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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

THE CORDOVA CENTER  
Cordova, Alaska  
March 12, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard G. Encelewski, Chair  
Edward H. Holsten  
Michael V. Opheim  
Diane A. Selanoff  
Dennis M. Zadra  
Kirk B. Wilson  
Faye Ewan  
Andrew T. McLaughlin  
Heath Q. Kocan  
Judith C. Caminer

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cordova, Alaska - 3/12/25)

(On record)

MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everybody out there. This is Nissa Pilcher again. I was just calling to see if Edward was able to call in. Edward, are you out there?

MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, I'm here.

MS. PILCHER: Awesome. Thank you so much. So, good morning, everyone. This is the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. We're going to be getting started in just a few minutes. For those joining us on the phone, you can find the agenda and the meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence Program website. That internet address is [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence) and then under the Regions tab choose South Central and then Meeting Materials. For all participants on the phone, please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. If you do not have a mute button, you can press star six and that will mute your phone as well as unmute your phone if you need that as well. Before, the Chair officially calls a meeting to order. I'd like to see if he would like to ask anyone to provide an invocation.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Greetings, everyone. I'm going to go ahead and call the South Central Regional Advisory Council to order. March 12th. We're in the Cordova Center here, and I don't know if we got anyone from Eyak or around here, but we should do a land recognition. We're honored to be here and, on your land, and to visit this place. And we thank you for the use of this area. Whoever has provided this, that's very good. So, does anyone feel called to want to do an invocation for us a little bit?

MS. EWAN: I will.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye, I appreciate that.

MS. EWAN: (Indiscernible) for everything you do. (In Native), you bless this place. Bless this meeting and let's make the best of what we can out of this -- all of this for the people and the

1 future of our salmon and our future of our livelihood  
2 and our way of life. And we can work things out together  
3 and make it better for other people. And this is why  
4 we're all here, is to think about and speak for the  
5 animals and the fish that can't speak for themselves.  
6 And that's why we're chosen to be in this position. And  
7 I just bless everyone today and their travel and all the  
8 people that are involved today. (In Native). Amen.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amen. Okay,  
11 Faye, thank you. That was very nice. We got to do a roll  
12 call now, so who wants to do the roll call? Yeah, Nissa  
13 is going to do some more talking first. I guess she  
14 doesn't want me to go too fast, so I'm going to let her  
15 talk.

16  
17 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Welcome. Good  
18 morning, everyone, to the Southcentral Subsistence  
19 Regional Advisory Council meeting. Again, my name is  
20 Nissa Pilcher, and I am the Council Coordinator for this  
21 Council and also the designated federal officer for this  
22 meeting. I do have a few housekeeping announcements to  
23 make before we get started. For those attending our  
24 meeting in person, please make sure that you sign in at  
25 the front table over there by the door. There's a sign-  
26 in sheet for each day of the meeting. Meeting materials  
27 are also located on that table for those in the room.  
28 Again, for those joining us on the phone, you can find  
29 the agenda and meeting materials online on the Federal  
30 Subsistence Program website. That internet address again  
31 [www.doi.gov/subsistance](http://www.doi.gov/subsistance) and under the Regions tab choose  
32 South Central and then Meeting Materials. As a reminder,  
33 star six will mute and unmute you as well. And if you  
34 are on the phone and would like to be recognized to  
35 speak, you can press star five on your phone and that  
36 will notify us in the room that someone is wishing to  
37 speak. Additionally -- so, just to give you guys an  
38 update -- actually, no. I'll turn it back over to you,  
39 Greg.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
42 you. I'll just point out that if we use this new agenda,  
43 that instead of the one that's in your book, it's got a  
44 little bit of different stuff on it. Not much, but if I  
45 would have saw it, it says housekeeping announcement.  
46 Nissa, thank you. Anyway, now we're going to go ahead  
47 and do a roll call, and we'll establish a quorum so we  
48 can move on, and then we'll do some more announcements.

49  
50 MS. PILCHER: All right. Edward Holston

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2 MR. HOLSTEN: Here.  
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4 MS. PILCHER: Michael Opheim.  
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6 MR. OPHEIM: Here.  
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8 MS. PILCHER: Greg Encelewski.  
9  
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here.  
11  
12 MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff.  
13  
14 (No audible response)  
15  
16 Dennis Zadra.  
17  
18 MR ZADRA: I'm here.  
19  
20 MS. PILCHER: Kirk Wilson.  
21  
22 (No audible response)  
23  
24 Angela Totemoff has an absence. Unless  
25 she has called in unexpectedly.  
26  
27 (No response)  
28  
29 All right. Faye Ewan.  
30  
31 (No audible response)  
32  
33 Andrew McLaughlin  
34  
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.  
36  
37 MS. PILCHER: Edward GreyBear.  
38  
39 MR. GREYBEAR: Here.  
40  
41 MS. PILCHER: Hope Roberts was also  
42 expected to be absent unless she was able to call in.  
43 Heath Kocan.  
44  
45 MR. KOCAN: Here.  
46  
47 MS. PILCHER: and then Judith Caminer.  
48  
49 MS. CAMINER: Here.  
50

1 MS. PILCHER: Okay, let me do math in my  
2 head while on the spot very quickly. So, with 10 of 13,  
3 you guys have quorum.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
6 you. So, we do have a quorum so we could proceed with  
7 the business. I'll try to go by the agenda here. We will  
8 have some announcements and some introductions here  
9 before shortly. And. But first, I have on here number  
10 four that you have some announcements for the meeting  
11 here, Nissa.

12  
13 MS. PILCHER: I do. I get to talk more.  
14 And I did the math wrong. That was 11 of 13. So, my  
15 apologies. So, current membership update, this Council  
16 no longer has any vacancies and now has representation  
17 from the Copper Basin by new member Wilson, Ewan and  
18 GreyBear. Applications for terms beginning in 2026  
19 closed on February 16th and I will update on the Council  
20 at the fall meeting with any updates I can give on  
21 membership at that time. Supplying comments to the  
22 Council for those wanting to address the Council on Non-  
23 Agenda topics, there will be an opportunity for that  
24 later today after the Council member reports at that  
25 time, the Chair will announce this opportunity and call  
26 on individuals who wish to address the Council. For folks  
27 here in person, please fill out a blue card located on  
28 the information table to indicate your wish to address  
29 the Council during this time, or also during a specific  
30 agenda topic, and then hand them to anyone from OSM in  
31 the room and we will relay it to the Chair. The Chair  
32 will also ask if there's anyone on the phone that would  
33 like to provide comments after individuals do in person.  
34 For those on the phone who would like to speak again,  
35 please remember to press star five to raise your hand  
36 and wait to be recognized before speaking. When this  
37 happens, please identify yourself for the record by  
38 stating your first and last name and if you are  
39 representing an affiliation other than yourself. If you  
40 would like to submit written comments instead, or in  
41 addition to oral comments, you may turn those into any  
42 OSM staff in the room or email them to  
43 subsistence@ios.dio.gov. Be also -- be sure also to  
44 include your name and affiliation on written comments.  
45 A note on Council member conduct and ethics. As a  
46 reminder to all, our meetings are conducted by Robert's  
47 Rules, which helps us provide structure and maintain  
48 order through the meeting. All participants, including  
49 Council, staff and public members, are expected to be  
50 courteous and respectful in all interactions as a matter

1 of meeting etiquette. It is understood that the nature  
2 of some of the issues discussed at these meetings can  
3 be difficult and controversial. Although some comments  
4 shared throughout this meeting may be passionate, no  
5 insults or foul language will be tolerated in this public  
6 meeting. If any kind of unruly behavior or insulting  
7 language from anyone occurs during this meeting, please  
8 be advised that as the designated federal office for the  
9 meeting, I will intervene. Thank you very much for  
10 allowing me the time to share this information, Mr.  
11 Chair. And that does wrap up my meeting announcements.  
12

13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
14 you. So, we're going to do -- I want to welcome everyone.  
15 Of course we're going to go into introductions here  
16 directly. But let me just make sure I'm not missing  
17 anything. What we'll do is -- we could open it up. I'd  
18 like everyone in the room to come up and we'll go to the  
19 group first to introduce yourself. If you come on the  
20 mic and just one by one, do that and then we'll go around  
21 with the Council.  
22

23 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, Council members.  
24 Good morning. My name is Katya Wessels and I'm Council  
25 Coordination Division Supervisor with the Office of  
26 Subsistence Management. It's very nice to be with you  
27 here in person this morning. So, looking forward to a  
28 productive meeting. Thank you.  
29

30 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
31 members of the Council. Brian Ubelaker, wildlife  
32 biologist with Office of Subsistence Management. Thank  
33 you.  
34

35 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. Hannah  
36 Voorhees anthropologist with OSM.  
37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
39

40 MR. SANDERS: Good morning, Andrew  
41 Sanders. I'm the Chugach National Forest subsistence  
42 program manager.  
43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
45 Andrew.  
46

47 MR. SPILINEK: Good morning, Mr. Board,  
48 members of the Board. My name is Sterling Spilinek. I'm  
49 the research coordinator and wildlife biologist for  
50 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Welcome.

MS. TERRENCE: Good morning. My name is Margaret Terrence. I'm a resident of Anchorage, and I'm a mother to an Alaska - to Inupiaq children and I live in Anchorage and I'm just here to observe.

MS. KETRON: Thank you. Good morning. This is Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist for the Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen field office.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is [sic] there others on the phone?

MS. COHEN: Good morning. This is Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, cultural anthropologist calling in from Copper Center.

MS. DEWEESE: Good morning. This is Christine DeWeese. I work with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission as their Tribal Fish and Wildlife Coordinator. Good morning.

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. PERRY: Good morning.

MS. HANCOCK: Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. One of you.

MR. PERRY: This is Neil Perry. I'm a new natural resources manager for the BLM in Glennallen.

MS. PILCHER: Could you try that again, sir?

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. HANCOCK: Alicia Hancock, field manager, Bureau of Land management.

MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Alicia. Could the gentleman that went right before introduce himself again? It was pretty faint in the room.

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1 MR. PERRY: Oh, sorry. Can you hear me  
2 better now?

3  
4 MS. PILCHER: A little bit.

5  
6  
7 MR. PERRY: I'm right on it. So, I'll  
8 type in the chat.

9  
10 MS. PILCHER: We heard you better that  
11 time.

12  
13 MR. PERRY: Yeah, well. Try again. This  
14 is Neil Perry. I'm a natural resources manager with the  
15 Bureau of Land Management and Glennallen. Did that work?

16  
17 MS. PILCHER: Thank you. Yes.

18  
19 MS. DEBENHAM: Good morning. This is  
20 Rosalie Debenham, fish and wildlife biologist for the  
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22  
23 MR. ESKELIN: Todd Eskelin, and wildlife  
24 biologist at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

25  
26 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
27 Council members, this is Glenn Chen and the subsistence  
28 branch chief for the BIA.

29  
30 DR. ROBERTS: Good morning. This is Jason  
31 Roberts, anthropologist at OSM.

32  
33 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair, members of the  
34 Council, Nissa good morning, this is Kevin Foley with  
35 the office of subsistence management fisheries biologist  
36 for the Southcentral region calling in wishing everybody  
37 a productive and a successful day.

38  
39 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chairman and  
40 Council members. This is Orville Lind Office of  
41 Subsistence Management Native Liaison. Sorry I couldn't  
42 be with you guys. I understand it's a wonderful day.  
43 Hope you guys have a productive meeting this week. Good  
44 morning.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
47 Orville.

48  
49 MS. DAY: Good morning, everyone. This  
50 is Janel Day, the cartographer with Office of

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1 Subsistence Management. Looking forward to this week's  
2 meeting.

3

4 MS. MORROW: This is Kristen Moreau with  
5 the anthropology division at OSM.

6

7 MR. MORRIS: Good morning, Andy Morris  
8 with U.S. Forest Service. I'm based here in Cordova.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

11

12 MR. GATES: Good morning, everyone. Ken  
13 Gates fish biologist in Soldotna with Kenai Fish  
14 Wildlife field office.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,  
17 Ken.

18

19 MR. GATES: Thank you. Morning, Greg.

20

21 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is Dave  
22 Sarafin, the fisheries biologist at Wrangell-saint Elias  
23 National Park and Preserve.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
26 Dave. Good morning.

27

28 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Greg. This  
29 is Greg Risdahl, USDA Forest Service subsistence program  
30 leader here. I'm joining you from Anchorage. Wish I could  
31 be there.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank  
34 you, Greg. It's beautiful here. We'll try to pay  
35 attention, but it's very nice. Thank you.

36

37 MR. RISDAHL: You bet.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone. This  
40 is Eva Patton with the National Park Service subsistence  
41 program and Anchorage. Good morning.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning.

44

45 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is  
46 Victoria Florey, also National Park Service subsistence  
47 program.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Morning,  
50 Victoria.

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MS. FLOREY: Morning, Greg.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else out there? Okay, one more.

MR. PICHE: Hi, my name is Matt Piche. I'm the natural resources coordinator and fish biologist for the Native Village of Eyak here in Cordova. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank you, Matt, and thank you for your help in the village here. And we said a land recognition to honor the tribe there. Thank you. Anyone else we missed on the phone?

(No response)

Okay. Hearing none at this time, we're going to go ahead and do the introduction for the for the Council. And this is just for the introduction. We'll give our reports later. So, we want to start with Dennis. Do you want to start?

MR. ZADRA: Yeah. So, Dennis Zadra, a resident of Cordova. I think I've been on this Board for nine years now, but I enjoy the service, and welcome.

MR. HOLSTEN: Good morning, everybody. This is Ed Holsten, resident of Cooper Landing. I've been on the RAC probably, about ten years now, I suspect. Let's hope for a great meeting. Beautiful weather. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MR. KOCAN: Heath Kocan. Resident at Cordova. Nice to be here. I don't know how long I've been on the RAC. I should note not terribly long, but I cannot remember. Thanks.

MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia been on the RAC for 14 or 15 years.

MS. CAMINER: Judith Caminer. I've been -- from Anchorage. I've been on the RAC on and off, mostly on since 2009.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You go ahead. I'll be last.

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2 MS. EWAN: Good morning. My name is Faye  
3 Ewan. I'm from the Native Village of Kulti Kaah, Ahtna  
4 region. I've -- this is my first day ever on a Federal  
5 Subsistence Board or any of our affiliated. I'm always  
6 on the other side, talking on that side for my people  
7 and our way of life. But today, I'm very honored to be  
8 sitting up here with you guys and try to work things out  
9 for the Copper River people and our fishing. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
12 Faye.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Hi, my name is Kirk Wilson.  
15 I'm from Tolsona and I'm here to represent the Ahtna  
16 people, and I just hope we can all work together to make  
17 this a powerful thing. Thank you for having me here.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON Encelewski: Thank you,  
20 Kirk.

21

22 MS. SELANOFF: Hello. My name is Diane  
23 Selanoff. I'm originally from Port Graham. Been living  
24 in Valdez. I am a subsistence user, and there's a lot  
25 of different changes going on, so I'm happy to be here  
26 to listen to what's going on in other communities and  
27 doing a comparison of how they're affecting ours. Thank  
28 you.

29

30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Good morning. Andy  
31 McLaughlin from the Village of Chenega Bay, representing  
32 people of Prince William Sound on subsistence.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
35 Andy. And do we have Edward on here?

36

37 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'm here. Good  
38 morning, everyone. My name is Edward GreyBear. I'm  
39 representing the Native Village of Kluti Kaah in the  
40 Ahtna region. And this is my first meeting and I'm  
41 looking forward to serving the rest of my term.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm Greg  
44 Encelewski. I'm from Ninilchik. Currently the Chair.  
45 That could change soon, but who knows. Anyway, I'm a  
46 subsistence user and I've been on the RAC. I hate to  
47 tell you how long I've been here, but. But anyway, I got  
48 a plaque for 23 years and it's a few years after that,  
49 so it's like 24-25, I'm not sure. Yeah, I've been around  
50 for quite a while. Subsistence was a little different

1 when I first started it. You just went and you took what  
2 you needed. You know, it was really good. But we're a  
3 lot of trouble now. But anyway, we'll go on with the  
4 meeting and thank everyone for being here. Thank you.

5

6 Turn it over to Nissa now for the  
7 election of officers. And then we'll get started.

8

9 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everybody  
10 again. This is Nissa Pilcher, I guess. I guess I could  
11 introduce myself yet again. This is Nissa Pilcher. I am  
12 the Council Coordinator for the Southcentral Alaska  
13 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And actually, as  
14 a reminder, that should have been in my announcements  
15 if people could also remember when they do talk to  
16 identify yourself. We do have the new transcription  
17 service instead of the one that we've been using for a  
18 long time. So, they haven't got to know our voices yet.  
19 So, it's always good as a reminder to just try to  
20 remember to say your name when you when you do talk, so  
21 we can get the transcripts correct. But for election of  
22 officers. So, in accordance with the Council charter,  
23 Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and a  
24 Secretary for a one-year term. Member Encelewski is the  
25 current Chair. Member Caminer is the current Vice, and  
26 member McLaughlin is the current secretary. So, I would  
27 like to open the floor for nominations for the Council's  
28 Chair. And as a reminder, these nominations do not need  
29 to be seconded.

30

31 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a nomination for  
32 Greg Encelewski as Chair.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Diane.

35

36 MS. SELANOFF: I move to close  
37 nominations.

38

39 MS. PILCHER: Seconded by Kirk. All  
40 right. We could -- all -- well by unanimous consent. All  
41 in favor, say I for member Encelewski to maintain his  
42 Chairmanship.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

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46 MS. PILCHER: Anyone opposed, please,  
47 same sign.

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49 (No response)

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All right. By a unanimous vote Chairman and Encelewski maintains his Chairmanship. And I will turn the meeting back over to him.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you. Thank you all for the confidence or the how to put it -- anyway, I do appreciate it. I did put in -- I -- was going to be my last term. My term expires this year, 2025, but I got talked into turning it in for one more round. So, we'll see what happens and we'll see what happens with the program. But I am honored to serve as best I can and do things, go and move forward. I want everyone to feel, you know, open and have all the time they need to speak to issues, and we always do that. We'll debate it very thoroughly and do the best we can, but we will stick to the agenda. There's always places for things to come up and a lot at the end of the meetings too. So, we'll try and do our best to be accommodating of everyone. And if I miss something, just holler and we'll get back on track. So, thank you, I'm now going to open nominations for Vice Chair.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I nominate Judith Caminer, Vice Chair.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. SELANOFF: Move to close nominations.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nominations have been moved to close.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second

MS. SELANOFF: Call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second, question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

Any opposed? Judy, you are vice Chair. Okay. I will now open the floor for nominations for Secretary.

MR. HOLSTEN: I nominate Andrew McLaughlin.

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MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved and seconded for Andrew.

MS. SELANOFF: I'll move to close again.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Move to close.

MS. SELANOFF: Call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed? Andy, thank you. Okay. You've got for those -- the new ones. We're pretty easy to get along with. So, hopefully it works good. Well, you get to know -- you know me. Yeah, yeah, you know me. Okay. Anyway, we'll proceed. And thank everyone there. Let's go ahead and review and the adopt of the agenda. But first, Nissa wants to say something.

MS. PILCHER: I just wanted to give you guys a quick rundown between the agenda that is in your book and the agenda that is currently in your hand to make sure that you guys approve of those changes. So, addition of the title to agenda item 11, Council Training was in there, but it lacked an agenda -- or excuse me, it lacked a title. Council member training now reads Council member training proposed changes to federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations. There was an addition on reports to include the CRRC report. It was inadvertently left off the original agenda. Additional -- addition of further information under agenda item 13C, 13 is reports to add the title of the 2024 Summary Cook Inlet Sport Fish Management Areas. That is just a handout, and it will not be a verbal report due to a concurrent Board a -- Board of Fish meeting going on. Removal of 13H, which was the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Endangered Species Act status review and listing as there is no new information since the fall meeting on the status of that review report. There is also an addition of agenda item 13J IV, which is the Ketchikan Nonrural Determination Update. That is an action that happened at the recent regulatory Federal

00015

1 Subsistence Board meeting earlier this winter. And the  
2 last item was removal of the agenda item 14A, which is  
3 a special action update, as there have not been any. But  
4 those are the differences between the agenda in your  
5 book and the agenda that was passed out at the meeting.  
6

7 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a motion to  
8 adopt the agenda.  
9

10 MR. OPHEIM: Second.  
11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been  
13 moved. And second, to adopt the agenda as presented and  
14 reviewed here.  
15

16 MS. PILCHER: So, just to double check,  
17 that was Diane and then Michael, you were the second.  
18 Okay. Thank you.  
19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
21 discussion?  
22

23 (No response)  
24

25 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.  
26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.  
28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?  
30

31 UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.  
32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We adopt  
34 the agenda. We'll follow this new agenda here that she  
35 presented. She may try and change it on us again, but  
36 now we're locked in. So, I got her. All right.  
37

38 (Pause)  
39

40 We usually say a couple of times during  
41 the day, you know, for non-agenda items, if someone wants  
42 to speak to something at the beginning of the day or  
43 during the meeting, I think they got to put in a blue  
44 thing and get it up here. So, I'm just reminding you of  
45 that. We do want to move on then to the -- we're right  
46 here. Yeah. We're ready to review and approve the minutes  
47 of the previous meeting.  
48

49 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa for the  
50 record, those are found on page seven in your meeting

1 books, which is the black comb bound document.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got a lot of  
4 scratch on mine, but no changes. So, any changes? Anyone?

5

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Motion to approve.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
11 by Andy and seconded by Michael to approve. Discussion?  
12 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed to  
17 those minutes? Okay. Thank you. They are approved. Okay.  
18 We are now going to go to the Council members' reports,  
19 and they're going to give us a little briefing since our  
20 last meeting, and we'll change it up a little bit. We'll  
21 start with you, Andy, on this side and then we'll come  
22 around. Thank you.

23

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Primarily Western Prince William Sound report, but one  
26 thing kind of relative. I leave South Central to go on  
27 an annual moose hunt to a very far, remote moose camp.  
28 And due to these drastic declines of basically statewide  
29 caribou herds, I enjoyed the heyday of 27 years of  
30 getting a moose every year. And then last year, because  
31 of that caribou decline, all the caribou hunters that  
32 hunt North Ahtna, Tanana people, area Fairbanks, Tok  
33 have turned their focus to moose for a meat resource  
34 instead of the caribou that they can no longer get. And  
35 in my very, very remote -- I'm talking road trip floating  
36 down rivers, chest waders through beaver ponds to get  
37 to where I've always gone to never be disturbed by other  
38 hunters, two moose camps moved in within 200 yards of  
39 my moose camp this year. I saw 14 moose within the first  
40 two days of season before season opened, and then the  
41 moment season opened for the next four days zero moose.  
42 So, I have a new understanding of what people -- the  
43 Ahtna people mentioned 20 years ago about the Nabesna  
44 Road and things like that, where these resources are  
45 getting even an increased demand. So, apart from that  
46 out of Southcentral but that affects my resource use of  
47 where I'm at when I can't go somewhere else to get my  
48 meat resource.

49

50

1                   But so, both wild and hatchery pink  
2 salmon and silver salmon returns last fall were quite  
3 dismal. Far below an average year, almost run failure  
4 on the pink salmon, which is not super common.  
5 Interesting side note that Japan also was having an  
6 unexpected decline in their pink salmon simultaneously.  
7 Red salmon although had an average return, I suspect  
8 this is due to their primary food sources, the plankton  
9 and invertebrates and smaller things in the ocean, and  
10 they have a less fish piscivorous eating diet. So, they  
11 -- something, it seems in the upper trophic levels of  
12 the food chain in the ocean may be a factor in the  
13 decline of the fish-eating salmon. Low salmon abundance  
14 in the streams is hard on the bear populations,  
15 especially during the years of poor berry abundance,  
16 which last year was poor pollination so, poor berries.  
17 Halibut fishing in 2024 was the least productive that I  
18 have ever witnessed in 34 years. It took approximately  
19 three times the effort to catch about one third of the  
20 normal amount of halibut that we can usually catch in  
21 Prince William Sound. This is very alarming, and it's a  
22 big concern of the residents of Prince William Sound in  
23 my part of Prince William Sound. Local king salmon  
24 trawling this winter has produced not one single king  
25 salmon in all of Chenega, though some pelagic and non-  
26 pelagic rockfish have been caught.

27  
28                   Low snow this winter like statewide, 30  
29 to 40 degrees rainy, mild winter. Maybe that will help  
30 the deer population. It's cause for concern for a result  
31 of low snowmelt runoff. In years past, the salmon haven't  
32 even known where to go and the small streams where they  
33 typically spawn typically, the chums and pinks don't  
34 have a place to go when the creeks are dry, so that may  
35 happen again this year; can't access their historical  
36 spawning grounds. But, silvers in the fall is a different  
37 story because typically by then a bunch of rains have  
38 happened and the watersheds then produce enough water  
39 to have them reach their spawning grounds. I've only  
40 known of one goat to be harvested this year and there  
41 were a few deer harvested, but the population for certain  
42 is below the average, at least in western Prince William  
43 Sound of the past two decades of an average year. One  
44 of the main alarming things to me for this report is  
45 clams. I believe there's been an unprecedented die off  
46 of clams in the vicinity of Southwest Prince William  
47 Sound. I'm certain of it. The soft shells, the butters,  
48 the steamers, which are the littlenecks, the beaches  
49 that typically had an abundance of these. I've always  
50 been reporting for a couple of decades of yeah, we got

1 clams. That's okay. You know, we're doing okay on clams  
2 and this year, the beaches are all white with empty  
3 double shells, not sea otter predation, dead clams. A  
4 lot of -- when you go dig clams for a lot of effort, you  
5 get very few and some smaller ones, but not a lot of  
6 reproduction of the small ones, like typically you'd let  
7 a lot of small ones go. Now it's not happening. So,  
8 something going on. A lot of clam worms. So, water  
9 temperatures or something is happening and that die off  
10 has happened in Prince William Sound. And as a  
11 consequence of this, there's less sea otters present.  
12 Typically, the past few times I've been reporting, hey,  
13 we got a lot of sea otters because we had a strong,  
14 robust clam population. But now the sea otters are not  
15 -- they're thick like they used to be. Despite our local  
16 hunters who were taking a lot of sea otters and keeping  
17 those numbers kind of at bay, those guys have moved away  
18 from the village. So, we don't even have those hunters  
19 anymore, which made the otter population pop up. But now  
20 that there's no clams, the otter population is not like  
21 what it used to be.

22  
23 So, I thank you for your time, and I  
24 didn't want to mess up the agenda by adding some long-  
25 winded thing here, but you're going to get five minutes  
26 from me about something that's very important and I think  
27 belongs on the record for the people who I represent in  
28 Prince William Sound. This is regarding the trawling,  
29 and Chenega Corporation has done a lot of effort to help  
30 try to do some things within the State, and they've made  
31 some strides to -- some progress towards limiting some  
32 of the bycatch. So, the trawl fleet has been wreaking  
33 havoc on a non-targeted Bycatch species. This is a  
34 majority -- huge growing concern for people. I called  
35 people around before I come to these meetings, I ask the  
36 people who I represent what they would like me to bring  
37 up and this was a common denominator between four  
38 different people. But typically, I get one person saying  
39 one thing, one person saying another thing, but this  
40 time everybody is all on Board with this one issue. So,  
41 it's a major importance to us for decades. It's kind of  
42 a nightmare, almost. So, Prince William Sound marine  
43 waters are in State jurisdiction, as everybody knows.  
44 The last couple meetings where I was trying to see if  
45 we could do some act of Congress type thing and we still  
46 want a real answer from the Board as to how federally  
47 qualified subsistence users whom have -- who have had  
48 customary and traditional use of the marine resources  
49 in the vicinity of where they live, are supposed to  
50 obtain food in an arena where the State prioritizes

1 commercial use and profit over any true rural  
2 subsistence priorities that exist within ANILCA. We had  
3 Senator Murkowski at our village and when we asked her  
4 about the trawling, she clammed up and she said, "I'm  
5 not going to talk about that, anything to do about the  
6 state trawl fishery. But I see her name on the cannery  
7 right there. Anyhow, 150,000 pounds of coral and sponge  
8 is destroyed annually by the Alaska trawl fishery and  
9 this is habitat degradation. In December 2024 the --  
10 just recent December a couple of months ago, okay. Alaska  
11 Board of Fisheries rejected a proposal to ban Prince  
12 William Sound trawling. This was proposed by Chenega.  
13 The decision was influenced by the industry. Primarily  
14 the proponent that made this pass had influenced this  
15 was Alaska Pollock Fisheries Alliance, who claims the  
16 pollock fishery is a sustainable fishery. It very well  
17 may be a sustainable fishery, but the blatant main issue  
18 is not about the pollock, but about the bycatch and the  
19 habitat degradation. But we can go to historical things.  
20 Where in the past time, decades ago, out on the Aleutian  
21 chain, I believe it was near Atka, there was a pollock  
22 trawl fishery affected a decline in the Steller sea lion  
23 population, which in turn detrimentally affected -- was  
24 proven to detrimentally have affected the orca  
25 population who preyed on them. So, you pull one little  
26 cog out of this ecosystem thing, and everything else  
27 follows suit, as everybody knows. So, we need more  
28 scientific research about the flagrant overharvesting  
29 and wanton waste taking place as bycatch in the pollock  
30 trawl fishery right here in these waters. When we look  
31 out this window over there, first one is right,  
32 Hinchinbrook Entrance right over there. Okay. And we  
33 need some proof of what the Pollock Alliance is claiming.  
34 However, for the record, bycatch is a main issue. But  
35 this ecosystem damage is a big deal and entirely just  
36 important -- just as important. This is not rocket  
37 science. The fragile, intricate marine environment of  
38 the ocean floor is proven to take decades, if not  
39 centuries to recover. Nobody can deny that trawling is  
40 harmful to marine life and the food web in the depths.

41  
42 In Prince William Sound right now,  
43 January 20th to March 30th is -- the trawling continues.  
44 Okay, much to the dismay of our subsistence and our  
45 sport users, and because of the resources that it's  
46 affecting, they closed the commercial fishery in Prince  
47 William Sound now. And there is talk of closing -- right  
48 now there's talk in the State about closing the sport  
49 and personal use of shrimp in Prince William Sound for  
50 2025 in some type of emergency order. I personally

1 witnessed a dramatic decrease in shrimp resource  
2 availability immediately following when the State opened  
3 it back up. So, to give you a little quick rundown,  
4 around 1990 there was a little commercial thing going  
5 on, but it was kind of minimal, our subsistence users  
6 were getting a lot of shrimp at that point in time. Then  
7 they went through a -- decades of no commercial  
8 shrimping. We -- everybody could get their shrimp. Then  
9 they opened it up 3 or 4 years ago, and then boom, all  
10 of a sudden, we're not getting our shrimp anymore. And  
11 oh, and they're like -- so I called the State about it  
12 and they said, oh, we have so many thousand pounds,  
13 that's all they took. And we know right where they got  
14 them. We saw all their pots and everything, and now  
15 nobody's getting any shrimp. So, go figure. So, anyhow,  
16 that dramatic decrease of shrimp resource availability  
17 happened right after the State opened up the commercial.  
18 So, now they're closing it, and now they're going to  
19 close the other one too, anyhow. So, I personally have  
20 completely stopped all my personal shrimping efforts  
21 kind of a moratorium, a self-imposed okay, because I  
22 care about that resource. Okay. The main places that  
23 they catch their shrimp on the commercial, it got nuked,  
24 okay.

25  
26 So, we need a study. When we talk about  
27 these monies that we can put towards different fishery  
28 things. We need some type of study to be focused towards  
29 this trawl fishery that's going on, as well as the  
30 commercial shrimping. Marine ecologists study post-trial  
31 ocean floor damages, and they note that a cascade effect  
32 on the survivability of infaunal systems takes place  
33 despite this fact, regulators at the direction of  
34 politicians continue to make political decisions about  
35 money and not practical ones that are based in science,  
36 and so they continue to ignore these concerns and  
37 outcries from our public. Normal, proper wildlife  
38 management is based on population dynamics, where each  
39 species is monitored for changes in their rate of  
40 production. But the recent trend for regulatory agencies  
41 and politicians involved regulating these large-scale  
42 industrial profiteers are using blanket management  
43 practices where across the Board they make a 10% decrease  
44 for all allowable bycatch. This type of equal proportion  
45 across the Board management is flagrantly irresponsible  
46 at best and is not serving the best interest of each  
47 species, as each holds a very different population  
48 dynamic and adaptability, or lack thereof, to the  
49 detrimental effects of being killed as the bycatch. Even  
50 you can look on some of these handouts that we got right

1 here. The blanket coverage thing is going, oh, they talk  
2 about rockfish, salmon and the shark, squid and other.  
3 Well, if you're throwing a little percentage into shark,  
4 squid and other, you ought to be dividing that out  
5 because there's a lot of things that fall under shark,  
6 squid and other. Okay. So, anyhow, first and foremost,  
7 there needs to be a baseline data collected in order to  
8 monitor changes and fluctuations of the overall  
9 populations of each of these species. There also needs  
10 to be onboard monitoring and observations of all of these  
11 harvested catches and these need to be witnessed and  
12 recorded with this day of technology that we have right  
13 now, something possible, like putting a camera on there  
14 and they are not allowed to sell anything that they  
15 catch in the trawl, unless the camera has been on 24/7  
16 and fully recording all the catch. Because if there's  
17 no observers, we don't know what's getting thrown  
18 overboard out there. So, not only is there an issue of  
19 this trawl fishery related to the State of Alaska, it  
20 also is affecting what's going on right here in Prince  
21 William Sound, just right there in the Gulf. That's the  
22 Gulf. We can see it right there. So, the Gulf, okay, the  
23 trawl fleet is just wreaking havoc out there as well on  
24 the ecosystem. These waters also affect migratory  
25 species that emigrate and immigrate at various parts of  
26 their life cycle to marine waters of federal  
27 jurisdiction statewide. So, what's going on out there  
28 in the sound and in the Gulf is affecting all of our --  
29 you on the Kenai that's affected over there, you know.

30  
31 So, anyhow, the Magnuson-Stevens  
32 Fishery Conservation Management Act is the primary law  
33 that we here can address and try to affect by bringing  
34 attention to the Board. If they won't let us talk about  
35 Prince William Sound, we should talk about the Gulf.  
36 Okay. This law is the primary one that governs marine  
37 fishery management in U.S. federal waters. It is based  
38 on principles for long term biological economic  
39 sustainability of marine resource fisheries. It's too  
40 bad the State doesn't have something similar to that,  
41 at least in writing. The main objective of the Magnuson-  
42 Stevens act is to prevent overfishing. It is overseen  
43 by the Federal Trade Commission, despite the road being  
44 paved with good intentions even on the East coast of the  
45 United States, this act covers the East Coast of the  
46 United States, and some of the fisheries are failing  
47 over there. So, Alaska should learn from what's going  
48 on the East Coast in messing up some of the resources  
49 as to -- otherwise, we're just going to follow suit and  
50 do the same thing that's happening over there. In Prince

1 William Sound the State of Alaska has now regulated a  
2 new mandatory retention -- because of Chenega pushiness  
3 -- a new mandatory retention of all rockfish and king  
4 salmon that are caught as bycatch in the trawl fishery.  
5 Some of the latest fixtures -- figures in harvest  
6 reporting show that from -- listen to this February 5th  
7 through February 12th of this year. That's just very  
8 recently. Okay. The trawl fishery has reported 71,000  
9 pounds of halibut as bycatch, okay. That turns into  
10 33,800 fish, okay. In the last 38 days of the 2025  
11 trawler season, trawlers report dumping 8,000 king  
12 salmon and over 500,000 pounds of halibut. Alaska  
13 trawlers report an average bycatch of 1 million pounds  
14 of fish for every 2.58 days of fishing. This is  
15 indiscriminate of size or number of fish, and yet the  
16 state regulates individual fisheries -- individual  
17 fishermen in our sport fishery to very small bag limits,  
18 very small size limits of halibut, lingcod and things.  
19 And -- but these commercial interests don't have any  
20 regulation of that going on out there.

21  
22 So, anyhow, thank you for listening. I  
23 will end on one other note that's not related to the  
24 trawl fishery. I will end on this. Governor Dunleavy is  
25 introducing legislation to allow fish farming in Alaska  
26 waters. I recall a time when a big deal was made about  
27 some spawning salmon right over here in the Martin River  
28 on the Copper River drainage. They were finding some  
29 Atlantic salmon that were spawning, and they believed  
30 that they had escaped from some Canadian fish farms okay.  
31 And they were like, oh, what's this going to do there?  
32 So, if we had a big concern about that 2 or 3 decades  
33 ago and they were finding them over there it's not a  
34 smart move. The wild salmon fishery is of utmost  
35 importance to the residents of Prince William Sound. And  
36 I know that nobody in any of our communities, including  
37 here in Cordova, that supports making fish farming legal  
38 in our State, maybe Dennis would have something to say  
39 about other people that might support fish farming, but  
40 I know that commercial fishing is a big deal with wild  
41 stocks. Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, I  
44 think everyone really appreciated that, although it was  
45 not -- I thought we were going to do that at a different  
46 time and a special thing. I think what we need, you  
47 know, we need a proposal on that. We know that it's some  
48 of that is state regulated. Some of it, like you say,  
49 is in the Gulf. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, you know,  
50 they're being sued in by the Cook Inlet group, also the

1 United Fishermen's and it's a mess. They're tearing that  
2 apart. This whole thing needs a whole session of its  
3 own. And I don't know if you should make a proposal for  
4 us or what, but maybe under other -- we could discuss  
5 it a little further. But I'm going to go ahead and get  
6 the reports from the rest of the Council, and we'll get  
7 moving on. But I thank you for that. It's a very  
8 passionate issue of everyone's, and it is definitely  
9 depleting, and it affects all the subsistence. So,  
10 that's why I just let you do it now. That's great.

11  
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thanks. I just  
13 want to squeeze it in there instead of that -- putting  
14 it at the end. Put an agenda change.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, there's  
17 so much to it and I'm glad you did because I have to  
18 leave tomorrow and I didn't want to miss it, so.  
19 Appreciate it. But anyway. Thank you. Okay, Diane.

20  
21 MS. SELANOFF: What he said. Holy cow.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Exactly.  
24 Exactly. Yeah.

25  
26 MS. SELANOFF: Wow. That was amazing.  
27 Thank you, Andy. There's been a lot going on in our --  
28 in the area, too. One of the things I've noticed is the  
29 weather, the way the weather is changing right now. And  
30 by Tatitlek there's a lot of seals and sea lions  
31 congregating, like they're -- like the herring are in,  
32 but it's too early. There haven't been any seen, but the  
33 animal movement indicates something different. Not sure  
34 what that's about or why they're coming in so quickly.  
35 The geese. We noticed there was a small grouping of them  
36 that came in a couple weeks ago. But last year, as I was  
37 watching them, they were late leaving, so I was actually  
38 getting worried and telling him, you better move on. I  
39 don't know if they stayed here, you know, all year, and  
40 that's just a reflection of that now. But yeah. So,  
41 they're here too. Currently, right now, this is our  
42 season for gathering shellfish. (In Native) the English  
43 translation is more chitons and snails. So, they've been  
44 going out and harvesting them even last night. So, the  
45 -- going back to how things are different, I think I'm  
46 relating it more to weather, plants are even starting  
47 to -- but, we've had a really mild winter, and I think  
48 that's -- I think that's statewide, but it just -- it  
49 seems unusual. Last fall or last summer. Last early fall,  
50 for the first time ever, our fishing for silvers was

1 shut down. It was like huh, we've always had an  
2 abundance, but this past fall we didn't. And I was kind  
3 of concerned about my ability to dry silvers. They're  
4 really lean, so and with the fall weather, they dry  
5 really fast and it's really good. But while I was up at  
6 AFN this year, I got a phone call from my son and he  
7 said, mom, there was a late run. I said, oh, good, where  
8 are they at? And when he told me, I was like, huh, that's  
9 a glacier stream. They usually don't go up a glacier  
10 stream. They go up to where there's ponds. I was like,  
11 hmm, interesting. Did you save me any? He said. Yeah, I  
12 went down and I got about 20, but I saved you about a  
13 thousand. I was like, nice, good. I'll get him when I  
14 get home. I did, I went and there were amazing fish.  
15 They didn't taste like, you know, a pond. They were  
16 really clean, taste delicious. They were fresh -- they  
17 had a lot -- they were in freshwater a lot. But also,  
18 too watching them. They got stuck, they couldn't move.  
19 They went up the wrong stream. And when I was getting  
20 the fish that I did, a lot of them, they were still --  
21 the sack was still attached. So, the eggs weren't loose  
22 for spawning and I know all those fish that were in that  
23 area didn't get to spawn. So, all that fish, I wish I  
24 would have took all 1000 of them because they won't  
25 reproduce. Not in that area. The other areas I looked  
26 at to see where the fish were at, because there are  
27 common places they go, they were minimal. There were few  
28 of them. So, anyway I think there's a lot of changes  
29 going on and this is our time of year when we start  
30 getting excited. Tatitlek celebrates an event called the  
31 Peksulineq Festival. Peksulineq means egg, means the  
32 beginning. We're coming to the beginning of our  
33 subsistence time right now where we all get excited to  
34 go out and start harvesting again, whether it's plants,  
35 animals or fish. But it -- it's going to prove to be an  
36 interesting year, especially the winter we had. Thank  
37 you.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Certainly.  
40 She's got a question for you. Faye (indiscernible).

