations of Dillingham, which was 2010.  
19 There was another pretty good look. So, comparing to  
20 2010 and previous years. The other shift I think was  
21 notable was the king salmon, and the amount used was  
22 substantially lower than in past years. And  
23 proportionally it seemed as though residents made up  
24 that difference in sockeye and coho salmon, but the --  
25 interestingly, the amount of chinook salmon that  
26 typically was used to meet the needs of Dillingham  
27 residents was substantially lower. Not just because of  
28 the numbers, but also because of the size. So, the  
29 average size from the commercial harvest, which is a  
30 reference point in converting the number of chinook  
31 salmon to the pounds of chinook salmon, was about six  
32 and a half pounds average in 2022. And so compared to  
33 the 1985, I believe it was just over 20 pounds, like  
34 20.4 pounds average for chinook salmon. So, that size  
35 of the fish really made a difference, more so than the  
36 numbers of fish being harvested. But -- so, those are  
37 two kind of points of interest from that paper. There's,  
38 you know, more information on that line if folks are  
39 interested. And then another project that was identified  
40 through this Regional Advisory Council's Priority  
41 Information Needs process was to look at the harvests  
42 around Manokotak and so, that community-based project  
43 is titled Reliable Estimates of Subsistence Harvest and  
44 Uses and Harvest Trends in the Community of Manokotak.  
45 And so that project is still ongoing, we inter --  
46 surveyed around 70 households in Manokotak last winter,  
47 and now in the process of writing what those results  
48 are, collaborating with the community to confirm those  
49 results. And so, that's another project that the  
50 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program is involved

1 with currently. And kind of year-round I collaborate  
2 with different folks looking at other funds to pursue  
3 for projects that seem -- would seem relevant to the,  
4 you know, each community in our region. And so, over the  
5 last year, we've -- I've investigated a number of  
6 projects that would include culvert replacement and  
7 repair for some of the streams that block salmon passage  
8 in the region. We don't have a lot of roads, but the  
9 roads that we have there are, you know, they need some  
10 maintenance, some of the infrastructure ages and can  
11 fall into states of disrepair. So, looking at funding  
12 for maintaining the infrastructure to ensure that we're  
13 not interrupting that process -- that biological process  
14 for the salmon is something we're looking at. And  
15 currently working with Becharof Wildlife, sorry, the  
16 Alaska Peninsula -- Alaska Peninsula Refuge and  
17 investigating whether a weir over in part of the -- that  
18 Refuge would make sense here in the coming cycle. So,  
19 continually looking for funds and, and collaboration and  
20 it's a pretty dynamic position, it's a pretty dynamic  
21 program. And I think that it certainly is in the interest  
22 of the region to keep this going, so.

23  
24 Another focus of the program is  
25 developing the future fisheries researchers and managers  
26 and so that's achieved through our summage [sic] -- our  
27 Summer College Fisheries Internship Program. And so, we  
28 recruit university students who have an interest in  
29 natural resource fields of study, and we've been  
30 successful partnering with University of Washington  
31 Fisheries Research Program, as well as the Department  
32 of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division, and still looking  
33 to collaborate with other research programs in Bristol  
34 Bay region. But those are two real strong partners. So,  
35 that's a little bit about BBNA Partners Program and what  
36 we've been up to the last year or two. I think I've  
37 attended every Regional Advisory Council meeting over  
38 the last eight years and given a brief update. This past  
39 spring was virtual as well for me, I went to Anchorage  
40 there, but got, you know, caught some sort of virus in  
41 route and so, was online as well for that meeting. I was  
42 really hoping to see everyone in person down at the  
43 Curyung tribal council, but here we are online  
44 again, but happy to be here and take any questions about  
45 the Partners Program here at BBNA.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you  
48 for that thorough report, Cody. Council members, do you  
49 have any comments, questions?  
50

1 (No comment)

2

3 I'm not hearing any. Cody, I have a  
4 comment on, that culvert idea sounds really good. I walk  
5 my dog through my neighborhood in Nurka and those  
6 wonderful culverts that I think Fish and Wildlife funded  
7 years ago. I didn't know the -- unfortunately, I think  
8 young boys fell that every rock near the culvert, had  
9 to be thrown into the culvert and I really wonder if  
10 fish can still pass. I keep meaning to walk some creeks  
11 to see, cause there used to be a substantial number of  
12 silvers would spawn, starting about Mark Lisak's place  
13 and farther up. I don't see any salmon or carcasses.  
14 There are juvenile fish sometimes there, but I hope that  
15 you can get some support on that cause I hate to see  
16 roads killing our salmon off. Again, anybody else,  
17 Councilman, members, any comments?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 Thank you for that then, Cody. And then  
22 at this time, I believe -- do we have anything more in  
23 12 that we can cover Leigh, or should we move to 13?

24

25 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, we can, if you  
26 would like. You might want to wait until we have more  
27 Council members present, but we could start discussing  
28 topics that the Council would like to include on the  
29 Annual Report to the Board. If not, if you want to wait,  
30 we definitely can, and we can jump on to yeah, agency  
31 reports or other business under other business, we have  
32 the 805-C report and correspondence update and some  
33 other things.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,  
36 I'm [sic] don't feel ready for the annual report myself.  
37 I know what's the pleasure of the -- our other members.

38

39 MR. TREFON: This is Billy.

40

41 (Simultaneous speech)

42

43 Would you probably move on to the next  
44 one.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
47 Billy, thank you. Leigh noticed that -- Leigh Honig  
48 noticed that Lee Borden Sport Fish in Dillingham has  
49 gotten on. Lee, we are kind of postponing taking action  
50 on (distortion) for an unknown time, one for a funeral,

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1 one for some other work. But I don't know, would you  
2 rather wait (distortion) I know we had multiple voices  
3 -- I don't -- can anybody hear me? Can you hear me,  
4 either Leigh, at this point?

5

6

MS. HONIG: I can hear you Dan.

7

8

(Simultaneous speech)

9

10 2:07:00 MR. BORDEN: I didn't hear  
11 anything but a bunch of squelching.

12

13

14

MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, Halloween is coming  
up, Dan.

15

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

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MR. BORDEN: (Indiscernible) Yeah, Dan,  
this is Lee. Things were breaking up pretty bad there,  
so I don't know exactly what you were saying. I heard  
you acknowledge that I was present, and then things  
started to break up after that. So, I didn't get a lot  
of that.

25

26

27

28

29

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,  
we had my voice going over a bunch of times, but, yeah,  
you're coming in clear. Do you want to wait till we  
actually take up these proposals.....

30

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(Simultaneous speech)

MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, Dan that kind of  
sounds like a Halloween sound for a second.

35

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
pretty creepy, I try not to be too creepy. But is there  
some general stuff you want to cover, Lee Borden, or  
would you wanna wait till we take up these fish proposals  
to discuss them, okay.

41

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MR. BORDEN: You know, I could do either  
one. I don't really have anything prepared. So, I could  
just kinda give a brief summary of events, I guess, if  
you'd like it. Otherwise, I can just kind of be on  
standby for proposals later.

47

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, while  
we have you on right now, yeah, maybe if just, maybe a  
general overview of how -- of what's going on with you  
and then when we are able to take up the proposals

1 hopefully, we can get you back in. By the way, I also  
2 forwarded those links to Mark Burch, hoping he could  
3 forward them to whoever is in the head shed that might  
4 wanna link in too. So, go ahead, Lee if you can inform  
5 us generally, what's going on for you?  
6

7 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, I'll just keep it  
8 relatively brief. So, we have two projects we ran this  
9 last summer. We did a rainbow trout -- well summer and  
10 fall, I guess I should say. We did a rainbow trout fall  
11 fishery survey on the Kvichak River. Looking into catch  
12 rates, effort rates, and composition of catch for  
13 rainbow trout up there. So, we're going through data for  
14 that, will -- we should have a report coming out sometime  
15 in the spring summarizing our work up on the Kvichak.  
16 It's a good project, you know, for the most part, the  
17 lodges and anglers on the river are pretty cooperative  
18 with us, letting us tag along, get some measurements on  
19 catch, and then, you know, count anglers in the fishery.  
20 So, it's been a long time since the department has  
21 surveyed that fishery, so it'll be good to get a report  
22 out summarizing all that work. So, be on the lookout for  
23 that in the spring. Our other project we ran this summer  
24 was a -- what is now become an annual king salmon creel  
25 survey on the Nushagak. We're using that to kind of help  
26 with in-season management. It gives us an idea of, you  
27 know, levels of effort on the river, levels of success,  
28 of anglers on the river, and some idea of the composition  
29 of the sport catch and sport harvest out there so it can  
30 help us out with some in-season management decisions as  
31 well as give us a data set going into the future that  
32 we can use to help with things such as run  
33 reconstructions and kind of pair up with the sonar to  
34 get ideas of, you know, kind of what's really going on  
35 out there on the river with king salmon. So, project was  
36 successful, we, you know, ran the whole season. We pulled  
37 the crew out once effort dropped to about 1% of the peak  
38 effort. So, once you get down to just a handful of folks  
39 out there, we (distortion)  
40

41 Once it went to catch and release there  
42 was no longer an ability to get biological data samples.  
43 So, it kind of made it a little bit less of a benefit  
44 for us to be out there, so. So, we have that season  
45 summary in the works we published last year's season  
46 summary. So, you should be able to find that on our  
47 website under publications. And we'll be publishing  
48 another summary of this season, probably, should be  
49 available in the spring. We just -- like I just mentioned  
50 a second ago, we did have emergency orders in effect

1 this season. We ended up ratcheting the Nushagak king  
2 salmon fishery all the way back to catch and release.  
3 We had a very, very poor sonar number. So, you know, at  
4 a certain point, you know, fishing was reported to be  
5 pretty good. But at a certain point, we are beholden to  
6 that number in our management plans and action plans.  
7 So, we did end up going to catch and release fishery  
8 this year with approximately, it was right around 40,000  
9 kings being counted on the sonar, which is way lower  
10 than we'd like to see.

11  
12 We did issue also some sockeye  
13 liberalizations around the bay, notably Nushagak and  
14 Wood River, increasing bag limits there. Overall effort  
15 on the Nushagak is down from historical levels. You know,  
16 king salmon effort is overall down bay wide. Folks are,  
17 you know, kind of leaving those fisheries as the  
18 fisheries are no longer super viable for guests. But the  
19 rainbow trout sport fisheries are thriving. There's a  
20 lot more effort now than there's ever been for rainbow  
21 trout so, that's kind of why we're shifting into doing  
22 some monitoring work on rainbow trout, trying to keep  
23 an eye on the populations and catch compositions of fish  
24 in those fisheries. So, that's kind of a general  
25 overview. You know, if you had any specific questions,  
26 I could do my best to answer. Otherwise, I'll do my best  
27 to be around and available when proposals come up. I may  
28 be doing some work over at the shop, but I can tune into  
29 Teams on my phone so, I'll try and do that.

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well  
32 thank you, Lee. Really, really appreciate that. Any  
33 Council members have any questions for Lee?

34  
35 MR. HILL: Dan, this is Rob Hill here. I  
36 got a question.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

39  
40 MR. HILL: Oh, I'm just wondering kind  
41 of the last comment you made on the increased pressure  
42 on the rainbow trout and proposed monitoring system. I'm  
43 just kinda curious what that would look like. How would  
44 you make a monitoring system for rainbow trout?

45  
46 MR. BORDEN: Yeah. So, we've started  
47 doing some surveys, basically modified creel surveys.  
48 You know, there's not much retention of rainbow trout  
49 across the bay. It's pretty much even though regulations  
50 allow for a limited amount of retention of rainbows,

1 there's almost no retention of rainbows throughout the  
2 bay, very few people keep them. So, they tend to be  
3 catch and release fisheries. So, it makes creel surveys  
4 interesting. We've come up with a plan to sample the  
5 catch for rainbow trout, which involves kind of  
6 shadowing lodge operations on the river and measuring  
7 all the fish they catch, coupled with obtaining our own  
8 samples. And we put those two together, and we get a  
9 pretty good idea of what's being caught on the rivers.  
10 But the main -- the monitoring that we're discussing is  
11 basically just doing roving surveys, bouncing around to  
12 different rivers and different years and just keeping  
13 an eye on the fisheries in general. You know, we did the  
14 Naknek River in 2019 and 2020, and then we just did the  
15 Kvichak here in 2024. And we're in talks of perhaps  
16 doing maybe Marine and Funnel Creek in the next year or  
17 two as well. So, we're just gonna kinda jump around. You  
18 know, document use as far as levels of effort and then  
19 try and get a handle on the composition of the catch.  
20 So, the biological measurements of -- and health of the  
21 fish in the fishery.

22  
23 We're documenting hook mark statistics  
24 as well. So, we're trying to get an idea of how many of  
25 these fish have scarring on them and get a handle on  
26 that. As far as the effort you know, just for instance,  
27 in our survey we did in '19 and '20, we pooled all that  
28 data together to get a good strong data set, and you  
29 know, 2020 was a weird year, everybody knows that. So,  
30 effort was down, you know, everywhere just from travel  
31 restrictions. But from the 2019 season, we documented -  
32 - the previous time that survey had been done was in  
33 1999 so, you know, quite a gap there, 20 year gap. But  
34 over those 20 years we saw a tripling of effort. So,  
35 effort in 2019 was triple of what it was in 1999, and  
36 that's kind of what we're seeing across the bay. The  
37 Kvichak survey we just did showed an increase in effort  
38 from the last time that survey was done, which I believe  
39 was the early 2000. So, we're seeing a lot of increase  
40 in effort over the last 15 to 20 years in these drainages  
41 for rainbow trout. So, we're gonna bounce around and get  
42 as good of an idea as we can of, you know, how much  
43 effort is on these systems and the health of the rainbow  
44 trout in them.

45  
46 MR. HILL: Well, thanks for that  
47 explanation, very thorough. And, yeah, I've definitely  
48 noticed the increase in pressure, thanks.

49  
50

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's very  
2 interesting, Lee, appreciate that. Any other questions  
3 from members?

4  
5                   MR. NUKWAK: Dan just kind of.....

6  
7                   (Simultaneous speech)

8  
9                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
10 Kenneth.

11  
12                   MR. NUKWAK: Yes, what about the king  
13 salmon? You mentioned the king salmon, are you guys  
14 studying that, too?

15  
16                   MR. BORDEN: Yeah. So, we're gonna  
17 continue doing our work on the Nushagak. We've kind of  
18 worked into -- ourselves into a partnership with BBSRI  
19 who's helping us fund some of the work out there. So,  
20 we're gonna continue monitoring the Nushagak on a yearly  
21 basis of -- or at least the next 3 to 5 years. I would  
22 imagine that work would continue on after that as well.  
23 So, yeah, we're going to keep surveying the Nushagak.  
24 We use the Nushagak as a good measuring stick for the  
25 rest of the bay. You know, if Nushagak is really hurting  
26 and suffering, then we are gonna assume that most of the  
27 other systems are, too. So, you know, I keep my finger  
28 on the pulse in the other drainages by chatting with  
29 most of the lodge operators, you know, Alagnak, Naknek,  
30 Togiak, you know, Ugashik, Egegik you know anyone who's  
31 fishing in the bay, I've got a pretty good idea of what  
32 they're seeing on the river. But, as far as hard data  
33 and field projects go, we're gonna continue using the  
34 Nushagak as our measuring stick. So, yeah, we'll  
35 continue surveying the Nushagak every year going  
36 forward.

37  
38                   MR. NUKWAK: Okay, and another question  
39 now, the king salmon, you mentioned that in the 80s they  
40 were at 20 pounds. And then in this (indiscernible) it's  
41 about six and a half pounds. Is that varying in the six  
42 and a half pound is -- or any of them going below that,  
43 or do they go back a little higher on their -- how big  
44 they are each time? Yearly, I mean.

45  
46                   MR. BORDEN: Well, I don't think I  
47 mentioned anything about size, but if you're interested,  
48 I -- we do have our report out from last year, and it  
49 compares the size of the fish that we caught or that we  
50 surveyed last year. Compared to the last time these



1 surveys were done. So, we definitely are keeping track  
2 of the size. We have seen a decrease in size over the  
3 years. You know, we did -- the department did surveys  
4 in the '80s, '90s, they were surveys in the early  
5 thousands. When I first got out here, you know, in the  
6 teens, they were surveys that were happening, and then  
7 we're doing surveys now. So, we've been tracking size  
8 through that whole time and there's definitely been a  
9 decrease in average size, there's a lot of jacks around,  
10 you know. This year there was actually quite a few more  
11 larger kings than we've seen in the past, you know, 5  
12 to 10 years. So, there were some good-sized fish out  
13 there, but there's still quite a few jacks around in  
14 the, you know, three-to-six-pound range. But there quite  
15 a few fish that were 20 plus pounds this year that we  
16 saw out in the fishery. So, I don't know if that's a  
17 good sign moving forward, you know, if we're having a  
18 little bit of an increase in size that could lend to you  
19 know, bigger fish on the spawning grounds, which you  
20 know, lay more eggs so, hopefully that's a good sign for  
21 the future. But yeah, we'll continue to monitor size  
22 going forward.

23  
24 MR. NUKWAK: Okay, thank you.

25  
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
27 Lee. Anybody else? And thanks, Kenneth, for those  
28 questions.

29  
30 (No response)

31  
32 Hearing none. There's just one other  
33 thing I was gonna ask you, Lee, that we haven't talked  
34 about it for a couple years. I think you mentioned there  
35 was some sort of a mining permit up on the McClung, a  
36 couple years ago. Is there been any activity of that  
37 lately? (Indiscernible).

38  
39 MR. BORDEN: Dan, as far as I know,  
40 that's still taking place. Yeah, I haven't had a chance  
41 to get up there and take a look at it. You know, there  
42 was some talk about trying to get the - those -- some  
43 of those upper McClung, not named tributaries, you know,  
44 added into the anadromous waters catalog to enable some  
45 additional protection through the permitting system.  
46 But, you know, with -- without some of those smaller  
47 tributaries being in the catalog, there's not much that  
48 the department can do through permitting restrictions  
49 to protect those. So, currently, I do believe those  
50 operations that well -- that specific operation I do

00050

1 believe is still operating. I don't know to what extent  
2 they're operating, but I do know that that permit is  
3 still active.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah.  
6 Okay, well maybe if working with Cody, could come up  
7 with some expanding that catalog, but thank you for that.  
8 Anybody else?

9

10 (No response)

11

12 Okay, hearing none. Leigh informs me  
13 that we have a quorum again. I want to welcome John  
14 Rhyshek to the meeting. And so, I would -- eager to get  
15 through these action items they're number 12. We didn't  
16 cover the fisheries proposals and closure reviews on  
17 12B. Is that you, Pippa, or who would be in line to do  
18 that? Over.

19

20 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh.

21

22 (Simultaneous speech)

23

24 MS. KENNER: Yeah, so.....

25

26 MS. HONIG: Sorry, Pippa. I didn't mean  
27 to jump in.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
30 Leigh.

31

32 MS. HONIG: Jump in ahead of you. Yeah,  
33 that would be a great place to start out on the agenda  
34 is the fisheries proposals, enclosure reviews and yes,  
35 Pippa Kenna -- Pippa Kenner, sorry OSM anthropologist  
36 will be doing those. If you don't mind, I have a quick  
37 presentation on the procedures for proposals and closure  
38 reviews. I can go over that really quickly and then I  
39 can hand it over to Pippa, to take it away.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
42 Thanks, Pippa. If we can let Leigh charge ahead here.  
43 So, please go ahead.

44

45 MS. HONIG: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
46 Chair. So, Leigh Honig, Council Coordinator for the  
47 record. So, to go over the procedure for the proposal  
48 presentation. As we go through each proposal, you can  
49 refer to page 35 of your meeting booklets, or for those  
50 online, you can see the document, it's named

1 presentation procedure or proposals and closure reviews  
2 on our website at doi.gov/subsistence. You'll go to the  
3 Regions tab and then Meeting Materials. The Chair will  
4 announce each step of this process, which provides an  
5 opportunity for various agencies, Councils, committees,  
6 and the public to make a comment on and participate.  
7 There'll be time for tribal and public comment, and as  
8 a reminder to make a comment, you can raise your hand  
9 in the Teams platform or if you're on the phone, you can  
10 press star five and that will raise your hand and we can  
11 call on your name or the last four digits of the phone  
12 number. Step seven of the procedure to point out the  
13 Council will make a motion to support the proposal just  
14 to bring the issue on the table for discussion. Then for  
15 step eight, they're -- are questions listed there to  
16 help the Council guide your discussion and deliberation,  
17 to help provide justification for your vote. And each  
18 of these proposals are action items. Thank you, Mr. Chair  
19 and Pippa, I can hand it over to you if you're ready.

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
22 Go ahead, Pippa.

23  
24 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Leigh. Okay, can  
25 everybody hear me?

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

28  
29 MS. KENNER: Am I too loud?

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Not at all.

32  
33 MS. KENNER: Great. Hello, Mr. Chair and  
34 members of the Council. The analysis of proposal FP 25-  
35 11 begins on page 36 of your meeting materials. My name  
36 is Pippa Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist at the Office  
37 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. My presentation  
38 will be a little longer than usual because it introduces  
39 background information for the next two proposals.

40  
41 Leigh, can you explain to people how they can access  
42 this analysis at our web page?

43  
44 MS. HONIG: Sure, Pippa. This is Leigh,  
45 for the record. So, if the public goes to our website  
46 doi.gov/subsistence, you can navigate to the Regional  
47 Advisory Councils tab, select Bristol Bay and then the  
48 Meeting Materials. And this will be available under the  
49 Meeting Materials dropdown box. And they are  
50 individually listed out by proposal name. And Cody just

1 dropped the chat in -- or the website into the chat,  
2 thank you for that.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Cody. So, the  
5 Bristol Bay Native Association submitted this proposal  
6 requesting to allow the take of salmon with dip nets,  
7 beach seines, and drift gill nets in the Bristol Bay  
8 area. I am going to try to pop up on the screen a little  
9 handout that I think would be good to provide at the  
10 beginning that might help you. And that is not what I  
11 wanted it to look like -- there we go, can anybody see  
12 a handout on their screen?

13

14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Yep.

17

18 MS. KENNER: What I wanted to point out  
19 to you is the first two boxes. The first box are the  
20 existing regulations for dip nets, beach seines and  
21 drift gill nets. First, in the existing ADF&G  
22 regulations and then what is existing in Federal  
23 regulations. And the second box details what the  
24 proposal is, and the proposal is to allow these methods  
25 in all fresh waters in the Bristol Bay region.

26

27 Stop sharing, there we go. Maybe that  
28 helped a little. Now let me get to -- there we go, okay.  
29 So, the proponent, the Bristol Bay Native Association,  
30 states that legal harvest methods allowed for  
31 subsistence fishing in Federal regulations are more  
32 restrictive than in State regulations for waters in the  
33 Bristol Bay area, adding the proposed language more  
34 closely aligns Federal and State subsistence regulations  
35 among areas such as Sixmile Lake, Lake Clark, the Igushik  
36 River, the Weary River, and the Snake River. So, that  
37 is what the Bristol Bay Native Association provided and  
38 their justification for submitting the proposal. Now,  
39 looking at figure one, you can see the villages that  
40 would be most affected by the proposed regulation  
41 change. So, fresh waters within and adjacent to the  
42 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge with the villages of  
43 Togiak, Twin Hills and Manokotak. Lake Clark National  
44 Park and Preserve with the village of Nondalton and the  
45 Alagnak Wild and Scenic River Corridor used by the  
46 village of Levelock. Other areas that would be affected  
47 are the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, the  
48 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, and Katmai National  
49 Preserve.

50

1                   It's important to note that Bristol Bay  
2 commercial fishing districts are not within Federal  
3 subsistence fisheries management jurisdiction, and will  
4 not be affected by the proposed regulation change. I'm  
5 going to talk about people living in the region. There  
6 are 23 communities in the Bristol Bay area and are  
7 relatively fast-growing population that peaked in 2000  
8 and has since declined, with the regional population  
9 estimated at 6,600. Generally, outside of the three  
10 transportation hubs of Dillingham, Iliamna and the  
11 Bristol Bay borough, small villages of fewer than 500  
12 people are spread throughout the area. Few villages are  
13 connected by roads and access is primarily by plane,  
14 boat, and snowmachine. The area is diverse, with  
15 cultural roots and Yup'ik, Athabaskan, Alutiiq, and  
16 Aleut traditions. A primary economic engine of the cash  
17 economy of the Bristol Bay area has been commercial  
18 salmon fishing industry. Participation in commercial  
19 fishing by residents of the area has declined  
20 significantly since the 1970s. Since 1975, local drift  
21 gillnet permit ownership has declined by 48%, and the  
22 less profitable set gillnet permit ownership has  
23 declined by 20%. The cost of commercial fishing, such  
24 as boat repairs and financing, have contributed to the  
25 sale of permits. The loss of permits has outpaced  
26 population declines in the Bristol Bay area communities.  
27 For example, Nondalton estimated population declined 23%  
28 between 1980 and 2020, and permit ownership declined  
29 66%. More significantly, communities that have grown in  
30 population have also lost permits. Communities who have  
31 increased in permit ownership are the villages of Togiak  
32 and Manokotak.

33  
34                   So, discussing subsistence fishing in  
35 this area, the human population in the Bristol Bay area  
36 has been supported by an abundance of salmon for  
37 thousands of years. Hunting, fishing and gathering were  
38 all practiced, but fishing was by far the most important  
39 because of the large and predictable salmon runs. Early  
40 documentation is focused on the period between 1880 and  
41 1930. During the months of spring, families were often  
42 at camps harvesting furbearers for food and for fur,  
43 marine mammals and birds. The fresh food was welcome  
44 after relying on primarily dried and preserved salmon  
45 for months in late winter and early spring. In spring,  
46 people return to settlements oriented on rivers to  
47 prepare for salmon season. Villages prepared nets and  
48 traps to be ready to harvest the first salmon runs. They  
49 use gill nets made of sinew that were held vertically  
50 in the water by wooden floats and stone sinkers. People

1 drifted nets in rivers and streams while paddling kayaks  
2 or canoes. People also use funnel shaped basket traps  
3 made of split spruce strips, spears with barbed harpoon  
4 dart heads, and dip nets. Some dip nets were as much as  
5 six feet in diameter. Small hooks made from ornamented  
6 stone and ivory or metal were used to harvest salmon,  
7 with a great variety of sinkers for fishing lines  
8 intended to attract fish, as well as to serve as weight  
9 for the line. In addition to arrows used for killing  
10 birds and mammals, people made arrows that varied  
11 considerably in the shape of the heads for shooting fish.  
12

13 More recently, the harvest of salmon for  
14 subsistence in the Bristol Bay area has been well  
15 documented. In summertime throughout the Bristol Bay  
16 area, families are busy harvesting salmon commercially  
17 and for home use. People retain many of the salmon  
18 harvested for home use from their commercial catches,  
19 so the pattern of fishing and harvesting is intermixed  
20 between commercial and subsistence fisheries. Therefore,  
21 many salmon use for subsistence fishers are taken from  
22 marine waters. However, not everyone is involved in  
23 commercial fishing and salmon subsistence harvesting is  
24 traditional in rivers, streams and lakes, where  
25 regionally people harvest much of their salmon for  
26 subsistence. In freshwaters, traditional methods of the  
27 past have been de-emphasized in favor of the use of set  
28 gill nets, the only legal gear type allowed in most of  
29 the area. However, people continue to use traditional  
30 methods when they are prescribed by tradition and  
31 conditions and are efficient. For example, beach seines  
32 are commonly used in the Togiak River drainage when  
33 people are targin [sic] -- targeting a specific number  
34 of salmon so is not to overwhelm their processing and  
35 smokehouse capacities. This locally is called round  
36 hauling. Beach seining is generally a non-lethal method  
37 for capturing salmon that allows users to select the  
38 number and species of fish they want to harvest. Beach  
39 seines are also used when there is a limited amount of  
40 time, and many fish are required, at certain times it  
41 is very quick and efficient, requiring at least two  
42 persons [sic], one in the boat and the other on the  
43 beach. Beach seining is a particularly good gear type  
44 for areas where fish are hauled up to rest before running  
45 upstream. Beach seining is common for harvesting  
46 spawning sockeye salmon at Togiak, Amak, and Unualik  
47 Lakes in the fall. Gillnets continue to be drifted to  
48 harvest salmon in the Lake Clark and Iliamna area. Dip  
49 nets are regularly used in the Igushik area. Dip nets  
50 reduce gear costs, lessen crowding and subsistence

1 setnet areas, and allow for selective harvest of  
2 targeted fish like sockeye and coho salmon, especially  
3 during years with strong pink salmon runs so that pink  
4 salmon can be released live. People are aware of the  
5 regulations and continue to use illegal methods and gear  
6 types that were used traditionally, although in areas  
7 frequented by law enforcement, they are more careful.  
8 For example, the use of beach seine nets was legalized  
9 in Lake Clark and Sixmile Lake in the Nondalton area in  
10 2007, and people said about this change from an illegal  
11 gear type to a legal gear type. Quote: "it is much easier  
12 to fish now that seines can be used in the daytime" and  
13 another quote: "daytime seining allows for more people  
14 to participate, including children." These methods and  
15 gear types are currently not legal in most of the Bristol  
16 Bay area in Federal Subsistence Board regulation. This  
17 proposal, FP 25-11, requests that the use of dip nets,  
18 beach seines and drift gill nets be included in legal  
19 methods and gear types in the Bristol Bay area in Federal  
20 Subsistence regulations.

21  
22 So, how did we get here, where using  
23 traditional methods and gear types is illegal? To  
24 explain, we start with the origins of the commercial  
25 fishery, the entry of villages into the commercial  
26 fishery in the 1950s and Alaska statehood in 1959 and  
27 changes to regulations. So, for the background to this  
28 regulatory history, I'll start with this, the Bristol  
29 Bay area is unique in that it has some of the world's  
30 largest salmon runs, which attracted the commercial  
31 fishing industry early, a major agent of change in the  
32 area. The first Bristol Bay canneries were built along  
33 Nushagak Bay in the 1880s, and canneries were built in  
34 short order in the Naknek, Egegik and Ugashik areas, and  
35 finally the Togiak area in the 1950s. A few residents  
36 worked in the processing sector at salteries [sic] and  
37 canneries but were not fully integrated into the  
38 commercial fishing industry until after World War II.  
39 The number of residents in the commercial fishing  
40 industry increased from the 1950s through the 1970s,  
41 when most families in the area were involved in  
42 commercial fishing in some way. Now, in the 1880s, Alaska  
43 Natives were not citizens of the United States, and  
44 Alaska was segregated, with Alaska Natives  
45 disenfranchised in similar ways as blacks in the  
46 American south with the same sentiment and derogatory  
47 nomenclature. Segregation was most pronounced in white  
48 settlements but existed throughout the State.  
49 Additionally, Alaska Natives and Bristol Bay were barred  
50 from commercial salmon fishing and cannery work, except

1 during the peak of the season when canneries could not  
2 keep up with harvest.

3  
4 The needs of Alaska Natives were not  
5 considered in regional economic policy making. The  
6 Federal government, however, did consider indigenous  
7 people when adopting regulations that prevented the  
8 fishing industry from cutting residents off from their  
9 traditional fishing practices, called personal use at  
10 the time. The taking of salmon for local food  
11 requirements or for use as dog food, which we call  
12 subsistence, that could not be prohibited in any way,  
13 was enacted, at the same time indigenous people  
14 throughout the United States were granted citizenship  
15 in 1924. All methods and gear types were legal. In 1945,  
16 The Alaska Territorial Legislature passed an anti-  
17 discrimination bill officially abolishing Jim Crow  
18 practices and segregation in Alaska. Labor shortages  
19 during and after World War II contributed to the  
20 commercial fishing industry, integrating indigenous  
21 people into both its processing and fishing sectors.  
22 Subsequently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
23 managers assume most people were retaining salmon they  
24 needed for personal use from their commercial catches,  
25 that most of these salmon were going to feed dogs and  
26 residents were relying on caching comes from the  
27 commercial fishery to support themselves until the next  
28 summer's commercial season. This assumption carried over  
29 to state of Alaska Fisheries Management after statehood  
30 in 1959. This assumption was drawn by observations of  
31 salmon harvesting in commercial fisheries. Federal and  
32 State governments had little observational knowledge of  
33 salmon harvest practices and patterns in freshwater  
34 rivers, streams, and lakes. The commercial fishing  
35 occurred primarily in marine waters.

36  
37 With statehood in 1959, the State soon  
38 introduced new personal use regulations, naming it  
39 subsistence and the regulations that are the focus of  
40 this analysis. It allowed the legal harvest of salmon  
41 for subsistence uses by only set gillnets in areas  
42 outside commercial districts. All other methods in gear  
43 -- and gear use that had been legal before statehood  
44 could no longer be legally used anywhere in the Bristol  
45 Bay area. This history of regulation development has  
46 contributed to the transformation of the traditional  
47 subsistence salmon fishery to what we see today. Legal  
48 methods and gear types and Federal subsistence salmon  
49 fishing regulations in 1992 were adopted from ADF&G  
50 regulations. The Bristol Bay regulations were the most



1 restrictive in Alaska as a legacy of this history.

2  
3 In 2021, the Bristol Bay Native  
4 Association submitted the same proposal, a request to  
5 include dipnets, beach seines and gillnets under legal  
6 methods and gear types for salmon harvesting in the  
7 Bristol Bay area. The Council did not support the  
8 proposal with the justification that the proposal was  
9 too broad in scope and did not address specific issues,  
10 including salmon management and conservation concerns  
11 in some vulnerable drainages. The OSM preliminary  
12 conclusion is to support the proposal FP 25-11, with  
13 modification to allow the use of dip nets and beach  
14 seines in the Bristol Bay area and not drift gillnets,  
15 except to align current State and Federal regulations  
16 in the Lake Clark area.

17  
18 So, gillnets, beach seines, and dip nets  
19 were used traditionally to harvest salmon and Bristol  
20 Bay communities continue to do so today. Before  
21 statehood, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed  
22 residents of the Bristol Bay area to use all traditional  
23 methods and gear types to harvest salmon. After  
24 residents began commercial fishing in the 1950s, it was  
25 assumed that most salmon taken for home use were removed  
26 from commercial catches, and most were fed to dogs. After  
27 statehood, the State introduced new subsistence  
28 regulations allowing the use of only set gillnets to  
29 legally harvest salmon for subsistence uses, although  
30 traditional methods and gear types were still being  
31 used. The use of beach seines and dip nets to harvest  
32 salmon is less efficient than the use of set gillnets,  
33 and no overharvest of salmon is likely using these  
34 methods and gear types. On the other hand, drift gillnet  
35 use in many rivers and streams in the Bristol Bay area  
36 have the potential to harvest large numbers of salmon,  
37 and their use should be legal in Lake Clark and Sixmile  
38 Lake, where it is already legal under State regulations  
39 and where no effect on salmon population is anticipated,  
40 using drift gillnets. So, thank you very much, Mr. Chair  
41 and members of the Council for your attention. And I  
42 forgot to introduce Jarred Stone, who is my co-author  
43 on these proposals. We are both available to try to  
44 answer your questions or you might want to hold questions  
45 until you hear all the testimony that's about to come  
46 along. Thank you very much for your time.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,  
49 Pippa, that was fascinating, read so smooth. But we did  
50 cut out, maybe you didn't even know. Shortly after the

1 discussion of beach seines and until dip nets, there was  
2 probably a one-minute blip blank out. Is there any  
3 important point or two in that part of the discussion?  
4

5 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Dan. Let's back  
6 up a little bit. I think you're talking about the place  
7 where I was talking about subsistence fishing and the  
8 methods that people use. So, I believe it was in the  
9 area.....

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: It's quite  
12 always back.  
13

14 MS. KENNER: Okay, yes. It would have  
15 been in the part of the analysis where I was discussing  
16 subsistence fishing specifically and how people use  
17 these methods and gear types that are currently illegal.  
18 A whole minute?  
19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Maybe not  
21 that long. A minute, 30 seconds something like that. Our  
22 screen went blank and we couldn't hear you, and....  
23

24 MS. KENNER: Okay.  
25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: But yeah, it  
27 was saying the beach seines used in Togiak to be  
28 selective and to avoid overharvest of unwanted fish, and  
29 then there was the blank and then it resumed with dipnets  
30 allow selective harvest. And yeah, I think it was in  
31 referred to -- they've been doing it anyway regardless  
32 of the rules.  
33

34 MS. KENNER: I see where you're talking  
35 about. I think what I'd like to make sure was covered  
36 in that piece, I'm just gonna start it -- there's just  
37 a few paragraphs here, and I'm gonna go ahead and go  
38 over them again. Did you hear the part where I asked the  
39 question, how did we get here? We're using traditional  
40  
41 methods and gear types is illegal. Do you remember  
42 hearing that question?  
43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, I do  
45 believe I heard that.  
46

47 MS. KENNER: So, it's probably just this  
48 section where we talk about how these methods are still  
49 being used. There's a section about beach seining and  
50 its efficiency and how we can selectively harvest. And

1 then I said drift gillnets continue to be -- or gillnets,  
2 -- there we go, gillnets continue to be drifted to  
3 harvest salmon in Lake Clark, Iliamna area. Dipnets are  
4 regularly used in the Igushik area. Dipnets reduce gear  
5 costs, lessen crowding in the subsistence setnet areas,  
6 and allow for selective harvest of targeted fish like  
7 sockeye and coho salmon, especially during years when  
8 strong pink salmon runs -- during strong pink salmon  
9 runs so that pink salmon can be released live. People  
10 are aware of the regulations and continue to use illegal  
11 methods and gear types that were used traditionally,  
12 although in areas frequented by law enforcement, they  
13 are more careful. For example, the use of beach seine  
14 nets was legalized in Lake Clark and Sixmile Lake in the  
15 Nondalton area in 2007. Am I repeating this? Have you  
16 heard this?

17  
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I  
19 think that maybe we didn't have as long a blip as I  
20 thought, cause....

21  
22 MS. KENNER: Excellent.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: A bit about  
25 repeating the -- a part about knowingly using this in  
26 spite of the rules is familiar. So, thank you there, and  
27 I think later on, your comments -- somewhat reiterated  
28 but emphasized parts of that, so, thanks. Did Jarred  
29 want to add anything to that or do we have questions?

30  
31 MR. STONE: Oh, through the Chair, Mr.  
32 Counsel or sorry, Mr. Chair, I do not have anything to  
33 add to that. Pippa did a great job in that presentation,  
34 thank you.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
37 you. Yeah, I thought she did. I just was enjoying  
38 listening the story kinda thing. So, do we have any  
39 questions among the other Council members?

40  
41 MR. TREFON: Billy here.

42  
43 MS. KENNER: Hey, Billy.

44  
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
46 Bil.

47  
48 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I listen to you  
49 talking about the types of gear net, gill, gear net for  
50 gillnetting, I mean, seining. The gillnet size in

1 Nondalton uses a heavy nylon net that it meshes probably  
2 three quarters to a one inch. So, we don't catch any  
3 other species in there, the candlefish and the only thing  
4 that would get caught in there when they're small enough.  
5 Other than that, it's the seining for us was overfishing,  
6 getting more fish than we need. Because if you put a  
7 gill net out and you have a heavy run, 300 fish hit your  
8 net, you only want one bundle of, you want 40 fish.  
9 You're stuck with the 300 regardless. But if you're  
10 seining, this is what we argument was on. You catch your  
11 40-fish and you pull out, pull up the nets and let the  
12 rest of the fish go without doing any harm to them other  
13 than the few minutes they're stressed out inside the  
14 gillnet. Other than that, it's actually a really good  
15 way of fishing for Nondalton. Plus, it speeds up the  
16 harvest and it has no effect on the spawning. The only  
17 concern that the State had when that was going through,  
18 which it's probably should still be a concern, is that  
19 once you start legalizing seining, you might start  
20 getting people that might be going out there and seining  
21 and just grabbing the roe. That was a big concern when  
22 they brought that up back in Nondalton.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
25 That's interesting, Billy. Billy, so, are they pretty  
26 actively seining these days?

27  
28 MR. TREFON: Oh, yeah. That never  
29 changed. I mean, it's -- as soon as the salmon come up  
30 in large schools. Well, they sit on gillnets until they  
31 start seeing fish hit the gillnets, and once the gillnets  
32 are getting fish in it, then they start seining, and  
33 it's never been a problem. Not that I've been aware of,  
34 other than it's actually a great social gathering for  
35 the community.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,  
38 that's great to know. And yeah, it sounds logical when  
39 there's a very few salmon, you have the gillnet and so  
40  
41 on. So, are there any other questions, comments from  
42 other members?

43  
44 MR. NUKWAK: Dan, it's Kenneth.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
47 Kenneth.

48  
49 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Through the Chair. I'll  
50 start from the beginning of the salmon season. For

1 Manokotak and Togiak side and Dillingham side, I  
2 believe. When the salmon first show up we use regular  
3 nets sometimes drift -- drifting, and then some set out  
4 for myself. I use myself as an example when they go for  
5 a king salmon out in perfection point that was -- that's  
6 been a long time since I caught any king salmon out  
7 there. And then -- but when I moved to the Snake River  
8 and Nushagak River side, Lewis Point area, I use a 22  
9 mesh short king gear, and I drift down on that illegally,  
10 but I do that anyway. And that's been quite a while  
11 since I did that, since the king salmon population went  
12 down. And then for the dipnet on the Igushik River side  
13 there's hardly anyone that's dip netting, only if  
14 they're interested. For instance, me and my wife did  
15 that for only one tide, and then we were the only ones  
16 within the whole community that did that. On the Weary  
17 River side, there's a ramp out there that there's -- the  
18 road goes out to the Weary, and there's a ramp out there,  
19 and our ladies go out there with their dipnets and gather  
20 as much as they can, either to put down the table or  
21 make dry fish or strips or even to pressure cook to  
22 store for the winter. And then the snake -- on the Snake  
23 River, there's only a few people that use king gear.  
24 We're mainly after the kings at this time.

25  
26 And that dip netting would -- if it got  
27 accepted, would legalize our ladies doing dip netting  
28 at the Weary and wherever they're doing it. And also,  
29 the -- when we beach seine here Manokotak up at our  
30 lakes, we use a king gear that's during the spawning  
31 stage of the reds up at the lake -- Amanka Lake, Ualik  
32 Lake, Second Lake River, what we call. But there's hardly  
33 anyone that's spitting (In Native), what we call the (In  
34 Native) nowadays. The (In Native), meaning the red fish  
35 that has turned red and their meat has turned white.  
36 When my parents were alive both of them, we used to beat  
37 seine and use king gear in order to catch mainly the  
38 males, we were going after, mainly the males, because  
39 they have more meat than -- they're bigger, and the  
40 females would go through and hardly any of them would  
41 get caught, only one or two, I think, at the most five  
42 of them. So, on the salmon side, beach seining is still  
43 practiced, but only a few select, old timers that are  
44 still here with us, use that. Our younger generation  
45 needs to be trained in or into gathering the (In Native)  
46 again. The redfish that turned white and their meat when  
47 they dry, when they're overdried get pretty hard. You'll  
48 need a use a hammer to soften that meat up and then eat  
49 it. And they're pretty good eating, too.  
50

1 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Kenneth are you.....

2

3 (Simultaneous speech)

4

5 MS. KENNER: Are -- Hi, Kenneth. This is  
6 -- for the record, this is Pippa Keener with OSM. So, I  
7 heard your question about dip netting. Dip netting in  
8 the area you're talking about to harvest salmon is legal  
9 under State regulations. This request is to make it also  
10 legal under Federal regulations in the entire area. So,  
11 that not only would it be legal for Manokotak women, but  
12 for all village residents in the region to use dipnets.  
13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. NUKWAK: I think if it got accepted  
16 and -- I am for this proposal. Hardly anybody, of there's  
17 only a few dip netting, there's only a few. Not everybody  
18 is going to go dip netting. There's other methods they  
19 probably prefer after, but I'll be in support of this  
20 proposal.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
23 Kenneth. Shedding even more light on it. And also, any  
24 other comments from other RAC members?

25

26 MS. KENNER: Or questions?

27

28 (Simultaneous speech)

29

30 MR. TREFON: Billy here.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
33 Billy.

34

35 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I did have a question  
36 for the State. If there's anybody on, if any of them  
37 have looked at this and see what their view is because  
38 we're like Nondalton where we're actually fishing is  
39 actually in State waters.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Well, maybe then -- asking  
42 for more comments, maybe we should just move forward and  
43 hear from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
44 their comments.

45

46 MR. TREFON: Okay.

47

48 MS. KENNER: I'm curious too.

49

50

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1 MR. TREFON: This will affect them a lot  
2 because especially if it's gonna become a Federal law.

3  
4 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair.

5  
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7  
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well that's  
9 interesting note. Go ahead, Leigh.

10  
11 MS. HONIG: Sorry to interrupt. Mr.  
12 Chair, if I could just point you to page 35 in your  
13 meeting materials book, we do have the -- kind of like  
14 a procedure on how to go through all the different  
15 agencies and hear their comments and recommendations on  
16 the proposal. So, if you wanted to start on number two  
17 where we hear from tribes or any other ANCSA corporations  
18 from the consultations on that, and then we can move on  
19 down the list in Fish and Game will be able to provide  
20 their comments on that proposal at that time.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,  
23 I was just looking at that. Go ahead, Billy.

24  
25 MR. TREFON: Oh no, I just -- sounds good  
26 to me.

27  
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thanks,  
29 Billy. Yeah. Thanks, Leigh. I was just looking at that,  
30 wondering cause [sic] we have -- figured we'd had a  
31 little discussion with staff analysis, but I guess let's  
32 do start the process here with report on Board  
33 consultation. Who takes that stage, the tribes speak up?  
34 We call on them, or somebody takes a lead? Over.

35  
36 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. So,  
37 this particular section is, if there were any comments  
38 provided during the consultations with the tribes or any  
39 ANCSA corporations. To my knowledge, there were no  
40 comments. Pippa or Jarred or Justin, correct me if I'm  
41 wrong. We will have another opportunity under number  
42 three. You know, if any other tribal groups or ANCSA  
43 corporations want to provide any other comments. Thank  
44 you.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I'm  
47 not hearing anybody chime in. Now we go to number three,  
48 agency comments. Does Fish and Game have comments. Lee,  
49 are you still on or is anybody else with the State? I  
50 talked to Lee.

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(Simultaneous speech)

Oh, go ahead, Lee.

MR. BORDEN: Sorry this -- yeah, this is Lee. I -- for this proposal, it would be -- it would fall under Commercial Fisheries Division or Subsistence Division to comment. So, I don't personally have anything myself on this.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. I'm gonna throw in for the record here, it seems like the Department of Fish and Game is showing less and less interest in involvement with the whole Federal system, which is a disappointment. In Lee's case, he was unaware and not informed. I kinda think that's a supervisory failure, not a failure of say, the Federal government to inform. It's quite a contrast from when I had Lee's position, and I was told I would be attending every single one of these RACs sometimes when I was one in some tiny village outside of Bethel and then one in King Salmon all at the same time. So, anyway, I'm glad that Lee is doing the best he can here. We did try to get word up that farther up the chain, a head shed, and haven't heard anything. I guess we'll go on to Federal comments.

(No response)

Or did essentially, Pippa, your whole presentation pretty much summarized Federal contact -- comments then? Over.

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question, Mr. Chair. Through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. No, not at the Regional Office level, they may have additional comments.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm not clear who that might be. You know, Andy's right here, and Kenton's been listening so, at his level, he haven't [sic] jumped in. And so, if nobody speaks up, we're gonna move on.

MR. TREFON: Okay, Billy here.....

(Simultaneous speech)



1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, we'll  
2 go to tribal -- go ahead, Billy.

3  
4                   MR. TREFON: (Indiscernible) Billy. So,  
5 probably not gonna get a answer from the State about  
6 what's their view on seining, especially since like the  
7 Nondalton where we're standing is actually in State  
8 water. So, I wanted to hear what their view would be on  
9 that and I guess I'm not gonna get that answer.

10  
11                   MS. KENNER: Mister Chair.....

12                   (Simultaneous speech)

13  
14  
15                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
16 exactly. Go ahead, Pippa

17  
18                   MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
19 the record, this is Pippa Kenner. So, actually the area  
20 of Sixmile Lake where Nondalton is located -- so, we  
21 have a dual management process where State regulations  
22 apply on Federal public waters, in addition to Federal  
23 regulations applying on Federal public waters. So,  
24 they're not State waters or Federal waters, but for the  
25 purposes of Federal subsistence management, both Boards  
26 have jurisdiction in Sixmile Lake. I didn't mean to  
27 confuse it more, I just wanted to point that out. Thanks.

28  
29                   MR. TREFON: Okay, Billy, I'm actually  
30 look -- Billy.

31                   (Simultaneous speech)

32  
33                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

34  
35  
36                   MR. TREFON: I'm actually looking at  
37 figure one on the Federal public waters lands. Sixmile  
38 Lake shows that it's not covered by the Federal, Sixmile  
39 and the Newhalen. That's what my -- that's my concern  
40 with because from Igiugig between Lake Clark and  
41 Sixmile, that's where the boundary began as far as waters  
42 go. And also the (indiscernible).

43  
44                   MS. KENNER: So.....

45  
46                   MR. TREFON: But Newhalen by this map  
47 here is covered by State, including Sixmile.

48  
49                   MS. KENNER: You're right. So, thanks  
50 again, Billy, this is Pippa Kenner for the record. So,

1 what the map actually shows is that Sixmile Lake is  
2 within the Federal Subsistence Board Management  
3 authority for fish, because it is adjacent to Federal  
4 public lands, it's adjacent to the Refuge. So, Sixmile  
5 Lake would be covered by Federal regulations. However,  
6 your observations about Newhalen and the entire area  
7 around Lake Iliamna are correct. They are managed by  
8 State, and they are under State fish management and not  
9 Federal fish management.

10  
11 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's my concern  
12 because, I mean, we've been fishing illegally, seining  
13 for forever. But if this goes into law, it's still gonna  
14 be -- our illegal fishing is still is State waters. So,  
15 I'm a little concerned about that.

16  
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And that  
18 concern seems warranted. But we might be in a mode where,  
19 I think is it next spring, we'll have the opportunity  
20 to propose changes to State fishing regulations, am I  
21 correct?

22  
23 (Pause)

24  
25 MR. TREFON: I hope so.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I  
28 think so. Yeah, I'm kind of still in summer fall hunting  
29 mode and not in the meeting mode yet, but trying to get  
30 there today.

31  
32 MR. TREFON: Yeah, cause I'm reflecting  
33 on your view about how State show their interested in  
34 this meetings. And I've been telling a lot of people  
35 that they seem to be there just to tell their boss that  
36 they fill the seat and that they were there on other  
37 than taking no action or discussing any of our concerns.

38  
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Well,  
40 I think they're also getting spread thinner and thinner  
41 and budget wise and personnel wise. But I'm trying to  
42 make a mental note to get ahold of some folks a little  
43 later.

44  
45 MS. KENNER: Hey, Dan.

46  
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNWAY: One other  
50 thing -- go ahead.

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MS. KENNER: Oh, hi. Sorry, Dan. This is Pippa again, through the Chair to Billy. So, Billy, I've had a chance to look up State regulations, and you may use gillnets and beach seines in Iliamna Lake as well as Sixmile Lake and Lake Clark. So, the use of beach seines for harvesting salmon and gillnets in Lake Iliamna is legal under State regulations. Thanks.

10  
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MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you. So, I mean, Newhalen River is covered. Thank you.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's even better news so, great. Thank you, Pippa. I don't have all my stuff at hand here so, appreciate that. That's a really -- good point of -- question here if Troy Hamon or Mark Sturm still on. I thought beach seines were allowed for redfish harvest in Naknek Lake as well, or Naknek drainage. Over.

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MR. STRUM: Yeah, through the Chair. I'm wondering if Troy is on and could answer that. He's got more of a historical perspective. This is Mark Sturm, for the record. I would defer to him if I could.

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MR. HAMON: And for the record, Mr. Chair, members of the Council, Troy Hamon with the National Park Service in King Salmon. I recall that as the case as well, Dan, but it's gonna take me a few minutes to look it up, because the organization of that fishery is a little bit -- it's a little bit complicated, it's in the State personal use side and the -- even though it's a Federal -- federally limited, the actual provision for the fishery I believe is in State reg. And so, I'm gonna have to go look at -- I'll get back to you as soon as I know. But that is not in Federal subsistence reg anywhere. So, it's not germane to the details of the Federal subsistence proposal before you, because it's -- it is a defined specifically as a traditional use fishery and not as subsistence by the act that authorized it. So, obviously closely related and similar in scope for the folks that are involved. But from a statutory standpoint, it doesn't actually fall under any of the proposal that you're looking at here.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I seem to remember a lot of discussions about it. And then maybe it isn't pertinent, more broader look, cause I think in just the precedent of beach seines being allowed. But let's move on, I'm looking at the clock

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1 here. I'm hoping we can get through this and then break  
2 for lunch. If everybody can hang in there. Is there some  
3 tribal comments on this proposal?

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 Well, I did. I don't know if you count  
8 BBNA as tribal, but it certainly they did propose it.  
9 So, not hearing anything.....

10  
11 (Simultaneous speech)

12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED: BBNA is tribal.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I kind  
16 of thought so.

17  
18 UNIDENTIFIED: BBNA is tribal.

19  
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

21  
22 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir,  
25 Cody.

26  
27 MR. LARSON: Thanks, yeah. For the  
28 record, Cody Larson Bristol Bay Native Association. I  
29 just -- my comment is I'm very thankful for this  
30 discussion. I think that you know, I've personally  
31 wanted to have additional discussion around this for  
32 well, at least four years. A number of years that  
33 highlight some of these details about the different  
34 types of gear at the different locations in the Federal  
35 waters. So, I'm just very thankful that we are having a  
36 robust discussion on this. And I think that, you know,  
37 with everyone here at the table looking at how their  
38 local fishery works and commenting on it, it can begin  
39 to move the Federal subsistence regulations in a  
40 direction where they're more usable and they're more  
41 compatible with what folks have traditionally used, and  
42 you know, has been extensively documented.

43  
44 I think I can throw in a couple of  
45 thoughts of benefits to having additional legal gear  
46 types in that -- during times of conservation where  
47 managers have to have some types of restrictions in  
48 place, having additional legal gear types may increase  
49 their ability to be a little more nimble in having  
50 alternate opportunity. So, an example is if gillnets are

1 the only legal method, what would a manager use to reduce  
2 opportunity without eliminating opportunity altogether?  
3 And what other gear would subsistence users own if not  
4 having purchased them incrementally over time? And so,  
5 those are just a couple of thoughts of having  
6 (distortion) distance regulation regime. So, I  
7 appreciate the discussion and I think it's been a long  
8 time coming and I'm really enjoying -- here. So, if you  
9 have any questions for me, I'm happy to answer them,  
10 otherwise continue the discussion, is great.

11  
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
13 Cody, appreciate that. Not hearing any other tribal  
14 group jump in. I'm talking slow in case they want to  
15 jump. Let's go to advisory group.

16  
17 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, Leigh.

20  
21 MS. HONIG: Sorry, I just saw Jarred has  
22 his hand raised.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, I'm  
25 sorry.

26  
27 MR. STONE: That's a little bit of a  
28 relic hand. Thank you for that, I have no comment. My  
29 apologies.

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, you  
32 arm must've got tired. Advisory group comments. I'm  
33 gonna urge other Regional Advisory Councils, Fish and  
34 Game Advisory Committees. From my own knowledge I think  
35 Fish and Game Advisory Council or commission --  
36 committees have only got going on the 1st of October,  
37 and I haven't heard of any meetings scheduled yet. If  
38 there's somebody wants to speak up, I'm eager to hear.  
39 And then Subsistence Resource Commission comments. Do  
40 we have any from them?

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 Nothing from Lake Clark or -- but  
45 Aniakchak? I forget what other SRCs there are.

46  
47 MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair, this is Dillon  
48 Patterson, and I was pausing because I saw Troy's hand  
49 up. I can relay the Aniakchak SRC comments. But I guess  
50 also, didn't know if Troy had something to say. I guess

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1 I'll just say what I have to say and then yield to Troy.

2

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Please do.

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5

6

MR. PATTERSON: For the record, Dillon Patterson, National Park Service. The Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission did discuss 25 -- FP25-11. But since it's outside the purview of the Aniakchak region took no action.

9

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. Troy, did you have something?

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MR. HAMON: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My apologies for interrupting untimely. I was just ready to report back the regulations that you were remembering do in fact include beach seines as part of the redfish fishing and it is -- and I'm sure this is why we all have a hard time keeping it straight. The regulation outlining that -- the prosecution of that fishery is in the State Subsistence Fishery Regulations, even though it is not a Federal subsistence fisheries. That's probably why it is hard for me to keep track of where to find this stuff. But that's the -- but you are correct, it is legal by spear, dipnet, beach seine and gillnet in most of the or all of the locations where the redfish fishery is authorized.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I kinda guessed they would be so, but that's helpful, that's really helpful. Thank you.

MS. RUPP: Thank you.

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any other  
2 advisory groups? Probably some people are getting  
3 hungry, or else maybe they're making lunch and not  
4 listening. Summary of written public comments.

5  
6                   MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, I didn't receive  
7 any email comments. However, Courtenay, she had to step  
8 away and she did provide a comment for the public  
9 testimony. I can read into the record really quickly.  
10 She personally supports FP25-11 and appreciates BBNAs  
11 diligence in pushing this proposal forward. Her family  
12 participates in dip netting in the State fishery, and  
13 we support expanding this method and means to our  
14 neighbors who fish within Federal jurisdictions  
15 throughout Bristol Bay. I support codifying traditional  
16 practices of harvesting our resources consistent with  
17 our traditional values. Having greater access to  
18 expanding our methods and means to harvest allows for  
19 families to meet their needs with the tools, resources  
20 available to them, without posing a conservation  
21 concern. In fact, the opposite should occur when we have  
22 better population management and less chance of  
23 overharvesting. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And that was  
24 behalf of Courtenay Carty.

25  
26                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.  
27 Thank you very much for that. Regional Council  
28 recommendation, do we have a motion to support this  
29 proposal? We use the move to adopt in support in a  
30 positive mode. And then after a little more discussion,  
31 decide to vote it up or down. Do I hear a motion to  
32 support? Put it on the table.

33  
34                   MR. NUKWAK: I'll make a motion to  
35 support.

36  
37                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
38 Kenneth. Do I have a second?

39  
40                   MR. HILL: I second, Robert Hill.

41  
42                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
43 Robert.

44  
45                   MS. KENNER: Hey, Dan, this is Pip.....

46  
47                   (Simultaneous speech)

48  
49                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

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00072

1 MS. KENNER: Hey, Dan. Yeah, this is  
2 Pippa. I just wanted to make a request. I'm not clear  
3 if you're supporting the OSM conclusion or the proposal.

4  
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, good  
6 point. Yeah, Kenneth, are you moving to support as  
7 originally written, or do you move to adopt with the  
8 recommended adjustment regarding drift nets?

9  
10 MR. NUKWAK: I'll go with the recommended  
11 adoption.

12  
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
14 you. And Robert, is that your second?

15  
16 MR. HILL: Yes, still seconded. Thank  
17 you.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you  
20 very much. Okay and through the desk. I'm not quite sure  
21 how to proceed here, Leigh, with this rest of list. It's  
22 just so that we keep in mind when we discuss it or do  
23 we need to address each point?

24  
25 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. You don't  
26 have to address each point. They're just there to kinda  
27 help guide you, just to make sure, you know, the  
28 justification is clear on the record. And so, the Council  
29 has asked questions and but yeah, if anything else needs  
30 to be discussed or deliberated on, now is that time and  
31 those questions are just to help you.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
34 thank you. Kenneth, since you made the motion, do you  
35 want to speak to the proposal?

36  
37 MR. NUKWAK: The reason I accept that  
38 adoption is in support for the Nondalton area and whom  
39 ever it may concern. That's all I'll put in.

40  
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
42 Robert.

43  
44 MR. HILL: Yeah, I just -- yeah, I'm in  
45 support of liberalizing the methods of take for  
46 subsistence use. I think people tend to use the most  
47 efficient method available, and we try to limit our  
48 bycatch, so.

49  
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00073

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
2 thank you. John. We haven't heard from you. Do you have  
3 some thoughts on this proposal?

4  
5                   MR. RHYSHEK: Dan, no thoughts at this  
6 time.

7  
8                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
9 Hopefully a little bit of thought. See, Billy.

10  
11                   MR. TREFON: Oh, here we go, now you can  
12 hear me.

13  
14                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.

15  
16                   MR. TREFON: I actually support this  
17 wholeheartedly. It's gonna benefit the region, the  
18 entire Bristol Bay region quite a bit because it'll --  
19 like Robert was saying, it makes it more efficient, and  
20 you really do eliminate your bycatch. Like I was saying,  
21 if you want 40 fish, you take 40 fish and let it go, and  
22 if it's a traditional means which people have been doing  
23 it anyway? Yes, wholeheartedly I support it.

24  
25                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
26 Thank you. Yeah, and I'm inclined to support it for a  
27 lot of those reasons, too. We, through State rules,  
28 allowed dip netting right around the Dillingham area.  
29 And I had numerous people coming up to me saying, we've  
30 been doing that for years, we didn't know it wasn't  
31 legal. It's very popular here and like people are saying,  
32 you can be very selective and not kill fish that you  
33 don't want. That's a particular concern in -- with our  
34 depleted king salmon. That's also why I would support  
35 the not allowing drift netting, because that isn't as  
36 selective, and can -- when we're trying to protect kings,  
37 these other methods would allow us to do so. So, I think  
38 it's been a good proposal and commend Cody on the work.  
39 With that, is there any other discussion?

40  
41                   (No response)

42  
43                   Hearing none, we'll be voting on the  
44 proposal FP25-11 as modified by OSM to exclude drift  
45 nets, but to allow dipnets and beach seines in the  
46 Bristol Bay area, and to align current State and Federal  
47 regulations in the Lake Clark area. Do I hear a question?

48  
49                   MR. TREFON: Question.

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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
2 Billy. All signify support by saying aye.

3  
4                   IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I believe I  
7 heard five eyes. Any opposed?

8  
9                   (No response)

10  
11                   I hear zero opposed. Let's -- this  
12 lasted a little longer, let's take an hour break for  
13 lunch and get back. Like I say, I'm hoping we can get  
14 through this, but these -- it goes a little slower online  
15 like this. And we do have quite a few, but does that  
16 work for everybody?

17  
18                   UNIDENTIFIED: 1:30 sounds good.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
21 Anybody else?

22  
23                   (Simultaneous speech)

24  
25                   UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Dan.

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: See you at  
28 1:30. Thanks, Leigh and Pippa man, I really enjoyed that  
29 talk.

30  
31                   MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, thank you, Leigh.

32  
33                   MS. HONIG: Yes. See you back at 1:30,  
34 thank you.

35  
36                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Andy was  
37 about ready to fall over, he's starving.

38  
39                   (Off record)

40  
41                   (On record)

42  
43                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: All right.  
44 We didn't know how picky it was gonna be, but it likes  
45 Andy, and that's good enough for me. How about everybody  
46 else?

47  
48                   MS. HONIG: Yeah, I think we're doing  
49 good. You want me to do a quorum check really quickly?  
50 I believe we have everybody on, but.....

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, we should.

MS. HONIG: Okay, so, Billy, are you on?

MR. TREFON: Yes, I am.

MS. HONIG: Okay and we have Dan and Kenneth, you're on?

MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I'm here.

MS. HONIG: Wonderful. And, John Rhyshek, I see you on.

MR. RHYSHEK: Yep, I'm here.

MS. HONIG: Wonderful. And Robert Hill, I see you on too.

MR. HILL: Yep, I'm here.

MS. HONIG: Okay, wonderful. Okay, Mr. Chair, we have quorum so, if you are ready, we can jump back into proposals and Pippa can lead us off on the next one.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well, since Pippa said her introduction might cover a couple. Let's move to the FP25-14. I guess, additional gear types on page 65 in the book. And yeah, if we can clip along, if we can get the action items done here. I understand one member might need to get it -- get on the way home soon. We could maybe do that if we get the action stuff done. Okay?

MS. KENNER: Okay, are you ready?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yep. Ready to rock and roll.

MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. The analysis of proposal 25-14 begins on page 65 of your meeting materials. And I am Pippa Kenner, an anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And joining me today is my co-author, Jarred Stone. The Bristol Bay Native Association submitted this proposal requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board add snagging with a handline or rod

1 and reel, cast net, spear, bow and arrow, and capturing  
2 by bare hand to method and gear types for legally  
3 harvesting salmon for subsistence within the area of the  
4 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Bristol Bay  
5 area. The Bristol Bay Native Association states that  
6 traditional methods of harvesting salmon are currently  
7 not allowed in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.  
8 Adding these methods to the regulations would align  
9 currently used traditional harvest methods with  
10 regulations. The proponent gave several reasons for  
11 including these specific gear types in the proposal. All  
12 but one are legal methods and gear types in the Lake  
13 Clark area. The one method in gear type in the proposal  
14 that is not in Federal regulations anywhere for Bristol  
15 Bay is cast nets, which the proponent explains are  
16 commonly used by residents of Manokotak. Spears are  
17 currently legal in the Togiak River as well. So, for  
18 background information regarding this proposal, I'm  
19 referencing the previous proposal, FP 25-11 that I just  
20 introduced previous to this one.

21  
22 So, three villages are situated in the  
23 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge within the Bristol Bay  
24 area. Manokotak, Togiak and Twin Hills and they're the  
25 focus of this analysis and will primarily be affected  
26 by the proposed regulation. In the 50s, a cannery was  
27 built at Togiak, and the population of the area began  
28 to significantly increase as people concentrated nearby  
29 the cannery site, and for other reasons. People moved  
30 to Togiak from small villages upriver, as well as from  
31 small villages south of Togiak and north along the  
32 Kuskokwim River. Twin Hills was founded in 1865 by former  
33 residents of Quinhagak in Togiak. The populations of  
34 both Togiak and Twin Hills have steadily increased, and  
35 were estimated at 800 and 100 hundred people,  
36 respectively, in 2020. Manokotak is also a recent  
37 community, people moved to Manokotak from the areas of  
38 Kulukak, Nushagak and Togiak Bays. Igushik, located at  
39 the mouth of the Igushik River at Nushagak Bay, was one  
40 of four large settlements along Nushagak Bay whose  
41 residents form much of the early population of  
42 Manokotak, and most Manokotak families maintain summer  
43 fish camps at Igushik on Nushagak Bay. Later, people  
44 moved to Manokotak from Western Bristol Bay,  
45 particularly the settlements of the Togiak, Osviak and  
46 Goodnews Bay areas. The population of Manokotak has  
47 steadily increased and was estimated at 488 people in  
48 2020. As mentioned previously, the first Bristol Bay  
49 cannery was built along Nushagak Bay in the 1880s and  
50 along Togiak Bay in the 1950s, and while some residents

1 were hired to work in canneries, their integration into  
2 the commercial salmon fishery began after World War II.

3  
4 So, describing subsistence fishing, the  
5 human population in the Bristol Bay area has been  
6 supported by an abundance of salmon for thousands of  
7 years. Hunting, fishing and gathering were all  
8 practiced, but fishing was by far the most important  
9 because of the large and predictable salmon runs. For  
10 early history, see the subsistence fishing portion in  
11 this previous analysis that I presented for proposal 25-  
12 11. So, more recently, the heavy reliance of Manokotak,  
13 Togiak and Twin Hills on locally harvested salmon for  
14 home use has been well documented. For these villages a  
15 portion of subsistence harvest is retained from  
16 commercial catches. However, some people are not  
17 directly involved with commercial fishing, and they  
18 harvest salmon for subsistence from primarily the Togiak  
19 and Igushik River drainages. Salmon subsistence fishing  
20 occurs most often in the lower reaches of the rivers by  
21 people searching for firmer, fresher sockeye salmon. In  
22 Togiak, much of this fishing effort is by elders and  
23 children who are not commercial fishing, though others  
24 participate too. Fishing continues after the commercial  
25 fishery has closed for the season. In the late summer  
26 and early fall, spawning sockeye salmon are harvested  
27 from Togiak Lake and Unualik and Amanka Lakes, from where  
28 the Igushik River flows.

29  
30 So, concerning methods in gear types in  
31 freshwater's traditional methods of the past have been  
32 de-emphasized in favor of the use of set gillnets, the  
33 only legal gear type allowed in most of the area.  
34 Generally, people use gillnets to harvest large  
35 quantities of salmon that they preserve by splitting and  
36 drying on racks for most of the summer. However, people  
37 continue to use all traditional methods, and people  
38 choose what method and gear type to use based on many  
39 factors, including salmon species available at the time,  
40 harvest goals, preservation method to be used, size of  
41 a work party, weather, harvest site, and other factors.  
42 For example, castanets are regularly used by Manokotak  
43 residents to harvest salmon, whereby people can select  
44 the amount and species of salmon to target or return to  
45 the water live. Spears are used for selective fishing  
46 of fresh fish for immediate -- of fresh fish for  
47 immediate consumption, usually spawning sockeye salmon  
48 and occasionally coho salmon. Snagging with a hand,  
49 lighter rod and reel, bow and arrow, and capturing by  
50 bare hand are also methods and gear types that can be

1 used to selectively harvest salmon. You've already acted  
2 on proposal 25-11 and added dipnets and beach seines to  
3 legal gear types in the Bristol Bay area and adopting,  
4 this proposal would add additional legal methods and  
5 gear types for taking salmon within the Togiak National  
6 Wildlife Refuge. So, the OSM preliminary conclusion is  
7 to support the proposal. The methods and gear types of  
8 snagging with a handline or rod and reel, and the use  
9 of a castnet, spear, bow and arrow, or capturing by hand  
10 should be allowed in the Manokotak, Togiak and Twin Hills  
11 areas to legally harvest salmon for subsistence. These  
12 methods and gear types are less efficient than gillnets  
13 that are currently allowed, and their use will have no  
14 effect on salmon conservation or non-subsistence uses.  
15 Currently, spears are illegal gear type in the Togiak  
16 River under both State and Federal regulations, and  
17 dipnets are illegal gear type under State regulations  
18 in the Igushik, Weary and Snake rivers that run into  
19 Nushagak Bay and are used by -- and is used by Manokotak  
20 residents. Adoption of this proposal will expand their  
21 legal use to the rest of the proposed area within the  
22 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Before statehood, the  
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed residents of the  
24 Togiak Bay area to use all traditional methods and gear  
25 types. After statehood, the State introduced new  
26 subsistence regulations allowing the use of only set  
27 gillnet, with some exceptions in regulation to legally  
28 harvest salmon for subsistence uses. Although  
29 traditional methods and gear types were still used and  
30 should be support -- and should be legal, by supporting  
31 this proposal. I misspoke a couple of times in that  
32 presentation, but we will overlook it for now. And thank  
33 you very much for your attention during the presentation  
34 of this proposal and Jarred and I are available to try  
35 to answer your questions.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
38 Pippa. Jarred, did you have anything to add?

39  
40 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I  
41 do not, I appreciate the opportunity, and again, Pippa  
42 did a wonderful job with the presentation.

43  
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
45 you. I guess we'll go down the list here. Has there been  
46 Board consultations with the tribes or ANCSA  
47 corporations. Where's Orville, by the way?

48  
49 MS. HONIG: Yeah. Orville was not able  
50 to make it in so, to my knowledge there were

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1 consultations held, but no comments or questions were  
2 submitted.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
5 you. Number three, agency comments. Fish and Game,  
6 Federal or tribal. I'd be interested in any of those,  
7 raise your hand and we can proceed.

8  
9 MR. BORDEN: Hey, Dan, this is Lee with  
10 Fish and Game. I don't -- I'm working in the shop right  
11 now so, I don't have access to my computer. I don't know  
12 how to raise my hand on here, sorry about that.

13  
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well,  
15 shout out works. Go ahead, please.

16  
17 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, so, the only thing  
18 that I want to mention is that the Board of Fisheries  
19 in 2022, I believe it was, (indiscernible) took action  
20 in the Togiak River for conservation of king salmon by  
21 restricting the fishery to non-retention of any king  
22 salmon over 20 inches. It was requested by the residents  
23 of Togiak, as represented by the Togiak AC. There's  
24 concerns about conservation of king salmon on that  
25 river, and the Board felt that they were reasonable  
26 enough concerns for king salmon conservation to take  
27 what the department considered pretty drastic action in  
28 reducing retention or, excuse me, prohibiting retention  
29 of kings over 20 inches. It's the only drainage in the  
30 region where the whole drainage is restricted to  
31 retention of king salmon in that way. So, the other  
32 point I would like to bring up is that the introduction  
33 of non-discriminatory methods such as snagging, where  
34 there would be expected mortality of king salmon that  
35 may be unintentional, would contradict the Board's  
36 position of taking a conservation action in the Togiak.  
37 Also, there is concern that this would create  
38 significant differences in regulation between State and  
39 Federal both in subsistence and in sport fisheries,  
40 therefore creating what I would personally call an  
41 enforcement nightmare and those are my comments.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
44 Lee. So, remind me of what's the watercolor over there  
45 in Togiak? Predominantly.

46  
47 MR. BORDEN: Can you repeat that again?

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What's the  
50 predominant watercolor, clarity? My memories are it can

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1 be pretty cloudy, but I haven't been there for a little  
2 while. So, can you speak to the condition of the main  
3 stem Togiak.

4  
5 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, a little bit. Higher  
6 up towards the lake it's very crystal clear coming out  
7 of the lake. But then as you start adding tributaries  
8 progressively as you go down the stream, you start to  
9 get some tannins in the water and then also some extra  
10 sediment. So, by the time you get down towards you know,  
11 the lower boundary of the Refuge or somewhere in that  
12 stretch there where you have a handful of tributaries  
13 pouring in. The water clarity is pretty severely  
14 reduced, and then it just continues to reduce down  
15 towards the mouth. And of course, you know, farther down  
16 you go, it gets tidally influenced and that brings silt  
17 in with it as well. So, I would describe it as the upper  
18 reaches before some of the main tributaries being clear,  
19 but then it gets progressively less clear as you start  
20 adding tributaries in as you move down towards the mouth.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
23 you very much. So, you say it could be a real challenge  
24 to uniformly enforce it if you were out there and it's  
25 hard to know who's doing what under what regulations.  
26 Is that correct?

27  
28 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, that's correct.

29  
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
31 you I really appreciate.....

32  
33 (Simultaneous speech)

34  
35 MR. BORDEN: And that's specific to rod  
36 and reel. It would be hard to differentiate a State  
37 resident doing subsistence from a federally-qualified  
38 subsistence user, from a sport angler, and vice versa  
39 all the way around.

40  
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
42 you for that. Any last thought?

43  
44 MR. BORDEN: Nope, that's it for me.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Any  
47 other agencies, State, Federal or tribal?

48  
49 (No response)

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1                   Hearing none. We'll go down to number  
2 four advisory group comments.

3  
4                   MS. KENNER: We had a hand up.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, we did?  
7 Okay Cody and then Gayla, or you can decide between the  
8 two, which goes first.

9  
10                  MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
11 Cody here. I'm going to defer to Gayla first, and I'll  
12 go second.

13  
14                  MS. HOSETH: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just  
15 had a comment just listening to Fish and Game's last  
16 comment. You know, if this is our customary and  
17 traditional use of gear type that -- I would hope that  
18 the Council wouldn't vote in favor of something or oppose  
19 something if it's OSMs recommendations of moving forward  
20 on this proposal. That's up to law enforcement, whoever  
21 that is, to determine the sport fisher from a subsistence  
22 user. So, I just, you know, was listening and wanted to  
23 just make that comment because it shouldn't be at the  
24 cost of the people out there on the water from the three  
25 villages using a rod and reel for harvesting.

26  
27                  ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
28 Anything else?

29  
30                  MS. HOSETH: No. Thank you.

31  
32                  ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
33 Cody.

34  
35                  MR. LARSON: Yes, thanks. Mr. Chairman,  
36 for the record, Cody Larson with Bristol Bay Native  
37 Association. I think I'd like to again, just state that  
38 I'm thankful for this discussion on the public record.  
39 I think it's long overdue. I'd like to reiterate the  
40 benefit of having additional gear types available to  
41 managers in the event that restrictions are necessary  
42 for conservation concerns. So, without additional gear  
43 types being A, legal and B, residents having purchased  
44 those gear types over time, there's less steps of  
45 restriction, I think, available for conservation  
46 measures when they're warranted. It sounds like there  
47 already are conservation concerns in this area and, you  
48 know, the steps that are required of different user  
49 groups require a lot of communication between this  
50 Council and the State managed counterparts in how to

1 advocate for those restrictions on users and when. To  
2 me, it's a little counterintuitive to restrict some of  
3 these non-lethal gear types based on conservation  
4 concerns while allowing for more lethal gear types like  
5 gillnets. I think based on discussion, some of these  
6 gear types are preferred and chosen because of  
7 conservation concerns and allow for targeting of  
8 specific species as well as sex of specific species,  
9 just based on the discussion on the last proposal. And  
10 I -- maybe someone else can chime in here, but I believe  
11 that snagging of salmon is legal under recreational or  
12 sport regulations in the non-freshwaters in Bristol Bay.  
13 And I think that that's worth statement on the record.  
14 And that's all I've got, thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you  
17 very much. Okay, any other agencies or do we move on to  
18 advisory groups?

19

20 MR. BORDEN: Yeah. Dan, just real quick,  
21 this is Lee. I don't believe snagging is a legal method  
22 of take for salmon anywhere in Bristol Bay. If it is,  
23 then I'm -- would need to look that up, I guess in the  
24 codified. But I don't believe that it is.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: From my own  
27 knowledge, I think a little bit of snagging may be legal  
28 up in Lake Clark. I know I had a -- probably the most  
29 heated discussion I ever had with Pete Abraham over it.  
30 It used to be, you could snag in saltwater, but I  
31 honestly don't know now. So -- but thank you. Appreciate  
32 that. Okay.....

33

34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

37

38 MR. LARSON: Cody Larson again, for the  
39 record. That's -- Mr. Chairman that's what I was  
40 referring to. I believe that you're correct in that that  
41 is still allowable. But again, feel free to chime in,  
42 but I -- that was my understanding. It was the same as  
43 yours. Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
46 Cody. So, do any other Regional Advisory Councils,  
47 Advisory Committees or SRCs have comments on this? Now  
48 going to number four.

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1 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, through the Chair.  
2 Kenneth. If you're referring to the Bristol Bay RAC  
3 members also.

4  
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, we talk  
6 later after these other groups speak. Okay?

7  
8 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. I'll hold.

9  
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
11 Yeah, I don't -- like I said earlier, I'm not sure any  
12 Advisory Committees for the State have met yet. I don't  
13 think other Regional Advisory Councils have any reach  
14 on this, and I don't believe there's an SRC for this.  
15 That's more for National Park related stuff, I think.  
16 So, if somebody shows up, that wanna speak on it, they  
17 gotta shout out. Let's go to number five. Summary of  
18 written and public comments. Leigh, do we have any?

19  
20 MS. HONIG: No, Mr. Chair. No public  
21 comments at this time.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
24 you. Number six, is there anybody public that wants to  
25 provide comment and testimony at this time?

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 Seeing none, let's move on to Regional  
30 Council recommendations. To get the ball rolling, we  
31 need a motion to put this on the floor. Can somebody  
32 move?

33  
34 MR. NUKWAK: I shall move.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
37 you, Kenneth. You move.

38  
39 (Simultaneous Speech)

40  
41 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Hello?

44  
45 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, if you heard me, I  
46 shall move.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you  
49 very much. Do we have a second?

50

1 MR. Hill: I'll second it then. This is  
2 Rob Hill.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
5 Rob. I was wondering if it was gonna die for lack of a  
6 second. Okay, Kenneth since you're the mover and shaker,  
7 do you wanna speak to this proposal?

8  
9 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, sir -- yes, through the  
10 Chair. As I was listening in -- I believe it was the  
11 Fish and Game or that was talking on this, in the early  
12 stage. If snagging is not allowed with Manokotak, Togiak  
13 and Twin Hills and there's a lot of snagging going on,  
14 and were adopted, and that's become our customary and  
15 traditional way of taking red salmon. And there would  
16 be a whole lot of citations going on right -- just about  
17 right now and that needs to change. After we have adapted  
18 to this we don't wanna adapt to anything else. And when  
19 we snag, we snag red salmon, big ones, males. Females,  
20 we let them go, they're too small plus they have eggs  
21 to lay, and there would be enough males to give milk to  
22 the eggs. So, having said that I'm in support of this  
23 Federal Proposal 25-14 because castnet, we hardly use  
24 the spare and the bow. My grandparents used those and I  
25 believe my grandchildren could possibly use those too.  
26 And I have quite captured the male red salmon by hand.  
27 And then talking about king salmon here Manokotak. I  
28 have never seen anybody snag a king -- only place I ever  
29 see king salmon is at the mouth of the Amaknak Lake. And  
30 if there is any up the Ongoke River, we don't snag the  
31 king salmon. Don't ask me why we don't snag them, they're  
32 huge and they're beautiful fish, but we don't snag the  
33 king salmon. I have never heard of anybody snagging king  
34 salmon in the later months of July, August and September.  
35 So, if there's -- if snagging is not allowed, that needs  
36 to change. And somebody's got to write up a proposal  
37 legalizing that, cause the majority of the community of  
38 Manokotak does snag, red salmon. And I'm going in circles  
39 to keep repeating myself, making sure it's not set aside.  
40 That would probably be the same for Togiak, but I can't  
41 speak for them. Maybe somebody listening in could  
42 probably chime in on the Togiak side and Twin Hills  
43 side. But that is frustrating to know that snagging is  
44 not allowed on the State side. But if this one comes to  
45 pass, that would be a good tool, and we would be doing  
46 the methods legally. And I don't want to be looking over  
47 my back if I'm gonna be snagging red salmon again next  
48 season. If the next season comes around. I'll stop there.

49  
50 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, is

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1 that it?

2

3

MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. Thank you. Rob, do you have comments?

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MR. HILL: Just kind of similar to what I said before. You know, I think allowing more methods, I think people are pretty responsible when they're harvesting for subsistence use. I can -- I'm not familiar with the area, but I -- I'm familiar with the snagging method, and I know it's pretty effective for taking male salmon. It seems like they're a lot easier to snag just because of the width of the body and the amount of the body that's exposed. I couldn't give you exact ratio numbers, but I know it's easier to snaggle up more male salmon than it is females. So, yeah, just kinda liberalize the method is my comment.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great, thank you. John Rhyshek.

MR. RHYSHEK: John is here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any comments on the proposal before us?

MR. RHYSHEK: No comments at this time, Dan.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, sir. Billy.

MR. TREFON: Actually, I'll support it and I got no comments on new additions other than the Manokotak submit their proposal.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you. Okay, I'll weigh in with mine. I'm generally supportive of most of this for a lot of the reasons Cody and some of the other people have mentioned. It certainly is a good way to have a variable opportunity to harvest particularly the more selective you can be and avoid inadvertent damage. I have kind of a long-term opposition to snagging. It can be generally pretty indiscriminate, meaning not selective, meaning you're not like -- I think, especially in the cloudy parts of the Togiak River where you're not necessarily sure what you're trying to get or what you're likely to get. And

1 you can injure a lot of fish, especially if you do any  
2 belly snagging, you might be making it hard for fish to  
3 deposit eggs or sperm with a big belly gash, or fish  
4 that manages to get away. Adding to that, the king  
5 concerns that were brought up earlier by Lee on the  
6 restrictive nature of the king harvest on the Togiak.  
7 So, again, I warn against adopting an indiscriminate  
8 method. Also, some of my earliest enforcement experience  
9 was on Togiak and I was able to generally know who was  
10 subsistence and who was sport. But if he had a mixed  
11 gear type like this, I would get concerned that a little  
12 less familiar person might be seen as harassing  
13 everybody if they're asking, well, okay, you're  
14 snagging, are you sport or subsistence? And that could  
15 end up with people feeling harassed.

16  
17 At the same time, I -- like I said, I  
18 had a pretty warm discussion with Pete Abraham regarding  
19 the opportunities up there in Lake Clark, and it was  
20 adopted eventually up there. And as far as I know, it  
21 hasn't been a harm. Of course, up there, kings are pretty  
22 rare, and I believe they're mainly operating in clear  
23 water. And the part regarding getting redfish in the  
24 fall seems totally understandable to me. I'm not sure  
25 if I'm able to offer an amendment or not as Chair, I  
26 would be a lot more supportive of this if it had  
27 language, even if it had something like this in the --  
28 from the Refuge boundary downstream on the main stem,  
29 Togiak River, this wasn't allowed. I would think that  
30 would still allow people to go into the tributaries for  
31 redfish. I think I have to ask for somebody else to make  
32 that motion or amend -- offer that amendment to -- and  
33 I'll see if anybody's interested.

34  
35 (Pause)

36  
37 I'm not hearing anything. So, what's  
38 your pleasure at this point on proceeding with the  
39 proposal?

40  
41 (No response)

42  
43 If no amendments forthcoming, I guess  
44 we could -- I could entertain a call for a question.

45  
46 MR. NUKWAK: Everybody must be falling  
47 asleep, through the Chair.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I didn't  
50 think I was that boring. Well, it's I guess, can we do

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1 a voice vote on this, Leigh?

2

3 MS. HONIG: Sure, Mr. Chair. Okay, so,  
4 Mr. Trefon are you in support of 25 -- FP 25-14 yay or  
5 nay?

6

7 MR. TREFON: Yay.

8

9 MS. HONIG: Okay. Kenneth Nukwak.

10

11 MR. NUKWAK: Yay.

12

13 MS. HONIG: Okay. John Rhyshek.

14

15 MR. RHYSHEK: Yay.

16

17 MS. HONIG: Robert Hill.

18

19 MR. HILL: Yay.

20

21 MS. HONIG: Dan Dunaway.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No.

24

25 MS. HONIG: Okay. The vote carries with  
26 4 yays to 1 nay.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
29 you very much. Well, I think we're getting through these  
30 fairly steady. Next up is Fisheries Proposal 25-12.  
31 That's interesting order, but maybe because of the  
32 information. Is this your part, Pippa, again?

33

34 MS. KENNER: Yes, it is. I'm just looking  
35 for it now, here we go. All right. Yes, Dan, you are  
36 correct. It's because it deals with the same -- this  
37 kind of the same general area as the previous proposal.  
38 So, hello, Mr. Chair and members of the Council -- hold  
39 it, am I off mute, am I? Yeah. Okay, great. The analysis  
40 of proposal FP 25-12 begins on page 82 of your meeting  
41 materials. And again, I'm Pippa Kenner for the record  
42 an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
43 Management in Anchorage, and once again I'm joined by  
44 my co-worker Jarred -- my co-author Jarred Stone. The  
45 Bristol Bay Native Association submitted the proposal  
46 requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board repeal the  
47 caudal or dorsal fin removal requirement for salmon  
48 harvested in the Togiak River drainage. The Bristol Bay  
49 Native Association states that removal of the caudal or  
50 dorsal fin is not a common practice or tradition in the

1 Togiak River Subsistence Salmon Fishery, and the  
2 regulation should be rescinded. So, for additional  
3 information, you can see the background section in the  
4 analysis of proposal FP 25-11. The first proposal I  
5 presented today. Concerning regulations, the Alaska  
6 Board of Fisheries passed a regulation in the 1980s that  
7 included the following language. After August 20th, you  
8 may not possess coho salmon for subsistence purposes in  
9 the Togiak River drainage, unless the head has been  
10 immediately removed from the salmon. The requirement to  
11 remove the head made the salmon immediately recognizable  
12 as subsistence harvested salmon and undesirable to  
13 buyers.

14  
15 In 1992, the Federal program adopted  
16 many of the State's regulations, and that is how this  
17 regulation got incorporated into Federal regulations.  
18 Then in 2000, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted  
19 proposal FP01-12 and changed the regulation to require  
20 removal of both lobes of the caudal fin or the dorsal  
21 fin instead of the head of coho salmon taken in the  
22 Togiak River drainage. This is the regulation that is  
23 the focus of this analysis for proposal FP25-12 and  
24 subsequently the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the  
25 same language. Then in 2006, the Alaska Board of  
26 Fisheries took the lead by taking up what it called  
27 proposal 2-51, which was submitted to the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board by the Twin Hills Traditional Council.  
29 The proposal requested to allow the use of drift gillnets  
30 to take salmon in the Togiak River. The Board of  
31 Fisheries passed the proposal with amendment, and in  
32 2007 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted the same  
33 language as the Board of Fisheries, and that language  
34 is the current language that we see. You may also use  
35 drift gillnets not greater than ten fathoms in length  
36 to take salmon in the Togiak River in the first two  
37 miles. Additionally, both Boards added marking  
38 requirements to the regulation. You may not possess  
39 salmon taken with a drift gillnet under the authority  
40 of a subsistence fishing permit, unless both lobes of  
41 the caudal fin or the dorsal fin have been removed. The  
42 Federal Subsistence Board justified its modification of  
43 the proposal with the justification, marking all salmon  
44 caught with drift gillnet should not be a significant  
45 burden. This is one of the regulations that's the focus  
46 of this proposal, also FP25-12.

47  
48 So, I'm referencing the community  
49 background in the presentation I provided for proposal  
50 FP25-14, just a minute ago. So, the OSM.....



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(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's it?

MS. KENNER: No. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support proposal FP25-12, and that justification is, marking requirements for salmon taken from the Togiak River in Federal regulations are not necessary. The purpose of the marking regulation is to identify subsistence harvested salmon that illegally enter the commercial market, and to act as a disincentive for buyers to purchase them. These Federal marking requirements apply only in the Togiak River drainage outside of the commercial district. In the modern era there is not enough justification to continue this burden on federally qualified subsistence users. The marking requirement for coho salmon was adopted in 1992 from State regulations at the beginning of the Federal program. Additionally, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a proposal with modification to include the marking requirement and the drift gillnet subsistence salmon fishery in the first two miles of the Togiak River as the Alaska Board of Fisheries had. Which was not requested by the proponent and not in the Bristol Bay Council's recommendation. These marketing requirements are burdensome to subsistence users and should be rescinded. Thank you very much for your attention. Jarred and I are here to answer -- to try to answer your questions. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Does anybody have questions for Pippa?

(No response)

Thank you, Pippa. That's very helpful. Let's see, I gotta keep referring to my cheat sheet here. Do we have report on Board consultations and, yeah. Tribes, ANCSA corporations.

MS. HONIG: Hi, Mr. Chair. Leigh Honig, for the record. Once again, there were consultations held, but no comments on this particular proposal. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. That's helpful, I'm glad they were held. I was getting kinda anxious about that, so. Cause there's been criticisms in the past, so. Okay, number three, agency

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1 comments, Fish and Game, federales [sic] or tribal. Does  
2 anybody on that has comment about that?

3

4 MS. HONIG: Cody Larson has his hand  
5 raised.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Go  
8 ahead, Cody.

9

10 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So,  
11 this proposal is something that I somewhat investigated.  
12 Not specifically, but I've -- through the FRMP process  
13 and working in the communities of Togiak and Twin Hills  
14 and those are users that are right there at where this  
15 requirement is in place for and conducting dozens --  
16 many, many, many interviews and surveys with folks. The  
17 consensus or, you know, my understanding is that this  
18 practice is not being -- people aren't doing this. And  
19 during the last cycle of fisheries proposals, this  
20 Advisory Council also identified that this is not a  
21 subsistence practice and in fact recommended it to be  
22 removed from the regulations. But didn't create a  
23 proposal to do so. And so, this proposal is in response  
24 both to the time I've spent in the communities working  
25 on the FRMP projects, as well as feedback from this  
26 Council in 2021, I believe. And that's all I've got.  
27 Thanks.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
30 thank you. Anybody else? That's helpful. Well, I'll take  
31 the liberties, I'd managed to get ahold of a ComFish  
32 person this morning and I kinda semi-official  
33 unofficial, but I'll relay what I understood from them.  
34 Is that the current commercial market for coho in the  
35 Togiak area is greatly reduced or nonexistent, and the  
36 reg -- therefore the regulation seems unneeded. They  
37 even used the word demeaning as other folks have  
38 mentioned, really an added burden. The current tail cut  
39 or fin cut is not that big a deal, but it's still kind  
40 of a hassle. I was thinking back when they talked about  
41 removing the heads. Some people like to keep the heads  
42 to eat so, but that's briefly what I understood from a  
43 member of the ComFish Division of Fish and Game. I'll  
44 leave it at that. Any other agencies?

45

46 (No response)

47

48 Okay, moving on to the advisory group  
49 comments again. This -- unless Leigh corrects me, I don't  
50 know of any other RAC has any interest in this. I don't

00091

1 know of any Fish and Game advisory committees is meeting  
2 yet to have a chance to comment. And we don't have an  
3 SRC, but I'll leave the door open for a second if there's  
4 any information.

5

6

(Pause)

7

8 Okay, hearing none, we'll move to five.  
9 Summary of written public comments. Do we have any,  
10 Leigh?

11

12 MS. HONIG: No Mr. Chair, there were no  
13 public comments received for this.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
16 you. Do we have anybody that wants to testify at this  
17 time?

18

19

(No response)

20

21 Hearing none, we go to number seven. And  
22 again, here to get this on the table. Could I hear a  
23 motion to adopt?

24

25 MR. TREFON: Billy here I make a motion  
26 to adopt as written, to remove.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's very  
29 helpful, very good Billy. There's a motion -- I can't  
30 write. Second?

31

32

MR. NUKWAK: Second.

33

34

35

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Who was  
that?

36

37

MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair, Kenneth.

38

39

40

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.  
Okay, just like to know who made the second. Thank you  
41 very much. Billy, do you want to speak to it?

42

43

44

MR. TRFON: I'm just supporting you  
because it sounds like something that's just a lot of  
45 (indiscernible) does not active and nobody abide by it  
46 and doesn't creating any problems. I say just remove it.  
47 This is creating a hassle for the locals.

48

49

50

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's  
Pretty clear, thank you. Kenneth, do you wanna speak to

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1 it?

2

3 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, just second that the  
4 way it's written. And I got a study into it a little bit  
5 more, but that's a good proposal, though. That's all I  
6 got to say.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
9 you. Rob.

10

11 MR. HILL: No comment, really.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
14 How about you, John?

15

16 MR. RHYSHEK: No comment at this time.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
19 you. I'll be supporting this, especially hearing that  
20 it not getting used anyway and, yeah, a burdensome  
21 regulation that's mostly just in the way. It's good to  
22 get rid of it. So, I'll be in support. Thank you. Any  
23 other discussion?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 I hear a call for the question?

28

29 MR. NUKWAK: Question.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.  
32 I'm gonna call for unanimous consent unless there is an  
33 objection. Oh, shucks, what's going on now? We gotta  
34 bump it. Restart your computer. I don't know if you can  
35 hear us. They're saying we got to restart.

36

37 MS. HONIG: We can hear you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm gonna  
40 cancel it, I -- (indiscernible) software wants us to pay  
41 attention to them. Are we back on?

42

43 MS. HONIG: We can hear you loud and  
44 clear. Mr. Chair, if I may, I heard Mr. Nukwak call for  
45 the question. Was there a second?

46

47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I don't  
48 think.....

49

50 (Simultaneous speech)

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MR. NUKWAK: .....I think I called for a question since -- through the Chair, I called for a question. I said, question.

MS. HONIG: Okay, thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, sir.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm gonna call for unanimous consent. Unless there's -- is there any objection to support as written on FP25-12.

(No response)

Hearing no objections, I'm assuming it's a unanimous consent in support of removing the requirement to mark coho salmon in the Togiak area. Thank you everybody.

MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair.....

(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sirs.

(Pause)

That brings us to -- we're clipping along pretty good, folks. That was 12, we are now at FP 25-10, rescind the closures near salmon in mouths. Pippa, I guess you're on.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. The analysis of this proposal 25-10 begins on page 96 of your meeting materials, and it is also linked to our website. My name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management, for the record. And joining me is my co-author, Jarred Stone. The Bristol Bay Native Association submitted the proposal requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board remove the Bristol Bay area wide closure to the taking of fish within 300ft of stream mouths used by salmon. The intent of the regulation was to protect from harvest salmon that are gathered at the mouths of streams before migrating to spawning areas. The Bristol Bay Native Association states that taking many different fish species near stream mouths is a common year round practice for subsistence users, and

1 the proponent further states that the intent for  
2 conservation can be achieved by the existing regulation,  
3 which says you may not obstruct more than one half the  
4 width of any stream with any gear used to take fish for  
5 subsistence purposes. So, looking at figure one, we can  
6 see the villages that would be most affected by the  
7 proposed regulation change. Their fresh waters within  
8 an adjacent to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge,  
9 which includes the Villages of Togiak, Twin Hills and  
10 Manokotak, then the Lake Clark National Park and  
11 Preserve with the Village of Nondalton and the Alagnak  
12 Wild and Scenic River corridor used by the Village of  
13 Levelock. Other areas that would be affected are the  
14 Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, Becharof  
15 National Wildlife Refuge, and the Katmai National  
16 Preserve.

17  
18 The Bristol Bay area is unique in that  
19 it has a combination of some of the world's largest  
20 salmon runs, as well as large numbers of game fish. As  
21 a result, both commercial and sport fishing industries  
22 are well developed in the area, and fishing regulations  
23 have therefore had to find a compromise between these  
24 growing industries and subsistence. Subsistence fishing  
25 in some areas has been closed to avoid large harvest of  
26 game fish species, especially rainbow trout, for which  
27 the Bristol Bay area is known for its abundance in very  
28 large fish. For more of this regulatory background, I  
29 suggest we go to the analysis of proposal WP25-11, which  
30 I introduced earlier in the day. But the regulatory  
31 history of this issue begins in 1934, when the U.S.  
32 Bureau of Fisheries implemented a personal use salmon  
33 fishing regulations, specifically prohibiting the use  
34 of obstructions within 500 yards of the mouth of any  
35 creek, stream, or river into which salmon run in Alaska,  
36 and personal use meant salmon harvested for local food  
37 requirements and for dogs. Then in 1960, after  
38 statehood, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
39 inherited these regulations, which they codified as  
40 subsistence. And in 65, ADF&G implemented the regulation  
41 that's the focus of this proposal. Waters within 300ft  
42 of any stream mouth utilized by salmon are closed to all  
43 subsistence fishing. 1992. the Federal program adopted  
44 this regulation from Federal regulations at the  
45 beginning of our program. And in 1921 -- in 2021, the  
46 Bristol Bay Native Association submitted a proposal  
47 identical to this proposal, and the Bristol Bay Council  
48 said the proposal was too broad in scope and did not  
49 address specific issues stemming from salmon management  
50 and conservation concerns.

1

2                   Now, the prohibition against fishing  
3 within 300ft of stream mouths does not exist in Federal  
4 subsistence regulations or State regulations for any of  
5 the other 12 fisheries management areas in Alaska.  
6 Currently, the harvest of fish within 300ft of a stream  
7 mouth used by salmon is legal only under State sport  
8 fishing regulated gear and harvest limits, ice fishing  
9 included. This regulation, that was implemented to  
10 protect salmon escapement also affects the ability of  
11 subsistence users to harvest non-salmon fish using  
12 traditional methods, such as by ice fishing at the mouth  
13 of streams.

14

15                   For the community background, all the  
16 people living in Bristol Bay again refer you to the  
17 analysis of proposal FP25-11, which we've already  
18 covered in a previous proposal. The focus of this  
19 analysis is the harvest of fish at the mouths of rivers  
20 and streams in the Bristol Bay area, with a focus on the  
21 Lake Clark, Sixmile Lake area and the Togiak, Twin Hills,  
22 Manokotak area, where freshwater fishing opportunity  
23 occurs primarily on Federal public waters. A tremendous  
24 amount of knowledge and familiarity with best methods  
25 and gear types to harvest various fish species during  
26 their migrations, including net lengths, depths, mesh  
27 sizes, types of sinkers, weights, lures, preservation  
28 techniques and more exist in the villages. Fish are  
29 harvested year around and many fish, especially dolly  
30 varden, northern pike, and white fishes, are split and  
31 hung to dry during cold weather.

32

33                   Fishing traditions are diverse  
34 throughout the region although there are a few prevalent  
35 strategies. One such strategy is using efficient methods  
36 and gear types at the mouths of creeks and streams where  
37 fishes such as rainbow trout, grayling, humpback  
38 whitefish, round whitefish, least cisco, longnose  
39 suckers, and dolly varden migrate. These freshwater  
40 species were traditionally harvested with nets in spring  
41 and fall during fish migrations, up or down streams to  
42 spawn, overwinter and forage. Foraging for salmon eggs  
43 is common to all these freshwater species, and therefore  
44 salmon marine streams have runs of freshwater fishes  
45 during certain times of the year, if habitat conditions  
46 are conducive to their needs.

47

48                   Nets are still used for this purpose in  
49 much of the Bristol Bay region, and it's well documented.  
50 For example, in the Togiak area, large quantities of

1 pike and dolly varden are harvested in the late spring  
2 and fall, when they are netted near the mouths of local  
3 creeks and sloughs. In the Nondalton area, people  
4 traditionally took grayling with nets, but these so-  
5 called trout nets are not used as much anymore and  
6 instead grayling are taken with hook and line. People  
7 are using trout nets less than in the past and are  
8 harvesting less fish with them. Trout nets are described  
9 as pieces of pink salmon gear, four and a half to --  
10 about four and a half inch mesh size, and are used during  
11 open water periods to harvest, primarily dolly varden,  
12 lake trout and an occasional rainbow trout. These are  
13 all called locally trouts. Large pike are taken with  
14 chinook salmon gear set across sloughs in creeks and  
15 streams where fish migrate and seasons of migration are  
16 well known by residents, and spawning congregations are  
17 the focus of harvest.

18  
19 In Nondalton, dolly varden, humpback  
20 whitefish, lake trout, and grayling are the bulk of the  
21 freshwater fish harvest. These fish species are a source  
22 of fresh food that can be harvested throughout the year.  
23 Blackfish and longnose suckers, known as starvation  
24 food, are always available, and people eat them when  
25 they had no other food. Suckers are also harvested for  
26 dog food. When salmon arrive in large numbers, other  
27 fish are not observed. Most whitefish harvest in the  
28 Bristol Bay area occur right before freeze up and right  
29 after breakup, when nets are set near stream mouths and  
30 lake outlets. People near the coast dip net for smelt  
31 at the mouths of rivers before freeze up in September  
32 and October. Traditional methods and gear types for  
33 harvesting fishes are deeply embedded in village  
34 cultures, and have a substantial and important role in  
35 the health and well-being of people. For example, all  
36 over Bristol -- the Bristol Bay region, people are out  
37 ice fishing in rivers, streams and lakes in winter and  
38 spring. Especially common is to see women and children  
39 ice fishing at favorite spots nearby their home  
40 villages. During sunny and cold spring days many people  
41 are out ice fishing. During years when ice is thin and  
42 unsafe subsistence harvest of some fish species goes way  
43 down. When lakes are frozen, ice fishing and -- ice  
44 fishing is a productive method, and most fishing  
45 locations are generally adjacent to each village.  
46 Species such as trouts, round fish, and pike are taken  
47 with hook and line through the ice, and night or set  
48 hooks may be used to harvest burbot. In Nondalton, women  
49 and young children and elders fish through the ice on  
50 Sixmile Lake and at the mouths of rivers in the vicinity



1 of the village. In Manokotak mid-February through early  
2 March is the most popular time for jigging by men, women  
3 and children. Pike are dried in large quantities in the  
4 spring because they make excellent and easily  
5 transported food to take to spring camps and to use on  
6 commercial fishing boats. People jig for smelt through  
7 the ice in the Igushik River near the village, or further  
8 down near the mouth, where larger fish can be caught.  
9 In the Togiak area to hook fish during the winter, people  
10 use snow machines to reach fishing areas along the Togiak  
11 River. They chop holes about one and a half feet wide  
12 through about 8 to 12in of river ice. Jigging lines are  
13 made of nylon filament attached to a short stick, with  
14 notches on either end for winding the line, fishermen  
15 use unbaited treble hooks with flashers and feathers.  
16 The lure is animated a few inches above the river bottom,  
17 with short up and down jigging motions.  
18 Fish are pulled straight up through the ice hole.  
19 Production groups, including mixed gender groups or  
20 groups of women and children. People of all ages jig for  
21 fresh water fish, from young people to elders and fishing  
22 groups include relatives and friends.

23  
24                   Subsistence fishing within 300ft of the  
25 mouth of a river or stream used by salmon is currently  
26 not legal in the Bristol Bay area in State and Federal  
27 regulations. However, these same areas near stream  
28 mouths remain open to sport fishing, but low harvest  
29 limits and ineffective methods such as unbaited,  
30 artificial lures or catch and release are common. I'm  
31 going to skip in the harvest history section. I'm just  
32 gonna skip right to subsistence harvest and rainbow  
33 trout, the species protected by some of these  
34 restrictive fishing regulations. The direct targeting  
35 of rainbow trout for subsistence is illegal under State  
36 regulations, although when harvested incidentally to  
37 other species, they may be retained. On Federal public  
38 lands subsistence users may target rainbow trout with  
39 rod and reel. Daily harvest and possession limits are  
40 two per day, two in possession, with no size limit, from  
41 April through October and five per day, in five in  
42 possession with no size limit from November through  
43 April. If you take rainbow trout, incidentally, in other  
44 subsistence net fisheries or through the ice, you may  
45 retain them for subsistence purposes under Federal  
46 regulations.

47  
48                   Now I'm going to describe a little bit  
49 the sport fishing for game species. As we said, the  
50 Bristol Bay management area consists of some of the most

1 premier fishing opportunities for sport anglers who  
2 travel far at times to fish these waters not just for  
3 salmon but other game species such as rainbow trout,  
4 dolly varden, arctic char, arctic grayling, and northern  
5 pike. The Bristol Bay Management Area became known as a  
6 premier fishing destination as early as the 1930s, and  
7 angler effort has increased substantially. During the  
8 years of 2016 through 2021, there was an average of  
9 about 74,000 angler days per year in the Bristol Bay  
10 area. Sports catch rates for the Bristol Bay area are  
11 substantial and likely under reported. An average cash  
12 rate -- catch rate for between 2016 and 2020 was about  
13 156,000 rainbow trout. While most of these anglers are  
14 practicing catch and release, release fish may suffer  
15 mortality. Regulations have been enacted to -- for  
16 single hook in areas to help mitigate this mortality for  
17 rainbow trout and chinook salmon. Rainbow trout  
18 mortality from catch and release fishing is likely much  
19 higher than what is harvested in the subsistence  
20 fishery.

21  
22 So, what are the effects of this  
23 proposal? If it is adopted, the existing prohibition on  
24 taking fish within 300ft of a stream mouth used by salmon  
25 will be rescinded for subsistence users in the Bristol  
26 Bay area. Subsistence users will be able to continue  
27 harvesting fish in these areas, as they have done  
28 traditionally, and continue to do so today. Most  
29 affected will be Villages in the Togiak, Twin Hills and  
30 Manokotak area and the village of Nondalton, which are  
31 situated on Federal public lands. There is a similar  
32 restriction in State subsistence regulations, and  
33 removal of this existing prohibition will make Federal  
34 regulations less restrictive. If adopted, the harvest  
35 of fish near stream mouths by subsistence users may  
36 increase. Pre-spawn salmon often hold or become bank  
37 oriented in concentrated areas near stream mouths where  
38 they are more susceptible to harvest. However, it's  
39 unknown how much additional harvest could occur if this  
40 restriction is removed. Conversely, this may create a  
41 situation that is detrimental to smaller salmon stocks  
42 and resident species if the harvest is large or multiple,  
43 users target the same river mouth. There's a general  
44 regulation that we talked about, prohibiting obstructing  
45 more than one half of the width of any stream with any  
46 gear to take fish, which would provide some level of  
47 conservation to salmon. Additionally, seasonal  
48 concentrations of rainbow trout, arctic grayling,  
49 humpback whitefish, round whitefish, least cisco, and  
50 dolly varden harvested stream mouths may increase if

1 efficient methods and gear types such as nets are used.  
2 Documented harvest, however, are occurring for primarily  
3 non-salmon fish species with small seine nets, dip nets,  
4 and by ice fishing. Methods and gear types that are less  
5 likely to have negative impacts on fish conservation  
6 than with gillnets. So, the OSM preliminary conclusion  
7 is to support the proposal with modification to allow  
8 the harvest of non-salmon fish species at the mouths of  
9 rivers, streams and creeks, but prohibit the harvest of  
10 salmon.

11  
12 So, much of the sensitivity allowing  
13 fishing near the mouths of rivers and streams, concerns  
14 protecting from disturbance and harvest, pre-spawning  
15 salmon congregating and holding near the mouths of  
16 streams. The purpose of the OSM recommended modification  
17 is to protect salmon from fishing activity while they  
18 are migrating. Documented harvesting at the mouths of  
19 rivers and streams occurs mainly during fall, winter and  
20 spring when salmon are not present. Non-salmon fish  
21 species are the target of these fisheries with small  
22 seine nets, dip nets and by ice fishing method and gear  
23 types. Subsistence fishing has traditionally occurred  
24 in these areas as non-salmon fish species are migrating  
25 to and from spawning areas. People are heavily reliant  
26 on harvest of these fish species, which are a significant  
27 portion of overall harvest of wild resources for  
28 subsistence uses in Bristol Bay communities. The popular  
29 activity of ice fishing at these locations is managed  
30 through sport fishing regulations with low bag limits,  
31 limited gear types for catch and release fishing.  
32 Currently, much of this ice fishing activity is illegal,  
33 although enforcement efforts appear to be rare. Rainbow  
34 trout, a species important to sport fisheries, are often  
35 not the target of these subsistence fisheries, but is  
36 just one species of many that subsistence users are  
37 seeking to harvest. Adopting this proposal with the OSM  
38 modification will provide subsistence users additional  
39 legal subsistence opportunity to harvest non-salmon fish  
40 while still protecting pre-spawning salmon congregating  
41 and holding near the mouths of streams. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair, members of the Council. That's the end of my  
43 presentation and Jarred and I are available to try to  
44 answer your questions.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, does  
47 anybody have questions for Pippa or Jarred?

48  
49 (No response)  
50

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1                   You're mighty thorough, Pippa. So, I'm  
2 finding these really interesting to listen to.

3  
4                   MS. KENNER: Thank you.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think I'm  
7 getting more out of it than when I read it. Okay, as far  
8 as report on Board consultations, tribes and ANCSA,  
9 Leigh.

10  
11                   MS. HONIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once  
12 again, there were consultations held, but no comments  
13 on this particular proposal. Thank you.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
16 Number three is agency comments, Fish and Game, Federal  
17 and tribal. Does anybody want to weigh in, Lee or --  
18 anyway.

19  
20                   (No comments)

21  
22                   Cody, do you want to weigh in here or  
23 do you want to wait further down?

24  
25                   MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can  
26 you hear me?

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

29  
30                   MR. LARSON: Okay. Cody Larson, for the  
31 record. I think that was very thorough analysis. I think,  
32 you know, there are -- there -- as the RAC identified  
33 during the last cycle, there's concerns for individual  
34 species with this proposal. And I'd like to emphasize  
35 that with reference to rainbow trout, that this proposal  
36 isn't changing gear type for that species and that they  
37 may only be fished with rod and reel for subsistence  
38 under the Federal regulations in Bristol Bay. So, this  
39 doesn't change gear type for that species, it remains.  
40 If, you know, if you're going to subsistence fish for  
41 rainbow trout, it's with rod and reel only. And I'd  
42 also, you know, I think that it was pointed out that  
43 many of these other species that are targeted at these  
44 locations are themselves predators of juvenile salmon.  
45 And I think, I wouldn't presume that salmon would be  
46 conserved, you know, unilaterally by having this area  
47 wide closure, and those are just two thoughts that I've  
48 got. And thank you for your time.

49  
50

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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you  
2 very much, Cody. Anybody else?

3  
4                   (No response)

5  
6                   I kinda -- insert a note here. I was  
7 listening to Pippa. She talked about ice fishing spots  
8 being located close to villages, and as an  
9 anthropologist, Pippa, could it be that actually  
10 villages are close -- are located close to good ice  
11 fishing spots?

12  
13                   MS. KENNER: Very good point, Dan.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, just  
16 -- I just -- that popped into my head as it was coming  
17 through. So, okay, that was number three. Four advisory  
18 groups, other Regional Advisory Councils or Fish and  
19 Game, Advisory Committees. Again, I don't think they've  
20 been -- had a chance to get active yet, but maybe SRC  
21 but any of those groups, if they have something to say,  
22 please speak up.

23  
24                   MS. RUPP: Mr. Chair, this is Liza Rupp  
25 from Lake Clark.

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, Liza,  
28 go ahead.

29  
30                   MS. RUPP: Just again, unofficially, the  
31 two members of the Lake Clark SRC were in favor of this  
32 proposal with the modification, but unofficially.

33  
34                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
35 favored it with?

36  
37                   MS. RUPP: Yeah, I think.....

38  
39                   (Simultaneous speech)

40  
41                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay  
42 but there wasn't a lot of objection to that.

43  
44                   MS. RUPP: Yeah, exactly. So, anyway.

45  
46                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

47  
48                   MS. RUPP: Unofficial. Thank you.

49  
50

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, thank  
2 you, that's helpful. Troy or -- I always forget the  
3 guy's name, that's Aniakchak.

4  
5                   MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair, this is Dillon  
6 Patterson with the National Park Service regional  
7 subsistence program. I've got the Aniakchak report for  
8 you here. The Aniakchak SRC voted to support FP25-10 as  
9 modified by OSM and noted that this proposal would  
10 legalize traditional subsistence practices and allow  
11 subsistence users to better get their fish.

12  
13                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
14 great. Support as modified and it's making legal what  
15 they've been doing anyway. So, the simple version.

16  
17                   MR. PATTERSON: Yes, that is. Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chair.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
21 Any other groups, in this category.

22  
23                   MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Cody Larson,  
24 again, if I can sort of skip ahead and.....

25  
26                   (Simultaneous speech)

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sure.

29  
30                   MR. LARSON: .....again. Okay. I was at  
31 the SRC meeting yesterday, and one of the comments that  
32 kind of rang out was that, you know, the question was,  
33 why not include salmon in this? And I think that what  
34 that alluded to was that, in the fall, spawn out salmon  
35 or redbfish as they drop out of streams, many times they  
36 are targeted at the mouths of streams. And this -- so  
37 just for the record, for future reference, I think that  
38 this proposal leaves a bit wanting for that activity.  
39 However, I think that it -- for the time is working for  
40 all of this group of other non-salmon species and perhaps  
41 that those fall activities can be addressed sometime in  
42 the future through another proposal or another  
43 mechanism. Thank you.

44  
45                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
46 That's helpful. Thank you very much. I was just notified  
47 that Richard Wilson has rejoined us. I want to welcome  
48 Richard.

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50                   MR. WILSON: Thanks, Dan.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Richard we're.....

MR. WILSON: .....back on.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great. We're in proposal 25-10, that starts on page 96. And we're clicking down through the process, you know, how we work our way down to get to a vote on the proposal. And we're in the -- we just -- I think just finished the category four advisory group comments. And I was gonna ask for a summary of written public comments from Leigh, if there are any.

MS. HONIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There were no public comments received for this one.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And that means number six, if there's anybody standing by to testify, we could hear them now.

(No comments)

Hearing none, we go to number seven, which is a Regional Council recommendation. I've been calling for a motion to adopt, to get it on the table so that we can then discuss it. Is there a motion to adopt?

MR. TREFON: Billy here. I make a motion to adopt FP 25-10 as written with OSM, with OSM modifications.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, adopt with the recommended modifications.

MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson, second it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, Billy is move. Rich, second. Thank you, Billy. Would you like to speak to it?

MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is something that's been going on that it's more of a hassle or a pain up there in the Nondalton area to have to deal with this law every year, when -- what this will do is just remove the law and continue fishing. Because I've never

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1 seen any kind of impact on the red salmon or the others  
2 game fish in our lake where fishing at the mouth of  
3 these streams have any impact at all, other than just a  
4 law that just seems to be hanging there. But yeah, I  
5 think we just need to remove it.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
8 you. Richard, since you seconded, have you had a chance  
9 to put some thoughts on this one?

10

11 MR. WILSON: Again, I'll wait till a  
12 couple other Council comments and then I'll -- if there's  
13 anything missing, I'll chime in then.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
16 Thank you. Kenneth, do you have comments?

17

18 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, through the Chair.  
19 Wasn't there a recommendation from one of the people  
20 listening online? I'll ask that first. Through the  
21 Chair, if I may.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, go  
24 ahead.

25

26 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, was there a  
27 recommendation to modify the language?

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: OSM  
30 provided some modified language in the book. Are you  
31 thinking over and beyond that?

32

33 MR. NUKWAK: If somebody doesn't chime  
34 in that -- I believe made a recommendation to modify  
35 unless I misunderstood the -- (indiscernible) I'll  
36 second this (In Native). I shall move and I'll second  
37 Billy Trefon.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. It's  
40 been moved and seconded by Rich and Kenneth. I'm  
41 wondering if you're thinking of the last comment Cody  
42 made regarding.....

43

44 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, I think Cody's  
45 comment.

46

47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, are you  
48 interested in making a further amendment to accommodate  
49 Cody's concerns?

50



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1 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, I was listening to  
2 him, yes, and I'll say yes to that.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I  
5 didn't get good notes on that, Cody.

6  
7 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 (Simultaneous speech)

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, you  
12 were -- go ahead, Cody.

13  
14 MR. LARSON: Yeah, thanks. So, I'll try  
15 to be clearer, sorry. And at the SRC meeting yesterday,  
16 one of the SRC members, you know, off handedly  
17 recommended that it -- that this closure should -- that  
18 it should be removed also for salmon. But I think that  
19 the intent was to accommodate the fall redfish fishery  
20 that occurs near the mouths of streams. But I feel that  
21 modifying this proposal wouldn't -- I don't -- I wouldn't  
22 recommend that at this point from that comment. What I  
23 mean to put on the record is that there are salmon, you  
24 know, harvested at the streams of mouths later in the  
25 fall by a variety of gear types. And in the future, it  
26 may need to be addressed through a different proposal.  
27 But I think that the public record and this process has  
28 detailed how we can move forward with rescinding that  
29 closure for a good number of species. And so, I -- my  
30 recommendation would be to move with the recommendation  
31 of OSM at this point, but that's up to the Board but  
32 that -- I think that the modification that was  
33 recommended by OSM is helpful. Thanks.

34  
35 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

38  
39 MR. NUKWAK: Kenneth. Yes, having heard  
40 Cody. I'll second Billy Trefon's motion as it is. (In  
41 Native).

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, so  
44 you're supporting the recommended language in the book  
45 recommended by OSM, is that correct?

46  
47 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
50 sir. Okay. Kenneth, Rob, do you have some comments?

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MR. HILL: I in favor of this. I know that it's a productive spot to fish and for non-salmon species. So, yeah, I'm in favor of it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. John.

(Pause)

Still here, John?

MR. RHYSHEK: This is John.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You have -- wanna weigh in on -- shoot I already forget it. Proposal FP25-10.

MR. RHYSHEK: No. No comment at this time, Dan.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, I'm bummed. Okay, thank you sir. Richard, have you had a chance to develop a comment?

MR. WILSON: Yeah, Dan. I think with the modification, it kind of speaks for what the intent is there. In this area, we don't seem to have too much worries about those things because it's all seasonal. People are in a specific spot for a specific reason. I've never seen any conflicts or any misuse of other species and salmon. And then of course, the fall salmon is all, you know, it's got its own season or time period where we like to go get, you know, the fall fish have to be spawned out. So, and that -- so, it seemed like it would work. I'd be for it with the modification.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. I'm inclined to support it as well. And I really appreciate Cody's comments, going on in the future. My suspicion is some of these regulations were adopted early on, when there was really a large fear of some people swooping in and just hammering fish. Kind of a new culture had been developed on how to use the waters. And I think some of that's all got settled. And yes, if this facilitates subsistence and does no damage, I'm in favor. I also got to mention that ever since Molly shared some of that dried redfish with me, I have a much greater appreciation, that stuff is pretty darn good. So anyway,

000107

1 any other discussion?

2

3 MR. TREFON: Billy here.....

4

5 (Simultaneous speech)

6

7 MR. TREFON: Yeah, go ahead. Billy.

8

9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm sorry,  
10 Billy. Go ahead.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I just listening to  
13 Cody, and he was talking about fall fish and mouths  
14 streams. I wasn't quite clear on what he was referring  
15 to, but in Nondalton in fall time, when we do our fall  
16 fishing, that's exactly where we get all our fall fishes,  
17 right at the mouth of the Kvichak River. And that's  
18 pretty much where we get our fall fish only, we don't  
19 go around looking for other streams. But if there was  
20 any restrictions to fishing red salmon at the mouth of  
21 the stream on Nondalton, probably oppose it, but we do  
22 fish at the mouth of the stream when they're red.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And  
25 those are red fish.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Yep. Fall fish after a  
28 spawn.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I just  
31 know in some places the silvers run late, late, late,  
32 and I'm trying to imagine whether there be any difficulty  
33 there, but that topic.....

34

35 (Simultaneous speech)

36

37 MR. TREFON: No silver.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: .....will  
40 not come up, so.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Yeah.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any other  
45 discussion?

46

47 (Simultaneous speech)

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49 MR. TREFON: We don't have silvers up  
50 there.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, they don't go that far? We were catching them good, right in Newhalen that one year. Better than I ever expected. The bummer if you don't get them all the way up.

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. TREFON: Yeah, they come and go.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Boy they're good. Okay, so, is there any other discussion?

(No comments)

Okay, here let's be prepared to -- I -- from the sense of it, I think -- again regarding Fisheries Proposal 25-11 requesting subsistence Board allow taking of salmon -- oops, 11? I'm wrong we are on, 10. Request Bristol Bay wide -- remove the Bristol Bay wide closure of taking of fish within 300ft of the mouths of stream used by salmon, modified to allow the harvest of non-salmon fish species at the mouths of rivers, streams and creeks and prohibit the harvest of salmon. Following their modified recommended language. You may not take salmon from waters within 300ft of a stream mouth. And I'll call for a unanimous consent unless I hear an objection.

(No response)

Hearing no objection, see, it passes 6 to 0, I believe the count is now. And thank you very much. How are we doing? Do we need a break or.....

MR. TREFON: Only two more, let's get her done.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. All right. Well, we get Pippa back on the stand on Fisheries Proposal number nine, Bristol Bay red buoys.

MS. KENNER: Actually, this will be Jarred.

MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of Council.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Good. Let him sing a little.

1

2

3 MR. STONE: Thank you, thank you. For the  
4 record my name is Jarred Stone, and I am a fish biologist  
5 with OSM. And I am here joined with co-author Pippa  
6 Kenner. The materials for this analysis can be found on  
7 page 125 of your Council books. And this proposal  
8 analysis I'm gonna give is gonna be kind of brief,  
9 because Pippa has done such a great job in giving so  
10 much of the regulatory background and additional  
11 information that you need for making decisions on these  
12 analyses. Proposal FP25-09, submitted by the Bristol Bay  
13 Native Association, seeks to remove the restriction that  
14 prohibits the use of red-colored kegs or buoys for  
15 marking subsistence gear in the Bristol Bay region. The  
16 current regulation mandates the use of buoys of any color  
17 except red. Briefly, I'll discuss the differences we  
18 found between Federal and State regulations. In the  
19 Federal regulations currently, they do not allow the use  
20 of red buoy anywhere in the State except for two areas,  
21 which include the Yukon northern area and the Kuskokwim  
22 area. So, those are the two areas you're allowed to use  
23 a red buoy. The State regulations are different in that  
24 they do not allow the use of red buoys in two locations,  
25 which include Norton Sound and Kotzebue District, and  
26 so there you can see the differences between the Federal  
27 and State regulations. The regulation distinguishes  
28 subsistence gear from commercial gear, where red buoys  
29 are exclusively used for commercial purposes. Federally  
30 qualified subsistence users are currently allowed to use  
31 buoys of any color but red, creating a distinction for  
32 law enforcement between commercial and subsistence gear.  
33 However, the areas where red buoys are used are different  
34 than the Federal waters and do not provide that level  
35 of distinction needed in the Bristol Bay areas. In other  
36 words, there is no overlap between where commercial gear  
37 is used and where Federal public waters exist. The  
38 proposal argues that the restriction on red buoys places  
39 an unnecessary burden on subsistence users. OSM's  
40 preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal with  
41 modification to remove buoy color restrictions entirely  
42 for the rest of the State, except for the areas of  
43 Kotzebue and Norton Sound, Port Clarence areas. This  
44 modification would align Federal regulations with State  
45 regulations and simplify the rules for subsistence users  
46 in the Bristol Bay area to use whatever color they wish  
47 for their buoys.

47

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If adopted, the subsistence users in the  
Bristol Bay will have the freedom to use red colored  
buoys, reducing regulatory burdens. There are no

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1 anticipated negative effects or non -- on non-  
2 subsistence users or fish resources, and law enforcement  
3 will still be able to differentiate gear in regions where  
4 restrictions remain. And that concludes my presentation,  
5 Mr. Chair. I'll help answer any questions if you have  
6 any.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Are there  
9 any questions for Jarred?

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Seems pretty clear so, thank you. Going  
14 to number two, consultation. Do we have anything, Leigh?

15

16 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Same for  
17 this one. Consultations held, but no comments on this  
18 proposal.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
21 Number three is agency comments. Fish and Game, Federal  
22 or tribal, do we have anybody wants to speak on it?

23

24 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, for the  
25 record, Cody Larson. I'll just speak to it. It's -- this  
26 review I did was to attempt to simplify the Federal  
27 subsistence fisheries regulations, and I attempted to  
28 really look at any regulations that weren't being in  
29 practice and or ones with duplicate or near duplicate  
30 restrictions. And so, this one fell in that category of  
31 not -- not a practice being utilized in Bristol Bay.  
32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You're  
35 thorough, Cody. We're gonna elect you to Congress.  
36 There's a big cleanup needed down there. Okay.

37

38 MR. LARSON: (Indiscernible)

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: He's not  
41 done yet. You kinda faded out, Cody, were you completed?

42

43 MR. LARSON: Yep, thank you. That's all  
44 I've got.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Very  
47 good. Any other agencies?

48

49 (No response)

50

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1                   Hearing none. Let's go to four advisory  
2 group comments. Do we have any comments from other RACs?  
3 This would be a kind of a statewide thing. Fish and Game  
4 committees again, I don't know about here, but maybe  
5 statewide or SRCs. Speak up if you have a comment.  
6

7                   MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair, this is Dillon  
8 Patterson with the National Park Service. The Aniakchak  
9 SRC did take this proposal up as well and voted in  
10 support with the OSM modification. And the SRC noted  
11 that a lot of times, folks in the communities down there  
12 use whatever buoys they find washed up on the beach. So,  
13 it's helpful to not have any type of color restriction.  
14 And that's all I've got. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15

16                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
17 Yeah, that was crossing my mind as far as the salvage  
18 buoy. Liza or any of the other SRCs, have a comment?  
19

20                   (No comments)

21                   Yeah, Liza, you have a comment or...?  
22

23                   (No response)

24                   Not hearing any. Is there any other  
25 advisory groups who wanna weigh in?  
26

27                   MR. TREFON: This is Billy here.  
28

29                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
30 Billy.  
31

32                   MR. TREFON: Yeah. I was at the Lake  
33 Clark National Park Commissioners meeting, and the  
34 Commissioner, they supported this, wholeheartedly.  
35

36                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. As  
37 modified?  
38

39                   MR. TREFON: Yep.  
40

41                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
42 I was guessing they would. That's very helpful. Okay.  
43 I'm not hearing any other groups. Let's move to five,  
44 summary of written comments. Do we have any, Leigh?  
45

46                   MS. HONIG: No, sir. No public comments  
47 were received for this.  
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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. Do we have anybody in number six waiting to testify?

(No response)

Sounds like we do not have any for public testimony. Back down to seven. Looking for a motion to support, so, we can discuss it as a Council.

MR. TREFON: Billy here. I make a motion to pass.

(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, Billy moves to adopt as -- with the modified language.

MR. TREFON: Yes.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, and did I hear Richard second?

MR. WILSON: Yes, I will.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. Billy, would you like to speak to it?

MR. TREFON: Yes. This it was something that had been going on forever. And hearing some of the comments and talking about the salvage of bouys. Up there in Lake Clark, we use basically anything that could float so it has something to identify it into the net instead of having color codes, cause sometimes you'll see a net with a milk jug or a five gallon can, it'll be red. But yeah, we support this idea wholeheartedly.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great. Yeah. Okay, Richard, did you have a comment?

MR. WILSON: Yeah. I've never seen any - I guess, I never knew there was a restriction in this area, because the Federal waters are so far from where -- our commercial side of things. And yeah, rightly so you know, there's all kinds of buoys laying around, and sometimes you end up in the park there and you go, oh, I got no buoy. Well, you look around, oh, yeah, there's a empty milk jug or, you know, or something. So, you attach it on the end of the net so you know where it's



000113

1 at. So, yeah, it's pretty simple (indiscernible) I can  
2 see where the conflict came up north, you know, being  
3 commercial or subsistence, but we don't have that  
4 problem here, so I'd be supporting as modified.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
7 thank you. Rob.

8

9 MR. HILL: I support it as modified with  
10 the reasoning of previous comments.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.  
13 John.

14

15 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah, Dan, I just wanna  
16 clarify one thing. If we support this, this is that we  
17 want to ensure that the color specific buoys will have  
18 to be used, is that correct?

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No. My  
21 understanding is it won't matter what color you have,  
22 except in a couple isolated spots far from us. Okay?

23

24 MR. RHYSHEK: Understood.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And so,  
27 would you be supportive of that?

28

29 MR. RHYSHEK: You know, I am on the lines  
30 with Billy and you know, there are a lot of people that  
31 you know, they, you know, they beachcomb and they find  
32 a good buoy on the beach and it should not be color  
33 specific. So, you know, that's my two cents.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,  
36 thank you for that. Who am I forgetting? Rob, John,  
37 Richard, Billy, Me. Yeah, I agree with you, John, and  
38 everybody else. It never occurred to me, I use a salvaged  
39 buoy, and I've used it for as long as my close to 37  
40 years I've lived in Dillingham, and it's red, well or  
41 orange. So, did somebody else wanna have a comment? Well,  
42 Kenneth, we have -- we need Kenneth.

43

44 MR. NUKWAK: I'll support this.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.

47

48 MR. NUKWAK: I'll support and then I'll  
49 use a juice container to use as a buoy.

50

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1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: A what?  
2 Snooze?

3  
4                   MR. NUKWAK: A juice container, that's  
5 what they use here in Manokotak, sometimes if they don't  
6 have a buoy, they use a juice container.

7  
8                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, yeah,  
9 that makes sense. Like several.....

10  
11                   (Simultaneous speech)

12  
13                   MR. NUKWAK: Whatever works.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And if it's  
16 a gas jug usually don't wanna use it, cause you only --  
17 they usually leak. So, thank you.

18  
19                   (Simultaneous speech)

20  
21                   Okay any other comment.

22  
23                   MR. NUKWAK: Just make sure if you use a  
24 gas jug, just make sure it's empty.

25  
26                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
27 Somebody else will make sure if you don't, so. Okay.  
28 With that can I call for unanimous consent, unless I  
29 hear objections?

30  
31                   (No objections)

32  
33                   I hear no objections. So, I'm assuming  
34 that we all support this as modified to remove the color  
35 restriction for Bristol Bay, for fisheries proposal 25-  
36 09. I hope that speaks to it clear enough, Leigh.

37  
38  
39                   MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair. Oh, it does  
40 look like we have a hand raised, Mark Sturm.

41  
42                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,  
43 Mark.

44  
45                   MR. STURM: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 I'm gonna defer to Mr. Hamon, who is here next to me,  
47 he has a comment.

48  
49                   MR. HAMON: So, Mr. Chair, members of the  
50 Council, this is Troy Hammond. I just wanted a quick

1 follow up on the last discussion. A lot of times we have  
2 situations where we talk about Federal and State  
3 differences and we lose track of things, and I just  
4 wanna make sure that I'm clear. It seems like the  
5 conversation about the buoys was fairly unanimous, and  
6 everybody is in agreement. What I do think, though, is  
7 we have a number of people that also are actively  
8 subsistence fishing in State waters under State  
9 regulation. And so, if there's a difference with the  
10 State reg, I just think it's important that as we leave  
11 the meeting, we make sure we don't put people in a  
12 situation where they're expecting the reg -- that we're  
13 supporting, something that also might need to be done  
14 through a State process, I'm not sure how that ties in.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank  
17 you, Troy. That did flicker through my mind. Looks like  
18 Jarred got his hand up.

19

20 MR. STONE: Thank you, through the Chair.  
21 Excellent question. It was our intent to try and find  
22 those differences between the State and the feds and  
23 actually align them. And so, with the OSMS modification  
24 that we have listed here in the -- and the Council is  
25 wishing to adopt, it looks like that change would align  
26 with State regulations. And so, the only areas where  
27 federally qualified subsistence users would not be able  
28 to use red are in the two locations that the State does  
29 not allow the use of red as well. And that's the Port  
30 Clarence, Nome district, as well as the Kotzebue  
31 district. Yep, thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Excellent.  
34 Sounds like you were anticipating that, I do recall that,  
35 so that's a relief. I was thinking, oh gosh, well, maybe  
36 some of us AC members will need to push something for  
37 State, but good. Good work, I think. Any other comments  
38 or questions?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 Hearing none, we got one more. Hopefully  
43 it's lucky 13, FP25-13. Who gets the honors on this one?

44

45 MS. KENNER: I think it's Pippa.

46

47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Don't be  
48 uncertain now.

49

50

1 MS. KENNER: I think it is, and I will  
2 start. Thank you. So, this proposal actually, I'm not  
3 sure what page it begins on, I forgot to look that up.  
4 Here we go, 133.

5  
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: 133.

7  
8 MS. KENNER: Okay. In the proposal asks  
9 to ask the Federal Subsistence Board to repeal the 10  
10 fathom length restriction of gillnets in the federally  
11 managed waters in the Egegik River. The proponent is  
12 seeking -- the proponent is the Bristol Bay Native  
13 Association, that is seeking to repeal this regulation  
14 to make the Egegik River and rest of the Bristol Bay  
15 area fall under only one gillnet length of 25 fathoms.  
16 Repealing this regulation would mean that federally  
17 qualified subsistence users would be allowed to use set  
18 nets that do not exceed 25 fathoms in length, in the  
19 Egegik River, instead of being restricted to set  
20 gillnets not to exceed ten fathoms in length. And the  
21 most important part -- one of the important parts of  
22 this presentation is the map showing that there is very  
23 little of the Egegik River is under Federal fisheries  
24 jurisdiction. There's only the very upper portion of the  
25 Egegik River that falls within Becharof National  
26 Wildlife Refuge.

27  
28 So, if the proposal is adopted,  
29 subsistence users would be allowed to use set gillnets  
30 that do not exceed 25 fathoms, and this would increase  
31 subsistence opportunity, possibly. Egegik River  
32 regulations would revert to the general area wide  
33 regulation that allowed the use of 25 fathom sized gill  
34 net, which would make harvesting salmon easier. However,  
35 the portion of the Egegik River where Federal  
36 jurisdiction exists is very narrow in places plus or  
37 minus 60 to 80ft. Allowing use of the 25 fathom net  
38 could potentially take up the entire width of the river  
39 and violate Federal subsistence regulations, which  
40 prohibit the obstruction of more than one half of the  
41 width of any stream with any gear used to take fish for  
42 subsistence purposes. A conservation concern might exist  
43 if federally qualified subsistence users are unaware of  
44 this regulation and obstructing more than one half of  
45 the river so, this regulation exists in both State and  
46 Federal regulations. The OSM preliminary conclusion,  
47 therefore, is to oppose, and that is because of the  
48 narrowness of the Egegik River, where it is in Federal  
49 jurisdiction. That's the end of my presentation. Thank  
50 you. I'll try to answer any questions.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, Pippa. Does anybody have questions for Pippa?

(No response)

Hearing nobody else.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. TREFON: Billy here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: .....I want to clarify -- oh, go ahead, Billy.

MR. TREFON: Oh, I was looking at this map here, is there only, like, less than a mile of Federal waters on the Egegik that's being -- that we're talking about?

MS. KENNER: Yes.

MR. TREFON: Hello.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Is that everything, Billy?

MR. TREFON: Yeah. Just looked at this map here and looked like only there's less than a mile of Federal waters on the Egegik, the rest of it look like it's on State. So, we're referring to this small portion right here for subsistence?

MS. KENNER: Yes.

MR. TREFON: Are we talking about the entire river?

MS. KENNER: Well, the river gets much wider as it reaches its mouth. But the Federal -- the portion of the river that's under Federal jurisdiction is only right up by the mouth where the boundary of Becharof National Refuge is. So, you're correct in your statements. It's a small area up near the mouth of the -- up near the beginning of the Egegik River.

MR. TREFON: Yeah. So, it looks like about, maybe not even a mile of the river coming out of Becharof. But I mean, actually I support -- I supported it if it was the entire river, but then you start dealing

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1 with State laws. But yeah, I actually do support this.  
2 I just had a question about what part of the river we  
3 were referring to, Federal or the entire river.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
6 Thanks, Billy. Yeah, Pippa, (distortion) I would ask  
7 similar because I'm a little confused with this map  
8 legend. It says all that dotted part of the river is  
9 Federal public waters on the Egegik River. So, I was  
10 trying to figure out if it's just that short piece that's  
11 not dotted or if it's all of it. I guess I have another  
12 question, but answer that one first.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Okay, I think I see your  
15 confusion. This is a -- oh, and Jarred might be able to  
16 answer this better. One I'll just say that the water you  
17 see at the top of the figure or to -- on the right of  
18 the figure is Becharof Lake. So, this -- these the dotted  
19 area are the federally -- Federal subsistence waters of  
20 the Egegik River as it's leaving Lake Becharof.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I got  
23 you. I was all disoriented.

24

25 MR. TREFON: You were looking at it  
26 backwards.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I was think  
29 -- we're looking at the -- yeah, it's kinda backwards  
30 in -- well, actually, it's looking from the south up and  
31 -- yeah, I would say.....

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 MS. KENNER: We'll fix that, yeah.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Now,  
38 I forgot what my second part of the question was, but I  
39 think that getting properly oriented kinda takes -- oh,  
40 I -- is there any knowledge of just how much use occurs  
41 in this part of the river?

42

43 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Thank you for that  
44 question, too. For the record, this is Pippa Kenner with  
45 OSM. I could not find any information that discusses  
46 this area specifically. Fish are taken in the Egegik  
47 River, fish are taken in Becharof Lake.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, and the  
50 other question was. So, then in the remainder of the

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1 river to the west, 25 fathoms is allowed?

2

3 MS. KENNER: No. Still restricted under  
4 State regulations to ten fathoms.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: For the  
7 entire river?

8

9 MS. KENNER: Good question. I'm gonna  
10 check just to make sure. Yep, the entire river.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,  
13 anybody else have questions?

14

15 (No response)

16

17 I guess we'll move on to number two,  
18 then. Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA.

19

20 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Same goes  
21 for this one. Consultations were held, but no comments  
22 on this proposal.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
25 Number three is agency comments, Fish and Game. This is  
26 one that we've been interested hearing Federal or State  
27 subsistence or commercial. The Fish and Game, Federal  
28 or tribal agencies.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Cody Larson,  
31 for the record. As I spoke to the last proposal, my  
32 review here was to seek out regulations that were not  
33 in practice and/or redundant or confusing in order to  
34 simplify the Federal handbook. And I feel that this  
35 regulation is very nuanced. It would apply -- likely to  
36 apply to a population of roughly 39 individuals who are  
37 federally qualified users that reside in that entire  
38 watershed. But having it explicitly listed as an area  
39 restriction, I think creates a point of focus on that  
40 regulation, whereby removing it, it has less things to  
41 consider for those 39 individuals if they are electing  
42 to use the Federal subsistence regulations. I believe  
43 it's redundant, as was mentioned in the review in that  
44 there is a regulation that doesn't allow for gillnets  
45 to span, of any gear type to restrict or span more than  
46 half of a stream. And so, I feel by less language  
47 focusing on explicitly that bit of water for those 39  
48 individuals would greatly simplify the language in the  
49 handbook. And maybe increase the focus on the regulation  
50 that's -- you can't, you know, block more than half of

1 the stream. As noted in the analysis, the width of the  
2 river at that location is roughly 60 to 80ft, which is  
3 in fact 10 fathoms or 13 fathoms wide, respectively. So,  
4 even a 10 fathom net would be able to span more than  
5 half of the watershed. So, I believe that this regulation  
6 is not very intentional. I think it's somewhat a remnant  
7 of the language developed with respect to the commercial  
8 fishing district. And if there is concern that the half,  
9 you know, half the width regulation is not clear enough,  
10 maybe more intentional language would be developed that  
11 would apply to the entire watershed. But right now, that  
12 seems very nuanced and based on a relic of some  
13 commercial fishing concerns. I appreciate the very  
14 thorough review, but that's what prompted this proposal  
15 by me as a proponent, and that's what I've got. Thank  
16 you.

17  
18 MR. TREFON: That (indiscernible) brings  
19 up a question here, Billy.

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay that's  
22 help. Go ahead, Billy.

23  
24 MR. TREFON: Mr. Chair, this is Billy  
25 here. Yeah, listening to Cody, 10 fathoms would -- just  
26 about anyone (indiscernible) river cross the entire  
27 river? That would be my question for that, for 25  
28 fathoms, you'd be talking off the river.

29  
30 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair.

31  
32 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Asking Cody, this area  
33 that's being requested in the Federal waters. Would 25  
34 fathoms be too long?

35  
36 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Based on  
37 the review, even 10 fathoms could block the entire river  
38 if someone intended to do that. And so.....

39  
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41  
42 MR. LARSON: If there was concern of the  
43 users not recognizing that they shouldn't be blocking  
44 more than half of a stream with any gear type, then, you  
45 know, theoretically you would explicitly reduce it to  
46 only five fathoms. If the concern is that users would  
47 be blocking this waterway, which, based on today's  
48 entire discussion, I don't think subsistence users are  
49 looking to harvest, you know, that amount of fish in --  
50 you know, in -- most times it's seeking methods to only



1 harvest what one needs and is intending to process in  
2 one harvest event. And so that's my understanding, is  
3 that this is a bit duplicative, because there is a  
4 regulation that does not allow, you know, blocking of  
5 streams in this way already. So, it seems like it's a  
6 duplicate regulation. I hope that helps.

7  
8 MR. TREFON: Yeah, it does, because  
9 that's one of our biggest concerns back in -- I think  
10 it was the 20s when the Kvichak was being corked off by  
11 fish traps. And I'm just a little concerned about  
12 anybody, subsistence or otherwise corking off any rivers  
13 where salmon spawn. But, I mean, I really do support  
14 subsistence in any means. I mean, if this helps the  
15 community, let's go approve it. I just -- hopefully that  
16 the management of it will be done correctly and not  
17 misused.

18  
19 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. That  
22 helped me. Any other discussion under agency comments?

23  
24 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Bill Smith,  
25 supervisory biologist for Peninsula Becharof National  
26 Wildlife Refuge.

27  
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, hey.  
29 Welcome. Go ahead, Bill.

30  
31 MR. SMITH: Hey. I'm -- it might offer a  
32 little bit of insights on this. I think Cody makes a  
33 great point related to consistency in regulations and  
34 wording of intent to be that, you know, we definitely  
35 don't wanna see streams corked off by any means. And as  
36 is been pointed out in OMS analysis, this era was  
37 incredibly narrow right there. It's also worth noting I  
38 don't speak for all the residents of Egegik, but I  
39 believe the vast majority of the subsistence fishing is  
40 gonna be occurring well downstream of this location.  
41 This location is about two miles of stream on Federal  
42 jurisdiction. From the outlet down through an area we  
43 call the rapids, very narrow, fast water not highly  
44 conducive to set netting. We see more of a sport fishing  
45 interest in this area, particularly during the silver  
46 run. Just a little bit of insights in relation to what  
47 we know about the area and its use.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
50 you, Bill, that helps. But given the ten fathoms that

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1 are allowed currently is there any indication they  
2 really need more net anywhere.

3

4 MR. SMITH: Not to my knowledge. I think  
5 that, you know, 60 to 80ft might be on the low side.  
6 It's probably a little wider than that in most areas on  
7 the Federal side, maybe 100, 150 to 200ft in most of  
8 that stretch of river. As Cody pointed out, a ten fathom  
9 net would probably violate the half of the stream width  
10 rule that's already in place.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
13 you. Yeah, I'm not sure how long you've been on board,  
14 but glad you chimed in. I was really wishing for somebody  
15 a little closer to the location. Is there anybody else  
16 in this agency comments?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 With that, I'll go to advisory  
21 group.....

22

23 (Simultaneous speech)

24

25 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair, this is  
26 Kenneth.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes,  
29 Kenneth.

30

31 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. I have a question for  
32 Bill. You said that it's swift -- had a swift current,  
33 and it also rocky and has boulders of rocks there. That's  
34 my question.

35

36 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Portions of that  
37 section as you get closer to the outlet are definitely  
38 rocky or more rapids and very high, swift current.

39

40 MR. NUKWAK: Lots of boulders, that  
41 answer my question.

42

43 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, I couldn't quite  
44 understand you. Did you mention something about boats?

45

46 MR. NUKWAK: You answered my question. I  
47 asked about rocks and boulders of rocks.

48

49 MR. SMITH: Okay.

50

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1 MR. NUKWAK: I think you pretty much  
2 answered my question.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
5 you, Kenneth. Let's move on.....

6  
7 (Simultaneous speech)

8  
9 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair.

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

12  
13 MR. NUKWAK: Can I use myself as an  
14 example? The mouth of the Amanka Lake is about the same.  
15 There's boulders of rocks, and it's swift. And even the  
16 25 fathom was mandated for the Igushik River, the members  
17 of Manokotak in their right mind would not be able to  
18 use a 25 fathom. So, even if we did pass it I don't  
19 believe they'll be able to, in their right mind, use a  
20 25 fathom. If I'm coming through, if you guys can  
21 understand what I'm trying to say.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Very clear,  
24 very clear, Kenneth. That's a very interesting  
25 observation and helpful. Anything else?

26  
27 MR. NUKWAK: That's about it.

28  
29 MR. TREFON: Billy here. I got one more  
30 for Cody.

31  
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

33  
34 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Cody, do you have any  
35 information on the community of Egegik? How they utilize  
36 this land? Is it really utilized or the importance of  
37 it? Cause, I mean, I got 25 a -- 25 fathoms would be no  
38 problem in the lake, but that's pretty short there. I  
39 mean, ten fathoms of cork. But I just want the importance  
40 of that two miles of river there. The importance of the  
41 community, that makes a big difference. How important  
42 is to the community?

43  
44 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. For the  
45 record, Cody Larson. In 2014, there was a -- you know,  
46 a survey of the community of Egegik, and then again --  
47 sorry for Egegik 2014, I believe was the last one, and  
48 I did a community presentation there in 2016. I think  
49 that in terms of efficiency, most residents and  
50 specifically federally qualified residents, of which

1 there's really not very many people there since the  
2 school closed. They're using the area near the  
3 commercial district right in front of town. And I think  
4 that this regulation was created for that commercial  
5 fishing district area. However, in 2021, the Regional  
6 Advisory Council here, this body, supported removing  
7 references to commercial fishing districts in these  
8 Federal regulations because these Federal, you know  
9 waters are -- in this case are miles from the commercial  
10 fishing district. So, I feel that this language is left  
11 over that never got addressed in 2021. And so, it's when  
12 you read it, it's quite odd because as Kenneth pointed  
13 out, I don't think logistically, you would be able to  
14 set a net in that area and -- of any length that would  
15 prohibit passage for more than half of the river. So, I  
16 think it's sort of a theoretical -- it's a theoretical  
17 sort of concern in that, in theory, with enough gillnet,  
18 you could set it across this river or at least more than  
19 half of the river. But I think in practice, I think  
20 you'd be very hard pressed to actually get it done, much  
21 less catch any fish that would be moving up-river. So,  
22 that's my assessment, is there's not really a lot of  
23 fishing going on there and having this regulation in  
24 place kinda creates a focal point for the area that  
25 really doesn't need to exist. I hope that helps.

26  
27 MR. TREFON: It doesn't really -- you  
28 didn't address the subsistence use of it. How important  
29 it is to the people there. Other than that, it might be  
30 fished and you're not sure how many.

31  
32 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Cody  
33 Larson again, for the record. Yeah. I don't think that  
34 folks are using nets in this area based on the 2014  
35 survey and based on the description of those waters.  
36 When I see set gill nets in areas where the water is  
37 moving, most of the time they're set near a slough or  
38 an eddy or an area where you would logistically be able  
39 to set a net. And so, I don't think this area is being  
40 utilized by those 39 residents of Egegik. In width  
41 net.....

42  
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44  
45 MR. TREFON: Okay, one more question,  
46 Cody. With that being said, with BBNA proposing this  
47 proposal, how do you really feel about going through  
48 with it? Because it creates a lot of questions for me.  
49 And I don't see any real reason to support it, I mean,  
50 ten fathoms would take care of it, and it's hardly

1 utilized, like Kenneth will say, 25 fathoms, it's --  
2 talked about his example. That's just my observation, I  
3 mean, if the community really needs it, think it's very  
4 important I will stand behind them. But if it's not  
5 really any traditional uses, or its width is a little  
6 narrow for 25 fathoms, that's just my view.

7  
8 MR. LARSON: Sure, through the Chair.  
9 Cody Larson, for the record. I think -- I recognized  
10 that this restriction to ten fathoms in that very short  
11 section of the Egegik River is the only restriction to  
12 ten fathoms in the entire Bristol Bay Federal  
13 Subsistence Board fishing regulation. So, no other  
14 watersheds in Federal jurisdiction have that ten fathom  
15 restriction. This is the only place in Bristol Bay under  
16 Federal subsistence management regulations. And so,  
17 removing it, I felt, would simplify the Federal  
18 subsistence management book. So, if this was to go away,  
19 the State regulations would still apply. So, all other  
20 Alaska residents would still have that ten fathom  
21 restriction. But those 39 residents of Egegik, and  
22 possibly other rural residents that were to travel to  
23 the area wouldn't have that restriction in that very  
24 narrow section of the river. And so basically, I'm  
25 attempting to simplify the Federal regulations by  
26 removing this very, very precise language on a very small  
27 amount of water relative to the entire Bristol Bay area.  
28 Thanks.

29  
30 MR. TREFON: Okay, Billy. I see what  
31 you're doing. You're just trying to make it uniform with  
32 all Federal waters up to 25 fathom nets. And make it  
33 simpler for the community as to having two different  
34 laws, but yeah, I understand. And listen to everybody  
35 who's talking, sound like it's hardly use, so it really  
36 wouldn't affect anybody.

37  
38 MR. NUKWAK: Mr. Chair, can we move on?

39  
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Are we  
41 good on that?

42  
43 MR. TREFON: Good on it.

44  
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, we'll  
46 move to number four, advisory groups, Regional Councils,  
47 Advisory committees, SRCs. Did anybody weigh in on that?

48  
49 (No response)

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1                   Hearing none, I'm gonna assume no.  
2 Number five, summary written public comments. Do we have  
3 any, Leigh?

4  
5                   MS. HONIG: No, Mr. Chair. No public  
6 comments were received.

7  
8                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
9 Number six. Do we have anybody waiting to testify?

10  
11                   (No response)

12  
13                   Five, four, three, two, one. I'm gonna  
14 say none. Six -- seven. Do we have a motion to adopt on  
15 this proposal? So, we can discuss it?

16  
17                   MR. WILSON: I'll move to adopt. Is  
18 the.....

19  
20                   (Simultaneous speech)

21  
22                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Is that  
23 Billy?

24  
25                   MR. WILSON: Richard.

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Richard.  
28 Okay, do we have a second?

29  
30                   MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. I'll  
31 second. Kenneth.

32  
33                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
34 you. Richard, would you like to speak to it?

35  
36                   MR. WILSON: Yes. There was a lot of  
37 discussion on something, a piece of -- a portion of  
38 river that I think Egegik is plenty happy with, the way  
39 it's working. I mean, they have their ten fathoms in the  
40 State portion of it, and they do like you mentioned,  
41 most of their subsistence is done on the lower side of  
42 the district. In the fall they do, you know, targets and  
43 silvers, but the fast-moving waters is the reason why  
44 probably why Egegik has no interest in having 25 fathoms  
45 up there. So, I think this one was a little over -- a  
46 little overthought by BBNA, that maybe this one could  
47 be left alone because they do have opportunities in the  
48 lake and they take it, you know, for fish up in the  
49 lake. But I don't -- I won't be supporting this one.  
50 Thanks.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
Kenneth, do you wanna speak?

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I'll be in support of this, cause anybody (distortion) in their right mind, even if we didn't approve the 25 fathoms, they won't shut the whole net out, and I don't think it's ever been done before. Even here in Manokotak, we've never done that before within our narrow mouth of the lake with boulders and rocks and the swift current.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
Anything more?

(No response)

Not hearing stuff. Billy, do you want to talk to it?

MR. TREFON: No, I really don't -- I think I got all my questions answered and all the answers I got there and like Richard was saying, I mean, that's -- that was actually what I was trying to get at is, what is the importance in the use of this mile, two miles of water, which for subsistence use and it sounds like it's just something that is being thrown out by BBNA. And, think people Egegik are happy, I'd oppose it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Rob.

MR. HILL: Yeah. I'm assuming that the fishing that's being done is farther down the river. And they're probably -- I'm assuming that they're wanting more gear down there, 25 fathoms down in the river where they're fishing. The ten fathoms up there, I think they're probably trying to just make it all that -- I mean, that's my assumption, but I would really like to hear from the community of members of Egegik, before I supported this. And see what they're actually after by trying to change it. So, I'll be opposing it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. John.

MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah. I think I'll be opposing it as well. It sounds like, you know, it sounds like this is a pipe dream. I don't even -- if it sounds like, you know, they want to have a net restriction that's very liberal on a section of river that can't even realistically be fished economically and feasibly,

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1 and honestly, I think it's a mute point. So, you know,  
2 whether the Council decides to vote this up or down, it  
3 doesn't even appear that there's gonna be any fishing  
4 in this immediate location. So, again, I'm gonna just,  
5 you know, circle back around, and I think this entire  
6 discussion has been (distortion)

7  
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I  
9 think you cut out a little bit there. Are you done with  
10 your comment?

11  
12 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah, Dan. I am.

13  
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
15 you, sir. I'm inclined to agree with Richard and some  
16 of the others. That's kind of like trying to -- I can --  
17 -- I see both sides of it, and I admire Cody for seeking  
18 to remove some maybe annoying details, but yeah, I'd  
19 rather see something come out of the community. So, with  
20 that let's -- can we do a voice vote on this one, Leigh?  
21 Could you call -- do a roll call?

22  
23 MS. HONIG: Yes, of course. And just for  
24 clarification, may want to restate the final motion, for  
25 the record, it does get a little confusing. So, the  
26 Council votes in the affirmative. So, for clarification,  
27 if you support it, it means that you support the OSM  
28 preliminary conclusion, which opposes the proposal.

29  
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. That  
31 was very helpful.

32  
33 MS. HONIG: Okay so, Mr. Trefon, are you  
34 in support? Which means that you support the OSM  
35 preliminary conclusion to oppose. Yay or nay?

36  
37 MR. TREFON: Yay.

38  
39 MS. HONIG: Okay. Kenneth.

40  
41 MR. NUKWAK: Nay.

42  
43 MS. HONIG: Nay? Okay. John Rhyshek.

44  
45 MR. RHYSHEK: Yay.

46  
47 MS. HONIG: Okay. Richard Wilson.

48  
49 MR. WILSON: I oppose proposal 25-13. So,  
50 that would be a yes. That's confusing, but yeah.



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MS. HONIG: Yeah. Perfect, okay. I was just gonna clarify. Okay. Robert Hill.

MR. HILL: Yay.

MS. HONIG: Okay. Dan?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yay.

MS. HONIG: Okay. That's 5 yays to 1 nay. So, it passes.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, thank you for the clarification at the last minute, Leigh. But yeah, and don't take it wrong, Cody. I do admire your hard work on all of these. And maybe in another meeting, see how it goes. That concludes our proposals. We also -- we had discussed 12D we -- I don't think we discussed 12C or do we need to take a short break or what say is the Council?

MR. NUKWAK: Keep moving in my opinion.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, it's four o'clock. Let's get it over with.

MS. HONIG: Well, Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. If you don't need a break, yeah, I think we did leave off on agenda item 12E, which would be the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the Priority Information Needs development.

MR. STONE: All right, Leigh (distortion) is that my -- am I hearing my call?

MS. HONIG: Maybe it looks like they're frozen. So, Dan, can you still -- oh, looks like we lost him. So, hang tight, Jarred.

(Pause)

Oh, looks like their computer went to sleep again so, they're logging back on. Okay, I just got a text from Dan, it sounds like they lost internet, and he wants to know what the desire of the Council is. He can try to call in or we can recess until tomorrow. Is there any strong opinions?

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1 MR. WILSON: I would like to try to get  
2 it done today. This is Richard.

3  
4 MS. HONIG: Okay. I'll give him a call,  
5 Richard.

6  
7 MR. TREFON: I'm with you, Richard.

8  
9 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Billy.

10  
11 (Pause)

12  
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.  
14 Leigh, can you hear me? Hear us?

15  
16 MS. HONIG: Oh, yep, great. You were able  
17 to call in quickly.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, well,  
20 this Kenton guy is pretty handy. No, he's looking for a  
21 hammer for the computer, though.

22  
23 MS. HONIG: Yeah, perfect. Okay, well....

24  
25 (Simultaneous speech)

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

28  
29 MS. HONIG: Oh, I was gonna say you go  
30 ahead. I was gonna introduce Jarred, but I'll let you  
31 take it away, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well,  
34 we're at -- we are.

35  
36 MS. HONIG: Wonderful, okay. Yep so, we  
37 are on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the  
38 PINs discussion and looks like Jarred's all ready to go  
39 if you are.

40  
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
42 Please go ahead, Jarred. Thank you, and thanks for your  
43 patience, everybody.

44  
45 MR. STONE: All right. Real good. So, the  
46 presentation I'm gonna give the meeting materials, start  
47 on page 141 of your Council books, and I'll give you a  
48 moment to find those. We're gonna be working through a  
49 list on there that it will be good to have your eyes on.  
50 So, with that, good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of

1 the Council. My name is Jarred Stone, I'm a fisheries  
2 biologist with OSM, and I'm here joined with  
3 anthropologist colleague Pippa Kenner. The Office of  
4 Subsistence Management administers the Fisheries  
5 Resource Monitoring Program and will announce the 2026  
6 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Monitoring Program  
7 this winter. We will be seeking proposals for projects  
8 that gather information to manage and conserve  
9 subsistence fishery resources in Federal public waters.  
10 The Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting  
11 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska  
12 Native and rural organizations, and promoting  
13 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native, and  
14 local organizations. The first step in this process is  
15 for the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the  
16 Priority Information Needs for their respective regions.  
17 These are research needs or gaps in information needed  
18 to manage the Federal subsistence fisheries. These  
19 Priority Information Needs provide the framework for  
20 soliciting, evaluating, and selecting projects for  
21 funding through the Monitoring Program.

22  
23 The development of the Priority  
24 Information Needs is an important process for the  
25 Council. Your final version of the Priority Information  
26 Needs determines the types and subjects of project  
27 proposals that are sought for your region. Council  
28 member -- well Chair today, Dan Dunaway and Kenneth  
29 Nukwak worked with the Kodiak/Aleutians volunteers and  
30 OSM staff back on August 14th to exchange information  
31 and discuss priority information needs for the Bristol  
32 Bay and the Kodiak/Aleutians region. We will discuss the  
33 results of the meeting now and then I'll ask the Council  
34 to finalize and adopt the 2026 Priority Information  
35 Needs for the Southwest region. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 This concludes the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
37  
38 update. Are there any questions before we begin  
39 reviewing the draft list of Priority Information Needs?  
40

41 (No response)  
42

43 Okay, hearing none. So, I'll begin to  
44 read the Priority Information Needs. This is a draft  
45 list that can be modified. And I think what might work  
46 best for us to do is I'll read each one individually and  
47 then pause and then allow the Council to ask questions  
48 or to have a further discussion. Once we've agreed on  
49 the list at that time, the Chair can make a motion that  
50 would be to formally adopt this list.

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UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair, do we have a list of these items?

MR. STONE: You should be able to find a list of the Priority Information Needs drafted on, I believe, page 141 of your Council books.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

MR. STONE: You'll notice that I alphabetized the PINs, and these are not really listed in any prioritization. In fact, we don't do that. And I only alphabetized these PINs just for reference. And so, as I work through these, you'll be able to reference which Priority Information Need we're working on. I'll start with the first one. Now, as we move through these again, remember that some of these are specific to the Kodiak/Aleutians region, as well as some are Bristol Bay specific, and you as a Council will adopt the list as a whole. So, starting with letter A, that is reliable estimates of abundance of salmon populations in the Kodiak Archipelago and Aleutian Island areas important for subsistence use and assessment of changes in these populations. Specific areas of concern are McLeese Lake, Mortensens Lagoon, Unalaska Lake, and Kodiak Archipelago stocks. And those primarily deal with the Kodiak Aleutians and part of the -- mostly Kodiak/Aleutians and so, if there are no comments or discussions, I'll move on to letter B.

Letter B using scale analysis of fresh and saltwater growth patterns over multiple years, examine how recent changes in the ocean affect growth and survival of chinook and sockeye salmon within their range and habitats of the Kodiak/Aleutian drainages, of particular concern, including the following drainages Buskin, Karluk, Ayakulik, McLeay's drainages, and or the Bristol Bay Alaska Peninsula drainages, Chignik, Nushagak, Big Creek, Alagnak, Meshik, and Togiak drainages. The Chignik drainage is of particular concern.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'd like to insert a comment here if that'll work.

MR. STONE: Yes, please.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, this is Dan here. Just for the benefit of the rest of the

1 Council. Pat Holmes and I have kinda talked about this  
2 item for a few years, and the hope is that the Kodiak  
3 Fish and Game office develops a methodology to look at  
4 scales that are reasonably available, as well as digging  
5 into some historical files, that might help us take a  
6 guess at what's going on with these, especially the Gulf  
7 of Alaska stocks. And like the Chignik, we all share a  
8 big concern for that on both Kodiak and I guess in the  
9 past we certainly have from this Council. So, that's  
10 where that's coming from. And I guess, if there's any  
11 other discussion or go ahead, Jarred.

12

13 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair,

14

15 MR. STONE: Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Somebody

20 else was.....

21

22 (Simultaneous speech)

23

24 Go ahead, Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just -- recognizing  
27 -- want to recognize that the Naknek River was not  
28 included in this Bristol Bay -- all Bristol Bay, and  
29 they have several other river systems, but they don't  
30 specifically say the Naknek River, and I'd like that to  
31 be entered in, please.

32

33 MR. STONE: Through the Chair

34

35 (simultaneous speech)

36

37 Sorry.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, go

40 Ahead there, Jarred.

41

42 MR. STONE: Oh, thank you. I was just  
43 going to quickly add the Naknek is unique in that there's  
44 no Federal lands that I'm aware of on the Naknek. And  
45 one of the criteria that's used for this program is that  
46 it must pertain to Federal fisheries that have Federal  
47 public lands.

48

49 (Simultaneous speech)

50

1 MR. WILSON: So, I guess, I'm assuming  
2 that we're out of bounds when it considers our Naknek  
3 Lake area, because it's under the National Park and big  
4 -- yeah, okay. I got you.

5  
6 MR. SMITH: Through the Chair. Bill Smith  
7 supervisory biologist for Peninsula Becharof. I'd like  
8 to note that Big Creek is a tributary of the Naknek and  
9 within Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. And we were  
10 currently hoping that that remained a priority area as  
11 it was monitored for chinook escapement for several  
12 years. And we're currently working with BBNA and our  
13 fisheries biologist to put together a proposal if it is  
14 still a focal area for this funding.

15  
16 MR. WILSON: Thank you, well taken.  
17 Appreciate it.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah and it  
20 is listed in this shopping list under B there, so. You  
21 know, we are highly interested, or at least my  
22 understanding is we remain highly interested in it,  
23 Richard.

24  
25 MR. STONE: With that being said, I  
26 think, you know, this is a good discussion and there  
27 might be some discrepancy as to where some of these  
28 Federal lands exist. And, you know, with that being said,  
29 I think it's always best to have those areas included  
30 and then put the impetus on the investigator to provide  
31 us proof that, yes, there is Federal nexus, yes, these  
32 -- this project would occur on Federal public lands.

33  
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
35 Jarred. Go ahead.

36  
37 MR. STONE: Okay. All right, we're on  
38 letter C here, reliable estimates of chinook salmon  
39 escapement, evaluation of quality of escapement and  
40 harvest monitoring in Alagnak River, Big Creek, Chignik  
41 River. And you'll notice that both the Meshik River and  
42 Naknek River were crossed out. These were part of the  
43 information needs that were in the priority information  
44 need list last cycle. However, we noted that these two  
45 systems did not have a Federal nexus, and so, that's why  
46 they are crossed out here in this list. So, I'll continue  
47 to read off the other systems that this includes, which  
48 includes the Togiak River, including egg deposition, sex  
49 and size composition of spawners and spawning, habitat  
50 quality and utilization for determining the reproductive

1 potential of spawning stocks. Harvest monitoring by user  
2 groups for the region is also encouraged. And one thing  
3 I failed to mention before I started is that, anything  
4 that's struck out is something that we've decided during  
5 our volunteer meeting this summer to remove. And  
6 anything that's italicized are new additions and so, for  
7 this, you'll see the Chignik River was added to this  
8 priority information need.

9

(Pause)

10

11

12 MR. STONE: Okay, not hearing any  
13 comments, I'll go to letter D.

14

15

(Simultaneous speech)

16

17

MS. KENNER: Jarred.

18

19

MR. STONE: Yeah, go ahead.

20

21

MS. KENNER: I'll go ahead and add a  
22 comment here. When we crossed out the Naknek River, was  
23 that because there was no Federal jurisdiction? And the  
24 reason why I'm asking that is, that there is some Federal  
25 jurisdiction in the drainage, but not the river itself.

26

27

MR. STONE: Oh, that's an important  
28 distinction. Thank you, Pippa. Yes, you are correct in  
29 that the Naknek River was removed due to not having  
30 Federal jurisdiction. But if there are specific  
31 drainages within that Naknek drainage that the Council  
32 would like to list, we can add those easily.

33

34

MS. KENNER: Somebody mentioned they  
35 would like to keep the big river.

36

37

MR. STONE: The Big Creek.

38

39

MS. KENNER: Excuse me, Big Creek in  
40 there. Yeah.

41

42

MR. STONE: Yep, and that's still in  
43 there, that remains in there. Really, the only change  
44 to this Priority Information Need was the addition of  
45 Chignik River and the removal of Meshik River and the  
46 Naknek River.

47

48

MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson here. I'd  
49 like to emphasize you know, the user groups in these  
50 areas of the Naknek River and the Alagnak. I mean,

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1 there's -- we have very little reporting to verify how  
2 much user groups are using those -- the chinook salmon.  
3 So, I'd like to highlight that if possible.

4

5 MR. STONE: I think at the end there,  
6 harvest monitoring by user groups for the region is  
7 encouraged. We could -- I could add some language in  
8 there that basically specifically states user groups in  
9 the Naknek area.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just because my  
12 thinking is, you know, there's -- like Big Creek, you  
13 know, it's a very shallow, narrow little creek. And you  
14 know, anglers are going in there for different reasons  
15 than chinook, but the spawning beds there and the Alagnak  
16 there, it's all shallow stuff and they're disturbing  
17 spawning beds. So, that's why I was kinda emphasizing  
18 that we'd like to, you know, see if we can't gear more  
19 information towards what's actually happening to the  
20 spawning beds and the harvesting in these areas that are  
21 -- that once were very productive and are no more.

22

23 MR. STONE: Thank you for that comment.  
24 I've made a change to this PIN, and if you would like,  
25 I can reread it or we can move on to the next one.

26

27 MR. WILSON: I would like you to reread  
28 it, please.

29

30 MR. STONE: Sure. Reliable estimates of  
31 chinook salmon escapement, evaluation of quality of  
32 escapement and harvest monitoring in Alagnak River, Big  
33 Creek, Chignik River, and I'll add back in the Naknek  
34 River. We're gonna have to be kind of careful as to  
35 maybe how we add that in, but I'll continue reading and  
36 Togiak River, including egg deposition and sex and size,  
37 composition spawners and spawning habitat quality and  
38 utilization for determining the reproductive potential  
39 of spawning stocks. Harvest monitoring by user groups  
40 for the region is also encouraged with emphasis on the  
41 Naknek drainage.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Alagnak also, please. Do the  
44 same thing.....

45

46 (Simultaneous speech)

47

48 MR. STONE: Alagnak.....

49

50 (Simultaneous speech)



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MR. WILSON: For the shallow water. You know, disturbing the you know, the spawning beds, you know, all these, all these systems, they just -- it's just one thing. I think we're kinda missing that the, you know, all the traffic in these small creeks and rivers is part of the reason why some of these chinook aren't surviving. So, we need to emphasize some of that.

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15

MR. STONE: Thank you for that comment. And yeah, the Alagnak River is indeed in the Priority Information Need now. If you like, I could add it to the emphasis portion of that Priority Information Need or leave the Priority Information Need as is.

16  
17  
18

MR. WILSON: Just as long as it's noted. Thank you.

19  
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23  
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MR. STONE: Thank you. Okay. Moving on to letter D, comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitat of sockeye salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, including Olga Lake and Aguilera Lake watersheds. An assessment of one, the declines of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities, and two, the effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems. This was primarily a Kodiak Island and Aleutians specific PIN.

28  
29

(Pause)

30  
31  
32  
33

Hearing no discussion. Moving on to letter E, annual estimates of sockeye salmon escapement into the Lake Clark watershed.

34  
35

(Pause)

36  
37

Okay, hearing no discussion.

38  
39

MR. TREFON: (Indiscernible) Billy here.

40  
41

MR. STONE: Go ahead, Billy.

42  
43

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm from that area. It's kinda open their (indiscernible) annual estimate of sockeye salmon escapement on Lake (indiscernible) watershed. That doesn't tell me a whole lot of information other than salmon escaping.

44  
45  
46

MR. STONE: Yeah. Thank you for the question, Mr. -- Council member Trefon. Sometimes we

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1 create these Priority Information Needs somewhat open  
2 to allow the investigators to come up with their own  
3 means or their own ideas for monitoring the escapement  
4 of salmon. And so, you know, we left that Priority  
5 Information Needs somewhat vague to give the  
6 investigators that opportunity to be as creative as they  
7 want. You know, if they want to use a sonar or if they  
8 want to put up a weir somewhere. If you want to change  
9 this part of information need and to give it more  
10 specifics. We can absolutely do that.

11  
12 MR. TREFON: Oh no, thank you for  
13 clearing that up. Actually, now I know where you're  
14 coming from because with Lake Clark National Park, we  
15 actually have a real excellent system in going on in  
16 Lake Clark and the Newhalen. Thank you.

17  
18 MR. STONE: Thank you. Okay, moving on  
19 to letter F, evaluation of chinook and sockeye salmon  
20 populations in the Chignik River area to understand the  
21 decline in salmon stocks and associated subsistence  
22 harvest opportunities, such as reliable estimates of  
23 escapement, quality of escapement, and environmental  
24 impacts.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 Okay, not hearing any discussion. Letter  
29 G, evaluate effects on subsistence users in the  
30 Southwest Alaska region resulting from changes in fish  
31 populations, including biological considerations of run  
32 timing, run quality, sex ratios, and age composition and  
33 incorporating local observations and knowledge. Research  
34 should include a multidisciplinary approach and include  
35 elements of Traditional Ecological Knowledge as well as  
36 stock status and trends.

37  
38 Again, that one too was somewhat broad  
39 in nature, just allowing the investigators that are out  
40 there opportunity to devise a project to address any of  
41 these. Okay. Letter H, enumeration of salmon smolt  
42 outmigration in the Buskin River system. Letter I,  
43 understanding subsistence sharing networks of fish  
44 throughout the Bristol Bay region and the importance of  
45 resource networks.

46  
47 (Pause)

48  
49 And then the next PIN letter J is a newly  
50 added PIN from the volunteer meeting in the summer.

1 Harvest use of survey of Buskin River subsistence and  
2 how subsistence practices have changed in the recent  
3 history during closures or reductions in harvest.  
4 Address how subsistence harvest has changed as access  
5 to the Buskin River has also changed. And then I included  
6 multi-regional, these are Priority Information Needs  
7 that span larger areas of the State and encompass  
8 multiple regions. And with that letter A, was a Priority  
9 Information Need that was supplied by the  
10 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. And that was  
11 to gain a better understanding of ecosystem factors  
12 negatively impacting subsistence -- salmon runs and  
13 harvest practices in Alaska, including ocean conditions,  
14 freshwater conditions, and changing climate conditions.  
15 And the next and the last Priority Information Need under  
16 multi-regional is letter B, and that is statewide  
17 analysis of archived salmon scales to assess fresh and  
18 saltwater growth patterns over multiple years, examine  
19 how recent changes in the ocean affect growth and  
20 survival of chinook and sockeye salmon within the range  
21 and habitats. And that's all of the Priority Information  
22 Needs with the new additions from the volunteers this  
23 summer, as well as some of the removals from some of the  
24 river systems that I mentioned before that do not have  
25 Federal public lands. And that concludes my  
26 presentation, Mr. Chair. If you have any questions, I'm  
27 here to address.

28  
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
30 Jarred. Any more comments? I appreciate people weighing  
31 in as we went along. Our basic approach was kinda  
32 pretty much just fine tune what it'd been submitted  
33 before that had not been accepted or had not been funded.  
34 So, anything else on those?

35  
36  
37 MR. STONE: Not for me. No, thank you,  
38 Mr. Chair.

39  
40 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard here.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY Go ahead,  
43 Richard.

44  
45 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just on the bullet  
46 point A there, you know, some of the factors that  
47 negatively impacting our subsistence salmon runs and  
48 harvest practices in Alaska. And I would, you know, it'd  
49 be nice if they included in that -- in those you know,  
50 to try to figure out what kind of commercial activity

000140

1 there is -- also part of the reason the ecosystem is  
2 being disturbed.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And is that  
5 for the multi-regional A or the regional A?

6

7 MR. WILSON: I was just looking at A, but  
8 it could be for all. It's just something that I think  
9 that needs to be continually addressed is, you know, the  
10 bycatch and, you know, and the trawler systems. You know,  
11 the on bottom systems that are going on. That when they  
12 start doing these surveys or looking into on trying to  
13 understand what's going on, that those also need to be  
14 included in it, because that's part of the problem.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I  
17 think what I'm hearing is probably with the -- on page  
18 142 under the multi-regional item A, supplied by KARAC.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Yes.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, did  
23 you capture that, Jarred?

24

25 MR. STONE: I did, yes, thank you, Mr.  
26 Chair. I've added that in there. It'll be interesting,  
27 I -- that will be an interesting approach for an  
28 investigator to try and capture some of those and their  
29 impacts to subsistence. And so, I have added it in there.  
30 What I've got here says, gain a better understanding of  
31 ecosystem factors negatively impacting subsistence  
32 salmon runs and harvest practices in Alaska, including  
33 ocean conditions, freshwater conditions, commercial  
34 fishing practices and changing climate conditions. Does  
35 that capture the intent?

36

37 MR. WILSON: Yes, it does. Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sounds good  
40 to me. Anybody else?

41

42 MR. TREFON: Billy here. Could you hear  
43 me? This is Billy.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. Go  
46 ahead, Billy.

47

48 MR. TREFON: Okay, I'm looking at your  
49 multi-regional B, statewide and this is a question that  
50 I've asked many times over the past. And since it's

000141

1 talking about archives, I've always wanted to know, what  
2 was the research that was all done on FRI, fish count,  
3 scales, fish patterns, population. I mean, they've been  
4 in our lake since the 60s, and all we know is that FRI  
5 out there floating on the lake for whatever research  
6 they were doing. I still don't know what they've been  
7 doing out there, to this day.

8

(Simultaneous speech)

9

10  
11 It was a university. That's a university  
12 program. I don't know, Washington or Oregon.

13

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.....

14

15

(Simultaneous speech)

16

17

MR. STONE: I don't know the.....

18

19

(Simultaneous speech)

20

21

22

23

24

25

Sorry. I was just gonna say I don't know  
the answer to that question. And likely Council Chair,  
Mr. Dunaway knows more about that than what I can offer.

26

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
Billy, here at -- in Dillingham, we've had these things  
called Lunch and Learns, and only, I think two weeks  
ago, maybe three, Dr. Schindler, who's one of the lead  
guys with the University of Washington had a -- an hour  
presentation here in Dillingham, I missed it. However,  
the whole Lunch and Learn series of talks have been  
recorded in archived with the Bristol Bay campus here.  
And I don't know quite how to access it, but if you get  
online with the Bristol Bay campus or call them up, they  
can direct you to how to access those talks. And I  
believe Schindler, maybe some of his other folks have  
also highly concerned and highly interested in the  
Chignik area and have more data on that. But yeah, for  
some reason, I got in my brain that you were speaking  
to Chignik, but up there in Lake Iliamna, yeah, they  
have a big facility there a Cabin Bay in the east end  
of the lake, and I suspect some of the stuff he presented  
a few weeks ago incorporated data that -- and studies  
that they've done on the lake. And I know -- even I,  
when I worked for him, we went up as far as Nondalton  
one time. So, don't hesitate to try to contact them.  
They're very eager to share their information. And I  
think they do a lot of good work, okay?

1 MR. TREFON: Yes, that would be something  
2 very interesting to look into because I've spent my  
3 entire life growing up watching this boat out there,  
4 which -- well, they never did associate with the  
5 community. Just came up the river and started floating  
6 up, start counting fish, laying nets out and whatever  
7 they do. And that's all we know about FRI, and if there's  
8 access for information, I'm all for it. I'll go look  
9 into it, thank you.

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.  
12 Remind me if you're having troubles I might be able to  
13 link you up on it. The one time we got up that far, we  
14 were running out of time and daylight and didn't have  
15 the luxury of visiting, but yeah, maybe I should  
16 encourage them to possibly offer a presentation over on  
17 the east side somewhere so, good point.

18  
19 MR. TREFON: Yeah cause we could -- we  
20 know that FRI stands for Fishing Research Institute,  
21 beyond that, we have no idea, but thank you.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.

24  
25 MR. TREFON: Move on.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Okay,  
28 that kinda concludes number 12C, we already did 12D.  
29 Looks like we're down in Annual Report 12E.

30  
31 MS. HONIG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, really  
32 quick. That was an action item, so I believe we need to  
33 do a quick vote. Correct, Jarred? Okay.

34  
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh. Okay.

36  
37 MS. HONIG: Yeah. So, if there could be  
38 - yeah, motion and go through all that.

39  
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.  
41 Yeah, does anybody wanna move to adopt the Partners  
42 update and PIN discussion as we have requested Jarred  
43 to edit a little bit.

44  
45 MR. WILSON: Richard here, I move to  
46 approve.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Do we  
49 have a second?

50

000143

1 MR. TREFON: Billy, here. Second.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Do we  
4 have any more discussion?

5

6 MR. TREFON: Question.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I'll  
9 call for unanimous consent unless there's some  
10 objection, we'll adopt the list as we discussed and  
11 edited a few minutes ago.

12

13 (No response)

14

15 I hear no objection so, I'm assuming  
16 we're supporting it. Thank you very much. Thank you,  
17 Leigh, for keeping me on track. Now, the Annual Report,  
18 on pages 143, and we're supposed to take action on this  
19 too Leigh?

20

21 MS. HONIG: Yeah. So, there's two parts  
22 to this, and I can go through F1 really quickly. So, you  
23 don't have this in front of you. It is available on the  
24 website. I did have it printed out to hand to you in the  
25 meeting, but we all know how that worked out. So, it was  
26 the Board's FY23 Annual Report reply to the report that  
27 you had submitted last year. So, if you're interested,  
28 Mr. Chair, I know we're kind of in the interest of time,  
29 you guys can refer to that document, or I can go over a  
30 quick summary of what the Board's response was to your  
31 topics.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I recall  
34 reading it a long time ago or some time ago. Yeah, if  
35 you could hit the high points, I'd appreciate it.

36

37 MS. HONIG: Sure. Okay, thanks, Mr.  
38 Chair. So, here we go. Real quick -- I'll try to keep  
39 this brief for you. So, the Board's reply to the  
40 Council's annual report is on the website. Let's see  
41 here. So, the summary of topics that the Council brought  
42 before the Board were the concerns for the Chignik  
43 drainage sockeye salmon and State changes to the  
44 management strategy. And the Board informed to the  
45 Council that the in-season management authority has been  
46 designated to Jon Gerken, the supervisory fish biologist  
47 encourages -- and encourages the Council to work with  
48 Mr. Gerken to help inform management actions. And the  
49 Board further encourages members to continue in  
50 discussions with State entities through the State's

1 Advisory Committee process or participating in the Board  
2 of Fish meetings and continuing on corresponding with  
3 Fish and Games Commissioner. The second topic that the  
4 Council brought was the request for the solicitor's  
5 opinion to be included in the staff analysis of  
6 proposals, and the Board's response was that ANILCA is  
7 considered throughout all stages of the analysis in the  
8 review process to ensure that the requested regulatory  
9 changes adhere to and can be justified under Title 8.  
10 Primary purpose of the OSM leadership team and the  
11 Interagency Staff Committee review is to spot those  
12 legal issues and concerns, and when that happens, the  
13 Solicitor's Office is contacted for input. The Board  
14 does agree with the Council that education of land  
15 managers and decision makers on the Federal subsistence  
16 priority is essential to ensuring that the  
17 implementation of Title 8 is done correctly. Topic  
18 number three was, the request for additional tribal  
19 seats on the Federal Subsistence Board, and at the time  
20 of this response the Board informed that the Secretaries  
21 were going through the steps to get a final ruling,  
22 which recently did come out. There is a news release on  
23 our website detailing the final rule. And there is also  
24 a letter on the website as well on the Bristol Bay  
25 meeting materials website from the Secretaries that  
26 were sent -- that was sent out to tribal entities that  
27 was soliciting nominations for the tribal seats. So,  
28 they're moving forward on that.

29  
30 Topic number four was, the request to  
31 expedite the process on Council appointments. And the  
32 Board responded that it would discuss this issue at its  
33 meetings, and it has planned to elevate these delayed  
34 appointments process concerns to the Secretaries of the  
35 Interior and Agriculture. The Board will also direct OSM  
36 to conduct an evaluation of the appointment process, and  
37 to find possible ways of expediting that and that this  
38 recent organizational move of OSM to the Office of the  
39 Assistant Secretary of the Interior will potentially cut  
40 out several appointment process steps, which will  
41 hopefully speed up that process. The fifth and last one  
42 was compensation for Council members. And if you  
43 remember, this came up at the All Council meeting as  
44 well, and the joint letter was sent, and so, the Board  
45 did send on those concerns to both the Secretaries. And  
46 they did meet with the Secretaries -- oops, sorry. So,  
47 they have not yet received a response on that Council  
48 compensation, but they have been in talks with Office  
49 of the Secretary staff. And those letters that the Board  
50 sent on to the Secretaries is on your meeting booklet



000145

1 on page 223 and 227, if you're interested. Thanks, Mr.  
2 Chair. That was the summary for the Board Annual Report  
3 reply.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
6 you. Do we need to take action on that?

7

8 MS. HONIG: No, that one was more  
9 informational, and it was also to refresh the Council  
10 members memory on what topics they have presented for  
11 the Board, which will segue into the next agenda item  
12 topic where the Council will identify those issues for  
13 the 25 -- or FY24 Annual Report to the Board. And I do  
14 have a quick little presentation on the Annual Report  
15 as another refresher for the Council. If you want me to  
16 jump into that real quick.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.  
19 Go ahead.

20

21 MS. HONIG: Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Dan.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, I was  
24 just asking Andy about use of the facility here. It's  
25 getting close to five. And he said he's chained to the  
26 wall here and can't leave anyway, so.

27

28 MS. HONIG: Oh, God. We'll keep working  
29 then.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I can't  
32 promise to poke a granola bar to him so he doesn't starve  
33 or something.

34

35 MS. HONIG: What a good supervisor. Okay.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

38

39 MS. HONIG: Yep. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 So, on page 143 of your meeting books is the guideline  
41 for the Annual Reports, and this is the action item. So,  
42 briefly, you know, ANILCA establishes the annual report  
43 as a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of  
44 regional subsistence uses and needs, and to provide  
45 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife  
46 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines  
47 and proposed regulations. Your Annual Report ensures  
48 that the Board has the most up to date awareness of  
49 issues, concerns, and current events that impact your  
50 subsistence way of life. With your report and

1 recommendations, the Board can make informed decisions  
2 on regulatory and policy actions. So, now is the time  
3 for the Council members to share items or information  
4 that you would like to see raised to the Board's  
5 attention in the fiscal year 2024 Annual Report. After  
6 this meeting is over, I'll draft the topics of your  
7 Annual Report based on the information provided. And  
8 then at the winter meeting, the Council will not be able  
9 to add any new topics, but we'll be able to review that  
10 draft Annual Report.

11  
12 OSM has some recommendations on how the  
13 Council may best utilize the Annual Report process. It  
14 is requested that the Council please clearly indicate  
15 whether a topic is informational or if you would like a  
16 response or action from the Board. If a response is  
17 requested, the Council should articulate what it is that  
18 they are asking for, whether it's an action or if they  
19 just want information. And if the Council would like a  
20 specific response from an agency represented on the  
21 Board, it suggested that the Council write directly to  
22 that agency. We can put in the Annual Report and notify  
23 the Board that you are contacting the agency, but we can  
24 do that outside of the annual report process. And if  
25 there is a recommendation to have a topic elevated to  
26 the Secretaries, it's also suggested that the Council  
27 send that via a letter and then we can, once again,  
28 notify the Board of the Council's actions. Thank you,  
29 Mr. Chair. That's all I have for that and I'll turn it  
30 back over to you to lead the discussion on Annual Report  
31 topics.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank  
34 you, Leigh. Yeah, just going through the list of stuff  
35 we've already asked for, and we don't know how they'll  
36  
37 be addressed or if. But how about members, you have some  
38 ideas you'd like to see on a new report?

39  
40 MR. NUKWAK: Nothing here, at the moment.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Other  
43 folks?

44  
45 MR. TREFON: Billy here, nothing.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, by  
48 nothing, I'm kinda guessing, it means that the  
49 priorities.....

50

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 ..... priorities we've been pursuing all  
4 along remain of great interest to us. Is that correct?

5

6 MR. TREFON: That's correct.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
9 agreed. Rob, John, others. Kenneth.

10

11 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Through the Chair,  
12 Kenneth. Probably find a way to have tribes and Native  
13 corporations to start reporting, cause these are very  
14 important topics we always discuss on. And none of them  
15 -- every meeting, ever since I gone -- got on, have  
16 never reported.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
19 that's an interesting idea. Yeah. It might be -- well,  
20 why do we just leave it out there, maybe they could work  
21 it out with -- maybe they depend on BBNA to funnel and  
22 condense their concerns or -- but, yeah, let's add that  
23 to the list.

24

25 MR. NUKWAK: Maybe after they get the  
26 citations, they'll start joining in after I did. Like I  
27 did.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
30 hopefully it doesn't have to come to that, but yeah.  
31 Anybody else have -- I guess we remain pretty concerned  
32 about -- I guess I'm pretty sure we're pretty concerned  
33 about ongoing investigations of bycatch and potential  
34 impacts to salmon (distortion). Well, I got a heck of a  
35 reaction there, was that a yes?

36

37 MS. HONIG: Yeah, I can hear you loud and  
38 clear now.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I don't know  
41 what you did, but -- kidding. I think their studies are  
42 beginning to get underway on that. It was nice when we  
43 had North Pacific Council talking to us, and I hope they  
44 come and talk to us some more.

45

46 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may interrupt  
47 you did kinda cut out towards the end. So, you were --  
48 concerns about the bycatch and the impacts to what? If  
49 you could restate that?

50

1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Just  
2 ongoing updates on bycatch studies and apparent impacts  
3 or non-impacts to our returning salmon.

4  
5                   MS. HONIG: Okay. And if I may circle  
6 back around to Mr. Nukwak suggestion. So, just for  
7 clarity we can include this in the Annual Report as  
8 informational or maybe potentially a request, you know,  
9 maybe for -- I don't wanna put words into the Council's  
10 mouth, but maybe you know, a request that maybe more  
11 funding is available so there could be more engagement  
12 with tribes and local Native organizations to get more  
13 engagement on the Council (distortion).

14  
15  
16                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: They're  
17 going on strike.

18  
19                   MS. HONIG: Okay. Were you able to hear  
20 that, Mr. Chair?

21  
22                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I heard you  
23 fine, and then the phone kinda went buggy, and we started  
24 getting some hallucinations sounding things or something  
25 so, I don't know if Kenneth heard or not.

26  
27                   MR. NUKWAK: Those Halloween sounds like  
28 are early.

29  
30                   MS. HONIG: It's the after five gremlins.  
31 Yes, Mr. Nukwak, were you able to hear me and did that  
32 encapsulate what you were thinking?

33  
34                   MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

35  
36                   MS. HONIG: Okay, great. Okay, thank you,  
37 Mr. Chair. Sorry to interrupt.

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, no,  
40 that's helpful. Any other ideas?

41  
42                   (No response)

43  
44                   So, I think I wanna -- we wanna say that  
45 the stuff we had in the 2023 report remain priorities  
46 for us, and you gave us some updates. So, we'll look  
47 forward to further information on those items as well.

48  
49                   MS. HONIG: Okay. And then, Mr. Chair,  
50 just to clarify, were you fine with the bycatch topic

1 that was just more informational to the Board or did you  
2 have a specific request? You know, we might -- sorry, I  
3 don't wanna also put words in your mouth. You had  
4 mentioned that having that engagement with the National  
5 Fisheries Management Council was really beneficial. So,  
6 we could write a letter to that Council requesting that  
7 engagement and notify the Board of that, or -- what  
8 might be the best way to do that?

9  
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, I did  
11 like it when they actually came in person. I kinda felt  
12 like the last time we got a presentation, it was a really  
13 slick thing, and they went -- they just showed us and  
14 then, thank you very much, goodbye. Yeah, I would like  
15 to have a sense that there's more opportunity to  
16 interact.

17  
18 MS. HONIG: Okay. Wonderful.

19  
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Now when --  
21 that was just (indiscernible) you know, there was a  
22 canned program and it was kinda slick, and but it kind  
23 of just left me kind of like, well, I felt better when  
24 there was a people there. You could kick things around  
25 a little bit, so.

26  
27 MS. HONIG: Okay, wonderful. So, I  
28 believe -- and maybe Justin can help with process on  
29 that. I haven't been through this where we've kinda  
30 delved into writing a letter outside of the Annual Report  
31 process. I'm not sure if the Council has to vote on that  
32 letter separately, assuming so, outside of the Annual  
33 Report.

34  
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, we  
36 could do that now or wait till we're done with the Annual  
37 Report and then.....

38  
39 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

40  
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: .....with  
42 the pressure of the group. Let's carry on with the annual  
43 report and then pick up the formal request to North  
44 Pacific Council. Do we have any more items to add?

45  
46 (No response)

47  
48 Okay. I think we're also approaching  
49 burnout, but. So, do we need to vote to ask you to  
50 compose this and send it off? Leigh?

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MS. HONIG: Yes. Sorry, Mr. Chair. Yes, this is an action item.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Do I hear a motion to ask Leigh to compose and condense the items we discussed for the Annual 2024 Report and forward it to the Board.

MR. NUKWAK: Agreed.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, so. Is that a -- are you moving to ask Leigh to write a letter?

MR. NUKWAK: That would seem appropriate at this time, doesn't it?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, it does. I'm gonna take that as a motion. We have a second?

MR. HILL: I'll second that.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. TREFON: Second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I think, Rob, I'm not sure, was it Billy. Second.

MR. TREFON: Rob got it.

MR. HILL: You could put Billy's name on there.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. We'll let you share. Okay. I'm gonna call for unanimous consent unless there's any objection.

(No objections)

Hearing no objection, I'll consider it adopted, thank you. Would we like to ask -- do we need a motion to ask Leigh to compose an invitation to North Pacific Council to present the latest information on a trawler bycatch and any studies underway and any results available.

MR. NUWAK: Sounds like a great idea. Hope they're on Board with it.

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1 MR. TREFON: You need that in a motion?

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, we do.

4

5 MR. TREFON: Yes, I'll make a motion to  
6 direct Leigh to get a letter to them, to give us  
7 information on bycatch and high sea fishing, because  
8 that question comes up all the time by everybody that's  
9 commercial fishing. It's kinda hard not to have an answer  
10 from them. Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank  
13 you, Billy. Do we have a second?

14

15 MR. WILSON: Second.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,  
18 Richard. I'm gonna call for unanimous consent on that  
19 item. Is there any objection?

20

21 (No response)

22

23 Hearing none, I suppose that we load  
24 Leigh down with another letter to write.

25

26 MS. HONIG: Sounds good, Mr. Chair. I did  
27 want to point.....

28

29 (Simultaneous speech)

30

31 Really quickly, I did want to point out,  
32 and this doesn't need to be taken up right now, but  
33 like, if the Council does want to follow up on any  
34 letters there will have to be a vote on it. But Gayla  
35 had posted in the meeting chat, maybe another couple  
36 suggestions the Council wants to discuss our follow up  
37 letters to Fish and Game for the Chignik fisheries and  
38 predator control. So, once again, I mean, if we need a  
39 moment to think about it, the Council can circle back  
40 to this at another time. We would just have to have  
41 quorum to have the motion to write a letter. Thanks, Mr.  
42 Chair.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, then  
45 these are letter on predator control, and what's the  
46 other one?

47

48 MS. HONIG: The Chignik fisheries. So,  
49 as a reminder, the Council did send letters to Fish and  
50 Game directly about the concerns over the changes to the

1 Chignik management. And we did send -- the Council also  
2 did send a letter to Fish and Game in support of  
3 intensive management efforts on the Mulchatna Caribou  
4 Herd. And so, I'm not sure if Gayla is still online if  
5 she would -- if she was thinking of anything else added  
6 to that. But the Council did write those letters  
7 previously, and we haven't heard a response from Fish  
8 and Game to those -- and I see Gayla has her hand up.

9  
10 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. Hi, Mr. Chair and  
11 everybody. I'm not trying to delay the meeting, but I  
12 was just kinda looking on the website there of what is  
13 for -- needed for follow up, and if we haven't heard  
14 back from Alaska Department of Fish and Game yet on  
15 these issues, it'd be good that we keep reminding them  
16 that we wanna know -- hear back on the Chignik fisheries  
17 and then the predator control.

18  
19 (Simultaneous speech)

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, well,  
22 I appreciate that cause yeah, it would be nice to know.  
23 In the regards to predator control, would that include  
24 the Bear Removal Program?

25  
26 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair, this is  
27 Leigh. That was what the Council wrote, yeah, the letter  
28 was in support of the Bear Removal Program. And just for  
29 the Council's information too, John Lansiedel from Fish  
30 and Game and Dillingham. He did have to log off for the  
31 day, but he is available to the Council tomorrow to  
32 discuss the latest bear removal efforts.

33  
34  
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well,  
36 maybe we can (distortion) the action right now until  
37 tomorrow. But I agree with Gayla, that it would be good  
38 for us to consider these two follow ups. I think also,  
39 bear thing is pretty controversial. I think even in parts  
40 of Fish and Game, but it could be helpful if folks agree  
41 that that's a good thing. So, good. Yeah, I'd asked John  
42 to kinda stand by in case we could get done today, just  
43 to maybe update us on all the activity he's doing. Just  
44 to kinda have a sense of what's going on out there. And  
45 he was pretty gracious to stand by for a long time. So,  
46 what says -- what the rest of Council desire on these.

47  
48 UNIDENTIFIED: A reminder  
49 (indiscernible) would be great.



1                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

2

3                   UNIDENTIFIED: And the report. If we --  
4 if he doesn't have time or we don't have time, he could  
5 also just send us his report on the email to our Council  
6 members.

7

8                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.  
9 Well, we'll see, I might text him here a little later.  
10 He's really up to his eyeballs and stuff. But I think  
11 he's also eager to keep people informed and know what  
12 (distortion) doing. I think Andy works with him, they  
13 coordinate on stuff. Okay, so.....

14

15                   MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair.

16

17                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

18

19                   MS. HONIG: Gayla has her hand raised,  
20 sorry.

21

22                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.

23

24                   MS. HOSETH: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was  
25 just wanting -- okay, I'll just speak when I have a  
26 chance to say something. I just wanted to also state,  
27 if we do receive letters of responses back, if we could  
28 just maybe have a recap are these included in the spring  
29 meeting so, that members of the public can see what the  
30 -- see the information that was shared with the Council.

31

32                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And sounds  
33 like a good idea too.

34

35                   MS. HONIG: Yes. Yeah, Gayla, and just  
36 for your information during this meeting, there will be  
37 later on, on the agenda a correspondence update. And  
38 I'll briefly kinda go through the letters that the  
39 Council has written and how they've been forwarded on  
40 and kind of where they are in that process. And I do  
41 plan on doing that in the spring meeting, too with any  
42 other correspondence that comes out of this meeting or  
43 tracking previous correspondence.

44

45                   ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.  
46 Yeah, there's quite a pile in the back end of this book.  
47 I'm trying to wade through last minute last night. Okay.  
48 So, where does that leave us? So, we do future meeting  
49 dates and then call it a day.

50

1 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. I  
2 think that is a good idea. That's the -- well, we do  
3 have a sheep discussion that has an action item, but we  
4 can punt that to tomorrow. And so, the meeting dates is  
5 the last real big action item.

6  
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,  
8 I got lost in the sheep thing trying to read it, but  
9 what says the rest of Council, we want to move to the  
10 meeting dates for now?

11  
12 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, lets call it a day.

13  
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,  
15 so.....

16  
17 UNIDENTIFIED: We need a motion on this?

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was  
20 gonna ask Leigh to direct us on what do we need to  
21 confirm the winter one, and then pick a fall one, or.....

22  
23 (Simultaneous speech)

24  
25 MS. HONIG: They just both need to be  
26 confirmed, Mr. Chair. So, the winter meeting is gonna  
27 be on page 144 in your meeting booklets. And the Council  
28 -- let me hop to it here real quick. The Council had  
29 selected February 18th and 19th in Naknek. So, this is  
30 February of 2025. So, coming up in a few months right  
31 around the corner. And then for the fall, which is on  
32 page 145, the Council selected October 29th and 30th  
33 again in Dillingham. So, these are action items. So, if  
34  
35 you want to make any changes to them the Council made,  
36 but there does need to be a vote on them.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

39  
40 MR. TREFON: Billy here. I'll make a  
41 motion to accept the dates.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Second.

44  
45 MR. WILSON: I'll second that.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Richard  
48 seconds. Any discussion?

49  
50 MR. TREFON: Question.

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MR. NUKWAK: Hope everybody can make it  
this time.

MR TREFON: Yeah.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,  
Leigh, you gotta make sure this weather it's a little  
more tractable here.

MS. HONIG: I will work on it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Maybe some  
tribal guys can talk to their weather guys, so. So, I'll  
call for unanimous consent on the dates that are already  
in the book. If there's any objections, please holler.

(No response)

Okay, hearing no objections, we'll stick  
with the dates we got there. February 18,19 in Naknek  
and October 29, 30 in Dillingham in - yeah, October, so.  
So, that good enough we can recess for today. We can  
tomorrow, maybe pick up a little more on this -- I guess  
we adopted the issues for the Annual Report. We can  
discuss the letters that Gayla suggested. We can look  
at the sheep discussion -- shoot Billy is the only guy  
that lives in sheep country, so.

MR. TREFON: Pretty much.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: With that -  
- do you ever hunt him, Billy?

MR. TREFON: No, that's too damn much  
work.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Boy, they  
sure taste good, though.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, they are.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, with  
that, I'll say that we recessed at 5:23 p.m. to resume  
tomorrow at 8:30. Maybe the computer will get rested  
enough that we can resume on Teams.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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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 155 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 29th 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 3rd day of December 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager