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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME IV

LAKEFRONT ANCHORAGE HOTEL  
Anchorage, Alaska  
February 7, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Anthony Christianson, Chairman
- Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
- Charles Brower, Public Member
- Raymond Oney, Public Member
- Frank Woods, Public Member
- Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sarah Creachbaum, National Park Service
- Erika Reed, Bureau of Land Management
- Jolene John, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Chad VanOrmer, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 2/7/2025)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning everybody. Welcome back to the final day of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting of fisheries. This morning we'll start off with the public testimony on non-agenda items but before we do that we had an unfortunate accident out in the Nome area so the elder up here requested we have a moment of silence for the families.

(Moment of Silence)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alrighty, we'll start out this morning again, the first opportunity for the day, each day, is to allow the public to come up and comment on non-agenda items. This morning first on our list here was Donald Mike, but I'm not seeing Donald out here.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we'll call on Jim Simon, but I'm not seeing Jim out there.

MS. LEONETTI: There he is.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, there he is -- oh, no, you don't want -- Jim's fine, no go. And she wanted to be second but you're first, Mary Hosteder. You have the floor Mary.

MS. HOSTEDER: Do I have to hold this the whole time -- just the one time.

Quyana, Mr. Chair. Quyana Board.

I did request to go second but I'm happy to go first.

(Laughter)

(In Native)

My Yup'ik given name is (In Yup'ik), my

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1 (In Yup'ik) is Mary Hosteder. My family is Yup'ik from  
2 the Big Lake from Lake Iliamna and Bristol Bay. I'm  
3 here today representing myself as a tribal member of  
4 the Egogik Village Council, or the Egogik Tribe and a  
5 shareholder of BBNC. Also formally as a member of the  
6 Egogik Village Tribal Council.

7  
8 I'm here to speak on the critical  
9 importance of retaining the ANCSA D-1 protections  
10 afforded by BLM administered lands in the Bay planning  
11 area and throughout the state of Alaska as solidified  
12 through a comprehensive review including a final  
13 determination in August of 2024. The D-1 land  
14 protections in Bristol Bay are essential for preserving  
15 the cultural heritage and lifestyle of Egogik and other  
16 Alaska Native communities. These lands provide  
17 critical relatives, otherwise known as resources, for  
18 traditional hunting, fishing and gathering which are  
19 integral to our community's ways of life and cultural  
20 identity. The intact ecosystems within the D-1 lands  
21 which border Egogik on the east -- or on the west and  
22 the south as well as all across Alaska support the  
23 world's largest sockeye salmon runs which are crucial,  
24 not only for cultural and community well-being, but  
25 also for maintaining global biodiversity. The  
26 ecological integrity of these lands helps sustain a  
27 variety of wildlife species and natural processes  
28 essential to the region's health and resilience.  
29 Retaining these protections aligns with the legal and  
30 moral obligations to uphold the rights and treaties  
31 with indigenous peoples. This ensures that the lands  
32 will continue to be stewarded in a way that respects  
33 the sovereignty and stewardship of our Alaska Native  
34 communities. Across Bristol Bay and Alaska there's  
35 broad support among our indigenous groups and  
36 communities, environmental organizations -- oh, no, I  
37 lost my place -- and the local community for  
38 maintaining these protections. This unified stand  
39 reflects a collective commitment to conservation and  
40 the recognition of this areas immense importance. The  
41 environmental impact statement leading to the final  
42 decision in August 2024 involved a rigorous, multi-  
43 stage evaluation that extensively analyzed ecological,  
44 social and economic impacts. This comprehensive  
45 assessment integrated vast amounts of scientific data  
46 and community feedback ensuring a well-rounded  
47 understanding of the potential consequences of  
48 different managed styles across Bristol Bay. The EIS  
49 process exemplified transparency and inclusivity  
50

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1 involving extensive consultations with local  
2 communities, indigenous groups and various  
3 stakeholders, Egogik among them. These consultations  
4 ensured that diverse perspectives were considered,  
5 particularly those of affected populations enhancing  
6 the credibility and depth of the final analysis.

7  
8 These lands and waters as they are now  
9 mitigate climate change. The natural buffers provided  
10 by the intact habitats are vital for adapting to  
11 environmental changes that we're all experiencing and  
12 ensuring the sustainability of both the community and  
13 the wildlife they depend on.

14  
15 In light of the broad support from the  
16 public and numerous RACs and other Federal Boards we  
17 are respectfully requesting the Board take the steps  
18 they see appropriate to evaluate this issue to the  
19 Secretaries of Interior and Commerce, including the  
20 submission of all past letters and actions on D-1 lands  
21 as these protections are critical to ensuring this  
22 ecosystem which provides for our communities, our  
23 relatives and the entire world continues to sustain us  
24 for future generations.

25  
26 My family have lived on these lands for  
27 over 8,000 years.

28  
29 Thank you for your time.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
32 Appreciate you taking the time to testify, any  
33 questions this morning.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
38 Appreciate it. Oh, Frank, you have one.

39  
40 MR. WOODS: Mary, thank you. Public  
41 Member Frank asking questions on -- so you're from  
42 Egogik, your time and dedication of study science  
43 traditional assessment data, EIS you mentioned, an  
44 environmental impact statement, habitat and wildlife  
45 ecosystem studies, this Board operates off those  
46 studies, not only from Staff but generally from the  
47 public has a real huge impact on testimony. Bring it  
48 back to your village that this place is not only  
49 tribally -- we need public input from the tribe but  
50

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1 also corporate and Alaska Native Claims land issues  
2 that are really impacting our region. I think your  
3 generation has grown up to the fact that we want to be  
4 engaged. And you pointed it out that you're doing the  
5 work is revolutionary for each village along with  
6 Ahtna, the young people, that that work is getting  
7 recognized. So I appreciate your work here, your  
8 testimony and I'd like to see you again testifying  
9 before this Board.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. HOSTEDER: Maybe then I can go  
14 second.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll bring  
19 that up with Donald Mike.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We got a  
24 question for you Mary.

25

26 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 Not a question -- yeah, a question to the Board and  
28 maybe to Staff. When someone comes up and provides  
29 testimony like this what's the next step, do we gather  
30 that information and is that like a marching orders for  
31 us? Thank you.

32

33 MS. HOSTEDER: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, good  
36 point, Raymond. So who's in -- Robbin, I guess we have  
37 -- like Frank said and he's alluding to we have a lot  
38 of Staff to help you start formulating those needs and  
39 we have FRMP and information needs, to apply for and  
40 stuff, so the system here is geared around trying to  
41 gather information through a funding mechanism and I  
42 believe that cycle is -- if the Staff could open it up  
43 for discussion. When that cycle is and when they're  
44 asking for information -- I mean to build proposals.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 Through the Chair. This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence  
48 Policy Coordinator. And I would note that the  
49 discussions that you have here in our Board meetings

50

1 are recorded and noted. The issues that you bring  
2 forward during tribal consultations and daily testimony  
3 is heard by all present. We have Council Coordinators  
4 who are responsible for passing on information to the  
5 Councils. We have Staff here, the InterAgency Staff  
6 Committee that is responsible for informing their Board  
7 members. All the issues that rise up during these  
8 meetings become discussions and points of action. If  
9 we hear enough voices for one or if that particular  
10 testimony is incredibly persuasive. So one of the  
11 things that we ask people to do is to also work closely  
12 with their regions to make your Councils known -- your  
13 interests known to the Councils. Our burdensome and  
14 rather lengthy process of documenting regional annual  
15 reports or letters from the Councils become part of our  
16 public record and it's available to all the public to  
17 track these issues.

18  
19 If you are looking for specific action  
20 you've prepped the Board here and you can work closely  
21 with your Regional Advisory Council to make sure that  
22 they are the weight behind your words.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 MS. REED: Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have  
29 the floor, Mary -- or Erika, sorry.

30  
31 MS. REED: Hi. Mary, my name is Erika  
32 Reed and I am the State Director for the Bureau of Land  
33 Management. When you're talking about the D-1  
34 withdrawals, you're talking primarily about the 1971  
35 era withdrawals that are on BLM managed lands and I  
36 think the Board has heard your request for past letters  
37 and support for the retention of those withdrawals, I  
38 just want to note that BLM simply makes recommendations  
39 on those withdrawals, it is ultimately the Secretary of  
40 Interior that makes the decision on how the withdrawals  
41 are -- whether or not there's a revocation, partial  
42 revocation or retention of the withdrawal. So I just  
43 wanted to make that point of clarification.

44  
45 MS. HOSTEDER: Yes. Quyana.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
48 Thank you for the Board for adding some context to her  
49 question, appreciate that. Next we have Oliver  
50

1 Peterson.

2

3 MR. PETERSON: My name is Oliver  
4 Peterson. This is testimony on the issue regarding the  
5 hatcheries cap. I know it's not something that this  
6 Board is directly in control of but I just wanted to  
7 help raise awareness for the issue. I spoke with -- I  
8 forgot his name -- the representative from the Eastern  
9 Interior yesterday about this and, yep, I'm here  
10 representing myself, my family and my community. I get  
11 my name from my great-grandfather, Oliver Hofstad. The  
12 Hofstad family is a rather large name in the fishing  
13 industry down in Southeast. He was the founder of  
14 Petersburg Fisheries, Incorporated which later became  
15 Ocean Beauty Icicle or OBI. My great-grandfather was  
16 alive to see the rise of salmon in Alaska as well as  
17 the dramatic decline experienced in the '50s and '70s.  
18 He was also alive to see us build our salmon back up.

19

20 I say all this because if you hear the  
21 report from the Interior communities on salmon runs and  
22 Alaska's most major rivers he'd roll over in his grave  
23 if not claw his way out of the ground to come scream at  
24 the people and the bodies of governments that have been  
25 undermining our resources by ignoring the need for  
26 conservation but choosing to instead to line their own  
27 pockets. They ignored the bright red flashing warning  
28 signs of climate change. I love making money as much  
29 as everyone else in this room but we should never put  
30 our wallets above the needs of the people and the needs  
31 of all the critters that inhabit this land with us. I  
32 work seine tendering on the OleElgin\* and OceanMaid  
33 under Grant and Mathew Fletcher for OBI for a number of  
34 years. Seine tendering is my favorite job and I will  
35 never give it up. A lot of what I do on the OceanMaid  
36 is cost recovery. This last season we spent a whole  
37 summer running back and forth between the special  
38 fisheries zone in EmelgaHarbor, an area just north of  
39 Juneau and OBI in Petersburg. In total our fleet  
40 manager's sent us to collect fish from one single seine  
41 opener the entire season so we ran back and forth  
42 between the hatchery and the cannery. Putting the cap  
43 on hatchery fish does have a direct affect on me  
44 because it is a large part of what keeps our cannery  
45 running during the summer. In total, our boat alone  
46 brought back over 4 million pounds of chum just from  
47 the hatchery zone. When I first heard that the people  
48 in the Interior villages were trying to put caps on  
49 hatchery production I was a little dumbfounded as to

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1 how that would solve any of our problems. But after  
2 hearing the reasoning behind it I do understand how  
3 hatchery fish could absolutely have an affect on the  
4 ability of wild salmon to get the resources they need  
5 to properly grow and survive. Hatchery released salmon  
6 are more susceptible to predators because they don't  
7 have the same survival instincts as wild. Adding more  
8 and more hatchery fish to the water can have the  
9 opposite effect that we desire. Hatchery released fish  
10 are not going to be as adept to the ocean as wild fish  
11 are and when these fish eventually breed it can affect  
12 the ability of the salmon to evolve and adapt as a  
13 species.

14  
15 Hatchery do help our economy but they  
16 cannot be our only source of salmon. The wild  
17 population coming up the river are smaller in size due  
18 to the increased competition for resources that these  
19 fish need to make the long run up the river into  
20 Canada.

21  
22 Unfortunately it seems to be an uphill  
23 battle through all the different processes that we have  
24 to go through to protect our resources, corporation  
25 incentives (indiscernible) money make it harder for  
26 everyday Alaskans to get their needs met. We have to  
27 fight and fight hard to get our people the food they  
28 need and spread awareness for issues like these is  
29 extremely important so that hopefully things can be  
30 done to change the current trajectory of our resources.

31  
32 Thank you for your time and  
33 consideration.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
36 Thank you for that testimony.

37  
38 (Applause)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions  
41 from the Board.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good job  
46 representing your grandfather too, I like your  
47 description here.

48  
49 MS. PITKA: Yeah, thank you.  
50



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1                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I got a  
2 reaction here, I said that'd be my grandfather too, so  
3 good job, he was a seine captain and all that good  
4 stuff, tugboat and, you know, set the precedent for  
5 where you're sitting there and hopefully you'll be on  
6 one of these Boards some day impressing that kind of  
7 knowledge to the public. Thank you.

8  
9                   MS. PITKA: Thank you very much for  
10 your comments today. And I'd really like to thank  
11 Heather and her class for paying such close attention  
12 and really putting in the work to learn about these  
13 really complicated issues. And, also just for the  
14 recognition, that stewardship and conservation is for  
15 everybody that wants to hunt and fish in Alaska. It's  
16 not just for the Native people, you know, and I really,  
17 really appreciate that you're really understanding like  
18 a deep complicated issue like that and being able to  
19 distill it. It really gives me hope, thank you.

20  
21                   I've been trying to explain that issue  
22 for about 25 years to a lot of different people.

23  
24                   (Laughter)

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
27 Thank you, appreciate that. Let's see, Donald Mike.

28  
29                   MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Donald  
30 Mike. I'm originally from Kotlik but I live in the  
31 Anchorage area. First of all I'd like to congratulate  
32 the public members, Frank Woods and Mr. Ray Oney, and I  
33 appreciate you guys submitting your application and  
34 work for the people of Alaska. But on that note, you  
35 know, the Office of Subsistence Management and this  
36 Subsistence Program, all the agencies representatives  
37 sitting on this Federal Subsistence Board have Staff to  
38 help them with technical issues or give them  
39 information that they need to make informed decisions.  
40 So I'd like to see this Program, the Subsistence  
41 Management Office, provide technical Staff support for  
42 our Public Members to give them the best information  
43 possible to make policy decisions and regulatory  
44 decisions to help our subsistence people meet their  
45 subsistence needs.

46  
47                   You know, Western Alaska is the most  
48 economic depressed area in our country and has probably  
49 the most highest gas prices in our nation. Many of  
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1 these people are not full-time employees. I, for one,  
2 I go home to teach my grandchildren how to fish and  
3 hunt and I've noticed that a lot of people are  
4 struggling to meet -- to get the basic resources to go  
5 out and harvest what they need for their families.  
6 It's hard to watch especially where I grew up in a  
7 small village. People are struggling.

8  
9 They are struggling. So this upcoming  
10 season is probably going to be another restricted  
11 salmon season in the YK Region up and down the Yukon,  
12 these poor people are imposed, they take the burden of  
13 conservation while the pollock industry, a million  
14 dollar industry make a chunk of change, and most of  
15 these pollock industry fishermen are based out of  
16 Seattle, they take the money and go out. So, you know,  
17 this Federal Subsistence Board has a direct line to the  
18 Department of Interior, so, you know, I suggest that,  
19 you know, the Department of Interior collaborate with  
20 the Department of Commerce to address the poor salmon  
21 returns on the Yukon River.

22  
23 But, anyway, my main point was to  
24 please provide technical Staff support for our public  
25 members to make better informed decisions to help our  
26 people.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
31 Donald. Any questions. Frank.

32  
33 MR. WOODS: Yeah, Donald, I'd like to  
34 thank you. About 25 years ago -- you're retired from  
35 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a RAC organizer.  
36 I appreciated all your support. You've made this all  
37 possible in an arena of Federal management and then  
38 having a rural preference, subsistence priority, and  
39 you are correct Western Alaska has the highest level of  
40 poverty and all that brings and the most impacted by  
41 decisions we make on subsistence rights and I  
42 appreciate your charge because it's still felt today.  
43 I'm looking forward to seeing you around these meetings  
44 more and more. So not glad you're retired but I'm glad  
45 you're testifying.

46  
47 Thank you, Donald.

48  
49 (Applause)

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1 MR. MIKE: Well, thank you, Mr. Woods,  
2 and I appreciate the kind words and I'm retired and my  
3 mind is free. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's a long  
6 ways away for me Donald.

7  
8 Raymond, you have the floor. Sorry.

9  
10 MR. ONEY: It's better late than never.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

13  
14 MR. ONEY: But, anyway, thank you,  
15 Donald, for those words of encouragement and thank you  
16 for explaining to the people here about the hardships  
17 that the Yukon's been going through and thank you for  
18 the directions that you've given here so I appreciate  
19 your comments. Thank you.

20  
21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you for being here  
22 all the way from home, homeland. I just want to let  
23 you know that we do have resources at U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service in Bethel if you want to get a hold of  
25 Aaron Moses and he is our tribal consultant for our  
26 region so he would be a good resource to get a hold of  
27 in regards to getting technical assistance in regards  
28 to all fisheries and wildlife proposals, regulations  
29 and any technicality that you need, he's our direct go-  
30 to person.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
35 further questions, comments for Donald.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
40 Donald. Next we have Melinda Chase.

41  
42 MS. CHASE: Good morning, Chair and  
43 good morning Board. I am happy to be here today, I'm a  
44 little bit ungrounded so excuse me for -- hopefully I  
45 can sound coherent but I'm Melinda Chase. My home  
46 village is Anvik on the lower middle Yukon. Many of  
47 you know where the borderline is with Yup'ik territory  
48 and Holy Cross, it's 40 miles above and I serve as the  
49 President of our small village corporation Deloy Ges  
50

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1 and I'm also an advisory to the Bering Sea Western  
2 Interior Tribal Commission that was formed a handful of  
3 years ago in response to the -- trying to respond to  
4 BLM's planning effort for the resource management plan,  
5 the Bering Sea Resource Management Plan that covers 62  
6 villages including the AVCP region, Tanana Chiefs  
7 region, and up into Kawarek and so there's 38 villages  
8 that are part of that tribal consortium that came  
9 together to really address the needs to have areas of  
10 critical environmental concern in that resource  
11 management plan.

12  
13 So I'm here to ask that the Board, and  
14 I heard you already had one public comment on this  
15 today, but to really elevate the need to keep and  
16 retain the D-1 land protections. So in the Bering  
17 Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan, none of  
18 the areas of critical environmental concern were  
19 retained so the only protections that we have under  
20 that BLM resource management plan are the D-1  
21 protections. Now, the Anvik River has the most BLM  
22 land up that watershed and so to not have any  
23 protective status, and it's also the largest chum  
24 salmon producing river in Western Alaska which, of  
25 course, we're dealing with right now over across in  
26 terms of taking public testimony and trying to make a  
27 cap on that. So I know that, you know, there was a  
28 huge amount of support for retaining the D-1s across  
29 the U.S., particularly here in Alaska. The resource  
30 advisory councils under the Federal Subsistence  
31 Management Program, the Western Interior, Yukon  
32 Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol Bay and Seward Peninsula RACs  
33 all voted in favor of retaining those and I would  
34 really like this Board to, you know, perhaps forward  
35 those letters to this Administration, to DOI, they  
36 really need to know the level of support, 140 tribes,  
37 you know, half of the tribes across Alaska, close to  
38 it, also commented directly to BLM to retain those and  
39 then we had several Native Corporations at the regional  
40 level Nana, Calista, Ahtna and Bristol Bay as well as  
41 150,000 comment letters across the U.S. So the amount  
42 of public support for retaining those really needs to  
43 be highlighted to this Administration and in your roles  
44 I would ask that you highly consider that. 125 Alaska  
45 businesses as well as 300 businesses across the  
46 country. So it was a tremendous amount of support and  
47 effort.

48  
49 And just in terms of, you know, what it  
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1 means again for our livelihood, you know, I feel like  
2 it's -- you know 28 million acres, it's not just the  
3 Bering Sea/Western Interior, it's the other resource  
4 management plans, one-third of Alaska, it's -- I think  
5 it's still one of the biggest land issues, you know,  
6 we've got all of our fish issues but it's one of the  
7 biggest land issues that we have, I think, right now  
8 for Alaska and for our generation.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
13 questions or comments from the Board. Frank.

14

15 MR. WOODS: One comment. Thank you for  
16 your testimony. What I heard is that when we challenge  
17 ourselves that's the biggest challenge that we have in  
18 this arena is we are a growing and ever evolving  
19 community. We are corporate, we are tribal and what  
20 you're talking about is the regulations might be out of  
21 our purview but we're -- as a Federal Subsistence Board  
22 member public I am glad that you are bringing these  
23 issues forward because it affects all of us. If I  
24 stand on your piece of property that D-1 is regulating  
25 I could be right on the corner of a corporate land, a  
26 Federal agency and a State agency all in the same  
27 footprint, right, and that's what I think is the  
28 challenge that we have today is we need to hear those  
29 issues and how it impacts the Federally-qualified  
30 subsistence users we represent. The bureaucracy behind  
31 it might not be aligning but we -- it's still the same  
32 issue so I thank you for bringing that forward.

33

34 MS. CHASE: Thank you.

35

36 MS. PITKA: Hi, so Crystal was over  
37 here feverishly trying to find where we -- we forwarded  
38 that package of letters that we got from all of our  
39 Regional Advisory Councils to the Secretary and what  
40 the response was.

41

42 MS. CHASE: Okay.

43

44 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah, hi, Melinda.

45

46 MS. CHASE: Hi. Good morning.

47

48 MS. LEONETTI: We did -- so the Board  
49 forwarded D-1 letters from Western Interior, Yukon

50

1 Delta, Seward Peninsula and Eastern Interior RACs to  
2 the Secretaries in July of 2024 so those were forwarded  
3 up. And I am certain that we got a response from the  
4 Special Assistant to the Secretary on Alaska Affairs, I  
5 just can't -- oh, the response was received on November  
6 20th, thank you, Brooke, so we do have that and can get  
7 you a copy.

8  
9 MS. CHASE: Well, I'm particularly  
10 asking for this Administration.

11  
12 MS. LEONETTI: Got it, thank you.

13  
14 MS. CHASE: Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further  
17 questions.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your  
22 testimony this morning. Next we have Karen Linnell.

23  
24 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 For the record my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the  
26 Executive Director of Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
27 Commission which is comprised of eight Federally-  
28 recognized tribes and two ANCSA Corporations.

29  
30 The Ahtna people our traditional  
31 territory is about the size of Ohio. We have a large  
32 swath of blue on our maps is State land and very little  
33 Federal land. There's approximately 20 million acres  
34 of over selections by the State that they are managing  
35 wildlife on that they do not own title to. Under -- in  
36 the Copper River Basin in Game Management Unit 11  
37 there's quite a bit of 17 D-1 lands that have been  
38 withdrawn for mining. It's in the caribou calving  
39 areas. Right now the caribou are in such a decline  
40 that it can be up to 10 or 20 years before we're able  
41 to hunt caribou again. We're not certain what's going  
42 to be happening with our caribou. It's already been  
43 three years, right, we're getting close to a full  
44 generation that won't be able to hunt caribou so  
45 protecting those lands for caribou habitat is  
46 important. That 17 D-1 EIS happening came shortly  
47 after the Copper River Basin area came up from DNR. In  
48 that DNR plan they were modifying statuses of the area  
49 behind Eureka and McLaren River area and turning that  
50

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1 from 50 percent wildlife habitat to five percent  
2 habitat and some of those selections were Ahtna lands  
3 and BLM lands, they weren't even State lands. So it  
4 really -- it'll turn it into a recreational area right  
5 where the caribou calve and are during the fall.

6  
7 The other -- and so being able to  
8 protect that habitat and to protect the caribou herd is  
9 something that the Ahtna people have been working hard  
10 on. The Copper River Basin area plan has -- it's been  
11 a year and a half now since the public comments were  
12 made and we haven't heard anything, they were supposed  
13 to synthesize the public comments and we haven't heard  
14 anything back on it so hopefully we were able to stop  
15 that change from happening.

16  
17 The other thing I'd like to address is  
18 that the PL5150 is a primary hunting location for the  
19 Ahtna people because of there only being about five  
20 percent of GMU 13 as Federal lands and most of that is  
21 PL5150. So keeping those under Federal management is  
22 important to our ability to practice subsistence in the  
23 Ahtna region.

24  
25 It would be more other lands if we were  
26 able to remove the State selection and management over  
27 those D-1 lands that they've selected. And so that is  
28 something that we've been monitoring. We've put a web  
29 -- a story map on our website that was shared across  
30 the state so that people could understand what the 17D-  
31 1 environmental impact statement meant with all the  
32 different options. It's still there, not so much as a  
33 story map, but as a pdf so that you can read it and see  
34 the impacts that it could have in the Ahtna region.

35  
36 So that's real important that you folks  
37 understand and you have a direct line to the Secretary  
38 to tell the Secretary that the D-1 selections and the  
39 PL5150 lands are important to subsistence users and as  
40 the Federal Subsistence Board you have that opportunity  
41 to write to the Secretary and saying keeping these  
42 things in place has a direct impact on the subsistence  
43 users of rural Alaska. I'm not just talking about the  
44 Ahtna people. I have a lot of neighbors that use and  
45 hunt those lands as well under Federal permits. What  
46 we're seeing is that the State often -- State hunters  
47 often use those lands and are able to hunt those lands  
48 under State permits, not giving us a rural priority  
49 under ANILCA.

50

1                   The competition that we have in the  
2 Copper River Basin is huge when you get six to 8,000  
3 permits issued for caribou and moose in our area and,  
4 you know, the hunters that come, or the six to 8,000  
5 fishermen that come to fish the Copper River under  
6 personal use permits, dipnetting south of the bridge,  
7 targeting, on boats now, targeting the fish when  
8 they're held up in high waters. These are the things  
9 that we're trying to -- that we're up against, right,  
10 in trying to provide for our families.

11  
12                   I was listening to this young man talk  
13 about trawling and the effects there. If I was to do  
14 the same thing in Iowa or in the Redwood Forest and  
15 plow it over there would be public outrage at the  
16 discretion and decimation of the habitat there. That's  
17 what's happening on our ocean floors. Those little  
18 micro organisms feed other things that feed other  
19 things that feed the fish and the mammals that our  
20 people eat. We need to address that. It's under  
21 Federal management. We are fighting the North Pacific  
22 Fisheries Management Council which is primarily made up  
23 of factory trawler lobbyists and lawyers. They listen  
24 to the Advisory Panel, I'm using air quotes, for  
25 listen, and then they do whatever, looking at the  
26 benefits of the trawlers and not the other species that  
27 they're throwing overboard. Those millions of pounds  
28 of halibut, from what I was told they used to be about  
29 15 to 20 pounds, now they're less than five pounds  
30 each. So you quadruple or quintuple those -- the  
31 impact of the halibut in their birthing grounds, right,  
32 and they're not making it to the rest of the area and  
33 they're not -- they're just getting decimated so  
34 there's halibut fisheries getting decimated, sport  
35 halibut, subsistence halibut. You've got subsistence  
36 salmon not making it to the rivers. We had a  
37 transboundary meeting in Copper River Basin with our  
38 Yukon relatives and when they told me that they were  
39 not able to fish for 25 years and that they were using  
40 an educational permit to get three salmon so that they  
41 can teach their children how to cut fish, broke my  
42 heart. I'm so glad to see that State of Alaska is  
43 actually now looking at that, realizing that they're  
44 not meeting treaty obligations. It took awhile. It  
45 took awhile. And it's because of the closure the last  
46 five years on the Yukon. It took awhile for them to  
47 admit that this isn't happening. But continuing to  
48 appoint lobbyists who have a vested interest in the  
49 factory trawlers is a conflict of interest and should  
50



1 not happen. When I was on the Board of Game and had to  
2 go through my disclosure and the conflicts that I had  
3 and give my financial background, I got questioned on  
4 every turn, did I participate in the Ahtna budget  
5 making process where Ahtna put money aside for legal  
6 fees because some of the Ahtna people are suing the  
7 Board of Game, I had to disclose and point out that I  
8 am not on the Customary and Traditional Use Committee,  
9 I am not participating in this and I did not get a  
10 financial gain from this, I don't see that happening  
11 through that process. There's such a direct conflict  
12 of interest that they should be disqualified from  
13 serving on those boards.

14  
15 Those factory trawlers, when they  
16 overharvest, they cry to the Department of Agriculture  
17 that we can't sell our food, we can't sell this fish,  
18 can you buy it so they get subsidized also from USDA.  
19 They get subsidized by USDA, they're destroying  
20 fisheries, it's not sustainable and then when they have  
21 too much to sell on the open market they sell it to the  
22 food banks. Wrong. So wrong. And it needs to stop.

23  
24 I'm trying to address that, serve on  
25 the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee and I talk to them  
26 about sustainability and how they're destroying other  
27 people's livelihoods, our subsistence users,  
28 sportfishermen and sport guides, they went from two  
29 halibut a day for their clientele to one. Then they  
30 can't stay out there and provide because those little  
31 boats are selective and they go into little places and  
32 they don't overharvest just like we don't overharvest.  
33 We're not seeing that with the factory trawlers. It  
34 used to be that they would go to Cold Bay and in Kodiak  
35 and offload their fish and have plants there that would  
36 process them, now they're doing it all on board and  
37 they're never leaving the fishing grounds. The fishing  
38 ground isn't getting any rest. There used to be that  
39 they would come and they'd fill up and they'd have to  
40 go unload, they're not doing that anymore, and so those  
41 fishing grounds don't get any rest and so I urge you to  
42 write to the Department of Commerce because they are  
43 impacting the people that you serve. Up river, that's  
44 something else that's not on the North Pacific  
45 Fisheries Management Council is anybody that's from in-  
46 river. There's nobody from in-river on there talking  
47 about the impacts that they're creating to folks that  
48 aren't on the ocean.

49  
50

1                   Those fish that migrate through there,  
2 not only feed our people, they feed our land. They  
3 feed our land that will take care of the willows that  
4 will take care of our moose. Those fish that come up  
5 stream, our wolves will eat them too, and then when  
6 they don't have them they'll go after our moose and our  
7 caribou, again, creating additional crises for us, the  
8 big four legged animals that would be eating fish, when  
9 they don't have it they'll turn to the moose and  
10 caribou again creating a larger impact to survivability  
11 of those rural residents that you serve.

12  
13                   So I urge you to write to the  
14 Department of Interior and copy the Department of  
15 Agriculture and the Department of Commerce on their  
16 impacts to the economy of Alaska because those factory  
17 trawlers, payroll goes through Washington, their taxes  
18 go to Washington, they pay a small tax here, there's  
19 not a lot of payroll tax that comes through Alaska, we  
20 don't have Alaska payroll tax, it's -- it's crazy.  
21 They don't shop in the ports anymore like they used to  
22 because they bring everything with them. It's not  
23 really providing much to the state of Alaska as far as  
24 economy goes. All the other jobs with the sport guides  
25 and smaller fishermen and fisher vessel, that economy  
26 is going away and they contribute to Alaska.

27  
28                   So I just ask you to look at this and  
29 address it and then ask you to consider what's  
30 happening with the 17D-1 and the PL5150 because that  
31 will have a direct impact on the jurisdiction of this  
32 Board over fish and wildlife resources.

33  
34                   Thank you.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
37 Karen. Any questions or comments from the Board.  
38 Frank, you have the floor.

39  
40                   MR. WOODS: Thank you, Karen, for the  
41 wonderful testimony. The most powerful I've seen in  
42 the last 20 years of my life is watching Eklutna and  
43 Ahtna and the villages affected on the road system, the  
44 first time I heard was about 20 years ago that they  
45 started meeting with the regional tribal -- they  
46 started having potlucks that brought people together  
47 without any agenda, with no outcome, we come to these  
48 meetings with an agenda, we come to these meetings with  
49 an outcome, same with the North Pacific Fisheries  
50

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1 Management, we had a gathering yesterday. The first  
2 time I met the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
3 Council members, first time that three of them wanted  
4 to know what we were doing. Three of them didn't know  
5 what this Board even -- didn't even know this Board  
6 existed or even what it did. It was awesome. I got to  
7 educate a member from Portland and explain to him what  
8 we were doing, what our charge is, what subsistence  
9 looks like in Alaska and I didn't have an agenda  
10 talking to him, I just explained to him and educated  
11 him on the process, how we engage and how important it  
12 is. That was pretty powerful. And I feel welcome  
13 here.

14

15                   When I went down yesterday, to the  
16 North Pacific, it was just a whole different  
17 atmosphere, it's a whole different engagement, it has a  
18 whole different charge. And when he was explaining to  
19 me what their charge was and the Chairman can maybe  
20 expand on that, is that they were grateful they didn't  
21 have as much charge as we do. And I was like, no way,  
22 I think it's reversed, their charge is bigger than ours  
23 because it impacts us more.

24

25                   So I appreciate your testimony and for  
26 everyone, you know, we're all in this together no  
27 matter what side we're on and I appreciate this process  
28 that we're able to sit and listen and deliberate on  
29 that. So, thank you.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Louis.

32

33                   MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Karen, I'd like to thank you for bringing those things  
35 up about the moose and what they eat and the river  
36 systems, you know, that's been one of my messages for  
37 years and it's good to hear you're on board with that.  
38 I did want to mention that in '98/99 the Board of Fish  
39 came to Nome, they placed us -- they gave us a year to  
40 design a framework for Tier II fishery, never happened  
41 in Alaska, we were historically the first and we also  
42 are historically the only ones that went through it for  
43 some 20 -- almost 20 years. This happened in '99 and  
44 the effects of these trawlers are far reaching. They  
45 didn't only just fish in the last 30 years there's been  
46 trawler industry out there when the factory -- or when  
47 -- before the 200 mile limit, so this is a long-term  
48 injury that we're suffering and to keep it going on, I  
49 just -- I don't understand what the Council -- where  
50

0390

1 they -- why they stand on that side of the fence,  
2 they're going to be on the wrong side of -- they're on  
3 the wrong side of history, we all know that.

4  
5 I just wanted to point out some numbers  
6 for you, Karen, that you brought up, the subsidized  
7 pollack fishery. They're out there 345 days, I think  
8 the last numbers I just got currently, 345 days a year.  
9 There's a 20 day break that I understand, and if I'm  
10 wrong somebody could point that out. One of the things  
11 also I wanted to point out about the trawlers, the 141  
12 million pounds for the last over decade has been  
13 reported, is their take every year, and I demonstrated  
14 that through an example of a Ford F-150 parked in  
15 Anchorage and bumper to bumper the last one loaded with  
16 bycatch in the back level with the bed, the last one's  
17 parked in Soldotna, I mean that's really mind blowing,  
18 and that's just the reported, we don't know what's  
19 going on in the Gulf of Alaska, they don't have  
20 observers on everything and we know that it isn't an  
21 observer issue. Maybe things aren't so up and up about  
22 how they present their numbers. One other thing,  
23 people don't -- maybe caught on to the predation of  
24 salmon, wolves have been eating salmon too, and it was  
25 at a Federal RAC meeting I found out several years ago  
26 that a -- I had made an example of my dog going into  
27 the river and pulling salmon out in the Solomon River  
28 and a biologist brought me out to the hall and said  
29 that's what we found to be true, the wolves are also  
30 feeding on them.

31  
32 So that's what I had to add to you and  
33 identify for you.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie, you  
40 have the floor.

41  
42 MR. WRIGHT: I just wanted to add a  
43 little bit to what he said about the animals and the  
44 ecosystem that's being affected, I've said it here  
45 before. I think all the animals and birds and right  
46 down to the yellowjacket and blue fly are affected. In  
47 the Kantishna River near the Denali Park they found  
48 that the wolves eat 25 percent of their diet, is fish.  
49 They did some studies on them. So it's true, the  
50

0391

1 places where salmon go and have habitat and spawning  
2 grounds, those animals, the whole ecosystem in those  
3 places are damaged and the longer it happens, the worse  
4 it gets. So abundance based management at the mouth of  
5 the Yukon River has not worked, they don't account for  
6 the health of the tributaries [sic] and the  
7 escapement goals, a lot of the tributaries in the  
8 Yukon have been swept under the rug or they don't exist  
9 no more because -- so they don't have to answer for all  
10 those tributaries and all those distinct stocks.  
11 One tow can take out a whole distinct stock from one  
12 stream, one tributary, the whole thing. So now you  
13 can go up and down the Yukon River and sit at the mouth  
14 of many many little rivers and creeks and there ain't  
15 one fish. They have been -- they're gone. So the only  
16 thing they're worrying about is the escapement goal  
17 going into Canada and nothing else, so it's really bad  
18 what's going on to the whole ecosystem on the Yukon  
19 River.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for  
24 that. Go ahead, Louis.

25

26 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
27 more comment. We're talking about land animals. We  
28 got beluga, we've got seals, we've got everything else  
29 in the marine world devouring salmon too. And I've  
30 seen them all the way up -- I've seen spotted seals all  
31 the way up the river feeding on salmon so touching on  
32 marine mammals, it's really hard for me to understand,  
33 you know, I sat in a courthouse in Nome, Alaska when  
34 Ted Stevens was talking about the Marine Mammal  
35 Protection Act. How is it that the trawler industry is  
36 able to take these animals and just discard them as  
37 waste and if one of us did something and somebody  
38 complained about it, we'd be fined for it. So just  
39 wanted to bring that to light, that this Marine Mammal  
40 Protection Act, to me, is almost a farce when we're  
41 talking about the MMSA. So thank you Karen, really  
42 appreciate your comments.

43

44 Thanks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Raymond, you  
47 have the floor.

48

49 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.

50

1 Chairman. I just wanted to comment, Karen, thank you  
2 for your well thought out testimony. It is well taken  
3 and I'm hoping that the direction that you've given us  
4 to address this letters to the Department of Commerce  
5 and Department of Agriculture. So I appreciate your  
6 comments. Thank you.

7  
8 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Just to say,  
9 you know, my husband used to work as a commercial  
10 fisherman, he was a tender and he worked through  
11 Southeast and been to Petersburg and Kake even and all  
12 the way over into up into Bristol Bay and he'd tell me,  
13 he says, what you're reading on Facebook with the Stop  
14 Alaska Trawler Bycatch is true, he said I've seen it.  
15 And he said, once in awhile I'd pull something off so I  
16 could eat it. And it's difficult to see or hear how  
17 much is thrown overboard and to hear people, my family  
18 and relatives in the Yukon and on the Yukon River  
19 talking about not being able to eat, while I'm having  
20 hard years and only getting 66 salmon at Chistochina,  
21 I'll still share it with my relatives up north because  
22 they aren't getting anything.

23  
24 That traditional knowledge of how our  
25 food web is so intertwined with the salmon feeding the  
26 land and the land feeding us is so important, and if we  
27 don't do what we can to protect it and move so that  
28 it's there for generations to come, we're going to end  
29 up in a dessert. We already are in a food dessert  
30 according to USDA, right, so living off of the land and  
31 being able to get my roots from the river beds because  
32 that's my potato and it's not getting fed, it's an  
33 issue. And I do appreciate your time this morning,  
34 thank you so much.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
37 Karen. Any other questions.

38  
39 (Applause)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
42 Karen, we always appreciate your leadership.

43  
44 We have one more in the cue here, Mary.

45  
46 MS. HOSTETTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair  
47 and Board. I am now testifying as Mary, a person, not  
48 as a formal Council member. I will reference my first  
49 testimony, Melinda's testimony and Karen's testimony.  
50

0393

1 I'd like to compliment and amplify -- I'm sorry, you  
2 guys are hard to see because -- I'd like to compliment,  
3 amplify and clarify what we're asking for. But first  
4 I'm going to tell you why the D-1 lands and BLM  
5 protections around my home region are important.

6  
7 I berry pick, I interact in a hunting  
8 and fishing lifestyle, traditional from the 8,000 years  
9 of ancestors that I have that live off the land and  
10 waters, that have lived in relationship with the lands,  
11 waters, skies, and more than human relatives for more  
12 than 320 generations. I continue to live in Igiugig  
13 right now with my partner and my family and I berry  
14 pick on Kaskinak, I participate in trips down to  
15 Kokukluk where our caribou hunts are. Some of my  
16 clarifications are with this new Administration coming  
17 out three weeks ago with new executive orders, we  
18 haven't had that time to connect with our RACs since  
19 then. Our RACs have weighed in on this as you've heard  
20 from Melinda. We are requesting that those letters and  
21 that those testimonies are shared with the new  
22 Secretary of Interior because the old one is not here  
23 anymore for all of our unfortunates, ourselves  
24 included.

25  
26 These lands are the biggest land issue  
27 that we have right -- or these D-1 lands being  
28 withdrawn are the biggest land issue that we have  
29 today. We have a water and salmon crises in Bristol  
30 Bay. We have one of the last strongholds of sockeye  
31 salmon in the world that does feed the globe. It not  
32 only feeds me and my family it feeds somebody who I  
33 don't know, who we don't know. When we open those  
34 lands up to potential industrial or industrial  
35 development or outside developers coming in and  
36 building lodges you are impacting not only the health  
37 and vitality of that ecosystem from mining or  
38 potentially the quality of experience for the people  
39 who have lived in that region for generations.

40  
41 And that's all I wanted to say, a  
42 clarification of we understand that you sent these  
43 letters to the original Secretary of Interior back in  
44 July in a different Administration, we want these lands  
45 protected in this Administration and to do that is to  
46 send everything that we did in July to them again now  
47 and express how important these lands are because it's  
48 not just important for us today, it is literally so  
49 incredibly important for the world as we look toward  
50

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1 the future of an uncertain climate and uncertain food  
2 sovereignty.

3  
4                   Quyana.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
7 Mary. And I just want to say thank you for that, to  
8 get that -- we've heard that from a couple this  
9 morning, to make sure we educate the new  
10 Administration, like it or not, it's our boss and we  
11 have to educate them on the issues on the landscape so  
12 I appreciate that it continues to be reiterated on the  
13 record here that we do forward some of the bigger  
14 issues like this to the new just seated boss we have.

15  
16                   So go ahead.

17  
18                   MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 Mary, thank you for your testimony. I just wanted to  
20 add a little bit to it, the comment you made about we  
21 feed the world, Bristol Bay feeds the world salmon.  
22 Bill Dwight, who I think is the Vice Chair of the North  
23 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, his comment was  
24 we feed the world cheap Omega-3 rich food. That's his  
25 reasoning for being behind the industry. I like your  
26 point better than I liked his. I told him that you're  
27 doing that to the world at the expense of our salmon  
28 and I told him that back in the '90s. So thank you.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
31 Frank.

32  
33                   MR. WOODS: Yep, thank you for your  
34 testimony. I appreciate all the positive words. You  
35 know when we come here to these meetings we're always  
36 arguing, or at least when you go to those arenas and  
37 the State meetings, and so I come to the meeting with a  
38 problem and if I focus on the problem, the problem only  
39 gets bigger, what you've approached is you came with a  
40 solution, intensify our stance. Is that we have a  
41 charge here and it's different from theirs. And that  
42 difference is okay. And that difference is welcome.  
43 It's how we approach this and it's how you, your  
44 generation, and the young people behind you, approach  
45 this and I like that approach because No. 1 it brings  
46 people together, it doesn't separate us. So thank you.

47  
48                   MS. HOSTETTER: Thank you, Mr. Wood and  
49 Mr. Seward Peninsula.

50



0395

1                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,  
2 well, I'm -- oh, Alissa.

3  
4                   MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Through the Chair. Alissa Rogers, YK-Delta. Thank you  
6 for bringing that up because it makes a really good  
7 point and, yes, we do have to resubmit all of our stuff  
8 to the new Administration so what I'm asking the Board  
9 right now, is what actions do we need to do in regards  
10 to our letters? Do I need to, as our RACS here do we  
11 need to make a motion to resubmit as just a RAC to you  
12 and then you guys will send them out or how is this  
13 going to work?

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We were just  
16 discussing this here, that as a Board here, as long as  
17 there's concurrence we tell the Staff that they can  
18 forward all those comments to the new Administration.  
19 As long as there's concurrence here by the Board that  
20 that happens, to this Administration.

21  
22                   (Federal Subsistence Board nods in  
23 agreement)

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm seeing  
26 concurrence, we will direct the Staff to forward all  
27 that content to the new Administration so they can get  
28 a pulse of what we're dealing with in Alaska.

29  
30                   Yes, you have the floor, Charlie.

31  
32                   MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
33 just wanted to just echo again what you said and thank  
34 you for your testimony, that D-1 lands and our salmon  
35 crises, without our salmon and without our land we're  
36 not nothing, so we appreciate you guys pushing forward  
37 as much as you can for the people that we represent.

38  
39                   Thank you.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we  
42 appreciate that through the public comment and other  
43 things, we will now have a quicker direct line too to  
44 the Department of Interior, so, again, hearing that on  
45 the record this morning and how do we flex that channel  
46 and make sure that we elevate these very very heavy  
47 concerns of our constituents and our members that we  
48 represent up the chain so we can get them addressed, or  
49 at least on their radar.

50

0396

1 Rhonda.

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Rhonda.

MS. PITKA: So to clarify, we'll be sending the letters under bycatch and interception issues, is that correct, and then the letters and then this very, very helpful Excel spreadsheet, thank you Katya, for the D-1 concerns also, the complete package that we sent to the Secretary before?

MS. HOSTETTER: Correct, Ms. Pitka.

MS. PITKA: Oh, sorry, I wasn't clarifying with you, ma'am, I was clarifying with these guys.

(Laughter)

MS. PITKA: But I'm glad you're clear on it.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we had a nice chart presented to us that had a lot of the stuff that was submitted, so a spreadsheet -- I'm not Excel savvy, so we'll work on that and the Staff, so moved from the Board. So thank you. Any other questions, comments, Mary.

MS. HOSTETTER: No. I just wanted to say, thank you, Quayana, for all of the work that you do to represent your constituents and the people who live in relationship with this great place, which as Mrs. Pitka said earlier, the stewardship of this great place is not just for indigenous peoples, it's for everybody and so when you're hearing these comments you are speaking for us. So Quayana.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I think that's what makes the non-agenda items so important. I know a lot of the time it's outside of the purview of this Board but most of the things are, as we've noticed, that's the challenge we deal with here, and you hear big boards don't even know we exist, well, then I guess it's a good thing we're taking breaks and sending ourselves over there to get more educated and especially these kids here. And, again,

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1 when we were talking this morning about the testifying  
2 of these youth and how engaging it was, the people we  
3 were also talking to, Regional Southeast Administrators  
4 for their district and encouraging them to put this  
5 into their school in their curriculum because, hey,  
6 man, that's how important this is, I think, for the  
7 future of our state, and everybody. So you guys stay  
8 diligent, I know you guys have connections, share it on  
9 your Facebook and let them know, you know, the process.  
10 Talking to the kids out here, each time they came up it  
11 got a little easier to present themselves and to stand  
12 up and be able to have that without that layer of fear,  
13 and they also echoed the same of the atmosphere change  
14 from here to there. We're talking about living  
15 lifestyles here and they're talking about getting paid  
16 over there. It's a big difference, you know, our  
17 charge is to be here to pull at our heart strings, you  
18 seen it work this week that, you know, if you come here  
19 with compelling evidence and you put things on the  
20 record it draws upon a bigger board now that have  
21 similar attributes to our rural residents, so we feel  
22 what it is you're going through and we can apply that  
23 to our votes here and the metrics going forward.

24  
25 So appreciate the public testimony, it  
26 drives this Board. As you see it's long and this is  
27 because the process belongs to the public and the rural  
28 members of Alaska. So, thank you.

29  
30 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
31 one thought to leave people with, is, the Pacific Rim,  
32 the health of the Pacific Rim is dependent on salmon  
33 and has been for five million years. It was recognized  
34 back in the '80s, there was a study done and it went  
35 from maybe the late '80s into the '90s, that how salmon  
36 were so important to the Pacific Rim. Just to point  
37 out, two western areas in Western Alaska that are  
38 producers for that, one is Bristol Bay, it's obvious,  
39 the other one is Norton Sound, but I don't think the  
40 Norton Sound has done anything over a few decades that  
41 contributes to the health of the Pacific Rim. But  
42 keeping that in mind, it was so important to tribes in  
43 California, Oregon and Washington, and the government,  
44 got together and they took out dams to create runs,  
45 they created hatchery, you know, they did everything to  
46 bring that salmon back. So we need to be just as  
47 forceful as those folks down south of us.

48  
49 Thank you Mr. Chair for that moment.

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. It  
2 looks like that concludes the public testimony this  
3 morning. I think we even got some business done there  
4 and some direction for the Staff, and I just want to  
5 thank the Staff here and everybody for their diligence.  
6 I unfortunately have to go for personal matters so I'm  
7 going to be handing over the Chair to Rhonda and she  
8 loves it.

9

10                   (Laughter)

11

12                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: She keeps me on  
13 my toes. She's a very very competent Chair. So again  
14 thank the Staff, thank everybody here. I know there's  
15 a little more work on the agenda here so I apologize  
16 for dipping out but I got to be somewhere so thank you  
17 guys all for your testimony, all your hard work as  
18 Regional Advisory Council Chairs to disseminate what it  
19 is your people are speaking to about and how the  
20 passion that you carry to represent all of the issues  
21 that the people have, so thank you guys and appreciate  
22 this opportunity.

23

24                   Recess for 10 minutes.

25

26                   MR. AHMASUK: Hello. Hello.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, there's  
29 somebody online to be recognized in the public  
30 testimony.

31

32                   (Laughter)

33

34                   MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, sorry, I did call  
35 in to testify. I've been waiting for almost an hour.  
36 Can I still testify, that's what I called in for.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead.  
39 Yes, state your name for the record please.

40

41                   MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you so much.  
42 My name is Brandon Ahmasuk. I'm the VP of Natural  
43 Resources here at Kawarek in Nome, Alaska. I wanted to  
44 testify as others have on the ANCSA 17 D-1 lands. So  
45 Kawerak strongly urges the Federal Subsistence Board to  
46 support retaining all ANCSA 17D-1 withdrawals under  
47 Alternative A to ensure that the lands, our ways of  
48 life, our cultures and access to subsistence foods are  
49 protected for current and future generations.

50

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1 Retaining all withdrawals under Alternative A would  
2 ensure that Alaska Native people do not experience the  
3 devastation of losing Federal subsistence priority or  
4 losing Federal protections and the stewardship of  
5 cultural resources.

6  
7 The Bureau's own DEIS document  
8 indicates that each alternative except Alternative A is  
9 likely to have significant restrictions on access to  
10 food and threaten cultural resources for thousands of  
11 residents that live in the planning areas under  
12 consideration. Considering the significant negative  
13 impacts of all action alternatives within the Bureau's  
14 DEIS, the interest of Federally-recognized tribes and  
15 the public interest is best served through adoption of  
16 Alternative A, the no action alternative, and Kawerak  
17 urges to retain all withdrawals.

18  
19 There has been overwhelming support  
20 from nearly 100 percent of testifiers at each public  
21 hearing this far in favor of the Bureau retaining all  
22 withdrawals via Alternative A, the no action  
23 alternative. Citizens, business owners, conservation  
24 groups and tribes have all testified regarding the  
25 importance of the subsistence priority and cultural  
26 resource protections and have urged the Bureau to  
27 retain ANCSA 17D-1 withdrawals under Alternative A.  
28 Kawerak urges the Federal Subsistence Board, again, to  
29 retain all withdrawals.

30  
31 That was it for my testimony. Thank  
32 you. I tried to keep it short as possible.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I  
35 appreciate your brevity. Any questions from the Board.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for  
40 calling in and testifying today, appreciate that.  
41 Operator, anybody else in the cue like to be recognized  
42 at this time.

43  
44 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
45 those of you online who would like to address the Board  
46 on non-agenda items you can press star five to raise  
47 your hand.

48  
49 (Pause)

50

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1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 There are no further hands up in the cue.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
5 Thank you everybody again. 10 minutes.

6  
7 (Off record)

8  
9 (On record)

10  
11 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: So the Board is  
12 coming back together to look at FP25-17 and now we are  
13 on the analysis. Thank you.

14  
15 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, Madame Chair.  
16 Members of the Board. My name is Cory Graham and I'm a  
17 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
18 Management. I'm joined by my colleague Dr. Hannah  
19 Voorhees, who is an Anthropologist with OSM. I'll now  
20 present Fisheries Proposal FP25-17, which can be found  
21 starting on Page 535 of your Board book.

22  
23 This proposal was submitted by the  
24 Eastern Interior Council and requests that the Board  
25 rescind the closure to the harvest of all fish in the  
26 Delta River, modify regulations to allow rod and reel  
27 gear only in the drainage and mirror sportfish harvest  
28 and possession limits. The Eastern Interior Council  
29 states in their proposal that it is unfair that the  
30 Delta River is currently open to sportfishing but  
31 closed to Federal subsistence fishing. The Council  
32 wants to remove the closure and put harvest limits and  
33 gear restrictions in place to prevent conservation  
34 concerns from increased opportunity. They also believe  
35 Federal limits should mirror State sportfishing limits  
36 to simplify regulations.

37  
38 So where is the Delta River. The Delta  
39 River is a tributary of the Tanana River and is located  
40 near Delta Junction. The Tangle Lakes system is  
41 located at the headwaters of the Delta River drainage,  
42 there are road access points for both the Delta River  
43 mainstem and the Tangle Lakes system. What's currently  
44 allowed in Federal public waters of the Delta River.  
45 Well, it depends on which part of the drainage you're  
46 in. In the mainstem, Federal subsistence, State  
47 subsistence and State personal use are closed.  
48 Sportfishing for non-salmon species is allowed,  
49 sportfishing for salmon fish is closed. In the  
50

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1 tributaries of the Delta River and the Tangle Lakes  
2 system, Federal subsistence fishing is open so are  
3 State subsistence, personal use and sportfishing.

4  
5 I'll now discuss some important  
6 regulatory history.

7  
8 The mainstem of the Delta River has  
9 been closed to Federal subsistence fishing since the  
10 beginning of the Federal Program. The closure was  
11 carried over from State regulations. The Federal  
12 closure was reviewed last fisheries cycle but was  
13 deferred to hear from local residents and due to  
14 conservation concerns with removing the closure without  
15 establishing harvest limits.

16  
17 What fish are in the Delta River  
18 drainage. Salmon are found in the lower portion of the  
19 river but not the closure area. Burbot, grayling,  
20 round whitefish, humpback whitefish, long nose sucker  
21 and lake trout have been documented in the drainage.  
22 However, we lack abundance information for species  
23 other than grayling. Grayling are thought to be  
24 abundant in the mainstem.

25  
26 Who will be Federally-qualified to  
27 harvest fish in the Delta River. All residents of the  
28 Yukon northern area will be able to harvest fish in the  
29 Delta River if the closure is removed, this includes  
30 approximately 4,300 Federally-qualified subsistence  
31 users that live near the closure area. Subsistence  
32 surveys have not been conducted for any of these  
33 communities in the area, which include Delta Junction  
34 and Big Delta.

35  
36 What is the harvest history in the  
37 area. We don't have much subsistence harvest data but  
38 we do have sportfish harvest estimates. These  
39 estimates are provided by the Alaska Department of Fish  
40 and Game, there appears to be low sportfishing effort  
41 in the Delta River below Wildhorse Creek, in contrast  
42 the Tangle Lakes system is a popular sportfishing area  
43 with high effort catches and effort especially for  
44 grayling and lake trout.

45  
46 What are the effects of this proposal.  
47 For the mainstem compared to the status quo, this  
48 proposal will increase Federal subsistence opportunity  
49 by removing the Federal closure. Conservation concerns  
50

1 are unlikely because harvest will be limited to rod and  
2 reel only, harvest limits will match State sportfish  
3 limits, existing harvest pressure is low and Federally-  
4 qualified users may already harvest fish in the  
5 mainstem under State sportfishing regulations. For the  
6 Delta River tributaries and the Tangle Lakes system  
7 compared to the status quo this proposal will decrease  
8 Federal subsistence opportunity. Currently, these  
9 areas are open under both Federal and State subsistence  
10 regulations, both of which allow unrestricted  
11 subsistence harvest using a variety of gear types so  
12 limiting Federal harvest to rod and reel in these areas  
13 will misalign Federal and State regulations and make  
14 Federal regulations more restrictive than State  
15 regulations. However, allowing rod and reel only will  
16 help conserve fish populations in the Delta River  
17 tributaries that may be vulnerable to overharvest given  
18 their small size and easy accessibility from the  
19 Richardson Highway.

20  
21 OSM's conclusion is to support FP25-17  
22 with modification. So we're supporting the proposal to  
23 rescind the closure in the Delta River and limit  
24 harvest to rod and reel in the Delta River drainage,  
25 but proposing a modification to exclude the Tangle  
26 Lakes systems from the rod and reel only requirement.

27  
28 The Delta River mainstem is currently  
29 closed to Federal subsistence fishing but open to State  
30 sportfishing. Removing the closure will increase  
31 Federal opportunity limiting Federal harvest to rod and  
32 reel only will protect populations from overharvest and  
33 mirroring Federal and State harvest limits will  
34 minimize regulatory complexity. We do not anticipate  
35 increased harvest levels if the closure is removed  
36 because Federally-qualified users may already harvest  
37 fish under State sportfish regulations.

38  
39 The Tangle Lakes system is currently  
40 open to subsistence fishing under both State and  
41 Federal regulations. Conservation concerns have not  
42 been reported. Excluding this area from the gear  
43 limitation requirement will maintain Federal  
44 opportunity and minimize regulatory complexity. The  
45 Delta River tributaries are also currently open to  
46 subsistence fishing under both State and Federal  
47 regulations, limiting Federal harvest to rod and reel  
48 only will make Federal regulations more restrictive  
49 than State regulations but it may also prevent  
50



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1 conservation concerns in a small and easily accessible  
2 tributaries.

3

4 So that concludes my presentation, and  
5 will standby for any questions you may have.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Does anybody have  
10 any questions for the analyst.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Can we  
15 get the summary of written public comments now.

16

17 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair. There were  
18 no written public comments submitted for this proposal.  
19 Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. At  
22 this time I'd like to ask for the summary of tribal and  
23 ANCSA Corporation consultations.

24

25 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.  
26 Board members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office  
27 of Subsistence Management. During the consultation  
28 sessions we had we did not have any questions or  
29 comments on 25-17. Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
32 much Mr. Lind. At this time I'd like to ask for  
33 Advisory group testimony, State ACs, SRCs, working  
34 groups.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, we have  
39 nothing, thank you. And at this time I'd like to open  
40 the floor to public testimony. I don't see any blue  
41 cards in front of me but I see a hand raised -- oh,  
42 there's a blue card still in your hand, okay.

43

44 MS. LINNELL: Good morning, Madame  
45 Chair and members of the Board. For the record my name  
46 is Karen Linnell. I'm the Executive Director for Ahtna  
47 InterTribal Resource Commission. The Ahtna Traditional  
48 Territories stems from Cantwell, or Denali National  
49 Park over into Wrangell-St.Elias and the Canadian  
50

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1 border. We have family members on the other side of  
2 the border that also are Ahtna people.

3  
4 Lake Ahtna was the center of Copper  
5 River Basin and when that dispersed it started to feed  
6 the Matanuska River. We have the Susitna River system  
7 in our region. We have Tangle Lakes which feeds into  
8 the Yukon River system and then we have the Copper  
9 River system. So Copper River Basin feeds into a large  
10 part of the state. Far outside our traditional  
11 territory. Tangle Lakes is in the heart of Ahtna  
12 Territory. We fish and hunt there. We participate in  
13 berrypicking and gather our roots there, that's in the  
14 heart o the Ahtna people's territory. And so with this  
15 proposal, you know, we don't want to deny anybody their  
16 rights as well but I think it's important to note that  
17 it's also part of the Ahtna people's use area and  
18 through Southcentral RAC. These arbitrary lines that  
19 are drawn across the state have an impact to people  
20 that -- and lands and waters that are hard to define or  
21 break up into different areas.

22  
23 And I just wanted to put it on the  
24 record that Tangle Lakes is in the heart of Ahtna  
25 country and that we do hunt and fish, sportfish and  
26 gather our trout and our grayling there and we go duck  
27 hunting there, we actually hold our migratory bird camp  
28 in the fall in that area and so I just felt it  
29 important to recognize our use of that land and while  
30 we share it with our folks on the Yukon River it's  
31 still the heart of Ahtna country.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
36 much. Does anybody have any questions for Karen  
37 Linnell. Frank.

38  
39 MR. WOODS: So Karen you're -- I'm  
40 trying to ask what your position is, is it yea or nay?

41  
42 MS. LINNELL: I think that we have  
43 folks that will sportfish, they can do so under a State  
44 permit and, you know, I'll support what Eastern  
45 Interior RAC has done. They've done some studies on  
46 it. But there's a large contingent of folks in Delta,  
47 they're ramping up that Ft. Greely and so there's a lot  
48 of folks that are moving into that area that will get  
49 Federal hunting and fishing rights and that probably  
50

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1 will come up again. When we were looking at rural/non-  
2 rural status and that kind of thing, and looking at  
3 numbers, and we knew Ft. Greely was going to be growing  
4 again and that's why there was that number of 7,000 or  
5 something that was put out and that was part of Ahtna  
6 people's comments at that time, when they were looking  
7 at what is the status of rural or non-rural. When you  
8 have a high contingent of military folks and other  
9 ethnic groups that tend to exploit the resource versus  
10 practice sustainable and conservative methods of  
11 harvest, it tends to worry us and we see some of that  
12 exploitation when they come in large groups and take  
13 large numbers. We have that coming from folks from  
14 Anchorage, other areas with other large ethnic groups  
15 that will come and take spruce hen or ptarmigan and  
16 now, you know, looking at fishing as a subsistence  
17 resource, I'm not certain that, you know, while  
18 creating it for the Yukon River area, the folks that  
19 live in Delta will become eligible for that and that  
20 Delta includes Ft. Greely, which is, like I said, a  
21 large military contingent of folks that come and  
22 there's another ethnic group there that takes --  
23 exploits the resource and not looking at sustainability  
24 and so I have concern for it.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
29 much. Does anybody else have questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Next,  
34 I have Jim Simon's card.

35

36 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record,  
37 Jim Simon. While I'm a Consultant with Ahtna  
38 InterTribal Resource Commission I'm just giving my  
39 personal testimony. This is an area that I have fished  
40 and I support the proposal, especially with the OSM  
41 modification so thank you for that. And I am familiar  
42 with the culture history of this region as well and  
43 want to support Ms. Linnell's statements regarding it  
44 being in the Ahtna country and that presently the Ahtna  
45 tribal communities and other Federally-qualified users  
46 of the Copper Basin are not Federally-qualified at this  
47 point in time and recognize that there is likely a need  
48 to submit a proposal to mitigate that in the future. I  
49 don't like the idea that a Federal subsistence fishery  
50

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1 is more restrictive than a State sportfishery but I  
2 recognize some of the conservation concerns some of the  
3 closures that were put into place during pipeline  
4 construction to ensure the conservation of resources,  
5 which was very responsible but I think it is  
6 appropriate at this time to remove this closure and to  
7 approach it in a conservative fashion. And it's my  
8 hope to see some cooperative efforts with the Ahtna  
9 InterTribal Resource Commission and the Department and  
10 the Federal agencies to do some -- more data  
11 collection. Because as we know, you know, I know from  
12 my 14 years experience working for the Department of  
13 Fish and Game in the Subsistence Division that, while  
14 we have a lot of robust data on subsistence harvest  
15 through systematic household surveys, the sportfish  
16 harvest survey is really problematic in certain areas.  
17 We've got some good data here because there's so many  
18 people that do sportfish in the area, that those  
19 estimates derive from that very complicated mailout  
20 survey do give us some good data but we could use some  
21 more.

22

23 Just my experience, sportfishing in the  
24 Tangle Lakes area there have been some conservation  
25 concerns, there were declining sizes of grayling, the  
26 Board of Fisheries did adopt some more restricted  
27 conservation measures with bag limits, it's been  
28 changing. I'm not completely up to date on it now, but  
29 I think this is a good start for the Federal Program to  
30 move forward with this, as I don't believe, but Staff  
31 may be able to help this, I don't think that you could  
32 amend this proposal to add the Ahtna tribal communities  
33 for customary and traditional use determination at this  
34 time, but that's what needs to happen eventually.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for that  
39 testimony. Does anybody have any questions for Jim.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seeing none, thank  
44 you so much. Go ahead, do we have anything online.

45

46 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
47 This is Scott Ayers, Fisheries Division Supervisor for  
48 OSM. I just wanted to let the Board know that amending  
49 the proposal to add C&T would be outside the scope of  
50

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1 the proposal that was submitted but we certainly do  
2 encourage submissions of future proposals.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for that  
5 clarification, I appreciate it. Robbin, does anybody  
6 have their hand up online.

7

8 MS. LAVINE: Once again, a reminder,  
9 for those of you online who would like to address the  
10 Board on Fisheries Proposal 25-17, you can do so now by  
11 pressing star five to raise your hand.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Robbin,  
16 and thank you for manning the online, I really  
17 appreciate this split system but sometimes it's a  
18 little onerous to make sure that we get everything. At  
19 this time I'd like the Regional Advisory Council  
20 recommendation. We'll start with Eastern Interior.

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
23 Charlie Wright, Eastern Interior Chair for the record.  
24 The Eastern Interior Council supported FP25-17 as  
25 modified by OSM. The Council supports this proposal  
26 with the OSM modification because it will correct a  
27 current inequity in the system where sportfishing is  
28 allowed but Federal subsistence fishing is prohibited.  
29 The Council supports limiting gear type to rod and reel  
30 only because non-salmon are not immune to overharvest.  
31 Although there are no present conservation concerns,  
32 the Council noted that it will be important to monitor  
33 fish populations to stay ahead of any future issues.  
34 Many of the resources that Federally-qualified  
35 subsistence users depend on are in decline and  
36 rescinding this closure will create additional  
37 opportunities for harvest.

38

39 That's all I have, Madame Chair, thank  
40 you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
43 much. Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional  
44 Advisory Council recommendation, please.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
47 The YK-Delta supported FP25-17. The Council noted the  
48 importance of providing subsistence fishing  
49 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users

50

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1 in the Delta River where sportfishing is currently  
2 allowed. The Council emphasizes that if sportfishing  
3 is allowed in a system there should always be  
4 subsistence harvest opportunity. If there's ever  
5 conservation concerns sportfishing should be closed  
6 before subsistence. Also I'd like to note that the YK-  
7 Delta Council did not discuss the modification given by  
8 OSM to exclude Tangle Lakes area. The Council is not  
9 familiar with the details of the Delta River and  
10 generally prefers to defer to the home land. So I just  
11 wanted to just emphasize if sportfishing is being  
12 allowed -- sportsfishing shouldn't be put before  
13 subsistence and that also we just wanted to support  
14 subsistence users of that area and give Federally-  
15 qualified subsistence users an opportunity for fishing.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
20 much. North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory  
21 Council recommendation.

22

23 MR. FRANTZ: Good morning, this is  
24 Brower Frantz with the North Slope RAC. We decided to  
25 take no action and defer to the home region for this  
26 particular instance. We do have C&T and we do  
27 recognize that but we would rather leave it to the home  
28 region to make the decision as necessary.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
33 much for that. At this time Western Interior Alaska  
34 Regional Advisory Council recommendation. Is Mr.  
35 Reakoff online or will there be a Council Coordinator  
36 giving that?

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair, this is  
39 Brook McDavid. Neither the Chair or Western Interior  
40 Coordinator are online but Western Interior Council  
41 also took no action on this proposal and deferred to  
42 the home region. Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
45 that. Okay. Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
46 comments, please. Mr. Mulligan.

47

48 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
49 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner for

50

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1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Department  
2 is neutral on this proposal and appreciates OSM and the  
3 RACs recognition of potential conservation concerns if  
4 the closure would just be rescinded without the  
5 modification. Thank you.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Mulligan. InterAgency Staff Committee comments,  
9 please.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
12 Members of the Board. The ISC provided their standard  
13 comment. Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
16 much. Board discussion with Council Chairs and State  
17 Liaisons. This is the time to ask questions and have  
18 discussion. Thank you.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, no  
23 discussion, thank you very much. At this time I'd like  
24 to open the floor for a Board motion.

25

26 MS. REED: Madame Chair.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, please, BLM.

29

30 MS. REED: I move to adopt FP25-17 as  
31 modified by OSM to rescind the closure to the harvest  
32 of all fish in the Delta River and limit harvest to rod  
33 and reel in the Delta River drainage excluding the  
34 Tangle Lakes system, and if I get a second I'll explain  
35 why I intend to vote in support of my motion.

36

37 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife seconds.

38

39 MS. REED: Thank you. A limited  
40 subsistence harvest on the mainstem of the Delta River  
41 using rod and reel only will provide Federally-  
42 qualified subsistence users with harvest opportunities  
43 in an area that is currently closed while also helping  
44 to protect fish populations from overharvest. If this  
45 area is opened to rod and reel only, State sportfishing  
46 harvest and possession limits would apply which would  
47 align State and Federal regulations, reducing  
48 regulatory confusion and enforcement actions. Since  
49 there would be no permit required for Federally-  
50

0410

1 qualified subsistence users if this closure is  
2 rescinded, some thought should be given to such a  
3 requirement to track harvest, given the ease of access  
4 in the area and the potential for overharvest. Other  
5 portions of the Delta River drainage, such as the Delta  
6 River tributaries and the Tangle Lakes area are  
7 currently open to subsistence fishing under both  
8 Federal and State regulations, limiting Federally-  
9 qualified subsistence users to rod and reel only in  
10 these areas would make Federal regulations more  
11 restrictive than State regulations but the tributaries  
12 of the Delta River are vulnerable to overharvest due to  
13 their small size and because they are easily accessible  
14 and therefore such a restriction is warranted due to  
15 conservation concerns. The Tangle Lakes system  
16 supports a Federal and State subsistence fishery and a  
17 rod and reel restriction is not warranted in this area  
18 in order to maintain harvest opportunities for  
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users while also  
20 minimizing regulatory complexity. This is also  
21 consistent with the recommendation of the Eastern  
22 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
27 much BLM. At this time I'd like to open the floor to  
28 discussion on the motion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Did I hear a  
33 question called, I couldn't hear.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Question.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
38 much. Question's been called, can we have a roll call  
39 vote please.

40

41 MS. LEONETTI: Yes. Okay, the motion  
42 is to adopt FP25-17 as modified.

43

44 Public Member Frank Woods.

45

46 MR. WOODS: Public Member Woods adopts  
47 25-17 as amended, or modified.

48

49 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

50



0411

1 Forest Service, Chad VanOrmer.

2

3

4 MR. VANORMER: The Forest Service  
5 supports FP25-17 with the OSM modifications for the  
6 purposes expressed by the Bureau of Land Management and  
7 in deference to the RACs. Thanks.

7

8 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

9

10 National Park Service, Sarah  
11 Creachbaum.

12

13

14 MS. CREACHBAUM: The National Park  
15 Service also supports FP25-17 as modified by OSM for  
16 the reasons stated by the BLM and in deference to the  
17 RACs. Thank you.

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MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

MS. REED: I support FP25-17 as  
modified by OSM.

MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife  
Service, Sara Boario.

MS. BOARIO: The Fish and Wildlife  
Service supports as modified by OSM in deference to the  
Eastern Interior RAC and as justified by the BLM in  
their motion. The Fish and Wildlife Service in-season  
manager will coordinate with the Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game if this closure is rescinded and the new  
rod and reel fishery is put in place and as many have  
commented already, also recommend that in the interest  
of conservation that we track any new harvest and  
pressure that might occur.

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MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

Public Member Raymond Oney.

MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney is in support  
of FP25-17 as outlined, stated by BLM.

MS. LEONETTI: Bureau of Indian  
Affairs, Glenn Chen.

MR. CHEN: The BIA votes to support the  
motion and adopt the recommendation of the Eastern  
Interior Regional Advisory Council which includes the

0412

1 OSM modification for FP25-17. We concur with the  
2 justification provided by the BLM and note that the  
3 Council's recommendation is supported by evidence plus  
4 addresses potential conservation concerns.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Chair Rhonda  
7 Pitka.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I support FP17 as  
10 modified by OSM. I concur with the justification  
11 provided by the BLM and in deference to the Eastern  
12 Interior Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.

13

14 MS. LEONETTI: Madame Chair, the motion  
15 passes. Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
18 everyone. Now we are on to FCR25-02. Go ahead,  
19 please.

20

21 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
22 Members of the Board. My name is Cory Graham. I'm a  
23 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
24 Management. I will now present Fisheries Closure  
25 Review FCR25-02 which can be found starting on Page 562  
26 of your Board book.

27

28 The Nome Creek closure is a Federal  
29 subsistence closure that only applies to grayling.  
30 This is a Board directed review to see if the closure  
31 is still necessary. This closure was reviewed during  
32 the 2021-2023 fisheries regulatory cycle. Nome Creek  
33 is in the Eastern Interior region about 50 air miles  
34 north of Fairbanks. It is road accessible with a  
35 couple of camp sites along the creek.

36

37 So what's currently allowed in Nome  
38 Creek. Under Federal regulations harvest of grayling  
39 is not allowed. Under State regulations, subsistence  
40 fishing is also not allowed because Nome Creek is  
41 within the Fairbanks non-subsistence area. State  
42 sportfishing regulations allow only catch and release  
43 of grayling. The Federal closure has been in place  
44 since the beginning of the Federal Program, again, it  
45 was carried over from State regulations.

46

47 What do we know about grayling in Nome  
48 Creek. Well, not a lot. We currently don't have any  
49 good population estimates but there is ongoing research  
50

0413

1 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the  
2 Bureau of Land Management focused on acquiring  
3 information for grayling in the area, however, final  
4 results aren't yet available. Some preliminary results  
5 were presented at the recent Council meetings and  
6 ADF&G's handout is in Appendix A.

7  
8 If the closure is rescinded who will be  
9 able to fish here. All residents of the Yukon northern  
10 area will be able to harvest grayling in Nome Creek.  
11 The closest rural communities are Central and Circle,  
12 but ethnographic data suggests subsistence harvest from  
13 these communities would likely not be substantial.

14  
15 If the closure is removed what would be  
16 allowed. The Federal regulations that cover the entire  
17 Yukon northern area would apply. These are generally  
18 liberal regulations. Harvest would be unrestricted  
19 when using any other legal gear other than rod and  
20 reel, so for example there wouldn't be harvest limits  
21 for gillnets. Harvest using rod and reel would not be  
22 allowed because Federal subsistence rod and reel limits  
23 would match State sportfishing limits and State  
24 sportfishing is currently limited to catch and release  
25 only.

26  
27 So in summary, harvest of grayling is  
28 prohibited under Federal regulations, State sportfish  
29 regulations allow only catch and release of grayling.  
30 The closure has been in place for a long time, since  
31 the beginning of the Federal Program. This is a Board  
32 directed review to see if the closure is still  
33 necessary and not a lot is currently known about  
34 grayling in Nome Creek but there is an ongoing project  
35 by ADF&G and BLM, however, final results aren't yet  
36 available.

37  
38 The OSM conclusion is to rescind the  
39 closure. Rescinding the closure would establish a  
40 Federal subsistence priority in the area, grayling are  
41 susceptible to over exploitation and Nome Creek is road  
42 accessible allowing for easy access and harvest of  
43 fish. Allowing for unrestricted harvest for gear types  
44 other than rod and reel may lead to overharvest  
45 although data suggests most subsistence harvest of  
46 grayling in nearby communities is with rod and reel.  
47 Additionally, the Federal Subsistence Management  
48 Program has the tools needed to prevent overharvest in  
49 both the short-term and the long-term so in the long-  
50

0414

1 term, grayling populations may be protected by limiting  
2 subsistence harvest to rod and reel only, and/or  
3 establishing conservative harvest limits but these  
4 modifications would require a future fisheries proposal  
5 to be submitted. Until a proposal can be submitted,  
6 the Federal in-season manager can protect populations  
7 in the area by restricting gear types and/or harvest  
8 limits through special actions.

9

10 So that concludes my presentation, I'll  
11 standby for any questions you may have. Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Does  
14 anybody have any questions on the analysis.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seeing none, can I  
19 get the summary of written public comments please.

20

21 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair. There were  
22 no written public comments submitted. Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
25 much. At this time I'd like to ask for the summary of  
26 the tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultation.

27

28 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 Board members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the  
30 Office of Subsistence Management. During the  
31 consultation sessions we did not have any questions or  
32 comments on that proposal. Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
35 much, Mr. Lind. At this time I would like to get the  
36 Advisory group testimony, State ACs, SRCs and working  
37 groups.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Don't have that.  
42 Nobody submitted comments, okay. At this time I'd like  
43 to open the floor to public testimony. I don't see any  
44 blue cards, so is there anybody online.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
47 For those of you online that would like to address the  
48 Board on Fisheries Closure Review 25-02 you can do so  
49 by pressing star five to raise your hand. Star five to  
50

0415

1 raise your hand if you wish to comment on Fisheries  
2 Closure Review 25-02.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, there are no  
7 hands raised. Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
10 much, I appreciate it. At this time I'd like to ask  
11 for the Regional Advisory Council recommendations and I  
12 will start with Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
13 Regional Advisory Council, what's your recommendation.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
16 Through the Chair. The YK-Delta Council voted to  
17 rescind the closure. The Council supports establishing  
18 a subsistence opportunity for grayling by Federally-  
19 qualified subsistence users in the area. I did want to  
20 make a comment that the YK-Delta Council met before the  
21 Eastern Interior Council and, therefore, did not get to  
22 consider the perspective of the home region. We mainly  
23 wanted to establish subsistence opportunity since we  
24 are for subsistence and the importance of providing  
25 subsistence opportunity in supporting our local regions  
26 for subsistence.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much  
31 for that, I appreciate it. Western Interior Regional  
32 Advisory Council recommendation, please.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 This is Brooke McDavid for the record. Sorry, I didn't  
36 introduce myself earlier, I should know better. The  
37 Western Interior Council took no action on this  
38 proposal and deferred to the home region. Thank you.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
41 much. Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Subsistence  
42 Council recommendation.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 Chair Wright had to step out to another meeting so I'll  
46 be providing the Eastern Interior's recommendation.  
47 The Eastern Interior Council voted to retain the status  
48 quo for FCR25-02. The Council feels that it is  
49 premature to rescind the closure before fully

50

0416

1 understanding the population dynamics of grayling in  
2 the area. Grayling populations are vulnerable to  
3 overharvest and can take a long time to recover.  
4 Although the current grayling population appears to be  
5 stable, the closure should not be rescinded until  
6 conservation minded regulations can be enacted to  
7 prevent conservation issues. Any further regulations  
8 should also seek to minimize impacts to salmon spawning  
9 in the area. Retaining the closure for the time being  
10 will not have a substantial impact on subsistence users  
11 because the area is not commonly used for subsistence  
12 harvesting.

13

14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
17 much. North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory  
18 Council recommendation please.

19

20 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you. Once again  
21 Brower Frantz for the North Slope Regional Advisory  
22 Council. We decided that we would take no action and  
23 defer to the home region. We do have C&T there but we  
24 would rather they do what they please for their region  
25 as it's in the best interest of their local community.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
28 that, I appreciate it. At this time I'd like to ask  
29 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments,  
30 State Liaison Ben Mulligan, please.

31

32 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 Ben Mulligan for the record. The Department took no  
34 position and promulgated no comments on this closure  
35 review. Thank you.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
38 InterAgency Staff Committee comments -- oh, sorry, did  
39 you have a question -- oh, go ahead, ISC.

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 The ISC provided their standard comment.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much.  
45 Now we are at Board discussion with Council Chairs and  
46 the State Liaison -- go ahead with your question  
47 please.

48

49 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0417

1 Thank you, Mr. Mulligan. I was wondering if you had  
2 any further information, I guess, on the timing or the  
3 update of the telemetry project that was referenced a  
4 moment ago?

5

6 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair.  
7 Member Boario, no, I do not.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
10 that, is there further questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Any more  
15 discussion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, at this time  
20 I'd like to open the floor for a Board motion, please.

21

22 MS. BOARIO: Madame Chair. I move to  
23 retain the Fisheries Closure FCR25-02 and if I get a  
24 second I will explain why I intend to support my  
25 motion.

26

27 MR. BROWER: Second.

28

29 MS. BOARIO: Thank you. Madame Chair.  
30 In deference to the home region, Eastern Interior  
31 Regional Advisory Council, retaining the closure would  
32 protect Arctic grayling populations from overharvest  
33 until a proposal to restrict Federal subsistence  
34 harvest and/or gear types in the closure area can be  
35 submitted. The Federal in-season manager does not  
36 currently have a way to track harvest levels or  
37 increased harvest if the closure is rescinded and no  
38 scientific data to inform creation of a harvest limit,  
39 if necessary. We would request direction come from the  
40 Eastern Interior Council as the local knowledge  
41 holders. If they were to submit a proposal that would  
42 allow rod and reel and a harvest limit we would be open  
43 to supporting that. The proposal would need to be  
44 submitted in the next Federal fishery regulatory cycle.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Member  
49 Boario. So now we're under discussion on the Board

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0418

1 motion.

2

3

(No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seeing none, I didn't hear anybody call the question.

7

8

MS. CREACHBAUM: Question.

9

10

11

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Thank you for the recognition.

12

13

(Laughter)

14

15

16

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay. At this time I'd like to ask for a roll call vote, thank you.

17

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19

MS. LEONETTI: Okay. The motion is to retain the fisheries closure, the proposal FCR25-02.

20

21

I'll start at that end, BLM Erika Reed.

22

23

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27

MS. REED: Yeah, BLM votes to retain the closure for the reasons given by the Fish and Wildlife Service and in deference to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Thank you, Chair.

28

29

30

MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

31

32

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MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service supports the Fish and Wildlife Service motion.

34

35

36

MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond Oney.

37

38

39

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MR. ONEY: I will go with OSM's conclusion, rescind the closure on 25-03 -- excuse me, FCR25-02. Thank you.

41

42

43

MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

44

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Glenn Chen.

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MR. CHEN: The BIA votes to support the motion and adopt the recommendation of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. Nome Creek is within their region and the Council's recommendation is



0419

1 based upon their local perspectives and knowledge. We  
2 concur with the justification provided by the Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service as well. Thank you.

4

5 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,  
6 Sarah Creachbaum.

7

8 MS. CREACHBAUM: The NPS votes to  
9 retain the fisheries closure FCR25-02 for the reasons  
10 stated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in  
11 deference to home region Eastern Interior Regional  
12 Advisory Council. Retaining the closure would protect  
13 Arctic grayling populations from overharvest until a  
14 proposal to restrict State subsistence harvest and/or  
15 gear types in the closure area can be submitted.

16

17 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

18

19 Forest Service, Chad VanOrmer.

20

21 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, the Forest Service  
22 supports retaining FCR25-02 for the purposes already  
23 stated. Thanks.

24

25 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank  
26 Woods.

27

28 MR. WOODS: I support FCR25-02 the  
29 executive summary for rescinding the closure by OSM and  
30 the RAC and the public testimony and the State's  
31 neutral position on this that there's already active  
32 use with no conservation concern. Thank you.

33

34 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

35

36 Chair Rhonda Pitka.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I vote to retain  
39 the status quo for FCR25-02 in deference to the Eastern  
40 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
41 The justification is on Page 576 of your Board book.  
42 Thank you so much.

43

44 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you. Madame  
45 Chair, the motion passes six yes, two no.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
48 much, I appreciate that. At this time we are on  
49 adoption of the consensus agenda so I would like the  
50

0420

1 announcement of the final consensus agenda, please.

2

3

4 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
5 Again, Scott Ayers, Fisheries Division Supervisor here  
6 at OSM. Now, that we've made it through the non-  
7 consensus agenda proposals and closure reviews I will  
8 read the consensus agenda items again along with  
9 recommendations to remind each of you of the positions  
10 on those. As a reminder, these are the proposals and  
11 closure reviews for which there is agreement among the  
12 affected Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the  
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the InterAgency  
14 Staff Committee concerning action.

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Okay, here we go. All right.

FCR25-03 is a regular review of a closure of herring to non-Federally-qualified users in the Federal public waters of Makhnati Island area in Southeast Alaska. The recommendation is retain status quo.

FP25-04 is a proposal to adjust the in-river subsistence salmon harvest limits for the Buskin River on Kodiak Island. The recommendation is to oppose.

FP25-05 is a proposal to limit gear type for salmon to rod and reel in an area of Afognak Bay near Kodiak that was closed to subsistence until the past regulatory cycle. The recommendation is to support.

FP25-06 is a proposal that would rescind the subsistence harvest limits for salmon in the Kodiak Road zone. The recommendation is to oppose.

FP25-07 is a proposal to adjust the area fishing regulations, including permitting, in the Alaska Peninsula area. The recommendation is to support with the OSM modification to implement current State sportfishing limits and oppose requiring a Federal permit.

FP25-08 is a proposal to adjust the area fishing regulations, including permitting, in the Aleutian Islands area. The recommendation is to support with the OSM modification not to change harvest limits in the Unalaska and Adak districts and to oppose

0421

1 requiring a Federal permit.

2

3

4 FP25-09 is a proposal to allow for the  
5 use of red buoys with subsistence gear in the Bristol  
6 Bay area. The recommendation is to support with the  
7 OSM modification to allow red color kegs or buoys in  
8 the Bristol Bay area and other areas of the state  
9 similar to State regulations.

9

10 FP25-10 is a proposal to repeal  
11 closures to the use of nets within 300 feet of a stream  
12 mouth used by salmon. The recommendation is to support  
13 with the OSM modification to allow harvest in this area  
14 for non-salmon fish only, and that is Bristol Bay area  
15 specifically.

16

17 FP25-11 is a proposal to allow  
18 additional methods and gear types in the Bristol Bay  
19 area. The recommendation is to support with the OSM  
20 modification to allow the use of dipnets and beach  
21 seines for salmon and drift gillnets in the Lake Clark  
22 area to align, or to be similar with State regulations.

23

24 FP25-12 is a proposal to repeal the  
25 Togiak River subsistence salmon marking requirement.  
26 The recommendation is to support.

27

28 FP25-13 is a proposal to rescind the  
29 Egegik River subsistence set gillnet length  
30 restrictions. The recommendation is to oppose.

31

32 It's a long list here.

33

34 FP25-14 is a proposal to add gear types  
35 for the harvest of salmon in the waters of the Togiak  
36 National Wildlife Refuge. The recommendation is to  
37 support.

38

39 FP25-15 is a proposal to decrease the  
40 allowable distance between set gillnets for subsistence  
41 in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River. The  
42 recommendation is to oppose.

43

44 FP25-16 is a proposal to specify  
45 subsistence gear types and Arctic grayling harvest and  
46 possession limits in portions of the Bonanza Creek and  
47 Kanuti River drainages. The recommendation is to  
48 support.

49

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0422

1 FCR23-05 is a deferred review of a  
2 closure to subsistence fishing in the Delta River. The  
3 recommendation is to take no action based on  
4 recommendations provided in FP25-17, which you all just  
5 took up.

6  
7 FCR25-01 is a standard review of a  
8 closure to the harvest of chinook salmon in the  
9 Unalakleet River up stream of the mouth of the Chiraski  
10 River. The recommendation is to retain the status quo.

11  
12 And, lastly, WP25-01 is a proposal that  
13 requests changes to all Nelchina Caribou Herd hunts in  
14 Units 11, 12 Remainder and 13 to may be announced  
15 seasons delegating authority to the Federal in-season  
16 managers to manage those hunts and conducting an Alaska  
17 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section .804  
18 prioritization analysis for the Nelchina Caribou Herd.  
19 The recommendation is to support with the initial OSM  
20 modification and the Eastern Interior Council's added  
21 modification of the Section .804 determinations to add  
22 Gakona to Unit 13A, Gulkana to Unit 13C, and Mentasta  
23 Lake and Chistochina to the Unit 12 Remainder.

24  
25 Madame Chair, that concludes the  
26 consensus agenda proposals and closure reviews. I'd  
27 like to give a quick thanks to the proponents of all  
28 the proposals for engaging in this Program, to the  
29 analysts for their work and the time and thoughtful  
30 input from the Councils, the OSM Staff, Alaska  
31 Department of Fish and Game Staff, other agency Staff,  
32 tribes and ANCSA Corporations and the public.

33  
34 I now hand it back to you for Board  
35 action and a motion on this item.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much  
38 for that listing. At this time I'd like to open the  
39 floor for a Board motion and action.

40  
41 MS. JOHN: The BIA moves to adopt the  
42 consensus agenda as described by Mr. Scott Ayers of  
43 OSM.

44  
45 MR. WOODS: Second.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Frank Woods  
48 seconded. Thank you for that. So we're now under  
49 discussion for the consensus agenda, correct.

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0423

1 (No comments)

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10 Did I hear a question.

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(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I'd like to thank all of the analysts and proponents and the Regional Advisory Councils for their work on these proposals and for making sure that they had adequate discussion with the public and with their Regional Advisory Council members. Thank you.

Did I hear a question.

MR. WOODS: Well, for process, I guess, just for clarification since I'm a new member. It was nice to see the InterAgency work and OSM Staff and my question is if -- on the consensus agenda if I have an issue I bring it forward before it becomes, or during when it's on the consensus, like we seen today, some got pulled off and we reviewing process, just for future, and for myself and the public, if we have any questions, so those consensus agenda items we passed become in regulation but if we need to review more I just ask in writing and/or in testimony?

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Robbin.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'll remind everyone again that when a proposal or a closure review is on the consensus agenda it means that the Councils and ADF&G and the ISC are aligned, or at least there are no major disagreements so a lot of the hashing out has already been done. And as you saw, I think it was yesterday, we had some proposals that were on the consensus agenda that were requested removed and discussed and debated on the record, and those were the C&T proposals.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much. And just for clarification the public testimony on consensus agenda items was also available at the beginning of each day.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Now did I hear a question.

MR. VANORMER: Call the question,

0424

1 please.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: At this time I'd  
4 like to ask for a roll call vote, please.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. The motion is to  
7 adopt the consensus agenda.

8

9 Public Member Frank Woods.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Move to adopt the consensus  
12 agenda as listed and outlined in current testimony.

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

16

17 U.S. Forest Service, Chad VanOrmer.

18

19 MR. VANORMER: Forest Service adopts  
20 and supports the consensus agenda as presented. Thank  
21 you.

22

23 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

24

25 National Park Service, Sarah  
26 Creachbaum.

27

28 MS. CREACHBAUM: The National Park  
29 Service also supports the consensus agenda. Thank you.

30

31

32 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

33

34 MS. REED: BLM also supports the  
35 consensus agenda. Thank you.

36

37 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service, Sara Boario.

39

40 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service  
41 supports.

42

43 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond  
44 Oney.

45

46 MR. ONEY: Support for the consensus  
47 agenda.

48

49 MS. LEONETTI: BIA Jolene John.

50

0425

1 MS. JOHN: BIA supports the consensus  
2 agenda.

3  
4 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

5  
6 And, Chair Rhonda Pitka.

7  
8 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I vote to support  
9 the consensus agenda, thank you.

10  
11 MS. LEONETTI: Madame Chair, the motion  
12 passes.

13  
14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you all for  
15 that, I appreciate it. Now we are on No. 8, old  
16 business, A, deferred wildlife proposal WP24-01  
17 statewide brown bear.

18  
19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20 The analysis for Proposal WP24-01 begins on Page 581 in  
21 Volume II of your meeting materials. So hello and  
22 welcome Madame Chair, members of the Board, Regional  
23 Advisory Council Chairs and State of Alaska Liaisons to  
24 the Board. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
25 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management,  
26 or OSM here in Anchorage. The proposal was submitted  
27 by a resident of McCarthy, Alaska and he's requesting  
28 the Board to allow the sale of brown bear hides that  
29 are taken under Federal Subsistence regulations and the  
30 Board deferred the proposal at its April 2024 meeting  
31 and since then OSM has added an addendum, which adds  
32 new information and a new OSM conclusion to the end of  
33 the analysis. The addendum addresses the Board's  
34 reasons for deferring the proposal and the purpose of  
35 an addendum is to identify information that Regional  
36 Advisory Councils had not seen when they made their  
37 initial recommendations. So this addendum begins on  
38 Page 598 and that's what I'm going to be summarizing.

39  
40 The Federal Subsistence Board deferred  
41 action on the proposal because adopting it might  
42 conflict with the Convention on International Trade in  
43 Endangered Species or CITES, an International Treaty.  
44 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has delegated to the  
45 State of Alaska the authority to allow the purchase of  
46 a brown bear hide outside of the United States. The  
47 State of Alaska allows the sale of a hide but only if  
48 harvested in an area with a two brown bear harvest  
49 limit. This would not satisfy the request of the  
50

1 proponent in the McCarthy area in Unit 11 where the  
2 harvest limit is one brown bear per year.

3  
4                   The Board had two reasons for deferring  
5 the proposal.

6  
7                   1. Was to allow time to explore  
8 options for a subsistence user to obtain a permit  
9 allowing the sale of a hide from a Federal agency, not  
10 using the State's permit; and

11  
12                   2. To potentially establish a work  
13 group to negotiate with the State of Alaska, Department  
14 of Fish and Game concerning the use of its permit to  
15 sell the hide of a brown bear.

16  
17                   So as directed by the Board, OSM asked  
18 the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
19 representatives if they would be willing to consider  
20 issuing a permit to sell the hide of a brown bear that  
21 is harvested in an area with a one brown bear harvest  
22 limit, the State of Alaska allows the sale of the hide  
23 of brown bear but only if it's taken in an area with a  
24 two brown bear harvest limit, they responded they could  
25 not accept the additional administrative burden at this  
26 time. So as directed by OSM -- by the Board, OSM  
27 looked into the possibility of using a Federal permit  
28 to allow the sale of a hide of a brown bear harvested  
29 in an area with a one or two brown bear harvest limit.

30  
31                   So as background to this issue, brown  
32 bears outside of Alaska exist in much smaller  
33 populations than in Alaska. And the State of Alaska  
34 limits sales of hides because unlimited sales might  
35 incentivise legal and illegal harvesting in Alaska and  
36 elsewhere in North America and for this reason the  
37 State of Alaska's purpose is to prevent hides from  
38 entering commercial markets. While limiting the sale  
39 of brown hides is necessary for the hundreds of brown  
40 bears harvested in sport and general hunts each year in  
41 Alaska in which the edible meat need not be salvaged,  
42 the much lower number of brown bears harvested for  
43 subsistence and for which the edible meat must be  
44 salvaged does not need the same level of restrictions  
45 on the sale of hides.

46  
47                   So the OSM revised conclusion is to  
48 support the proposal with modification that the hides  
49 of brown bears with or without claws attached may be  
50



0427

1 purchased within the United States for personal use and  
2 not to be resold. The hunter must request a Federal  
3 customary trade permit and must return the permit.  
4 Additionally, the modified regulation will align  
5 Federal sealing regulations with State of Alaska  
6 regulations.

7  
8 So justification for this revised  
9 conclusion, the Board deferred the proposal in April  
10 2024 because adopting it as submitted might conflict  
11 with CITES, an International Treaty. In response OSM  
12 modified -- the OSM modification allows the sale of a  
13 hide of a brown bear taken under Federal subsistence  
14 regulation and satisfies the request of the proponent  
15 who currently is not allowed under Federal or State of  
16 Alaska regulations to sell the hide of a brown bear  
17 harvested in his area. The focus of the OSM  
18 modification is to limit sales to purchase within the  
19 United States. CITES limits only international  
20 purchase of brown bear hides, this modification  
21 allowing only domestic purchase is in line with CITES  
22 and this was not in the request of the proponent but it  
23 is necessary to comply with CITES. The following two  
24 elements of the OSM modification will align Federal  
25 regulations with current State of Alaska regulations  
26 and permit requirements.

27  
28 1. Purchase of the hide is for  
29 personal use and not to be resold intended to prevent a  
30 customary traded hide from entering a commercial  
31 market, it takes brokers right out of the situation.

32  
33 2. The seal number must be included in  
34 any advertisement of sale which allows law enforcement  
35 to identify that a brown bear advertised for sale on  
36 the internet for example is from a legally harvested  
37 brown bear.

38  
39 The OSM modification then goes on to  
40 allow the hide to be sold with or without claws  
41 attached and will allow a Federally-qualified  
42 subsistence users who removes the claw to incorporate  
43 it into a handicraft to then sell the hide.

44  
45 Finally, the OSM modification removes  
46 from Federal regulations the requirement in some areas  
47 of Alaska that at the time of sealing the sealing  
48 official must remove and retain the skin of the head  
49 and the front claws of the bear, this will align  
50

0428

1 Federal sealing regulations in these areas with current  
2 State of Alaska sealing regulations. So, additionally,  
3 current Federal edible meat salvage requirements will  
4 likely protect brown bears from overharvest.

5

6 In conclusion, the OSM modification  
7 complies with the provisions of CITES and allows  
8 Federally-qualified subsistence users to legally sell  
9 the hide of brown bears while balancing customary trade  
10 and conservation.

11

12

13 Thank you for your attention and this  
14 is the end of my presentation. I'm available to answer  
15 questions but I want to remind you that Regional  
16 Advisory Councils have not seen and have not provided  
17 recommendations on this revised OSM conclusion.

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ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
that, I appreciate it. Now we are on the summary of  
written public comments.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Do any of the  
Board members have any questions for the analyst --  
sorry, I forgot that part.

(No comments)

MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, I'm sorry to  
interrupt, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. There were  
-- no written comments were submitted during the open  
comment period. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Does  
anybody have any questions for Pippa right now.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seeing none, thank  
you for the analysis. Okay. Sorry, go ahead.

MS. CREACHBAUM: I don't have a  
question, Pippa, but I did want to say thank you very  
much to all of you who worked on this proposal to find  
a way to get to yes. I know it was really complicated  
and it's sort of the way things should work and I'm  
just really pleased. Thank you so much.

0429

1                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for that  
2 Member Creachbaum. At this time I'd like to ask for  
3 the summary of tribal and ANCSA Corporation  
4 consultations.

5  
6                   MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
7 Board members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.  
8 During the consultation sessions we did not have any  
9 comments or questions on that. Thank you, Madame  
10 Chair.

11  
12                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
13 that. At this time I'd like to open the floor for  
14 tribal and Native organization testimony. Is there any  
15 online because I don't have any blue cards.

16  
17                   MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
18 Just as a reminder for those listen -- those of you  
19 listening online, if you wish to address the Board on  
20 Wildlife Proposal 24-01 you may do so by pressing star  
21 five to raise your hand.

22  
23                   (Pause)

24  
25                   MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 There are no hands.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, I  
29 appreciate that. Now, I'd like the Advisory group  
30 testimony, State ACs, SRCs, working groups.

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

35  
36                   MS. SKINNER: Oh, I guess this isn't  
37 quite my section, sorry.

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Oh, okay, I'm  
40 getting there, I'm working to it. Okay. I'd like to  
41 open the floor right now to public testimony. And I  
42 don't have any blue cards in front of me so is there  
43 anybody online.

44  
45                   MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. There is a  
46 hand online. So once again for those of you listening  
47 online and if you wish to speak to deferred Wildlife  
48 Proposal 24-01 you may press star five to raise your  
49 hand and then star six to unmute yourself. So the  
50

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1 person online with the phone number ending in 6082 you  
2 may press star six to unmute yourself and address the  
3 Board. And once you do please state your full name and  
4 thank you very much.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. This is  
7 Coral Chernoff, can you all hear me?

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, please  
10 proceed, thank you.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you. Thank  
13 you for hearing me today. My name is Coral Chernoff,  
14 I'm from Kodiak. I really appreciate OSM's work on  
15 this addendum and I have a question about -- and I  
16 guess my recommendation is I think now that this  
17 addendum has come out I have a question about whether  
18 Native handicraft would be included, it's not covered  
19 in their addendum although there is you can sell the  
20 hide with or without claws, so I guess that was my -- I  
21 was just wondering, and if that needs more discussion  
22 then I would recommend that this get deferred so that  
23 advisory committees could have more discussion to  
24 include Native handicraft.

25

26 Thank you for listening and that's all  
27 I have. Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
30 much. Pippa Kenner would like to address, thank you.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 Through the Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So  
34 we already have in Federal regulations allowances to  
35 use parts of brown bears for handicrafts, however, we  
36 did not have a provision that allowed the sale of the  
37 raw tanned or untanned hide. So this proposal and  
38 addendum is addressing the sale of raw tanned and  
39 untanned hides of a brown bear and the provisions for  
40 creating handicrafts is already allowed in Federal  
41 regulations. Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much,  
44 did that address your question, Ms. Chernoff?

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: It did, thank you so  
47 much.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I appreciate your

50

0431

1 testimony and the question. Is there any further  
2 public testimony.

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
5 There are no new hands raised.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Now at  
8 this time I'd like to open the floor to the Regional  
9 Advisory Council recommendations. Kodiak/Aleutians.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Rebecca  
12 Skinner, Chair of the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. As  
13 previously reported the RAC hasn't had time to review  
14 and take a position on the addendum so my comments will  
15 be following from the meeting we had back in 2023 on  
16 the original proposal.

17

18 So the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC did support  
19 this proposal. In our meeting there was a lot of  
20 discussion about the ability to fully utilize the --  
21 any bears that were hunted under subsistence and there  
22 was a recognition that from a traditional standpoint  
23 there might be a reticence to sell the bear hide but  
24 that over time the -- I think that the practices have  
25 evolved and a recognition that the costs are a lot  
26 higher nowadays and that allowing the sale of the bear  
27 hides would help support the subsistence bear harvest  
28 activity.

29

30 We also had a lot of discussion about  
31 OSM's original modification to the proposal which  
32 limited the sales in areas where you could get two  
33 bears and I want to bring this up because in our  
34 meeting we did have, I think, concern that that was  
35 actually going in the wrong direction, in that, if you  
36 only allow bear sales in a place where you can, in  
37 fact, take more bears, there is a bigger chance that it  
38 would actually increase exploitation of the bears if  
39 the proposal was passed. In the Kodiak area we do have  
40 subsistence bear hunting but there's an overall limit  
41 of how many bears can be taken on an annual basis, so  
42 we don't have a two bear limit but we have a total  
43 limit and the harvests are conducted at a community  
44 level. So we did not have concerns about conservation  
45 issues because of that specific limit on the total  
46 number that could be taken.

47

48 And that's all I have, thank you.

49

50

0432

1                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
2 much I appreciate that testimony. Okay, I'm going to  
3 go down the list of the original then. Southeast  
4 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
5 recommendations.

6  
7                   MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
8 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. I just want to remind  
9 you that the Regional Advisory Councils have not made  
10 recommendations on the revised conclusion. You may ask  
11 them but it will be their recommendation on the  
12 previous conclusion.

13  
14                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for that  
15 reminder. Okay. So on Board Book 583 under the  
16 original proposal, Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory  
17 Council said take no action. Southcentral Alaska  
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendation  
19 was to support the proposal. And Kodiak gave their  
20 recommendation from before. Bristol Bay Subsistence  
21 Regional Advisory Council supported. Yukon Kuskokwim  
22 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
23 recommendation was to oppose. Did you want to speak to  
24 that.

25  
26                   MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
27 Alissa Rogers, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC. The YK-  
28 Delta Council opposed WP24-01, the original. The  
29 Council is concerned that the harvest rates may  
30 increase to an unsustainable level if this sale of  
31 hides was allowed. The Council noted that it is  
32 difficult to obtain accurate population estimates for  
33 brown bears and that bears have a slow reproductive  
34 rate. The Council thought this issue might be best  
35 dealt on a region by region basis, rather than a  
36 statewide basis because different areas have different  
37 brown bear population sizes and cultural values related  
38 to the harvest and uses.

39  
40                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

41  
42                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
43 much. Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional  
44 Advisory Council recommendation was to support with the  
45 OSM modification for the April 2024 modification.  
46 Seward Peninsula, the recommendation was to support  
47 with the OSM modification for April 2024. Would you  
48 like to speak to that, or you're good.

49  
50

0433

1 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 Nothing to add to that, thanks.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
5 much. Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
6 Council recommendation was to support as of April 2024.  
7 Would you like to speak to that -- I got mixed up, I'm  
8 so sorry, Brower. Eastern Interior Subsistence  
9 Regional Advisory Council support with the Council  
10 modification to also allow the sale of black bear  
11 hides. Now the North Slope recommendation, support  
12 with OSM modification. Would you like to speak to  
13 that.

14  
15 MR. FRANTZ: Yes. We did vote to  
16 support with the OSM modification. Reason being, we  
17 have a fair amount -- a lot of bear up north and it  
18 seems like there has been a rise in the predator  
19 numbers over the last five to 10 years so with that we  
20 do have the decline in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
21 as well as a low moose population and we are trying to  
22 get muskox numbers up so it would be in our best  
23 interest to make this modification and approval of  
24 sales of bear hides and it would also kind of  
25 incentivise the take of the predators that are killing  
26 off our animals up north. So support with the OSM  
27 modification was what we chose.

28  
29 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
30 much, I really appreciate that. So I wasn't required  
31 to go through the Regional Advisory Council  
32 recommendations but I did it because you guys were here  
33 and you've given so much of your attention and I  
34 appreciate that all. And now we are at Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game comments, please.

36  
37 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair, before you  
38 go.

39  
40 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Oh, yes, sorry, go  
41 ahead. I forgot to ask if anybody had any questions.

42  
43 MR. BROWER: Just a question to the  
44 Staff, does these -- if this is approved will be  
45 grandfathered with our hides that were harvested for  
46 life and death or destruction of properties in the  
47 long-run, this is just hunting purposes now or you can  
48 grandfather your hides from years back or whatever?

49  
50

0434

1                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.

2

3

4                   MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question  
5 Member Brower. Through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner  
6 with OSM. So I think you asked two questions. One is  
7 if you take a bear in protection of life and property  
8 can you then sell that hide and the second one was can  
9 hides that were harvested before this regulation goes  
10 in effect also be sold. My answer to that is that I  
11 think we would want to incorporate those things into  
12 the regulation to make it clear if those things could  
13 be allowed. I am looking at Ken Lord right now, when  
14 the Board addressed this proposal in April 2024 this  
15 question came up and rather than speak for Mr. Lord, he  
16 can answer the question. Thank you.

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                  MR. BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,  
Madame Chair.

                  MR. LORD: Ken Lord with the  
Solicitor's Office. Pippa, I don't remember the  
question coming up but I will say that this is being  
adopted under the auspices of customary trade and  
customary trade is defined in our regulations under .4  
as applying to fish and wildlife regulated in this  
part. So I think there would be some ambiguity as to  
whether or not it only applies to subsistence taken  
fish and wildlife or whether it would also apply to the  
life and property wildlife, which is actually taken  
under State law rather than Federal law. So you're  
right, Pippa, we would have to do some noodling and  
clarification to help folks through that question.

                  ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Mr.  
Mulligan, would you like to add anything.

                  MR. MULLIGAN: Chair Woman Pitka. No,  
I mean you do need to get that clarified because how  
would that apply under Federal because right now if you  
take a DLP bear we have that process, I mean you've got  
to skin it -- but that all goes -- it's taken by the  
Troopers, it's auctioned off at the Fur Rondy event and  
so I don't believe that you guys are going to -- well,  
I mean that's up to you guys to try to see if you can  
legally supersede the State's laws on defense of life  
and property and how that is conducted.

                  ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
that. Did that answer your question, sorry, I'm



0435

1 sending mental messages over here instead of using my  
2 words.

3

4 MR. BROWER: Thank you. Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.

7

8 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame  
9 Chair. Maybe along the same lines along with Charlie  
10 over there, I know in my community in the last couple  
11 of years we've been dealing with bears because of the  
12 high population of moose in our area, especially in the  
13 springtime when they're coming out of their dens and  
14 are hungry and we had to refer to ADF&G on what  
15 directions we need to do as far as trying to defend  
16 life and property in the village, of both Emmonak and  
17 Alakanuk, so are we saying that with this proposal that  
18 we see before us will give us opportunity to harvest  
19 that bear and be able to keep it and sell it, that is  
20 my question, thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, please.

23

24 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair. I  
25 mean, respectfully that is not a question for me  
26 because you're asking a question under Federal  
27 regulation. Under State, you know, at the Board of  
28 Game we've heard issues like yours, sir, and that's  
29 where the Board of Game under State has reacted and  
30 expanded harvest seasons or expanded the number of  
31 bears so individuals who may want to take that bear and  
32 are fearful of how the Alaska State Troopers may  
33 interpret defense of life and property can still  
34 harvest that bear under State hunting without having to  
35 -- and retain the meat, the hide and all the parts of  
36 that animal that you may want to keep for your cultural  
37 and traditional uses as well. Sorry I can't be more  
38 clear but under our part we are taking action to help  
39 remedy that, I just can't speak to the Federal  
40 regulations in front of us.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, I'm sorry, go  
45 ahead, Ms. Kenner.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thank you for  
48 clarifying that. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM,  
49 through the Chair. So I just want to clarify, Member  
50

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1 Oney, we're talking about taking a brown bear in  
2 defense of life and property, you know, those are  
3 managed through State regulations, and in State  
4 regulations they're going to confiscate the hide and so  
5 you would not be able to sell the hide of a brown bear  
6 taken in defense of life and property.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. I  
11 believe I was on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
12 comments. You guys are like six steps ahead of me and  
13 it's starting to.....

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
18 The Department's position stands regardless of the  
19 modification. The Department's recommendation is to  
20 align Federal regulations with State regulations, and  
21 adopt the State's strategy when it comes to the sale of  
22 bear hides in places where it's a two bear limit. Just  
23 to note since this analysis first -- the proposal came  
24 into effect and everything's been going through the  
25 process five more areas of the state have been added to  
26 that list of two bear harvest limit areas.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
31 much. So just to clarify, which five areas were those,  
32 thanks.

33

34 MR. MULLIGAN: I'm getting it. Game  
35 Management Unit 13, 18, 19B, 24C and, oh, I can't  
36 remember the last one, sorry, I have an incomplete  
37 answer.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair, this is  
40 Pippa Kenner. It was 2.....

41

42 MR. MULLIGAN: Yeah, and 14 -- sorry.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: And 14, thank you.  
45 Thank you so much for that, I appreciate it. The  
46 InterAgency Staff Committee comments unless Pippa  
47 Kenner had something else.

48

49 MS. KENNER: (Shakes head negatively)

50

0437

1                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, thank you.  
2 InterAgency Staff comments, please.

3

4                   MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
5 The InterAgency Staff Committee evaluated the current  
6 options developed by OSM regarding the sale of brown  
7 bear hides harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence  
8 users in deferred statewide Proposal 24-01. Since the  
9 analysis had new information added to it in an addendum  
10 that includes a revised OSM conclusion after the  
11 Regional Advisory Councils met during the fall of 2024  
12 the Councils will not have the opportunity to review  
13 them prior to this February 2025 meeting of the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board. An additional deferral to allow for  
15 reach of the Councils to provide their recommendations  
16 on the alternatives during their upcoming winter 2025  
17 meetings will be important to ensure that the Councils  
18 recommendations based on the new information and OSM  
19 conclusions contained in the analysis addendum can be  
20 fully considered by the Board for their final action on  
21 this proposal.

22

23                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
26 much, ISC, I appreciate it. Okay, now we're at Board  
27 discussion with Council Chairs and the State Liaison.

28

29                   (No comments)

30

31                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Did we get it all  
32 out -- go ahead, please, Regional Advisory Council  
33 Chair.

34

35                   MS. SKINNER: Thanks. This is Rebecca  
36 Skinner with the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. Earlier I  
37 didn't say thank you to Staff for all of the work that  
38 it took to get to the amended recommendation. I think  
39 the proposed OSM modifications are a lot more in  
40 alignment with the, I think how the Kodiak/Aleutians  
41 RAC was viewing this issue and I know it took a long  
42 time but I feel like the recommendation really kind of  
43 cuts through all of the bureaucratic red tape, I'm  
44 assuming it was not quite that easy but thank you for  
45 all of the work in getting to yes. We really  
46 appreciate it, thank you.

47

48                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much,  
49 I appreciate that. At this time I'd like to open the

50

0438

1 floor for a Board motion, discussion and action on  
2 WP24-01.

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MS. JOHN: Madame Chair. The BIA would like to move to adopt Wildlife Proposal WP24-01. If my motion is seconded I will provide another motion, even though I'm a little gun shy after yesterday.....

(Laughter)

MS. JOHN: .....to defer action on this proposal and my justification for doing so.

MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife.....

MR. BROWER: Second.

MS. BOARIO: .....seconds.

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seconded by Charlie Wright -- Charlie Brower not Wright, my goodness.

(Laughter)

MS. JOHN: So for the statewide proposal, 24-01, the Federal Subsistence Board has been presented with an array of options presented by the Office of Subsistence Management. Thank you very much for all that excellent work regarding the sale of brown bear hides harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence users. The OSM analysis has new information and the revised conclusion that was developed after the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils met in fall of 2024. Allowing them to consider these during their upcoming winter 2025 meetings will thus be important to ensure that the Board will have Council recommendations that are based on the most current analysis findings before taking final action on this proposal.

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. So discussion of the motion to defer.

MR. VANORMER: I'm sorry, is this discussion on the motion to defer?

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

MR. VANORMER: Yeah, so a question, I

0439

1 think, maybe to the Council, is there -- is it required  
2 that the RACs take a look at this proposal again and  
3 provide that feedback before we make a decision on it  
4 or what -- is there a procedural requirements or legal  
5 requirement to do that?

6  
7 MR. LORD: I think it's a little bit of  
8 a close call but I would say, no, they have already had  
9 one chance to review this and what the -- the  
10 additional information hasn't, I don't think, changed  
11 things enough that we would require them to see it  
12 again but it's always a good idea.

13  
14 MR. VANORMER: Okay.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Sorry about that,  
17 I just need to clear up one thing, we did not have a  
18 second on the motion to defer so I'd like to ask for a  
19 question for the motion to defer.

20  
21 MS. CREACHBAUM: Second.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very  
24 much, Member Creachbaum, for the second to defer.  
25 Member Brower you had a question, go ahead.

26  
27 MR. BROWER: Well, I was just making  
28 sure, does the Staff recommendation on your request  
29 additional deferral to allow each of the Councils to  
30 provide a recommendation on the alternative upcoming  
31 meet -- or 2025 meetings, is that now or later on in  
32 the winter, or the winter's over?

33  
34 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. Mr.  
35 Brower -- Board Member Brower. If the Board recommends  
36 to defer to give the Councils a new opportunity to  
37 review the addendum and revised OSM recommendation,  
38 that would happen during this winter meeting, so the  
39 Councils are going to be meeting in another like week  
40 and a half the window starts, and once the Councils  
41 develop their recommendations the Board would take up  
42 that deferred proposal at the next public meeting  
43 that's reasonable. Thank you, Mr. Chair -- Madame  
44 Chair.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.

47  
48 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

49  
50

0440

1                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

2

3                   MR. BROWER: So this would allow Yukon  
4 and Southeast to come back to support the proposal if  
5 they change their mind after the outcome of this?

6

7                   MS. KENNER: (Nods affirmatively)

8

9                   MR. BROWER: Thank you.

10

11                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Is  
12 there any further discussion on the motion to defer?

13

14                   MR. WOODS: So we defer, when will we  
15 take it up, next April, this is February? I'm joking.  
16 So I didn't realize that bears weren't all equal until  
17 today. This proposal aligns it with the State and this  
18 would also bring it forward to the RACs. I'm torn on  
19 acting on it today but I'll support with more  
20 deliberation. Thank you.

21

22                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: So that's in  
23 speaking to the motion to defer?

24

25                   MR. WOODS: (Nods affirmatively)

26

27                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay.

28

29                   MR. BROWER: Madame Chair, one more  
30 question.

31

32                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

33

34                   MR. BROWER: So we're voting to defer  
35 or support the request?

36

37                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: This is the motion  
38 to defer right now that we're under discussion on so it  
39 would be deferring Wildlife Proposal 24-01 to our next  
40 meeting so we're deferring the deferral.

41

42                   (Pause)

43

44                   ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Is there any more  
45 questions or did I now confuse everybody else in the  
46 room. Member Creachbaum.

47

48                   MS. CREACHBAUM: For the record it  
49 would be good to know what we're voting on so I'm going  
50

0441

1 to -- so we're voting to defer so that the Regional  
2 Advisory Councils will have an opportunity at their  
3 upcoming meeting to deliberate the new information  
4 that's been provided in the addendum and our next  
5 meeting will be in the summer, is that right, so we  
6 would take it up this summer?

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Go ahead, Pippa,  
9 please.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
12 And through the Chair. Yeah, the next Board meeting  
13 which we will confirm at the end of today's business is  
14 scheduled for the third week of July, it's the summer  
15 work session and we would hold a public meeting  
16 following the completion of the summer work session  
17 agenda to address this regulatory action. Thank you,  
18 Madame Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for that  
21 clarification, Robbin. Was the much clearer?

22

23 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

26

27 MR. BROWER: One final question. On  
28 this issue here, we can support the recommendation from  
29 OSM to approve then at the same time in the upcoming  
30 July meeting those two RAC members can come back on the  
31 agenda to support the -- to conclude their voting to  
32 support or oppose the recommendation; is that right?

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair, yes.  
35 We would invite the Councils to provide their  
36 recommendations on the record so that the Board  
37 benefits from their deliberations. Thank you, Madame  
38 Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Did that answer  
41 all the questions on the deferral motion?

42

43 (Board nods affirmatively)

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I haven't heard  
46 question be called on the deferral motion.

47

48 MR. ONEY: Question.

49

50

0442

1 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
2 much, Mr. Oney. Roll call vote, please.

3  
4 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. The motion is to  
5 defer WP24-01. Public Member Charlie Brower.

6  
7 MR. BROWER: Oppose.

8  
9 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service, Sara Boario.

11  
12 MS. BOARIO: Support.

13  
14 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank  
15 Woods.

16  
17 MR. WOODS: Support.

18  
19 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,  
20 Sarah Creachbaum.

21  
22 MS. CREACHBAUM: Support.

23  
24 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond  
25 Oney.

26  
27 MR. ONEY: Support.

28  
29 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Forest Service,  
30 Chad VanOrmer.

31  
32 MR. VANORMER: Support.

33  
34 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

35  
36 MS. REED: Support.

37  
38 MS. LEONETTI: BIA Jolene John.

39  
40 MS. JOHN: BIA supports.

41  
42 MS. LEONETTI: And Chair Rhonda Pitka.

43  
44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I oppose.

45  
46 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. The motion to  
47 defer WP24-01 passes seven yes, two no.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
50



0443

1 much. Now, since we completed the non-rural  
2 determination, we are now at No.10 on the agenda, Board  
3 meeting guidelines update, Ms. Robbin LaVine, please.

4  
5 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6 If you can wait just a moment, we will pass out some  
7 supplemental material and make sure that they're also  
8 available at the front. One moment.

9  
10 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you so much.

11  
12 MR. VANORMER: Madame Chair, if I may.

13  
14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, go ahead.

15  
16 MR. VANORMER: I am going to have to  
17 excuse myself and Greg Risdahl will be sitting in for  
18 me for any further Board action representing the Forest  
19 Service. I just want to thank the Board and the  
20 Councils and all the audience and hard work that went  
21 on this week so much appreciated, thank you.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
24 much.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa  
29 Grediagin, Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM and  
30 just for the record since we have a little pause while  
31 materials are being handed out, I just wanted to  
32 explain that deferral of WP24-01 actually does not  
33 delay the implementation of those regulations because  
34 as part of issuing another permit, that's additional  
35 information that has to be collected and so it needs to  
36 get OMB approval and so even if the Board adopted that  
37 regulation today it could not probably be implemented  
38 for another year because we would have to put that  
39 additional OMB requirement in a proposed rule and the  
40 next opportunity to do that is the fisheries proposed  
41 rule which is like a year from now, and so even if you  
42 defer it, the Councils can provide a recommendation,  
43 you act on it in July and then we put that additional  
44 OMB permit requirements in the fisheries proposed rule  
45 and then it could get published as part of the wildlife  
46 final rule. So I just wanted to clarify that even  
47 though you're deferring a proposal, it's not actually  
48 delaying the implementation of that regulation.

49  
50

0444

1 Thanks.

2

3 MS. LEONETTI: Thanks, Lisa.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, sorry for

6 that brief moment, now we are at the Federal

7 Subsistence Board meeting guidelines.

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 Members of the Board. And for the people in the

11 audience, you have just received some supplemental

12 materials, they're available online on our website and

13 they are also available at the front of the room.

14 You've got two documents in front of you. One is the

15 existing or current Board meeting guidelines and then

16 the other with the highlights are proposed revisions to

17 those guidelines. And I want to point out that there

18 were -- you know, there are -- I'm going to go through

19 it basically section by section so the title of the

20 section, I'll summarize the recommended updates and

21 then once I'm complete and respond to your questions

22 the Board may take action to support revision of these

23 guidelines.

24

25 So, again, I would suggest you look at

26 the document with the highlights and you have the

27 original document for comparison.

28

29 Under Board structure, that section has

30 been updated to reflect the current composition of the

31 Board.

32

33 Under basic meeting procedures, that

34 section has been updated to clarify and expand the

35 public process during the Board meeting and to clarify

36 the roles of the Liaisons to the Board.

37

38 Under the section on scheduling, this

39 has been updated to include the new schedules that are

40 inclusive for non-rural determinations and individual

41 C&T for Park Service lands.

42

43 Under meeting formats, there are three

44 types of meetings that the Board may hold, public

45 meetings, work sessions and executive sessions, public

46 meetings have been updated to include non-rural and

47 cultural and educational permit requests as far as what

48 is addressed during those meetings. Work sessions are

49 updated to include a more comprehensive list of what is

50

0445

1 and is not taken up during these meetings. As you can  
2 see executive sessions has not changed.

3

4 Under the section, emergency special  
5 actions, this section has been updated to describe both  
6 types of special actions and when the Board addresses  
7 those.

8

9 Under voting, this section has been  
10 updated to reflect guidance on proxy voting.

11

12 Section on decisions has been updated  
13 to provide more explicit guidance on Board motions,  
14 Council recommendations and motions on the record.

15

16 And the section, meeting record, has  
17 been updated to reflect the updated content in the  
18 guidelines, should it be accepted and the new  
19 organizational structure of the Federal Subsistence  
20 Management Program, no longer referencing U.S. Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service.

22

23 I have no other proposed revisions to  
24 report, thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
27 much.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Does anybody have  
34 any questions for Robbin -- oh, go ahead, please.

35

36 MR. BROWER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 Robbin, on the proxy voting, us public members can  
38 appoint a public member to vote on our behalf, if we're  
39 not going to be here, but it has to be your proxy ahead  
40 of time; is that right?

41

42 MS. LAVINE: That is correct, Mr.  
43 Brower. It is a tool that this Program has used,  
44 recognizing the importance of the public member vote.  
45 As you can see the guidance in the -- the proposed  
46 guidance is stated as follows:

47

48 In a public Board member's absence,  
49 said member may give another public Board member their

50

0446

1 proxy. This proxy can be in writing before or given  
2 verbally during a meeting and included in the public  
3 record. The proxy only applies to the meeting during  
4 which it was given and may not be passed on to another  
5 Board member. Thank you, Madame Chair.

6  
7 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
8 much for that clarification. Are there any other  
9 questions for Ms. LaVine.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: If not I'd like to  
14 open the floor to a motion to approve the updated Board  
15 meeting guidelines.

16  
17 MR. WOODS: So moved.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: What was the  
20 motion, Mr. Woods.

21  
22 MR. WOODS: To approve the proposed  
23 guidelines outlined as the information presented.

24  
25 MS. BOARIO: I defer.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very  
30 much for that motion. At this time I'd like to ask for  
31 a second, please.

32  
33 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife seconds.

34  
35 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Fish  
36 and Wildlife Service, I appreciate it. Now we're under  
37 Board discussion for the Board meeting guidelines.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: If there's no  
42 Board discussion I'd like to ask.....

43  
44 MS. JOHN: Question.

45  
46 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Yes,  
49 Mr. Brower, go ahead.

50

0447

1 MR. BROWER: To call the question.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.

4

5 MR. BROWER: And can we ask for  
6 unanimous consent or do we have to have a voice vote.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, we can ask  
9 for unanimous consent. Is there any objection to the  
10 motion.

11

12 (No objections)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Seeing none, we've  
15 asked for unanimous consent and the Board has raised no  
16 objections to the motion so the motion passes, thank  
17 you. Thank you, very much, Ms. LaVine.

18

19 And next is No. 11 on the agenda, the  
20 Federal Subsistence permit application and database  
21 update, Justin Koller presents -- oh, is he online, or  
22 Scott Ayers is presenting.

23

24 MR. AYERS: Apologies for the delay,  
25 just one second please.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Please proceed.

32

33 MR. AYERS: Members of the Board. I'm  
34 presenting an update on the subsistence permit  
35 application database that we have in place of Justin  
36 who is unfortunately, able to make it to the meeting  
37 today in person.

38

39 So our Program uses an online computer  
40 application to issue subsistence permits and store  
41 harvest data. Last year our Information Technology  
42 Department deemed that application out of compliance  
43 with the new DOI security standards. This prompted OSM  
44 to initiate a system modernization to bring it into  
45 compliance with those security standards. OSM took  
46 this opportunity to also work toward an online option  
47 for users to obtain permits. OSM and the U.S. Fish and  
48 Wildlife Service began working with a contractor last  
49 spring to accomplish these tasks, the first priority is  
50

0448

1 to bring the system into compliance with security  
2 standards and the second priority is to offer an option  
3 for users to obtain permits online in addition to in  
4 person at issuing offices. We expect the online option  
5 to be available later this year. Users will still be  
6 able to obtain permits in person at issuing offices so  
7 there will always be a choice for folks. OSM will  
8 conduct statewide outreach to notify users when this  
9 option is available and where to obtain instructions  
10 and support. In short, there will soon be two options  
11 for Federally-qualified subsistence users to obtain  
12 permits in person, at issuing offices or through the  
13 online portal. Until that time users will continue to  
14 obtain permits through an issuing office and that  
15 option will always be available.

16

17 And that is the update that I have for  
18 you at this time unless there any questions.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for the  
21 update. Is there any questions on the database update.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay, no action is  
26 required for this one, thank you very much for that  
27 update. At this time I'd like to ask for the schedule  
28 of upcoming meetings presentation.

29

30 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
31 Members of the Board. If you will review your  
32 procedural agenda you will see that there are some  
33 proposed meeting windows in the schedule. We've had a  
34 number of concerns raised by Federal -- from our public  
35 meeting participants about conflicts with other  
36 meetings on going -- in particular during this meeting  
37 cycle, and I would like to acknowledge that our  
38 meetings are held at regular intervals [sic] basically  
39 within a two week windowframe of time. And so knowing  
40 that our regulatory cycles are like clockwork and  
41 consistent, we would like to advertise well in advance  
42 that frame of time where we might propose different  
43 meetings to be held.

44

45 The first confirmation is for the  
46 summer work sessions. It is a proposed date of July  
47 23rd and 24th for the summer and unless there is  
48 objection we would like to confirm that date on the  
49 record. And then for the 2026 January work session,  
50

0449

1 typically when we address Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
2 Program needs, typically we meet the last week of  
3 January or the first week of February, those proposed  
4 dates would be January 28th and 29th or February 4th  
5 and 5th. And, again, that's to give the Board time to  
6 take action and then prepare results to share with the  
7 Councils in their upcoming winter meeting cycle.  
8 Following the work session in 2026 would be the April  
9 public meeting on wildlife regulations and typically  
10 that is a two week time period around the middle of  
11 April. The proposed dates for that meeting are April  
12 13th through the 17th or April 20th through the 24th.  
13 And, again, these are meeting windows that we could  
14 probably identify that we kind of squeeze in between  
15 our regulatory cycles, the publishing of the Federal  
16 Register and our Regional Advisory Council meeting  
17 windows.

18

19 So I want to put this on the record and  
20 I would like you all to confirm the summer work session  
21 and in the future we will be posting the proposed  
22 windows of meetings years in advance and we can then  
23 confirm them on the record leading up to them.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
28 that. Is there any questions of Robbin on the proposed  
29 meeting schedule.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay. So we're  
34 asking.....

35

36 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair. Madame  
37 Chair.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

40

41 MR. BROWER: Just a question.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. BROWER: On your January work  
46 session for 2026 on the blue mark it says February 4  
47 and 5, 2025, is that typo or is what?

48

49 MS. LAVINE: That's a typo, thank you.

50

0450

1 Thank you for catching that Mr. Brower.

2

3 MR. BROWER: I was going to say sorry  
4 that's over.

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Yes, that should be 2026.

7

8 MR. BROWER: I was going to say that's  
9 already over.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: And the same for the one  
12 below, yep.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you for  
15 catching that.

16

17 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: So we're on the  
20 summer 2025 summer work session and executive session,  
21 this is where we go through the Council annual report  
22 replies, correspondence and the Council appointment  
23 recommendations. So the dates of July 23rd and 24th of  
24 2025. We'd like to get confirmation at this meeting.

25

26 MR. BROWER: A motion.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Sorry. Yes, I  
29 would like a motion to confirm those dates, thank you  
30 so much.

31

32 MR. WOODS: Move to confirm recommended  
33 schedule for 2025/2026.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Second.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Okay. It's been  
38 moved and seconded. Can I get a roll call vote unless  
39 there's further discussion or questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. ONEY: Question.

44

45 MS. LEONETTI: Okay, thank you. This  
46 is to approve the proposed schedule for upcoming  
47 meeting schedule 2025 and 2026.

48

49 Starting with BIA, Jolene John.

50



0451

1 MS. JOHN: BIA approves.

2

3 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie  
4 Brower.

5

6 MR. BROWER: Approve.

7

8 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service, Sara Boario.

10

11 MS. BOARIO: Yes.

12

13 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank  
14 Woods.

15

16 MR. WOODS: Approve.

17

18 MS. LEONETTI: Park Service, Sarah  
19 Creachbaum.

20

21 MS. CREACHBAUM: Concur.

22

23 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond  
24 Oney.

25

26 MR. ONEY: Approve.

27

28 MS. LEONETTI: Forest Service, Greg

29 Risdahl.

30

31 MR. RISDAHL: Forest Service supports.

32

33 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

34

35 MS. REED: BLM supports.

36

37 MS. LEONETTI: Rhonda -- Chief Rhonda

38 -- Chair Rhonda -- Chief -- Chair Chief Rhonda, and

39 your proxy for Tony as well. Mrs.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes. Yes, we both  
44 support. Thank you.

45

46 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. Motion passes  
47 unanimously, Madame Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, very

50

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1 much. At this time I would like to entertain a motion  
2 to adjourn.

3

4 MS. CREACHBAUM: Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, ma'am.

7

8 MS. BOARIO: Before the motion may I  
9 ask one more.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Please, go ahead.

12

13 MS. BOARIO: Just asking the full Board  
14 and our audience one last time to recognize Sarah  
15 Creachbaum at her last Federal Subsistence Board, not  
16 only for her incredible service to the Board and to  
17 Alaska but for her three decades of distinguished  
18 service to this Country. Sarah brought just amazing  
19 experience and perspective to the work and to our work  
20 here and across Alaska but also brought so much heart  
21 and experience from her own personal life, growing up  
22 in small places across rural America and bringing that  
23 heart to this work as well. So thank you so much,  
24 Sarah, and just one more round of recognition for her.

25

26 (Applause)

27

28 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. And  
31 thank you for your service Member Creachbaum. We  
32 definitely appreciate your willingness to listen and  
33 learn and always ask questions. I appreciate that so  
34 much and have so much fun in your retirement. That's  
35 exciting.

36

37 Now, at this time I would like to  
38 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

39

40 MR. WOODS: Move to adjourn.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Can I ask for a  
43 second please.

44

45 MR. RISDAHL: Forest Service seconds.

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47 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. All in  
48 favor say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Motion passes, we  
are adjourned. Thank you all very much.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 5th day of February 2025;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd day of February 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26