41  
42 MS. EWAN: Where was this fish at? That  
43 late spawning at?

44  
45 MS. SELANOFF: They went up mineral  
46 Creek.

47  
48 MS. EWAN: I mean, in the Prince William  
49 Sound.

50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. Yeah. It was close.  
2 They were like a half mile off of where they should have  
3 been. And on the wrong side.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
6 you, Diane. Thank you, Faye for the question. We'll go  
7 ahead and move.....

8  
9 (Pause)

10  
11 Oh. I want to let the new members go  
12 last so you can hear the rest of us talk first. It's up  
13 to you. It's -- that'd be good. Okay. Okay, we're going  
14 to skip over me, and then I'll come back to me. And  
15 don't let me forget GreyBear on the phone, but go ahead,  
16 Judy.

17  
18 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
19 like to start with a moment of silence, Ken Lord, long,  
20 long time attorney for the federal subsistence program,  
21 died unexpectedly this weekend. Ken was a staunch  
22 supporter of what ANILCA said, and so was a great  
23 advocate and spokesperson for our program. If you'd ever  
24 been to Federal Subsistence Board meetings, he always  
25 sat next to the Chair. And for those of you who came to  
26 the All RAC meeting about a year or so ago, he gave  
27 several presentations. So, just like us to remember the  
28 service that he did for us.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank  
31 you, Judy. We'll take just a quick moment of silence in  
32 remembrance. I just want to say one thing. Oh, Ken Lord  
33 was definitely a great leader in the subsistence fight  
34 and attorney. And he had a tragic demise, which is really  
35 sad. But I got to know him quite well personally, you  
36 know, we had a lot of fights on the Kenai and he was  
37 opposing counsel for us in our lawsuits. And at the end,  
38 when we finally won and we got things turned around, we  
39 became very good friends. He actually supported us and  
40 very much. And so, it was -- he was fair. He was a very,  
41 very great guy. So, yeah. Let's take about a minute  
42 here. Thank you.

43  
44 (Moment of silence for Mr. Ken Lord)

45  
46 Okay. Judy, go ahead.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: I wanted to thank the  
49 Forest Service and NVE for hosting us and providing  
50 support. I'm hoping not too many, if any, Forest Service

1 people were let go recently, and my concerns extend to  
2 everybody who supports this program out in the field and  
3 in Anchorage. And if -- we have a lot of challenges  
4 ahead, I'm glad Greg will continue to be our Chair. We  
5 don't know what they are, but we'll be facing them  
6 together. In terms of an update, I went to Federal  
7 Subsistence Board meeting last month, and one of the  
8 main topics was whether Ketchikan would be considered a  
9 rural community or not. Since the inception of the  
10 program, it was actually sort of held as an example of  
11 a non-rural community. The composition of the Board is  
12 quite different now, with three tribal members added to  
13 the existing Board, which has the agencies on it, land  
14 managing agencies, BIA and three public members. So,  
15 there's basically six public members now on it. And that  
16 really changed the tenor of a lot of things. And you  
17 also have Board members with good attitudes towards  
18 subsistence on the Board. So, even though Ketchikan has  
19 a pretty large population, the Board decided it surely  
20 showed rural characteristics similar to Kodiak or Sitka,  
21 and they voted to make it rural. I'm sure that will be  
22 contested in some way. It is a big change in the program,  
23 but they seem to follow the information and the RAC  
24 recommendation.

25  
26 Also wanted to mention in -- there was  
27 a discussion, and we'll have it here too, about the  
28 application for C&T in our region. And we'll talk about  
29 that during we go through -- when we go through our  
30 proposals. In that case, the Board listened to both us  
31 and the Eastern Interior RAC. We'll talk about that  
32 later. In Anchorage we've had about 33 or 34 inches of  
33 snow this year. Normal to date, 66 inches. So, that's  
34 translated to, I mean, a lot of moose around, they look  
35 pretty healthy and fear of wildfires because of the open  
36 ground. And Greg, I'm sure we'll talk more about the  
37 Cook Inlet fisheries closures that are coming up this  
38 year and how that's going to affect a lot of people. I  
39 think -- I guess I'll mention one more thing about the  
40 Board meeting. The Federal Board, also, when they have  
41 meetings, includes the ten RAC Chairs. So, five were  
42 there in person. I don't know how many were online,  
43 probably at least two. It was just hard to tell. And one  
44 was weathered out but he stayed online from southeast.  
45 It's a lot different from the old days when every Chair  
46 attended the whole meeting. Now it seems really more  
47 appropriate, since there's not as much discussion with  
48 the RACs to be there for when your own region or nearby  
49 region or something that affects all regions be there.  
50 But it was just sort of a different sense on my part of

1 how things are going.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
4 Judy. Michael.

5

6 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. So, yeah, it's been a  
7 horrible winter, basically in Seldovia. I think in town  
8 maybe a foot of snow in Seldovia. There's zero snow on  
9 the ground now. The berry brush are budding out. The  
10 alders are budding out, elderberries budding out. The  
11 Devil's Club are starting to grow the buds on top of  
12 them. So, looking at harvesting some of that, when I get  
13 -- get done with all my travels here. And you know, I've  
14 seen a fair bit of rabbit tracks this winter. Not a  
15 whole lot of coyote or wolf tracks. And it wasn't until  
16 probably a few weeks ago that I saw some moose tracks.  
17 Usually in the wintertime, the moose come from the Gulf  
18 side over to our side to kind of get out of the deep  
19 snow. And it just there hasn't been any -- there hasn't  
20 been a need for them to leave their area, I guess. So,  
21 they haven't been around. And so, it's been an  
22 interesting one. And just before I came over, there was  
23 a report of a sow, and cub black bear in town already,  
24 so the bears are starting to move. So, we'll probably  
25 be seeing the bear hunters coming out pretty soon.  
26 There's been not a lot of snow up high, even I don't  
27 know if the guys in town have even been able to run  
28 their snow machines up on top.

29

30 Fishing last year was pretty terrible.  
31 Not a lot of fish returning as most areas. So, we didn't  
32 get a lot of the fish we needed. You know, it's a bunch  
33 of proposals coming through ADF&G right now for sea duck  
34 proposals. There's one that CRRC just put in for a  
35 subsistence Dungeness fishery in Cook Inlet. Hopefully  
36 that'll get passed during that meeting this week. We --  
37 that would be a great one. So -- and then there's been  
38 a recent -- I don't know if other ACs on the Peninsula  
39 have talked about it, but a regulation, non-motorized  
40 vehicles during closure dates. And it's something that  
41 nobody on the south side of Kachemak Bay knew about. And  
42 so, we've actually been discussing that at an AC meeting,  
43 and with Fish and Game and Wildlife Troopers. So, there's  
44 probably going to be a proposal put in to exclude the  
45 south side of Kachemak Bay from those dates, just so  
46 that people, you know, won't be criminalized for hunting  
47 the way they've always hunted being able to get where  
48 they need to be and, yeah. So, I think that's kind of  
49 it for now.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
2 you, Michael. Heath.

3  
4 MR. KOCAN: Yeah. Heath Kocan, Cordova.  
5 Yeah. Like everyone else has said, we've had a, you  
6 know, a mellow winter here. Like I was telling Ed, it's  
7 probably the first time in 15 years that I haven't skied  
8 at all, cross country or downhill. We just haven't had  
9 it. It's been really wet winter. Sounds like we did  
10 better here silver fishing, you know, was not great, but  
11 we had about a week and a half of really good fishing.  
12 But then it just died, which, you know, usually it's  
13 good all through September. But it's really just that  
14 first week of September, and then they were just gone.

15  
16 Out in the Sound, tanner fishing this  
17 winter -- I haven't made it out, but a couple of friends  
18 of mine that get out, it's been kind of hit or miss with  
19 keepers. Not a lot of crab out there. My big concern,  
20 you know, is halibut, like Andrew, kind of alluded to,  
21 I sport and commercial fish for 'em [sic]. I normally,  
22 -- this last summer we go out to usually fish around  
23 Middleton Island and normally we can load the boat up  
24 usually no problem on a three-day trip and our first  
25 trip in three days we caught 32 fish and our second trip  
26 we caught 100 fish. And lots of just tiny fish we had -  
27 - yeah, lots of black cod. I don't think that's really  
28 a big issue out there. But the halibut is worrisome,  
29 especially since they just cut us down 22% on the  
30 commercial side this year out in the Gulf. It'd be nice  
31 to get more fish out there. King fishing in the Sound.  
32 I haven't made it out a lot. I have been pretty busy  
33 with work, but it's been -- sound like better than on  
34 the East side or the West side. Rather, we've been  
35 getting fish here and there. But yeah, the halibut is  
36 just really worrisome because not that long ago, there's  
37 a lot more out there in the Gulf, and I don't know where  
38 they're all going or what's happening, but it'd be nice  
39 to find out for sure.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
42 you, Heath. Ed.

43  
44 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
45 is Ed Holsten, Cooper Landing area. I won't go into much  
46 detail about last fall's fisheries. I'm sure Greg will  
47 cover that, but just suffice to say, virtually very few  
48 silvers made it up into our neck of the woods, even the  
49 Middle River. Of course, kings had been shut down. We  
50 had two pretty good runs of sockeye. Both runs, however,

1 were about a week or so late before they poured up, and  
2 that might have been due to -- we had -- last summer we  
3 had extremely high levels of the Kenai River, upper  
4 river, and I think that was due to heavy snow we had  
5 previous winter. Now this year, parroting what other  
6 people have said is we virtually have had no winter in  
7 Cooper Landing. We started out early October with about  
8 two inches of snow, and that was basically it. For the  
9 last -- rest of the winter we've got snow high up higher  
10 up, but it's really a thin layer of snow. A lot of rain,  
11 record rains. It's the windiest winter I've seen. And  
12 my main concern or one of my concerns is this year the  
13 level of Kenai Lake is way, way below normal. And I'm  
14 concerned how that's going to affect based on low snow  
15 levels during breakup, how that's going to affect river  
16 flow this year and passage of salmon.

17  
18 In terms of wildlife, it's been a -- I  
19 think a really good year for moose. Rarely do we see  
20 moose down, down around town because there's no reason  
21 for them to have to come down. There's no snow or very  
22 little snow higher up, so they're just staying higher  
23 up. Rabbit populations are down. Lynx are still there,  
24 but they'll start dropping off. On the other hand, and  
25 it may due to lack of snow and easy access around, but  
26 a lot more coyotes around town now than I've seen in the  
27 past. The other good thing for moose this year is  
28 virtually very few road kills going on. Normally we get  
29 a number of them in town there. Nothing this year, so  
30 that's a plus. That's about it. Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.  
33 Go ahead, Dennis.

34  
35 MR. ZADRA: All right. For the record,  
36 Dennis Zadra of Cordova. Oh, my God, I won't belabor  
37 this, but a very warm winter here in Cordova. One thing  
38 that seemed different was our ice events. You know, with  
39 there not being a snow cover on the ground, and we had  
40 some cold snaps and then we would get a little snow or  
41 rain and the entire town, everything was a sheet of ice.  
42 If you did not wear your ice creepers, you were on the  
43 ground. So, that was significant. The other thing is,  
44 you know, we had two very significant wind events in the  
45 fall, one right around Christmas and all that. But it  
46 blew trees down here in town that had never blown down.  
47 So, that that was quite different. We had our Board of  
48 Fish meetings here in December, you know, and, you know,  
49 with all due respect to Andy, I don't agree with  
50 everything you said. You know, I sat here every day, and

1 I listened to the testimony and all of that. A big  
2 misconception -- these guys that are trawling in Prince  
3 William Sound and out in the entrance and all that,  
4 they're not bottom trawling. The terrain does not -- it  
5 is like cliffs. These guys are catching these pollock  
6 mid-water wherever they sent -- tent hang out. So, it's  
7 not like they do in the Bering Sea. A significant part  
8 of all of it is they are taking a lot of pollock out of  
9 the ecosystem that if they didn't do that, those pollock  
10 are sitting there ready to eat all the salmon smolts  
11 that are out migrating to. So, there is a benefit, you  
12 know, to the salmon runs. But I'm not going to get into  
13 the politics with that.

14  
15 Through the Board of Fish deal, we lost  
16 the first with a arbitrarily shut down our first week  
17 of the Copper River, which this year is going to be, I  
18 think, pretty -- I don't want to say catastrophic, but  
19 we're going to get a lot of fish in that river. Before  
20 we even get a chance to go fishing. On a positive note,  
21 they did open up a subsistence Dungeness fishery that  
22 will start here on the 20th. So, we get to go and with  
23 no closures or whatever to show, my guys can go out and  
24 throw their pots and see if there's dungees. Heath  
25 mentioned about tanner fishing, and I just recently went  
26 and set tanner pots out here around the corner. And I  
27 know earlier the guys like, you know, October, you know,  
28 was really hit and miss. But we pulled pots yesterday.  
29 We had two pots. We had 106 crab in the two pots with,  
30 you know, 40 keepers out of that. So, it's some of the  
31 best tanner fishing that I've seen, and you know, some  
32 really good-looking crab. So, that was optimistic, and  
33 you know like anything they come and go. What else? That  
34 -- we've got a really good salmon red forecast on the  
35 Copper River whether we're going to be able to work on  
36 that or not. And then finally, I was hoping that we  
37 could get everybody out the road and see where the --  
38 this new dipnet fishery is out there. But there was one  
39 about a four-foot snow drift right at 27 mile that was  
40 impassable. So, that didn't work. But yeah, that's  
41 basically all I got.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well thanks,  
44 Dennis, and thanks for trying to get us out there. Yeah  
45 -- and report. Anyway, I got three -- you got a question  
46 for Dennis? Go ahead.

47  
48 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. The Dungeness, is  
49 that going to be commercial or subsistence? You said  
50 there's an opener.

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MR. ZADRA: Subsistence.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
Andy, you got a question? Go ahead. Yeah.

MR. MCLAUGHLING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Do you know of any reports of or do you yourself do  
shrimp fishery things from this side of the Sound? Seems  
like we both live in very different habitats.

MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Our shrimp -- there's  
not much shrimping around here. You know, there's a few  
of the tigers are up in Fidalgo and all that, but nobody  
does it. Most of all, the shrimping is across -- I've  
never participated in a commercial fishery. I do the  
sport fishery, you know, when I'm over there gillnetting  
in the summer and I've definitely seen a huge decrease  
in the amount and the part that it is, it's like you  
can't go anywhere and not just see a ton of shrimp pots.  
You know, the commercial fishery does not -- it's very  
well managed and they don't take a lot of shrimp. And  
what's happened now and they're you know, this meeting  
is going on right now. The shrimp meeting is up in  
Anchorage, I guess. But a lot of these Anchorage people  
that were typically sport fishermen going out and  
setting their two pots realize, hey, I can get a  
commercial permit and I can go out there in April or May  
whenever it opens, and I can set my 20 pots and, you  
know, so there is a huge push for these sport guys now  
commercial. I know guys that have been commercial  
shrimpers here for 25 years and it's not a big money  
deal. But you know, they make some money. It was a  
fishery you could participate in and do something. But  
the big changes now and they've tried to turn it into a  
limited entry fishery which had -- which failed. But  
there's just a lot of guys with their bay liners are now  
commercial shrimpers. And they're sitting there 20 pots.  
And you know, if that's the way the fishery is going to  
go, they probably should close down the commercial. But  
the testimony and all that, the State does not have good  
-- a good management strategy for shrimp. And hopefully  
if anything comes out of these meetings, they're going  
to readdress that and do something better. But yeah, I  
agree. The shrimp are definitely down.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye's got a  
question for you Dennis.

1 MS. EWAN: My question is where did he  
2 get the statistics on the big run of salmon that's going  
3 up the Copper River? Is it the state or the federal  
4 statistics?

5  
6 MR. ZADRA: It's the State. It comes out  
7 every year with their forecast and based on previous  
8 year's harvest, you know, the recruitment of different  
9 age classes of the fish and all and it's a hit and miss  
10 thing. You know, you can look at how accurate they have  
11 been but it's optimistic, you know, that they're saying,  
12 hey, we're -- it looks like we're good -- and this is  
13 just the reds. You know the kings are not forecast to  
14 do well. So, but yeah it is a state -- the state  
15 forecast.

16  
17 MS. EWAN: I come from the Copper River.  
18 I was born and raised in Copper River, and my late father  
19 and my relatives used to sit on this Board, and we used  
20 to get up, you know, fish wheel full of fish. And this  
21 last year, I know I run a fish wheel, and I know that  
22 we didn't get what they said was forecasted from here  
23 to Chitina. It didn't show up. They said there was 120,  
24 000 fish will say, for example, by the time I got to  
25 Copper, we're lucky we even got ten, maybe five fish in  
26 each wheel. And that's why I asked where the statistics  
27 come from, because we need to call them out because it's  
28 not accurate. And I work with environmental groups all  
29 over Alaska and the Lower 48. And I see that the  
30 statistics are not accurate. And the salmon is dying off  
31 before it even gets to the spawning ground, because  
32 there's too many dip netters and people that are  
33 interfering with, you know, from Chitina down there,  
34 there's probably 10,000 people a day. And with the Cook  
35 Inlet closing down and up the Yukon and the Kuskokwim,  
36 we are in flux by a lot of people that we've never even  
37 seen. And, you know, it's really sad to me because salmon  
38 is our way of life. And that's how we do our potlatches  
39 and that's how we teach our kids our culture and stuff  
40 like that. And I [sic] concerned about this number quota  
41 because it does sound like a lot. If I get 100 fish in  
42 a week, that's nothing compared to what we had before.  
43 And I know how to fish, I know the eddies. I know the  
44 Copper River and what I'm saying is that the statistics  
45 that they give out, I don't think the federal -- they  
46 piggyback the system on the state, I know that. But the  
47 statistics need to be, you know, all the permits and  
48 everything gets turned in October. And a lot of times  
49 when they close our king salmon down before we even got  
50 king salmon this year, someone gave me two king salmon

00033

1 that were that big. And that's -- you know, they're not  
2 making it to their spawning ground. It's my concern.  
3 That's why I asked this question. Thank you.

4

5 MR. ZADRA: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
8 Thank you, Dennis. We didn't want to put you on the  
9 spot, but that's.....

10

11 (Simultaneous speech)

12

13 MR. ZADRA: Oh, that's right. No. And I  
14 you know, I agree. I wasn't there, but I agree with you.  
15 I think the problem on the Copper River is the personal  
16 use fishery that continues to expand. Everything else  
17 is going down. The subsistence use is going down. Our  
18 commercial harvest and opportunities decreased by 47%  
19 and all that. And those guys do nothing but grow, you  
20 know and so yeah. And but it does not get much traction  
21 going to Board of Fish.

22

23 MS. EWAN: And the salmon that we did  
24 get, they were so soft that you couldn't even put your  
25 fingers through it. And that is an environmental issue  
26 right there that we need to be very concerned about.  
27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
30 Faye. Thank you, Dennis. Okay I'm going to go ahead and  
31 do my report here a little bit.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 Change it up then. Go ahead, Kirk.

36

37 MR. WILSON: My name is Kirk, and the  
38 first thing I'd like to talk about is caribou in our  
39 area. And what I've noticed about caribou, we've all  
40 heard the numbers, pretty much our caribou is about as  
41 low as it's ever been, and it seems to be the consensus  
42 here when I hear the other people of -- new people coming  
43 in -- well, I live kind of right in the middle of Unit  
44 13. I owned a lodge for 40 years, so I'm really familiar  
45 with all user groups. My family has lived a subsistence  
46 lifestyle since I've been there, and the reason -- one  
47 of the things I want to talk about today is the habitat  
48 of these caribou, and especially in the Alphabet Hills  
49 and in behind Eureka. Both of those areas seem to have  
50 turned into the biggest playground for recreational

1 vehicles that we have ever known in Alaska. And in those  
2 two areas. I don't know if you know much about lichen,  
3 but when you go drive in these vehicles over, that lichen  
4 is not very powerful stuff. It doesn't survive all-  
5 terrain vehicles, and especially when it's continuous  
6 use. And we've had some bad winters with these caribou.  
7 And we know that these winters have devastated -- but  
8 when -- it used to be what happened is the caribou  
9 overgrazed the area where the calving is. And those are  
10 the two biggest calving -- there's only one calving area  
11 that I know of left in Unit 13 that is not all terrain  
12 vehicle accessible. And it comes from -- they come from  
13 the top of the Denali. And the reason that it's -- they  
14 can't get nothing up by the Denali. Everything's left  
15 the Denali Highway now, there's just too much activity  
16 there. So, they've pushed them down to where the McLaren  
17 and the Susitna and on the other side of the river.  
18 That's a calving area that they haven't reached yet. But  
19 everything else in our area as far as habitat and these  
20 all-terrain vehicles, it's a crime what they're doing,  
21 they're tearing up our State. I mean, it's -- I've had  
22 to watch it since there were -- none of that was there  
23 when I first came to Tolsona and now I fly still and  
24 everything, and it's devastating. It is just  
25 devastating.

26  
27 Now, I want to talk about moose a little  
28 bit. What's happened is our caribou population is so low  
29 now and, you know, Unit 13 is the most accessible area  
30 in the State of Alaska. And you just heard me talk about  
31 these all-terrain vehicles, that area behind Eureka when  
32 I first moved to my area and I hunted there, and I mean,  
33 there were big bull moose. You can't hardly find a moose  
34 there anymore. And these people, that's all they got  
35 left to target now is moose and Unit 13. There comes a  
36 time when there's just not enough animals left and  
37 especially when you're talking about us people that are  
38 living a subsistence lifestyle. I can give you an example  
39 of what happened, four years ago when I hunted and hunted  
40 same place. And I sit there, I don't move. I take a  
41 trailer right alongside the road, just off the road,  
42 maybe 150 yards. I never get out of my car, hardly. Four  
43 years ago, I saw 16 calves, while there was triplets and  
44 two sets of twins. This last year, I saw one calf, five  
45 moose while I was there. The year before it was around  
46 6 or 8 moose and two calves that I saw. So, we're looking  
47 at a -- you know, it's a small area I'm talking about,  
48 and I hunt out of those areas where all these people  
49 are, but we have a moose problem in Unit 13 right now,  
50 especially with our caribou. When you add the two things

1 together, these people have nothing else to hunt but  
2 bears and moose and caribou in Unit 13. And predator  
3 population, when you want to talk about predators now.  
4 You can adjust numbers around and everything, but  
5 there's not enough food to go around for the predators  
6 that we used to have. We can't have as many predators  
7 as we've had if we're going to have this low population  
8 because they got to eat too. And for the people in my  
9 area that I represent and the Ahtna community, if they  
10 can't get a caribou, I mean, they've never not had that  
11 cultural thing to make moccasins. And believe me, they  
12 use the whole animal. They don't just go out and shoot  
13 an animal and gut it out in the field and bone it out  
14 and leave. They take that whole animal. They use the  
15 heads, the tongues, the eyes, everything. Our sport  
16 hunters are not doing that. They're leaving enough in  
17 the field where village people would go there and use  
18 that if they had the opportunity. And that may be some  
19 of it if we can -- I just don't know. Okay. I'll move  
20 on to fish now.

21  
22 I have a place on Crosswinds Lake. I've  
23 watched one of -- I was born at a fish hatchery in  
24 Wyoming. I've been involved in Fish and Game all my  
25 life. My dad was the third game warden in Wyoming. He  
26 built the first two fish hatcheries. I've watched this  
27 whole program on Crosswinds Lake with this -- I've been  
28 there this whole time. I've served on the Prince William  
29 Sound Aquaculture as the Copper River Native  
30 Association's advisor. And I don't know if you all know  
31 Ken Roberson. This is one of the concerns I haven't  
32 heard from anybody else, and I just talked to Ken before  
33 I come here. He's a very good friend of mine. In fact,  
34 he is my mentor. He has taught me a lot. The big thing  
35 is our fish are not getting -- just getting smaller in  
36 the Copper River, but the eggs are getting smaller.  
37 That's the first time I've ever heard that. So, it almost  
38 looks -- paints a picture of we're going to go into  
39 smaller salmon from now on. And I don't know what the -  
40 - this is the first I've ever heard of it. I don't know  
41 if any of you have heard it or the biologist that Ken  
42 Roberson is the first one. And I mean, he is -- he's God  
43 to me. He knows it like anybody. And I have to agree  
44 with Faye on the fish wheel thing. I've been a fish  
45 wheeler all my time. And my little area where we fish  
46 got flooded out and there was about 5 or 6 of us there,  
47 and I've only just got a few salmon from others the last  
48 few years when we've had all we've ever needed in the  
49 past. And one of the reasons that we're having a problem  
50 up there is not just the low amount of fish, but our

1 high water the last -- with these winters we've had,  
2 it's hard to even run -- you can't get it down to the  
3 bottom. The water is so high. Let me see if I got  
4 anything else to.....

5  
6                   These user groups on these fish -- I put  
7 in -- it's been -- in fact, I kind of got really  
8 depressed after I put in, I don't know, there was 9 or  
9 12 proposals I put in one year on new user groups in the  
10 Copper River, and that's -- this new sonar they have and  
11 these boats, and they're going up the river and they can  
12 go right in and they can target these fishes with their  
13 dip nets. And now you see -- these are new user groups.  
14 There's boats floating all around down the Copper River  
15 with nets in the river. And now their nets, the ones  
16 that are standing on the bank down there in Chitina,  
17 they're 40ft long. They're just -- and they're huge nets  
18 and there's new user groups at the Copper River down  
19 there that they're so lined up along the highway along  
20 the bridge there that it doesn't even look like the same  
21 place it used to be. And these people in these boats,  
22 now, the rules are if you fish under this -- they can  
23 pull up to the mouth of the -- well, I'll use a better  
24 example. The Gulkana River, been closed to fly fishing  
25 only at the mouth of the river at the Gulkana since I  
26 have lived there. And now you can take a boat. You can  
27 go down in the mouth of the Copper River and float right  
28 along the edge of the mouth of the Gulkana River, and  
29 you can dip net your limit of fish out of there. So, we  
30 really have to focus in on some of these user groups  
31 that's popping up, that we've never had in the past. We  
32 just don't have enough salmon to go for everybody. And  
33 I do have to say one more thing about the Gulkana  
34 hatchery and hearing him talk about having a -- these  
35 farm-raised fish. I'm all about the Gulkana hatchery.  
36 That's one of the most successful things I have ever  
37 seen in my life and I'm watching it. They can't get the  
38 eggs. When they first started the Gulkana hatchery. I  
39 have a place on Crosswinds. They put 10 million fry in  
40 Crosswinds Lake, 10 million in Summit and 10 million in  
41 Paxson. They did studies, Crosswinds Lakes produces the  
42 biggest smolt in the Copper River. It doesn't -- it's  
43 never had to run a salmon. Well, I can't say that, it  
44 did have a run of salmon, I think, before we all showed  
45 up and it got fished out there, because you can see  
46 every salmon in the creek and there's cabins with dog  
47 teams down along that creek. So, they've re-enhanced  
48 these fish in Crosswinds Lake. They do double in  
49 Crosswinds Lake, the outmigration than Summit and Paxson  
50 does together. It's one of the most successful -- and

1 it produces fish that come back -- I run an airboat and  
2 we actually, Bruce Cain bought the fish from Prince  
3 William Sound -- and I run an airboat, and I hauled fish  
4 out of there. Our fish averaged three quarters of a  
5 pound bigger than all the rest of the fish in the Copper  
6 basin. So, I think for us to take a look at enhancing  
7 over farming might be a lot better idea, because there's  
8 creeks here in the Sound you can go in. And I mean, you  
9 could enhance that creek. And in three years you could  
10 have some salmon back in there. And I mean, it's a small  
11 easy project to do. Pins in the creek. Two people to do  
12 it. I mean, I'm just throwing ideas out, guys. And  
13 really, I think that's about all I got for you today.  
14 Thank you so much for having me here.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank  
17 you, Kirk. I think we're going to probably take a break.  
18 We've still got Faye, if you don't mind. And then we've  
19 got GreyBear and then we've got me. And so, let's take  
20 a five-minute break here and get a cup of coffee.

21

22 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, couldn't -- I'd just  
27 like to make one comment for Kirk and Faye and Edward.  
28 I mean, what this Council can do is, I mean, you  
29 mentioned particularly the moose and caribou situation  
30 in Unit 13. So, we only deal with federal lands within  
31 that. And if there's a proposal you would like to bring  
32 forward on how to adjust the current regulations, it'd  
33 be good to speak with Brian back there and, you know,  
34 maybe specifically point out what needs to change in the  
35 current regulations that you'd like to bring -- that  
36 you'd like the RAC to possibly put forward, that we  
37 could discuss. So, that's how we can make a difference,  
38 is to propose changes to any current regulations or come  
39 up with a completely new regulation.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Thank you so much for that.  
42 Geez, It's a lot. I put in. Excuse me.

43

44 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me. I didn't mean  
45 right now. I'm just saying that would be part of our  
46 workload, you know?

47

48 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I mean, this this  
49 thing right here, I've put in a proposal, and I've done  
50 it twice now. The first time, as it was accepted to

1 close all federal land in Unit 13 except to subsistence  
2 users. And they've shut me down on the whole area. The  
3 second time, we just got one area. And it has been very  
4 successful for the Copper River Native people to have  
5 that. None of those other people can be in there. You  
6 don't come upon all those other ATVs and we need to get  
7 them other areas.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's go  
10 ahead and take a break. Thank you.

11  
12 (Off record)

13  
14 (On record)

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks,  
17 we'll go ahead and get started. Chop, chop.

18  
19 (Pause)

20  
21 Faye, you coming up to give your a  
22 report? Yeah. You don't want me to put GreyBear first,  
23 do you?

24  
25 (Pause)

26  
27 Okay, thanks. I guess you're up.

28  
29 MS. EWAN: Good morning. (In Native) I  
30 just said good morning in my language Ahtna Koht'aene.  
31 I come from the Copper River. Born and raised here and  
32 I've watched fishing and hunting. And I -- we hunt all  
33 over -- trapped all over Copper River all. I mean, I can  
34 tell you all the way from Paxson to Denali, all the way  
35 to Tok, all the way to Northway the borders. I can go  
36 down to -- all the way down to Chitina, pass through to  
37 (In Native), all the way towards Anchorage. And we can  
38 watch, and we see the animals and the fish declining all  
39 over the place. I believe it's because of the habitat -  
40 - that the environmental -- people that are impacting  
41 the Eureka and the Lake Louise and Paxson way is from  
42 humans moving into the habitat. They're building houses  
43 on these permafrost and land that the caribou migrated  
44 on and just like Eureka, it turned into a big old  
45 playground like Valdez. It really harmed our birthing  
46 grounds of the caribou, and we have a lot of impact on  
47 moose fatalities from hit and run and truck, you know,  
48 vehicles and they call it vehicular accident, whatever.  
49 And the fish is very poor when we get it. And I cut  
50 fish. I live off the land. That's my income. I teach my

1 children, my people how to survive off the land. I don't  
2 live on, you know, like the people do in Anchorage and  
3 Fairbanks. And everywhere you go up for the weekend, go  
4 hunt and fish. We watch what we do. We watch the rabbits  
5 and the birds and the climate change when they come  
6 back. We watch how the weather -- the tree budding right  
7 now means the salmon is on its way already. It's ready  
8 to hit the rivers. That's our traditional knowledge. And  
9 that traditional knowledge is, you know, the science --  
10 science people they -- I -- I'll do a little bit  
11 background on my history of what I've been involved in.  
12 I've been involved in environmental -- different  
13 agencies I work with. I work with the different Boards,  
14 and especially when it pertains to our people and our  
15 way of life. And the Constitution of Alaska says that  
16 we are the first people to hunt and fish in time of  
17 shortage, and there is a time of shortage. Just like you  
18 guys talk about your clams, your, you know, your shrimp  
19 and stuff out here. When I seen the State of Alaska open  
20 up that trawling. This is the last of the paradise of  
21 all the species in the ocean. And when they start killing  
22 killer whales and start taking things like that and  
23 getting away with it. I do a one time, one-time wanton  
24 way, I'll have the Fish and Game right by my house close  
25 my fish, reel down, take my license, take my gun, take  
26 whatever they can just for me to violate that law. And  
27 while I'm watching this maritime law being violated in  
28 the oceans and stuff. And it's a -- it's afflicting  
29 everybody in this place here, every human being that  
30 lives on fishing, is affecting you guys. And to me, the  
31 regulations even went to the North Pacific Fishery  
32 Management Council and the NOAA, they're not listening  
33 to the people. The Upper Yukon and the Kuskokwim has no  
34 salmon. They never ate salmon for seven years. Were we  
35 responsible for that now? Because, you know, what would  
36 a Copper River is going to be the next? I see it already.  
37 And just like he was talking about these different  
38 people, a group of people coming down fishing, there is  
39 no regulations on fish nets that they use to dip net.  
40 They use -- they throw out. I didn't know that you can  
41 use a line that you do like you guys do out here with  
42 the fishing net. These people came up and they're out  
43 there -- they're from different countries. They went  
44 into Chitina, and they put a 40 to 100 foot net across  
45 the river, and they were pulling it in, and the Fish and  
46 Game just let them go. This is you know, to me, the  
47 regulation says you only can fish with fish wheel and  
48 fish net -- dip net. And a lot of history goes into  
49 Chitina, where the fishing capital is in the summertime.  
50 It starts about May. You'll start to see people already

1 start moving down there with their motorhomes and they  
2 come in, they impact this place there, and then when  
3 they do, they -- like they go out hunting for moose and  
4 stuff they don't take it. They don't respect it. A lot  
5 of times, Copper River -- I mean, Ahtna Inter-Tribal  
6 Resource Commission and Ahtna had developed a program  
7 where we get to meet and stuff, but they don't take, a  
8 lot of times that comes back, it's not even edible. To  
9 me, it's disrespect when I get a moose head that's all  
10 full of worms. And I think that the regulations and the  
11 wanton waste needs to be upgraded. It needs to be upheld  
12 to -- by the federal government because we live with --  
13 all around us is federal lands and then the qualified  
14 users. You just have to have a post office box, and you  
15 can be a qualified user, and you can live in Anchorage  
16 or Fairbanks or wherever, and you still have rights and  
17 jurisdiction to come up there and fish. And those people  
18 don't even live there, half of them -- maybe one month  
19 out of the year, but they have a P.O. box. So, I would  
20 recommend that, you know what the regulations and  
21 everything are, proposals that we need to strengthen the  
22 way people apply for their fishing and hunting license.  
23 And, you know, with the residents, I have to prove where  
24 I come from, where my village is, everything. I got to  
25 prove that. So, does he. But there's other people that  
26 come there, like when we get a illegal moose, they bring  
27 in illegal moose. Those people don't get very -- they  
28 don't get big fines and everything, but it was us  
29 indigenous people. We lose everything, even our cars.  
30 And then there's a federal regulation, state regulation  
31 line that's invisible. You shoot a caribou on that side,  
32 and there's a line here, this GIS line, and it runs over  
33 to the federal. They took my son's caribou because it  
34 ran over from the federal land over to the state land,  
35 and they said it was illegal. Well, that's what we're  
36 talking about. The piggyback system on the regulations,  
37 the federals they copy what -- they do, what the state  
38 do. But the State has failed us in 65 years, ever since  
39 it became the State.

40  
41 I come from a family that started the  
42 ANILCA, the Ewans in the Copper River. For we have a  
43 long history of fishing, and we know that back in 1898,  
44 the Magnuson Act, when Chief Bellam went down to -- down  
45 here to protest for other people to eat. And at that  
46 time our people were starving. And today I think we're,  
47 you know, a lot of our young people can't even process  
48 fish because they don't know when our -- in our  
49 traditional way, we give our fish to the elders first.  
50 No matter where you come from, who they are, the elders

1 eat first and we have a ceremony. And that's the  
2 difference between the commercial, the sports fishing  
3 and them. Our people still have customary and  
4 traditional use. That is something that needs to be  
5 strengthened, is the customary and traditional use. All  
6 of these vocabularies and all these acronyms and  
7 everything. I don't think the people that like the  
8 commissioner and the governor and them, they don't  
9 follow their guidelines and things like that. I think  
10 the federal government, it's time to step up to the  
11 fiduciary trust responsibility to the people of Alaska  
12 and stop this commercial trawling and all the stuff  
13 that's destroying our way of life. I feel very threatened  
14 because I fish -- when I get my salmon, my elders get  
15 it first. I'm an elder myself, but I'm an internal  
16 teenager, so I give them the salmon. We send it all the  
17 way to Mentasta Lake. Katie John, she fought for our  
18 rights to have fish up and Batzulnetas. My mom and dad  
19 fought for our rights in 1973 - 78 to -- for us to still  
20 have a fish reel on the river. Well, today I looked at  
21 the statistics. The state of Alaska people have 130, -  
22 40 some fish wheel, 11 of them is on the indigenous  
23 people. The rest of them they come up from Anchorage,  
24 Fairbanks and they put fish wheel all along the river  
25 and they buy land and they bring their people. And it's  
26 a big impact, especially from (In Native), all the way  
27 up to Chitina. That's where the fish is disappearing  
28 because these people that do the commercial fishing,  
29 they can take subsistence users out and they can fish  
30 for them. And I've caught many of those people -- guide  
31 service at my fish wheel, saying oh, well, they're not  
32 here. We're going to take their fish. And we all stood  
33 up on the bank and I said, what are you doing? And they  
34 took off. And I -- you know, I see this stuff like this,  
35 all these breaking laws. And, you know, we follow the  
36 guidelines, we do what we have to do. We turn in our  
37 permits and, you know, we -- I involve in Copper River  
38 and a lot of different issues, on our way of life. And  
39 the things I'd like to see change is the regulations and  
40 that make sure it meets the people's needs, especially  
41 the subsistence users that -- you know, these people  
42 that come from Anchorage, they come with motorhomes,  
43 they got four wheelers, they got, I mean, every kind of  
44 toy you want, and they come there and they chase those  
45 caribou and moose. They don't hunt them, they chase them,  
46 they play with them. And we seen it in Denali. I hunt  
47 and fish in Denali. I pick berries up there. I go to  
48 Mentasta. We go get our other, other food. We go to  
49 Nabesna, we go up there, look for sheep. We go down --  
50 we can't even hunt sheep down in towards Anchorage way

1 because of the regulations. And our people don't even  
2 know how it tastes to eat sheep. But when we do get it,  
3 we share it and we make sure that the people know and  
4 we use the skin, we use everything, we use the bones and  
5 make tools with it. We don't waste nothing but the animal  
6 parts that you don't eat, and the lungs and the female  
7 and male parts that we don't use that we put that back  
8 in. That's how much respect we have for salmon and our  
9 animals. And we have a lot of oral history, too, that  
10 goes with it. But you know what really hurts me is when  
11 I see people come down to Copper River and they go  
12 fishing, and it costs a lot of money for people to  
13 travel, and a lot of time they go home with nothing. But  
14 when I see a trailer -- tractor trailer truck going out  
15 with a whole bunch of these little boxes you guys have  
16 out here for commercial fishing going out at Chitina,  
17 that's an alarm. I brought this up to the state troopers,  
18 Fish and Game. I mentioned a lot of times that this is  
19 illegal. Where are they taking that fish? You don't need  
20 a big Ole tractor trailer to take fish out of Copper  
21 River when it's subsistence. So, I think there's  
22 something else going on. I think these people are selling  
23 our salmon that's coming out of Copper River. That's why  
24 we're not getting fish, but I'm looking into it. Thank  
25 you.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
28 Faye. Edward, are you on the phone?

29  
30 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'm here.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. If you  
33 want to talk a little bit about what's happened in your  
34 region this last year. We appreciate it.

35  
36 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. For the record, my  
37 name is Edward GreyBear, and I agree with Faye and Kirk.  
38 I went out hunting this last season for 20 days, and  
39 there was an increased amount of pressure from other  
40 hunters all over the place. I went on trails that I used  
41 to go on all the time, and every single time I ran into  
42 another hunter or a group of large hunters, and I even  
43 took some of the youth out. And sadly, I was unsuccessful  
44 in my hunt. The hunters that I did run into that were  
45 successful, I noticed that they were leaving a lot of  
46 their -- a lot of the meat and useful organs that we  
47 could have used, like the liver. They didn't take the  
48 kidneys. They didn't take the stomach and that's all  
49 stuff that our Ahtna people would use. And I was able  
50 to educate some other hunters, and they allowed me to

1 take those organs because they weren't going to use them.  
2 And I was able to take the tongue and the nose and just  
3 stuff that normally people would just toss or throw away.

4  
5 When I went down to Chitina during the  
6 fishing season, I seen an increased amount of dip netters  
7 all over the place. It was just bizarre seeing just a  
8 line of people all along the river. That's all I have  
9 for my report.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
12 Edward. Yeah. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and talk a  
13 little bit now and try and keep it succinct. You know,  
14 I sure appreciate a lot of the testimony, especially the  
15 new people here. What we were trying to do is just give  
16 the brief report in our area and so much of this stuff  
17 we have to take -- we have to take it by regulation to  
18 the Board. So, we have to make proposals, bring it before  
19 this Board, you know, or from the communities that  
20 pertain to the federal lands. That's all we can speak  
21 to. I've been on here a long time. I'm a 1948 model. I'm  
22 born in Ninilchik, Alaska, and I've seen the demise and  
23 the demise of all of our resources. We're doing the same  
24 things that Faye and Kurtz doing -- it's not just to  
25 one region, it's all over the State.

26  
27 I'll just give you a brief. Our streams  
28 Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Local, they've had fishing and  
29 we've ate all the kings you could imagine for many, many  
30 years. They're now depleted. They're shut down. They're  
31 open only for hatchery fish. Those hatchery fish, they  
32 make them and made it into a playground for sportsmen.  
33 And then it's open. The Ninilchik is the only one open  
34 on the Kenai. The set netters are shut down. I'm a  
35 lifelong set netter. My dad had a fish trap, they've  
36 been shut down for four years. They say it's because of  
37 the kings. We can't get kings. This last year we got  
38 zero kings. We've been buying kings from southeast, from  
39 some trawlers, and they're getting even hard to get.  
40 We've been buying silvers, which is unheard of to feed  
41 our people. And so, you know, we like everyone else, we  
42 -- the kings and the silvers are our livelihoods. That's  
43 what we love, fat and content. We lived off of them. So,  
44 I've seen great change. The things that we've promoted  
45 at the RAC here is how do we succinctly make change that  
46 benefits the user, the federal users. And as time moves  
47 on, you know, the RAC used to be if someone wanted to  
48 come in and had to have a C&T, it was a fight. I mean,  
49 you had to bring in your village, your people. You  
50 testified, you showed you had the usage. You had to go

1 through the whole nine yards. That's been way, way  
2 streamlined and changed. You know, the rules and  
3 regulations the people were state is getting kind of  
4 overrun. We got a governor. The reason the federal  
5 program isn't here because they don't comply with  
6 ANILCA, they don't comply with the laws. And so, we only  
7 have you know, we talk about the trawlers, we talk about  
8 the clams and all the stuff. I'm so passionate, I love  
9 clams. My birthday was yesterday, day before and  
10 fortunate I got some clam fritters that we dug from the  
11 west side of Cook Inlet. But you know, I'm not going to  
12 get on a soapbox, but I'm trying to kind of tell some  
13 of the newer people and stuff that how the process works  
14 here, and we're wide open to if you come up with a  
15 solution, a proposal, we'll help you write it. We got  
16 staff, OSM people that will help you work on that and  
17 make those changes that need to be done and get them  
18 before us, because we do have differences with the Board.  
19 We do have more people on the Board now that may be  
20 favorable to our needs, but we have a crisis. We have a  
21 major crisis. I've been crying about it for a few years  
22 here. Food securities, Ninilchik Natives, we've got  
23 through our tribe. We've got a grant for food securities,  
24 and it was about \$1 million and what a blessing. But we  
25 have to buy a lot of store food to feed the people. I  
26 mean, it's kind of sad, you know, you can't even buy you  
27 know, we do go get fresh halibut and stuff that we can  
28 buy. So, we're doing that.

29  
30 Well, I got in my notes here. I want to  
31 thank Judy at the last Federal Subsistence Board she sat  
32 in for me, I wasn't available. She does a fantastic job  
33 there. But that Federal Board has got some -- they're  
34 out of control too. But anyway, we need to work on that.  
35 And I say it in a nice way. They're reorganizing. They're  
36 putting three more people on there. And they got a lot  
37 going on there. So, but we do have that -- that is the  
38 process. We could come, we go to them. They give us  
39 difference if we unless it's for a reason of you know,  
40 a shortage of fish or something like that or something  
41 that we missed, then they're supposed to give deference  
42 to this Board. But the only thing we get to act on here  
43 is the proposals to us. And this round, we really don't  
44 have any. We got a couple things to go over, but we're  
45 going to spend a lot of time on some of this stuff.

46  
47 I mentioned earlier, thanks to the  
48 village here. In the Cook Inlet area, we started a fish  
49 commission with the Native villages and all our Native  
50 friends there, Kenai, Kenaitze, the Salamatof, you know,

1 all the way up to Chickaloon, Knik. All of them and we  
2 did it because we were trying to help those villages get  
3 fish. They don't have fish. They're lost. Ninilchik is  
4 very fortunate. We fought a battle for many, many years.  
5 We spent many, many dollars to get a fishery on the  
6 Kenai. We're the only one that I know of has a net in  
7 the Kenai River. And that supports our people for federal  
8 fish. And there's plenty of reds. But I'll tell you a  
9 story about that too. I heard you talking about the  
10 smaller fish. We've been seeing that for a long time.  
11 They're small fish, even in the Bristol Bay region. I  
12 talk to people that go, they put on their humpy gear.  
13 They're using four and a half, four and three quarter  
14 inch mesh to catch these big reds. Reds in the Kenai  
15 used to be held at 12, 13, 14 pounds and the silvers are  
16 gone. The silvers didn't show up this year. That don't  
17 mean they're gone. They come and go. But I do know things  
18 are getting tough.

19  
20 Clams, we don't have any federal land  
21 to dig on, but in the state land, they are gone. We've  
22 been shut down for four years. So, we do have food  
23 security problem. The moose. We've worked so hard on the  
24 moose, and I'm very passionate in the moose. And I eat  
25 everything. I fight all the time with my son to get the  
26 tongue. And the only way we solve that, we each got one.  
27 But anyway. So, so. But we love to eat. You know, I love  
28 the kidneys, and all the internal organs, even the  
29 (indiscernible). But anyway, that's a whole nother [sic]  
30 story in the Bible. In the Bible of the moose. But  
31 anyway, I got a couple other things there. Ninilchik of  
32 course, has been dry. No snow, the same as everyone  
33 else's report. Things are changing a little bit around  
34 there. So, we're going to see what happens with the --  
35 you know, the state wanting to do a lot of different  
36 things. And I'm really concerned about them starting,  
37 you know fisheries that are that -- I don't think will  
38 be helpful to the state. You know, hatchery seemed to  
39 work. But hatcheries become a problem, too two when you  
40 create too many fish, especially pinks, and the pinks  
41 got so prolific that, you know they get them for these  
42 seiners, but they're competing for the wild food. And  
43 it's been proven to us that we're losing our edge there.  
44 Because I was just astounded at a couple RAC meetings  
45 ago, we had some very great reports from some scientists  
46 and biologists, and they talked about the mix of hatchery  
47 fish now, and all the way up the Western -- all the way  
48 up the coast, everywhere. It's about 70 or 80% hatchery  
49 fish now, that's unbelievable. A lot of it is from  
50 Russia, from Chile, other areas that are out of our

1 control too. But so, we're building capacity, but it's  
2 also killing our other stocks in some ways, that's my  
3 belief. Anyway. I just throw that out there. What did I  
4 miss? The fish commission. The silvers, thank Judy, food  
5 securities, fishing, moose, the Chair. You guys still  
6 got confidence in me. Faye, I never cut you off. I know  
7 better than that. But I might have to slow you down a  
8 little bit.

9  
10 But anyway, all's well, in some ways,  
11 you know, we share foods, and, you know, we have the  
12 Kenaitze Indians next to us. And I'll tell you a story  
13 about them. You know, the Kenaitze went and they fought  
14 and helped us with our C&T in Ninilchik for years. We  
15 had the whole tribe up there go testify to the Federal  
16 Board and everything. And unfortunately, they got  
17 considered rural. But I was always trying to push the  
18 idea of a village within a rural area, within the city  
19 area, because there are users there. They were  
20 traditional users, Kenaitze Dena'ina. If anyone was a  
21 traditional user on the Kenai, it was them and they got  
22 cut out if it. So, they got a state permit, and they do  
23 state fisheries to kind of get some buy. That state  
24 could close at any time. They shut down ours and  
25 everything. So, not gloom and doom, you know. We're going  
26 to figure a way around this. But we do have to figure a  
27 way to get the food to the federal subsistence qualified  
28 users. And this competing upriver downriver is a  
29 problem. We have to do it. The trawlers is a problem.  
30 There are so many problems. I wish I was governor; I  
31 would straighten some things out. But anyway, that said,  
32 thank you all and we'll proceed, and we'll move on to  
33 agenda now. But if you have questions for me, I'd be  
34 glad to tell you about it. I've seen a lot of this stuff.  
35 And, you know, I took a lot of notes when you guys were  
36 gone. And it's kind of just -- it just reminds me of the  
37 same things that happened to our place. Same things  
38 happened to our village and same things that got  
39 destroyed. The moose, we kind of took them into our own  
40 hands. I told you, I'm very passionate about moose, but  
41 we took in predator control ourselves because the state  
42 wouldn't do it. And we had so many wolves that were  
43 killing off the moose. So, we got some trappers now that  
44 have taken out considerable amount of wolves, and that's  
45 really helped the local population there. So, we're  
46 doing some of that stuff also. Okay

47  
48 MS. SELANOFF: First off, I'd like to  
49 tell you happy belated birthday. And if you want to run  
50 for governor, we can put you on the ballot.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got too many silver threads among the gold, but I could sure give him a run for his money. That wouldn't be a hard one to take out. Anyway. Thank you.

We got public and tribal comments on non-agenda items. It's available every day and I have one here from Matt. And, Matt, if you want to come up and give us an update or some of your experience. And he's, he's so kind. He even wrote quick on his thing. Go ahead.

MR. PICHE: Good morning. For the record, my name is Matt Piche. I am a federally qualified subsistence user and a Cordova resident. I just wanted to give a quick update. I have two years of participation in the new lower Copper River federal subsistence salmon fishery. My wife and I, as well as our friends, are still averaging about 1 to 2 fish per hour in the month of June. We've yet to fish the month of July. It can be tough fishing, but it's our only access to the Copper River fish if you don't have a skiff. The state fishery is still the most efficient way to get fish, but people are starting to figure out the federal fishery. And I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank this RAC for supporting this federal opportunity to access the Copper River right here on our delta. So, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you, Matt. Any questions for Matt?

(No response)

Thank you. Okay. Once again, we'll announce that any public comments put in -- or someone on the phone too.

MS. PILCHER: Yep, and just as a reminder, it's star five to raise your hand and star six to mute and unmute.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, now we're going to go to Council member training, proposed change to federal hunting and trapping regulation. And I think Hannah is going to give us that. Thank you.

DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just give me a minute to set up the presentation here.

1 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa,  
2 everybody also has a hard copy of that presentation in  
3 that blue folder. It's tab 1, aka the very first page.  
4

5 (Pause)  
6

7 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
8 and members of the Council. My name is Hannah Voorhees.  
9 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
10 Management, or OSM, and I know I presented to your  
11 Council a couple of times over the phone in the past.  
12 Recently I was assigned to your Council as your  
13 anthropologist, so I really look forward to getting to  
14 know each of you better and learning more about this  
15 region, which actually is my home region. Although not  
16 -- I don't hail from a rural area. I was born and raised  
17 in Eagle River. So, we are currently in the Wildlife  
18 Open Call for Proposals, which ends April 4th. So, for  
19 this 2025 Winter Council training, I'm going to briefly  
20 cover how to propose changes to federal subsistence  
21 hunting and trapping regulations. There are two main  
22 ways to change federal subsistence regulations. Let me  
23 just make sure the slides are advancing here. There we  
24 go.  
25

26 There are two main ways to change  
27 federal subsistence regulations via special action  
28 request or a proposal. The key difference is that special  
29 actions are for temporary short-term changes and can be  
30 submitted at any point, whereas proposals change  
31 codified regulations and can only be submitted during  
32 the open periods. Since we are currently in the open  
33 period, I'm going to walk you through the proposal  
34 submittal process.  
35

36 If the Council would like to submit a  
37 proposal, all we need is for one of you to make a motion  
38 and have a vote to submit the proposal on the record,  
39 and then OSM staff will draft it up for you to submit.  
40 This can happen at any time during the meeting. Any  
41 member of the public can also submit a proposal via mail  
42 to our office, or you can hand it to me or any other OSM  
43 staff member during this meeting, or you can submit it  
44 through the regulations.gov website. When submitting a  
45 proposal as a member of the public, please make sure to  
46 include who is submitting the proposal, including  
47 contact info. What regulations you want changed, in  
48 which unit, what you want the regulations to say, why  
49 you want to make this change, and any supporting  
50 information to help the Board evaluate your proposal.

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3 Sometimes proposals are ruled invalid,  
4 but it will be because they pertain to things that are  
5 outside the Board's jurisdiction. Examples are halibut,  
6 marine mammals, migratory birds, or non-federal lands.  
7 For reference, the subsistence regulations can be  
8 changed -- that can be changed through regulatory  
9 proposals or found in the Code of Federal Regulations  
10 in subpart C and D. Subpart C and D cover a wide variety  
11 of regulations from general regulations such as sealing  
12 requirements and definitions to more specific  
13 regulations like harvest limits, seasons, permit  
14 requirements, and customary and traditional use  
15 determinations. Thank you. And please remember, we are  
16 currently in an open period for proposals which would  
17 need to be submitted by April 4th. I'm happy to answer  
18 any questions you may have, and my colleague Brian  
19 Ubelaker is in the room as well. We're also able to  
20 share examples. If you're interested, just let me know  
21 if you'd like that. Thank you. This concludes my  
22 presentation.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
Hannah. Go ahead, Andy.

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
Chair. Just a quick question. I see wildlife proposals  
may request changes to -- does that also include  
fisheries proposals?

DR. VOORHEES: No. Through the Chair.  
Thank you, member McLaughlin. We're currently in a  
wildlife cycle. A wildlife call for proposals. This  
alternates by year. So, next year you'll have an  
opportunity to submit fisheries proposals.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, would it be accurate  
to surmise that the change in hunt area boundaries or  
unit boundaries is a potential -- during a fish cycle -  
- fish proposal change cycle. The change in fishing area  
boundaries and unit boundaries is a potential?

DR. VOORHEES: Yes, I believe that's the  
case.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That answers  
your question? Okay. Thank you. Any other questions  
for...? Go ahead, please.

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MS. EWAN: Does [sic] these proposals can be directed from a tribe and an individual can submit it, or does it have to be endorsed by a tribe or, you know, public?

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. Thank you, member Ewan. So, proposals can come from either a tribe or an individual. Either of those entities could submit and they would just follow the directions that I outlined on this Slide. I'll navigate.

MS. EWAN: So, how do we get the scientific data to support our proposal? I asked Department of Fish and Game for a lot of data. I still never got it. That's two years ago.

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This is Hannah Voorhees. So, you may include whatever information you have in your proposal. Certainly, your experience as subsistence users and traditional knowledge is extremely important to include in any proposal. And then as part of the analysis process, OSM will do that work of tracking down whatever data we can find and do our best with that for you. Thank you.

MS. EWAN: The one thing about the proposals and I see regulations and stuff, but I don't see anything related to the environment because, you know, what happens on the land happens in the water. And to protect the fish and wildlife, I think there should be an environmental statement or EIS or something to back up why I think that fish is sick because of plastic PFAS. and I don't see, you know, none of this stuff in any of these regulations or any scientific -- I see these numbers, you know, the charts and stuff, but it would be nice to see if we could get some of that included in our package. So, we do know what we're dealing with and I'm very involved with environmental climate change, and I work on that a lot. And I believe with a lot of the things that's going on that we could do an environmental change and do a regulations because we want to protect the fish and the animals. I think that we need those data to back it up. And I know the federal piggybacks with the state system, but I think it needs to change because the fiduciary trust responsibility to the tribes is not being upheld. And I see it. And that -- that's why I'm here. Thank you.

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1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you for that  
2 comment.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank  
5 you, Hannah. I'll address that comment to I think you  
6 could put the proposal of any sort you want and write  
7 in there your reasoning for that and see if it affects  
8 it affects the proposal for the fish or whatever. Go  
9 ahead, Andy.

10  
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you. In the  
12 past, we've as a Council here, we've requested the OSM  
13 to provide us information like ocean acidification. We  
14 want more data. We want more information on that and  
15 then they very greatly bring us specialists on that. And  
16 we get to learn about that, to add that into our  
17 proposal. So, that's a mechanism here that you can access  
18 the data.

19  
20 MS. EWAN: Okay, thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. No  
23 shortage of resource. Thank you, Hannah.

24  
25 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, if I could just  
26 briefly respond to that. Yes. OSM is definitely able to  
27 invite people to speak and present information to you  
28 and help that -- help your decision making in that way.

29  
30 MS. EWAN: On a side note, I wrote some  
31 proposals for Department of Fish and Game. They didn't  
32 even pass it. None of it. They all talked about it. I  
33 really think we need to do something about the GIS and  
34 the fish finder, especially on the Copper River. I don't  
35 think it should be allowed because they go with the  
36 fish, and that's where they take their business to dipnet  
37 and fish and I'll work on that. Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
40 Hannah. Oops. Michael had a question. Sorry.

41  
42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Michael Opheim. I was  
43 curious about a -- an elders and youth hunt for deer in  
44 the area. There's been talk of a lot of people,  
45 transporters bringing a lot of people in, and they're  
46 hitting areas where folks usually take their youth to  
47 kind of educate them and get their first deer. And so,  
48 it'd be great to have an elders and youth hunt for deer  
49 in the area here and try and keep those areas kind of a  
50 little more protected for those locals to be able to get

1 out and do that, pass that knowledge down.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You certainly  
4 could put that proposal in and make it for that area.  
5 We could support it.

6

7 MR. OPHEIM: Okay.

8

9 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the  
10 presentation, and I guess I'd encourage the new members  
11 to look at the presentation in our packet here because,  
12 I mean, we all have lots of thoughts on what could change  
13 in this world, but we have to recognize our part in it.  
14 And so, I think Hannah and others have pretty clearly  
15 said, you know, what would -- what are the kinds of  
16 topics within the regulations that we can ask for a  
17 change on. And some of the things mentioned here are  
18 kind of way outside the Federal Board's responsibility.  
19 We can maybe raise them as concerns, but it would  
20 probably not be worth putting in a proposal because it's  
21 out of their control too. So, just we do have sideboards,  
22 unfortunately. Otherwise, we -- a lot of things we'd  
23 like to change.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. That said  
26 simplify it. If you got a passionate or a proposal, you  
27 know, you write it up, get help from the OSM or whatever.  
28 Have your tribe write it up, you know, and give it a  
29 fly. We'll take a shot at it and see what we can do.  
30 Okay. Thank you.

31

32 MS. PILCHER: I did want to point out as  
33 well that under action items, there is a call for federal  
34 wildlife proposals, which is one of the reasons Hannah  
35 was giving this presentation. So, we will have an  
36 opportunity to talk about if the Council would like to  
37 submit any proposals as well here in a little, tiny bit.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll  
40 call for proposals. You got a tiny bit. Thank you. I  
41 think that's it.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
44 think I'm up next, so I'll just stay here.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you're up  
47 next. Okay, well that's why. Yeah, absolutely. Okay. The  
48 next one is Wildlife Proposal 24-01, statewide sale of  
49 brown bear hides, deferred. That was a deferred  
50 proposal. So, if you guys want to take a look at that,

1 Hannah, you go right ahead. Give us the overview.

2

3 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Again. Just one second. I want to make sure this  
5 presentation is being shared online as well.

6

7 MS. PILCHER: Okay. And that is -- this  
8 going to be found in supplemental materials. So, for  
9 those that have it in hard copy, it is the document with  
10 the ring. And that is the very first page as well.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 DR. VOORHEES: All right. Again, this is  
15 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM. And next I'll  
16 be presenting deferred wildlife proposal WP 24-01. This  
17 proposal was originally submitted in 2023 by a resident  
18 of McCarthy, who requested that the Federal Subsistence  
19 Board allow the sale of brown bear hides under federal  
20 subsistence regulations. The analysis starts on page one  
21 of your supplemental materials. We are bringing this  
22 proposal back to your attention because there is new  
23 information for you to consider. This is a statewide  
24 proposal, but we are only asking you to make a  
25 recommendation that applies to your region. All other  
26 Councils are doing the same. So, first I want to give  
27 you some background on how we got here. This proposal  
28 was first presented to this Council in October 2023 and  
29 at that time you supported the proposal as written by  
30 the resident of McCarthy, rather than with the OSM  
31 modification that was presented at the time. The  
32 original OSM modification would have limited sale of  
33 brown bear hides to those taken in areas with a two  
34 brown bear limit under federal regulations. OSM did this  
35 in an attempt to be consistent with the state system for  
36 authorizing the sale of brown bear parts, which I'll  
37 explain more later.

38

39 However, this Council stated that that  
40 modification would not benefit the proponent who lives  
41 in an area with a one brown bear limit that is in Unit  
42 11. You also said that selling brown bear hides would  
43 be beneficial to residents of smaller communities. Going  
44 forward, after you made your initial recommendation, the  
45 Board deferred the proposal at its April 2024 meeting.  
46 The Board did this to allow OSM time to find a way to  
47 allow federally qualified subsistence users to sell  
48 hides from brown bears, even if they were taken in a  
49 unit with a one brown bear limit. They also wanted to  
50 make sure that the solution would not conflict with the

1 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species  
2 or CITES.

3  
4 After the Board's first deferral, OSM  
5 went back to the drawing Board. The resulting addendum  
6 begins on page 18 of your supplemental materials. There  
7 is now a completely new OSM conclusion and modification  
8 for you to consider, which is hopefully more consistent  
9 with the sentiments this Council expressed in October  
10 2023. Although of course that's up to this Council. The  
11 addendum was presented to the Board at their meeting in  
12 February of this year. The Board again deferred the  
13 proposal, this time to allow all ten Councils, including  
14 this Council, to provide recommendations on the revised  
15 OSM conclusion and this is why the proposal is coming  
16 back in front of you today. The revised OSM conclusion  
17 is to support proposal WP 24-01 with modification, so  
18 that the hides of brown bears, with or without claws  
19 attached, may be purchased within the United States for  
20 personal use and not to be resold. The hunter must  
21 request an OSM customary trade permit and must return  
22 the permit. Additionally, the modified regulation will  
23 align federal sealing regulations with State of Alaska  
24 sealing regulations. Some of the most pertinent language  
25 from the modified regulation is listed on this slide.  
26 So, next, let me try to unpack this revised conclusion  
27 for you.

28  
29 The Office of Subsistence Management  
30 Modification would now allow the sale of a hide from a  
31 brown bear harvested under federal subsistence  
32 regulations, regardless of the federal harvest limit in  
33 the Unit it was taken so long as there is a federal  
34 opportunity. The focus of the OSM modification is to  
35 limit sales to purchases within the United States. The  
36 OSM permit would only allow for domestic sales, whereas  
37 the existing ADF&G permit to sell hides for is -- for  
38 internet -- allows for sale internationally. This is  
39 because international sale of brown bear hides is  
40 regulated by the Convention on International Trade in  
41 Endangered Species or CITES. Only ADF&G is authorized  
42 to issue permits, which are necessary to sell brown bear  
43 parts internationally, and they only allow the sale of  
44 hides from areas with a two brown bear limit. They are  
45 currently unable to take on the additional burden of  
46 issuing permits for areas with a one brown bear limit.  
47 By only allowing for domestic sales, the OSM permit would  
48 not conflict with CITES. In order to sell a brown bear  
49 hide under federal regulations, it must still be sealed  
50 by ADF&G and the seal must remain on the hide when sold.

1 Sealing is already a requirement for all brown bears  
2 harvested in your region.

3  
4 The following two elements of the OSM  
5 modification will align federal regulations with State  
6 of Alaska regulations and permit requirements. First,  
7 the purchase of a hide must be for personal use and not  
8 to be resold, which is intended to prevent customary  
9 traded hide from entering from entering a commercial  
10 market, and number two, the seal number must be included  
11 in any advertisement of sale, which allows law  
12 enforcement to identify that a brown bear harvested for  
13 sale on the internet, for example, is from a legally  
14 harvested brown bear. The OSM modification then goes on  
15 to allow a hide to be sold with or without claws  
16 attached, which will allow a federally qualified  
17 subsistence user who removes a claw to incorporate it  
18 into a handicraft and to then sell the hide. However, I  
19 would note that currently the federal regulations do not  
20 allow the sale of a handicraft incorporating either the  
21 hide or claws of brown bear harvested in any region --  
22 I'm sorry, any Unit in the Southcentral region. And  
23 finally, the OSM modification removes from federal  
24 regulations the requirement in some areas of Alaska that  
25 at the time of sealing, the sealing official must remove  
26 and retain the skin of the head and the front claws of  
27 the bare hide. This will align federal sealing  
28 regulations in these areas with current State of Alaska  
29 sealing regulations. But this requirement does not exist  
30 for the Southcentral region anyway.

31  
32 In conclusion, the OSM modification  
33 complies with Cites and allows federally qualified  
34 subsistence users to legally sell the hides of brown  
35 bears domestically, regardless of the federal harvest  
36 limit. The ability to sell hides from brown bears  
37 harvested under federal regulations is not expected to  
38 result in overharvest, because the meat already must be  
39 salvaged, and this would continue to be the case. So,  
40 back in 2023, this Council did not like OSM's  
41 modification, but that that aspect has now been removed  
42 from OSM's revised conclusion pertaining to the two  
43 bears stipulation -- two brown bear limit stipulation.  
44 If adopted, this proposal would not apply to bears taken  
45 for defense of life and property, and it would not apply  
46 to previously harvested bears. And I'll note that there  
47 are three units in south central Alaska in which there  
48 is currently a federal subsistence brown bear hunt where  
49 this proposal would have an effect and these are in  
50 Units 11, 13 and 15. Finally, one implication of this

1 modification, if adopted, is that federally qualified  
2 subsistence users would now be able to sell hides from  
3 brown bears taken in national parks. Only federal  
4 subsistence regulations apply in national parks, so  
5 currently you cannot sell these hides.

6  
7 Sorry, I missed a slide. Although this  
8 is a statewide proposal, again, we're really looking for  
9 this Council's perspective on whether the proposal is  
10 culturally appropriate for your region. Thank you for  
11 your attention. This is the end of my presentation. I'm  
12 able to answer any questions. And also, Pippa Kenner,  
13 who is the author of this analysis, is -- should be  
14 standing by on the line. I know this is kind of a complex  
15 proposal and timeline, but hopefully you know what you  
16 see before you at the end of the day with OSM's  
17 modification is pretty straightforward. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
20 Hannah. Questions for Hannah? Michael.

21  
22 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim. On the list  
23 of animals here with -- you have brown bear. Does that  
24 also include grizzly? Is that under the same species?

25  
26 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Through the Chair.  
27 Thank you, Michael. So, brown bears and grizzly bears  
28 are considered to be the same species for -- one and the  
29 same for regulatory purposes, even though we know there  
30 are differences. It's a good question.

31  
32 MR. OPHEIM: And another question.  
33 Michael Opheim. You -- I was trying to -- when you were  
34 talking about the tagger removing skin and claws. Was  
35 that it? In your presentation? I didn't quite understand  
36 that, so I don't know if you could go back over that.  
37 So, it would help me understand that a little more before  
38 the sale. Is that what it was?

39  
40 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, member Opheim.  
41 So, currently in some regions in Alaska, in federal  
42 regulations there's a requirement that when the hide is  
43 sealed, the sealing official must first remove and  
44 retain the skin of the head and the front claws of the  
45 bear hide. I don't know very much about this particular  
46 regulation and its history, but I do know that apparently  
47 this is no longer in state regulations. So, I think the  
48 effort here is to simplify the federal regulations by  
49 removing that requirement where it applies, and it only  
50 applies to some regions of Alaska under federal

1 regulation. Just to simplify the process and align the  
2 regulations better.

3

4 MR. OPHEIM: Okay. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye.

7

8 MS. EWAN: My concern is that the hunting  
9 of -- I mean, they're allowed two brown bears a year?

10

11 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, in some areas, it  
12 depends where you are. For example, let's see in  
13 Southcentral Alaska -- well, and it also depends whether  
14 we're talking about under state or federal regulations.  
15 So, I can answer any more specific questions. I can try  
16 to help if you have them.

17

18 MS. EWAN: What about the gallbladder?

19

20 DR. VOORHEES: It's illegal to sell the  
21 gallbladder of a bear under I believe both state and  
22 federal regulations.

23

24 MS. EWAN: Well, as Ahtna Koht'aene, it's  
25 against my way of life to hunt grizzly and brown bear  
26 because we consider them respected animals. And why does  
27 McCarthy area want to go out and shoot brown bears and  
28 sell them for anyways? I mean, what is the purpose of  
29 it? Money? Why -- why I say that is that pretty soon  
30 you're going to see everybody out there hunting brown  
31 bears and other animals, and you'll see a illegal catch  
32 going on pretty soon and I'm really concerned about that  
33 because our ecosystem goes in a circle. And when one of  
34 the species is gone, it affects that circle of life. And  
35 the brown bears live off fish. Fish lives off, you know,  
36 you know, the water. And then just it goes in -- what  
37 my concern is that if somebody goes out there and shoot  
38 two brown bears and they got five brothers and sisters  
39 right here, and that's going to be 10 to 12 bears that  
40 they can get at one time. And you know, how much are  
41 they selling these bear skins for? What is the  
42 regulation? I mean, what is the price on the bear skin?

43

44 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. So, I  
45 think one thing to remember is the meat must still be  
46 salvaged, which is usually a good deal of labor involved.  
47 And you know, there's still is a fairly low individual  
48 harvest limit. I don't know if this will result in an  
49 increase in sales, but I know there's some information  
50 from the state side that they've allowed the sale of

1 hides, and they don't believe that it's increased  
2 harvest overall. But these are -- I mean, these are all  
3 really important considerations for your Council and  
4 what you believe is appropriate in terms of taking action  
5 on this proposal. I just wanted to answer part of your  
6 question, which was, you know, why the proponent was  
7 interested in doing this. And just from the analysis, I  
8 have some language here that says the proponent states  
9 subsistence users in many areas of Alaska must salvage  
10 the hides of brown bears. However, they cannot be sold.  
11 The proponent continues that the hides of many other  
12 legally harvested big game species may be sold, and brown  
13 bears should be added to this regulation. And I would  
14 also add that the OSM revised modification is supposed  
15 to set up a situation in which the sale of hides could  
16 be tracked closely and monitored. Just something to  
17 consider. Thank you.

18  
19 MS. EWAN: This proposal, it may benefit  
20 the people from McCarthy area, but what I see is the  
21 influx of a lot of hunters is going to be going up there,  
22 and just to make money, it's not sustainable for  
23 protecting the species. What if they overhunt and get  
24 rid of -- I mean, there's no more brown bears and there's  
25 going to be you know, there's populations already that  
26 people are hunting black bears. And I know there's you  
27 know -- I live in Copper River; I live in all these  
28 Units. I know that country very well. And to me, if they  
29 need to use it to benefit, to subsistence users for the  
30 hunting and fishing supplies and stuff like that, that's  
31 different. But not just to go out and shoot 20 bears and  
32 make \$20,000 for yourself. I'm against that. Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other  
35 questions. Sorry.

36  
37 MR. WILSON: Yeah. My question is, is how  
38 could you monitor where this bear came from, what these  
39 people killed when they take it and have it tagged?

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,  
42 Hannah.

43  
44 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair,  
45 actually Pippa, are you online? I'm just checking.

46  
47 MS. KENNER: Yes. Hi Hannah, this is  
48 Pippa Kenner, for the record.

49  
50

1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. I don't know  
2 if -- well, I'll try to answer, and then you can come  
3 behind me if I miss anything. So, when you get the bear  
4 sealed it depends whether, you know, you may need a  
5 registration permit. I think that's only in maybe one  
6 part of this region, but in general, you're just sealing  
7 the bear hide under federal regulations and I believe  
8 you know, you would provide information about where the  
9 bear was harvested and all that at the time of sealing  
10 so the state could track that information.

11  
12 MR. WILSON: Yeah, yeah. My comment to  
13 that would be is if someone shoots a bear like Faye says  
14 and it runs over onto state land, are you going to tell  
15 the Fish and Game that you tagged it on state land or  
16 federal land?

17  
18 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks for that comment.  
19 Yeah.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

22  
23 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Hannah, just for clarification, before we start our  
25 discussion and voting, can you point out to us exactly  
26 what version we're going to be -- I mean, there's a lot  
27 of anyway, what's the most current version? What are you  
28 proposing that we vote on? Which page is it on?

29  
30 DR. VOORHEES: Sure. And maybe I can get  
31 this up on the screen again for you too. So, if you look  
32 at the analysis, I want you to skip over the part that  
33 says the OSM conclusion April 2024. And maybe turn the  
34 page and you'll see the OSM conclusion February 2025.  
35 And I don't have page numbers unfortunately, but -- it's  
36 -- page two. Okay, page two. Okay, so yes, I know it's  
37 a lot. There is -- there -- the language of the revised  
38 conclusion and modification. And then the modified  
39 regulation below that, you'll, you'll see there. So,  
40 I'll read it one more time. Support proposal WP 25-01  
41 with modification that the hides of brown bear, with or  
42 without clause attached, may be purchased within the  
43 United States for personal use and not to be resold. The  
44 hunter must request an OSM, some customary trade permit,  
45 and must return the permit to OSM. Additionally, the  
46 modified regulation will align federal sealing  
47 regulations with ADF&G sealing regulations, and then the  
48 modified regulation would read. And again, the pertinent  
49 language, the most pertinent language here. You may  
50 request a customary trade permit to sell the hide, with

1 or without clause attached of a brown bear legally  
2 harvested under federal subsistence regulations,  
3 providing the hide is purchased within the United States  
4 for personal use and not to be resold. These customary  
5 trade sales must be immediately recorded on a customary  
6 trade permit and must be returned within the time frame  
7 specified on the permit. The hide must be sealed, the  
8 seal must remain on the hide, and the seal number must  
9 be included in any advertisement of sale. And then as  
10 you continue reading, you'll just see the part about  
11 retaining the skin of the skull and the front hides  
12 being crossed out. The skin of the skull and the front  
13 claws are being crossed out to be removed from  
14 regulation.

15

16 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. This is just for my  
17 edification. I probably could read the game regulations,  
18 but what's the status similar to brown bear if there is  
19 on black bear? And the sale of black bear?

20

21 DR. VOORHEES: I am less familiar with  
22 those regulations. Pippa, are you able to provide some  
23 insight on that?

24

25 MS. KENNER: Yeah, again, for the record,  
26 this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So, for -- so, brown bear  
27 and black bear are treated very differently in  
28 regulation and in federal regulations you may sell the  
29 fur of a brown bear if the fur has been incorporated  
30 into a handicraft. Did I say brown bear? You may sell  
31 the fur of a black bear if it's been incorporated into  
32 a handicraft.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Does that  
35 answer, Ed?

36

37 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any  
40 other questions before -- you got a question? Okay. Sorry  
41 about the cough. Okay.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Muffin is very  
46 good, but it's a little crumbly. Tickle my throat. Okay.  
47 Is there any tribes or ANCSA or corporations next that  
48 would like to address the issue?

49

50 (No response)

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Any online?

(No response)

Hearing none, is there agency comments?  
How about the Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

(No response)

Hearing none. How about federal agencies? Okay, Nissa has one.

MS. PILCHER: I did want to refer you guys, if Amber is on, the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC did submit comments to the Federal Subsistence Board, and it is in your blue folder on tab 2. Let me go grab it.

MS. COHEN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Amber Cohen. I am on and happy to read the comments.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amber is going to read them, she said. Yeah, go right ahead.

MS. COHEN: Okay. Thank you. So, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission met back in February 25th and 26th, and they unanimously supported this proposal with the revised OSM conclusion. And given the requirements to salvage the hide's subsistence, users should be able to sell them. Additionally, customary trade of brown bear hides is important for use in handicrafts. One member noted that he doesn't make handicrafts himself, but he could sell the hide to someone who does make and sell handicrafts. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Is there other comments? I believe that was the only comment we had. Okay. Okay, is there any tribal entities, Native, tribal village or other?

(No response)

How about advisory group comments? Other regional Councils? Did we have anything from any other regional Councils?

MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa for the record. So, the other Councils that have met before have all weighed in on this, but we didn't compile them like

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1 you normally do when we do go through proposals that --  
2 this since it was deferred, it's kind of a weird area.

3  
4 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner  
5 with OSM.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,  
8 Pippa.

9  
10 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Nissa, were you  
11 talking about the other Council recommendations? Did I  
12 miss hear you?

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We were  
15 wondering what their conclusion was on this. If you if  
16 you had it. We didn't have it here. Nissa.

17  
18 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I do.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

21  
22 (Simultaneous speech)

23  
24 MS. KENNER: Let me find it here. Make  
25 sure that....

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I though it was  
28 in the material.

29  
30 MS. KENNER: .....tell you correctly.

31  
32 DR. VOORHEES: Pippa, I can probably pull  
33 that up too.

34  
35 MS. KENNER: Hannah, did you just say you  
36 had it? I have it right here.

37  
38 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. Yeah. Please go.  
39 Just go ahead.

40  
41 MS. KENNER: I will then. Okay. So, the  
42 Bristol Bay Eastern Interior, Alaska, Western interior  
43 Alaska and North Slope Councils supported the revised  
44 OSM conclusion in the addendum. The Kodiak/Aleutians  
45 Council opposed the proposal and the reason for opposing  
46 -- I did not listen, but I heard that the reason for  
47 opposing what -- was that it was not appropriate for  
48 their region, in part based on traditional rules around  
49 the use of brown bear parts in sales. Thank you, Mr.  
50 Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Oh, and I need to include the YK Delta RAC also supported the revised OSM conclusion in the addendum.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so if I read that right, there was only one opposition?

MR. KENNER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right. Thank you. Nissa, go ahead.

MS. PILCHER: And there's four Councils that have yet to meet and to discuss this revised.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Good point. Okay. It gives you a little more information to work with? Okay. How about the Subsistence Resource Commission? We got it. That was Amber's. Okay. Any written public comments?

(No response)

Okay. How about public testimony? Anyone out there want to come up and talk publicly on the phone or here? I don't have any blue tickets, but if not, we will move on to Regional Council's recommendation and a motion to support.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second. Michael.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been moved by Andy. Seconded by Michael. Discussion. We're open for deliberation. We've got a motion and a second.

MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I plan on supporting this. It seems like a pretty good thing for people to be able to -- you know, be able to sell in, you know, two bear areas. It's being done in other parts of the state. You know, it's beneficial in the economy and so, I plan on supporting it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Andy, you want to speak to...?

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I don't have a  
2 problem, it's a one bear area myself. I would support  
3 this. As for federally qualified subsistence users, it's  
4 a limited take. Probably statistically very low in  
5 harvest. This is not state support taken. This is just  
6 you know.....

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else  
9 want to talk to the proposal before we vote?

10  
11 MR. WILSON: I'd like to comment.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Kork.

14  
15 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I see a big conflict  
16 with people hunting bears in places they're not supposed  
17 to. And I would really be a lot more in favor of this  
18 proposal if the hide stayed within the subsistence user  
19 groups. Trade and sale amongst each other. Not selling  
20 to the general public. It just seems like it might be a  
21 sticky situation to me. Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
24 Faye.

25  
26 MS. EWAN: You know to subsistence, it  
27 says you're supposed to eat the meat and not wanton  
28 waste. What are they going to do with all this bear  
29 meat? I mean, bear meat is -- bear can be 1000 to 2000  
30 pounds. What are they doing with that meat? In the  
31 meantime, if they're just going out to kill those bears  
32 just for their hides, I think the average hide is 2700  
33 to \$6500 a hide. And you know, I'm not okay with that  
34 because most of these people here that are in McCarthy  
35 area, there was never ever a village or anything that  
36 had to do customary trade. They just moved over the last  
37 60 years after the mining place quit. And to me, it  
38 could be considered rural preference and all this  
39 subsistence users, the indigenous people, we've been  
40 there forever. Our ancestors are there and to me, going  
41 out there and killing bears like that for money just to  
42 trade is not acceptable. But if you're going to use it  
43 for, you know, for yourself and use the meat and  
44 everything else, you're going to eat it. There's a lot  
45 of parasites in bear meat. And, you know, the health  
46 wise, I know a lot of people don't eat brown bear. I  
47 live there, and I see this year is going to be a big --  
48 you're going to see a lot of people going up to up that  
49 in that area, all the mountains, and you're going to see  
50 people start selling a lot of bears. It's going to be a

1 lot of wasted meat, because I know they don't eat that.  
2 And I'm really concerned about the public because  
3 there's a lot of people that don't respect the law and  
4 state or federal, and we're going to see a lot of people  
5 coming up in the Copper River area just to hunt bears.  
6 And, you know, if there's Native people, it's different.  
7 But when it's non-Native people, they're benefiting off  
8 of their land. And you know, our people don't sell a  
9 bear's skin, and we have respect for them. So, I disagree  
10 with this. Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
13 Yeah. It's just not native people's rural preference.  
14 So, just so we remember that. Andy was first. Go ahead,  
15 Andy.

16  
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 So, there is a process here among us that we can have  
19 the OSM do an 804 analysis, section 804 of ANILCA. They  
20 can look in there and that would -- you could potentially  
21 make a proposal that would exclude McCarthy from this  
22 and only allow the certain villages that, you know, have  
23 the earlier forms of C&T, and then make it so that only  
24 they have the legal right to use that. So, there is a  
25 process among us of 804 analysis that you can propose.

26  
27 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
28 Kenner.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: First, go  
31 ahead, Kirk.

32  
33 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I just want to make a  
34 comment to support what she says. And I personally like  
35 to eat bear meat, not grizzly bear, black bear meat. But  
36 I make sausage out of it, and my family really loves it.  
37 But none of the Indians that I share with, and especially  
38 the elder Natives and the Gulkana village, They won't  
39 even accept black bear meat from you. They won't -- they  
40 don't want to eat it.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, yeah,  
43 that's a good point. I think there's a lot of things  
44 that I look at is the people that use it for handicrafts,  
45 blankets, other things, other subsistence uses that that  
46 are good. And the majority are kind of looking at that.  
47 So, I just point that out. Hannah, did you have a comment  
48 to make?

49  
50

1 DR. VOORHEES: Pippa may also have a  
2 comment, but I just wanted to mention there are some  
3 criteria that would be applied when we do section 804  
4 analysis. And you know, usually that would be done  
5 because there's not enough of a resource. And you're  
6 limiting to those most dependent on the -- on brown bear  
7 in an area. So, yeah. So, yeah, customary and direct  
8 dependence, local residency and availability of  
9 alternative resources are the three considerations.  
10 Thanks.

11  
12 MS. KENNER: Yeah. So, Mr. Chair, may I  
13 add on to Hannah's comment?  
14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,  
16 head on. We got a motion and a second to vote on, but  
17 go ahead, give us some more information.  
18

19 MS. KENNER: Well, I was just going to  
20 answer Andy's question and that is, within customary  
21 trade regulations, we are able to limit legal customary  
22 trades to only federally qualified subsistence users.  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank  
26 you, Pippa. I think that's what I was mentioning. Thank  
27 you. Dennis.  
28

29 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Just chime in here a  
30 little bit. I'm going to support this. Mainly because  
31 it's already happening on the state side. I know guys  
32 that harvest the bears in their two years -- or two bear  
33 Units and attempt to sell the hides. The market is not  
34 very strong for it. You know, the 2000 or whatever. I  
35 know guys trying to sell for \$700 and can't get that for  
36 them. So, I don't think it's going to be something where  
37 they're going to come and try to shoot all the brown  
38 bears. But it does give somebody, especially in rural  
39 area, opportunity to make a little bit more money off  
40 something. You know, if you shoot a bear every year for  
41 meat, what are you going to do with all these hides  
42 you're stacking up, you know. So, anyway, that's why I'm  
43 supporting this.  
44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
46 Judy.  
47

48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I  
49 guess again, for the new members on the back of your  
50 names are these criteria that we use for discussions.

1 And so that that's kind of what we're trying to put on  
2 the record here. And I hear your concerns are assumptions  
3 and some -- maybe sometimes they're wrong. But our  
4 assumption is legally qualified subsistence users are  
5 going to follow the rules. So, in so many of the  
6 proposals, we hear lots of predictions. Well, this might  
7 happen. That might happen, and if it does, then there's  
8 other ways to deal with it. So, kind of one step at a  
9 time, with our discussions here being looking at these  
10 criteria and what I hear is it's going to be beneficial  
11 to subsistence users to support this proposal. Thank  
12 you.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good comment,  
15 Judy. That helps. I think all of us -- yeah, it kind of  
16 clarifies what we are limited. But I was just going to  
17 make a comment for myself on the support. In our area,  
18 we have the federal area that's up in the moose range.  
19 And so, we take very little bear. But just so you know,  
20 the brown bear in that area used to be one every four  
21 years. Now it's one per year or so and most people eat  
22 the black bear, not the brown bear. But there are a lot  
23 of people that like it for blankets and rugs and  
24 handicraft, and stuff like that. So, if the state could  
25 do it, we certainly should do it. And the qualified  
26 enforcement has to help us out if there's trouble. Any  
27 other before we take a vote.

28  
29 (No response)

30  
31 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?  
36 Two oppositions. Motion carries.

37  
38 MS. PILCHER: And this is. I just want  
39 to clarify. The motion was made by Andy, seconded by  
40 Michael. And it was to support the OSM most recent  
41 addendum.

42  
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: With modification.

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. The 2000 -- the  
46 modification with the addendum. Correct.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I  
49 should have caught you. You were going there because it  
50 says.....

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MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Number nine that we restate the motion. So.....

MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair, this is Edward GreyBear. I don't know if my vote was counted, but I was against it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Edward, how did you vote? Against?

MR. GREYBEAR: I said no.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you, Edward. Yeah.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, we've had bear discussions before, and it's really clear that particularly in the Ahtna region, there are cultural sensitivities. And so, I wonder if there's a way when this is then presented to the Federal Board, I know in the past there's been some exceptions or carving out so that it might not apply to certain sections within our region. So, that -- I'm not sure if the Board will modify it at that point, but for them to be aware of, because it certainly has been -- they should be aware of it. They've heard it before. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The way we probably have to go forward is if you make like Andy was stating an analysis for a specific proposal for your area to get it excluded is probably the way then to get that passed then it would do that.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I might add that that's when there's a conservation concern. So, if there's a limited resource that's only -- that's being overharvested at some level, you can have that analysis run to make sure that your resource still stays in a viable population that will exist into perpetuity for future generations.

MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the record, and I did want to let Kirk and Faye and Edward know that when we do -- your Council's comments will be taken as a whole when presented to the Federal Subsistence Board and the vote while it was eight in favor, three opposed will be in support. There will be

1 comments and included in those comments will be the  
2 notation that there are these cultural sensitivities in  
3 a specific subpart of the region. And as a reminder,  
4 because, as Judy noted, the Board is aware of these, but  
5 we will make sure that that is in that -- those comments.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's a  
8 great point. So, it'll be in there. And then you could  
9 also, you know, as individuals go to that Federal  
10 Subsistence Board and ask to speak at them and testify  
11 at their hearing. Sometimes we change it at that level.  
12 Thank you. Okay. Who's hungry? Yeah. Okay, lunch, I think  
13 -- how much time do we need? 45 minutes to one, is that  
14 enough? Full hour? Okay, okay. Let's take one hour  
15 break for lunch. We'll come back at 1:15. One hour and  
16 two minutes. Okay. Thank you.

17  
18 (Off record)

19  
20 (On record)

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty folks,  
23 we're ready to go ahead.

24  
25 (Pause)

26  
27 Faye had to go check at the clinic. She  
28 fell down yesterday and banged her knee. So, I don't  
29 know if she's coming back in a bit, but we'll go ahead  
30 and get started anyway. So, our next -- where are we  
31 here? We got called for federal wildlife proposals.  
32 Brian. So, Brian, you're up and ready to go.

33  
34 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good  
35 afternoon council members for the record. Brian  
36 Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with the Office of  
37 Subsistence Management. And as Hannah alluded to  
38 earlier, we are now in an open period for wildlife --  
39 call for wildlife proposals and this is the Council's  
40 opportunity to submit proposals to change federal  
41 subsistence wildlife harvest regulations. An  
42 informational flyer on how to submit a proposal to change  
43 federal subsistence regulations can be found on page 41  
44 of your supplemental materials. As was mentioned during  
45 the training, Councils must make a motion and vote to  
46 submit proposals. Also, the opportunity for Councils to  
47 submit proposals is available during this entire  
48 meeting. If a Council member thinks of a proposal later  
49 or in response to another agenda item, they are welcome  
50 to suggest submitting a proposal then. Of course, anyone

1 can submit a proposal as an individual before the  
2 submission window closes, which is on April 4th of 2025.  
3 Thank you. That's the brief blurb that I have on federal  
4 proposals. I'm happy to answer any questions that you  
5 may have. I'll be here to discuss proposals you may wish  
6 to suggest. And I also have a couple of proposals that  
7 I will float out to you to see if you guys want to take  
8 any action on them. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very  
11 good. Questions for Brian? Do you want to -- go ahead,  
12 Andy.

13  
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I -- thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. I assume we bring these proposals to you in the  
16 form of what the old regulation says, what we think the  
17 new one should say, that type of format.

18  
19 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. Member  
20 McLaughlin. You guys can discuss it. Nissa and I will  
21 put our heads together afterwards, draft the language  
22 for it, and usually route it back through Greg and make  
23 sure it captures everything you guys are interested in  
24 talking about in your proposal, and then we'll get it  
25 submitted for you. Okay. And I guess to fill in on that  
26 a little more, if an individual wants to do that, a  
27 member of the public if they have one written out, they  
28 can hand it to me. I'm not quite sure if we would help  
29 draft the language if it's a member of the public, but  
30 I can answer any questions for anybody, anytime.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very  
33 good. Kirk see, that's how we get the proposals in for  
34 changes. So, we're doing the wildlife section now, so  
35 that's good. Anyone got anything, questions for him or  
36 thinking of proposals. You think of them that comes up  
37 during the next couple of days, we'll entertain them.  
38 Thank you, Brian. Oh, maybe Andy got something. Go ahead.

39  
40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I got two. I'll give  
41 them to him and let him figure it out.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. So, Andy are  
46 you saying you just rather put them in by yourself and  
47 not run them through the Council? Which is fine.

48  
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well, I would need help  
50 drafting them. I kind of have them already -- almost

1 drafted right here. Two of them. They're just  
2 handwritten. I could hand it to Brian.

3

4 MS. PILCHER: Okay, well, we can  
5 certainly help with it -- I mean, what you guys would  
6 want to -- if you wanted the Council to submit them as  
7 a Council, we would just need, like, the basic -- not  
8 the basic. The idea behind it.

9

10 (Simultaneous speech)

11

12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I've got that outlined  
13 right here.

14

15 MS. PILCHER: And if that's something the  
16 Council wants to pursue, then Brian and I can certainly  
17 help work with you, with the blessings of the Council,  
18 to make sure that that proposal is written the way that  
19 the Council/you would want.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Kirk.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Yeah. You heard me talk  
24 about the C&T, and I'd like to write a proposal for that  
25 that would read that we no longer do communities at  
26 whole. You either individually qualify or you don't get  
27 it, and the reason that I say that is, you know, we just  
28 went through that with my community at Tolsona and we  
29 would bring -- be bringing in a whole user group -- they  
30 never even talked to me about this at my community when  
31 they put -- and I'm really the only family in my  
32 community that qualifies, and to accept a community like  
33 that as a whole. And then, I mean, we got 4 or 5 brand  
34 new subdivisions in Tolsona. Now one of them's run by  
35 the, you know, the State of Alaska. I just don't feel  
36 it's right that we should have a community get that and  
37 then just anybody that moves in within a year, you  
38 qualify. It's just -- it doesn't sound fair to me.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's  
41 definitely a challenge. Go ahead, Judy. I'm sorry. Did  
42 you -- go ahead, Judy?

43

44 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. And  
45 maybe folks can help refresh my memory. There is such a  
46 thing as an individual C&T. Okay, so would that be  
47 applicable here? I'm not remembering all the  
48 constraints. Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELWESKI: Go ahead,  
2 Brian.

3  
4 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
5 believe individual C&Ts are a park service C&T. They do  
6 that for resident communities.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is that only in  
9 the parks then?

10  
11 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
12 is Hannah Voorhees. And if there's someone from Park  
13 Service online, feel free to jump in. But yes, this is  
14 -- these are only in park service regulations. And I'll  
15 add that when we look at the eight criteria for  
16 considering customary and traditional uses, a lot of  
17 them focus on the community aspects of use, sharing you  
18 know, generational transmission. So, that usually -- I  
19 mean, when we look at those criteria, we're looking for,  
20 you know, more than use on an individual level. That's  
21 how the Board has evaluated these requests in the past.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. SELANOFF: Sorry I had to clear my  
26 throat. I might be jumping ahead, but I was looking at  
27 your handout on four. And you have a Unit 15D is -- and  
28 that's for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge land and  
29 Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park land and  
30 Alaska Native Corporation land. So, looking at this, I  
31 don't see a 15D. So, is that a proposal to add a section?

32  
33 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. That  
34 is currently a proposal before the Board of Game. They're  
35 going to be deciding on that in two weeks. And so  
36 basically this proposal -- proposed proposal --  
37 potential proposal came from my supervisor. She keeps a  
38 running tab on proposals going before the Board that  
39 will misalign federal and state regulations. This is one  
40 of them that caught her attention. If the Board of Game  
41 were to adopt breaking Unit 15C into two separate  
42 subunits, that would misalign us with federal -- or us  
43 with state regulations. So, there's the if you guys want  
44 to submit a proposal to say if the Board of Game does  
45 adopt proposal 121 and splits Unit 15C into two separate  
46 subunits, then you would put forth a proposal to match  
47 state regulations. So, that alignment -- so that  
48 regulations are still in alignment.

49  
50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. So, currently --  
2 because they're looking at adding that. Does this all  
3 fall -- and excuse my ignorance, does this all currently  
4 fall under 15C and that's why they want the split is to  
5 separate that out better? I'm not sure.  
6

7 MR. UBELAKER: I'm not 100% certain. I  
8 read the proposal and the agency comments on the  
9 proposal. The proponent believes that it will -- the  
10 dividing 15C will -- basically divide it by terrain type.  
11 15C will remain more lowland and 15, the new proposed  
12 15D would be more mountainous terrain. So, she was  
13 talking about splitting it because of terrain type. The  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, they were  
15 neutral from what I read. And once again, I'm not  
16 speaking to state this. I'm just relaying what I  
17 remember. They were neutral on the proposal. They didn't  
18 feel that there was any need to separate it out. It's  
19 managed the same. There would be no difference in  
20 management. There's no current regulations that would  
21 be promulgated in 15D, so they would either carry 15C  
22 regulations over into the newly created 15D, or they  
23 would have to draft all new regulations for a new  
24 subunit. So, they were -- it didn't seem like it had --  
25 it would make much of a change. So, the State was neutral  
26 on it. You know, it all depends on what the Board of  
27 Game decides to do with it.  
28

29 MS. SELANOFF: And I don't know if this  
30 is even the appropriate place to say this, but what  
31 caught my attention about this, first and foremost is  
32 when it says Alaska Native Corporation land. When you're  
33 looking at our Alaska Native corporations, our  
34 corporations do have land, but we also have allotments  
35 too. And I don't know if the allotment -- the ownership  
36 of the allotment owners is not being represented in here,  
37 so I don't know if it's a flat-out Alaska Native  
38 Corporation lands which is inclusive of Native  
39 allotments or if that -- I think it should be. Anyway,  
40 I need to learn more about this proposal. Thank you.  
41

42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Diane, I  
43 -- likewise, I mean it's my Unit and I'm in 15C and I  
44 think it's asinine. But anyway, just -- I need to study  
45 it more. I have no idea why they would want to do it.  
46 It does affect all of our Native lands down there and  
47 to say the highland and lowland, some of the higher land  
48 is where you get into federal land, and we get in the  
49 federal moose range, and that's where we have the federal  
50 preference there. And I certainly don't want to see a

1 bunch of jumbled up regulations in there. But anyway,  
2 we'll cross that bridge. I don't know how you got to  
3 that, really. I don't see it on my agenda, but it must  
4 be in here somewhere. Oh, it's in the handout. Oh, it's  
5 not on the agenda. Is that something we're taking up on  
6 the agenda is my question?

7  
8 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, this is Nissa.  
9 So, Brian did allude to there was a couple proposals  
10 that he wanted to bring to your attention that would  
11 misalign. And this is one of two of them.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got it  
14 now.

15  
16 MS. SELANOFF: Oh, sorry, I said the  
17 supplemental -- it's 4B what we're discussing, but  
18 material on page 41 and handout tab 4. So, I figured  
19 this was the handout tab. So, I was just trying to  
20 keep.....

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah. No  
23 that's fine. We just need to finish up where we're at.

24  
25 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. Okay.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Proposals,  
28 anti-proposals whatever.

29  
30 MR. UBELAKER: Well, member Selanoff  
31 covered the one that I was going to bring up. So, I  
32 mean, I guess we can leave it up to you all if you want  
33 to -- if it's something you're interested in submitting  
34 a proposal say you can submit one preliminarily. And if  
35 the Board of Game takes no action or declines splitting  
36 15C, you can have the proposal withdrawn and we won't  
37 worry about considering it, or you can just roll the  
38 dice and see how the state plays out. And if we need to,  
39 we can submit a proposal later on to align regulations.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, if the state  
42 passes this, the feds don't have to pass it. Correct?

43  
44 MR. UBELAKER: Correct. But that will  
45 misalign federal and state regulations.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I've been  
48 trying to misalign them for years. That's why the federal  
49 program is in here. It's not to align with the state. I  
50 mean, just -- that's the way it is. But yeah, I see

1 really a lot of harm in this one. So, I'm very cautious  
2 about it. But thank you. So, if we wish to make a  
3 proposal, I would like to make the motion to reject it.

4

5 MS. SELANOFF: I agree because if it's  
6 going to -- I mean, we're looking at federal subsistence  
7 users and the Native Corporations will be impacted if  
8 it goes to the state. So, I very much agree with you.  
9 We should do a proposal to reject.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're  
12 gaining traction here. We don't know where we're going,  
13 but we're going to make it. Kirk, go ahead.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is Kirk. I'd like  
16 to work on that proposal I put in before for all of the  
17 federal areas in Unit 13 to be for subsistence users  
18 only. And we have a more dire situation than the last  
19 time I wrote the proposal right now, because the people  
20 in my community, they aren't going to get any caribou  
21 here unless something changes. And our moose population  
22 is at a point now, and the Native people in my community  
23 and subsistence users, we can't compete with urban  
24 hunters. We just can't compete. So, we need some space  
25 and our federal -- oops, our federal land that is in our  
26 area, there's not a lot of it. I mean, there's just not  
27 a lot of area -- it would give us another opportunity  
28 for people to have food.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, that would  
31 have to be specific to the federal lands within the  
32 Unit.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Yes.

35

36 MR. UBELAKER: Or would you be talking -  
37 - you're talking about closing federal public lands and  
38 all of Unit 13. Is that...?

39

40 MR. WILSON: Yes.

41

42 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

43

44 MR. WILSON: If you look at your map in  
45 Unit 13, there's not a lot of federal land that we're  
46 talking about here. The areas are very small. It would  
47 not take away from the urban people very much.

48

49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 So, you -- you're wanting to make the federal regulations

1 more strict than the state sport hunting regulations?

2

3 MR. WILSON: We've already done that in  
4 Unit 13B. I put in for all federal -- and 13B the there's  
5 a pretty good size -- but a lot of it's unaccessible  
6 [sic] to the people. But that area that is accessible  
7 if you if you check the records, our people have done  
8 better there than any place else because they don't have  
9 to compete with the urban hunters. The moose population  
10 in the area that I'm talking about is lower than it's  
11 been in years, and probably more moose was taken out of  
12 that area this year. Another because it's local, they  
13 know how to hunt.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, I'm trying to wrap  
16 my head around this, like I have friends up in the  
17 Interior who reside out of Southcentral region, but they  
18 come down. They're federally qualified to hunt like,  
19 say, when the caribou was there. These little postage  
20 stamps of you see the signs on the road that say open  
21 to federal and then a few miles closed. So, there's  
22 these little zones that are open and closed. And you're  
23 saying you would want those closed to federal users, but  
24 you would, but they still would be open to state users.

25

26 MR. WILSON: No, other way around.

27

28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay.

29

30 MR. WILSON: The federal land would be  
31 open to.....

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, we don't really  
36 manage state in this.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Yeah. We can't manage the  
39 state. We can only worry about the federal.

40

41 MC. LAUGHIN: Okay.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: Just to clarify, Kirk, are  
46 you talking about all species hunting?

47

48 MR. WILSON: No, just moose.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Okay, thank you.

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MR. WILSON: Just moose.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I guess I still need a little clarification. So, you want to close the federal lands in the 13 -- Unit 13 that are only open to qualified users, is what you're saying?

MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. GREYBEAR: This is Edward GrayBear. I wanted to work on a proposal. Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Edward. Go ahead. You got the floor.

MR. GREYBEAR: I wanted to propose a proposal to extend the moose hunting to the end of September for Units 13 and 11. So, I guess two different proposals due to the climate change and the subsistence needs not being met by the end of the season.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you got to wait to get your proposals to us drafted and emailed or something?

MR. GREYBEAR: Yes, I'll email it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Email it to Nissa and then we'll get it. Okay. Thank you, Edward. Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Kirk, one more question. So, right now, moose hunting Unit 13. Okay. Unit 13 A and D, residents of Unit 13 Chickaloon and Slana. B, Units -- residents of Unit 13. I see, 20D and Unit 13C residents of 12, 13 and E residents of Unit 13. So, most of them are only -- most of the subunits are only open to residents of -- local residents basically.

MR. WILSON: It open to the state for sport hunting everywhere.

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MS. CAMINER: On federal lands here.

MR. WILSON: The only thing that -- this area right here is the one that they passed in my last proposal, all I was asking for is this little spot. There's a little teeny spot right here. That's all the federal land there is in Unit 13.

MS. CAMINER: Okay, okay.

MR. WILSON: And I mean, that's what I'm asking for, is our local people to be able to hunt there because they can't compete with these other hunters and the rest of that area. They just can't do it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sterling, do you want to come up? You got your hand up. Sorry, I didn't see you.

MR. SPILINEK: Thank you. Thank you. For the record, my name is Sterling Spilinek. I wanted to kind of explain a little bit more what Kirk's trying to say, and so the proposal that was submitted earlier was to close all federal subsistence land to non-federally qualified users. The reason for this is because on a state permit, you could hunt both state and federal land following the state regulations. But under a federal permit you can only hunt federal land. So, the request is that if you're hunting state land, you hunt -- or under a state permit, you hunt state land. If you're hunting on a federal permit, you're hunting on a federal regulations on federal land. The reason for this request, again, is because when this was brought to the Federal Subsistence Board, they decided to go with only Unit 13B federal land closure because they said that was a larger portion of federal land. But what wasn't considered is the federal land in the other subunits, how beneficial it is for federal hunting, specifically in 13D, and the one chunk of federal land that I think Kirk is referring to is the drainage that is connected to 5 or 6 other or low land connected to 5 or 6 other drainages. And I personally know of about 6 or 7 federally qualified users that are using that area specifically because of the high moose harvest. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, that helps me. Go ahead, Judy.

1 MS. CAMINER: I guess I'll just say we  
2 would have to consider quite carefully requesting a  
3 closure to non-federally qualified people. You know,  
4 adequate resources, or maybe they're not adequate  
5 resources. Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,  
8 Dennis.

9  
10 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Brian, if I could ask  
11 a question, this whole state-federal management is  
12 complicated. Is there any federal lands, federal public  
13 lands that are only open to federally qualified  
14 subsistence users, or is it -- even though they might  
15 have their own regulations under the federal, the state  
16 residents can still hunt that? But is there any place  
17 that says, no, we don't allow any state hunting here,  
18 it is only done under the federal regulations?

19  
20 MR. UBELAKER: Are you asking in regards  
21 to the special action that closed federal public lands  
22 last year?

23  
24 MR. ZADRA: Just kind of in general, you  
25 know, it seems -- and it's more for my education. It's  
26 like, is this being effective at doing what the intent  
27 is? You know, I agree 100%. You know, it should be  
28 reserved for the people that are there that need that.  
29 But it seems like these special hunts and all that get  
30 past or get authorized, but at the same time the state  
31 has -- there's a state hunt operating concurrently. So,  
32 you know, any resident can do that. So, I'm just  
33 wondering, is there places that you can exclude  
34 residents that are not living in that area?

35  
36 MR. UBELAKER: So, under general  
37 regulations, Park Service preserves? The hard park lands  
38 are not open to state harvest. Outside of that -- so,  
39 generally if you take off every federal land closure  
40 that we have, the entire State of Alaska is huntable  
41 minus hard parkland by state residents, hunting under  
42 sport regulations -- state regulations.

43  
44 MR. ZADRA: State regulations.

45  
46 MR. UBELAKER: Then the only time that  
47 they are excluded from federal public lands is when  
48 there's a federal public land closure to non-federally  
49 qualified users or to every user group, including  
50 federally qualified. Does that answer it for you?

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MR. ZADRA: Yeah. But you do have that authority or the I guess the feds have that authority?

MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Yeah. Federal land is open unless closed.

MR. ZADRA: Right.

MR. UBELAKER: Basically. I just say because.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy's next. Go ahead, Dennis.

MR. ZADRA: Oh, I just, you know, I grew up in Colorado, and it's like, everywhere else has federal public lands. But in every other State, the State manages the wildlife. And so that just seems to be the crux up here. So, but that's all just -- trying to educate myself.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy. Your turn now.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Real quick. A potential wouldn't be just the closure and opening of lands, but could be the season timing. And an example would be how federally qualified users say in Cordova or Unit 6 could still harvest one deer up to the end of January, whereas the state ends at the end of December. So, there's times where seasonings -- season closures and this may be an avenue for you to put a proposal in to change the season or extend the season. You know, with, with things like climate change and other things or just to avoid this state pressure in those zones, you could then allow your federal users to get an extra opportunity that just -- that's kind of relative but not, you know.

MR. WILSON: Right now, on these federal lands, you see this little pink piece up here, and this is another one here. And then there's a little teeny one that's the only federal land in Unit 13. And in those federal areas, as a moose hunter, this is for moose only we're talking about that I put the proposal. It's not for everything. You can start hunting on August 1st. So, the season is already there, and we can hunt this other federal area down here on August 1st, too. But as soon as that state hunt opens up us locals as far as hunting in those areas, unless they close it to those urban

1 hunters, we might as well stay home. And I say we, but  
2 I'm telling you, most of the Native people in the -- in  
3 my community and for federal subsistence users, they  
4 don't have the equipment that these urban hunters have.  
5 And this is just an opportunity, which this one already  
6 is an opportunity for us. But we're just asking for this  
7 down here and this in here, for the local people to have  
8 a place to get away from all this mass urban chaos.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I think I would  
13 do better if we saw it written out. Maybe you can work  
14 with staff.

15

16 MR. WILSON: What I'll try to do is get  
17 my old proposal and bring it. And I can't find it right  
18 now.

19

20 MS. CAMINER: Okay. If I there was  
21 probably a reason the Board rejected it, and that would  
22 be good for us to know as well. And just a quick follow  
23 up to Dennis. There are many examples when areas were  
24 closed to non-federally qualified users in the history  
25 of the program and most recently Yukon and Kuskokwim  
26 fishing. So, it has happened. It changes all the time,  
27 clearly, but it is a high hurdle to close to non-  
28 federally qualified users if there are adequate  
29 resources.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy,  
32 thank you for that comment. I'm going to try and get  
33 back some a little bit of control or just so we stay on  
34 task. But Nissa, you want to report back to me the three  
35 proposals you heard so far, or maybe four anyway, so.

36

37 MS. PILCHER: Okay, Kirk mentioned the  
38 Unit 13 moose closure to non-federally qualified  
39 subsistence users. Edward mentioned -- somewhere in my  
40 notes. I'm sorry Edward. It was a moose extension to  
41 federally qualified users in Unit 11 and 13 and I believe  
42 that was for moose. There was briefly a mention from  
43 Kirk about a C&T proposal that -- about being individual  
44 instead of community, but that that conversation seemed  
45 to end when Hannah brought up how OSM has looked at that  
46 in the past. And then Andy did allude to having two  
47 that we didn't actually hear from at the very beginning.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay so, we kind  
50 of got one that we need drafted from Edward on extension

1 of the season and one on Kurt for individual C&T. And  
2 you guys need to put those together, get them to us  
3 because the Board's going to be hard to take action on  
4 any of these proposals were just drafted without more  
5 information Brian. Just a second. Go ahead, Brian.

6  
7 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair when you guys  
8 are coming up with proposals and basically just  
9 generating the idea of the proposal. You can just say  
10 extend the season -- moose season and Units 11 and 13  
11 to the end of September. And Nissa and I will put the  
12 wording together. So, all we really need from the Council  
13 is a motion and saying, yes, we want to submit this or  
14 no we don't.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. My  
17 concern is that we submit what we really want until we  
18 know the details, we can't submit something like that.

19  
20 MS. PILCHER: And then -- sorry.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We could get  
23 started on it. We could get started with asking you to  
24 start the draft of that. And then we got to come back  
25 to the Council to make sure we're all concurrent of it.  
26 So, we can't just -- it's really hard. We need to, in  
27 my opinion, we should take one proposal. We should ferret  
28 it through and see, okay, this is the way we're going  
29 to do it. Deal with that. Then we go to the next and  
30 then next. And so, I mean it's great that you offer to  
31 do that. That's fine. I don't have a problem with that.  
32 But I got to have some control of how I do it. Okay. Go  
33 ahead.

34  
35 MS. PILCHER: And another option is if  
36 we don't have enough time at this meeting because it  
37 does -- the submission date is the beginning of April.  
38 So, of course it needs to either be at this meeting or  
39 none is -- I at least can help individuals draft and  
40 submit proposals on the Council submitted either by a  
41 tribe or an individual, and we can get all the  
42 information you want down on the piece of paper. And  
43 then the Council will, of course, review it in the fall.  
44 And based on those recommendations is when -- is also  
45 when the Federal Subsistence Board defers to this  
46 Council with your guys' -- yeah. In that fall meeting.  
47 Of course, bearing in mind that ANILCA provides that the  
48 Board will accept the recommendations of this Council  
49 regarding take unless the recommendation is not  
50 supported by substantial evidence, the recommendation

1 violates principles of fish and wildlife management or  
2 adopting the recommendations would be detrimental to the  
3 satisfaction of subsistence needs. So, there are  
4 guardrails on there, but that is something that this  
5 Council could do in the fall if something you don't feel  
6 right now is fully fleshed out.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. The other  
9 one too is the Unit 15C, division two.

10

11 MS. SELANOFF: That's the one. That's the  
12 one I wanted to mention to -- not to forget that because.  
13 Okay. All right. Well, I didn't hear it mentioned.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, sir.  
16 Are we ready to ferret out something different? Okay.  
17 All right. So, anyhow, this is something I'm surprised  
18 that I had never noticed before. I can't believe I looked  
19 right through it so many times. But the current  
20 regulation on page 43 of the Federal Subsistence Book  
21 and Wildlife for Unit 6 under brown bear says no federal  
22 subsistence priority and in the far-right column, there  
23 is no federal open season. Okay. In my opinion, what it  
24 should read is for a proposed regulation change under  
25 the C&T column would be Unit 6A to 6D residents of  
26 Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. Because an 804 analysis could  
27 be looked up and found that they have a C&T for those,  
28 I'm quite sure, harvest limit one bear by federal  
29 registration permit is what the second column could say,  
30 and the open season would be August 1st through June  
31 30th. That this change should be made to more accurately  
32 reflect the C&T use of specific rural residents of Prince  
33 William Sound, of time-honored practices that can be  
34 analyzed by the OSM if it's needed and warranted to look  
35 up an 804 analysis. Most of Prince William Sound is  
36 consists of a lot of federal jurisdiction lands, and  
37 many of which contain plentiful brown bear populations.  
38 So, that's the brown bear one.

39

40 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. May I  
41 jump in? Just briefly, I just wanted to thank member  
42 McLaughlin for that proposal, but also to note that when  
43 it says no federal subsistence priority, that means  
44 there has not been a C&T determination, so there is no  
45 determination on which to base a section 804 analysis  
46 or anything like that would be starting from scratch.  
47 So, the proposal would, you know, ask for the C&T  
48 determination for residents of Chenega and Tatitlek for  
49 brown bear in Unit 6.

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would gladly request  
2 that C&T be determined for Chenega and Tatitlek. I know  
3 of stories from elders many years ago back in the skin  
4 boat days with brown bear issues. So, I'm -- historically  
5 it's been a resource that's been utilized by people.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, let  
8 me get this clear. So, you're making this suggesting  
9 that this is a proposal for the RAC to get C&T for the  
10 6D, E and D -- 6D. Okay. A through D. Okay. That's what  
11 I was trying to get straight. Okay. So, that's the  
12 proposal you're suggesting and you're going to help  
13 write that proposal, someone is and do we get that down  
14 now? That's one down. We all agree on that or do you  
15 want to take a vote? Just take a vote. Okay, Dennis. Go  
16 ahead first.

17  
18 MR. ZADRA: Chair a question to you, but  
19 that you're only saying to residents of Chenega and  
20 Tatitlek and not Cordova. Is that correct?

21  
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. I can't really  
23 speak for people on this side of the Sound. I just know  
24 that brown bears have been harvested historically by  
25 people of two communities to the east, and they also --  
26 these same people used to ride -- or reside in Nuchek  
27 on Hinchinbrook Island and other places. There's where  
28 there's a lot of brown bears and kayak through Montague,  
29 which is some of this transfers into other zones.  
30 And.....

31  
32 MR. ZADRA: I guess my question back to  
33 you, though, why are you trying to go all the way to 6A,  
34 which is clear down past the Suckling Hills?

35  
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I just believe  
37 that people of Prince William Sound utilized the  
38 resources, that -- they were somewhat nomadic people,  
39 and they bounced. There's a village that wasn't even in  
40 -- that's not even on maps anymore. There's some names,  
41 some old maps still have it, like up between Tatitlek  
42 and Whittier and other places where these people moved  
43 and utilized resource and then kayaked over to another  
44 zone and utilize the resource and moved around kind of  
45 nomadically amongst Prince William Sound. And I would  
46 believe that the 6A would be included in where they  
47 ventured to knowing that some of their relatives  
48 actually were part of Eyak people. But I don't really  
49 know a lot of Eyak people to ask.

50

1 MR. ZADRA: Okay, yeah. I just -- I think  
2 you were going to disenchant -- I don't know what word.  
3 I'm -- there's going to be a lot of people in Cordova  
4 that would be really felt left out of that, you know,  
5 Eyaks included if they're not.

6  
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well maybe if this comes  
8 up to fruition, you modify that to include them.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy, go ahead.

11  
12 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Andy and Dennis.  
13 Perhaps to OSM as you're doing a, C&T, if we ask you to  
14 look at these two communities, is Cordova an option to  
15 also be looked at, or if we just say the two, that's all  
16 you'll look at? But I mean, certainly in gathering data  
17 you'll find out something about Cordova, I would think.

18  
19 DR. VOORHEES: Member Caminer. That is  
20 an excellent question. And so, because we'd be going  
21 from a situation where there's no federal subsistence  
22 priority, we would not be analyzing every community. So,  
23 there are some cases where we do, for example, if all  
24 rural residents are already qualified, we'd make sure  
25 to look at everyone before narrowing that. But when  
26 there's no federal subsistence priority -- yeah, it  
27 sounds kind of counterintuitive, but I believe we'd just  
28 be analyzing the communities that are on the proposal  
29 in this case.

30  
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, yeah. Thank you. So,  
32 I recall, and if Pippa Kenner's still on the line, she  
33 may recall this too, I think. Greg, other people remember  
34 when Kings Bay for moose a long time ago, it said no  
35 Federal Subsistence Board priority. And I -- and we  
36 brought the same kind of proposal thing forward. And  
37 Pippa was involved in an 804 analysis that was like, oh  
38 yes, definitely Chenega and Tatitlek, but not Point Hope  
39 and Cooper Landing. And, you know, they kind of excluded  
40 the people that kind of were Unit 7 at that point, you  
41 know. So, there was a point where it was not this exact  
42 same way that I'm being told.

43  
44 DR. VOORHEES: I imagine that it was open  
45 to all rural residents at that, if that's what happened.  
46 And I mean, I will add that, you know, any -- there can  
47 always be new proposals to add communities. It doesn't  
48 close the door. Sometimes it takes a little while for  
49 these new C&Ts to be worked out.

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I believe it was  
2 not open. Suddenly, this all -- I remember then when the  
3 book came out and I'm like, whoa, hope and what is --  
4 oh, well, we had to do it for all rural residents at  
5 that. That's how the -- it was originally, how it's  
6 written right now in the book about the bears. So, you  
7 know, it was different a while back.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: If I may say so,  
10 we need to figure out how to just come up with the -- I  
11 got my mic pressed.

12  
13 MS. TELEMAQUE: You turned it off

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, no. It says  
16 it's read. Can you hear me? Okay. Anyway, we need to  
17 kind of get on task to that. We kind of need to get it  
18 in there and get moving. So, do we want to just vote on  
19 that proposal so we could get it on the record that you  
20 submitted that?

21  
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I make a motion  
23 too.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
26 you, Andy. Is there a second?

27  
28 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second by  
31 Michael discussion. Nissa.

32  
33 MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify the motion,  
34 was it only for Chenega and Tatitlek? I'm going to  
35 mispronounce it. I'm sorry. Those two communities or was  
36 it just for those two communities for that motion?

37  
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's those two  
39 communities. And if Dennis thought a modification, then  
40 we could entertain that.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You guys  
43 got the motion now? You want to read it back or are you  
44 good?

45  
46 MS. PILCHER: I think -- I know where you  
47 guys are going, and I don't want to mispronounce that  
48 community again on the record.

49  
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1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, did you get  
2 the.....

3  
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Chenega should  
7 be known well in everyone's mind by now.

8  
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, harvest limit. Oh,  
10 no. That's the other one. Harvest limit one bare by  
11 federal registration permit. Open season, August 1st  
12 through June 30th. And the C&T determination part, Unit  
13 6A through D residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: He made it too.  
16 I told him to go to one and he made two out of it, but  
17 that's okay. You guys good with the second? Okay. You're  
18 really trying to put them together on me, but that's  
19 cool. Okay. Well, we're going to have to figure this  
20 out. It's a bad way to do proposals. What I'm trying to  
21 get across. We're coming up with ideas, and everyone's  
22 just throwing out stuff, and we're all confused. And you  
23 could see it around here. We should get a proposal. Get  
24 it turned into him. Let him work on it and get it back.  
25 And then take a vote on it. Because I hate to vote on  
26 something that's not got real clarity, you know. But in  
27 this case, I think we're pretty good. Did you want to  
28 put the other one with it, too?

29  
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No, the other one's  
31 about beavers.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,  
34 beavers you could have -- okay. We'll go ahead and take  
35 a vote on them. Questions call for? Any more discussion?

36  
37 MS. CAMINER: Question.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has  
40 been called by Judy whether she did it or not. I heard  
41 it. Okay. All in favor, aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

46  
47 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Edward, I don't  
50 know how your vote went on that, but...?

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MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
Okay.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. This one's shorter, quicker. Not as controversial. Anyhow, current regulation in page 44 of the federal subsistence book under C&T beaver. All rural residents harvest limits one beaver per day. One in possession. Open season May 1st through October 31st, which seems like kind of a weird season. Not that into it, doesn't even include part of the trapping season. So, anyhow, the change that I would propose in this right now that I'm going to make a motion for is the harvest limit one beaver per day, three in possession. The open season is year-round because in general, subsistence is a when opportunity knocks, you take advantage of it and it just kind of the nature of subsistence. That food is available when it's available and year-round seems much more appropriate to me than just May 1st through October 31st, which is kind of like summertime only. And certainly, beavers are under the ice. But if somebody wanted to go catch a beaver trapping or whatever and, you know, federally, you know, I believe that that -- so anyhow, subsistence is largely a current to random opportunities when the resource is available. So, very simple. Beaver and the only other change was the three in possession instead of one in possession. You're only allowed to get one, you know, have it on your possession.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: There was a shortage of beavers. You know at one time we talked about that. So, that's what happened. But yeah, three. I know we talked about the year-round season too, but I don't remember what the pitfalls were on it. But we'll entertain your things right there. Does anyone know any more about the beavers or are you making that motion now? Okay, we got a motion. Is there a second to it?

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second. Hang on. Who's that? Come on up. I know there's more regulations to these beavers here.

1 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair, Andy Morris,  
2 Forest Service law enforcement. I just want to give you  
3 a little clarity on Unit 6 beaver. So, the subsistence  
4 season is -- opposes the state season, essentially like  
5 when the state trapping season closes, it opens. So,  
6 that's why those dates -- it isn't year-round. That's  
7 just how it is concurrently. I have no opinion on your  
8 proposal or whatever, but that's just why -- so,  
9 basically, if you can trap then you can -- then you can  
10 wear your -- you can use your state regulation. You put  
11 your state hat on, and then as soon as that closes, the  
12 day it closes for Cordova residents -- well, Unit 6  
13 residents, then you can then you can still hunt beaver  
14 for you know, for the remainder of the year. The -- and  
15 the one difference that just changed in state regulation  
16 was you used to be able to -- well, you can't use traps,  
17 right. Like you're actually hunting them. You have to  
18 shoot them. Which does have the -- I've seen in my  
19 enforcement experience, you know, you have a -- you  
20 definitely have a loss there because you're not --  
21 they're getting shot. They're swimming down, you know,  
22 there's losing -- we had a case at one point where, you  
23 know, we were finding some floating beavers because  
24 people are actually shooting them and then not being  
25 able to recover them because it's summer in the middle  
26 of a pond. But anyway, just a little bit of background  
27 for you guys on that I thought it'd be pretty relevant  
28 for the Unit 6.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I  
31 appreciate that because, see, my knowledge, I knew there  
32 was more problems than the beaver. But anyway, Andy go  
33 ahead.

34  
35 MC. LAUGHLIN: I appreciate that that  
36 that makes sense of how it was developed, but that still  
37 requires a federally qualified subsistence user to have  
38 a trapping license throughout the -- or, because you  
39 have to have that furbearer license in order to shoot  
40 them in the wintertime during trapping season.

41  
42 MR. MORRIS: And absolutely. And that did  
43 just change also, just so you're aware I guess previous  
44 to I believe it was just last year, if no more than two  
45 years where you couldn't use a firearm to take beaver.  
46 Right. So, you had to actually trap them with steel, so.

47  
48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm all for making  
49 federally qualified subsistence users have a little more  
50 ease in that and not be tied to any type of certain

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1 state regulations.

2

3 MR. MORRIS: Yeah, I just want to give a  
4 little clarity on how that -- the kind of history on  
5 that regulation. Thank you for your time.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Yes.  
8 The beavers. Go ahead, Kirk.

9

10 MR. WILSON: I'd just like to say one  
11 thing to the beaver. I've wrote some proposals on that  
12 in the past. And as a trapper, when I go out, I would  
13 rather be able to shoot a couple of big beaver and leave  
14 all the little ones there and then trapping. It's  
15 indiscriminate.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, he's  
18 going to get them either way now. Okay. We get a motion  
19 and a second to vote. We're ready to vote if someone  
20 wants to call the question.

21

22 MR. OPHEIM: I'll call the question.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The question  
25 has been called. Discussion is halted. All in favor,  
26 aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

31

32 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Ed. How do you  
35 vote?

36

37 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
40 Well, maybe I didn't want that on the record. Okay, we  
41 got three proposals. What else we got on proposals,  
42 Nissa? Do we want -- let's -- Diane let's just -- do you  
43 want to make a proposal on the on the new Unit in 15C  
44 and say that we oppose it until we know more about it  
45 or...?

46

47 MS. SELANOFF: I will make that a motion  
48 to oppose. I believe it is proposal 121 until we are  
49 more aware of it, because it can become a state regulated  
50 as opposed to federal and we'll lose our.....

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MR. OPHEIM: I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Michael. Go ahead, Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify, process wise, what's going on right now is I'm assuming what you're intending to do is to submit a comment to the Board of Game in opposition of proposal 121. Because of that -- because of the reasons you just gave as a -- because you -- a negative proposal doesn't really exist, but you can oppose that current proposal.

MS. SELANOFF: Yes.

MS. PILCHER: Okay.

MS. SELANOFF: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got to be able to oppose something. Okay, we got a motion and a second, and.....

MS. SELANOFF: Call for question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

(No response)

I didn't hear it, so I didn't hear Ed, so I think he's for it. Thank you. Okay. Now we had we had the individual C&T, Kirk. Do we want to make a proposal on that, or did we need more?

MR. WILSON: I have found.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do we need more study on that?

MR. WILSON: I found my original proposal on that thing, and, I mean, I don't know how we could all read it or look at it. It's on my -- I can't even read it. It's so small on my phone. But I'm certainly, yes, willing to work with somebody and.....

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Kirks going to get with you, Brian and Hannah, whoever work on that proposal. Okay. Is there anyone else that -- what you got?

MS. PILCHER: There was Edwards, that Moose extension in Unit 11.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. Okay. Okay. Now we're going to go Edward to your extension in Unit 11 through 13. You want to put that in the motion for a proposal?

MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'd like to make the motion to extend the moose hunting dates for Units 11 and 13 to the end of September.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been seconded by Michael Opheim. Is there any other discussion?

MR. GREYBEAR: I'd like to just say that with the with the moose hunting -- a lot of the moose that you see, you don't see them until the very last week. And that's due to just the changing environmental conditions with the heat. And so, extending it further to the end of September will allow us to meet our subsistence needs.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. From an individual user and a subsistence user I agree with you, but it's a -- the state always fights us on that one because of a lot of reasons. But if we could do that, I'm all for it. Extending in your units there, so. That's a good time. They claim it gets into the rut and all that. But anyway, okay. A lot of discussion on it. Go ahead, Micheal.

MR. OPHEIM: Just a comment on what he's proposing here. A few years back CRRC actually worked with the Native village of Port Graham to extend the hunting season for moose in their area and now they have 60 days of hunting season. Because of what Ed is mentioning here, with climate and inclement weather not being able to get moose in a timely fashion. So, there

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1 is a bit of precedent, you know, with the state passing  
2 proposal 549, I believe for area -- hunt number 549.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.  
5 I'm gonna [sic] have to get ahold of that old Todd down  
6 there in the Kenai and extended ours, right. Okay, go  
7 ahead Kirk.

8  
9 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I got a short comment.  
10 It's -- this ten-day season would give the subsistence  
11 users an opportunity to be away from this mass of people.  
12 I'm totally in favor.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other  
15 discussion on the matter? Andy.

16  
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, real quickly there  
18 was a big hubbub about oh, no, we can't extend the deer  
19 season in Prince William Sound to extra 30 days in  
20 January and everybody's freaking out. And then also  
21 another one that had happened a few years before that  
22 was because the snow was like this and not pushing the  
23 goats down to where they were easily accessible, where  
24 they historically winter range had been, we extended the  
25 mountain goat season, and I don't believe there's been  
26 any detrimental effects to those populations at all from  
27 these extensions of season being harvested at a higher  
28 rate, which is probably very statistically insignificant  
29 by the federal subsistence users.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it sounds  
32 good. I'll just give you a bit of information on the  
33 Kenai. We got a late hunt in end of October the 20th to  
34 the 10th of November. That's been helpful for the  
35 subsistence user on federal land and so that we've got  
36 that there. But anyway. Okay. Michael, you got another  
37 comment?

38  
39 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. I just was remembering  
40 a few years back; we had actually had a climate change  
41 proposal come in front of us because of the -- not being  
42 able to harvest in a timely manner anymore. So, it  
43 wouldn't be the first one that we'd supported.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good comments.  
46 Okay. Everyone ready to vote on that one? All in favor,  
47 aye.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

2

3 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I heard Ed, loud  
6 and clear. He's aye. Okay. No opposition. Okay. That  
7 carries. Did I get them all? C&T. We got the -- okay,  
8 Brian. Go ahead.

9

10 MR. UBELAKER: Last one, I promise. This  
11 is another potential proposal that hinges on a Board of  
12 Game proposal. Right now, proposal 57 is going to be --  
13 well, it was in front of the Board. They adopted  
14 increasing the brown bear harvest limit to two in Unit  
15 13. This was submitted by the Matanuska Valley AC. So,  
16 they adopted that a bit ago. So, once again, federal  
17 regulations are out of alignment. The current.....

18

19 MS. PILCHER: More restrictive,  
20 currently.

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: More restrictive. Yes.  
23 Current federal regulations is one bear per year. So,  
24 if that's something you'd be interested in taking up,  
25 we can write that proposal as well.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We need the  
28 opportunity. So, yes, I think, but I'm not going to  
29 speak to it all either. Council someone want to address  
30 that?

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think  
33 that makes sense. Thanks for bringing it to our  
34 attention. We don't want to restrict subsistence users,  
35 so if the limit is increasing for other users, it should  
36 also be applicable for subsistence users.

37

38 I'll make the motion that we would like  
39 OSM to prepare a proposal that increases the limit for  
40 brown bear to two a year. Is that right? Thank you. In  
41 Unit 13. Correct.

42

43 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

44

45 (Distortion)

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I didn't hear  
48 you, Ed.

49

50 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I think that covers it. I got a lot of assistance on that one, man. Holy crap. Okay. Oops. I got my mic on. You got more than you asked for, I think. You good?

MR. UBELAKER: Sorry, I'm sorry. I'm spacing out. That was all that I had.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good. Hannah. You're good?

DR. VOORHEES: I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

(Pause)

Nissa is going to do the Council charter review. She'll do it in a timely fashion and give you all the information you would like to know in that review. Thank you very much.

MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Nissa Pilcher. So, your Council charter is found on page 15 of your meeting book. That's the one that's in the black comb bound book. So, all ten-subistence Regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, also known as FACA. Under the act, each Council charter needs to be renewed every two years, so approximately a year before it is renewed, each Council can have a discussion to see if there's anything you want to change. Most of the language in the charter is required by FACA, and that required language cannot be changed, but you can request to make minor modifications with detailed justification. Such things as changing the name of your Council, the number of seats on your Council, adding language on desired geographic membership balance, those kinds of things. If the Council is good with the charter as is, and the requests -- and requests no change, then you just simply vote to forward the charter to the Board. So, either way, this is an action item. Just let me know what you would like to do.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What do you recommend anything? No recommendation. More money, more time. We could recommend trolley service here in

1 Cordova. I took a dive, and I got a bad back. But anyway.  
2 Yeah. No, we lost. We almost lost two. You got one down,  
3 and I'm pretty weak right now. But anyway, I'm pretty  
4 strong. Yeah. No problem. Okay. Is there any way, shape  
5 or form we have to prove it, right? Correct. Someone  
6 want to make a motion to approve?

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to  
9 approve the charter that's in front of us.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

12

13 MR. WILSON: I'll second.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
16 and seconded by Kirk. Any other discussions? Hearing  
17 none. All in favor, aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed? I  
22 heard Ed, thank you. No opposition. Okay. Next, we got  
23 review and approval of fiscal year 2024 annual report.  
24 And Nissa's got a handout there.

25

26 MS. PILCHER: I do. Thank you, Mister  
27 Chair. For the record, this is Nissa Pilcher. So, the  
28 Council's draft FY 24 Annual Report can be found in the  
29 blue folder tab 3. So, your annual report ensures the  
30 Board is aware of issues, concerns and current events  
31 that impacts your subsistence way of life. With your  
32 report and your recommendations, the Board can make  
33 informed decisions on regulatory and policy actions. At  
34 your last meeting in October, the Council identified six  
35 different topics that you wished to include in this  
36 report. Two of those items requested action in some form.  
37 Those topics were: reevaluation of the criteria for the  
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. To delve a little  
39 further into that to include topics that involved  
40 marine. Generally, most marine -- I know it's in the  
41 report. I don't want to stumble and say something  
42 incorrect. It was to involve more marine -- money for  
43 marine projects as well as issues in the ecosystem that  
44 involve chemicals. And the other one was to review the  
45 effects of the Chitina subdistrict personal use fishery  
46 on subsistence fishing opportunities, as well as on  
47 chinook and sockeye salmon returns. And the Council also  
48 identified some topics for informational purposes to the  
49 Board. So, while your Council does not require a response  
50 to the issues, the Council felt the Board would benefit

1 from having this knowledge. Those four items are, one,  
2 concern over acquiring ceremonial harvest permits for  
3 Prince William Sound shrimp. Provide information on the  
4 process to list Southcentral region -- Southcentral  
5 region chinook salmon as a threatened or endangered  
6 species. Ongoing effects of the changing environmental  
7 conditions impacting this region in relation to ocean  
8 resources. And the last one was the alarming rate at  
9 which the Southcentral region's subsistence resources  
10 are being depleted. So, at your fall meeting when we  
11 discussed this, I mentioned I would draft this report  
12 and bring it before the Council at this meeting for  
13 review, to make edits or include any additional  
14 information you'd like me to. But also, please remember  
15 at that Council meeting last fall I did mention we can't  
16 add any new topics. But edits to the original -- these  
17 ones will be taken at this time. So, either if you choose  
18 to edit it or leave it as is. Once again, this is an  
19 action item.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very  
22 good, Nissa. So, we could edit or leave as is. Go ahead,  
23 Andy.

24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, keeping the same  
26 topics. Number five ongoing effects of changing  
27 environmental conditions in relation to ocean resources.  
28 I would like to see a grave concern about the trawling  
29 effect on ocean resources and the damage to the  
30 environment that is happening on the ocean floor,  
31 whether that is Prince William Sound, whether chains are  
32 tickling the ground, or whether that's out in the open  
33 gulf, which is also affecting the resources that migrate  
34 to here from the Gulf.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Did  
37 everyone copy what Andy stated there for edit number  
38 five? Are we in agreement with that edit? Yes, no, maybe?  
39 Go ahead.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thank you. Yeah.  
42 If that's a -- within -- it is within the realm of what  
43 we were saying before. It just hasn't been specifically  
44 mentioned. And I think it should be.

45

46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's informational.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Nissa is  
49 shaking her head. Right. So, that's good. She said,  
50 that's good. Faye it's good to see you back. You're

00098

1 going to make it? Okay. Well, you was dancing around out  
2 there. I took a dive for sympathy for you and beat myself  
3 up a little bit. Beat both of us up

4  
5 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got --  
8 go ahead, Judy.

9  
10 MS. CAMINER: I know we asked for more  
11 money in point number one, I don't know. I mean, the  
12 kind of rings hollow with what's going on right now.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's why we  
15 should ask for more.

16  
17 MS. CAMINER: But. Yeah, right. Well,  
18 anyway, it's we shouldn't put too much faith in that  
19 actually being responded to very positively.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you of  
22 little faith. Okay, we will keep it there, I hope. Okay.  
23 She was concerned about that the money we asked for may  
24 not fall on it. May fall on deaf ears. Although we would  
25 like more, we're not so sure how we should push it or  
26 if we should edit it. If you could find a more convincing  
27 way, we'd be fine with that.

28  
29 MS. PILCHER: Ten-four.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

32  
33 MS. PILCHER: Understood.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other edits?  
36 Okay, with the edits. If someone wants to make a motion  
37 to approve with the edits to approve the annual report.

38  
39 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to  
40 approve the annual report, as amended.

41  
42 MR. WILSON: Second.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
45 and seconded by Kirk. Thank you. Any discussion?

46  
47 (No response)

48  
49 Hearing none. All in favor aye.

50

00099

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

4

5 (No response)

6

7 Okay. You got your amendments to that.

8 That's good. Okay.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is  
11 Nissa Pilcher. So, the next agenda item, there's a couple  
12 of them, and it involves the Alaska Board of Game and  
13 Board of Fish. This is more here as kind of an  
14 informational topic. There is a lot of crossover on this  
15 Council with your local Advisory Committees, which  
16 that's generally under -- that's generally who ways --  
17 pays a lot more attention to the state proposals than  
18 necessarily this Council. Not saying you can't, in fact,  
19 you've already actually done the first one. Alaska Board  
20 of Game statewide proposals. You guys have already voted  
21 to submit a comment to that meeting on proposal 121. The  
22 next is, there's a Board of Game call for proposals.  
23 That's in supplemental materials, page 43. There is  
24 going to be a call for -- there is currently a call for  
25 proposals for the Southcentral region. And then the last  
26 one is a Board of Fisheries call for proposals that's  
27 included Jessica's -- I generally always try to include  
28 it, but this -- there's no overlap with this region  
29 unless it's statewide finfish for that call currently.  
30 So, if somebody -- yeah. So, I'll leave it at that and  
31 let you guys take it from there.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You heard  
34 the report on state proposals or anything, anyone want  
35 to tackle? Anyone want to add anything or anything we  
36 didn't do already? That was an action item to approve  
37 that, was it not?

38

39 MS. PILCHER: Conditional action item.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay.

42

43 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it's a conditional  
44 action item. So, if you guys wanted to take something  
45 up but you certainly don't have to. And you did already  
46 take action on one thing.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We took action  
49 on this. Any other action needed? Doesn't appear so, I  
50 don't see anything, Nissa. Okay, well, I'm going to give

000100

1 this one to Nissa once again. The next is future meeting  
2 dates.

3  
4 MS. PILCHER: All right, everyone again,  
5 Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, in the blue folder has  
6 the most up to date calendars, which include other  
7 Councils that have already met calendar. So, you have  
8 already selected -- it's tab 5 in the blue folder. Yep.  
9 So, for your fall 2025 under tab 5, you guys have  
10 selected October -- Tuesday, October 14th and Wednesday,  
11 October 15th in Anchorage as your meeting dates and  
12 locations. And so, I guess I should talk process. So,  
13 one thing you guys can do is you can take each -- there's  
14 three things I'm going to need you guys weigh to input  
15 on. We can discuss them and then take it up as one motion  
16 at the very end. Which is the most streamlined thing to  
17 do, or you can also do it one at a time. I'm going to  
18 assume you guys want to do it with one motion, and I'll  
19 proceed that way unless somebody has an objection to  
20 that. So, does anyone want to change the fall 2025  
21 meeting dates or location?

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: But this is the  
24 first year.....

25  
26 MS. PILCHER: don't forget your mic,  
27 Andy.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy, this is  
30 the first year we moved it up a little bit. So, it didn't  
31 hit my anniversary on the 10th. But my anniversary, I  
32 think has fallen on a Friday. So, you guys didn't want  
33 to do it Friday, Saturday. So, I don't know.

34  
35 MS. EWAN: Chair, what week is the AFN?  
36 I sit on the AFN.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a good  
39 question. It's usually later, but we could -- someone  
40 got it. I might have it on my calendar. Let me look  
41 at.....

42  
43 MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead,  
46 Edward.

47  
48 MR. GREYBEAR: It's October 16th and 18th  
49 this year.

50

000101

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, okay,  
2 good. 16th through the 13th -- 18th.

3  
4 MS. EWAN: For the First Alaska  
5 Institute. It's -- I think the 13th to the 15th.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You go to both  
8 of them at the same time. Yeah. First Alaska Institute.

9  
10 MS. PILCHER: Also -- this is Nissa. Just  
11 also keep in mind that we can't really do more than 2  
12 in 1 week, so then you're only -- the only other options  
13 really are the end of September, which is generally when  
14 everyone is in the field.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're still  
17 hunting. Yeah. Okay. Well, 14, 15 is looking pretty good.  
18 So, what else did you say? You needed a motion on three  
19 things.

20  
21 MS. PILCHER: I got two more meetings.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh. Two more  
24 meetings.

25  
26 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so the next one is  
27 the winter 2026.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think we'll be  
30 around by then.

31  
32 MS. PILCHER: Optimistic. So, this is --  
33 so you guys have not previously weighed in on when you  
34 want your winter or fall 2026 meetings. So, take a look  
35 at these two calendars, once again if there's already  
36 two Council meetings in one week, we really -- due to  
37 both transcription and staff, we can't really do that.  
38 So, like the week of February 23rd is already off the  
39 table and the week of March 2nd is already off the table.  
40 But if you want to look at that and come up with two  
41 days to meet in the winter of 2026, and so I need dates  
42 and a location.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is the 16th the  
45 week after? March 16th.

46  
47 MS. PILCHER: Nope. March 16th is still  
48 on the table only. Currently the Y-K Delta are meeting.

49  
50

000102

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm looking at  
2 March 16th, 17th for me. But what do you guys think?  
3 That's good, good, good, good, good, good. Ed, are you  
4 going to be able to make March 16th, 17th on the winter  
5 of '26?  
6

7 MR. GREYBEAR: Yep. Yes, I will be there.  
8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay. We  
10 got that one. Now we got one more.  
11

12 MS. PILCHER: Okay and that's 16th and  
13 17th. One.....  
14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep.  
16

17 MS. PILCHER: One thing to note, Andy,  
18 can you travel on Sundays? Use your mic.  
19

20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No, I would have to come  
21 in either on the Thursday or the -- Mondays and Thursdays  
22 are the travel days.  
23

24 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, we could -- I  
25 could either -- if his schedule allows, bring him in  
26 earlier. You could shift to Tuesday-Wednesday meeting  
27 up to you.  
28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.  
30

31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. That works, 17th  
32 to 18th?  
33

34 MR. OPHEIM: I'm good with 17, 18.  
35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I was  
37 looking at my calendar and the whole damn week's full.  
38 But that's '25. Yeah.  
39

40 MS. CAMINER: Really, '26 now.  
41

42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so what  
43 did we do, we moved it to the 17th, 18th?  
44

45 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Tuesday the 17th and  
46 Wednesday the 18th. And then location.  
47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The location  
49 would probably be in Anchorage, but I don't know. But  
50 that's St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, isn't it?

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MR. OPHEIM: Nissa will dress in green that day.

(Off record conversation)

MS. PILCHER: Yeah that's -- look in your blue folder. Because the calendar in your book is not correct. Yeah, we discovered that the hard way.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think we're good on the winter meeting. We did -- we say in Anchorage 17th.

MS. PILCHER: 17th, 18th and Anchorage. And then also, as a reminder, you guys will be taking up these dates again at your next meeting. So, there's -- these are not set in stone as of right now.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, now we need the one for.....

MS. PILCHER: Fall 2026.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Fall 2026. Okay. The October 6th and 7th is taken. They got two there. You got Columbus Day on the 12th. You could do October 14th, 15th. You might meet the beat the convention. I don't know when it is in '26, but probably that same week again, so or maybe a week later, the 20th or 21st, 23rd. Do you want to tentatively call the 14th 15th of October or...?

MS. PILCHER: We can certainly do that. And like I said, we can adjust granted within the parameters that we've got. If it is going to fall right at AFN.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll give you three dates.

MS. PILCHER: What about a location for the last one?

MR. OPHEIM: What about Seward?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's a hazardous drive (indiscernible).

000104

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Perhaps for one  
2 of the meetings. If we're allowed to travel, I think  
3 it'd be go back to Glennallen, Copper Center area because  
4 we haven't been there for a while now. We have members  
5 from that area.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's  
8 going to be a little dicey if we go over to big bear for  
9 the AFN.

10  
11 MS. CAMINER: That's true.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a.....

14  
15 MS. PILCHER: Mic.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The only  
18 problem with that there's some travel involved that  
19 might take us pretty long going that way, unless we make  
20 at the end of October.

21  
22 MS. CAMINER: Could it be the winter  
23 meeting?

24  
25 MS. PILCHER: Absolutely.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We could swap  
28 these meetings.

29  
30 MS. PILCHER: Absolutely.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, then we'd  
33 need the same problem, because you'd have to go up to  
34 16th and come back to 19th.

35  
36 MS. CAMINER: Yeah.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: These meetings  
39 take four days when you do that. Yeah. We probably ought  
40 to stick to what we got here.

41  
42 MS. PILCHER: And we can always take up  
43 locations to as we move forward to see what's going on  
44 with.....

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We'll see if any  
47 of us get reappointed. You might be the only one here,  
48 Judy. Well, no, Kirk and Faye will be here. Okay. All  
49 right. We got three dates for you.

50

1 MS. PILCHER: All right. So, as it  
2 stands, remain or leave the October 20th -- or fall 2025  
3 dates as the 14th and 15th meeting in Anchorage. Winter  
4 2026, March 17th and 18th in Anchorage. And October, the  
5 fall 2026 meeting, October 14th and 15th, also in  
6 Anchorage, with the caveat of the location, could  
7 potentially change moving forward depending on what  
8 happens. So, that is -- those are the dates that I've  
9 got, and I would need a motion.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there  
12 a motion to propose those three dates we just agreed  
13 upon?  
14

15 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll make that motion.  
16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.  
18

19 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by  
22 Michael. Any discussion? We all good? All in favor, aye.  
23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.  
25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposition?  
27

28 (No response)  
29

30 Hearing none. That passed unanimous.  
31 Thank you. Hopefully we can make a trip. I was talking  
32 to Kirk earlier. He had asked me on the reasoning of the  
33 trips. And Faye, just so you know, we try to go to a  
34 different communities where different things are  
35 happening. You know, we went to the Kenai, we've been  
36 down in Homer, the Kenai, we had a good meeting there.  
37 A hot one was when we put in for a Federal Subsistence  
38 the Kenai. Oh boy, I got pointed to a committee with  
39 four 400 guides. What a battle that was. Me and Ivan,  
40 we did pretty well though. But anyway. Anyway, we did  
41 excellent. So, we -- but yeah, we try to go to different  
42 communities to try it. That's one of the reasons for it.  
43

44 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, this is Faye Ewan.  
45 Edward GreyBear is on the tribal college and tribal  
46 government at Native Village of Kluti-Kaah. And I'm sure  
47 he can set up, you know, to have a meeting. Because we  
48 have a gymnasium and we have a community hall, and we'd  
49 be glad to host. He'll be, the cook and Edward will be  
50 the hostess, and I'll make sure it gets done.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's great information and great offer. Thank you. Thank you.

MS. EWAN: That way, everybody in the community can be involved. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MR. GREYBEAR: I hope you guys like macaroni and hot dogs.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're into reports, but we're going to first go see if there's a report of any fresh coffee or water. We'll take about ten minutes and then we'll get onto our reports.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, folks, we'll go ahead and get started. Okay. We got reports coming up. We got time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance. But anyway, if there's anyone on the phone that wants to talk for tribal governments. But we're going to start out with Ahtna Inter -- Resource Commission and I -- Sterling, are you going to do that report? Okay. Okay.

MR. SPILINEK: Hello, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. For the record, my name is Sterling Spilinek. I am the research coordinator and wildlife biologist for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. You can find a hard copy of our report in the meeting minutes starting on page 33. Starting off with wildlife. AITRC is in partnership with Cheesh'na Tribal Council through some funding we received through the Tribal Wildlife grant to work on a tribal herd monitoring of the Mentasta Caribou. This is -- we've been working closely with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Whereas last October, we assisted with some caribou captures where we deployed some AITRC collars, and we just signed an agreement to get caribou collared data that will be used for this upcoming summer for a caribou calf collaring study to look at recruitment. The agreement is that we would get the adult female collar data, and in return we would provide the caribou calf collar data. The caribou calf collaring will be an AITRC led project and like I said, that is going to begin May 2025.

1

2                   Moving on. We also have a tribal  
3 wildlife grant in partnership with the Native village  
4 of Tazlina to do some wolf research. Last November, we  
5 were able to successfully capture and collar nine wolves  
6 within Game Management Unit 11. Which is anywhere  
7 between 3 to 5 packs. Right now, we're observing the  
8 collars on a daily basis. We have two technicians that  
9 are going in and looking at clustered GPS points to  
10 identify kill sites, to collect biological samples from  
11 the prey, and to also collect any scat samples present.  
12 The purpose of this study is to look at the range,  
13 distribution and seasonal diet of the wolves that reside  
14 within GMU 11, and this project and the caribou project  
15 will continue through the end of 2025. We hope to get  
16 out this year to do some more wolf collaring, but as  
17 everyone knows, the winter conditions are not ideal. We  
18 had to postpone our capture that was supposed to happen  
19 next week, and we hope we could get enough snow to go  
20 out into March beginning of April.

21

22                   Moving on to our ecology department. The  
23 first topic is the disease surveillance of the Copper  
24 River salmon. We work with our local fish wheel users  
25 to sample their sockeye and chinook salmon to look for  
26 any disease present. Specifically, we're looking for  
27 ichthyophonus, which is a known parasite of the cardiac  
28 system that has been found on the Yukon and could be one  
29 of the potential reasons for the decline there. We're  
30 also looking at parasite load in the gastrointestinal  
31 tract, and in that we're collecting samples from -- we're  
32 collecting blood samples, heart samples, tissue  
33 biopsies, as well as the -- let me make sure I get it  
34 right. The kidney, liver and spleen. And so, all those  
35 samples, once we get the results back, we have the  
36 biological samples that we're going to preserve. So, if  
37 anything else comes up in the future, we could look back  
38 and see if it was present then or not.

39

40                   Moving on to the Moose Health Monitoring  
41 Project. This project was brought up by our tribal  
42 citizens at one of our annual meetings a couple years  
43 ago, asking about the health of the moose and if it's  
44 okay to eat. And through that, our ecologist Kelsey  
45 Stanbro developed this project to collect hunter  
46 harvested samples from the heart, liver, kidneys, blood,  
47 hair and teeth to look for any heavy metal accumulation  
48 and trace elements in the moose samples. It's also worth  
49 mentioning that in this project, we have a tribal  
50 master's student Tamra Jones, who is helping collect the

1 samples and analyze the samples at UAF while she's  
2 getting her master's. You could see that there is some  
3 preliminary findings. I'm not going to get into it too  
4 much. Because we still have to do some Q&A. But  
5 essentially everything we found so far there's nothing  
6 that would be detrimental to humans. The mercury levels  
7 are much lower than anything from the anadromous fish  
8 that we're eating coming from the ocean. But we did find  
9 some potential copper deficiencies in the moose. So,  
10 it's something that we're looking into a little bit more.  
11

12           Moving on to the fisheries department,  
13 we have a couple projects going on. Unfortunately, all  
14 of these are kind of funding dependent with everything  
15 that's been going on with the new administration. The  
16 first one is a water temperature monitoring. So, we have  
17 assumed responsibility of the Gulkana River water  
18 temperature monitoring logs. And that's something that  
19 our fisheries biologist, Dan Gorze, will be going out  
20 and collecting the data from and replacing temperature  
21 loggers this summer. We're also assuming the  
22 responsibility of the Tanada weir from Wrangell-St.  
23 Elias National Park, where we're going to be kind of Co-  
24 PIs on that project for the first couple of years, and  
25 then we'll take full responsibility of that. And then  
26 we also have a juvenile salmon abundance that's in  
27 partnership with Prince William Sound College on the  
28 Klutina Lake. We wanted to start with the Klutina Lake  
29 because the Klutina River system is by far the most  
30 predominant migration of salmon within the Copper River.  
31 So, we want to make sure that that one is safe before  
32 we move on to the other tributaries. And then through  
33 that we're looking at looking at escapement abundance  
34 with the sonar on the Klutina River. This happened in  
35 2021 and 2022 and because of funding, it hasn't started  
36 up yet. And we're still waiting for funding on that.  
37 Hopefully we'll be having it in 2025.  
38

39           For our anthropology department, our  
40 anthropologist David Hooper has been working on  
41 community household surveys. This has been in -- for the  
42 residents of Mentasta Lake, Mentasta Pass, Chistochina,  
43 Slana and the Nabesna Road. These surveys were done in  
44 partnership with ADF&G and Wrangell-St. Elias National  
45 Park. Through those surveys and talking with some of the  
46 tribal citizens, they expressed that their subsistence  
47 harvests are not being documented properly because it's  
48 just being done in a one-year period. So, our  
49 anthropologist and the anthropologist at Wrangell-St.  
50 Elias Amber Cohen, is exploring alternative harvest

1 monitoring methodologies to look at more of a lifetime  
2 of subsistence use. And so they're kind of trying to co-  
3 develop some questionnaires to ask some individuals.  
4 Another big project in the anthropology department is  
5 our Ahtna Cultural Preservation Capacity Building  
6 Project. This was to help provide a tribal historic  
7 preservation office for the Native Village of Chitina  
8 down in the O'Brien Creek and Eskilida Creek area. And  
9 this is in regards to some potential grave sites that  
10 were found underneath the trail. And so, they've been  
11 working really closely with the Chitina Village and  
12 Chitina Native Corp and Ahtna Incorporated to make sure  
13 that those are protected and that there's not any more  
14 degradation done to that -- those sites.

15  
16 And then the last GIS specialist has  
17 been working on a harvest and subsistence sharing app.  
18 This is to help document the wide use and sharing of  
19 subsistence resources. And so, it will be as simple as  
20 logging it into your phone, sending a QR code of what  
21 you sent to someone, and then it could go on from there.  
22 And then you could go and look and see where your  
23 contributions and sharing is and how far they've spread  
24 across Alaska and even the world. And then the other one  
25 is our harvest app. So, just an easier way for  
26 subsistence users to log their permits on their phone  
27 so they don't lose it. It's always kind of backed up and  
28 just kind of helps with the reporting aspect. And that's  
29 all I have for my report. Is there any questions?

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions for  
32 Sterling? That's a good report. You guys are doing a  
33 lot. I was wondering on your wolves, what did you find?  
34 What else do you do? I mean, you're doing quite a bit  
35 of studying on them, other prey and what they're eating  
36 on and all that other stuff. Do you have any trappers,  
37 hunters or anyone? Are you taking out wolves too, or you  
38 got anything going on like that?

39  
40 MR. SPILINEK: Yeah. So, for this study  
41 we haven't had anything analyzed yet. We're waiting for  
42 our second round of captures to send everything off to  
43 the lab. We've also extended our sample collection to  
44 trapper harvested wolves within GMU 11, 12, and 13. We  
45 -- to date, I think we've had 18 wolves harvested -- or  
46 harvested wolves that we've been able to sample. And in  
47 those wolves, we've been able to get additional samples,  
48 as in kidney, liver, blood, stomach contents and fecal.  
49 And the plan for all of those samples and the samples  
50 collected from the captured wolves is to do a stable

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1 isotope analysis to look at diet across the different  
2 seasons. So, we'll do it on the blood, fecal, hair, and  
3 then segmental on the whiskers, where they'll cut the  
4 whiskers into smaller sections and then analyze them  
5 each to look at the diet changes throughout time.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very  
8 interesting. Yeah.

9

10 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

13

14 MS. EWAN: With this study that you're  
15 doing and all these different species and wolves and  
16 stuff. Have you found any contamination in any of the  
17 test's you guys did, or a high level of any kind of  
18 minerals or toxic chemicals in these things?

19

20 MR. SPILINEK: We haven't analyzed any  
21 of the wolf samples yet. We have them stored, and we  
22 plan to send them out in mid-April and should have  
23 results by the fall time.

24

25 MS. EWAN: What about the salmon?

26

27 MR. SPILINEK: The salmon. We haven't  
28 analyzed the gastrointestinal tract yet. But we haven't  
29 had any confirmed hits of the ichthyophonous yet.

30

31 MS. EWAN: So, what happened to the air  
32 samples you guys were doing on the salmon did that  
33 defined how the different sizes of salmon, why they're  
34 getting so small and declining?

35

36 MR. SPILINEK: Yeah. So, that study, I  
37 think, wrapped up in 2022, and that was a contract work  
38 that we had through ADF&G and one of their projects. So,  
39 I'm not sure how that ended up.

40

41 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: Thanks so much for your  
46 report. Please send our regards to Karen Linnell, who's  
47 usually at all our meetings. And yeah, as an  
48 organization, you've certainly expanded and made a lot  
49 of progress and a lot of valuable information. So, thank  
50 you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, very good. Others? Thank you, Sterling. Very good report. Thank you.

MR. SPILINEK: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Native Village of Eyak. Tribal government partners for fisheries. Matt, our taxi driver extraordinaire. Oh, and the clinic runs too. Yeah, sure.

MR. PICHE: Good afternoon. For the record, my name is Matt Piche. I am the natural resources coordinator and fish biologist for the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources right here in Cordova. So, welcome new Council members and just as a quick introduction the Native Village of Eyak has had a natural resources department. We've been doing research mainly on the Copper River, but also here in Prince William Sound and here on the Delta for the past 25 years. And I'm going to first present - all of our info can be found in the Supplemental Materials on page -- starting on page 45 and the 2024 in river abundance estimate for Copper River chinook salmon was 21,069 fish with a standard error of 5,984. Now this is the mark recapture-based estimate. This represents the estimated number of chinook salmon measuring greater than 500mm total length passing through Baird Canyon on the lower Copper River from the 18th of May through the 7th of July. Due to smaller sizes in some of the mark recapture strata, the 2024 direct estimate was less precise. It had a larger standard error 95% confidence intervals than abundance estimates generated by this project in recent years, and it did not meet the preseason precision target. In a nutshell, what that means is we had some fish wheel downtime during what we suspect was the peak of the run and it impacted our ability to analyze that data. Fish wheeling is tough. We've done pretty good over the past 25 years, but certainly this summer had its challenges and that impacted the quality of our data. But based on the data that we did collect the -- once in-river harvest numbers are subtracted from the estimate, it's likely that the escapement goal was not met in 2024 on the Copper River for chinook salmon.

On the next page 46, I just wanted to include kind of in a nutshell, everything we know about abundance of chinook salmon on the Copper River from

1 1980 to 19 -- from 1980 to 1998 abundance was modeled,  
2 and that's what you see here. From 1999 on, the abundance  
3 estimates spawning escapement in total run size were  
4 generated using actual abundance estimates. It started  
5 with a fish wheel project -- a fish -- or I'm sorry, a  
6 dipnet project Alaska Department of Fish and Game ran  
7 for a few years, and then in 2003, the Native Village  
8 of Eyak started doing similar methods but with fish  
9 wheels. So, this is what we've got for Copper River  
10 chinook salmon data in terms of a spawning escapement  
11 and total returning run size. I just wanted to put that  
12 in front of you. There's a lot of concern over chinook  
13 salmon right now statewide, and I just wanted to make  
14 sure I shared that information with the Council. And all  
15 the sources for that data are located on page 49.

16  
17 The next page 47 is just that same exact  
18 chart, just in number form. So, you can actually refer  
19 to specific numbers there. Again, I just wanted to get  
20 that information in front of you. On page 48, I'd like  
21 to just introduce a new study that the Native Village  
22 of Eyak, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the  
23 Prince William Sound Science Center are working on  
24 together. This is a radio telemetry study on Copper River  
25 sockeye salmon. This past summer, we put -- in summer  
26 2024 we put out actually 140 radio tags distributed  
27 evenly across the salmon run on the Copper River at  
28 Baird Canyon. And we had a series of 13 fixed telemetry  
29 stations throughout the entire Copper River drainage  
30 along the main stem and also on each of the six major  
31 spawning drainages of the Copper River. On top of that,  
32 we had close to 70 hours of fixed wing aerial surveys  
33 for Miles Lake on up throughout the entire Copper  
34 watershed, looking for spawning fish -- tagged spawning  
35 fish, and in general the preliminary results we have --  
36 again these need to -- they still need to go to the  
37 Biometrician and there's likely some weighting that  
38 needs to be done. So, when we actually go to publish  
39 this report, these numbers will probably change by a few  
40 percentage points. But in general, what we saw on the  
41 Copper River in 2024 was 50% of the sockeye salmon run  
42 returned to the Klutina River drainage, 25% returned to  
43 the Gulkana River drainage, 12% returned to upper Copper  
44 River drainages. And when I say upper Copper River  
45 drainages, I'm talking about everything upriver of the  
46 confluence of the mainstem Copper River and the Gulkana.  
47 We saw 5% of the sockeye salmon population return to the  
48 Chitina River drainage, 3% to the Tazlina, 3% were  
49 spawning in the lower Copper River drainages. That's  
50 everything bellow Wood Canyon, and 2% returned to the

1 Tonsina drainages. There will be more on that next year.  
2 We are doing this study again, so we'll have another  
3 thousand plus tags going out across the run this summer,  
4 and we'll be tracking those fish to their spawning  
5 grounds and their final destination. And I'll have more  
6 data to report to you at the fall meeting. And that's  
7 all I have for now. Are there any questions?

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye. Faye's  
10 got a question.

11  
12 MS. EWAN: What did you do with all the  
13 fish?

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: They lost them.

16  
17 MS. EWAN: No, I was going to ask about  
18 the silver salmon. We have a silver salmon and the late  
19 fall fish that -- I don't know what they called dog  
20 salmon or whatever the with the hump on there. This  
21 year, we didn't see very much silver salmon and oh, what  
22 do they call that? Like not lingcod, but a burbot,  
23 rainbow trout. And they come back and we caught -  
24 steelhead. We didn't see very much of that. But year  
25 before, there was a whole bunch of silvers came in and  
26 they were like, you know, king salmon. But this year we  
27 didn't see very many in the Copper River. I go to Chitina  
28 every day. I watch everybody fish. I videotape you guys  
29 when I see that, you know, and I really observed this  
30 year because I wanted to know how come there was such a  
31 big decline, you know, in the silver salmon and the  
32 other fishes, you know, there was like, reds came in,  
33 but they were very poor health. And king salmon is --  
34 really went down in numbers that, you know, they had to  
35 cut off the salmon to people up in the upper Copper  
36 River. And I believe that, you know, as a fishing people,  
37 we should do something about the limit on the catch if  
38 there's not enough salmon. I know our people have been  
39 talking about moratorium, and to try to make it come  
40 back healthy. But how do we replenish that fish that was  
41 there, you know, that was on that river? That's what I  
42 want to know. Do we plan -- you know, they had hatcheries  
43 and stuff like that. But why the silvers that steelhead  
44 had a big decline?

45  
46 (Simultaneous speech)

47  
48 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. So, for  
49 silver salmon and steelhead, there is -- there's no  
50 monitoring on the upper Copper River. There -- the --

1 there's some data actually, that was taken on -- off of  
2 our fish wheel platform. There was -- there is some  
3 radio telemetry data out there on both steelhead and  
4 coho salmon about where they're going, where they're  
5 spawning in the drainage. Sample sizes were pretty low  
6 on the steelhead data, so there's only so much data --  
7 or so much info we can get out of that. But the sample  
8 size on the silver salmon, the coho salmon was pretty  
9 large. So, we've got a decent grasp of where they're  
10 going, at least where they were going and for that  
11 snapshot in time. But the Miles Lake sonar is pulled out  
12 by the 1st of August, and our fishwheel program that  
13 focuses solely on chinook salmon and more recently, some  
14 sockeye salmon telemetry. So, we are out of the water  
15 by the time those coho salmon are coming through the  
16 main stem of the copper and headed to the upper Copper  
17 River Drainage. So, I unfortunately don't have a lot to  
18 share with you on this -- on the coho salmon or the  
19 steelhead. You know, we just don't know a whole lot.

20  
21 MS. EWAN: The Ahtna people, the silver  
22 salmon and the steelhead is [sic] sacred to us. And the  
23 elders look forward to it in the fall time. Now, I  
24 noticed that it was a really big decline in that, you  
25 know that. And I think it has something to do with the  
26 fishing out and, you know, wherever they're fishing. But  
27 it's really important to me how we process that fish.  
28 And the question I really want to know is that where is  
29 the fish going? You know, where they say, go by here.  
30 It goes up by Miles sonar -- your sonar or whatever. But  
31 from here to there, where are they going? You know, are  
32 they -- is it -- you know, by encroached by animals or  
33 is it by humans? You know, that's kind of study I like  
34 to know. I mean, not just what goes by in the river. The  
35 food chain, is that river contaminated, where it's  
36 affecting their food chain and stuff like that. I would  
37 like to have that kind of information. And, you know,  
38 because that's really a concern to me when I see fishing.  
39 You know, I started from June 1st till September 30th.  
40 I fished all summer, all fall. I don't quit. I make sure  
41 we fill up our people's freezer and we fill up, you  
42 know, their smokehouse and stuff. And plus, we give away  
43 a lot of fish to a different organization like Fairbanks  
44 Native Association and Cook Inlet Southcentral  
45 Foundation. And then people, we shared with them because  
46 we make sure the elders, you know, have this food to  
47 them. And if we don't have the food and if it's  
48 contaminated, I don't want to feed those people that  
49 kind of stuff. So, that would be some kind of data that  
50 EIS is environmental study, you know, would be good too

1 if you guys include that in your grant. Thank you.

2

3

MR. PICHE: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Impossible  
6 Questions so -- but the good ones. But yeah. Where did  
7 they go? But there is -- you know, there's so much data  
8 out there and these guys -- you know I know you guys  
9 through Eyak. I've been doing it forever. And, you know,  
10 we started a lot Ninilchik doing our own studies and  
11 it's amazing. We've gathered a lot of data, and we've  
12 gathered a lot of things on diseased fish and electrified  
13 fish and all kinds of weird things. But to put it all  
14 together is pretty hard. But we just commonly know that  
15 everything on the kings and silvers is in decline. The  
16 plankton that those reds eat, they seem to be coming  
17 back, but they are getting shorter and smaller, some of  
18 them. But anyway, go ahead, Kirk.

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MR. WILSON: Steelhead in my area -- I  
had a friend that did a work for the federal government,  
and they did a study on steelhead. And it's how I learned  
to fish steelhead because I used their example where  
they went, and they followed them every so often. So, I  
sport fish steelhead quite often when I was younger. And  
one of the things that's happened to our steelhead, where  
are the fish going? They're not even hatching because  
those people on those all-terrain vehicles are driving  
up and down those little, teeny streams, and they're  
small where the steelhead go. And if the eggs can't  
hatch, you don't have no fish. And the steelhead  
population is -- I don't think it's over-fishing. I think  
it's their spawning beds. They're not getting out to  
begin with. So, that's part of the deal.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy, you got a  
comment. Go ahead.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, so, Matt, a  
potential -- got me on the idea of Sterling's Ahtna  
research about parasites and I -- and I'm trying to see  
big picture of like, upriver because a lot of your focus  
has always been upriver, and this tagging is wonderful  
work and great data gathering. Potentially some data  
that might already be around is going through PWSAC and  
the hatchery system because they have like -- I worked  
for them for seven years and did plankton tows and  
different times of the year when the plankton -- and I  
recall a time when there was a phytoplankton named  
chaetoceros, and it's kind of like a little sea urchin,

1 tiny. You got to look at it under a microscope. It's a  
2 phytoplankton and it's all spiny. And we -- in our net  
3 pens, as you're feeding these fry that have out migrated  
4 into these pens in the saltwater, we'd get a big die  
5 off. And it happened to coincide with a year when the  
6 water was warmer here in Cordova, and a bunch of people  
7 got sick from vibriosis. If you might recall, a long  
8 time ago in Cordova, a bunch of people ate a bunch of  
9 clams and vibrio broke out, and that was the same year.  
10 I was like, okay, so the water temperatures went up.  
11 Well, why are our baby salmon dying in these pens? And  
12 then they did necropsies on these dead fish for us to  
13 figure out what they sent to a lab somewhere, and they  
14 found that their gills were coated with this chaetoceros  
15 little sea urchin kind of phytoplanktons, and it may be  
16 a factor in this warming water trend of like, you know,  
17 half a degree over every few years, two degrees after a  
18 few years, whatever. And maybe a focus could be on to  
19 either analyze the hatchery data that already exists or  
20 determine some type of chaetoceros plankton counts that  
21 are going at the mouth of the Copper when these fish are  
22 out migrating, and then tie those in to this population  
23 dynamic per year of what you have going on to see if  
24 there's a correlation between water temperatures  
25 chaetoceros blooms, and then maybe death in the marine  
26 environment of these juvenile salmonids that are going  
27 out-migrating. I just thought I'd throw that out there  
28 as something else that you could maybe check on.

29  
30 MR. PICHE: Thank you for sharing.

31  
32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Matt,  
33 great report as always. We really appreciate your long-  
34 term dedication to the salmon in the Copper River. On  
35 your chart, you mentioned home pack. I wondered how you  
36 define that. Please, I hadn't really seen that before.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. You  
39 could explain it to her if you want.

40  
41 MR. PICHE: Correct. Yeah. You know, home  
42 pack is a retention in a commercial fishery. Instead of  
43 selling your fish, you're basically -- you're kind of  
44 buying those fish from yourself, and you're instead  
45 taking those fish home to put in your freezer, feed your  
46 family. So, here in Cordova, there's a strong link  
47 between home pack and subsistence and years, for  
48 example, years when the commercial fishery is closed.  
49 Our ANS goes way up because it's understanding that that  
50 home pack makes up for some of the subsistence harvest.

1 And if the commercial fishery wasn't there, then the  
2 subsistence needs in Cordova would be greater because  
3 that home pack wouldn't exist. So, it's a really quick  
4 nutshell. That's pretty much what home pack is. Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, that  
7 might be responsible. Home pack for me was I took home  
8 all my kings and so. And smoked them and shared them  
9 with the community. Unfortunately, that was back in the  
10 good old days, right? But yeah, that was home pack for  
11 sure. All the fish went (indiscernible) went to special  
12 occasions. We did like you did. We first when we all  
13 shared in the village and filled the smokehouses. And  
14 then. Then we made a few barrels of salt fish, and we  
15 had everything for the (In Native), the celebrations,  
16 the great times and were just perplexed. But we used all  
17 that, you know. But it seems like the fish that eat fish  
18 are the ones that are disappearing, so.

19  
20 MS. SELANOFF: I had a question. You were  
21 talking about your monitoring and when you start  
22 pulling. What I've noticed that -- is the fish are coming  
23 in later because of the colder temperatures. Is it  
24 possible for you to keep the monitoring up longer in  
25 case reds are even coming when the water gets colder.  
26 So, just a thought that, you know, there's not a lot  
27 being documented, but after you quit monitoring. But  
28 maybe if we extend that monitoring a little bit longer  
29 just to see if any more are coming through due to water  
30 temperatures.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Maybe it  
33 snowballs.

34  
35 MR. PICHE: And through the Chair. Yes.  
36 Thank you. We know that we are missing some sockeye  
37 salmon at the end of the season. You know, there are  
38 runs that are very late. So, for example, like the Long  
39 Lake sockeye salmon population that we know come in late.  
40 So, we are not -- there are surely some small stocks,  
41 especially lower river stocks that tend to come in later.  
42 It's just kind of at some point we got to cut it off and  
43 you know, we only have so much funding to get our work  
44 done. We think we are -- we're covering all of the  
45 chinook salmon run and the large majority of the sockeye  
46 salmon run. Especially the majority of the upper Copper  
47 River stocks, anything spawning above Wood Canyon, but  
48 likely some of those lower river later run timing stocks  
49 are underrepresented in our sample because of that. And  
50 I would love to -- me and my crew, I'm sure we would

1 love to go another month if we could. And then we could  
2 turn it into a coho salmon study and a steelhead study  
3 as well. So, maybe that's in the future. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy first. Go  
6 ahead, Andy.

7  
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Real quick. Are you aware of any, like, state continued  
10 monitoring of where the weirs used to be or still are  
11 in Coghill and Eshamy and Eyak? Yeah.

12  
13 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. Yes.  
14 Coghill is still being run by the Alaska Department of  
15 Fish and Game. They have a crew out there every year  
16 counting the salmon and they're using that to manage the  
17 fishery data. And the Native Village of Eyak is currently  
18 running the Eshamy weir over in Eshamy. This year we  
19 counted 13 -- I believe it was 13,128 sockeye salmon  
20 through the weir. I think our largest day was August 8th  
21 with about 1750 sockeye salmon past the weir and -- same  
22 scenario. We know that there are some sockeye coming  
23 through after we close the weir. But we have some  
24 historical data to help inform that. Unfortunately,  
25 again, due to our funding, we're out of there on  
26 September 1st each year. But, yeah, we -- so, so this  
27 year we exceeded the escapement goal on -- the lower  
28 bound of the escapement goal on the Eshamy River. Yep.

29  
30 MS. EWAN: When you do these radio takes  
31 that you guys' process, where does they ended up at most  
32 of them? The radio tags us being turned in. Because I  
33 know people ask me from Anchorage and Fairbanks, they  
34 had -- they find radio tags in the stomach of the fish.  
35 They asked me what to do with it and, you know, I just  
36 think about what kind of information is those tags giving  
37 to those salmon. I mean, what is that? What is that made  
38 out of?

39  
40 MR. PICHE: So, are you talking about the  
41 radio tags from a harvested fish that someone gets? So  
42 right on the outside of the tag, we have contact  
43 information, a phone number and an address. We are trying  
44 to get those back in-season. They're about \$200 a piece.  
45 And if we get them back in-season, what we do is we then  
46 send them on a plane back down to Baird Camp on the  
47 lower Copper River, and we put them in another fish and  
48 we get more data that year. So, any tags returned in  
49 season, we immediately reuse them. They only have about  
50 a four-month, five-month battery life on them. So, any

1 tags that we get now, we can't redeploy because their  
2 battery is dead. They're single use tags and in terms  
3 of, like, proportions of who's returning those tags we  
4 just -- we haven't gone through that data yet to see if  
5 the majority of them are coming from the Chitina  
6 Subdistrict or the Glennallen Subdistrict we have. We  
7 just haven't looked at that data yet. But that is  
8 something. By the end of the study, we'll have that  
9 information.

10  
11 MS. EWAN: Why are you guys put us in  
12 subdistricts where we're all in one district? I mean,  
13 that's really confusing. One side of the river, you're  
14 subsistent the other side you can commercial, I mean,  
15 go whatever, dip it in whatever way they do down there.  
16 I just don't understand these regulations, how they're  
17 being made. But the reason I asked for is I see this  
18 chart that Sterling gave here, and there's 50% goes up  
19 to Klutina Lake, and all these other tributaries only  
20 have so much -- in a very small amount. And how many  
21 fish gets up to Batzulnetas to the headwaters of the  
22 Copper River? That's where the fish is spawning. And in  
23 Paxson, that's where the main, the main spawning grounds  
24 is. And you know, to me, when they don't make it back  
25 up there, that's when the fish start declining. I know  
26 the water temperature has -- I know a lot about the  
27 environment, the climate change, all that. But you know  
28 what to me is that with this water temperature and  
29 everything is that are those fish getting sick? Are do  
30 you know, what is what is going on their health-wise? I  
31 see all this data about how many things, but what about  
32 the health of the salmon?

33  
34 MR. PICHE: I think AITRC is going to  
35 have some wonderful information on the health of the  
36 salmon to share. We are -- for these studies, we're not  
37 monitoring health. We are monitoring energetic content.  
38 So, that is -- that's an aspect of health. We're  
39 measuring the energetic content at the time of tagging  
40 a Baird Canyon and then when fish are recovered on the  
41 spawning grounds, we're measuring energetic content  
42 again there. And we're looking to see if that fish was  
43 successful at spawning or not. So, that is information  
44 that we will be able to provide. Again, we just haven't  
45 gotten into that assessment yet. We're in year one of  
46 the study. We're going to have two years of data  
47 collection and one year of data analysis. So, I will  
48 have more information on some of that for you. But in  
49 the meantime, in terms of the pathology and whatnot, I  
50 would refer you to Kelsey at Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource

1 Commission. She might have some information for you.

2

3 MS. EWAN: Another thing, too, is that  
4 water has been really high. The level of water. I mean,  
5 our fishwheel is only like, you know, 15 to 16 -- 18ft,  
6 maybe 20ft. But the water level has been high all year.  
7 And there's a lot of the riverbanks are eroding. And you  
8 can see the different changes in the Copper River that  
9 -- the drainage is changing big time. I know my river  
10 and I see it, you know, but the only thing I don't know  
11 is between (In Native) and down here, which I am going  
12 to try to work on to do my study on this. I work with  
13 environmental groups, and I listen to the plastic, you  
14 know, contamination and all this stuff here. And with  
15 our health and our people, you know, it's got different  
16 health ailments that I really, you know, I really like  
17 to see how the scientific whatever way you guys do your  
18 study, is how healthy those fish are, are they edible?  
19 Because we need to save our people from getting sick,  
20 and we got a high rate of diabetes and all these other  
21 sicknesses now. Are those fish are safe to eat, is that  
22 we don't eat caribou anymore. They cut us off with that.  
23 And the moose, you know, with all the contamination, I  
24 just think about -- I just got done dealing with a bunch  
25 of health issues in Anchorage. That's why I know about  
26 how, you know, people that go eat fish up in Copper  
27 River, they have a lot of kidney cancers, a lot of  
28 different kind of ailments. And it would be good to put  
29 that in your study, too. Sterling, I think this would  
30 be a good place for you guys to put this, compile this  
31 information, and by next year, I would like to see that  
32 information implemented in here so I can read it. When  
33 I go to the United Nations Council meeting, I sit on the  
34 Arctic Council -- Artic Athabaskan Council, and I can  
35 make these reports. That's why I'm asking for this data.  
36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
39 Faye. You asked for an awful lot there, and I understand  
40 your position but, you know, Matt's not responsible for  
41 all that. He does an outstanding job, and I know you  
42 know that. But there's so many resources out there.  
43 They're state or federal. Our people, in aligning these  
44 reports to figure out what the hell is going on is what's  
45 really confusing. And we might be missing some reports.  
46 We're always trying to get the right reports for what's  
47 going on. But, you know, anecdotal knowledge, that's  
48 what we're here for and we're here to give the history  
49 of our area and what's happening. Because we know, you  
50 know, they finally passed -- TK, knowledge is one of the

1 factors that they listened to us now and traditional  
2 knowledge is important. I could tell you about the silver  
3 salmon and I could tell you about the steelhead, we call  
4 them (In Native) and the steelhead we always eat in the  
5 fall because everything else is gone. And they're very  
6 good fish and they're very hardy and they're up to  
7 Kasilof. They're in their Kenai. But you got everyone  
8 in the world chasing them now, everyone's a steelhead  
9 fishery. Years ago, you used to see a few locals there.  
10 Fishermen Ninilchik. Now they drive down, they fill up  
11 all the parking lots and they fish steelhead till you  
12 can't walk across. I used to go down and get a few for  
13 the smokehouse, but that's another story. But anyway,  
14 you know, there's so much data. But to -- Matt and you  
15 could help us on that. Maybe some of these organizations,  
16 through OSM, through everyone can compile. You know, we  
17 could all argue back and forth who's got know, they're  
18 getting up there, and they're not getting there, this  
19 is what. I do know sick has been making your fish, reds  
20 make you sick. If it's summertime, you don't freeze them  
21 first anymore. There's weird things happening out there,  
22 so thank you. But this gentleman's got a question here.

23  
24 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is Kirk, and I  
25 don't have a question. I just have a comment and you  
26 heard me talk about Ken Roberson earlier in this meeting.  
27 And Ken used to be in Glennallen, and Ken used to fly  
28 every single stream that's involved along the Copper  
29 River and knew more about salmon than any of us will  
30 probably ever know about the upper river salmon. And  
31 that's lacking in our society right now. No one is  
32 studying those little rivers, the place where their home  
33 is, and they're laying these -- nobodies up there looking  
34 anymore. And I don't know if there's something we could  
35 make -- go again there, but it's very important. It's -  
36 - we got a lot of data, but that data is missing now.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: One of our past  
39 Chairmans here, Ralph Lohse and is here and then up in  
40 Kenny Lake. But he talked a lot about silver salmon and  
41 spawning. And they go in any little creek you could  
42 imagine. And we seen them in Ninilchik up the rivers,  
43 in the swamps, lands that you would never think are tied  
44 to any stream. I seen a little (indiscernible) stream  
45 like that with big old fish in it, you know, it's  
46 unbelievable. And so, they're spawning all over and like  
47 you say, we have the same problem. They get down those  
48 caribou hills and they go they run in four wheelers and  
49 snow machines and everything and tearing up these  
50 trails. Warmer weather, and it's getting worse and

1 worse, you know. So, there's a whole bunch of  
2 contributing factors and I don't like to blame anyone.  
3 I'm part of it, but they can't blame me anymore. I sit  
4 in that all my life, and they shut us down the last four  
5 years. What the hell happened? They still got no king.  
6 So, you know that ain't [sic] the cause. But anyway,  
7 good talk, good discussion. Thank you. Matt, you took a  
8 lot of heat there, but you are always good for it, so  
9 thank you.

10  
11 MR. PICHE: Thank you. And just please  
12 be aware we are listening. And I think that's a very  
13 important role that tribes can have in going out and  
14 collecting their own data and having their own team of  
15 scientists. We're here and we know how to listen, and  
16 we pay attention, and we use this information to guide  
17 what we do. So, thank you very much.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You do a good  
20 job. Thank you. Okay. Next, we're going to see who we're  
21 going to put in the hot seat there now.

22  
23 MS. PILCHER: Micheal.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Who?

26  
27 MS. PILCHER: Micheal. Our own Michael.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, Michael boy  
30 that's fun. For some reason, I had another -- yeah.  
31 Native Chugach Regional Resources Commission. Michael.  
32 He's been there quite a while. And you're going to give  
33 us a report. Okay. Appreciate it.

34  
35 MR. OPHEIM: All right. Raven Cunningham,  
36 our tribal Fish and Wildlife director was not able to  
37 make it, so she asked if I could read this report for  
38 her. It's not for the whole CRRC organization, but for  
39 our tribal Fish and Wildlife department. Just some  
40 programs that we have going on, things we're working on.  
41 We have a alliance strategic planning workshop that  
42 we're working on. CRRC is organizing a strategic  
43 planning workshop in June of 2025. This event will bring  
44 together regional partners, tribal leaders, stakeholders  
45 to develop long-term strategies for resource management,  
46 policy engagement and co-management efforts.

47  
48 The Board of Fish and Game comment  
49 letters. CRRC has submitted official comment letters on  
50 multiple proposals before the Board of Fish and Game,

1 advocating for indigenous subsistence rights and  
2 sustainable wildlife management proposals 85, 86 and 87  
3 addressing statewide sea duck regulations. Proposal 88  
4 supporting inclusion of wood bison as the recognized  
5 species for cultural and ceremonial use. Proposal 121,  
6 which we discussed here a fair bit advocating for the  
7 creation of Game Management Unit 15D from 15C on the  
8 south side of Kachemak Bay. And proposal 263, submitted  
9 by our own Maddy Lee, our fisheries biologist in support  
10 of reopening Cook Inlet subsistence dungeness crab  
11 fishery. And they actually were able to give testimony  
12 yesterday at the Board of Fish meeting. There was Maddy  
13 and then several members of the communities in support  
14 of that, that were able to make it to that meeting in  
15 Anchorage.

16  
17                   Research and monitoring, Cordova  
18 subsistence surveys. CRRC is partnering with the Native  
19 Village of Eyak, ADF&G Division of Subsistence, U.S.  
20 Forest Service, Juneau research stations to update  
21 subsistence harvest data and Cordova. The last survey  
22 was conducted in 2014, highlighting a significant data  
23 gap in harvest trends and regulatory impacts. Hunting  
24 pressure mapping. CRRC is working with ADF&G Division  
25 of Subsistence to develop an interactive ESRI story map  
26 tracking deer and black bear hunting patterns and Game  
27 Management Unit 6D. The project will analyze data from  
28 2000 onward to assess the impacts of increased vehicle  
29 access through the Whittier Tunnel. Chugach-Temak  
30 Research Collaborative. This initiative is guiding  
31 marine mammal research to ensure healthy populations,  
32 balanced ecosystems, sustainable subsistence harvests,  
33 and long-term cultural continuity in the Chugach region.  
34 Sea Otter Population Surveys. CRRC in collaboration with  
35 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS is conducting  
36 a regional sea otter survey to assess abundance and  
37 distribution. Additionally, tribes are being consulted  
38 to identify critical monitoring areas for more intensive  
39 research.

40  
41                   Moose population studies in lower Cook  
42 Inlet, Port Graham, Nanwalek. CRRC is funding from a  
43 tribal wildlife grant, conducting an aerial moose survey  
44 in 2023 counting 22 Moose, the first population update  
45 since 2017. And additional game camera study is underway  
46 monitoring population trends in these two areas Port  
47 Graham, Nanwalek. The Kings Bay moose study. A  
48 subsistence hunt for Tatitlek and Chenega community  
49 members has remained closed for over a decade. CRRC will  
50 conduct a population survey in hopes of reopening the

1 hunt. eDNA monitoring. Through our APMI lab in Seward,  
2 CRRC has established an eDNA lab collecting water  
3 samples to track herring populations and harmful algal  
4 blooms, and trends through genetic analysis.

5  
6 Cultural and education initiatives. A  
7 signage project. CRRC is installing interpretive signs  
8 across the Chugach region to educate the public about  
9 tribal history, subsistence practices, and land  
10 stewardship. These signs will be placed in key public  
11 areas, including harbors and cultural sites. Traditional  
12 Hunting and Trapping Guide. A traditional ecological  
13 knowledge book documenting the subsistence hunting and  
14 trapping practices of Nanwalek and Port Graham is in  
15 development. Subsistence curriculum development. There  
16 is a -- CRRC is creating a comprehensive K through  
17 college curriculum integrating indigenous knowledge,  
18 hands on activities and community-based learning to  
19 teach sustainable harvesting, traditional foods and  
20 cultural connections to the land and sea. Nanwalek  
21 Salmon TEK Project and Enhancement program. The Nanwalek  
22 Salmon TEK project will be featured in the Smithsonian  
23 National Museum of Natural History, launching April 20th  
24 of 2025. A Nanwalek salmon TEK film will premiere during  
25 Nanwalek Sea Week in April. A coloring book is being  
26 developed in partnership with the Center for Braiding  
27 Indigenous Knowledge and Science to expand youth  
28 engagement. Ongoing salmon age composition research at  
29 English Bay Lakes continues, with 80% of land use  
30 agreements secured for the restoration project, which  
31 includes a new floating weir and removal of derelict net  
32 pens.

33  
34 Transcription of jukebox interviews.  
35 CRRC is reviewing and transcribing interviews from the  
36 Port Graham and Nanwalek Jukebox project preserving oral  
37 histories for future TEK research and educational  
38 materials. Training and community engagement. We have a  
39 Board of Game training coming up on March 20th, just the  
40 day before the Board Game starts on March 21st. That's  
41 for our Chugach regional members. We have folks from  
42 ADF&G that are going to participate and also from OSM.  
43 So, it's been a lot of fun putting that together. CRRC  
44 is to -- the technical field training in Cordova, a  
45 hands on training event will teach participants how to  
46 set game cameras, collect eDNA samples, monitor  
47 environmental data, and use field research equipment.  
48 Migratory Bird Book. CRRC is developing a book  
49 documenting the history and cultural importance of  
50 migratory birds to the Chugach region. This effort

1 originated from CRRC's participation in the Alaska  
2 Migratory Bird Co-management Council. Regulatory and  
3 public outreach, regulations posters. CRRC has developed  
4 hunting and trapping regulation summary posters for each  
5 of its seven member communities. These are available  
6 online and updated every regulation cycle. And in  
7 conclusion, CRRC continues to lead initiatives and  
8 subsistence advocacy, marine mammal research, wildlife  
9 monitoring, and cultural education. Through strategic  
10 partnerships, scientific research and indigenous  
11 knowledge integration, we strive to protect our region's  
12 resources to future generations. That's all that there  
13 is.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, Michael,  
16 I'm impressed. That's an awful lot there. You guys -- I  
17 didn't realize you was involved that much in it. You're  
18 doing a lot of studies, a lot of things. So, you got a  
19 lot of answers. Now I know who to put the blame to.  
20 You've been holding information on us. So, anyway. Yeah,  
21 it sounds good. You guys are doing a lot. They're really  
22 getting out to the youth and everyone getting involved.  
23 So, questions for Michael on that report? Yeah, I'm  
24 pretty amazed. He's right around the corner from us.  
25 He's -- he learned fast. He's going up and gathering --  
26 you guys are stretched quite a ways. You know the Chugach  
27 region, you know I've been with Beretta there and she  
28 sheesh, boy there's a lot of stuff going on there. Good.  
29 Funny. Any questions for Michael? Andy.

30  
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. When and how  
32 is the Kings Bay moose monitoring going to happen?

33  
34 MR. OPHEIM: That was actually supposed  
35 to happen a few weeks ago, but because of lack of snow  
36 they couldn't do the flight. And then, you know, last  
37 year, when Dustin was able to get out and do the moose  
38 in Port Graham, Nanwalek, it was not, you know, the best  
39 conditions for that either. So, you know, they kept  
40 putting it off, putting it off for Kings Bay there, and  
41 that just didn't happen. But they are, I believe, going  
42 to try and get some of the game cameras out in that same  
43 area, because that's what he did in Port Graham, Nanwalek  
44 they set up test areas and then put game cams out.

45  
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, you could have  
47 them ask me -- I can show them on maps great -- better  
48 places than where the federal cameras went the last time.  
49 That didn't get much. I can tell you where I would put  
50 them if I were there.

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MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. I can give Dustin your contact info and he can get ahold of you. Cool. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Other questions for him? Okay. Thank you. Go ahead, Faye

MS. EWAN: This is the whole Prince William over in your area that you covered in all the salmon studies?

MR. OPHEIM: I'm sorry.

MS. EWAN: The area you're from. Is that where you guys did all your studies on your salmon? How come there's a decline? Why did they close all the whole Prince William Sound? I don't understand. Cook Inlet, I mean, I don't understand that.

MR. OPHEIM: The areas that we're working with is Port Graham, Nanwalek on the end of the Kenai Peninsula on the south side of Kachemak Bay which is outside of Kachemak Bay, actually into lower Cook Inlet. And the concern with that the streams there for Nanwalek have been with the red salmon. There was a decline many years ago, and the fish were being harvested for egg takes for other hatcheries, and there was some egg takes that happened that weren't supposed to happen. And so that's when the community kind of took over and started doing the work themselves and making sure that the fish were coming back and that there was enough for the community members. And the -- so, there was some old pans and stuff like that that were left in the lakes that's been washed down. Maddy's been working with folks to try and get some funds to get that stuff removed. Getting funds to hire people in the communities to do the work to put the weirs in, to do the counts and you know -- so that's those two communities.

We've also been trying to work with Port Graham and Nanwalek to add a king salmon fishery, a terminal king salmon fishery similar to what Seldovia has and that has been a slow process. We've been talking with Cook Inlet Aquaculture about that now. And the Cook Inlet Aquaculture was running the Port Graham hatchery, and they pulled out a year or two ago now. And so, you know, we don't know, maybe there's a potential there for us to be able to go in and do something with that hatchery. We don't know yet. I think Maddy's talking to them and figuring that stuff out. But yeah, there's --

1 so there's a lot of stuff that we don't know that we're  
2 working on.

3

4 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Also, you  
7 know, my condolences. There's a great leader, Pat  
8 Norman, that he lost over there, Port Graham. He was a  
9 very big advocate for subsistence, and he was really a  
10 great guy. I had a lot of fun with him. Yeah. But anyway.

11

12 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. And he's the one that  
13 suggested the king salmon fishery for the communities.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: He was very  
16 supportive of that stuff. And he's a great guy. Okay,  
17 well, you come over my way and do some fish studies.  
18 I'll be happy. But remember, you bring the king salmon  
19 to my house. I had an aunt one time. I don't want to get  
20 off story, but she would talk to me and I told the story  
21 last night at dinner. But she told me to stay out of the  
22 creek and don't be taking these things, you know,  
23 illegally or whatever. They were just subsistence for  
24 us. But anyway, she said, but when you get to king  
25 salmon, you put it in the shed over there (distortion).  
26 Anyway, very good. Okay, let's move on. Thank you. We  
27 got a summary of Cook Inlet Fish Management Area, the  
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Go ahead.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the  
31 record. So, that agenda topic is a handout only. There's  
32 no verbal update due to Fish and Game staff -- relevant  
33 Fish and Game staff being at that Board of Fish meeting  
34 in Anchorage right now. But they did provide that update  
35 for us, at the information request that you submitted  
36 about the king salmon, I believe I was actually directed  
37 specifically to page five of that report to narrow it  
38 down. Tab 6, but page five of that document, my  
39 apologies, Ed. Yeah and you certainly don't have to read  
40 it now. It's just more of a for your information when  
41 you want to review it.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It tells the  
46 story of the king salmon decline there. So, that's what  
47 it's referring to and that's good for your reading. And  
48 king salmon is closed on the Cook Inlet side, most of  
49 it and I think the drift fleet is still open and a few  
50 other little streams. I think Ninilchik is open for small

000128

1 kings, and it's the only river down there that I know  
2 of that's open on the lower Kenai.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 Okay, next I got the Kenai National  
7 Wildlife Refuge subsistence hunt report. Todd, are you  
8 still on the phone?

9

10 MR. ESKELIN: I am, can you hear me okay?

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We hear you loud  
13 and clear. Thank you. Good to hear you. You're up.

14

15 MR. ESKELIN: Great.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're up.

18

19 MR. ESKELIN: Great. Thanks Mister --  
20 Thanks, Mr. Chair and Council members, especially the  
21 new Council members. Good to hear some new voices. For  
22 the record, my name is Todd Eskelin, and I'm a wildlife  
23 biologist at the Kenai refuge. And I should mention that  
24 between our last meeting our manager, Andy Lawrence, a  
25 longtime manager, retired. So, just want to give you  
26 that update. And Steve Miller, who had been his deputy  
27 for a long time, is now the acting manager. With our  
28 budget constraints and things, I think we'll probably  
29 see and hear more Steve for a while now, but he will be  
30 getting my sage advice so. Just an update on the moose  
31 hunting. You know, at the fall meeting, we never have  
32 completed the whole season. So, I just wanted to give  
33 you the final numbers for 2024. Again, it was a good,  
34 good year for the number of permits we had 137 issued.  
35 And our subsistence hunters are being really good about  
36 reporting. You know, the numbers may appear down a little  
37 bit with a total of 11, but I would note that in talking  
38 to a lot of the subsistence hunters, they were able to  
39 find moose that they harvested off refuge and so those  
40 went on their sport harvest. So, that seems to be a  
41 continuing trend that a lot of folks, especially in the  
42 Ninilchik area, are harvesting on their state permit and  
43 don't actually get all the way back to the refuge there.  
44 And, you know, just looking at the numbers, there was -  
45 - eight of those moose were in the spike fork category  
46 which I actually like to see because there was some a  
47 little bit of chatter when we moved that season later,  
48 there was a few people that, you know, were disappointed  
49 because they always would get a spike fork in that in  
50 that early part of the season. But you can see from our

1 totals that the majority of the moose that they're  
2 tagging on their subsistence tags are mostly forks. So,  
3 at least that opportunity is still presenting itself.  
4

5 And then for our drawing hunts, it's  
6 kind of the same continuing trend. We put out a fair  
7 number of drawing permits, and most of the people don't  
8 actually find an opportunity to go hunting when those  
9 seasons are or their -- find the access to expensive to  
10 get back. We did have -- one caribou was harvested under  
11 the drawing permits and I think we'll just kind of  
12 continue to probably see that for a while on the on the  
13 subsistence drawing hunts. A couple, a couple of animals  
14 of opportunity were, were taken and, and a lot of folks  
15 are just -- they put in for the permit and then they end  
16 up not going hunting so. Yeah, I'd say in a nutshell  
17 that wraps up, you know, last year's harvest and looking  
18 forward to this year. And I'm available for any  
19 questions.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Todd.  
22 Good report. Questions, we got one here from Michael  
23 Opheim to start with.  
24

25 MR. OPHEIM: Hey, Todd, this is Michael.  
26 I was just kind of a follow up question I guess, we had  
27 that issue with folks from Seldovia no longer able to  
28 hunt. Have they -- have any of the folks that were  
29 working on that contacted you with any questions or  
30 anything?  
31

32 MR. ESKELIN: No, but I think they would  
33 -- thanks for the question, Michael. You know, I think  
34 that would probably go directly to OSM as far as some  
35 kind of proposal seeking C&T for that -- those areas  
36 outside of the Seldovia area that's qualified that  
37 Seldovia village area. And so, I don't know that anybody  
38 would contact me. I think, probably I would mostly see  
39 that go to OSM and then we'd see a proposal for, for a  
40 C&T addition. But maybe, OSM knows if anybody has  
41 contacted them.  
42

43 MR. OPHEIM: All right. Thanks. We're  
44 just going to say Todd said.  
45

46 MR. ESKELIN: That works.  
47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Todd said,  
49 okay. Any other questions for Todd?  
50

1 (No response)

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Well thank you Todd. I'm glad to hear that Andy finally made it. You know, it might be a good thing because he sure loved those brown bears. And if they're going to go for two skins, then, you know, he wouldn't -- he would be kind of -- he would be forced into retirement anyway. So, anyway. Thank you, Todd.

MR. ESKELIN: You bet. Have a good day.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. My mic. She wants me to be on record for everything. Okay. Evaluation of legal standards for Alaska Native marine mammal harvest eligibility. And this is an update, and it's just an update, and then it's got no verbal update, so.

MS. PILCHER: Well, that's my editing skills. Yes. So, it -- we weren't able to provide an individual to come give you the update and it was I hope member Roberts that wanted that specific update. So, we're going to maybe save it for the fall.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about the U.S. Forest Service? Chugach National Forest report, Andrew.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the Council. For the record, my name is Andrew Sanders and I'm the subsistence program manager for the Chugach National Forest. You can see the report that I submitted for your materials is on page 41. So, I won't read that to you word for word, but I'll just touch on some of the highlights for you. Right at the top there you can see we have a number of staff that are assigned subsistence duties at least some of the time, if not all the time. It says that we have a vacant position for the Moose Pass law enforcement officer, who is the subsistence lead for law enforcement, but I've been told that they do have someone hired for that position and that they'll be starting soon, so that'll hopefully be different next time. We did not carry out any special actions this year. We have two existing cost share agreements, one with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and we work very closely with the department to pursue a number of wildlife monitoring projects in Units 6 and 7. And those especially include aerial surveys for goats, sheep, moose and caribou, as well as some other projects that I'll mention a little later on. We also have a cost share agreement with the Chugach Regional Resources

1 Commission, and you already heard a little bit about  
2 some of the work that we're doing collaboratively with  
3 CRRC from Michael. The biggest project we have going on  
4 with CRRC is the Kings Bay Moose surveys. As you already  
5 heard, we weren't able to carry those out again this  
6 spring because of the lack of snow in Kings Bay. So, we  
7 are working on developing a game camera plan. I'll be  
8 very interested in hearing from Council member  
9 McLaughlin about where we might be able to put those  
10 cameras for most effectiveness.

11  
12 As far as harvest, in the Prince William  
13 Sound zone, one of our biggest hunts is 60 moose. That's  
14 a drawing hunt. We did not change the number of tags  
15 from last year to this year, and overall, we had a very  
16 successful hunt. So, for bulls we had 24 of 24 tags  
17 filled. We had 841 applicants for those 24 tags. And  
18 then for the antlerless moose, we had 823 applicants for  
19 20 tags, and 18 of those 20 were filled. The two folks  
20 that didn't get their moose, one was a case of new hunter  
21 that didn't really have the connections that they needed  
22 with folks in the community and the experience to  
23 successfully harvest. And the other person wasn't able  
24 to put as much effort into it this year as they had  
25 hoped.

26  
27 The Native Village of Eyak did hold  
28 their ceremonial moose harvest for sobriety festival --  
29 sobriety day and they were successful with that harvest  
30 for deer. The winter conditions in 2024 were pretty cold  
31 and snowy. It was a good snow winter. That was the winter  
32 of '23-'24. And when we did pellet surveys last spring,  
33 we did find a slight decrease in pellets that suggested  
34 low to moderate winter mortality. The deer pellet index  
35 was still in what we would consider the moderate range,  
36 although decreasing for a few years in a row, you know,  
37 not to the point that I think there's any kind of  
38 conservation concern in what we saw in the pellet data,  
39 but something to keep an eye on for a few more years.  
40 This winter was very mild, so hopefully it has been a  
41 good winter for the deer. We have also started a game  
42 camera monitoring project on Hawkins Island. So, in the  
43 fall, we were able to get out 11 of 18 planned game  
44 cameras. Those 11, we focused on the north end of the  
45 island where the majority of good winter habitat can be  
46 found, and this summer we hope to get the remaining  
47 seven out on the southern end of the island and take the  
48 data we got this winter and work with the Biometricians  
49 at the Department of Fish and Game to come up with a  
50 more quantitative estimate for the density of deer on

1 Hawkins Island, and start using that going forward to  
2 compare with the deer pellet data, which is a little bit  
3 more of an index and a little bit more of a lagging  
4 indicator. So, anyway, we're very excited about the deer  
5 camera project and the data we're going to get from  
6 that. We did not issue any ceremonial deer permits to  
7 Native Village of Chenega or Tatitlek this year.

8  
9 As far as black bear work, we're still  
10 continuing to work with the Department of Fish and Game  
11 on the collaborative Prince William Sound Black Bear  
12 project. We did send tissue and blood samples out to an  
13 independent lab to analyze the stable isotope content  
14 of those samples. And the preliminary analysis, we were  
15 looking to see if there was clustering in the tissue  
16 samples. That would indicate that some of the bears had  
17 a significantly different diet or lifestyle than some  
18 of the other bears. The preliminary analysis that we did  
19 didn't really find any significant clustering. It really  
20 just indicated that the bears are utilizing all of the  
21 available resources at different times of year and  
22 moving around from the beach and up into the mountains.  
23 The subsistence goat season closed February 28th. We  
24 issued two 6D mountain goat permits and one was filled.  
25 Last year we issued three and one was filled. And then  
26 for salmon in the Prince William Sound zone, we issued  
27 110 permits for the salmon fishery outside of the Copper  
28 River. So, that would be the rest of the Delta, Ibeck,  
29 Eyak, Alagnik. And we had a reported harvest of 249 coho  
30 and 99 sockeyes, which was down quite a bit coho wise  
31 from 2023, as has been noted, last year was a poor coho  
32 run. The lower Copper River Dipnet Fishery, as Matt Piche  
33 with NVE mentioned earlier, people are starting to  
34 figure out that fishery and it's a -- really appreciated  
35 by the folks in the community. We issued 88 permits this  
36 year. The National Park Service will report with the  
37 harvest. They are the stewards of that data. And that  
38 was a few more permits than we issued in 2023, which was  
39 71 permits.

40  
41 Over in the Kenai zone, we held a number  
42 of community meetings. Oh, I had a community meeting  
43 here in Cordova in August, also for moose hunters to  
44 help give information to moose hunters, especially new  
45 moose hunters that might not know where their federal  
46 lands and how the process works. We also did a number  
47 of community meetings over on the Kenai. So, you can see  
48 there we had fish permit meetings in Hope, Moose Pass  
49 and Cooper Landing in May and June, and then in July and  
50 August, we had hunting permit meetings to issue permits

1 and provide information to subsistence users. So, in  
2 2024, we issued 78 Unit 7 moose tags, 39 people reported  
3 that they attempted a hunt and 4 people harvested. We  
4 also issued 42 caribou tags for Unit 7, 13 people said  
5 that they hunted their tags, and no one reported a  
6 harvest in Unit 7. We held a drawing for three mountain  
7 goat tags in Unit 7 and two of those permits were hunted  
8 and no one reported a Mountain Goat harvest. We also did  
9 carry out the Unit 7 dall sheep draw hunting for the  
10 first time since that hunt was put into regulation. We  
11 issued one permit through the drawing. That permit was  
12 hunted. The hunter did not successfully harvest a dall  
13 sheep.

14  
15 So, we also started a -- working on  
16 developing a Substantial Dall Sheep Monitoring Program  
17 last year to address some of the information needs  
18 related to the dall sheep hunt. And there were two parts  
19 of that monitoring program in addition to the aerial  
20 surveys that we do with ADF&G. Those usually involve  
21 flying each hunt area once every three years. So, we've  
22 now started an annual lambing survey of the Crescent  
23 Lake subpopulation. This year, the highest count that  
24 we saw was 29 sheep, including two lambs. That represents  
25 an extremely low ewe-to-lamb ratio of 13.3%, which is  
26 about a third of what we would hope to see in a healthy  
27 population of sheep. So, we'll be looking forward to  
28 doing that again this May, June and July and seeing if  
29 this mild winter results in higher lambing rates. We  
30 don't really understand all the factors that are  
31 contributing to the decline of dall sheep, and we're  
32 hoping that this will help elucidate that. So, if we see  
33 changes related to the climate and related to lambing,  
34 that might help us start zeroing in on some of the issues  
35 that we're seeing. We're also looking at how the Swan  
36 Lake fire impacted habitat for dall sheep on the Kenai.  
37 We're working with the refuge to do that work. We are  
38 looking at the plant communities inside and outside of  
39 the burn area and looking at where sheep are spending  
40 their time, and we are looking to hopefully get some  
41 collars on some ewes in the next few years and really  
42 get an even better look at where they're spending their  
43 time and what they're eating, and the availability of  
44 the stuff they like to eat. So, with that, that concludes  
45 my report. I'm happy to take questions from any members  
46 of the Council.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: A good report,  
49 Andrew. We got some questions here. Michael, I think he  
50 was up first. Go ahead and then we'll go ahead.

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MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. You're mentioning your deer surveys. Are you monitoring for the chronic wasting disease? Wasn't there a case in southeast now that's been reported?

MR. SANDERS: We're not doing any testing -- through the Chair. We're not doing any testing for chronic wasting disease and I haven't received any reports that would indicate that we've seen -- that there are any animals that are exhibiting the signs of chronic wasting disease. I haven't heard that there was a report of an animal positive for CWD in Southeast, so I will make sure to look into that. It's very concerning if that's the case.

MR. OPHEIM: All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. Through the Chair. I'm glad to hear law enforcement positions going to be filled in Moose Pass. Is that correct?

MR. SANDERS: Yes. That's correct. That's -- I just heard that earlier this week.

MR. HOLSTEN: Okay, well, that person -- I'm hoping that person will spend quite a bit of time or some time and possibly -- I know in the past who've also detailed people to take a look at dip netting up at the falls. It's getting a little more competitive now because we've just got in the last year a new community, Moose Pass. So, we've got Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Hope, we haven't come anywhere near the allowable take up there. And also, there's a -- as you know, there's a tremendous amount of pressure on the Russian River, the half of one side's Forest Service one side's Refuge. And hopefully we can get some education and good enforcement down there, so thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Anyone else got questions for Andrew? You must have done pretty good. You got off easy. Well, thank you, Andrew.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Mic, mic, mic. National Park Service, Amber and others.

1 MS. PILCHER: Just Amber.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just Amber?

4

5 MS. COHEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Loud and clear.

8

9 MS. COHEN: Okay, great. So, again, for  
10 the record, this is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist  
11 at Wrangell-St. Elias and I'll be giving the subsistence  
12 and anthropology report. I'll shoot it to Dave Sarafin,  
13 who is online, and he'll do the fisheries report, and  
14 then it will come back to me to do our wildlife report.  
15 So, we'll try to make this as quick as we can. So, our  
16 report for subsistence and anthropology starts on page  
17 45 of your meeting book and in 2024, Wrangell-St. Elias  
18 staff and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge staff issued  
19 230 federal subsistence hunting permits for our moose,  
20 goat and sheep hunts that are on our Wrangell-St. Elias  
21 lands and Units 11 and 12. Our most frequently issued  
22 permit was for our fall moose hunt and Unit 11, and we  
23 issued 144 permits, 56 people hunted and 13 moose were  
24 harvested. We also issue a joint state federal permit  
25 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the  
26 northern part of the park, and Units 11 and 12, and for  
27 the -- last season, we issued 274 permits, 162 people  
28 hunted, 90 of those were federally qualified subsistence  
29 users and 14 moose were harvested. Of those 14 Moose,  
30 ten were harvested by federally qualified subsistence  
31 users. On the bottom of page 45, you'll see that our  
32 Ahtna ethnographic overview and assessment is now  
33 available. I believe we mentioned it at our last RAC  
34 meeting, but if you would like, you can go on our park  
35 website and do a nice little read of our ethnography,  
36 or we also have physical copies that we are willing to  
37 send to people, if you reach out to either me or Barbara  
38 Cellarius, we're very happy to share that. That was a  
39 lot of work to put that together. And that was in  
40 partnership with the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource  
41 Commission.

42

43 On page 46, you'll see our updated  
44 permit numbers and our updated harvest reports. For the  
45 sake of time, I'm just going to point out we have  
46 different numbers for our winter moose hunt, which is  
47 the third table on the page. So, we had 13 permits that  
48 were issued, and we had 8 individuals that hunted and 2  
49 moose that were harvested for a 25% success rate. So, I  
50 just wanted to give that update for all the -- for most

1 of the hunts, except for our Unit 11 goat and our Unit  
2 11 fall moose hunt. We have a 100% harvest report return.  
3 I'm just waiting for 3 reports for goat and 2 reports  
4 on moose and those people have been emailed, called and  
5 sent harvest reminder letters. So, hopefully we will  
6 hear back from those remaining subsistence users soon.  
7 On page -- the last page of the report, which I believe  
8 is page 48, I just want to highlight 3 projects that  
9 we're doing here at Wrangell-St. Elias, one of which,  
10 Sterling from AITRC already mentioned, which is our  
11 upper Copper River community harvest assessment and the  
12 big update on that is that by the time we meet again in  
13 the fall, we should have a technical paper that is  
14 available and published. So, we're excited to move  
15 forward with that and it's been a really great  
16 collaborative project with the Alaska Department of Fish  
17 and Game, Division of Subsistence and the Ahtna Inter-  
18 Tribal Resource Commission. So, it's great to see that  
19 come to a close.

20  
21 The second project on there is our Dall  
22 Sheep Local Knowledge interviews. And I've also  
23 mentioned that at a previous RAC meeting, and we are  
24 moving forward with the data analysis of those  
25 interviews and hopefully by the fall, also, we'll have  
26 a draft of a technical report that can be -- we can be  
27 working on and I just want to highlight that the funding  
28 for this work does come from the National Park Service,  
29 Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council, and from Alaska  
30 Geographic. And then finally our outer coast  
31 ethnographic landscape study. We are hopefully going to  
32 be transferring funding this year, and this will involve  
33 myself and Barbara Cellarius here at the park, as well  
34 as our archaeologist working closely with Eyak and  
35 Tlingit knowledge holders to gather information to  
36 complete an ethnographic landscape study, which will  
37 focus on the lands along the park's coastline and create  
38 baseline documentation of important cultural and  
39 subsistence places that will inform park management as  
40 the coastline is facing a lot of rapid environmental  
41 changes. So, we're excited to get started with that  
42 project. We've met with the Native village of Eyak and  
43 the Akutag Tlingit tribe several times on getting  
44 started for the project and more work to come. So, that  
45 is what I have for you, and happy to answer any  
46 questions.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great. Great  
49 report, Amber. Questions. None. Oh, I gotta [sic] turn  
50 my mic on. I just said you might have stunned everyone.

000137

1 They -- great report.

2

3 MS. COHEN: Oh, great.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No questions.

6

7 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10

11 MS. COHEN: Well, then I'll shoot it to  
12 Dave then if he's still online.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll  
15 take Dave. Thank you, Amber.

16

17 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah. Good afternoon, Mr.  
18 Chair. This is Dave Sarafin the fisheries biologist at  
19 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hello Dave.

22

23 MS. SARAFIN: And I have a the fisheries  
24 report I prepared, I believe, is on page 49 in your  
25 materials. It was just a summary of key updates. We ran  
26 the Tanada Creek weir again at Batzulnetas and  
27 documented just under 15,000 sockeye salmon and 13  
28 chinook salmon. And we were working on a cooperative  
29 agreement with AITRC to collaborate with them in future  
30 operations. So, we're still in the process of trying to  
31 work on an agreement and get -- a bit of a delay on  
32 processing right now, but we're hoping to have that in  
33 effect for the summer. As well, we have a planned  
34 inventory of harvestable freshwater fish that will be  
35 led by Dan Gorze with AITRC and again, that's planned  
36 for this season. And for the Copper River salmon run  
37 again, for last year it was very similar to the past few  
38 recent years where the run began in relatively low  
39 numbers during the start of the season, then increased  
40 in strength as the season progressed, and harvest  
41 opportunities continued throughout the '24 season, and  
42 sockeye salmon sustainable goal -- escapement goal was  
43 achieved.

44

45 Miles Lake Sonar estimated a total  
46 passage of 946,000 salmon, which is 58% above their  
47 management objective of 599,000. That's through the  
48 period of operation of July 28th. In contrast, the in-  
49 river run assessment of chinook salmon, Matt Piche just  
50 went over that in better detail than I have. But again,

1 that -- with the status of our assessment at this point  
2 that that likely did not meet the minimum bound, the  
3 sustainable escapement goal range of 21,000 to 31,000  
4 fish, and as a result, the Alaska Department of Fish and  
5 Game closed all state chinook salmon fisheries of the  
6 upper copper River by mid-season. No management actions  
7 were taken in the federal subsistence fisheries of the  
8 Copper River. The upper Copper River fishery permits we  
9 issued 202 Chitina Subdistrict, 293 Glennallen  
10 Subdistrict, and two Batzulnetas permits, and historical  
11 federal harvest are provided at the end of this report,  
12 tables one through four, and then a new figure I put  
13 together for this year that displays a visual of the  
14 historic harvest and in-river return estimates of salmon  
15 from '05 through 2024, along with some trend lines in  
16 there. Overall, the harvest for, you know, upper Copper  
17 River combining Chitina and Glennallen. It's -- you  
18 know, just right about -- you know, it's above the five-  
19 year average and just above or right around the ten-year  
20 average for sockeye, but below both five- and ten-year  
21 average for chinook.

22  
23 And the lower fishery that Andrew  
24 mentioned there were 88 permits issued. In season we had  
25 a reported harvest of 425 sockeye salmon. However,  
26 there's been records in the OSM that that's been updated  
27 to 475 sockeye salmon with 2 chinook salmon reported in  
28 season. And then regulatory changes at the state -- and  
29 state management plans were made at the recent Board of  
30 Fish meeting in Cordova. So, for this, the one proposal  
31 that -- or there are 3 proposals put in looking at  
32 revising the management plan based on sonar escapement.  
33 This ended up getting amended with some substitute  
34 language. The Chair put out in the record and that  
35 instead of managing based on that sonar, it was  
36 simplified in a way that the commercial fishery would  
37 be delayed basically a week and may only open after May  
38 21. They also revised the Chitina personal use fishery  
39 as well, to open June 10th or later. And that was --  
40 that would be -- it had been written that would open  
41 between June 7th and 15th, based on the sonar numbers.  
42 So, now that would delay that earliest opening, but will  
43 not mandate opening by the 15th. So, if the runs really  
44 low, it could potentially you know, just based off of  
45 what the sonar is doing at that point. And as well the  
46 the retention of chinook salmon in the personal use,  
47 Chitina fishery is closed for the month of June. And  
48 then ADF&G is forecast for the Copper River return is  
49 for 2.6 million sockeye salmon, which is 50% above ten-  
50 year average, and 36,000 chinook salmon, which is 25%

1 below the average -- ten-year average. And that --oh,  
2 one thing to note on the Board of Fish Action, the Chair  
3 did mention, you know, a primary intent of the amendment  
4 was, you know, specifically on chinook salmon concerns  
5 was a big part of that. So, either way, it should -- has  
6 a good chance of helping out some of the earliest run  
7 stocks of both chinook and sockeye, which could  
8 hopefully get fish distributed further upriver to areas  
9 that have stated concerns. And that completes my report  
10 and I'm open to any questions.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
13 Dave. Good report. Questions for Dave. We got one. Faye,  
14 go ahead.

15  
16 MS. EWAN: How do you -- it's Faye Ewan.  
17 I was asking about -- how do you figure out your ceiling  
18 of your amount of salmon, like 599,000 fish? How do you  
19 figure that out in the year before in your in your  
20 numbers? How do you -- I mean, this is a number that  
21 once it passed out there, then you guys open up the  
22 fishing so they can have more fish for their personal  
23 use. Is that how it goes?

24  
25 MR. SARAFIN: Hello Faye. Yes. The state  
26 manages all that. So, they have a management plan that  
27 gets approved by the Board of Fish. And with that,  
28 they've -- they look at like the -- the management  
29 objective they have in season for the sonar, they look  
30 at historical run timing that they've documented  
31 throughout several years to what -- when they would  
32 expect that to come in. And base a lot of management to  
33 where they want to make sure they meet the minimum of  
34 360,000 spawning escapement goal in there. So, they also  
35 account for average upriver harvest to come up with that  
36 599,000 that they want to have passing the sonar while  
37 it, you know, by the time it's done operating.

38  
39 MS. EWAN: On your chart here under  
40 dipnet total, it says back here in 2010, 2011, 697%. And  
41 then now you got in 2024, you got 6,536 dipnet. Is this  
42 a -- that's like 5000, you know, percentage of -- the  
43 dip netting went way up and seemed like the Fish Creek  
44 went down to me. I'm trying to figure out your chart.

45  
46 MR. SARAFIN: Which chart are you looking  
47 at? Is this in my fish report?

48  
49 MS. EWAN: I don't know who is report,  
50 but I'll tell you in a minute.

1

2 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. This is Nissa, for  
3 the record. Yeah, it is in your report. It looks like  
4 it's the chart -- hold on one second. He doesn't have  
5 page numbers unfortunately. It's just in the book. It's  
6 the one, two, three, four, fifth page. It's the one  
7 that's landscape style. The very first of -- there's  
8 several landscape style charts in your report. It's the  
9 very first page. And what Faye is referring to is the  
10 column on the right. Not quite all the way that says dip  
11 net total. Yes. Table one. There we go.

12

13 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. So, yes. Table one.  
14 So, this is combined for both Glennallen and Chitina or  
15 Glennallen is mostly the fishwheel. And so, your  
16 specific question on this again could you run that by  
17 me?

18

19 MS. FAYE: Okay. The 9.6% dip net. And  
20 then 14 years later our 2023 chart, it says 29.4%. And  
21 your numbers of dip net total is 16,000 -- 697. And then  
22 at the 2023, you got 6,536. That's a big -- is that per  
23 person per net, or is that just a total of all who  
24 applied for it?

25

26 MR. SARAFIN: Well, so what this -- what  
27 happened in -- I think it was 2018. We started to revise  
28 our management strategy federally for Chitina for the  
29 subsistence fishermen to where we no longer matched the  
30 -- you know, it ended up -- now we no longer match the  
31 state openings and closings of the fishery on their  
32 schedule. So, this provided a lot -- a beneficial  
33 opportunity to federal users to fish there when the  
34 crowds of the -- the urban crowds aren't in the area.  
35 And so, we had, you know, we have several local community  
36 members that might not have a fishwheel or have access  
37 to a fishwheel to where they -- this provided a means  
38 where people could have a more efficient way of harvest  
39 -- getting their subsistence needs met by using a dip  
40 net and Chitina. So, that's the primary thing that we  
41 can see in this percentage that really jumped-up  
42 beginning, you know, at first started in 18 and 19,  
43 2019. To where people in our area, federal users that  
44 live out here are now getting a larger percentage of  
45 their fish from Chitina than they were before.

46

47 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

48

49 MR. SARAFIN: You're welcome.

50

1                   CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And Kirk's got  
2 a question for you, Dave.

3  
4                   MR. WILSON: So, do you have the numbers  
5 on the users that took this amount of fish at the very  
6 bottom and the number on the users that took the 167?  
7 And is that because we have so many new users?

8  
9                   MR. SARAFIN: Well, I'm not sure. Are you  
10 again on table one?

11  
12                  MR. WILSON: Yes.

13  
14                  MR. SARAFIN: And you're mentioning a 167  
15 on here somewhere.

16  
17                  MR. WILSON: 1697 was the top number she  
18 was talking about and at the bottom it's 6536. Is that  
19 because we have more users or the users that was already  
20 there are catching this fish?

21  
22                  MR. SARAFIN: Well let's see, we don't  
23 have -- let's see. 2011 was that first dip net thing And  
24 if we go to table three, it has Chitina. So, we have --  
25 back then we were only issuing -- you know, we had in  
26 2011, 85 permits issued where then it jumped up, you  
27 know, around 200 and upper 100. So, yes, we did have had  
28 more people, federal users that started fishing in  
29 Chitina from what they were prior -- you know, to 2014  
30 it started jumping a little bit. On table three, you can  
31 see the number of permits that we issued. And it's really  
32 hard to separate, You know, we have a lot of users'  
33 local community members that get both permits and you  
34 know, get some of their fish, you know, in Glennallen  
35 upstream of the bridge by fishwheel or dip net and then  
36 also get them downstream of the bridge and Chitina  
37 Subdistrict by dip net. And the database doesn't have  
38 an easy way of really breaking out by household and  
39 permit you know, tracking that. So, that's kind of why  
40 I've taken to combining them to this table one for --  
41 to show the federal subsistence harvest combined between  
42 the two. Because it's all meeting their subsistence  
43 needs regardless of how they prefer to Harvest that way.

44  
45                  MR. WILSON: Yeah, well, I see that in  
46 2011 they had 85 permits issued, and in 2024 they had  
47 202 permits, and the number of fish went from 16,097 to  
48 6000. Those people, those 202 fishermen must have been  
49 pretty proficient.

50

1 MR. SARAFIN: Well, again in 2018 and 19,  
2 we allowed more liberal opportunities there where they  
3 didn't have to go by the state regulations on it. You  
4 know, there was -- it seems if you look at table two to  
5 the Glennallen subdistrict there may have been a  
6 corresponding drop from some of those years. You know,  
7 I think, you know, with the people who had been getting  
8 it upstream of the bridge, and then they found they  
9 could go downstream of the bridge without the crowds  
10 when they wanted to. That provided that opportunity and  
11 so that was less that they are harvesting by fishwheel  
12 upstream of the bridge. So, that's where if we look at  
13 the table one again, where they're combined, you know,  
14 2013, I mean, it's based on the five and ten year  
15 averages. It's fairly stable. If you look at the figure  
16 three, the final page, you can see that you know a visual  
17 image of the total combined harvest between Chitina and  
18 Glennallen for -- you know, since '05 and the trend line  
19 -- trend line through that period is actually a slight  
20 rise in harvest of the combined harvest. But there are  
21 cycles up and down, and a lot of it's based on you can  
22 see the in-river numbers in there. And a lot of times  
23 they tie together how many fish are in-river and how  
24 many fish get harvested. So, if you look at the 2016 to  
25 '24, it's not a steady rise in harvest. You know, we had  
26 those really high return years, 2013 to 15. But since  
27 then, we have had some ups and downs in whatever our  
28 return has been.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Dave, you  
31 did a good job trying to explain it, but it's getting  
32 more confusing. We're going to a lot more tables back  
33 and forth. I would -- I think what we need is we just  
34 need some of that information broke out. Just separate  
35 categories from this year, what it did to this year for  
36 these to see overall, I mean, basically we're trying to  
37 figure out did a whole bunch more dippers get fish and  
38 dip in the same area or did they just get a lot better  
39 fishing. But I think you kind of explained it, but you  
40 got to jump behind three schedules to figure it out. So,  
41 yeah. Anyway.

42  
43 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

46  
47 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Yeah. Sorry. It's a  
48 it is a little difficult to explain. So, that's a -- you  
49 know, we did see a rise in the number of people dip  
50 netting when we allowed less restrictions as far as

000143

1 timing there. So, but they're the same -- tend to be the  
2 same users that would have been harvesting on fishwheel.  
3 We go upstream of the bridge.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good  
6 enough. Andy's got a question for you, too.

7

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. No, not a  
9 question. Just a comment. Maybe clarify, 2010 if you  
10 divide those out is 18 fish per person and 2023 is 32  
11 fish per person. So, yeah, those lesser restrictions  
12 made it easier to catch a few more fish.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Got more  
15 efficient. Got better. Maybe bigger, longer nets, I  
16 don't know. Okay. Crazy. Okay. Thank you, Dave.

17

18 MR. SERAFIN: Okay. You're welcome.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amber, where  
21 are you?

22

23 MS. COHEN: Hi, Mr. Chair. I'm here.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
26 you.

27

28 MS. COHEN: All right. Hopefully I can  
29 give another great report here with our wildlife report,  
30 which starts on page 59. And for the record, this is  
31 Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
32 Preserve cultural anthropologist. So, at Wrangell-St.  
33 Elias, we have three caribou herds that go through our  
34 lands. But I'm just going to focus on two of those herds.  
35 The first one being the Mentasta Caribou Herd. A total  
36 of 189 adult caribou were estimated during a survey that  
37 was done back in June and July, and this is the lowest  
38 estimate since 2017. There was a composition survey that  
39 was conducted in September, and the calf to 100 cow  
40 ratio was similar to the previous four surveys since  
41 2017, and so the for -- the four-year survey average was  
42 21 calves, and in 2024 it was 26. The bulls 100 cow  
43 ratio was lower in 2024, we were looking at 33 bulls  
44 compared to the previous four-year surveys, which was  
45 74 bulls for an average. There are a total of 28 GPS  
46 collars that are out on this herd, and right now they're  
47 pretty scattered. They're not congregated together.  
48 Which is interesting and a project will start in 2026  
49 that will evaluate changes in the herd overlap for the  
50 Mentasta, Nelchina and Chisana Caribou Herd. And as you

1 guys know, there is a federal hunt on the books for the  
2 Nelchina Caribou and Unit 11. It is currently closed.  
3 That only opens when all the herds are overlapped  
4 together. So, understanding this herd overlap and how  
5 it occurs at Wrangell-St. Elias will allow us to have  
6 better management of that hunt that is on the books. The  
7 study will begin in fall 2025 and concludes in 2027, and  
8 you can see the survey result numbers and table one. At  
9 the bottom of the page starts on the Chisana Caribou  
10 Herd. There was a composition survey that was done in  
11 October, and the survey results indicated that there was  
12 high calf production. So, 32 calves per 100 cows and the  
13 survival of bulls was looking pretty good at 44 bulls  
14 per 100 cows. The current three-year average for both  
15 calves and bulls was higher than the herd goals of 15  
16 for 100 cows and 35 bulls for 100 cow ratios. There are  
17 15 GPS collars that are on the Chisana Herd as of last  
18 October, and so there are a total of 32 collared caribou  
19 in the herd. And this upcoming fall, we will do another  
20 composition survey as well as deploy additional collars  
21 on the Chisana Herd.

22  
23 For moose, our last survey was done in  
24 the fall of 2023. The estimated population of moose that  
25 was observed in 2023 was at a record low, which was a  
26 nearly a 40% decline from the 2013 survey and slightly  
27 lower than the 2007 and 2010 estimates. Changes in the  
28 spatial distribution of moose was seen through a spatial  
29 model, and it indicated there was a sharp decline on the  
30 north side of the Wrangell Mountains since 2013, and the  
31 moose on the west and south side of the Wrangell  
32 Mountains had showed less of a population decline. We  
33 are currently exploring the role of record snow amounts  
34 on moose declines across the survey area, using  
35 satellite data on snow, and in 2025, there's going to  
36 be an analysis that will explore the influence of that  
37 recent record snow amount on recent declines of moose  
38 across the survey area.

39  
40 Finally, on page 61 sheep surveys were  
41 conducted across a 2.5-million-acre landscape on the  
42 northern Wrangell Mountains, which included the Nabesna  
43 area, the Mentasta Mountains and the Nutzotin Mountains.  
44 A total of 148 individual ten-mile long transects were  
45 flown by two aircraft over six days, for a total of 48  
46 hours of survey time, and then sheep groups, including  
47 age and gender, were recorded. Survey results indicate  
48 that there is a slowing in the decline of adult sheep,  
49 while land production did increase slightly over that  
50 record low that we saw in 2023. So, a new project will

1 start in the fall of 2025 and go on for two years. That  
2 is going to evaluate factors that have contributed to  
3 the recent sheep decline at Wrangell-St. Elias. This  
4 project will occur across all sheep habitats in  
5 Wrangell-St. Elias starting in the summer of 2026. The  
6 project will use a south to north snow gradient across  
7 Wrangell-St. Elias to ask whether dall sheep declines  
8 are occurring park wide at the same rate compared to a  
9 historic baseline, and to identify factors influencing  
10 sheep abundance in repeat surveys since 2011. Also in  
11 2025, the NPS will resurvey the long-term monitoring  
12 area to evaluate recovery and along with expanding  
13 surveys into the southern side of the Wrangell  
14 Mountains. And table three shows our recent survey  
15 results for 2024, with the adult count at an estimated  
16 943 and a lamb count at 153. And that is what I have for  
17 you.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very  
20 good. Questions for Amber on that? Michael.

21  
22 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Amber this is Michael  
23 Opheim. You were mentioning snow surveys for your moose,  
24 caribou and rams, are you also doing monitoring for ice  
25 events to see how that affects them getting to the food?  
26

27 MS. COHEN: Yes, through the Chair.  
28 Again, for the record, this is Amber Cohen. The --  
29 particularly like the ice on snow events is something I  
30 know Kyle Cutting, our wildlife biologist, wants to look  
31 into. In particular, and this is not with the work that  
32 I mentioned here, but in my previous report with the  
33 dall sheep interviews that we were doing, that was a  
34 particular phenomenon that came up throughout the  
35 interviews as something that needed to be looked into,  
36 because it likely did prevent ungulates from getting to  
37 their food source. So, that definitely is a phenomenon  
38 that we're looking into and not so much that we're doing  
39 snow surveys, but they're looking at data and doing like  
40 analysis of data that we already have. And seeing if  
41 that -- you know, those huge snow amounts that we had  
42 out here in the Copper Basin, had it -- played a role  
43 in the decline for dall sheep.

44  
45 MR. OPHEIM: Okay. Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

48  
49 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 Thanks, Amber. Once again, a good summary and good

1 report. And I know this is Kyle's. So -- and so I don't  
2 want to put you on the spot, but maybe you could ask  
3 Kyle to send us information on the two snow water  
4 equivalent graphics that are here because you say what  
5 they are, but it's not clicking with me what exactly  
6 they mean? I can see the different colors, but some  
7 interpretation of that might be helpful to us. If you  
8 could send it to Nissa, she can get it out to us, or if  
9 Kyle could please.

10  
11 MS. COHEN: Yeah. Through the Chair  
12 again. For the record, Amber Cohen. That's something I  
13 can definitely do. And also with your next fall RAC  
14 meeting, if you'd like Kyle to come and give an  
15 explanation on that, I think he'd be more than happy to.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: She said that'd  
18 be great. Thank you. You did a good job, Amber. Thank  
19 you.

20  
21 MS. COHEN: Yes. Thank you everyone.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No more  
24 questions, okay. Alrighty. Next one, I got the Bureau  
25 of Land Management. Caroline.

26  
27 MS. KETRON: Hi, everyone. Can you hear  
28 me all right?

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hear you good.  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 MS. KETRON: Okay. Good afternoon,  
34 everyone. I'm Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist  
35 for the Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen field  
36 office. I'm sorry I can't be there in person, but I'm  
37 glad to hear all of you and glad to hear some new Copper  
38 Basin voices in the room. So, welcome to the new members.  
39 You have our report, I believe, on page 63 of your  
40 meeting book, so I'll just present some highlights from  
41 federal subsistence in Unit 13 this year. First news,  
42 the BLM did support emergency special action requests  
43 for the Federal Subsistence Board to close Nelchina  
44 hunts -- federal Nelchina hunts in Units 11, 12 and 13  
45 for 2023 and 2024 for conservation reasons. And we're  
46 expecting the federal season to be closed this coming  
47 season to also for conservation reasons. The state  
48 opportunities for Nelchina caribou are also entirely  
49 closed. Wildlife Special Action 24-06 closed federal  
50 public lands to state moose hunters in Game Management

1 Unit 13B this past season, and that will continue through  
2 this fall moose season. The BLM let hunters know, as we  
3 were permitting, and also developed a map for hunters  
4 that included both state and federal lands in the area  
5 in 13B to try to guide folks in hunting where -- hunting  
6 under the proper regulations where they were supposed  
7 to be. The Federal Subsistence Board did pass Wildlife  
8 Proposal 25-01, which included giving delegation of  
9 authority to the Glennallen Field Office manager for the  
10 federal Caribou hunt, FC 13-02 and changing it to a may  
11 be announced season by regulation while we're in this  
12 interim period waiting for the caribou to recover. We're  
13 waiting for the final rule to be published on that. But  
14 again, we're expecting the federal season to be closed  
15 this coming year.

16  
17 I have a mini report from the Alaska  
18 Department of Fish and Game on their fall 2024 survey  
19 data showed the Nelchina Caribou Herd at around 12,000  
20 animals, with about 40 calves per 100 cows and 26 bulls  
21 per 100 cows, compared to 2023, that is better. It's  
22 still not enough to open a hunt for conservation reasons,  
23 but it's trending in the right direction. They also --  
24 Fish and Game also relayed to me that the calves they  
25 did see were in good condition going into winter. So,  
26 we're all hopeful that they did a little better this  
27 spring. It's been a mild winter in the Copper Basin.  
28 Although we do have some snow. But we don't have the  
29 heavy, wet snow that we saw the past couple of years,  
30 so maybe that'll help with some of the calf survival  
31 rates. People have also seen groups recently along the  
32 Denali Highway. So, we're rooting for the caribou. The  
33 Glennallen field office issued 853 federal moose and  
34 designated hunter permits from the Glennallen field  
35 office, and also for three days out of Delta Junction.  
36 And as usual, hunters must get permits in person,  
37 demonstrate Alaska and rural residency, and have a  
38 current Alaska resident hunting license. As many hunters  
39 in this group know, the online reporting function of the  
40 permit database wasn't working this year, and Glennallen  
41 field office fielded hundreds of calls from hunters and  
42 created extra public outreach materials. And so, thanks  
43 to that extra effort from our staff answering phones and  
44 to the public for turning in your hunt reports, we still  
45 achieved over 90% return rate. So, we're probably close  
46 to 100% at this point. So, I just really appreciate  
47 that. It's great data. So, thanks to all the hunters  
48 that returned to reports.

49  
50

1                   Let's see, the harvest report for moose.  
2 There were 46 Moose harvested under the federal Unit 13  
3 Moose hunt, which is FM 13-01, out of 853 permits. And  
4 it was about on average as far as success rate, which  
5 is around 11%. But it's -- yeah. It's -- 46 is the  
6 number. It's a little down, our moose permit number is  
7 a little down from our average of about 1200. Likely  
8 because there's still no caribou hunt in Unit 13. So,  
9 most hunters targeting caribou in Unit 13 would also get  
10 a moose permit just in case. And since there's a little  
11 bit less activity there for caribou, our permit numbers  
12 are down slightly. Thank you. And that concludes my  
13 report, but I'll stay on.

14  
15                   CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very  
16 good. Anyone any Council member questions. Faye's got a  
17 question for you?

18  
19                   MS. EWAN: Are these -- hi this is Faye  
20 Ewan. Are these numbers that you're giving us is federal  
21 permit that you guys distribute? Are you including AITRC  
22 and the state in these numbers?

23  
24                   MS. KETRON: Thank you for the question,  
25 Ms. Ewan. These just include the ones that we issued out  
26 of the Glennallen field office this year, not state and  
27 no -- from report AITRC gave me some information on  
28 their permitting this year, and I think it was just 4  
29 or 5 this year. But we're working with the Park Service  
30 and hopefully with AITRC too, to maybe provide some joint  
31 permitting opportunities. So, I'm hoping that their  
32 numbers will go up. But it was just a handful out of  
33 AITRC this year.

34  
35                   MS. EWAN: But the reason I'm asking is  
36 that in the last ten years, you don't see any more bull  
37 moose with racks. Do you see them with 2-4 brow tines,  
38 you know, and not even a fully developed. A lot of the  
39 two, 2- to 4-year-olds is, you know, being killed for  
40 but you never see a really full rack bull moose. I  
41 haven't seen one in probably about ten years. I've  
42 noticed that we used to see them all the time, and now  
43 we don't even hardly see any. But we see along the  
44 highway all these hunters from Paxson to Eureka to Valdez  
45 Way, it's amazing how much these people can get out  
46 there and hunt and have all these camps. Valdez has one  
47 place where called by Tonsina River, they just developed  
48 this place here, and I bet you there was a hundred cars  
49 there. So, you know the ratio between that hundred  
50 people. And there's probably four you see in each car.

1 That's over 400 people hunting moose. And you got the  
2 statistics here, but you don't really know in reality  
3 how much moose is out there, because the Chugach National  
4 Park is right there, and you have the one on the  
5 mountains up there and average, you know myself, I know  
6 that a lot of our people are feeding themselves with  
7 roadkill, and none of us are getting moose to be  
8 successful hunters. And that's what we teach our young  
9 boys how to hunt, to support their family. And it's our  
10 tradition. And I think a lot of these numbers are maybe  
11 round off, you know, what you see in the area of how you  
12 count it. But I live there. Thank you.

13  
14 MS. KETRON: Thank you, I had one  
15 clarification through the Chair, if that's all right  
16 with you.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. Go ahead,  
19 Caroline.

20  
21 MS. KETRON: Yeah. I just wanted to make  
22 sure that I clearly answered her question that these  
23 numbers, like the number 46 moose harvest, that's just  
24 from the federal permit for Game Management Unit 13. So,  
25 that's just for the FM 13-01 hunt. So, it doesn't include  
26 any of the state numbers, I think that was clear. But  
27 just to make sure.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: She's shaking  
30 her head yes so. Okay. Very good. Judy.

31  
32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
33 is Judy. That was a great report. We do appreciate it.  
34 I just wondering if you have been able to fix whatever  
35 was wrong with your permit database, so you won't have  
36 all the extra work again this coming year?

37  
38 MS. KETRON: I hope so, it's actually --  
39 it's -- the database is managed by Office of Subsistence  
40 Management. And I know that they're working hard on doing  
41 some upgrades to that. So, we are very hopeful it will  
42 be in -- fully operational by permitting season.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. OSM,  
45 under the bus.

46  
47 MS. KETRON: Yep.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you  
50 again. We'll go ahead and move on. And let's see -- I'm

000150

1 gonna [sic] -- go ahead, Nissa.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So, we're on the Office of  
4 Subsistence Management updates but if the Council is  
5 willing. We'd like to move number four, the Ketchikan  
6 Nonrural determination up to the top. Since Brent is  
7 called in and the rest of us are all in person.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is that  
10 agreeable with everyone to completely blow the agenda  
11 that we said we wouldn't move and move it for a special  
12 item? Anyway, I just thought I'd throw that out there.  
13 Okay. We're fine with it. Ketchikan. You're on, Brent.

14

15 DR. VICKERS: Okay. Can everyone hear me?  
16 Okay.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We hear you.  
19 Good. Thank you.

20

21 DR. VICKERS: Okay, great. Thanks. Hello.  
22 I wish I could be there. I plan on being there. I really  
23 would have liked to give you guys an update in person  
24 but unfortunately had to stay home this time. I'm Brent  
25 Vickers, I'm the anthropology division supervisor with  
26 OSM, and I'll give an update on the Ketchikan Nonrural  
27 determination I -- the update will be pretty slim. I --  
28 from what I understand, you guys might have some  
29 questions for me. So, the -- at the Board meeting in  
30 February, the Board approved Nonrural determination  
31 proposal NDP 25-01 for the Ketchikan area. That proposal  
32 had been submitted in 2022 by the Ketchikan Indian  
33 Community asking for -- to rescind their Nonrural  
34 determination. So, therefore, going -- changing the  
35 status from a non-rural community to a rural community.  
36 So, it passed through the threshold analysis. We did a  
37 full analysis of it last year. We had three public  
38 hearings and brought it to the Council, the Southeast  
39 Council, the Southeast Council, after a full day of  
40 discussion and testimonies, really, really hard day.  
41 They voted in opposition and of the proposal. Then it  
42 was brought before the Board. There was a lot more  
43 testimony, and the Board approved it. So, now all the  
44 residents of the Ketchikan area, which includes  
45 Ketchikan City and pretty much the rest of the road of  
46 Revilla Island. And so, we're talking about 13- to 1,400  
47 or thousand residents are now have rural status in the  
48 Federal Subsistence Board, federal subsistence program  
49 and our federally qualified subsistence users for a  
50 number of resources in Southeast Alaska. So, I open the

1 floor for any questions.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I can  
4 guarantee you're going to get a lot. Well, maybe not  
5 from us, but you'll get them. Okay. We'll start with  
6 Michael.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Hi, Brent, this is Michael  
9 Opheim. I was watching the -- or listening, I can't  
10 remember, watching, listening, one of them, the meeting  
11 down there, and it seemed like there was some confusion  
12 of whether or not it was just the tribe that was going  
13 to become rural or if it was the whole area. And so, I  
14 was still a little bit confused on that. So, maybe if  
15 you could clarify that a little bit and you might have  
16 while you were speaking there.

17

18 DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Great. No problem.  
19 Thanks for the question, Mike, because that was a source  
20 of confusion and a real source of, some consternation  
21 throughout the whole process is that we do not -- in the  
22 federal subsistence program there is nothing  
23 specifically for tribes and or specific people within a  
24 community. It's the whole community one way or the other.  
25 And so, the proposal -- and Ketchikan Indian community  
26 knew this. And so, they knew they had to submit the  
27 proposal for the entire Ketchikan area. So, all  
28 residents, tribal -- whether they're members of a tribe  
29 or not (distortion).

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we got the  
32 gist of it, but anyway, we lost you.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: It seems like we just  
35 dropped.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What? You guys  
38 didn't pay the bill till after five.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: All right, just to double-  
41 check Caroline and Amber, can you guys hear me?

42

43 (No response)

44

45 Hey, this is Nissa. Can you guys hear  
46 us again?

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED: I can hear you, but not  
49 the room.

50

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1 MS. PILCHER: I think we're good to go.  
2 I think we're back up. Thanks.

3  
4 DR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, I don't know.  
5 I guess I'll just get back to it. I don't know where I  
6 got cut off.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks.  
9 Grab them out in the hall. Faye, we're going to go ahead  
10 and go. I think Kirk's out in the -- he was outside  
11 there. Heath had to take off, so I told him that was  
12 cool. He had to go, but he -- okay, where was I? Yeah.  
13 Brent, did -- you back online?

14  
15 DR. VICKERS: Oh, I'm here. I'm  
16 ready.....

17  
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm okay. We  
21 were right to -- we were right to questions. I don't  
22 know if we finished up there, but we lost you. So, I  
23 know there's not a lot of explaining to do for Ketchikan,  
24 but we kind of got to reply on that. But I'll open it  
25 up for questions. Judy's got a question for you.

26  
27 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
28 is Judy. Brent, I was at the discussion, but I might  
29 have missed it. I mean, I don't think -- did the state  
30 object at the meeting, and I understand that they're  
31 objecting now. So, could you bring us up to date on  
32 that?

33  
34 DR. VICKERS: You know the great  
35 question, Judy, from my memory in this whole time,  
36 they've taken a neutral position on this and have not  
37 really had any comments. I haven't heard anything about  
38 any objections at this point. So, if there is an  
39 objection, I think that would be news for me.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other  
42 questions for Brent? Okay, Brent. Well, thanks for the  
43 report. And thanks for sticking with us through the  
44 little bump, but I think we're good to go on you. Thanks.

45  
46 DR. VICKERS: Okay. All right. Have a  
47 great evening there. Bye.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.  
50 Okay. Next, I got -- we're ready for Katya, overview

1 update. Wait a minute, wait a minute. We got -- I see  
2 what I did is I goofed up. They moved the Ketchikan to  
3 the top. Yes, yes. And I forgot we didn't do all that  
4 in between there. Sorry about that. Okay. Update right  
5 now. Hannah, you got it on the Federal Subsistence Board  
6 Fishery regulatory meeting.

7  
8 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
9 members of the Council. Good afternoon. My name is Hannah  
10 Voorhees and I'm an anthropologist with OSM. And I'm  
11 joined on the phone by Kevin Foley, who is a fisheries  
12 biologist with OSM. This is an update on the recently  
13 concluded fisheries regulatory cycle. The Federal  
14 Subsistence Board took action on all of the fisheries  
15 proposals and closure reviews at their February  
16 fisheries regulatory meeting, and we expect the new  
17 regulations should be published in the Federal Register  
18 in late spring or early summer this year. We'll provide  
19 a formal 805C report during your fall meeting since there  
20 was so little time between the Board action and the  
21 start of the Winter Council meeting cycle this year.  
22 Having said that, if you'd like, I could give you a  
23 summary of actions that might be relevant to this  
24 Council, if you're interested.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

27  
28 DR. VOORHEES: All right. So, first I'll  
29 talk about proposals FP 25-03A and B. The Board rejected  
30 both these proposals. FP 25-03A had requested that the  
31 Board recognize the customary and traditional use of  
32 salmon in the Chitina subdistrict of the upper Copper  
33 River district by residents of Tolsona, and the B portion  
34 of this proposal requested that the Board recognize the  
35 customary and traditional use of freshwater fish in the  
36 Copper River drainage upstream from Hailey Creek by  
37 residents of Tolsona. And the Council -- this Council  
38 voted to oppose both those proposals at your fall 2024  
39 meeting, as did the Eastern Interior Council.

40  
41 And then one other proposal of interest,  
42 is -- was Wildlife Proposal 25-01. So, kind of unusually,  
43 during the Fisheries Board meeting, the Board considered  
44 this proposal, which requested changing all Nelchina  
45 Caribou Herd hunts in Units 11, 12 remainder and 13 to  
46 may be announced seasons, delegating authority to  
47 federal in-season managers to manage the Nelchina  
48 Caribou Herd hunts, and conducting an Alaska National  
49 Interest Lands Conservation Act Section 804 User  
50 Prioritization Analysis for the Nelchina Herd. The Board

1 adopted proposal WP 25-01 as modified by OSM, to specify  
2 which communities are eligible to hunt caribou versus -  
3 - via the Section 804 User Prioritization Analysis,  
4 added Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali National Park  
5 superintendents to the entities consulted in unit 13  
6 remainder and rescinded the delegation of authority  
7 letters moving existing delegated authority to unit  
8 specific regulations. And then in addition there were -  
9 - so the Board adopted modifications that were made by  
10 the Southcentral Alaska and Eastern Interior Councils  
11 to add Gakona to the Unit 13A Section 804 user  
12 prioritization Gulkana to Unit 13C and Mentasta Lake and  
13 Chistochina to Unit 12 remainder. Got all that? Okay.  
14 So, the next fisheries cycle will begin during your  
15 winter 2026 meeting. At that meeting, we will provide  
16 the Councils with draft closure reviews, if there are  
17 any, for your region, and will also solicit proposals  
18 to change the federal Fish and Shellfish regulations.  
19 This concludes the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle Update.  
20 Unless you have any questions. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy's got a  
23 question.

24

25 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
26 Hannah. This is Judy again. Just a little background for  
27 the new members. Hannah mentioned that the Board adopted  
28 for the wildlife proposal regarding the Nelchina Caribou  
29 Herd and analysis of that resulted from 804 when there's  
30 a shortage. That was a recommendation of this Council.  
31 So, that's the value of these meetings that we make  
32 recommendations for what work should be done and that  
33 now resulted in a regulation. So, it is worth being  
34 here.

35

36 MS. EWAN: I have a question.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

39

40 MS. EWAN: This is Faye Ewan from Native  
41 Village of Kluti Kaah. I wanted to ask about why did  
42 Gakona want to get into 13A and the other part 11? Were  
43 they in the district 11? I mean Unit 11 before or were  
44 they in 13A?

45

46 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. I do  
47 not have this analysis in front of me at the current  
48 time. And I guess I would just say I can pull that up  
49 as soon as we're done discussing here and answer your  
50 question, if that's all right. Thank you.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to ask Nissa to get a follow up on that for you, because we don't really know. Okay. Thank you. All right. Any other questions on the regulatory meeting? If not, Hannah, you could proceed, I guess.

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(No response)

Through the Chair. I did want to -- I could answer one part of member Ewan's question on the record, and that is that I believe AITRC had requested those additions at the Council meetings. And so that's why Gakona was added to 13A, Gulkana to 13C and Mentasta Lake and Chistochina to Unit 12 remainder and I also -- So, this -- when I say add, I mean these communities weren't included in OSM's original analysis. But they already had C&T, they just weren't included in the narrower section 804 determination, which pairs down which federally qualified users can harvest under situations when there's a shortage. Yeah. So, there was testimony from AITRC that led to those additions. Thanks.

1 All right, so update number three,  
2 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update. The  
3 Partner's Program is a competitive grant for Alaska  
4 Native and rural nonprofit organizations to strengthen  
5 Alaska Native and rural involvement in federal  
6 subsistence management by providing salary funds to  
7 organizations so that they can hire a professional  
8 biologist or social scientist or educator. Program funds  
9 may also be used for science and culture camps and paid  
10 student internships. Again, OSM is expecting to publish  
11 a NOFO or a notice of funding opportunity for the 2026  
12 Partners Program in the very near future. Application  
13 information and supporting material will be available  
14 on our website at [dio.gov/subsistence/partners](http://dio.gov/subsistence/partners), and you  
15 can also contact Jarred Stone or Liz Williams for more  
16 information about the program. Their contact info is on  
17 the partners web page or if anyone here is interested,  
18 you can come see me during the meeting. So, thank you,  
19 Mr. Chair and members of the Council, for your attention.  
20 And this concludes my updates.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you  
23 much. Michael has a question for you before you leave.

24

25 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, for the  
26 record. I just had a -- I guess it's a funding question.  
27 Has that funding stayed pretty steady over the years?  
28 Is it still going to be at a static level going forward?

29

30 DR. VOORHEES: This is in reference to  
31 the FRMP particularly? I don't know the answer to that  
32 question. I'm not sure if anyone online does. I'm going  
33 to put out a call, and we don't know what will happen  
34 in the future. Yeah, there's a lot of unknowns right  
35 now. Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. OHPEIM: Thank you.

40

41 MS. EWAN: My question is, you said  
42 there's a grant for the tribes to apply for this or  
43 whoever. What is the amount? I got to know what I'm  
44 dealing with here.

45

46 DR. VOORHEES: I would refer you to -- I  
47 can connect you with Jarred Stone or Liz Williams. I do  
48 not know the answer to that.

49

50 MS. EWAN: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you, Hannah.

DR. VOORHEES: That's all, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good reports. Thank you. Okay, we got that done. Now we're going to go on the other side of the Ketchikan anthropology. We got program overview by Katya. Katya, welcome.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. First of all, I represent here the OSM leadership team and on behalf of OSM, I would like to thank you all for your outstanding and work on behalf of your communities and your user groups. We won't be able to do our work without all the expertise, knowledge and your current observations that you bring to these meetings. So, thank you so very much for your time and your contributions. Sincere thank you.

So, I just would like to update you on the latest happenings at the Office of Subsistence Management. Some of you already might know, but some of you might not, especially the new Council members that OSM used to be a part of Fish and Wildlife Service. But as of last year, we've been moved into the Office of the Secretary under the Assistant Secretary for policy, Management and Budget. And this move became effective on July 15th 2024, we were moved by the Congress. And this move was one of many efforts that the Department of the Interior made to strengthen the federal subsistence management program and to ensure that federally qualified subsistence users and Alaskan Native peoples have an opportunity for meaningful engagement in our public process, implementing the federal subsistence priority and have an easier access to the decision makers. So, you know that in January there was a change of administration. President Trump returned to the White House and with him a new team of political appointees. Doug Burgum was sworn as the Secretary of the Interior here recently. Meanwhile, the -- there is business as usual at OSM. We continue working and doing the same things that we've been doing, and we continue working with many of the same people in Washington, D.C., in the Office of the Secretary. And that's the same people who helped us with the move, and we continue working with the new political appointees.

1                   So, the other change in the federal  
2 subsistence management program that in February, the  
3 Federal Subsistence Board welcomed three new public  
4 members, and they are Raymond Oney of Alakanuk, Benjamin  
5 Payenna of Nome and Frank Woods of Dillingham. And in  
6 February, also the Federal Subsistence Board completed  
7 another successful meeting which was fisheries  
8 regulatory meeting. We hope to have the final rule  
9 published for the fisheries very soon, and the proposed  
10 rule for the 2026 wildlife regulatory cycle have been  
11 published on February 7th. And you know that since you  
12 were working on the proposals today. So, the proposals  
13 are accepted 'til [sic] April 4th. So, please let people  
14 in your communities know in case somebody else wants to  
15 put any proposals. Because as it's been said, anyone can  
16 put a proposal in individual, organization, tribe, you  
17 know, another federal agency, State of Alaska, anyone  
18 really can put a federal proposal in.

19  
20                   So, now about OSM staffing updates.  
21 We've been kind of understaffed, like a really  
22 understaffed at OSM. We have about ten vacant positions  
23 currently and the changes that happen over the last few  
24 months since you met last time in the fall is, in  
25 December we welcomed a new director of the of OSM,  
26 Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti. She's been acting as a  
27 director for a few months before that, and then she was  
28 appointed to be the new director. And prior to that, she  
29 was the Native affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and  
30 Wildlife Service. She was born and raised in Alaska and,  
31 you know, pretty much worked in Alaska all of her career.  
32 And among our regular OSM director responsibilities,  
33 Ciisquq continues to lead OSM through administrative  
34 move and has done tremendously wonderful job doing it.  
35 So, since the fall Council meetings, several OSM staff  
36 acted as the deputy director. And starting in February  
37 of this year, Chris McKee came over to OSM on a detail  
38 from BLM and he is the current acting OSM Deputy  
39 Director. So, Chris, in his regular job, he is the  
40 subsistence Program coordinator at BLM and he's also a  
41 member of the Interagency Staff Committee. So, Chris  
42 also worked previously for OSM, first as the wildlife  
43 biologist and then as the wildlife division supervisor.  
44 And with -- we welcome Chris, since that allowed other  
45 OSM staff that have been acting as deputies and there  
46 were many of us doing that, return back to our regular  
47 duties and responsibilities. Because that's what's been  
48 happening in OSM, because of vacancies, many people  
49 carrying duties of several positions at the same time.  
50

1                   So, the other changes within OSM or one  
2 of our fisheries biologists, Karen Hyer retired recently  
3 and our state subsistence liaison George Pappas whom you  
4 might know, he moved to another job with the state of  
5 Alaska. He is the lead now at the subsistence division  
6 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, you still  
7 probably will interact with him in that new capacity  
8 that he has. So, that's what's happening in regards to  
9 staff at OSM. Now, the topic that was brought up to you  
10 many times before Real ID, so I'm not going to belabor  
11 it, but May 7th, 2025. If you don't have a Real ID by  
12 that date, they will not let you on the airplane, even  
13 if it's a small commuter bush airline. So, you need to  
14 have either the Department of Motor Vehicles issued Real  
15 ID or a passport and other details. You can find this  
16 information on the State of Alaska Department of Motor  
17 Vehicles. So, I'm not going to say any more about that.  
18 Sorry. We just want you to come to the next meeting, you  
19 know, so it's not like you show up at the airport and  
20 they're like, you can't get on the airplane.

21  
22                   So, correspondence, as you remember in  
23 March of 2024, some of you attended the All Council  
24 meeting in Anchorage. As a result of that meeting, there  
25 were several joint Council letters. Then there were also  
26 separate Councils sent various letters on various  
27 topics, and at the end of last year, we received several  
28 pieces of correspondence from the Department of the  
29 Interior in reply to the Council's correspondence. And  
30 I think Nissa is going to talk more a little bit about  
31 correspondence. So, I am not going to again, belabor  
32 this point too much, but we are very keenly aware at  
33 Office of Subsistence Management that the Councils are  
34 concerned very much about not getting responses to their  
35 correspondence. So, we are putting our best foot forward  
36 and working with the Office of the Secretary as much as  
37 possible to receive replies to your correspondence. And  
38 of course, we're working with the Board and with an  
39 interagency staff committee on ensuring that there's  
40 going to be, you know, replies to the issues brought up  
41 by the Councils.

42  
43                   Now, also, I want to mention the  
44 upcoming meeting dates. The next time the Board is going  
45 to officially meet, it's going to be during their summer  
46 work session, which is scheduled for July 23rd and 24th.  
47 And during the work session, the Board will discuss  
48 replies to your annual reports. So, today you approved  
49 your annual report, so the Board will hear, you know,  
50 an overview of your annual reports during that session

1 and discuss the draft replies that will be provided for  
2 them. And also, the Board will discuss correspondence,  
3 and we'll talk about the Council and non-voting young  
4 leader nominations and their recommendations to the  
5 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on the  
6 appointments. The other dates to remember that -- tribal  
7 and ANCSA consultations that are usually taking place  
8 before the Council meetings in the fall, and sometimes  
9 also after the Council meetings in the fall. They will  
10 take place on August 23rd and 24th. The exact times for  
11 these consultations is still being determined. So -- and  
12 the next year, the Federal Subsistence Board is going  
13 to meet first. The next year, 2026, they will first meet  
14 for a FRMP work session, which will happen either during  
15 the last week of January or the first week of February.  
16 They are still determining the exact dates. And then in  
17 April, mid-April, there is going to be the Board's  
18 regulatory work session on wildlife proposals. So, the  
19 exact dates are still being determined, and they will  
20 be posted on our website, and we'll let you know next  
21 meeting the exact dates.

22  
23 And the last topic that I want to touch  
24 upon is litigation updates. And I will read that. A  
25 litigation update was provided to the Councils during  
26 the fall 2024 Council meeting cycle. Since then, in the  
27 Kake Emergency Hunt Matter, Alaska Department of Fish  
28 and Game versus Federal Subsistence Board briefing has  
29 been completed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals  
30 and a three-judge appellate panel heard oral argument  
31 on February 7th. We expect a decision sometime this  
32 summer. In the Kuskokwim matter U.S. versus ADF&G, the  
33 District Court found in favor of the U.S. on all claims  
34 and enjoined the state from taking any further actions  
35 in violation of Title VIII on the Kuskokwim River. The  
36 state has appealed and briefing before the Court of  
37 Appeals is now complete. Oral argument is scheduled for  
38 April 11th. So, that concludes my OSM general update.  
39 And is there any questions from anyone?

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
42 Thank you, Katya, a great report. A lot of stuff there.  
43 We got a couple questions for you. Faye, you start.

44  
45 MS. EWAN: With this Real ID, our Tribal  
46 ID won't work?

47  
48 MS. WESSELS: It might work, I have not  
49 looked actually at the DMV website, so I don't know.  
50 Nissa, do you know?

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MS. PILCHER: I'm actually trying to find that right now. I can find it on some websites, but no federal website. So, I'm trying to find it officially.

MS. EWAN: Because that's all I use when I travel, is my Tribal ID, not my BIA card or my state ID. I use my tribal card from my tribe.

MS. WESSELS: I think from what I saw previously, I think the Tribal ID would work, but I would hate to say something wrong. And so, you will have to go to the DMV website, and I'll look after I'm done here so, and I can let you know.

MS. EWAN: That's a lot of money to buy those Real ID cards. Not everybody can afford it, you know. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay, Judy, go ahead.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Judy. Katya, excellent report. I just want to say, I can't imagine the stress that all the federal employees are going through with all the uncertainty and not knowing what's going to pop into your inbox next. So, we appreciate the diligence you all showed by pulling together all these materials and making the presentations and goes for all the staff online as well. Thank you.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Judy. We really enjoy working with all of you, so.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: One more? Okay, one more.

MS. EWAN: And what about this youth leader seat update. Is that from the like, Southcentral RAC. You'll have a youth delegate there, or is it on a Federal Subsistence seat?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's still on the agenda, Faye but we're going to get to it to hand out in tabs.

MS. EWAN: Well, she mentioned it. That's why I'm saying.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I know, and she  
2 said that Nissa would say it.

3  
4 MS. EWAN: Okay.

5  
6 MS. WESSELS: I -- Mr. Chair, I can do  
7 it right now.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead.

10  
11 MS. WESSELS: So, I know it's out of  
12 order, but.....

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.  
15 We'll go. That's okay, that's okay. Go ahead. Gotcha.  
16 If you want to do it.

17  
18 MS. WESSELS: So, as -- you know, again,  
19 for the benefit of the new members, the Council's been  
20 asking for many years to involve younger generation in  
21 the Council work because it takes, you know, more than  
22 you know, a minute or two or one or two meetings to  
23 learn about the complexities of the federal subsistence  
24 management program and dual management. And a lot of the  
25 Councils have Council members that are, you know, quite  
26 elderly, and they want to be able to pass the knowledge  
27 to the younger generations. So, the request was put  
28 forward by, I think, nine out of ten Councils in 2023  
29 to add a non-voting youth -- young leader seat to the  
30 Councils. And last year, when the charters were renewed  
31 at the beginning -- well, it was -- they actually were  
32 renewed at the end of 2024, right? It's 25. Yes. No.  
33 They were renewed at the end of 2023. So, when they were  
34 renewed, the Secretary of the Interior added the new  
35 language that -- to the charters. You have it in your  
36 charters now. You can look at the -- in your packets.  
37 You have your charters. So, there is a language on the  
38 non-voting young leader seat, one for each Council. And  
39 this January, we announced the call for the letters of  
40 interest from the younger leaders. And that's ages 18  
41 through 25. So, the call closed the same time as the  
42 call for the Councils applications and nominations,  
43 which was February 16th. And for the Southcentral  
44 region, we actually received three letters of interest.  
45 I -- we are working on the process with the department  
46 on how these appointments are going to go forward, but  
47 they're probably going to be something really similar  
48 to the same process that all of you undergone when you  
49 were appointed as a Council members, although probably  
50 less rigorous than what you had to go through, so you

1 will know the results of it probably during the winter  
2 of 2026, because the appointments are usually not made  
3 earlier than December, and a lot of the times they come  
4 in later than December. So, we will have another update  
5 for you during the winter of 2026, and hopefully you  
6 will have a non-voting young leader sitting here, and I  
7 hope you'll take good care of that, whoever that is, and  
8 teach them everything you know and help them to figure  
9 out all the labyrinths of regulations. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
12 Okay. Thank you, Katya. Okay. We're going to -- now.  
13 Nissa thinks she's up next, but she's not. Anyway.  
14 Program overview. I want to slip one in here, and I  
15 don't want to forget it. So, Kirk had asked about putting  
16 in a proposal, and it was in the Unit 13, and he couldn't  
17 quite find his proposal, and he was going to make it an  
18 individual. But it would be good if the RAC would support  
19 that proposal to put it in. And if we want to just make  
20 a quick motion to let him work with OSM and Hannah to  
21 get the proposal, then we could move forward on that.

22

23 MS. PILCHER: If that's the will of the  
24 Council, yes.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's the will  
27 of the Council. Sure. Okay. Thank you. Okay. Is there a  
28 second to that motion?

29

30 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second that.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
33 Michael. Any discussion? I'm leaving the details out,  
34 but we got the general gist, and we'll put it in from  
35 the Council support. Okay. Question.

36

37 MR. HOLSTEN: Excuse me. Can you reword  
38 the motion?

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We don't have it  
41 yet. No. Yeah, I could re-word it for you. Kind of,  
42 because basically, Kirk has a motion to work with OSM  
43 on a proposal in Unit 13. The big discussion we had on  
44 the two units and stuff, and so I don't know the details,  
45 but that's the motion in the second. Okay. So, okay. You  
46 don't. That's okay. We're good. Okay. I got a motion a  
47 second. Questions been called. All in favor, aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
2 you. I got that -- I didn't want that on the record. So,  
3 anyway, I said it left him open to work with the OSM.  
4 And Nissa to get that -- we talked about a lot today.  
5 So, so whatever you refine that'd be great with us.  
6

7 MR. WILSON: Okay I found -- my name is  
8 Kirk Wilson. I found my old proposal and Hannah has it  
9 now and she could bring it forward to us. And what I'd  
10 really like to see happen in these federal areas and  
11 only got 13B when I did this motion, I asked for all  
12 federal land in Unit 13. And basically, 13D has an area  
13 and these are small areas and the area in 13B. And then  
14 there's a little area up by Paxson and down the Gulkana  
15 River that is very close to a lot of the village people  
16 and subsistence users. And I just -- I put that in as a  
17 -- what do you call it? It's not a permanent, it was  
18 just for a couple of years. I'd like to see it. Those  
19 two areas or those federal areas in Unit 13 open to the  
20 residents, federal users until this caribou thing and  
21 our Moose population comes back. Because right now, the  
22 people in our villages they're not getting the food they  
23 need.  
24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we  
26 understand that. And we went through it, and we agree  
27 with you, and we passed you the motion. So, you work  
28 with Hannah, and we're going to take it when you guys  
29 get it finished, and it'll come back to us for approval  
30 and that'll be it.  
31

32 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. It'll come back to  
33 you specifically for approval. And then the Council will  
34 discuss it in the fall again, as your proposal.  
35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: As our  
37 proposal, okay?  
38

39 MR. WILSON: Thank you very much.  
40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.  
42 Okay, Hannah, it's on your shoulders. Thank you.  
43 Someone's laughing. Okay, now I got my mic on. Okay,  
44 where am I? Nissa, I swear I'm not going to get in your  
45 business again. But you want to go (indiscernible)  
46 Council.  
47

48 MS. PILCHER: Okay. It's my turn now.  
49 Okay. So, the very first one is Council correspondence  
50 update. So, in your blue folder, the very back, a couple

1 pages are a couple pieces of correspondence. All of the  
2 Council members, other than the new members, would have  
3 received this in January via email. Here it is in  
4 hardcopy, and it's also available to the newer members  
5 that that weren't on in January to receive that. So,  
6 normally what happens during this correspondence update  
7 is a I give you in hard copy any letters that the Council  
8 requested to be drafted at the previous meeting. You  
9 didn't do that. So, these are -- what these are -- there  
10 three responses that were received from the Office of  
11 the Secretary in January in response to letters your  
12 Council co-authored with other Councils, stemming from  
13 a conversations that happened at the All RAC meeting in  
14 2024 on Council compensation, Council correspondence and  
15 a letter on fisheries concerns, which I do not believe  
16 that this Council was a co-author on, but you were listed  
17 as a CC on, so you got a copy of it anyway. And then  
18 that is what this agenda topic was for. They all -- all  
19 of your guys' correspondence for the past couple of years  
20 are now located online. Not on the meeting materials  
21 website. There are a couple tiles down. There's a  
22 correspondence tile. So, we're starting to put those  
23 online now too. If you did want to go back and review  
24 the letters that you guys sent to the secretary in the  
25 first place, and that concludes that update. Thank you,  
26 Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Read your  
29 material. It's all in the book in the back. Tab 8. This  
30 one. You got it on the very bottom. Very bottom. Yeah.  
31 Back in tab eight. That's what she's talking about. Those  
32 letters. Okay. Okay. Everyone got that? If that's good,  
33 we're going to move on. We took care of the young leaders  
34 so, -- well, this one sounds a little sketchy. You ready  
35 for it?

36  
37 MS. PILCHER: I sure am, because you guys  
38 already talked about it already with Katya. So, it is  
39 no longer.....

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

42  
43 MS. PILCHER: No longer an agenda item  
44 that you guys need to talk about.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about  
47 the declining balance?

48  
49 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, that's the one. I  
50 already talked to you guys individually about that.

1

2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's where  
3 you say you don't want your money and you're going to  
4 put it somewhere else. Anyway. Okay. Council members,  
5 closing comments. Generally, what we do and for Faye and  
6 for Kirk and for hopefully we still got Ed on the line  
7 there, but -- Edward Edwards on? Okay. What we generally  
8 do is we go around the Council in a fairly orderly manner  
9 and make any short comments that we want to make about  
10 the meeting. It's getting pretty late, so I'm not going  
11 to say don't say what you want, but let's try and keep  
12 it brief for each member to get around the table and  
13 we'll do that for closing comments. And of course, she's  
14 going to try and interject something, but.....

15

16 MS. PILCHER: It was brought to my  
17 attention that we actually didn't do a motion. Did we  
18 do a motion on the proposal?

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we did.

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Okay we did. I see Faye,  
23 by Michael. Yes. Unanimous. I wrote it down. I just  
24 don't remember it. My apologies. Carry on.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's getting  
27 late. Okay. Okay, Judy, we'll start with you and go that  
28 way. And then jump across the street here.

29

30 MS. CAMINER: Thanks to everybody for  
31 making this meeting quite a success. We packed in a lot  
32 of information for one day, but you can see once we get  
33 rolling, we get rolling and we get things done. So,  
34 thank you all for being here and for Cordova for hosting  
35 us. And again, to all the staff who helped make this  
36 happen, who are here online and probably back at the  
37 office who helped us get here. Thanks a lot.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
40 Judy. Go ahead Michael.

41

42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, just a little bit of  
43 what Judy said. Thanks to the OSM staff for getting us  
44 here and all this information. It's amazing how you guys  
45 get all this stuff together. And thank you Greg, for  
46 taking the seat again and getting us through these  
47 things. It's always pretty impressive to get through  
48 three pages of information. And yeah, it's a great area.  
49 Glad we got to come back here. Thanks.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
2 Michael. Ed.

3  
4 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, parroting I want to  
5 thank OSM staff and Chugach folks, Eyak folks for helping  
6 us through this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for moving  
7 us quite a ways quickly. And thank you for not backing  
8 out the Chairmanship (indiscernible).

9  
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

13  
14 MR. HOLSTEN: It was a good meeting, and  
15 I really appreciate our two new members, Faye and Kirk.  
16 And I really appreciate listening to their knowledge and  
17 interest and awareness of the issues we're facing. I  
18 think we've got two really good additions, three. That's  
19 right on the phone. Three additions. So, thank you so  
20 much.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Go  
23 ahead, Dennis.

24  
25 MR. ZADRA: Well, first I'd just like to  
26 thank everybody for showing up to Cordova. I wish we  
27 were a little more accommodating. It's just kind of tough  
28 in the businesses. But anyway; and I just want to go  
29 back to the proposal that we voted on and unanimously.  
30 But I really didn't vote and I do think if we're going  
31 to do an analysis of the brown bear hunting in unit six,  
32 that Cordova definitely needs to be included in that,  
33 and not just Chenega, Tatitlek, you know, that goes clear  
34 down to Icy Bay, and there's plenty of C&T or customary  
35 use for residents of Cordova and that. So, I just wanted  
36 that on the record. And again, thanks everyone, and thank  
37 you for bringing the sunshine.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you got it  
40 on the record. So, thank you. Edward GreyBear you on the  
41 you on the line. You want to make a comment?

42  
43 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I just want to say  
44 thank you, everyone, for this being the first meeting  
45 is really exciting. And I'm glad to be part of this  
46 Council. And thank you guys for being so welcoming. And  
47 thank you, staff.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you  
50 Edward. And we look forward to meeting you and getting

1 with you. And sorry you got hung up there, but it sounds  
2 like we're buzzing through here. And so, we'll catch you  
3 next trip. Thank you. It's always great to have new  
4 members. Andy.

5  
6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 Yeah. I didn't leave Cordova out on purpose or anything.  
8 I can speak for the people in my part of the Sound about  
9 that. Dennis, I appreciate those comments and be glad  
10 to like we can introduce that as a modification or a  
11 change or improvement to that. I was just speaking from  
12 what I know about the history of it. And I also wanted  
13 to reiterate Kirk's report, it's bigger than Walmart  
14 parking lots, Faye's comment more than 100 cars. I've  
15 counted nearly 200 cars in some of the parking lots over  
16 by Eureka. And these are like unbelievable trailers RVs,  
17 \$200,000 RVs. Like the place is so full of I don't even  
18 know how an animal even lives out there on those trails.  
19 And I watched the trails get muddier and muddier. So, I  
20 just wanted to say I've witnessed the very same thing.  
21 I've also witnessed wolf hunting effort. Because of the  
22 caribou are down, I see more wolves and more wolf  
23 encounters. The predators you know one quick comment on  
24 the trawling fleet. I've had boats come into the docks  
25 in Chenega and offer us their bycatch. And you can say,  
26 I would like a wolf eel, I would like an octopus. I  
27 would like shrimp, I would like, and they flash frozen  
28 it and they sell it to you right there, kind of at a low  
29 cost, I think. So, they don't have to go back to a dock  
30 and have a bunch of other bycatch a little beyond what  
31 they're allowed to have. I wanted to mention 36 boats  
32 are out there in in Alaska. I know the names of the  
33 boats. I have the list, if you'd like. They rake the  
34 ocean floor at about six square miles per day, which  
35 makes in one year 27 million acres of the sea floor. And  
36 when I ask them, how does that work? Oh, those chains  
37 tickle the bottom. No, they're basically raking the  
38 bottom. Kick stuff up and that bag catches it. I Just  
39 wanted to mention that, but I wanted to thank the OSM  
40 for everything they do to keep all this stuff organized.  
41 It's amazing to see how that comes together. I wanted  
42 to thank Greg and Judy for keeping us on track and  
43 everything else and the new members. Thank you.

44  
45 MS. SELANOFF: The productivity of the  
46 meeting today was really appreciated. I feel like, you  
47 know, if I'm going to leave home and leave everybody  
48 behind when I come to these meetings, I appreciate that  
49 we get stuff done. So, thank you for that. And welcome  
50 to the new members. It's good to have you here, but I

1 also like to congratulate Greg, Judy, and you for  
2 stepping up and taking over. So, thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
5 Diane. Okay.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Okay. I'd like to thank the  
8 Ahtna people for having the confidence of put me here.  
9 I'm going to do the best I can do to serve my community  
10 and subsistence users and the Ahtna community. And I  
11 really thank you guys today for welcoming us and working  
12 so fast. This is -- this has been one of the most  
13 productive meetings I've been in in my lifetime, really.  
14 We've covered a lot of ground here today. And I just  
15 thank you all for your hard work and dedication to this.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank  
18 you.

19

20 MS. EWAN: (In Native). I said thank you  
21 in my language. And thank you very much for allowing us  
22 on this land here. Thank you to the Eyak people for  
23 allowing us to speak here. And I -- this is my first  
24 time ever being on a -- on the RAC, and I learned a lot  
25 today, and I worked with OSM, with Crystal Leonetti  
26 before, and I was -- one thing I really liked to see is  
27 that we protect the fish and wildlife for the next seven  
28 generations. That's what I'm looking out for. And by  
29 choice, I was talking to getting nominated to a seat by  
30 young people. They're the ones who nominated me and put  
31 me on this Board. They were 30 years and under, said,  
32 we need your voice, grandma. Let's write this out and  
33 it was 11:55 the night of the deadline. They submitted  
34 my application, and I told them good luck. And then they  
35 gave me the notification. I was like, I told those young  
36 kids, they said, well, I'm going to go do your job, but  
37 you better -- you're going to be the next one in line.  
38 We're going to teach you how to be a delegate and  
39 represent your tribe. And, you know, that takes a lot  
40 of training to understand the Robert Rules of orders.  
41 But I sat on many Councils all my life. Since I was 18  
42 years old, I've been on the tribal government and I  
43 worked in different, you know, fields. And I really  
44 enjoyed your company and all the things that I learned  
45 today. The OSM, you know, the staff and the people that  
46 all came here from different areas presenting your  
47 issues and your -- what's going on and how to, you know,  
48 work on. Now I understand how to go home and work with  
49 Kirk and I work with AITRC already, but all these other  
50 agencies, federal agencies that Copper River, I work

1 with them, and I do a lot of work with anthropologists.  
2 And this is going to be something that I'm going to have  
3 to make a testimony when I get home and to present this  
4 to your -- what I seen, you know, my report, and I'm  
5 very thankful for you guys, you know, accepting me and  
6 listening to what I have to say. This is concerns that  
7 my people gave me to ask questions, and I did what they  
8 asked me to do. And I'm very happy to see those young  
9 people who had seen something in me to be step in line  
10 and to start, you know, to get them to -- they're going  
11 to be here in the next couple of years. I got -- like,  
12 Edward, he's a young man. He's just -- and I nominated  
13 him to the Village Council. I stepped off the Council  
14 so those young kids can take over. But don't ever tell  
15 anybody you're retired. They think you got all the time  
16 in the world. Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. That  
19 brings it to me. Thank you, Faye. Do you have another  
20 comments? Okay, good. Anyway, I want to comment on a few  
21 things. And Faye, I got I got to talk to you a little  
22 bit, you know, these youth ones and I don't expect a  
23 response, but the youth ones and I'm not the youth. I'm  
24 the elder like you, and they constantly nominate me to  
25 come back too, and I tell them this is BS, it's time you  
26 step up and do it. And so, I'm looking very forward to  
27 these youth leaders coming on the Councils. I think  
28 that's the way we could progress. It's very hard to  
29 engage the young people. They're busy. They sometimes  
30 have different thoughts, but we engage them by teaching  
31 them and teaching them the traditions, the lifestyle and  
32 the storytelling and all that and we have to do that.  
33 If we don't tell our story, no one else is going to tell  
34 it for us. So, I appreciate that.

35  
36 The one thing that I reiterate quite  
37 often, and I'm not one to take a lot of time, but is,  
38 you know, if there's a group out there or there's a  
39 desire for C&T, there's a desire for a proposal. We want  
40 the proponents of that proposal to come here and testify  
41 before this RAC. We want them to come out and explain  
42 it. We want the people -- sometimes we get people putting  
43 in for a village C&T, and they -- not one of them been  
44 here, you know. So, it's real important to have the  
45 people that are asking for something to show up. The  
46 other thing I appreciate, you know, the confidence that  
47 put me in Chair and I try not to move things too fast  
48 because I want to make sure everyone has a chance to  
49 fully speak. And I think we've done that. We've -- you  
50 think I move fast now? Wait till the next meeting. Okay.

1 But anyway. So, I'm just kind of kidding you. But OSM I  
2 want to thank you guys too. And all the staff and Katya,  
3 you know, when you live in tumultuous times, which we  
4 do, things are uncertain. Life is uncertain. There's a  
5 lot of upheavals in the world. The one thing we do know  
6 is we got the beautiful sunshine to get the fish and get  
7 the beautiful place in the world, and we need to save  
8 it for future generations. So, we'll give what we can  
9 to do that.

10

11 I talked about the next generations. I  
12 want to thank the Council members here. They're all well  
13 versed and well, they're growing and moving in a lot of  
14 ways. And we do cover a lot of ground. Sometimes it's  
15 hard. We were very disappointed a little bit on the  
16 Federal Subsistence adding the people, not because of  
17 we wanted it. We backed it from the tribal level and we  
18 pushed it very hard. But the only problem was we never  
19 got a chance to put in our nomination from the tribes.  
20 And so, I don't know how that went, but it got cut short  
21 and I was told it was because they wanted to get it in  
22 before the elections. But anyway, so be it. Hopefully  
23 they're all good choices and you met some of them and  
24 they're probably great. So, thank you all. I hope you  
25 get home. I beat the hell out of myself on the cement  
26 out here, but I'm still kicking. So, anyway, thank you  
27 all and have a great night. I look for a motion to  
28 adjourn. I got a motion here to have a second.

29

30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We stand  
33 adjourned. Thank you.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 171 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 12th day of March;

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

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

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 21st day of April 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager