

0001

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE  
April 1, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Green, Chair  
Tom Gray  
Elmer Seetot  
Ronald Kirk  
Kelsi Ivanoff  
Martin Aukongak  
Robert Moses

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

Recorded and transcribed by:

Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp  
787-239-0462  
Info.@lighthouseonline.com

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

(Teleconference - 4/1/25)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Gisela Chapa. I am the Council Coordinator for this region and the designated federal officer. Louis, are we ready to get started?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We are ready. Gisela, thank you. First, we have invocation, and we would do that if we -- if Elmer is able to do that. Elmer, are you able to unmute your mic? This is new to some of us.

MR. SEETOT: Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good morning, Elmer. We hear you loud and clear.

MR. SEETOT: Very, very unfamiliar to me. I'm using the -- my wife's assistant, our son's -- our son -- anyway. Before I do the invocation. I picked this up when we attended Western Arctic Caribou Herd meeting. It's Genesis 1:28. And God blessed them. And God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon it. Lord, we thank you for this fine day. Again, though we may be far away, we know that we have one focus, that we are meeting to discuss options, issues for the future of our generation. Be with those who are in attendance. The people that prepare this meeting know that they have a hard work ahead of us and we as residents of the -- Alaska, know that our hunting season is here. As the long day approaches, bless the hunters who provide for the families in the communities. Provide them safe travel. And Lord, we thank you for this day. Though we be far away, we have one purpose in mind to help the people in and around our community. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.....

MR. SEETOT: Unmute.

0003

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....Elmer. And then  
2 you mute your mic now? Your mic is muted. Thank you,  
3 Elmer. So, we started meeting to order and it is -- what  
4 time do we have? 9:13. Perfect number. 9:13. So, Gisela,  
5 we got to do the roll call and establish quorum.

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're on.

10  
11 MS. CHAPA: Alrighty. Kelsi Ivanoff.

12  
13 MS. IVANOFF: Here.

14  
15 MS. CHAPA: Raymond Hunt.

16  
17 (No response)

18  
19 MS. CHAPA Louis Green.

20  
21 MR. GREEN: Here. Thank you.

22  
23 MS. CHAPA: Tom Gray.

24  
25 MR. GRAY: Yep.

26  
27 MS. CHAPA: Martin Aukongak.

28  
29 (No response)

30  
31 Elmer Seetot.

32  
33 MR. SEETOT: Here.

34  
35 MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses.

36  
37 (No response)

38  
39 Ronald Kirk.

40  
41 (No response)

42  
43 We have five members present. We do have  
44 a quorum.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,  
47 that's Martin's on, right?

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: I did.....

50

0004

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I wasn't checking.

4

5 MS. CHAPA: I did not hear him. I'm  
6 looking for him.....

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sorry, I'm just  
9 checking somebody out because I only have four. Who do  
10 you have?

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Okay, we have Kelsi, Louis,  
13 Tom, Elmer -- oh, I'm sorry. We have four Council  
14 members.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

17

18 MS. CHAPA: No quorum yet.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We want to give it a  
21 little bit more time or are we just going to go into the  
22 meeting?

23

24 MS. CHAPA: If you give me a second, my  
25 phone's over there, I'm going to get in touch with.....

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

28

29 MS. CHAPA: .....Mr. Moses.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We'll give it five  
32 minutes here, pause for the cause, as my dad would say.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Robert Moses texted and  
35 said the number won't work.

36

37 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ronald Kirk.

38

39 (Simultaneous speech)

40

41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's Ronald.

42

43 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Kirk, excellent to hear  
44 you.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Yes. I didn't -- I'm sorry. I  
47 didn't know my phone was muted. I said here when you had  
48 a roll call.

49

50 MS. CHAPA: Excellent, thank you.

0005

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure you did.  
3  
4 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Now we.....  
5  
6 (Simultaneous speech)  
7  
8 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I did.  
9  
10 (Simultaneous speech)  
11  
12 MS. LILY: This is Lily with the Village  
13 of Solomon and I'm here.  
14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, who?  
16  
17 MS. CHAPA: I'm sorry, I'm not  
18 catching.....  
19  
20 (Simultaneous speech)  
21  
22 MS. LILY: This is Lily with the Village  
23 of Solomon.  
24  
25 MS. CHAPA: Oh, okay.  
26  
27 MS. LILY: This is Lily with the Village  
28 of Solomon.  
29  
30 MS. CHAPA: Not Council member.  
31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, okay.  
33  
34 MS. CHAPA: But thank you. We do have  
35 five Council members present. I'm going to try to share  
36 the number with Mr. Moses, see if he can join. With five  
37 Council members present, we do have a quorum.  
38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. You want to do  
40 that with Robert first? Would see if.....  
41  
42 MS. CHAPA: Yes. I need to give them  
43 number again.  
44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, we have Raymond  
46 Hunt, Martin Aukongak and Robert Moses.  
47  
48 MS. CHAPA: Not.....  
49  
50 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Those are the three.

1  
2 MS. CHAPA: Yes, exactly. And Mr. Hunt  
3 had mentioned he was not going to be able to join.  
4

5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.  
6

7 MS. CHAPA: But Mr. Aukongak said he  
8 would. So, I will also try him in a minute.  
9

10 (Pause)  
11

12 Okay. Mr. Moses says he cannot get  
13 through, but he will try again. But in the meantime, we  
14 do have quorum, Mr. Chair. I'll keep trying with both  
15 of them.  
16

17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And so, Gisela, you  
18 have the media -- meeting announcement?  
19

20 MS. CHAPA: Yes.  
21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: (Indiscernible)  
23

24 MS. CHAPA. Yes. And I'll try to be very  
25 brief. Again, everyone, my name is Gisela Chapa. I am  
26 the Council Coordinator of the Seward Peninsula RAC and  
27 the designated federal officer. First, I'd like to  
28 welcome Kelsi Ivanoff. Am I pronouncing -- Ivanoff,  
29 okay. Kelsi Ivanoff from Unalakleet. And Kelsi is our  
30 newest appointed Council member to our -- the Seward  
31 Peninsula RAC. Welcome, Kelsi. We're happy to have you  
32 with us.  
33

34 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you.  
35

36 MS. CHAPA: Also, congratulations are in  
37 order for Council members Robert Moses, Elmer Seetot,  
38 Jr. and Ronald Kirk for your reappointments to the  
39 Council. With these -- with the new appointment and  
40 reappointments, our Council has eight seated members and  
41 two vacant seats. Moving on. We have meeting materials  
42 for those attending our meeting online. If you can,  
43 please go to the Federal Subsistence Program website  
44 that is doi.gov/subsistence, under Regions tab, choose  
45 Seward Peninsula and then Meeting Materials. If you  
46 would like to address the Council during the meeting, I  
47 ask that you -- for those that are joining online, please  
48 raise your hand, or if you are joining us over the phone,  
49 you can press star five. That will let us know that --  
50 okay.

0007

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Somebody's calling.

MS. CHAPA: Stand by.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hello.

MS. CHAPA: If I can see who that is.  
Trying to call Robert Moses. Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

MR. AYERS: It was trying to call Robert  
Moses in.

MS. CHAPA: Oh, I see, I see. Okay, thank  
you. And -- so, yeah, please raise your hand if you're  
online, there's a button for you to raise your hand if  
you're over the phone, there's a star five. We're also  
going to mute all of your lines automatically. So, if  
you need to unmute yourself to speak again, if you're  
online, there will be a button for that. If you're over  
the phone, you can press star-six. And the last  
announcement is a reminder to please, please, please  
state your name for the record before making comments  
or presenting a topic. This will help us with accurate  
record keeping of our meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
That concludes my meeting announcements.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, we're all the  
way down to the bottom. Okay so, welcome to all in the  
room, to all on the phone. It's always fun to get  
together again, do that a couple of times a year. So,  
there is introductions for the people in the room so,  
we go around the room and introduce yourself, please.  
Here in the room.

MS. CHAPA: Oh, I guess I'll start.

(Simultaneous speech - distortion)

My name is Gisela Chapa. I'm Council  
Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. UBERLAKER: Brian Ubelaker, wildlife  
biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.

MS. MORROW: This is Kristen Morrow with  
the anthropology division at OSM.

0008

1 MR. AYERS: I'm Scott Ayers, I'm the  
2 deputy director for the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management.

4  
5 MS. IVANOFF: Kelsi Ivanoff. I'm from  
6 Unalakleet (indiscernible).

7  
8 MS. JOCHUM: I just got access cards so  
9 they can get in out of the building. Sorry for the  
10 disruption.

11  
12 MS. CHAPA: Introduction.

13  
14 MS. JOCHUM: Oh, sorry, introductions.  
15 I'm Kim Jochum, I work for the National Park Service  
16 Regional Subsistence Program in this building we're in  
17 now.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Louis Green, from  
20 Nome. Okay so, then we would have folks -- people online.  
21 First would be Office of Subsistence Management. Who's  
22 on?

23  
24 MR. STONE: Good morning.

25  
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27  
28 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning.

29  
30 MR. STONE: Jarred Stone, fish biologist  
31 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Jarred.

34  
35 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
36 Hannah Voorhees anthropologist with the Office of  
37 Subsistence Management.

38  
39 (Simultaneous speech)

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good morning,  
42 Hannah.

43  
44 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. Good morning.  
45 This is Katya Wessels Council Coordination Division  
46 Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.

47  
48 MS. PILCHER: And good morning, everyone.  
49 This is Nissa Pilcher Council Coordinator with OSM.

50



0009

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. LA VINE: Good morning, everyone.  
This is Robbin La Vine subsistence policy coordinator  
with OSM.

MR. LIND: Good morning, everyone. This  
is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.

MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is Chris  
McKee. I'm acting deputy director for operations for  
OSM.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. That sounds  
like everybody is -- raised their hand and made their  
selves known in the room for Office of Subsistence  
Management. Let's go to North -- National -- excuse me.  
I'm still stuck on the meetings from two weeks ago.  
North Pacific Fisheries Management. Okay, so, National  
Park Service.

MS. KOELSCH: Good morning. This is  
Jeanette Koelsch, superintendent of Bering Land Bridge  
National Preserve.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Does like -- it's  
Jeanette, you're the only one on from the Park Service  
but, thank you.

MS. KOELSCH: I think -- I think Ken is  
-- Adkisson is also on. I will check.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

MS. KOELSCH: He's just in the office  
next to me. But I think he is -- I think he is here.  
I'll let you guys know.

MS. WESSELS: He's here. I can see him  
on the list of people in the meeting.

MS. KOELSCH: Oh, I see him, too. Oh,  
thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, thank you.  
Having said that, National Park Service. Okay, we move  
on to Bureau of Land Management.

00010

1 MR. SEPPI: Morning. This is Bruce Seppi.  
2 Wildlife biologist for Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

3  
4 (Pause)

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody else from BLM  
7 online?

8  
9 MR. SEPPI: I don't think so.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
12 Bruce. That moves us on to U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service, online.

14  
15 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill  
16 Klein with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the  
17 regional subsistence coordinator, and I'll be listening  
18 in to your meeting. Good morning.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good morning. Thank  
21 you, Jill. Any others from Fish and Wildlife Service?

22  
23 (No response)

24  
25 Hearing none. We'll move on to BIA,  
26 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

27  
28 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
29 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the  
30 subsistence branch chief for the BIA.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Any others  
33 from Bureau of Indian Affairs?

34  
35 (No response)

36  
37 Hearing none. That moves us on to the  
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, online, anybody?

39  
40 MS. HENSLEE: Hey. Good morning, this is  
41 Luke Henslee. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
42 Game. I'm the Norton Sound assistant area management  
43 biologist, and I'm based in Nome.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for calling  
46 in, Luke. Any others from.....

47  
48 (Simultaneous speech)

49  
50

00011

1 MS. MALLORY: Good morning. I -- my name  
2 is Mariana Mallory. I'm a subsistence resource  
3 specialist, and I'm based out of Fairbanks.

4  
5 MS. PARR: Good morning. I'm Brynn Parr  
6 research biologist, based out of Nome.

7  
8 MS. HENSLEE: Good morning. This is Sara  
9 Henslee, the Nome area biologist out of Nome.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Any others  
12 from ADF&G?

13  
14 MS. CARSON: This is Alicia Carson, and  
15 I'm Sarah's assistant for Nome.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, and any  
18 other folks for ADF&G online?

19  
20 (No response)

21  
22 Hearing none. Move to item seven, which  
23 is tribes or Native corporations. Anybody online from  
24 any tribes or ANCSA corporations?

25  
26 MS. LILY: I am Lily with Village of  
27 Solomon.

28  
29 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: (Indiscernible).

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Who is it?

32  
33 MS. CHAPA: I'm sorry we couldn't hear  
34 your name. Can you repeat your name?

35  
36 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: Oh, this is Julie  
37 Raymond-Yakoubian with Kawerak, the nonprofit for the  
38 Bering Strait Region.

39  
40 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Julie.

43  
44 (Pause)

45  
46 Any other tribal or Native corporations,  
47 ANSCA corporations online?

48  
49 (No response)

50

00012

1                   Thank you. How about other -- under  
2 eight, other organizations?

3  
4                   MR. RISDAHL: Hey, Chairman Green, this  
5 is Greg Risdahl. USDA Forest Service, Subsistence  
6 program lead and ISD. Glad to be joining you here today.  
7 Thanks.

8  
9                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.

10  
11                   MS. HERZNER: Hey, everyone, this is  
12 Katie Herzner. I am an Alaska region technical  
13 assistance specialist with the Intertribal Agriculture  
14 Council.

15  
16                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Katie.  
17 Anybody else out there, sound off. Guess I should be  
18 under nine, anybody else? Feel free to take the mic and  
19 let us know you're on.

20  
21                   (No response)

22  
23                   Hearing no other folks on. We're going  
24 to move on into the -- okay. Somebody has their hand up,  
25 9742. Phone number 9742.

26  
27                   UNIDENTIFIED: How do I take it down?

28  
29                   MS. CHAPA: Oh, you click on that same  
30 button again.

31  
32                   (Simultaneous speech)

33  
34                   And, let me see. Oh, you're star five.  
35 Sorry. And I think I can also do that.....

36  
37                   (Simultaneous speech)

38  
39                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Your hand is  
40 clear.

41  
42                   MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you.

43  
44                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. We're on  
45 item six on the agenda here. And it's the election of  
46 officers. I turn this over to Gisela to conduct the  
47 election for the.....

48  
49                   MS. CHAPA: Chair.

50

00013

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....the Chair.  
2 Position of the Chair.

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Well, my name is Gisela Chapa, for the record. And in  
6 accordance with the Council Charter, Council members  
7 elected Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for a one-year  
8 term. With that said, we will now hold election of  
9 officers of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional  
10 Advisory Council, and I would like to open the floor for  
11 nominations of the Council's Chair. The nominations do  
12 not need to be seconded. Do I have a nomination for  
13 Council Chair?

14  
15 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk. I nominate Louis  
16 Green and ask for unanimous consent.

17  
18 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, member Kirk.  
19 Member Green was nominated to serve as Council's Chair.  
20 Any other nominations for Council Chair?

21  
22 (No response)

23  
24 And if there are no others -- no other  
25 nominations, I will declare the nominations closed. And  
26 member Kirk asked for unanimous consent so we can vote  
27 on nominations for member Green to serve as the Chair  
28 of the Seward Peninsula RAC. All in favor signify by  
29 saying aye.

30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32  
33 MS. CHAPA: And would it make sense to  
34 do a roll call vote just to make sure? Probably.....

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Probably a roll  
37 call.....

38  
39 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....since we're  
42 doing all this on -- by wire.

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: Yes. Okay, thank you. So,  
45 I'll do a roll call vote. Kelso Ivanoff.

46  
47 MS. IVANOFF: Aye.

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: Tom Gray.

50

00014

1 MR. GRAY: Aye.

2  
3 MS. CHAPA: Elmer Seetot.

4  
5 MR. SEETOT: Aye.

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Ronald Kirk.

8  
9 MR. KIRK: Aye.

10  
11 MS. CHAPA: And I'm going to call again  
12 to see if Mr. Aukongak is -- has joined us.

13  
14 (No response)

15  
16 Robert Moses.

17  
18 (No response)

19  
20 And -- I -- this is a question for our  
21 LT lead. Can Louis vote as we have four votes?

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I know. Well.....

24  
25 MS. CHAPA: I mean, we have four of five.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We have quorum of  
28 five.

29  
30 MS. CHAPA: We have four votes.

31  
32 MR. AYERS: Yeah, I don't know.  
33 Let's see. We have.....

34  
35 MS. IVANOFF: That'd be considered  
36 majority vote?

37  
38 MS. CHAPA: Our majority is five.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Parliamentary  
41 procedure. Where's our parliamentarian at?

42  
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44  
45 MR. UBELAKER: Just wondering what  
46 happens if you vote no.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I know, I see.

49  
50

00015

1 MS. CHAPA: Well, do you accept the  
2 nomination? I should have called for that first. And  
3 just give us a second. I know.....

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Theoretically, no.  
6 Right, parliamentarian? That's right.

7  
8 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Moses said he was trying  
9 to call in.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I have much to gain  
12 if I vote for myself.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: I need one more person. Yes.  
15 And I do have the number for Moses.

16  
17 MR. AYERS: Interesting and unique  
18 challenges, right?

19  
20 MS. CHAPA: Yes. And I wonder if we can  
21 pause the election of Chair and move on, or if we could  
22 be dealing with the same challenge with the nomination  
23 for Vice Chair?

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And I can vote for  
26 Vice Chair, and.....

27  
28 (Simultaneous speech)

29  
30 MS. CHAPA: But then.....

31  
32 MS. IVANOFF: .....then they would -- the  
33 person nominated wouldn't be able to vote, though.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, yeah. There you  
36 go. Good catch. So, can we come back to the elections?

37  
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39  
40 MR. AYERS: See if she can call.....

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right.

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Moses.

45  
46 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Moses. To add to the  
47 discussion.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We need six to seal  
50 the deal for everybody.

00016

1

2

(Pause)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

(Simultaneous speech)

11

12

13

14

15

MS. WESSELS: It looks like maybe he's on line. Mr. Moses, but his mic is muted. It says leaving.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

For folks hear my phone rings, it's not my fault. I tried to silence it earlier, and it does all these weird other things so, it must have updated again. And I don't know the updates. I'll run out of the room. So, you'll know why, I ran out of the room.

MS. WESSELS: It looks like maybe he's on line. Mr. Moses, but his mic is muted. It says leaving.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, no. But it's still ringing.

MS. IVANOFF: Oh, but when it's calling, someone's calling you. Select the volume button.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. WESSELS: Gisela. I'm sorry, Gisela. Can you call him on your phone and tell him when we call him in, that he needs to answer and stay online?

MS. CHAPA: Okay. He said it's not ringing.

MS. WESSELS: Well, he was online because I could see his number.

MS. CHAPA: Okay.

MS. WESSELS: And it was muted. The line was muted. But because everybody comes in muted but.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Star six. Unmute.

MS. WESSELS: I'll try again. Oops, sorry. I typed in the wrong number. Stop it.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. And a question for you, Katya. Can -- without an election of officers, can we move on to the next item, which is the review and adopt the agenda? Since we do have five Council members.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, you can do that.



00017

1 MS. CHAPA: Oh, that is -- I see, Mr.  
2 Aukongak. Is that -- I see your number, Mr. Aukongak.  
3 And you're muted right now. Yeah. If you can press star  
4 six to unmute yourself and let us know that you are  
5 here.

6  
7 MR. WESSELS: I see Mr. Moses there too.

8  
9 (Simultaneous speech)

10  
11 MR. MOSES: Yeah. I am here.

12  
13 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Moses, great to hear you.  
14 We are right now going through the election of officers,  
15 and we have a nomination for Louis to serve as our  
16 Council Chair. So far, we have four votes yay, and we  
17 need one more vote to confirm Louis as our Council Chair.  
18 If you can, please give us your vote by aye or nay  
19 or.....

20  
21 MR. MOSES: Aye for Louis. Robert Moses.

22  
23 MS. CHAPA: Excellent, thank you. Thank  
24 you so much. And thank you for working through the bumps  
25 in calling in and with that, we have five votes for  
26 Louis to serve as our Council Chair. Motion passes.  
27 Congratulations Chair Green.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela  
30 Thank you.....

31  
32 (Simultaneous speech)

33  
34 MS. CHAPA: Yay!

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your  
37 votes of confidence.

38  
39 MS. CHAPA: And now we will move over to  
40 -- hand it over to you for Vice Chair and Secretary.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Alright, thank you.  
43 Just to be -- making sure, is Martin on that? Did  
44 somebody say.....

45  
46 MS. CHAPA: I see his number ending in  
47 1000.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 1000? Martin. Star  
50 six. Unmute if you're there. Well.

00018

1

2

MS. CHAPA: Star six to unmute. And I  
will keep trying over text.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. One more time,  
Martin, you have to hit star six to unmute and make sure  
your mute button isn't on the there's two sides to that  
story on your phone. I think I got problems with that  
in the past. Okay. So, Gisela, you got -- you're going  
to be trying to contact him?

MS. CHAPA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, we'll move  
on. Okay so, we're at the.....

MS. CHAPA: Yeah. We have -- we're done  
through that. We are.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're looking  
for.....

MS. CHAPA: Vice Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Vice Chair. Oh, it's  
on the second page. Okay. That's why. Okay. So.....

MR. AUKONGAK: Good morning. This is  
Martin, it's on.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Where's he at? Oh,  
he's 1334.

MS. CHAPA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
Martin. Good morning. So, we're moving into the section  
where we - I would be asking for nominations for Vice  
Chair at this time. Floor is open.

MR. MOSES: This is Robert Moses from  
Golovin. I nominate Elmer Seetot, Jr. for Vice Chair,  
or the -- what you mentioned Louis.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Vice Chair.

MR. GRAY: I move to close nominations.

1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Mr. Chair is  
4 answering. Elmer. Go ahead, Elmer.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. I decline. I think I  
7 did my 30 years of service. I think someone needs to be  
8 up and around. I go through this process and then what  
9 I'm experiencing right now, the federal government goes  
10 through their system and takes forever to attend a  
11 meeting, but then -- as for me, my -- I'm still  
12 physically fit but, you know, I decline at this time,  
13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. We  
16 understand you've been there for quite a while.

17

18 MR. GRAY: I nominate Martin Aukongak.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.  
21 Martin, do you accept?

22

23 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert Moses.

24

25 MR. AUKONGAK: Sure, thank you. Tom.

26

27 MR. KIRK: Move to close nominations, Mr.  
28 Chair, I'm Kirk.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nominations are  
31 closed.

32

33 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert Moses.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Yes. We'll go  
36 do a roll call, that way we make sure everybody's votes  
37 on.

38

39 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Kelsi Ivanoff.

40

41 MS. IVANOFF: Aye.

42

43 MS. CHAPA: That's an aye. Louis Green.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Aye.

46

47 MS. CHAPA: Tom Gray.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Aye.

50

00020

1 MS. CHAPA: Elmer Seetot.  
2  
3 MR. SEETOT: Aye.  
4  
5 MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses.  
6  
7 MR. MOSES: Aye.  
8  
9 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, okay. And Ronald Kirk.  
10  
11 MR. KIRK: Aye.  
12  
13 MS. CHAPA: Excellent. We have 1, 2, 3,  
14 4, 5, 6 votes.  
15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 6 votes.  
17  
18 MS. CHAPA: Motion passes.  
19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Motion passes.  
21 Martin, you're the Vice Chair. Congratulations.  
22  
23 MR. AUKONGAK: Thank you.  
24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. That moves us  
26 on to Secretary. Need nomination for Secretary, floor  
27 is open.  
28  
29 MR. GRAY: I nominate Kelsi Ivanoff.  
30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I second.  
32  
33 MR. KIRK: Move to close  
34 nominations.  
35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do we need a second  
37 on the move?  
38  
39 MS. CHAPA: No.  
40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No.  
42  
43 MS. CHAPA: I'll do a roll call vote  
44 if.....  
45  
46 (Simultaneous speech)  
47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If yes, roll call.  
49 We just keep -- roll call. So, we have it for -- in the  
50 record.

00021

1  
2 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Louis Green.  
3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. Aye.  
5  
6 MS. CHAPA: Tom gray.  
7  
8 MR. GRAY: Aye.  
9  
10 MS. CHAPA: Martin Aukongak.  
11  
12 MR. AUKONGAK: Yay.  
13  
14 MS. CHAPA: Elmer Seetot.  
15  
16 MR. SEETOT: Aye.  
17  
18 MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses.  
19  
20 MR. MOSES: Aye.  
21  
22 MS. CHAPA: Ronald Kirk.  
23  
24 MR. KIRK: Aye.  
25  
26 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Motion  
27 passes.  
28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
30 Gisela. So, congratulations, Kelsi. Is this your first  
31 meeting? I just thought I'd say that, like -- just sounds  
32 right. Just to kid around a little bit. So, you're good.  
33 Alright so, there you go. Congratulations again, Kelsi.  
34 So, we're moving forward here to item number seven on  
35 the agenda, which is review and adopt the agenda. Do we  
36 have any amendments in here? These are these are new.  
37  
38 MS. CHAPA: I have recommendations, if I  
39 may.  
40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I'm going to  
42 let you do that.  
43  
44 MS. CHAPA: Yeah.  
45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, we can.....  
47  
48 MS. CHAPA: Because of -- Gisela Chapa  
49 for the record. Because of the changes that we've  
50 experienced with our meeting and now holding our meeting

00022

1 virtually, I was going to recommend that we try to focus  
2 on the action items. And with that suggest that we move  
3 Council member reports to after action items. Remove  
4 Council member training. And move wildlife reports to  
5 our fall meeting.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody else have  
8 anything additional or any questions about what you just  
9 laid out?

10  
11 MS. IVANOFF: I move to approve with  
12 Gisela's recommendations.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: That is Kelsi.

15  
16 MR. GRAY: Second. I -- did she move to  
17 approve the agenda with the recommendations?

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

20  
21 MR. GRAY: I second that.

22  
23 MS. CHAPA: And that was Tom Gray

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tom Gray.

26  
27 (Pause)

28  
29 MR. GRAY: Question.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Questions then  
32 called, all those in favor of the motion to adopt the  
33 agenda with the changes made say aye, or are we going  
34 to do the roll call?

35  
36 MS. CHAPA: No. I think.....

37  
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39  
40 MR. GRAY: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The voice. Yeah.  
43 Voice votes good. All those in favor say aye.

44  
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against,  
48 same sign.

49  
50 (No response)

1  
2                   Hearing none. Motion passes  
3 unanimously. I think we all voted for it.

4  
5                   MS. HENSLEE: Hey, guys, this is Sara  
6 Henslee. I just have a quick question. If we wanted to  
7 give an additional topic, would now be the time or did  
8 we just miss it? Sorry.

9  
10                  CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sorry. We put it  
11 under action, is it an action item you say?

12  
13                  MS. HENSLEE: We just wanted to make  
14 ourselves available to provide a report. I think there  
15 is a request for 22A moose update, and I think Luke  
16 Henslee may have an update with Fisheries as well that  
17 I can let him speak to.

18  
19                  MS. CHAPA: I think we might need to  
20 rescind or just make a new motion.

21  
22                  MR. GRAY: So, my understanding there's  
23 a proposal on 22A and her comments are gonna [sic]  
24 reflect to that proposal. Is that right Sara?

25  
26                  MS. HENSLEE: Yep. We can absolutely talk  
27 about it during the Wildlife Closure Review too, up to  
28 you.

29  
30                  CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Under 12B. Yeah.  
31 Okay. So, that is for 22A, right?

32  
33                  MS. CHAPA: Yeah. and we do have Luke  
34 Henslee online. And he wants to provide an update on the  
35 Unalakleet weir project. So, yeah, if we can add them,  
36 we can go.....

37  
38                  (Simultaneous speech)

39  
40                  .....work on non-agenda, I think.

41  
42                  MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this is  
43 Luke Henslee. Yeah, that's correct. I didn't know if  
44 there was a space on the agenda for an FRMP update or a  
45 department report, but if I could have a few minutes of  
46 the Council's time at some point today, I'd appreciate  
47 it.

48  
49                  CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. We're looking  
50 under Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There's --

1    yeah, there's a item I. And then -- it's under division  
2    subsistence after Mariana.

3

4                   MS. CHAPA: Under reports. And I wonder  
5    if the Council needs to make a motion to.....

6

7                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: To add that in there.

8

9                   MR. GRAY: So, Louis.

10

11                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go, ahead.

12

13                   MR. GRAY: Doesn't this reflect to the  
14    escapement goal issue that we're going to be talking  
15    about? I -- Mr. Henslee, I'm not sure the -- what you're  
16    after, but I read through the escapement goals, and there  
17    was a big change in the Unalakleet River. And is that  
18    what you want to bring up, reflecting to that?

19

20                   MR. HENSLEE: Through the Chair. Council  
21    member Gray. I can certainly discuss that. That's not  
22    specifically what I intended to present to the Council.  
23    It was more of just a project update for the Fisheries  
24    Resource Monitoring Project we do on the Unalakleet  
25    River, but I'll certainly be available to answer  
26    questions or provide comments about the escapement goal  
27    update.

28

29                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Let me ask this. I  
30    was just going to -- I was just going to mention that,  
31    you know, review and adopt the agenda with changes. So,  
32    if we had the first and the second rescind their -- can  
33    we do that?

34

35                   MR. AYERS: And then I think that's fine.  
36    Ultimately, Robert's Rules is a framework for helping  
37    us work through this meeting in an orderly sort of  
38    fashion.

39

40                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Correct.

41

42                   MR. AYERS: I think we're probably safe  
43    as long as we've got spots that we want to put folks in  
44    in order, as we're working through these topics to call  
45    them in as needed. We can go through the steps to rescind  
46    that motion and say with changes if you prefer, or we  
47    can just move forward from this point. I think we're  
48    kind of safe either way.

49

50                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.



00025

1   Parliamentarian says we're safe to move forward. So,  
2   we'll add those changes in there, even though we've had  
3   the.....

4  
5                   MS. CHAPA: Okay. Under reports?

6  
7                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, now we're at  
8   Council member reports. Under item number nine. Oh, wait  
9   a minute. Excuse me. Yeah, we jumped at.....

10  
11                   (Simultaneous speech)

12  
13                   MS. CHAPA: Eight, review and.....

14  
15                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Review and approve  
16   previous meeting minutes. Maybe folks should at least  
17   take a gander where we are on that.

18  
19                   MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I can share  
20   this the -- the previous meeting minutes can be found  
21   on page five of your meeting materials.

22  
23                   (Simultaneous speech)

24  
25                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any corrections or  
26   anything like that on there that we need to make? Some  
27   people like to dot the I's and cross all the T's. Make  
28   the comments fall in the right spot. Yeah. As long as  
29   the names are spelled correctly. And.....

30  
31                   MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to  
32   approve the previous meeting minutes.

33  
34                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi. Is  
35   there a second?

36  
37                   MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

38  
39                   MS. CHAPA: I believe that's Mr.  
40   Aukongak.

41  
42                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that you, Martin?

43  
44                   MR. AUKONGAK: Yes.

45  
46                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.

47  
48                   MR. AUKONGAK: Question.

49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been  
2 called. All those in favor to approve.....

3  
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, before you vote.  
7 Elmer Seetot. I'm just mute and unmute. Muting my button  
8 because I'm just like a kindergarten trying to take  
9 algebra classes so, that's how complicated it is. Right  
10 now, before you vote on it, I see -- I really haven't  
11 mentioned this in many a meeting. There's two typos that  
12 I want to point out. The first is on the attendees,  
13 Chuck (In Native). It should be an A instead of an E.  
14 The government might -- the present administration might  
15 think he's a fraud. So, that's what I want to correct.  
16 The other one is that -- the last name, Frank, as far  
17 as I remember, is Frank Kavairlook. He used to be --  
18 attend William E. Bell High School. K a v a i r l o o  
19 k, last name. And that was my corrections, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you,  
22 Councilman Seetot for your corrections. Are there any  
23 other corrections to be made?

24  
25 MR. SEETOT: Now you can ask -- question.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, the question has  
28 been called on adopting -- excuse me. Approving the  
29 previous October 24th, 25th of 2024 meeting. All those  
30 in favor say aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against,  
35 same sign.

36  
37 (No response)

38  
39 Hearing none. Motion passes  
40 unanimously. Okay. That would be we're moving on to  
41 Council member reports. Oh, we're going to do that after  
42 action items. That's -- okay. So, we're going to go to  
43 public and tribal comments under number ten on the  
44 agenda, of non-agenda items. We do this each morning.  
45 Excuse me.

46  
47 MS. IVANOFF: This is where I thought  
48 Luke could have gone in because it was (indiscernible)  
49 agenda item.

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, we got -- okay,  
2 no. That's not it. Okay. Number ten, public and tribal  
3 comments on non-agenda items. Do you think, Luke --  
4 Kelsi, you think it would be appropriate for him or are  
5 we going to?

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Well, I was going to ask if  
8 it would be more appropriate to move him to report so  
9 that we can focus on the action items this morning while  
10 we still have a quorum.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I think I agree  
13 with that. So, you got it moved on.

14  
15 MS. CHAPA: He is under reports.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: He's already under  
18 reports. Okay. Okay, and that's number ten. So, hearing  
19 no tribal comments or public comments on non-agenda  
20 items. We'll be moving on to item 11 Council member  
21 training. What did we.....

22  
23 MS. CHAPA: We removed that item.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Removed that item.  
26 For the record, it's been removed. And that moves us on  
27 to wildlife reports.

28  
29 MS. CHAPA: We also removed that in.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that is removed,  
32 for the record. And then we go to action items under 13.  
33 So, this is (indiscernible) paper and this is the real  
34 one. (Indiscernible). So, that brings us under the  
35 action items under item 13. There's item 13A, deferred  
36 proposal -- wildlife proposal, W -- let's see, yeah, WP  
37 24-01 statewide sale of brown bear hides. And I think  
38 Hannah. That would be you, and you have the floor.

39  
40 DR. VOORHEES Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
41 this is Hannah Voorhees. I'm an anthropologist with OSM.  
42 Can you hear me okay?

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Five-five, as they  
45 say on the radio world.

46  
47 DR. VOORHEES: Okay, excellent. So, next  
48 I'll be presenting Deferred Wildlife proposal WP 24-01,  
49 and the analysis starts on page 25 of your meeting  
50 materials. This proposal was originally submitted in

1 2023 by a resident of McCarthy, and he requested that  
2 the Federal Subsistence Board allow the sale of brown  
3 bear hides under federal subsistence regulations. This  
4 may sound familiar, this proposal has come before the  
5 Council once before, but we're bringing it back to your  
6 attention now because there's new information for you  
7 to consider. This is a statewide proposal, but we're  
8 only asking for you to make a recommendation that applies  
9 to your region. And all the other Councils are doing the  
10 same.

11  
12 First, if you'll bear with me, I want  
13 to give you a little background information on how we  
14 got here. This proposal was first presented to your  
15 Council in October 2023. Originally, OSM supported this  
16 proposal with a modification which would have limited  
17 sales to hides from Brown bear taken in areas with a two  
18 brown bear limit under federal subsistence regulations,  
19 and at that time this Council supported that original  
20 OSM modification. You as a Council said that more bears  
21 have been seen in the last few years, and while bears  
22 are not seen as a food resource, they have been in the  
23 past and during times of food shortages. The Council  
24 said that this would be a way to help support a  
25 subsistence way of life. Going forward, after you made  
26 your recommendation, the Board deferred the proposal at  
27 its April 2024 meeting. The Board did this to allow OSM  
28 time to find a way for federally qualified subsistence  
29 users to sell hides from brown bears, even if they were  
30 taken in a Unit with a one brown bear limit. And the  
31 Board also wanted to make sure that whatever solution  
32 was chosen would not conflict with the Convention on  
33 International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES,  
34 which governs the international sale of brown bear  
35 parts.

36  
37 After the Board's first deferral, OSM  
38 went back to the drawing board and the resulting addendum  
39 begins on page 42 of your meeting materials. So, there's  
40 now a completely new OSM conclusion with a different  
41 modification for you to consider. The addendum was  
42 presented to the Board at their meeting in February of  
43 this year. And at that time the Board again deferred the  
44 proposal, but this time they did so to allow all ten  
45 Councils to provide recommendations on the revised OSM.  
46 Some conclusion. So, this is why the proposal is coming  
47 back in front of you today.

48  
49 The revised OSM conclusion is to support  
50 proposal WP 24-01 with modifications so that the hides

1 of brown bears, with or without clause attached, may be  
2 purchased within the United States for personal use and  
3 not to be resold. The hunter must request an OSM  
4 customary trade permit and must return the permit.  
5 Additionally, the modified regulation will align federal  
6 sealing regulations with State of Alaska sealing  
7 regulations.

8  
9 So, let's unpack this conclusion a  
10 little bit. Some of the most pertinent language from the  
11 modified regulation is listed on this slide. It  
12 basically says what I just summarized as the OSM revised  
13 conclusion. The modification would now allow the sale  
14 of a hide from a brown bear harvested under federal  
15 regulations regardless of the harvest limit in the Unit  
16 it is taken, so long as there is a federal opportunity.  
17 So, there's no longer this stipulation that the hides  
18 could only be sold if they came from an area where the  
19 federal limit is two brown bears per regulatory year.  
20 The OSM modification would allow only domestic  
21 purchases, and it therefore does not conflict with the  
22 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species,  
23 which is also known as CITES. When selling brown bear  
24 hides from bears harvested under federal regulations,  
25 federally qualified subsistence users would not need the  
26 State's permit to sell. They would instead use a federal  
27 OSM customary trade permit. In order to sell a brown  
28 bear hide under federal regulations the hide would first  
29 need to be sealed by ADF&G, and the seal must remain on  
30 the hide when sold.

31  
32 The OSM modification would allow a hide  
33 to be sold with or without -- with or without claws  
34 attached, which would allow a federally qualified  
35 subsistence user who removes a claw to incorporate it  
36 into a handicraft to then sell the hide. Just as an  
37 aside, I do want to note that federal regulations in  
38 Unit 22 currently do not allow the sale of handicrafts  
39 incorporating claws from brown bear harvested in Unit  
40 22. So, that could all -- that's something that could  
41 always be changed by our proposal, if the Council wished.  
42 But you are already allowed to sell handicrafts  
43 incorporating the hides of brown bears harvested in Unit  
44 22 into handicrafts under federal subsistence  
45 regulations. Finally, the OSM modification removes from  
46 federal regulations the requirement in some areas of  
47 Alaska, including most of Unit 22, that at the time of  
48 sealing, the official must remove and retain the skin  
49 of the head, claws of the bear hide -- front claws from  
50 the bear hide. This will align federal sealing

1 regulations in those areas with current State of Alaska  
2 sealing regulations.

3  
4 So, in summary, the OSM modification  
5 would allow the sale of hides from brown bears harvested  
6 under federal subsistence regulations in the U.S.,  
7 regardless of the federal harvest limit. The ability to  
8 sell hides from brown bears harvested under federal  
9 regulations is not expected to result in overharvest,  
10 because the meat must already be salvaged from  
11 subsistence harvest -- harvested bears, and that would  
12 continue to be the case. Of note, if adopted, this  
13 proposal would not apply to bears taken in defense of  
14 life and property, or to hides from previously harvested  
15 bears. One implication of this proposal and OSM's  
16 modification, if adopted, is that federally qualified  
17 subsistence users would be able to sell hides from brown  
18 bears taken in national parks and monuments. Only  
19 federal subsistence regulations apply in national parks  
20 and monuments so, currently you cannot sell these hides.  
21 However, since there are no other parks or monuments in  
22 Unit 22, this is not really a consideration for your  
23 region. You do have the National Preserve lands, but  
24 this is really only an issue for national parks and  
25 monuments.

26  
27 So, just getting towards the end of this  
28 proposal, what would this -- or this presentation. It's  
29 worth asking what this proposal would mean for federally  
30 qualified subsistence users in Unit 22 specifically.  
31 Well, you can already sell the hides of brown bears  
32 harvested in state general hunts with a two brown bear  
33 limit under state regulations, which is all of Unit 22  
34 except for Unit 22C. But if this proposal is adopted,  
35 you would now also be able to sell hides from brown  
36 bears harvested under federal subsistence regulations  
37 in all of Unit 22, including Unit 22C. So, I would say  
38 that's one of the most important things to consider, one  
39 of the most important implications. So, although this  
40 is a statewide proposal, as I mentioned, we're really  
41 looking for the Council to inform the Board whether the  
42 proposed regulation is culturally appropriate for your  
43 region. Thanks for your attention. This is the end of  
44 my presentation. I'm here to answer any questions. And  
45 I believe Pippa Kenner, who is the author of this  
46 analysis, is also on the line to help. Thank you, Mr.  
47 Chair.

48  
49 MR. GRAY: Yeah.  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It sounds like Tommy.

2  
3 MR. GRAY: So, I have I -- I'm a little  
4 curious about a few things here. The -- when you sell a  
5 hide, can you sell it to a non-federally qualified user,  
6 which I assume you can? Can it go to a white guy?  
7 Somebody out of the Alaska? The sale of a hide, the  
8 claws have to be cut off, the front and the head has to  
9 be cut off. So, you're selling a skin that has -- is a  
10 headless skin and doesn't have any front claws. Did I  
11 hear that? And the last question I have is when I claim  
12 a state harvested bear that I've harvested on federal  
13 lands, and I want to claim -- I want to sell it through  
14 the state system. Can I do that?

15  
16 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. Thanks  
17 for those good questions, Council member Gray. Okay,  
18 your first question. Who can you sell the hide to? There  
19 are no restrictions on the identity of the person you  
20 can sell the hide too. The main limitations are that it  
21 should be sold for personal use, and it cannot be resold  
22 subsequently. And it must be sold domestically. So, in  
23 the United States only. But there's no stipulation that  
24 it has to be sold to another federally qualified  
25 subsistence user. Number two, actually under the federal  
26 -- so, you asked basically if it could only be sold with  
27 the clause and the head -- the skin of the head removed  
28 I believe. So, with this proposal, you could sell the  
29 hide with or without the clause attached. And we are  
30 proposing to remove some older regulations that  
31 stipulate that -- believe it's at the time of sealing  
32 that you would have to remove the skin of the head. So,  
33 I mean, I -- as far as I understand, you know, you can  
34 sell just the whole hide with or without the claws  
35 attached. Your third question. You were asking about  
36 selling it under state regulations. Could you repeat  
37 that one more time?

38  
39 MR. GRAY: So, my third question -- all  
40 of us go out and we go bear hunting. And 90% of the --  
41 your clientele, 90% of the bear hunters probably don't  
42 know where the federal lines start and the state lines  
43 end. And if I shoot a bear on federal lands, do I have  
44 to comply by federal rules or can I claim it under the  
45 state rules and sell this thing under state rules, even  
46 though it's been shot under -- on federal lands. Can I  
47 go to court.....

48  
49 DR. VOORHEES: Yeah.

50

1 MR. GRAY: Can I go into the park or the  
2 preserve up by Shishmaref, shoot a bear in the preserve,  
3 take it out and sell it under state system?  
4

5 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you for that  
6 question. So, you -- it depends. So, you definitely would  
7 need to be selling under federal regulations on park and  
8 monument land because state regulations do not apply in  
9 those areas to begin with. Additionally, if there was  
10 an area that was closed where only federal regulations  
11 applied, then you would need to proceed under federal  
12 regulations. But in any other area where, you know, if  
13 you had national preserve lands or state regulations  
14 also apply, you would have the option of selling under  
15 state regulations, even though those are federal lands.  
16

17 MR. GRAY: Thank you.  
18

19 DR. VOORHEES: Sure.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's all you had,  
22 Tommy?  
23

24 MR. GRAY: Well, yeah, I you know, I --  
25 my brain doesn't function that fast sometimes, but.....  
26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm kind of trying  
28 to wrap my head around what she just said and how it all  
29 applies here to myself for -- I just -- I guess under  
30 federal regulations, you don't have to remove any parts  
31 of the hide to sell it. And domestically means the United  
32 States, right? Hannah.  
33

34 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
35 domestically does mean United States. And -- I mean  
36 currently if I'm just pulling up the regulations --  
37 currently, I'll just read this from the regulation book.  
38 So, basically in Unit 23 currently, you do not need to  
39 seal the skin and skull of brown bear taken under a  
40 registration permit. In Unit 23 -- sorry, Unit 22, except  
41 Unit 22C, unless you remove the skin and -- oh, I'm  
42 sorry. That's the wrong. You are asking currently if you  
43 have to remove the skin of the head. Could you repeat  
44 your question one more time? Sorry.  
45

46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Yeah. You're  
47 fine. It's kind of.....  
48

49 DR. VOORHEES: It's kind of complicated.  
50



1                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. What -- I  
2 guess, I'm trying to understand the difference between  
3 the state and the federal taking and selling of a hide  
4 the -- so, I get that the feds say you can sell the  
5 whole thing anywhere in the United States you want to  
6 without removing any parts. And then the State in 22 --  
7 spell out the difference in 22, I said 22C, I think I  
8 heard in there you can't sell one because there's only  
9 one bear to be taken in 22C. It's only -- it only.....

10  
11                   DR. VOORHEES: That's right.

12  
13                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....applies with  
14 two bears.

15  
16                   DR. VOORHEES: That's right. But in  
17 general, under state regulations, you must -- you can  
18 sell brown bear hides with claws attached. Under the  
19 federal regulations that we're proposing, you would be  
20 able to sell a brown bear hide, with or without claws  
21 attached. So, that's one difference in terms of what can  
22 be sold.

23  
24                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, on the  
25 state, can you take the claws off and sell them, use  
26 them to make jewelry or whatever you want to call it? A  
27 lot of people like to hang them around their neck. So,  
28 is the State saying, you can't do that and sell the  
29 hide, you can't take the claws off and sell it?

30  
31                   DR. VOORHEES: That's my understanding.  
32 But I'm going to punt that question to someone from the  
33 State who might be online.

34  
35                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Hannah.  
36 Anybody from the State Department of Fish and Game have  
37 an answer for that?

38  
39                   MS. HENSLEE: Hi, yes. This is Sara  
40 Henslee, the AB out of Nome. I'm just trying to pull up  
41 the exact wording for you to read it here, but yeah.  
42 Under state regulations, brown bear hides with claws  
43 attached, they may be sold after sealing in two brown  
44 bear bag limit areas. So, for here, that's 20 --  
45 everywhere but 22C basically. So, yes, you can sell them  
46 with the claws attached. You cannot remove the claws.  
47 There's no allowance of handicrafts for claws under  
48 state regulation.

49  
50

1                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a  
2 justification for not removing the clause upon -- before  
3 sale for the by the state? I'm trying to understand why  
4 the state would say that.

5  
6                   MS. HENSLEE: Sorry. Did you ask what the  
7 -- your the question was, what is the justification for  
8 needing the claws attached? Sorry, Louis.

9  
10                  CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes, yes, yes. Yeah.  
11 Just because the feds are saying it doesn't matter  
12 whether they're on or not. So, I'm trying to figure out  
13 why the State -- I guess that's only applies to 22C, or  
14 is that the whole Unit?

15  
16                  MS. HENSLEE: It's just state regulation.  
17 So, not specific to Unit 22. And I don't know if there's  
18 an exact reason, but my guess is probably that it's been  
19 abused in the past where folks were harvesting bears  
20 just to take those claws to make, you know, things to  
21 sell. So, that is why. But I see Tom's hand is up so I  
22 will stop now.

23  
24                  CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Thank you. Tom.

25  
26                  MR. GRAY: So, you know, the State  
27 doesn't want you making jewelry and stuff, but I think  
28 if I heard things right, right now, the feds, you can't  
29 make jewelry out of claws under the federal regulations,  
30 too, am I right in that? And, you know, it sounds like  
31 the feds are trying to appease the State and come in  
32 line to a sense on selling hides and making it a doable  
33 thing, but to me, this thing still kind of unclear of  
34 of what the intent is. And before we vote on this, I'd  
35 like us to clearly understand what we're at right now  
36 and what the Board is proposing to us. So, we can go  
37 forward. But the question that you guys are talking about  
38 is making jewelry out of the claws, can we make jewelry  
39 out of the claws today without this proposal going  
40 forward? If it got shot down today, can we still make  
41 jewelry out of federal claws?

42  
43                  DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
44 is Hannah Voorhees. And the answer is that in Unit 22,  
45 you cannot. So, the way -- these are customary trade  
46 regulations, and the way these are decided upon is  
47 usually on a region-by-region basis. And so, for Unit  
48 22, there's currently nothing in regulation that  
49 authorizes the incorporation of claws into handicrafts  
50 for sale. But that can be changed.

1  
2 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
3 Kenner. May I -- hey, Hannah, may I add something to  
4 that?

5  
6 DR. VOORHEES: Oh, please do, Pippa.  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MS. KENNER: Well, I'm looking at the  
10 regulation now, and it appears that you -- if you harvest  
11 a bear -- brown bear in Unit 22, you can incorporate the  
12 claw into a handicraft and then sell it.

13  
14 DR. VOORHEES: Okay, I'm looking at the  
15 federal regulation book on page 18. And at the bottom  
16 it says that the skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones,  
17 teeth, sinew -- sinew in Units 1 to 5, or skulls of a  
18 brown bear taken in Units 1, 4, or 5, it says that you  
19 may sell handicrafts made from the non-edible byproducts  
20 of legally harvested wildlife listed below. So, there's  
21 nowhere in this list that states that claws can be  
22 incorporated -- claws from brown bears can be  
23 incorporated into handicrafts for sale in Unit 22  
24 specifically.

25  
26 MS. KENNER: What I'd like you to do is  
27 to look at the bulleted point right above that.

28  
29 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Okay. So, that is --  
30 that refers to the skin, hide, pelt or fur of a brown  
31 bear, including claws. Okay. But the way it's written  
32 is not clear because it does not say that the claws  
33 themselves can be incorporated.

34  
35 MS. KENNER: I think that is a good  
36 point. However, they may be incorporated into a  
37 handicraft in Unit 22. I agree.....

38  
39 DR. VOORHEES: Okay.

40  
41 MS. KENNER: .....I don't think this is  
42 written extremely well.

43  
44 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. Well, this is why  
45 we have the resident expert on this analysis on the  
46 phone. So, thank you, Pippa, for clearing that up.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, I've seen -  
49 - Tommy, Are you clear on that still?

1

2

3 MR. GRAY: Well, I am clear that the OSM  
4 and the State and everybody has chaos and really don't  
5 understand their own laws and regulations, and now we're  
6 going to have an evaluation of it. But, you know, the -  
7 - to come to us and say, do you support this? You know,  
8 we're going to do everything we can for the users and,  
9 and it's -- we're going to say go make or go make things  
10 out of it. And it sounds to me like our region needs to  
11 adopt whatever was adopted for 1 through 5. The Game  
12 Units 1 through 5 and be included in that that process.  
13 You know, it kind of amazes me that everybody walking  
14 around with claws hanging around their neck, I can't  
15 imagine they all came from Game Units 1 through 5. So,  
16 anyway, I -- I'm thinking out loud how, you know -- I  
17 really struggle. There's some issues coming up on the  
18 fishing issues that, you know, we're challenged to make  
19 decisions in -- were in the dark and, and don't  
20 understand the process and don't understand stuff and  
21 yet make your decision and we'll pat you on the back.  
22 Well, I'd like to make decisions off from understanding  
23 stuff. I'm not real clear on this particular issue. I -  
24 - like I say, if I was going to vote and support  
25 something automatically, I'd support whatever 1 through  
26 5 that you read off. We can all, you know, use the teeth,  
27 use the claws, whatever, for handicraft. Anyway,  
28 thinking out loud again, I get sarcastic sometimes, but  
29 it's for a good reason.

29

30 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
31 is Hannah Voorhees. And I appreciate what you're saying,  
32 Council member gray. I think that -- so, this proposal,  
33 you know, kind of stands on its own, and adding any of  
34 this to this proposal would probably be beyond the scope,  
35 but you know, currently there's an open proposal period.  
36 And so, you may want to consider asking for clarification  
37 of that language. But you know -- Pippa has her hand up,  
38 it looks like. So, I'll let you handle this, Pippa. Go  
39 ahead.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Pippa. And then  
Kelsi, I think, has a question or comment. Did you want  
to ask? Hannah. Okay. Go ahead, Pippa. And then Kelsi  
after. Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,  
this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. And I work closely with  
Hannah. And yes, you're right. When it comes to brown  
bear, some of these regulations are complicated and  
difficult to understand. I'm going to try to help. So,

1 this proposal has to do with selling the hide of brown  
2 bears. And initially OSM agreed with the State and said  
3 you should limit yourselves to areas with a two brown  
4 bear harvest limit. But we had Councils who said, we  
5 don't have a two brown bear harvest limit in our area,  
6 but we still want to be able to sell the hides of brown  
7 bear. And so, the new, revised conclusion in the addendum  
8 says that you may sell the hide of a brown bear taken  
9 in an area with a 1 or 2 brown bear harvest limit.  
10 Whether or not you can sell parts of a brown bear  
11 incorporate it into handicrafts is a wholly different  
12 regulation. However, when those regulations were  
13 adopted, the Board honored what the Councils wanted, and  
14 some wildlife management units were excluded from being  
15 able to sell handicrafts incorporating brown bear parts.  
16 However, in Unit 22, the Board agreed with the Council  
17 that you can sell claws and other non-edible parts of a  
18 brown bear incorporated into handicrafts. So, that's how  
19 those handicraft regulations are.

20  
21 In our conclusion, because this is a  
22 statewide proposal, we said you may have the claws on  
23 or -- the claws may be attached or not attached in case  
24 you live in one of these areas where you can sell a  
25 brown bear claw incorporated into a handicraft. The  
26 reason why the State doesn't allow the sale of a hide  
27 with the claws removed is because it's illegal to sell  
28 claws individually. And so, they want to see those claws  
29 on the bear hide when you sell it. In state regulations,  
30 you are not allowed to sell a handicraft incorporating  
31 bear claws. So, that is why their regulation says the  
32 claws must be attached. In federal regulations, the  
33 claws don't have to be attached, because you may want  
34 to remove a claw to incorporate it into a handicraft.  
35 So, this proposal deals solely with the ability to sell  
36 a brown bear hide when the bear is taken on federal  
37 public lands.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Pippa. Thank  
40 you. Kelsi, you had a question or comment for Hannah.

41  
42 MS. IVANOFF: I know all the other RACs  
43 have met already, and was just curious how this was  
44 received by the other RACs.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good question.

47  
48 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this  
49 is.....

1  
2 MS. KENNER: so, Hannah, would you like  
3 me to go for that?  
4

5 DR. VOORHEES: That's okay. I -- thank  
6 you, Pippa. I can give that information. You know, we  
7 will probably go through all the steps for this proposal  
8 so this will come up again. But I'll just mention that  
9 at this point all the other Councils have supported the  
10 revised OSM conclusion and the addendum, except for the  
11 Kodiak/Aleutians Council, which opposed the proposal  
12 because it was an it wasn't appropriate for their region  
13 due to traditional rules around use of brown bear parts  
14 and sales.  
15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so what I'm  
17 getting -- Tommy and Kelsi -- what I'm getting is that  
18 the feds are saying hands off. You can do whatever you  
19 want with that hide taken, you can sell it with or  
20 without. The State is the only -- and that's on federal  
21 lands. But if you take it on state lands, you can't  
22 remove the claws. Am I getting that correct? I'm just  
23 trying to make sure I'm tracking on this. The feds say  
24 we're not.....  
25

26 MS. KENNER: You're correct. You're  
27 correct. This is Pippa. You are correct.  
28

29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, okay. So that  
30 at our level, we're going to say we don't care. The  
31 State's got a different attitude towards releasing a  
32 bear hide for sale than the feds do. Feds are more  
33 liberal, in other words. So, we also have -- before we  
34 can do any action, we have to -- go ahead. I want you  
35 to speak to this, Gisela.  
36

37 MS. CHAPA: I'll try to speak to this to  
38 the best of my ability. I'm looking at Brian to see  
39 maybe he can back me up, but I think that all of this  
40 is part of the discussion on this item, but I think that  
41 before the Council is able to state a motion and vote  
42 on that motion we can try to add to the discussion to  
43 see if there's additional public comment on the addendum  
44 of this proposal. And there's already a lot of discussion  
45 back and forth from agencies. And Kelsi just asked what  
46 the other Regional Advisory Councils have discussed on  
47 the same proposal. So, I think that right before the  
48 Council is ready to make their final motion and vote,  
49 we just want to add to see if there's additional public  
50 comment.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,  
3 under the process that we have -- presentation  
4 procedures for proposals, we have one through ten, which  
5 ten is a vote. One is introduction of a proposal and  
6 presentation of analysis. So, we heard that from Hannah,  
7 right? Okay. So, then number two on the list is report  
8 on Board consultation through the tribes -- with the  
9 tribes or ANCSA Corporation. So, are there any tribal -  
10 - I know there's -- Kawerak is representing the tribes.  
11 What -- is there anything on from Kawerak point of view  
12 that we need to hear from you folks, or any other tribes  
13 out there? Who is speaking for Kawerak? (Indiscernible).  
14

15 MS. CHAPA: Julie.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Julie. Are you still  
18 on, Julie?

19  
20 (No response)

21  
22 I'm not hearing her. So, any other  
23 tribes on -- any other representation for tribes on the  
24 phone?

25  
26 (No response)

27  
28 Hearing none. How about ANCSA  
29 Corporation?

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 Hearing none. Then we go to the agency  
34 comments. Under number three, ADF&G.

35  
36 (No response)

37  
38 Any federally -- any federal agencies?  
39 We've already heard from Hannah, and Pippa. So, tribal  
40 entities, Native, tribal, village or other that's on the  
41 list? Agency comments.

42  
43 (No response)

44  
45 Hearing none. Number four, Advisory  
46 Group comments, other Regional Councils?

47  
48 MS. CHAPA: We do have a hand.

49  
50 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's a hand.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MS. CHAPA: Katie Herzner.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, Katie. Katie Herzner.

MS. HERZNER: Hey guys. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I heard about this in the Eastern Interior RAC, and there was a big component about the CITES regulations and how they affect the brown bear claw sales. Do we have like an expert on the CITES regulations and how those affect this regulation?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for the question, Katie. Do we have somebody to -- go ahead.

MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM again. I think I constitute the expert in the room at this moment. So, sure. Do you have a questions about CITES, the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species?

MS. HERZNER: Yeah. I'm not sure how to put it as a question. But I believe the CITES regulations would affect this proposal and, was curious how the CITES regulations tie into all of this.

MS. KENNER: Now this is Pippa Kenner, again with OSM. And that's a great question. So, the way the -- CITIES is an international treaty, and it has to do with the trade in endangered species. Now, brown bears are not an endangered species but because the population has been so decimated outside of Alaska, there is an Appendix II of the treaty that concerns brown bears. And what it says is that the State of Alaska must approve the trade of brown bear parts internationally, outside of the United States. And what the State allows is that you can sell those hides internationally, but you can only sell a hide of a brown bear that was taken in an area with a two brown bear harvest limit. Our regulation in order to address those concerns about CITES, our conclusion is that you can sell the hide of a brown bear taken under federal regulations in a 1 or 2 brown bear harvest limit area but because of CITES, you can only sell it -- it can only be purchased within the United States. And that is the modification that we added to allow a federally qualified user to sell the hide of a brown bear taken on federal public lands in an area with a two brown bear harvest limit. Excuse me, in an area with any harvest limit. So, we've addressed CITES by



1 saying it can only be purchased within the United States.  
2 CITES has to do with the international sell of brown  
3 bear hide. That has to be approved by the State, and the  
4 State only allows it in if the brown bear was taken in  
5 an area with a two brown bear harvest limit.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Does that answer your  
8 question, Katie?

9  
10 MS. HERZNER: Sorry. Yeah. Thank you. I  
11 don't know, I was just thinking about international  
12 sales. I feel like Russia, you know, is a lot closer  
13 than some other Americans. But yeah. We're cool. Thank  
14 you.

15  
16 MR. GRAY: I have a question, Louis.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Tommy. Go  
19 ahead. Thank you, Katie, for your question.

20  
21 MR. GRAY: So, the explanation we got on  
22 the CITES thing. My question is, bear skin, whatever,  
23 claws, head, whatever, can only be sold in the United  
24 States. So, Tom Gray goes and kills a bear. I sell it  
25 to Johnny out in Iowa. Does that sale -- how can I say  
26 this? Does that law -- I harvested under a federal  
27 program, does that law forever prohibit that skin to be  
28 sold outside of the United States?

29  
30 MS. KENNER: Yes, because it cannot --  
31 because it can only be sold one time.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: Wow.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, Tommy, you could  
36 -- say that again -- what was your question again?

37  
38 MR. GRAY: My question was -- and I'm  
39 sitting here thinking the feds are putting the screws  
40 to somebody because under state law, you harvest a state  
41 bear, you can sell it outside of the United States from  
42 a two-bear area. Under the federal program, even though  
43 this thing's harvested under a two-bear area, you cannot  
44 sell it outside of the United States. That's what's being  
45 proposed.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Pippa.

48  
49 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Thank you. So, this  
50 is Pippa Kenner. Yeah. So, the purpose of these

1 regulations is to be a disincentive against commercially  
2 trading brown bear parts. So, the idea is that the more  
3 you're allowed to sell brown bear parts, the more you're  
4 incentivizing legal and illegal sales and harvest in  
5 Alaska as well as the rest of the country, because you're  
6 commercializing these brown bear parts. So, the  
7 regulations are set up to limit how much commercial trade  
8 can occur in brown bear parts. So, for instance, brown  
9 bears are not considered a furbearer. You know, if you  
10 go take a beaver, you can sell the hide, the hide can  
11 be resold, it can be commercialized. It's not an issue.  
12 Brown bears are different, and it's because their  
13 populations have been decimated outside of Alaska.  
14 Alaska is the only place with healthy populations of  
15 brown bears left in the world. And so, in addition to  
16 that, the federal customary trade regulations allow the  
17 sale of subsistence harvested wildlife for personal use  
18 and not to be resold. So, the idea is that you can sell  
19 the hide -- you harvest a brown bear, you know, someone  
20 who makes crafts with brown bear parts, you want to sell  
21 that brown bear hide to them, but you want to make a  
22 little money to cover your effort for harvesting that  
23 brown bear so you can accept cash from them in trade for  
24 the brown bear hide. So, that's what the customary trade  
25 regulations are meant to address.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
28 Pippa. Tommy, is that making sense now?

29  
30 MR. GRAY: Well, the thing that just  
31 jumped out at me is personal use and it -- I guess it  
32 kind of makes sense. But anyway, my opinion, we're either  
33 going to not approve it and we're going to stay in the  
34 dark ages, or we're going to appease a handful of people  
35 and be like 1 through 5. And we can take teeth, and  
36 skulls and we'll figure out how to become rich off of  
37 bear parts.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Any other  
40 Council members have any questions, comments or concerns  
41 on this?

42  
43 (No response)

44  
45 Okay so, we've lost.....

46  
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48  
49 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Go ahead, Ron.

2

3 MR. KIRK: I'm confused. 20 -- 22C,  
4 they're not allowed to harvest one brown bear, or are  
5 they allowed to harvest a brown bear?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 22C is only allowed  
8 -- you're only allowed one brown bear.

9

10 MR. KIRK: Are they -- are -- is -- are  
11 they able to sell that brown bear hide and claws? Because  
12 as the government is going right now with the way Trump  
13 is handling the economy, our people in our region, in  
14 the whole State are going to have difficult time,  
15 especially with are trying to put food on the table and  
16 heating fuel in your home. The way Trump is making big  
17 cuts so, my concern is them [sic] people that harvest  
18 one brown bear hide should be able to sell the hide, and  
19 also, use the claws for jewelry so that they can put  
20 food on their table.

21

22 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
23 is Hannah Voorhees. I can get that one if you like.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Hannah. Go  
26 ahead.

27

28 DR. VOORHEES: Okay so, thank you for the  
29 question. And -- so, currently under state regulations,  
30 there's a one brown bear harvest limit in Unit 22C.  
31 Currently, you cannot sell the hide of a brown bear  
32 harvested in Unit 22C under state regulations.  
33 Currently, you're not allowed to sell hides at all under  
34 federal subsistence regulations so, currently there are  
35 no sales. But if this proposal with the OSM -- the new  
36 OSM modification -- conclusion and modification is  
37 adopted, then you would be able to sell the hide of a  
38 brown bear harvested under federal subsistence  
39 regulations from Unit 22C. So, that would be a big change  
40 in Unit 22C specifically.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: How much federal land  
43 is.....

44

45 (Simultaneous speech)

46

47 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Yes, this is Ron  
48 Kirk again. I like the idea of having all of our people  
49 throughout the State, especially in 22C, if they're not  
50 able to sell their hides, I'd like to see that they

1 should be able to sell their hides, because I don't  
2 think it is fair that the rest of 22 can sell bear hides  
3 and claws and exclude 22C.

4  
5 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Hanna.

8  
9 DR. VOORHEES: Yeah, I just -- I think  
10 there was a question previously about 22C and federal  
11 lands and -- yeah, there's very, very few federal lands  
12 in unit 22C so, that would have a limited impact.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, that was my  
15 question.

16  
17 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Playing devil's  
20 advocate. And there was somebody else had a hand up,  
21 Hannah, your hand is still up. Thank you. Was there  
22 somebody else?

23  
24 DR. VOORHEES: That's a legacy hand.  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. GRAY: I had my hand up and it was  
28 going to talk about 22C in federal lands. There's -- it  
29 -- there's not much for federal lands there, so.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Thank you, Tom.  
32 Okay. We're going to try to wrap this up. So, here -- I  
33 just want to make sure everybody at the Council level  
34 is comfortable with what they heard and understand it  
35 now. The feds are being liberal. The State has rules on  
36 the condition of the hide and how it's sold. So, anybody  
37 on Council have anything else to add? Otherwise, I'm  
38 going to move on.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: So, I think to me, if this  
41 goes to a vote or when it goes to a vote, the -- to me,  
42 the issue of personal use is a huge issue. I mean that's  
43 big. So, that that's going to change -- address the way  
44 I vote.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Councilman Gray. So, moving on to -- we're going to go  
48 to number six on the presentation procedures for  
49 proposals. And that would be public testimony. Is there  
50 anybody out there that has a public testimony to make

00045

1 on this proposal?

2

3 (No response)

4

5 It'd be star six to unmute.

6

7 (No response)

8

9 Okay. Hearing no -- nothing there. We're  
10 going to move on to the Regional Council recommendation.  
11 Motion to support. So, I would entertain a motion on --  
12 oh, Scott.

13

14 MR. AYERS: I was just curious. We heard  
15 one of the Councils previously, right. The  
16 Kodiak/Aleutians gave that -- we found out what that  
17 Council had said on this particular topic. Did -- I  
18 don't remember all the other Councils votes were stated  
19 or not. And if that was information that the Council  
20 wanted as part of this discussion. Sorry for the  
21 interruption there.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No problem, Scott.  
24 Appreciate it. Gisela, you had a list, right?

25

26 MS. CHAPA: I need to find that list.  
27 Give me a second.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

30

31 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hannah, is that you?

34

35 DR. VOORHESS: So, yeah. You would like  
36 to hear again the -- what the Councils -- the other  
37 Councils voted on this issue?

38

39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. That was just  
40 Scott's recommendation across the table there that it's  
41 probably a good idea. So, we hear.....

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. Yes. So, as I noted  
44 so, all the other Councils, except the Kodiak/Aleutians  
45 did support the new OSM modification and conclusion. And  
46 Kodiak/Aleutians oppose the proposal because of  
47 traditional rules surrounding the use and sale of brown  
48 bear parts.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, thank you for  
2 that, Hannah. So -- okay. Go ahead.

3  
4 DR. VOORHEES: OH, Okay. I've just been  
5 reminded to please ask the Council -- this Council, when  
6 you act on this proposal to clarify that your motions  
7 pertain to the -- or your motion pertains to the revised  
8 OSM conclusion in the addendum and not the old OSM  
9 conclusion. So, the newest OSM conclusion.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're looking to make  
12 sure we have it.

13  
14 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
15 this is what we've been discussing. Just, just it's --  
16 just good to have it on the record as well. Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.  
19 Okay. So, can we hear a clear reading of that again,  
20 Hannah so, we make sure we got our ducks in a row.

21  
22 DR. VOORHEES: Of course, Mr. Chair. So,  
23 just one moment.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.

26  
27 DR. VOORHEES: Maybe it would help if I  
28 just pull the slide back up for you, too.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure.

31  
32 DR. VOORHEES: I'm going to do that.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm thinking that  
35 personal use -- I'm like, Tommy, you know, personal use,  
36 it gets one time sold. All the -- it's nothing in the  
37 way of a of the sale of a brown bear hide.

38  
39 DR. VOORHEES: Okay so, through the  
40 Chair, this is Hannah Voorhees again. And the revised  
41 OSM conclusion is to support proposal WP 24-01 with  
42 modification that the hide -- hides of brown bears, with  
43 or without claws attached, may be purchased within the  
44 United States for personal use and not to be resold. The  
45 hunter must request an OSM customary trade permit and  
46 must return the permit to OSM. Additionally, the  
47 modified regulation will align federal sealing  
48 regulations with ADF&G sealing regulations.

49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Hannah. That means that, you know, you still gotta --  
3 if it's a federal, you're gonna -- it's a federal hide,  
4 you still got to go to ADF&G and get it sealed. With or  
5 without claws, doesn't matter to the federal side. And  
6 there's a permit that's requested to be filled out,  
7 completed, and turned back in. Oh, and the -- and it's  
8 for personal use, and there's no further sales, no  
9 resale. It's just one time. So, I think Tommy's  
10 comfortable, and I'm comfortable with that one. It's not  
11 -- it's not a commercial. And Tommy's got his hand up  
12 so, that -- what I see here is that, like I heard and I  
13 felt -- my feeling is that this is giving the hunter  
14 opportunity to recover some costs due to the taking of  
15 a bear. So, I think that's legitimate. I think the  
16 bowhead whalers is up on the North Slope to do that. And  
17 there's some take -- in fisheries you make fish, you can  
18 sell a certain amount of fish. So, that's kind of what  
19 that says to me. So, is that Tommy?

20  
21 MR. GRAY: So, the only real question I  
22 have is currently, if I shoot a federal bear and I take  
23 it under subsistence, I've got to cut the claws in the  
24 head off. The way I'm reading this modification, it says  
25 that the hides of the brown bear, with or without the  
26 claws attached. So, the hide of the brown bear to me  
27 says, I don't have to cut the head off. And then, with  
28 or without the claws, I don't have to cut the claws off.  
29 And I just want to make sure I'm understanding this  
30 right on the head because I think today, right now, if  
31 this didn't go forward and get adopted right now, we  
32 have to cut the head off and the claws off.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Under fed?

35  
36 MS. KENNER: Yeah. This is Pippa Kenner  
37 with OSM. If that was a question. Excuse me. What you  
38 said is correct.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's okay. So, if  
41 we do pass the proposal with the modification, then that  
42 we're taking off -- that off the table with the federal  
43 bear. So, if on federal lands you take the bear, you  
44 still have to get it tagged or sealed, excuse me through  
45 the Department of Fish and Game, but you can do anything  
46 with the hide you want. But if it's on state lands, it's  
47 a state bear, then you have a different scenario.

48  
49 MS. KENNER: This is correct. This is  
50 Pippa Kenner with OSM.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. You copy on that one, Tommy?

4

5

6

MR. GRAY: I do. And I see us passing this thing and I always chuckle when we create chaos because 22C under federal lands, we're going to say yep, we can sell skins out of 22C. But under state process, nope, you can't. So, let them duke it out and fight it out.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. So, the way I understand 22C, there's hardly any federal lands there to worry about. So, there's nothing that's going to change there. I don't think it's just going to be state management rules. Correct, Pippa?

MS. KENNER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Because there's no federal lands there. Okay. So, I'm going to entertain a motion on that -- on the proposal to support proposal WP 24-01 with modification that the hides brown bears, with or without claws attached, may be purchased within the United States for personal use and not to be resold. And that the sealing regulations -- the fed -- the federal aligns with the State ADF&G sealing regulations. Is there a motion?

MR. GRAY: I move.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi moved, and Tommy seconds.

MR. GRAY: Works. Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been called. All those in favor of the support of the proposal WP 24-01 with modifications, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any against, same sign. Elmer, yes or no?

MR. SEETOT: Yes. Like you said, I'm a still a kindergartener. Was trying to learn how to.....

(Simultaneous speech)



1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Just making sure.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Sorry if I tried to -- I'm  
4 not trying to delay, but confuse me. Aye, yes.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
7 Elmer. Yes, is loud and clear. So, there we have I think  
8 we're -- we have five votes to pass and that's -- we  
9 have 5 Council on right now, right? So, that's a  
10 unanimous...? Alright so, we got through that one. So,  
11 what do we have next? That was 22.

12

13 (Simultaneous speech)

14

15 13B the Wildlife Closure Review with  
16 Brian Ubelaker. Everybody's okay to go ahead and go  
17 through this, or do we need a five-minute break? Anybody?  
18 I see none in here. Everybody okay? Sounds -- okay Brian,  
19 you have the floor.

20

21 MR. UBERLAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
22 the record, Brian Ubelaker wildlife biologist. Did you  
23 want to have Sarah pipe up real quick about the moose  
24 status update before we dig into this, or do you want  
25 me to start? How would you like to proceed?

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Maybe we should hear  
28 from her first. Okay, that sounds like a.....

29

30 MR. UBELAKER: I would say. And I will  
31 just make another note that I've got my talking points,  
32 as usual. I'm going to cut them way down. So, to save  
33 as much time as possible. And I know Sara is always very  
34 succinct in her words so, maybe she could do the same.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Here we go. Sara, you  
37 have the floor.

38

39 MS. HENSLEE: Hey. Yeah. So, this is Sara  
40 Henslee, Nome area biologist. First off, I'm sharing my  
41 screen with a flyer. Hopefully it's not too small for  
42 you guys, but can you see it okay? The moose update for  
43 22A.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, I'm getting  
46 kind of old so, I gotta get a magnifying glass out.

47

48 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah.

49

50 (Simultaneous speech)

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No, it's pretty good.  
So, I can read it. Everybody can read.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, but -- yeah, just to start. Thank you, Brian. We did complete a moose survey this spring, and my assistant Alicia, she's here. She participated in that survey and put together this flyer. I'm going to give her the floor as long as her mic works and let her give a brief summary and then, yeah, we can answer any questions quick or go into Brian's overview, but this is just a little bit of new information since -- to, I guess, complement the Wildlife Closure Review. So, yeah, with that, I'll pass it off to Alicia if she's available.

MS. CARSON: Hi, guys. This is Alicia, Sara's assistant. Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're loud and clear. Five by five.

MS. CARSON: Okay, perfect. So, I just wanted to start with a little bit of the harvest update from last year. So, for the fall hunt for RM 841, the season dates on that were extended through the Board of game process, and now our season starts on August 1st through September 30th. We had a reported harvest of 55 moose. In addition to that, we now have the RM 844 Winter Moose Hunt, which the season dates are now on the books and no longer are announced in those season dates are going to be from December 1st to February 28th. We had very little participation in that hunt this year and there was no harvest that occurred. So, we're just still monitoring that and hopefully gaining some more interest into the winter season with local residents. I was able to go down to Unalakleet this spring -- end of winter-spring in February and conduct a population survey. And from our results from that survey, we have estimated abundance of 972 observable moose, which is an increase from the last time that we did a population estimate in 2021. So, right now that suggests that the population is increasing. We also determined that the recruitment rate for the population is 11%, which is stable from the last two surveys. So, from 2017 until now, the recruitment has remained stable. Additionally, we did get a browse survey done in 22A last year which had minimal browse removal rates, which also suggests that there's plenty of habitat out there to support the increase in the moose that we did observe this last

1 survey. So, essentially the big takeaway on this right  
2 now is that the population is healthy. There's room to  
3 grow. We currently don't have any concerns about the  
4 population and another thing that staff noted during the  
5 survey was that there were numerous antlered bulls in  
6 the area, which was great for us to see, especially with  
7 that new winter season on the books. There was plenty  
8 of opportunity out there for hunters if they do need  
9 more moose or want to participate in that winter hunt,  
10 that they'd be able to get out there. If you guys have  
11 any questions, I will gladly answer them. And if I can't  
12 answer them, I'll punt them to Sarah.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for  
15 that. So, I have a question about predation. What kind  
16 of bear count was taken?

17  
18 MS. CARSON: Through the Chair. I am  
19 unaware of bear surveys that are being conducted down  
20 in Unit 22A. I don't have the bear numbers as far as  
21 harvest goes in front of me right now, but I could  
22 definitely get them to you.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I'd like to  
25 hear that but thank you. Council, anybody? Kelsi, you're  
26 from Unalakleet. You got any questions for me? Okay. Not  
27 yet anyway. Okay. The idea that Unit 18 is flourishing  
28 over there is Fish and Game on Board with the idea that  
29 those animals are migrating into 22A, is that a fair...?

30  
31 MS. CARSON: Yeah, Louis. Through the  
32 Chair. So, there's definitely some indications that  
33 there may be some migrate -- immigration from the Unit  
34 18 area. There definitely was an increase in the number  
35 of moose that we observed in that South River, Chirosky  
36 area. We currently don't have any collared cows or  
37 collared bulls in that area to really understand the  
38 movements of those moose down there, but it's definitely  
39 something that is on our radar and we discuss often.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, that was going  
42 to be my question about collaring. Is there any collaring  
43 done in 18, in the area that they might be spilling over  
44 into 20 -- from 18 to 22A and it sounds like, no?

45  
46 MS. CARLSON: Through the Chair.  
47 Currently, right now, we don't have any collars that are  
48 spilling over into our area. I would have to double  
49 check with the area biologist out of Unit 18 to see if  
50 they have collars and where they are. But currently,

1 right now, there are not.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so, like, up  
4 in 22E on the Shishmaref side up there and 22D remainder,  
5 they assume that this is going on over there, that  
6 there's an exchange of animals. It just seems to me that  
7 it would be important if that's going on or assume that's  
8 happening, that we would be doing stuff with collaring.  
9 So, we keep a, you know, keep a running tab on that to  
10 know for sure. It's just assuming things don't always  
11 add up. So, I'm just hoping that the fish -- Department  
12 of Fish and Game does seriously consider doing something  
13 like that and maybe OSM is involved in there. But anyway,  
14 it sounds like the herd is doing good on 22A, I know  
15 they did a I don't know, was it a 5, 6-year moratorium  
16 or what were those years, Kelsi?

17

18 MS. IVANOFF: 2001 to 2006 maybe?

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, it was  
21 really -- it's 20 years ago.

22

23 MS. IVANOFF: I know I was in high school  
24 when they did it.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're dating  
27 yourself, so. (Indiscernible). Okay.

28

29 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, and the quota has  
30 just increased every single year and now there's no --  
31 this was the first year we had no quota whatsoever.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so, there's no  
34 quota. Like, there is a 22C, 22D and...

35

36 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 22 -- yeah, in our  
39 area.

40

41 MS. IVANOFF: On the South River -- South  
42 River Hills, it definitely is a lot of people though  
43 because that's -- people go back there because that's a  
44 known -- you're almost guaranteed to get one back in the  
45 South River Hills where it kind of spills over into like  
46 Anvik area.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, okay.

49

50 MS. IVANOFF: (Indiscernible).

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Just trying to get a feel for it. Seeing how this thing, this report here, the survey is. Okay. All right, well, thank you for that. Is there anything else to add before Brian gets on his podium?

7

8

MS. CARSON: Through the Chair. I don't have anything else to add unless Sara would like to add something on top of this.

11

12

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, this is Sara. I don't -- I'll just say one thing with the collared question you had with Unit 18. Like, we haven't seen movement into 22A, but I do want to just note the caveat that they only have females collared and it does seem like the bulls are the ones that move a lot more. So, I have heard -- in the absence of collars, we look for anecdotal reports from hunters out of Unalakleet and I've heard quite a few times where folks are in the South River where Kelsi was talking about, and they're just watching bulls just march on in to 22A in the Unalakleet drainage from Unit 18, and even from the Yukon to the east, that Unit 21. So, yeah, a couple extra data points in the absence of collars proper, and it's definitely something that we've thought about a lot and just trying to convince folks to spend money on that is, you know, a perpetual challenge. But we are -- we're thinking about it and we're asking questions, trying to see what's feasible. So, yeah, thank you for that, Louis and that's all we got and thanks for the time to give us -- a quick update.

33

34

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thanks, ladies. I think, Brian, you're up. Sounds like we're there.

36

37

MR. UBELAKER: Okay, I will read a brief summary about our closure review process, and then we will jump into this. Section 815 of ANILCA allows Federal Subsistence Board to restrict or close the taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-subsistence users on federal public lands, when necessary, for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, or to continue subsistence uses. The Board reviews these wildlife closures every four years to determine if a justification for the closure is still consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board closure policy. I am presenting these closure reviews today, for the Council needs to make a recommendation to the Board

50

1 to give the Council an opportunity to submit a wildlife  
2 proposal regarding any of the closure reviews, if  
3 necessary. So, I guess a good summary is you guys are  
4 not taking action on these this meeting. You'll do that  
5 at the next meeting. We'll just give you our intention  
6 of the preliminary conclusion and if you have any  
7 concerns and want to submit any proposals, this would  
8 be the time to do it. And as I said, I have very brief  
9 talking points with Alicia's talk just a minute ago on  
10 22A biology. I'm going to cut it even shorter, you know,  
11 the moose population is doing well.

12  
13 Harvest on 22A moose. We've got three  
14 different areas, North, Unalakleet and remainder. Most  
15 of the harvest in 22A North is attributed to local  
16 residents. They harvest about 54%, non-locals are taking  
17 about 17%, and non-residents are taking almost 30% of  
18 the total moose harvest. 22A Unalakleet, there locals -  
19 - from 20 -- 2000 to 2023, locals took 93% of the  
20 harvest, or an average of 22 moose per year and then in  
21 22A remainder, there's an average over the last 23 years  
22 of 15 moose taken per year, which accounts for 35% local  
23 harvest, 6% non-locals and 59% non-resident. There's a  
24 big jump in non-resident harvest in 22 remainder.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, what's the  
27 remainder area again?

28  
29 MR. UBELAKER: South of Unalakleet.....

30  
31 (Simultaneous speech)

32  
33 MS. IVANOFF: It's like Golsovia.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Golsovia?

36  
37 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah, I think the.....

38  
39 MS. IVANOFF: That's where.....

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: They're guided?

42  
43 MS. IVANOFF: Guided, yeah.

44  
45 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah. And it's mostly  
46 there's -- it's mostly Fish and Wildlife Service land.  
47 There's one guide that's permitted on -- to use that  
48 land down there and then -- sorry -- then BLM has some  
49 -- I want to say six registered guides and 22A North.  
50 I'm not 100% certain if they operate down south in

1 remainder or not.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: But no conflicts with  
4 subsistence, I mean, there's no -- I mean. People are  
5 getting their.....

6

7 MS. IVANOFF: Filling their freezers.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....filling their  
10 freezers. That's the -- that's what we're here for.

11

12 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, exactly. I guess with  
13 that being said, our -- so, our preliminary conclusion  
14 on the closure -- on the three closures in 22A, North,  
15 Unalakleet and remainder. We are recommending to rescind  
16 the closures because moose population is doing so well  
17 lately. Subsistence users seem to be getting their needs  
18 met and currently, as it sits, there is no state sports  
19 season in Unalakleet, it's residents only. So, it  
20 shouldn't have any effect. Federal public lands have  
21 been open in 22A North and remainder during the state  
22 season. So, there has been sport harvest already  
23 occurring and it hasn't seemed to affect subsistence use  
24 at all. If the north -- if we rescind the closure in the  
25 North, the way it may be seen that sport use will be  
26 dispersed and move farther out because federal public  
27 lands would be open and people can actually get out  
28 farther away from where subsistence users are using  
29 because most of the harvest -- my understanding is taken  
30 off the river and if they can -- if sport hunters can  
31 get farther out with their guides and away from the  
32 rivers, it might smooth things out a bit more. But also,  
33 the opposite may be true. You could get more guided use  
34 by opening federal public lands, but that remains to be  
35 seen. We're not certain.

36

37 Yes, guide use in 22A remainder should  
38 remain the same. So, there's one guide that operates on  
39 -- that's allowed to operate on Fish and Wildlife Service  
40 lands. 22A is the only subunit in all of 22 to show a  
41 population growth with a surplus of bulls, and  
42 rescinding this closure would be in line with federal  
43 regulations and the Federal Subsistence Board policy on  
44 rescinding closures when they're no longer necessary for  
45 the original reason that caused them. So, I'll stop  
46 there. Like I said, that was kind of brief. Might have  
47 been a bit of a mess, but if you have any questions,  
48 I'll see what I can answer.

49

50

00056

1 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair. We have a hand  
2 up.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's a hand up.  
5 That.....

6  
7 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Bruce.

10  
11 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, members of the  
12 Council, Bruce Kippi, Anchorage field office, BLM. You  
13 guys hear me?

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. You're coming in  
16 five by five.

17  
18 MR. SEPPI: Okay, thanks. Just wanted to  
19 put some comments into here. As everyone knows, BLM has  
20 been permitting moose -- the moose hunt in 22A, the  
21 Unalakleet hunt for years, ever since the moratorium was  
22 taken off. And this year, or this last year in 2024 was  
23 the first time that the state hunt opened before the  
24 federal hunt and so, there's really no need for that FM  
25 22-01 hunt anymore. I think I issued one permit when I  
26 -- in the years past, I've issued 50 to 60 annually. The  
27 moose population is doing very well. That's the reason,  
28 you know, this hunt is being extended. One thing I wanted  
29 to point out, though, that if we do or if the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board does open 22A Central that means that  
31 BLM will be able to permit, or the guides and outfitters  
32 will want to hunt on federal lands on the Unalakleet  
33 watershed and that means they can come into their --  
34 they haven't in the past. I believe we have about -- I  
35 don't have that numbers in front of me, about six guides  
36 and outfitters that would very quickly or I'm assuming  
37 a little bit here, but there would be some that would  
38 very quickly move into 22A Central, the Unalakleet  
39 watershed, and those guides could bring in a lot of  
40 outside, out of State hunters. I don't know what that  
41 effect will be. Off the cuff, it makes me think that  
42 there's going to be a lot of competition for local  
43 hunters. May not be an issue, but over time, that's  
44 exactly what brought this herd down to very low numbers  
45 in the past and what caused, you know, the moratorium  
46 in the past. I've been around long enough to know when  
47 this hunt was -- when moose populations were very low  
48 back then and it -- you know, that's why it's been a  
49 long time coming that to take -- to put this herd back  
50 to higher populations, and the only way that happened



1 was because it was closed. And local people, you know,  
2 offered a moratorium to bring the population back. The  
3 only thing I wanted to point out here is that if you do  
4 open this to non-qualified hunters in that Central 22A,  
5 there's going to be competition with subsistence hunters  
6 and that's something to consider. That's all I have.  
7 Thanks.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
10 Bruce. Any Council members have any questions or  
11 comments for Bruce.

12  
13 MR. GRAY: I have a question. If I can  
14 jump in here.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Tommy.

17  
18 MR. GRAY: Yeah, and Sara, I don't know  
19 if this relates to 22A, but it seems like there was  
20 people that were -- guides trying to get regulations  
21 changed in Unit 18 if I want -- if -- and maybe I'm  
22 wrong, the Andreafsky River or something and this  
23 proposal -- would this impact that area? Not so much  
24 Unit 18. I really don't care about that, but I -- and I  
25 maybe I'm wrong on the Unit. I don't know, but I just  
26 remember sitting at the AC meeting talking about the --  
27 that area down there and not backing up the guides and  
28 trying to protect the local people. Do we have any  
29 insight on what this would do to that region there?

30  
31 MS. HENSLEE: Hi, this is Sara. So, as  
32 far as -- yeah, any active proposals, we are not in our  
33 Region 5 cycle. So, the Unit 18, Unit 22 proposals,  
34 that's not going to come up until next May. So, as far  
35 as Unit 18 guiding things happening, I'm not aware of  
36 anything. So, yeah, as far as that, there are no State  
37 proposals coming up to change the state regulations and  
38 then I will add that there is no non-resident hunting  
39 in the 22A Central area presently. There are the resident  
40 hunts that Alicia just spoke to and then there is non-  
41 resident hunting in 22A North and 22A remainder. So,  
42 just wanted to add a little bit of context and -- yeah.  
43 Tom, was there anything else with your question that I  
44 didn't answer?

45  
46 MR. GRAY: Well -- and I don't recall  
47 what the -- I know some guides brought in proposals and  
48 didn't make it through the state system and I'm thinking  
49 if on federal lands and I'm assuming there's a lot of  
50 federal land around Stebbins, St. Michael, down in that

1 area. I'm assuming that this proposal would kind of do  
2 what they had proposed to the state system and maybe  
3 not, I don't know. I'm a little concerned that there's  
4 going to be a jump over into federal lands and trying  
5 to do, you know, moose hunting adjacent to that Unit 18  
6 because of the -- what's made available. I'm a little  
7 bit reserved in opening up this thing up to non-federally  
8 qualified hunters, even though, you know, agencies --  
9 and I look at fish, you know, escapement goals have been  
10 pounded down so low that fish -- we're all hurting for  
11 fish, and yet they're still commercial fishing. And I'm  
12 worried about that happening with numbers of moose or  
13 whatever we're hunting. The numbers -- escapement goal  
14 for bears, for example, get to a point that, you know,  
15 they open up moose hunting and the outsiders guides like  
16 myself go in and just beat up on that resource and the  
17 locals have no -- nothing left, and they got to deal  
18 with what's left over like Unalakleet did for years and  
19 you know, everybody puts a -- thought that was a great  
20 thing and I thought it was a great thing that Unalakleet  
21 did. But what's not talked about is lands adjacent to  
22 Unalakleet. What was the moose population and did that  
23 encroach into Unalakleet lands and expand into it? I  
24 think there's more to the picture than just having a  
25 moratorium. So, anyway, the impacts of changing rules  
26 in 22 right next to Unit 18, I'm a little worried about  
27 that. Did I get kicked offline or am I still here?

28  
29 MR. SEPPI: I can hear you, Tom.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: Okay.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, I was muted.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: I mean, Brian, maybe it's --  
36 maybe you need to be answering this. I don't know, I  
37 think Sarah understands what I'm talking about in Unit  
38 18, and the guides coming in and proposing, trying to  
39 open things up for themselves.

40  
41 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Mr. Chair, member  
42 Gray. I think I understand the concern. I don't have  
43 stats for Unit 18. I do know that in Unit 22A remainder,  
44 you have 50% federal public lands and that is 43% Fish  
45 and Wildlife and 7% BLM lands. So, 43% of the federal  
46 lands down there are -- work under -- they don't call  
47 it the guide concession program, but Fish and Wildlife  
48 Service limits -- guides have to apply to work on Fish  
49 and Wildlife Service lands and they limit it to one BLM  
50 land. I was just looking through the -- my analysis.

1 There's six guides that are registered with the BLM and  
2 22A remainder, but they're working on -- I don't have a  
3 total acreage of land, but 7% is what they can hunt on,  
4 on federal lands and that's it. I mean, well, and so,  
5 there's it's 50% federal public land. So, half of the  
6 land down there, probably not half, there's private  
7 lands, but a chunk of it is state land. And so, those  
8 guys are operating on state land outside of Fish and  
9 Wildlife and 7% is BLM. So, it's like I say, BLM has six  
10 guide registered. But Fish and Wildlife limits it to  
11 one, which is the lion's share of the federal public  
12 lands in 22A remainder, if that helps, or if you need  
13 more info, let me know. Bruce has his hand up, too.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tommy, did you get  
16 that?

17  
18 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, we can all  
19 talk percentages. I'm a guide, and I've been guiding in  
20 the White Mountain area forever, and I can guarantee you  
21 that out of the 2 million acres of land that I have, if  
22 I had 40% of that being prime bear habitat or moose  
23 habitat, I would have a heck of a thing going, you know,  
24 the bear hunting that I do, probably five...

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Somebody's -- Tommy,  
27 hold on a second. Somebody's got to mute there. Sounds  
28 like we got muted. Go ahead Tommy.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: So, anyway the point I was  
31 trying to make is, of the 2 million acres of land that  
32 I've got, probably 5 or 10% of that land is prime bear  
33 country. The rest of its trash. And, you know, I spend  
34 a lot of time hunting this area, and I know the honey  
35 holes, and I know where to go. That's the same thing  
36 with the moose. I mean, moose are in certain areas at  
37 certain times of year. So, anyway, 7% sounds small, but  
38 believe me, 7% plus state lands could be a monster area.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.  
41 Bruce, do you have your hand up?

42  
43 MR. SEPPI: Hi, yeah, I just wanted to  
44 comment. Mr. Chair, members of Council, Bruce Seppi,  
45 Anchorage field office, BLM. Just wanted to comment that  
46 that remainder area -- 22A remainder is there's not that  
47 much BLM down there but during this whole closure in 22A  
48 Central, remainder has been open. And in fact, BLM  
49 permits guides and outfitters in the Golsovia watershed  
50 there because those federal lands are selected and don't

1 qualify under ANILCA so, they've never been closed. So,  
2 I think Mr. Gray is spot on about moose potentially  
3 moving from the Anvik watershed 22E and parts of 18 over  
4 into 22. We all don't know how much that is. But I just  
5 wanted to comment that those lands in 22A remainder for  
6 BLM guides and outfitters has been open, and there's  
7 been active permits down there. I don't have the number  
8 of moose that they take, but I can dig that up and send  
9 that later. Okay, thanks Brian. That's all I have.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
12 Bruce. I guess my question is we got numbers on moose,  
13 but we don't have any predation of bears or wolves so,  
14 I guess I will spare you from asking again.

15  
16 MS. IVANOFF: Through the Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

19  
20 MS. IVANOFF: On predation, I know in the  
21 past few years, a lot of people -- bear hunting has  
22 gotten more popular and they have guiding now. So, it's  
23 really taken care -- not taking care of the problem. But  
24 I know the issue with predation has gotten less and less  
25 in 20-ish years. But he said there's no numbers or  
26 anything.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.  
29 It's always good to hear somebody from the area we're  
30 talking about, add to the information at the table. Go  
31 ahead, Brian.

32  
33 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
34 should also point out there were alternatives considered  
35 for each closure review that I did. I am not talking  
36 about those now. I'll bring them up during the call for  
37 proposals, that way if there are proposals -- the only  
38 point for putting alternatives considers if you want to  
39 create a proposal, change something and I figure we can  
40 just handle all those at once. So, there's no confusion.

41  
42 Okay. So, that's it for 22A, 22B and if  
43 I miss anything, maybe Sara or Alicia can pop in on it,  
44 but my brief notes are the population has trended upwards  
45 in 22B as of 2022, the calf-to-cow ratio is lower than  
46 management objectives, but it has always typically been  
47 low. The bull-to-cow ratio is high, indicating that  
48 there are surplus bulls. However, in 22B, harvest occurs  
49 by both federal and state users. The State has recently  
50 implemented permit conditions to limit non-locals from

1 getting them. The hunts are currently managed by quota  
2 which has seen early season closures from 2014 to 2023.  
3 Locals average 84% of the moose harvest. But since 2020,  
4 when the changes in permit distribution took place, that  
5 jumped up to 93% for locals harvesting. Our preliminary  
6 conclusion for the 22B closures is to retain the status  
7 quo as the moose population is below management  
8 objectives and demand for moose far outweighs supply.  
9 And we suggest the winter hunt should remain open to  
10 only residents of White Mountain and Golovin to ensure  
11 the continuation of subsistence use. Any questions on  
12 22B?

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any questions,  
15 Council?

16  
17 (No response)

18  
19 Hearing none, Brian.

20  
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22  
23 MR. GRAY: Well, I'm a little bit slow  
24 at unmic-ing [sic) or unmuting. So, let me get this  
25 clear in my head. You're staying - it -- you're saying  
26 22B, we're going to stay the same and there will be no  
27 change in regulation or are you saying that the proposed  
28 -- the proposal will just limit the hunt, the winter  
29 hunt to Golovin and White Mountain? And the reason I'm  
30 bringing this up is the village of White Mountain has  
31 been trying to figure out, and I want to say Golovin has  
32 involved in this, there was a proposal that was put into  
33 the State to change the date of the hunt for White  
34 Mountain in the fall hunt and also, the -- something to  
35 do -- and Sara can help me on this -- something to do  
36 with where you can get the permits from or who can get  
37 the permits. We just had a big AC discussion in Nome --  
38 Fish and Game Advisory Committee, we had a big discussion  
39 about moose hunting in particular on the Seward  
40 Peninsula. And my interest at this table is White  
41 Mountain and Golovin -- I want to ensure that White  
42 Mountain and Golovin residents get as much as they can  
43 out of any of these proposals.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, that -- okay,  
46 Tommy, thank you. So, what Brian -- what I got from  
47 Brian is that there's no change, and that means hunting  
48 closure to non-federally qualified users. It's only the  
49 people that are in those villages that are qualified.  
50 Correct, Brian?

1  
2 MR. UBELAKER: So, there are two closures  
3 associated with 22B. One is the fall season, and one is  
4 the winter and 22B west of the Darbys. So, the fall  
5 season is the year-round closure to non-federally  
6 qualified subsistence users and then the winter hunt is  
7 open only to residents of White Mountain and Golovin.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

10  
11 MR. UBELAKER: So, yeah, everything will  
12 remain the same.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. It's not  
15 liberalized. We're -- it's just maintaining status quo,  
16 which is restrictive towards outside users. You have to  
17 be federally qualified.

18  
19 MS. IVANOFF: Which is rural resident,  
20 right?

21  
22 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Federally qualified  
23 user -- any federally qualified user can hunt in the  
24 fall season in 22B west of the Darbys. In the winter  
25 season, only residents of Golovin and White Mountain.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. And that gets  
28 more restrictive. So, that -- I think that goes with  
29 what Councilman Gray has, you know, wants to see. So,  
30 Tommy, that sounds good to you.

31  
32 MR. GRAY: Yeah, it does. But I do have  
33 a question on federally qualified rural user. What does  
34 that mean? Anybody in Alaska that lives in a rural  
35 community can come here and hunt?

36  
37 (Simultaneous speech)

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: Anybody outside of a non-  
40 subsistence area. So, anybody outside of Anchorage.  
41 Yeah. So, if you live in -- if you're a federally  
42 qualified user in Glennallen, you are qualified to hunt  
43 in the fall hunt in 22B.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That means...

46  
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48  
49 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. This is Hannah  
50 Voorhees. Could I just jump in?

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, sure. Sure,  
3 Hannah.

4  
5 DR. VOORHEES: So, in Unit 22, if we're  
6 discussing moose, federally qualified subsistence users  
7 are actually residents of Unit 22 because that's who has  
8 a customary and traditional use determination for moose  
9 in Unit 22. So, it's a little bit narrower than all  
10 rural residents. It's -- you have the additional level,  
11 the additional criterion that you have to be a resident  
12 of Unit 22 as well. Thanks.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Hannah. I  
15 was on that one.

16  
17 MR. GRAY: So, Hannah, you got me a  
18 little confused here. On one hand, I hear federally  
19 qualified rural user and then I understand the, you know,  
20 to be federally qualified for shooting sheep up by  
21 Kotzebue, you have to be in that zone sort of speak.  
22 Federally qualified in Unit 22 -- if you live in Unit  
23 22, you're federally -- I mean, we went through a process  
24 of who can hunt. Maybe it was caribou or moose or  
25 something, some years ago and Elim, for example,  
26 couldn't hunt moose. I want to say in Shishmaref, and  
27 but Tom Gray that lives in White Mountain could. Anyway,  
28 rural -- I'm trying to put a finger on can Johnny, that's  
29 in some village down by Fairbanks that's federally  
30 qualified come here and hunt in my area?

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nope, its residents  
33 of the region, of the area of 22. All of all of 22 Unit.  
34 And in other words, from Nome -- if there's something  
35 on the other side of the Seward Peninsula, you got to  
36 be federally qualified. We're qualified. And that's what  
37 we did with the 22D remainder Tommy, remember how we.....

38  
39 MR. GRAY: I remember Jim Smith was  
40 involved in that process and you know, back then -- but  
41 this rural user, federally qualified rural user, if --  
42 I was trying to put a finger on who are those people? I  
43 understand federally qualified on the -- in Unit 22. But  
44 is -- does the rural user go beyond 22?

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We -- I just brought  
47 to mind that Unalakleet used to be just the residents  
48 of the Unalakleet area that were federally qualified,  
49 and then that opened up that included users of federally  
50 qualified out of Nome to be able to go over there. Am I

1 correct on that? That was -- yeah. So, it's expanded a  
2 little bit of who could be a federally qualified user  
3 in the Unalakleet area, so.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Okay, let me do it. Let me do  
6 my question a different way.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tommy. Hold on,  
9 Tommy. Let's see. Hannah's got something to say here  
10 first, and then you come back.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Hannah.

15

16 DR. VOORHEES: Well, through the Chair.  
17 If Council member Gray wants to restate his question,  
18 maybe that would help me answer it better.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for  
21 that, Hannah. Go ahead, Mr. Gray

22

23 MR. GRAY: Okay. There's a there's a  
24 proposal in that comes back to federally qualified rural  
25 user. What is that - that person who qualifies for that?  
26 Can that person be outside of Unit 22?

27

28 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
29 is Hannah Voorhees again. Who is federally qualified is  
30 specific to each hunt for each species in each area. So,  
31 you know, there's no universal answer to that. I mean,  
32 the first -- so, step one, you have to be a rural  
33 resident, but then step two, if a customary and  
34 traditional use determination has been made, you would  
35 have to be included -- be a resident of a community or  
36 an area that has been recognized as having customary and  
37 traditional use for that species in that area. So, you  
38 know, in this proposal, we're talking about moose.....

39

40 MR. GRAY: Okay.

41

42 DR. VOORHEES: .....and various portions  
43 of Unit 22. And for moose in Unit 22, the customary and  
44 traditional use determination is residents of Unit 22.  
45 And of course, we're in a rural area already in Unit 22.  
46 We only make C&T determinations if you're a rural  
47 resident to begin with -- or a rural area to begin with.  
48 So, I hope that answers your question.

49

50



1 MR. GRAY: The key to what you just said  
2 was customary and traditional use of Unit 22, basically  
3 is what you said. You have to be recognized in Unit 22,  
4 and we went through this process of recognizing  
5 communities on the Seward Peninsula to hunt something.  
6 I don't know if it was muskox or moose or something up  
7 by Shishmaref, and I remember White Mountain being part  
8 of that. So, anyway, it -- I'm good. What I was trying  
9 to get a finger on, get an understanding is can people  
10 from Kotzebue that have customer and traditional use in  
11 their area come to my 22B and hunt on federal lands for  
12 moose? Just because they have a customary and  
13 traditional use somewhere. Rural is a big, big word and  
14 I -- it sounded like it encompassed other areas of  
15 Alaska, but it -- what you just said you have to be  
16 recognized by this area.

17  
18 DR. VOORHEES: That's right, that's  
19 right. So, only -- I mean, with these closures, sometimes  
20 they're section 804 determinations that narrow down who  
21 can actually hunt at any particular time even more. But  
22 in terms of the starting point of who's federally  
23 qualified to hunt moose in Unit 22, it's only residents  
24 of Unit 22. So, people from Kotzebue with their own C&T  
25 determination that are federally qualified in their area  
26 cannot come and hunt in Unit 22 for moose under federal  
27 regulations. Under state regulations, they certainly  
28 could, depending on, you know, what's open. Just wanted  
29 to let you know.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: Okay. Thank you.

32  
33 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Sounds like  
36 Tommy got his questions answered. Hannah, thank you very  
37 much for your expertise on it. Brian, go ahead.

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: Done with 22B, moving on?

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think so.

42  
43 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I am.

46  
47 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, were moving on.

50

1 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah, and I apologize, I  
2 misspoke on that one.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, you're doing  
5 good.

6  
7 MR. UBELAKER: Send us down a rabbit  
8 trail. Okay. Next round of closures are 22D, which  
9 includes 22D Kuzitrin, 22D Southwest, and 22D remainder.  
10 As far as biological concerns, the population does not  
11 appear to be increasing but in 22D some of the  
12 subpopulations are considered declining or stable.  
13 They're all below management objectives. Bull-to-cow  
14 ratio has hovered just below management objectives and  
15 although calf and cow ratios indicate stable  
16 populations. As far as harvest goes, 22D Kuzitrin,  
17 there's both federal and state users. That can harvest  
18 there, but there is no non-resident season. Average  
19 harvest is 33 moose per year, of which about 85% of that  
20 is attributed to Unit 22C and D residents. The local  
21 harvest has declined steadily since 2002.

22  
23 22D remainder. Local harvest accounts  
24 average is about 12 moose per year from 2000 to 2023.  
25 There was a quota implemented in 2020 which decreased  
26 the harvest. 22D Southwest, which is the small, tiny  
27 block west of the Tisuk, from 2000 2023, local harvest  
28 average four moose per year, which is 88% of all harvest.  
29 But local harvest has increased there since 2020. Our  
30 OSM preliminary conclusion is to retain status quo on  
31 all three of the closures currently enacted in 22D.  
32 Population still seeing conservation concerns exist. The  
33 population and the bull-to-cow ratio are below  
34 management objectives and once again demand exceeds  
35 supply. Any questions on 22D?

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Council.

38  
39 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer.

40  
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that Elmer?

44  
45 MR. SEETOT: Yes, I don't know how to  
46 raise my hand so.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're fine.

49  
50

1 MR. SEETOT: I'm just pressing the mute  
2 and unmute button.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're doing fine.  
5 Anytime you want to speak, you've got the table and the  
6 floor.

7  
8 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr. Brevig  
9 Mission, resident of Unit 22D. The majority of the  
10 harvest within Brevig Mission occurs pretty much when  
11 it first opens in this area, being primarily north of  
12 Grantley Harbor or any other of the creeks or rivers  
13 that -- many of them know that the moose are and it --  
14 22D Kuzitrin, we rarely -- or the residents of Brevig  
15 Mission rarely go to that area. Number one is that we  
16 have a restriction -- what the Native corporation or  
17 what Teller Native Corporation or Mary's Igloo Native  
18 corporation restricting us, restricting Brevig Mission,  
19 since we're not shareholders of those corporations from  
20 venturing into those areas. This was a high use area,  
21 especially after the salmon season, to go berry picking  
22 20-30 years ago when family was family, you know, the  
23 whole family went up there. Now, now we're being  
24 restricted and pretty much, most, like I say, most of  
25 our harvest is in and around Grantley Harbor or when it  
26 closes, then our residents go up to -- southern portion  
27 of 22D, I mean, 22E. As I mentioned in previous meetings,  
28 22D Kuzitrin is a corridor from my early travels of  
29 being pretty much wolf population being prevalent up  
30 that way. And, also, our moose harvest, I mean, our bear  
31 harvest is not existent in our area other than maybe  
32 Teller. Those two being within the communities of 22D  
33 remainder, we do have people from outside maybe Nome to  
34 harvest moose, but their primary hunt area is in and  
35 around 22D Kuzitrin. 22D Southwest, I assume is that  
36 most of the harvest occurs from open season to wintertime  
37 because there are very few creeks in and around that  
38 area that that will provide cover for the moose. But the  
39 willow buds that they eat on, you know, are very  
40 numerous. 22D Kuzitrin have the trees that they can hide  
41 and run away from predators. But they do have hunters  
42 mainly from Nome hunting in and around that area.

43  
44 Also, I'm not too sure, with Graphite  
45 One mine camp in and around Cobblestone and the north  
46 of Bendeleben Mountains. With the heavy helicopter  
47 traffic that is pretty much constant throughout the  
48 summer. I assume that moose do migrate out of that area.  
49 Elders have tell me [sic] that when the ice breaks or  
50 when the ice forms in and around the river system, they

1 will migrate to higher ground. Why? Because of the noise  
2 made by freezing water. When it cracks up, you know, it  
3 cracks a loud pop. That is one of the things that I have  
4 noticed that the elders have told me and also, moose  
5 came into the region, you know, within my -- maybe when  
6 I was a little (indiscernible), you know, a boy growing  
7 up because that was one of the first times that we went  
8 pretty far up the Agiupuk River to try to harvest moose  
9 up. When the first moose was harvested, pretty much  
10 tasted like spruce trees or something. I assume that  
11 they were further -- they came from -- they migrated  
12 from in and around Koyuk or someplace. Koyuk headwater.  
13 Koyuk River headwaters is just a hop and skip away for  
14 some travelers. I did pretty much travel throughout  
15 western portion, eastern portion of Seward Peninsula,  
16 other than maybe Bendeleben to Boston River to the Largo  
17 Ridge and more west this side.

18  
19 So, predation or the predators are  
20 pretty much prevalent -- are there and I think they do  
21 move the moose around a lot. They do have good feed in  
22 and around these river systems. But, you know, when  
23 you're disturbed or disturbed by something that you  
24 don't like, you move to another place. Also, a lot of -  
25 - lots of forest fires east of there but, you know, I  
26 think they go to a certain point, certain place where  
27 they stop and, you know, feel free from the fire danger  
28 produced each summer. That was pretty much my  
29 observations. One is that Kuzitrin River -- Unit 22D  
30 Kuzitrin is primarily used by Nome, Teller, Mary's Igloo  
31 because they have a notice that, you know, we're not  
32 residents or shareholders of said corporations. 22D is  
33 primarily used by a Brevig Mission and Teller in and  
34 around the Grantley Harbor area and I do assume that  
35 Teller residents go up to maybe Blue Creek. I'm -- one  
36 of the creeks, not Blue Creek. But anyway, around that  
37 road system to hunt their moose. 22D Southwest really  
38 is used by residents of Teller and Brevig, because in  
39 that southwest portion, you know, there's very little  
40 cover but good habitat for moose to fatten up throughout  
41 the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,  
44 Elmer -- Councilman Seetot. Any questions? Brian.

45  
46 MR. UBELAKER: Okay, moving on to final  
47 22E. Population in 22E is considered stable at the lower  
48 end of the management objective. The bull-to-cow ratio  
49 has been decreasing since 2014, which indicates there  
50 are few harvestable surplus bulbs, and calf-to-cow ratio

1 indicates a stable population. Harvest is reported as  
2 low. Average is 17 moose per year, but total harvest has  
3 been increased -- has increased from 2013 to 2023, with  
4 23 moose per year average. Local residents accounting  
5 for 78%. Non-resident harvest has also increased, in  
6 2013 to 2023 -- doesn't make any sense.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 Since 2020, non-resident harvest has  
11 decreased due to state emergency orders and a draw permit  
12 being issued in 2023. OSMs preliminary conclusion is to  
13 retain the status quo with moose population just above  
14 management objectives. But then also, take into  
15 consideration the Unit 22D population has decreased and  
16 the combined population estimate between 22D and 22E has  
17 decreased since 2006. Bull-to-cow ratio has also  
18 decreased since 2014 and if this closure is rescinded,  
19 it may lead to more user conflicts. With that, I'd take  
20 any questions.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Brian. Any  
23 questions from Council?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 Hearing none. I think that what are we  
28 doing next here? Could do lunch after the WCRs.

29

30 (Simultaneous speech)

31

32 Excuse me. That's what we just did.  
33 Yeah. We can keep going. I'm just going with notes here.  
34 We can keep going for the federal wildlife proposals.  
35 What do you folks want to do? That'll get us pretty  
36 close to being out of here, right? Are we getting.....

37

38 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I think that would  
39 still leave, 1, 2, 3, 4 more action items. A few should  
40 be fairly quick.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Do you want to  
43 keep pushing on, folks? It's 11:00. Just after 11.

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED: It's 12.

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED: It's 12.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Look at this clock,  
50 Louis. It's right in front of your nose. Looking at the

00070

1 one on the wall. I do the same thing at home. What do  
2 we have for lunch today? Coffee? We don't even have  
3 donuts here. Is it trail mix? Do you feel like we can  
4 keep going folks? I know there's a lot of you online  
5 there, that are probably pretty comfortable close to a  
6 refrigerator in your living room or your kitchen. I'm  
7 fine here. What do you folks want to do? Keep going.  
8 Let's keep moving.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once  
13 again, for the record, Brian Ubelaker. Now is the call  
14 for wildlife proposals and the Council's opportunity to  
15 submit proposals to change federal subsistence wildlife  
16 harvest regulations. As was mentioned during -- well,  
17 we didn't get to the training. So proposals need to  
18 include the regulations you wish to change, the specific  
19 changes you are proposing, an explanation of why the  
20 regulation change should be made, and any additional  
21 information that may help in evaluating the proposed  
22 change. Also, the opportunity for Councils to submit  
23 proposals is available during this entire meeting. The  
24 Council member thinks of a proposal later or in response  
25 to another agenda item. They are welcome to suggest  
26 submitting a proposal then. Of course, anyone can submit  
27 a proposal as an individual before the submission window  
28 closes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm happy to answer any  
29 questions about the proposal process, and we'll stand  
30 by while the Council discusses possible proposals to  
31 submit. I would also like to point out that I've got a  
32 list of suggestions that I can kick the conversation off  
33 with.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody on  
36 the Council have anything that they want to bring  
37 forward?

38

39 (No response)

40

41 Hearing nothing.

42

43 MR. GRAY: Mr. Chair.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Whoa!

46

47 MR. GRAY: Whoa, whoa!

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There we go. That  
50 must be Elmer.

1

2

MR. GRAY: This is Tom. Oh, go ahead,  
Elmer. I'll wait.

4

5

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No. Who's going  
first? Who's on second? Who's on third?

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Probably get you a  
phone number first for whomever you wanted to give it  
to. Is there a suggestion on a number, contact for Tommy?  
What you're talking about?

35

36

37

38

39

40

MR. GRAY: And I -- my cell phone number  
is (907)304 2003. If somebody can send me a text saying  
this is the person to talk to, I will forward that to  
the people that put the proposal together in the past  
for White Mountain and we'll try and set that up.

41

42

43

44

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tommy, who is -- not  
who was it but what level was the state and federal  
level you're talking about that this proposal...?

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GRAY: So, it went to the state, and  
they wouldn't take it out of cycle. So, it will be  
submitted again in cycle. But it sounds like we're in  
cycle accepting proposals now. So, this would.....

(Simultaneous speech)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: At the federal level.

MR. GRAY: .....at the federal level. So, this is the timing to get it put in here.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. What's the deadline, Brian?

MR. UBELAKER: That is April 4th.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, you are right on.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. UBELAKER: So, this Friday.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....right on the edge. Tell them Friday is due. They can look it up on the website, probably, and go through that process.

MR. UBELAKER: Yeah, and submitting proposals -- sorry. This was in the training. So, it wasn't covered. Submitting proposals, you get on the OSM website and there's a link on there. You follow that and you can submit it through the internet, or you can send it to us in writing or not to us, it's to regulations dot -- regulations, something or, you can set it through the mail, but doing it online would be the easiest for sure.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do you copy that, Tommy?

MR. GRAY: I copy that I'm not going to get involved in submitting this thing to the feds and if the -- what I'm after is a phone number, a warm body for the mayor to talk to, and he can decide, yep, we're going to run for it or nope, we're not committed. You know, my feeling is they should run for it.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: How much federal lands are around White Mountain, right?

MR. GRAY: We have lots of federal lands. You know, out of 2 million acres, there's probably half a million acres of federal land.



1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sounds to me like the  
2 that the mayor, that's who you're talking about, should  
3 get on the website and just submit a proposal.

4  
5 MR. GRAY: But you gotta [sic] remember,  
6 Louis, some of us are -- getting on a computer is a hard  
7 thing.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Get your kids or  
10 grandkids on it.

11  
12 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sorry. Gisela has got  
15 something to say, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Gisela Chapa, for  
18 the record. And Mr. Gray, I can follow up with you and  
19 see if I can help through the process.

20  
21 MR. GRAY: Okay.

22  
23 MS. CHAPA: So, I will text you.

24  
25 MR. GRAY: Thank you so much.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There you go.

28  
29 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

32  
33 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. This is Katya  
34 Wessels. I also, want to say that another way to submit  
35 a proposal is by U.S. mail and they just mail it to us,  
36 to the Office of Subsistence Management. So, they can  
37 just be typed out and mailed in the mail. You just need  
38 to be postmarked by April 4th. Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Katya.

41  
42 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah. Page 15 in the  
43 wildlife regulations has all that information listed.

44  
45 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Who's that?

48  
49 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

2

3 MR. KIRK: Can those guys get in -- send  
4 an email to White Mountain municipality letting them  
5 know that there's a concern from the Board wishing to  
6 help them with this process to open up that area.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think Tommy's the  
9 conduit there. He's going to pass on the information,  
10 but Gisela is going to help him out to navigate that  
11 concern. Right? Yeah. That's what -- thumbs up. Gisela  
12 said she's going to work with Tommy.

13

14 MR. KIRK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're welcome, Ron.  
17 Are we on to the next?

18

19 MR. UBELAKER: You want my list?

20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. We're going to  
22 listen to your list. Unless there's somebody else. Is  
23 there somebody else?

24

25 MR. SEETOT: Yes. Mr. Chair, I was right  
26 after Tommy, but Mr. Kirk skipped me.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You know how them  
29 young guys are.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: I forgot to include in my  
32 comments earlier about the moose. Did any of the federal  
33 or state agencies receive any report of disease moose  
34 like the one that they dispatch in Teller a couple of  
35 years ago? I know that there have been other species  
36 that have contacted [sic] bird flu, either by contact  
37 or by whatever they eat. I know that pollutants are  
38 coming via the low-pressure systems that usually come  
39 from the West, and it's been very prevalent around here.  
40 Recently I watched a TV newscast where dust from China  
41 and Mongolia was settling in the Bering Straits. So,  
42 that's, I think, a big concern -- pollutants that do  
43 float through the air, through the water, through land.  
44 But I think we're not going to hear the last of the bird  
45 flu disease that is spreading to other Native or natural  
46 resources. I do assume that other pollutants do fall on  
47 our land, and we're really not too sure whether it's  
48 going to affect the plants and whatever is harvested  
49 from such lands within the Seward Peninsula. Thank you,  
50 Mr. Chair.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot. Okay, so, Brian has a list of -- what'd you call it?

MR. UBELAKER: Potential proposals.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Potential proposals. Excuse me. That was the word. For us to hear, consider.

MR. UBELAKER: And also, included in the training that we breached over if the Council would like to submit -- would like to follow any of the ideas I'm throwing out there, you guys can make a motion. We'll capture the main idea of what you're looking for, and we will put some language behind it and submit it to you guys to see if that's what you want to submit as a proposal and then Gisela will do it for you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, that's like our version of AI.

MR. UBELAKER: Yes, sir. So, number one that I have on the list. This is from -- this is a discrepancy between state and federal regulations. The state currently has a muskox season in Unit 22A, which they established in 2020. Federal regulations do not have one. So, if you would like to -- which currently makes federal regulations more restrictive than state. So, if you would like to submit a proposal to open a muskox season in Unit 22A, we can discuss that.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That would give our subsistence hunters a little bit more of an advantage?

MR. UBELAKER: Yes, sir it would at least -- it's -- you have no advantage right now in 22A, you'd have to harvest under state regulations.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, it'd be inclusive?

MS. IVANOFF: So, all areas are by draw, right?

MR. UBELAKER: Yes, to all muskox permits distributed in 22 are by draw.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What would that entitle the federal side on the count?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. UBELAKER: That, I mean, that's -- number of permits distributed is a -- in cooperation between Fish and Game, BLM and Park Service.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Already?

MR. UBELAKER: Right now for the established ones. So, yeah, if 22A -- if you establish a season, they're just get worked into the fold and, you know, there would be a certain percentage of state permits that are available to go to feds.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I was just going to say they'd split them up and then the feds would have -- we'd at our level, we'd have the ability to say, who gets the permit. Yeah. What do you like?

MS. IVANOFF: I would like that. I haven't gotten a draw yet, so.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You would like that.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You would like to see that, so yeah.

MS. IVANOFF: My brother's gotten a couple times.

(Distortion)

He thought it would be beneficial to people because it seems like the same people get the draws.

MR. UBELAKER: All muskox hunts in 22 are Tier 2, right?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I think so.

MR. UBELAKER: Stateside. Yeah. Anybody know?

MS. HENSLEE: Hey, this is Sara. I can answer questions if needed.

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sarah. Hello? Help!

2  
3 MS. HENSLEE: Okay, so, yeah, on the  
4 state side, we do have Tier 2 hunts for all of Unit 22  
5 currently. So, if you were to add the federal hunt, we  
6 would probably just issue a few extra permits on top of  
7 what we already do for 22A and in coordination with BLM.  
8 So, the difference would be that it would be a draw hunt  
9 on the federal side, and then you'd only be able to hunt  
10 for muskox on that federal land. Whereas the state permit  
11 kind of applies to both federal and state. And then I  
12 will just add that right now, all of our Tier 2 permits  
13 for 22A have gone to Unalakleet residents, and then maybe  
14 one Shaktoolik residents. So, federally qualified  
15 subsistence users for the most part. And then the fact  
16 that the 22A hunt is so new that it's only been open for  
17 three years now, one of the things I do see with the  
18 Tier 2 side of things is we are seeing younger hunters  
19 get permits, whereas in the rest of the Unit, the hunts  
20 have been open since 1998 so, fewer young folks are  
21 eligible if they were born after like 1998 or so. So,  
22 yeah, so, far I feel like there is pretty good overlap  
23 between who would get a federal permit and who would get  
24 a state permit. But of course, it is a little bit easier  
25 to get -- apply for those federal tags you just email.  
26 I suppose it would be Bruce and tell him you want to get  
27 a permit and it'd be a draw. Whereas the state side is  
28 kind of a ranked application.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, Sara, this is  
31 Louis. So, a state hunt that kind of -- what did you  
32 just say at the end there?

33  
34 MS. HENSLEE: So, the Tier 2 hunt works  
35 by scoring applicants according to specific criteria.  
36 Like, how many days have you spent hunting and fishing  
37 in the area? How many years have you been applying or  
38 eating muskox meat? Whereas the federal permit is as  
39 simple as just putting your name in a hat, and as long  
40 as you're a federally qualified user, it's just random  
41 among those folks.

42  
43 MS. IVANOFF: Question.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Sara.  
46 Kelsi.

47  
48 MS. IVANOFF: Federally qualified for  
49 this would be from any rural area, correct? Because it's  
50 just moose for 22 that you have to be a resident of 22?

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: C&T. The C&T  
3 findings. What's the C&T on muskox?

4  
5 MR. UBELAKER: Would C&T be done?

6  
7 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.

8  
9 MR. UBELAKER: (Indiscernible) because  
10 there's no hunt.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that Hannah?

13  
14 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, this is Hannah  
15 Voorhees, and currently all rural residents would be  
16 federally qualified. And that's because there has not  
17 been a customary and traditional use determination made  
18 for muskox in Unit 22A. So, that means that any rural  
19 resident of Alaska, as defined by the Federal  
20 Subsistence Board, would potentially be eligible. So,  
21 if the Council wants to put in this proposal to start a  
22 hunt -- a federal hunt in Unit 22A, you may want to  
23 consider proposing which communities should have a  
24 customary and traditional use determination. If you look  
25 on page 113 of the Federal Subsistence Regulation  
26 booklet for wildlife, you can see some of the other  
27 determinations. So, for example, in Unit 22C, it's all  
28 residents of Unit 22C, Unit 22D it's residents of 22B,  
29 22C, 22D excluding Saint Lawrence Island and 22E. So,  
30 just -- those are just a couple examples of the way it's  
31 been done for other subunits for muskox.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, I heard  
34 Sara say -- thank you, Hannah. And so, I heard Sarah say  
35 something about additional permits if there was a  
36 federal hunt, or is it just splitting up the permits for  
37 22?

38  
39 MS. HENSLEE: So, yeah. Good question.  
40 This is Sara again. Generally, the way that we've  
41 allocated federal and state permits in the past is the  
42 state will issue what we consider to be the harvestable  
43 surplus of muskox for an area. So, just to put that --  
44 what that means is, like last year we issued ten or this  
45 year we're issuing ten permits for muskox. But because  
46 not all of those permits get filled in a given year,  
47 what we've worked out with our federal partners is we'll  
48 issue a few extra permits on top of those ten just to  
49 kind of fill that full harvestable surplus of bulls. So,  
50 obviously I don't have a hard number for you yet, but

1 it would probably be something like up to three  
2 additional federal permits. Just to capture what -- how  
3 many bowls we think are available for harvest for  
4 hunters.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, in other  
7 words, you're not -- you're -- saying the feds had a  
8 certain number -- that they would -- the federal would  
9 have certain number, but you're not basing it on the  
10 population. You're basing it on the usage of what's  
11 already occurred. I'm trying to.....

12  
13 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Yep. You've got it  
14 right.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, if there's ten  
17 and I only took seven, then the federal side could have  
18 the other three? It could be three.....

19  
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21  
22 MS. HENSLEE: Well.....

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm trying to.....

25  
26 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, it would just be  
27 three permits for the federal and then ten permits on  
28 the state side, just to put it simply and that number  
29 would not change from year to year unless we did a  
30 population survey and decided there was more bulls  
31 available, if that makes sense.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I understand,  
34 that's why I was wondering about the population as in  
35 relation to the usage through the State. So, it's a  
36 balancing act is what you're doing -- you're suggesting.

37  
38 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, absolutely.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

41  
42 MR. GRAY: Louis.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Tommy.

45  
46 MR. GRAY: So -- Tom Gray's been sitting  
47 around the table talking about muskox and on and on for  
48 a long, long time. I remember when we had a big muskox  
49 meeting in Nome. And anyway, over the years, how this  
50 allocation has happened has changed over the years. I

1 remember a time when the state and the feds would sit  
2 down and say, okay, we have this much animals and we  
3 have -- we can butcher this many. And let's say it was  
4 20. Well, I know there was grumbling in the agencies  
5 because the State would take the 20 and issue permits  
6 in -- and then the feds would issue permits over  
7 (distortion) 20, which usually the feds, if I remember  
8 right, it was like a third of the quota or some something  
9 like that. I remember when back in the day, this Board  
10 was involved in the federal muskox permits and nobody  
11 was applying for them. And I assume that's why the state  
12 got involved in it. But anyway, there's a process and  
13 one thing that I'm a little bit concerned about is, you  
14 know, we can put a proposal in that says only this --  
15 these communities are eligible. But again, the  
16 allocation of numbers, if you're -- the State is issuing  
17 ten in Stebbins-St. Michael area, you know, in the feds  
18 get a ruling that they're going to issue permits, there  
19 needs to be a fair process of how muskox (distortion)  
20 kill list. And, you know, I appreciate Sara and  
21 everything she does, but Tom Gray still [sic] in the  
22 dark at how this allocation goes. And there, you know,  
23 there's a lot of players probably I don't know about  
24 that are involved in how deciding how the allocation  
25 goes, whether it's state or federal.

26  
27 MS. HENSLEE: Hey, this is Sara. I can  
28 reply to that really quick if you'd like.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, please.

31  
32 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. So, Tom, you've got  
33 it right. I think I'm just explaining it poorly, but  
34 what you decided in the past with this RAC is still the  
35 exact same way that we issue our permits. So, like, if  
36 we think there are ten muskox available for harvest in  
37 22A, then we will -- on the state side, we issue ten  
38 permits and then the federal will issue an additional  
39 third, like you said, which ends up being three, four  
40 permits. So, we'll issue the ten permits for the ten  
41 muskox we think are available and then the federal will  
42 issue another, you know, 30% on top of that. And that  
43 is just to make sure that people are getting all the  
44 muskox that we think are available, because sometimes  
45 the federal permits don't all get filled, the state  
46 permits all don't get filled, you know, from experience  
47 with this stuff. So, combined state and federal, we get  
48 to that ten-muskox harvested just to make sure that the  
49 maximum number of folks are getting that meat that's  
50 available from year to year.



1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, thank you,  
3 Sara. So, just made me think that on the state side, you  
4 gotta [sic] have all these -- you gotta -- it's a point  
5 system, and you gotta qualify through the point system  
6 to get yourself a tag. Under the federal system, it's -  
7 - what is it? A -- just a draw.

8  
9 MR. UBELAKER: Name in the bucket.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Name in a bucket. I  
12 don't mind seeing that.

13  
14 MR. UBELAKER: Everybody's it's a -- it's  
15 an even playing field.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. It just puts  
18 everybody even.

19  
20 MS. IVANOFF: And would this be specific  
21 to drainages like how these or can it be specific to  
22 drainages like how B and D are in here?

23  
24 MR. UBELAKER: I believe that the federal  
25 regulations are set up to mirror.....

26  
27 MS. IVANOFF: State.

28  
29 MR. UBELAKER: .....state as far as it  
30 goes. So, I mean, you could have it I suppose you could  
31 break it down 22A north.

32  
33 MS. IVANOFF: North.

34  
35 MR. UBELAKER: Central.

36  
37 MS. IVANOFF: Central.

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: And remainder. But I don't  
40 -- I'm not 100% certain where the muskox are. I think  
41 they're just branching out into 22A so, they might only  
42 be in 22A. Sara, are they -- okay.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The advantage to  
45 having a federal thing in there to me and going looking  
46 out into the future is that if somebody that hasn't been  
47 able to get anything at the state level gets history at  
48 the federal level, to have that background in the hunt,  
49 it gives them a little advantage on the point system and  
50 maybe later they're, you know, filling up for the state.

1 But at this point, I don't see anything wrong with it  
2 except for the -- I don't -- you're not hearing any  
3 overharvest.

4  
5 MR. UBELAKER: And one thing to keep in  
6 mind when considering this is, this is just the proposal  
7 stage. So, you guys get your idea out there and I will  
8 dig into all these details when I write the analysis for  
9 it. And then I'll present the completed analysis to the  
10 Council at the end of this year to get your consideration  
11 on that.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that's due --  
14 when is that?

15  
16 MR. UBELAKER: The analysis?

17  
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Proposal Yeah. The  
21 proposals are due, but then it goes into play after the  
22 analysis and all that work you do.

23  
24 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I don't see anything  
27 wrong with it. It's already the way the system works  
28 anyways. The state -- other -- in the other areas. Pretty  
29 much the same way. It's just that this gives more  
30 opportunity to subsistence user. It opens the door a  
31 little bit. That's the way I look at it.

32  
33 MS. IVANOFF: So, do we need a motion  
34 to.....

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

37  
38 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, any other Council  
41 comments or concerns, or do you want to...?

42  
43 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Quick thought. Yeah.  
46 Give you a quick thought of what we're talking about.

47  
48 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk.

49  
50 (Distortion)

1  
2 MR. KIRK: I have a question. In your --  
3 remainder of Unit 22A, south of (In Native). Every now  
4 and then, every other year or so, people spot one muskox  
5 in our area and they're wondering if they can get it for  
6 subsistence use. And that's a question that they've  
7 always come up with. And they're wondering, how do they  
8 get a federal permit to use -- to purchase -- to take  
9 that muskox for subsistence use. How does that work in  
10 our area?

11  
12 MR. UBELAKER: 22A remainder?

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 22A remainder.?

15  
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17  
18 MR. KIRK: 22A remainder. Stebbins-Saint  
19 Michael.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, 22.

22  
23 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. That's remainder, 22A  
24 remainder.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Go ahead. Let  
27 Brian answer to that.

28  
29 MR. UBELAKER: There's currently no  
30 federal harvest season down there. So, as of right now,  
31 there is no way. But with the proposal you all are  
32 discussing, that would be the means to the end.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, that's what  
35 we're -- that's what this proposal would be. That would  
36 be one of the advantages of it Ron, it would open it up  
37 to the federal program.

38  
39 MR. KIRK: Yeah, that would be good. --  
40 Yeah, that would be good. Because like I stated earlier,  
41 there are some people that spot the muskox and they're  
42 wondering if they can get it for subsistence use. And a  
43 lot of times they just let it go and the next time they  
44 don't see it again. So, there goes their food source.  
45 That's what I'm worried about.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure. That and down  
48 there I wouldn't expect too many people have any  
49 historical usage. And so, having a federal permit in 22A  
50 remainder, it includes -- yeah, would actually give

00084

1 somebody some of that. So, anyway.

2

3 MR. KRIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody else? You're  
6 welcome, Ron. Any other Council?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 So, hearing none we could have a -- we  
11 could have a motion to vote on this proposal and enter  
12 into the proposal process with this one. Do you want to  
13 make a motion, Kelsi?

14

15 MS. IVANOFF: I move to propose a federal  
16 muskox hunt in 22A or to propose? Did I say to propose?

17

18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: To establish.

19

20 MR. GRAY: And I think -- Kelsi, I think  
21 we need to include in that motion restricting it to  
22 certain villages. That way, we don't have it go out to  
23 the whole Alaska.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Does that involve  
26 C&T, or can you just...?

27

28 MS. IVANOFF: No. Because in.....

29

30 MS. MORROW: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
31 This is Kristen Morrow. I think you would need to submit  
32 a separate proposal to recognize C&T for the communities  
33 that you think do have customary and traditional use of  
34 muskox in the proposed hunt area. And so, those two  
35 analyses would be considered by the Board in the same  
36 cycle. The Board could take action on the C&T  
37 determinations. And then also, separately take action  
38 on the muskox hunt, which could set up a situation to  
39 do what you're seeking to do here.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

42

43 MS. MORROW: Analyzed separately.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, you have  
46 to have C&T findings to concentrated on the communities  
47 right there that you're wanting to target, Kelsi. And  
48 so, that means.....

49

50 (Simultaneous speech)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MS. MORROW: So, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....they have to do that through the analysis process. Brian, is that through your process?

MR. UBELAKER: I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sorry. Is that through your process, that C&T?

MR. UBELAKER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Gets worked in there.

MR. UBELAKER: Well -- yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

MS. IVANOFF: So, for the ones already in there they have that done already, correct? Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, we're opening the door for that to happen. If we pass this or put this proposal in.

MS. IVANOFF: We'd have to do two proposals. Correct?

MS. MORROW: Submit two proposals. Whether or not there needs to be two motions. Right now, I'd defer to Gisela.

MS. UBELAKER: I think you're -- I think the motion can be, you know, establish a muskox season and determine who is eligible to hunt in the muskox season. And then, like I say, we'll -- we're going to take your motion, your ideas. We will write it out as a formal proposal. And then we'll send it to Gisela, who will send it to you, Louis, to make sure we captured everything you're talking about and are not missing anything.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And we'll look at that in the next meeting?

MR. UBELAKER: No.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No?

00086

1  
2 MR. UBERLAKER: You will look at  
3 that.....  
4  
5 (Simultaneous speech)  
6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.  
8  
9 MR. UBELAKER: .....very soon.  
10  
11 MS. IVANOFF: This week.  
12  
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, okay. Well, no.  
14 Oh, that's right. The proposal is due now. Yeah. That's  
15 right. Excuse me. I'm thinking down the road. So, the  
16 maker of the motion.  
17  
18 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.  
19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're good with  
21 that?  
22  
23 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.  
24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, what's the  
26 verbiage we're going to use on this, Mr. Scott?  
27  
28 MR. AYERS: I think it's fine as was  
29 stated by the Council member here, that we want to  
30 establish a hunt in 22A for muskox and then additionally  
31 identify which communities are -- I don't remember what  
32 the words you used, are the appropriate communities with  
33 customary traditional use of that resource in the region  
34 or something along those lines. Right, to ensure that  
35 it's as -- it's currently stated, as all rural residents  
36 and the Council is interested in more narrowly defining  
37 who has access.  
38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that's what this  
40 would do. This is this would engage.....  
41  
42 MR. AYERS: Generate.....  
43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Engage the process.  
45  
46 MR. AYERS: Two separate proposals out  
47 of this motion.  
48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: They would cover both  
50 of them.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. AYERS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: In other words, because you're going to do an analysis, you're going to do C&T findings. You're going to work it all together to -- so.

MR. AYERS: If you have specific communities it would be good to name them, just so that we can put that in.

MS. IVANOFF: I think 22 North or 22A North would be Shaktoolik, right? 22 North would be Shaktoolik, 22 central Unalakleet, 22A remainder would be St. Michael and Stebbins.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, yeah. You got your three -- your -- excuse me. Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Stebbins, Saint Michael.

MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's four. Yeah. Those for communities.

MR. SCOTT: Yeah. That's fine and I think probably they'll just analyze all the residents of that area. But it's good to have that specific language in there that helps us.

MR. GRAY: I second that motion.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. There's a first and a second for this motion to -- what did you call it again?

MR. SCOTT: Establish.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Establish the muskox hunt in 22A.

MS. IVANOFF: To the residents.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: To the residents. There's the first and second.

MR. KIRK: Question.

00088

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been  
2 called, all those in favor of the motion say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 All those against, same sign.

7  
8 (No response)

9  
10 Hearing none. Motion passes  
11 unanimously. Okay.

12  
13 MR. UBELAKER: Second topic that I have  
14 and this comes from the alternatives considered in  
15 closure reviews we just went through. It was a suggestion  
16 to remove or to require a register -- a federal  
17 registration permit for moose hunting in Unit 22E, which  
18 would allow greater data collection on harvest.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, that wording  
21 again?

22  
23 MR. UBELAKER: To establish a  
24 registration moose permit for Unit 22E so we can closely  
25 track harvest of a moose.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Is that a.....

28  
29 MS. IVANOFF: Is that like what we have  
30 for 22A?

31  
32 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Yeah.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, the  
35 registration, that's -- What is it now? It's a green  
36 tag.

37  
38 MR. UBELAKER: Harvest ticket. Well,  
39 there's no -- for moose in 22E there is no requirement  
40 on the federal side. So, it's State, whatever the State  
41 requires, harvest ticket or registration. But I think  
42 it's.....

43  
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45  
46 MR. UBELAKER: 22E moose is a harvest  
47 ticket under state regulations. So, this would just give  
48 us a permit to allow us to better track harvest.....

49  
50 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Under federal.....



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. UBELAKER: .....under federal regulations.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, how much land is over there when we look at that? It's all the preserve.

MR. UBELAKER: I can tell you here in just a second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The Nuluk River and the Serpentine River

MR. UBELAKER: 61% of 22E is federal public lands. It's over half Park service. There's a little bit of BLM and a little tiny bit of Fish and Wildlife.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, registered -- or registered hunt. What is that -- fill it out?

MR. UBELAKER: It would -- anybody that wants to harvest moose under federal regulations would have to -- probably be through the Park Service, get -- put their name on -- or I don't know, fill out a form and get a registration permit, just like the Unalakleet right now.

MS. IVANOFF: In Unalakleet we just go to the bunkhouse, register for it, and then we have our -- that's our permit for the federal.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No, that's not -- it's not making it restricted.

MR. UBELAKER: No, there's no restrictions to it. No quota or anything that goes along with it. It's just registration permit has a failure to report penalty.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, that's encouraging people to turn in -- unless a green tag. It's like a.....

MR. UBELAKER: Green tag, there's no reporting requirement period. I mean, you -- yeah, you report what you do, but there's no there's nothing saying you have to do it or you won't be able to on next year.

1 MS. IVANOFF: And this is strictly so,  
2 you guys just get more data on the hunts.

3  
4 MR. UBELAKER: Yep.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, yeah. So, the  
7 harvest ticket through the State, I call them a green  
8 tag. So, Sara, what kind of data do you get off of that?

9  
10 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, this is Sara.  
11 Honestly, pretty poor information. We don't have a lot  
12 of harvest tickets issued in Shishmaref or Wales, and I  
13 don't know if that is a product of just poor vendor  
14 availability or something else, but yeah, we generally  
15 -- I'm trying to think what our reporters -- reported  
16 harvest is out of those communities off the top of my  
17 head, it's only like a couple. And then the Nome folks  
18 have generally pretty good reporting compliance. So,  
19 yeah and then the Subsistence Division has done  
20 household surveys in Shishmaref the last couple of  
21 years, and they have some additional information that  
22 helps us capture any unreported harvest on the state  
23 side.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, Sara, its Louis  
26 again, what do we have on population in 22E over in  
27 there, do we have any kind of estimates? Something solid?

28  
29 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, sure. We -- the last  
30 time we did a survey in 22D, and E collectively was  
31 2022. And the population has been stable in that area.  
32 And then as far as the number of bulls that has been  
33 declining somewhat over time, but still at our  
34 management objective which is 30 bulls per 100 cows. But  
35 we'll get back in there in a couple of years. So, yeah.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What kind of -- thank  
38 you. What kind of guiding is going on there?

39  
40 MS. HENSLEE: There is a pretty limited  
41 guiding operation. We issue on the state side five draw  
42 permits annually, which we think is what's allowable  
43 given the resident harvest in the area and then not all  
44 of those permits get filled. So, usually we see maybe  
45 three non-resident moose harvested annually.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, you are  
48 getting some kind of reports back on the subsistence  
49 harvest when you're doing those surveys?

50

00091

1 MS. HENSLEE: Yes. And I don't know,  
2 Brian, if you had it in your Wildlife Closure Review for  
3 22E, do you know if you have those numbers handy? If  
4 not, I can check for it really quick.

5  
6 MR. UBELAKER: For what?

7  
8 MS. HENSLEE: For Shishmaref or 22E  
9 unreported harvest from the household surveys that the  
10 Division of Subsistence does. I want to say it's like  
11 13 moose harvested from Shishmaref and that they  
12 reported in 2023 and '24. But I do see Jeannette's hands  
13 up and Tom's, too, so maybe I'll stop for a second.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's a hand with  
16 no name -- hi, Jeannette.

17  
18 MS. KOELSCH: Hi. Nikki is looking up the  
19 handy dandy, but we do think that there's a harvest  
20 ticket issued through the -- a federal permit, not  
21 harvest ticket. Sorry, a federal permit in 22E for moose  
22 issued through the Nome National Park Service office.  
23 She is -- she's looking it up. I just sent her the invite  
24 to this meeting.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, Brian, do  
27 you have...?

28  
29 MR. UBELAKER: I can -- there's nothing  
30 in the handy dandy stating permit. I'll hop in the  
31 database and double check real quick.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, we're  
34 talking about management of a subsistence resource. So,  
35 extra data would help, Sara, that -- this requirement  
36 under a registered federal hunt?

37  
38 MS. HENSLEE: Sorry. Were you asking me?  
39 I see you're looking at Brian so, I wasn't sure if you  
40 were.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. I'm sorry.

43  
44 MS. HENSLEY: Yeah, so.....

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. I've got eyes  
47 in the back of my head.

48  
49 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. For sure. I mean,  
50 with the federal registration permits, it's just, yeah,

1 a matter of working with our federal counterparts with  
2 the Park Service to get that reporting data at the end  
3 of each season. So, yeah, all -- any data is useful to  
4 us for sure. And I guess alternatively, or maybe in  
5 addition to when the state cycle comes up, maybe the RAC  
6 could put their name behind submitting a state permit -  
7 - state registration permit instead of a harvest ticket,  
8 just to have consistency for state and federal  
9 regulations might be my one suggestion right now.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nikki Braem put  
12 something up there on the screen. I didn't catch it.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: Here's the chat.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: In the Chat.

17  
18 MS. BRAEM: I can read it if you would  
19 like.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Please. Thanks,  
22 Sara. Nikki.

23  
24 MS. BRAEM: Sure. So, I - oh, this is  
25 Nikki Braem, Bering Land Bridge and Nome. I'm unable to  
26 be at the meeting today. I have other things going on,  
27 but I'm on lunch so, I opened the federal handy dandy  
28 under moose it says -- basically, the first thing it  
29 says is that all residents of Unit 22 are -- customary  
30 and traditional use of moose, and then it says federal  
31 permits are available from the NPS Bering Land Bridge  
32 National Preserve office in Nome or the BLM office in  
33 Nome. That's the only thing it says. It doesn't speak  
34 to a particular subunit. It just says that federal  
35 permits are available, and in my recollection, I don't  
36 think we've ever had anybody request one or anybody, you  
37 know, you could ask Letty too but -- or Jeanette. But  
38 it says that in the handy dandy. I've always wondered  
39 about that.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, that's  
42 interesting. Is Letty on?

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: No. She's not.....

45  
46 (Simultaneous speech)

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No. Okay.

49  
50

1 MR. UBELAKER: My assumption on that  
2 statement is, I mean, there's 22-01, which is the  
3 Unalakleet permit. There's 22-04, which is 22D  
4 southwest. That one hasn't been issued. I don't think  
5 anybody cares about that one. Since 2018, the only  
6 federal permit issued for moose in 22 has been 22-01.  
7 So, I think that statement is kind of more of a blanket  
8 statement to, you know, get a permit from BLM office if  
9 one is required or the Park Service, (indiscernible).

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, if we did  
12 anything, it would be more specific to the area that  
13 we're talking about in 22E, if we did something.  
14 (Indiscernible) Tommy, you got any comments on it?

15  
16 MR. GRAY: Welcome to chaos.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're going to  
19 nickname you Captain Chaos, you know.

20  
21 MR. GRAY: I -- you know, I bought my  
22 sister a thing, it says I don't cook, but I like to stir  
23 the pot.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that Sharon  
26 or.....

27  
28 MR. GRAY: Barbie.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Barbie. I know, I was  
31 I was trying to tease you. Yeah. My classmate.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: Well, I think Brian's right  
34 that we should just go through this formally and set  
35 this up. And if we need a motion, I make that motion.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Councilman  
38 Gray makes a motion to consider requiring a federal  
39 registration permit in Unit 22E, which would allow the  
40 -- just allows the greater data collection. Sara - Sara  
41 -- it sounded like she's -- she sees it as an advantage  
42 management. So, we have a motion.

43  
44 MS. IVANOFF: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi second.

47  
48 MR. GRAY: Question.

49  
50

00094

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been  
2 called. All those in favor say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 All those against, same sign.

7  
8 (No response)

9  
10 Hearing none. Sounds unanimous. Motion  
11 passes.

12  
13 MR. GRAY: And these ones that -- these  
14 proposals were talking about. I want to make sure the  
15 Board understands that Louis is going to be thoroughly  
16 involved in this thing, because it's all going to happen  
17 in the next couple days.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm not going  
20 anywhere, fast. I can still run, but I don't know.

21  
22 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Moving down the  
23 list. Same thing would be to establish a registration  
24 permit for Unit 22A North in remainder, same purposes,  
25 same reasons.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We got any  
28 discussion? We got -- we make the motion. We need a  
29 motion to.....

30  
31 MS. IVANOFF: I move.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi moves. Is there  
34 a second?

35  
36 MR. KIRK: Second.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ronald Kirk seconds.  
39 Any discussion?

40  
41 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead. Yeah.

44  
45 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
46 Mission. What was that proposal? I was too busy trying  
47 to unmute myself before they voted on the previous  
48 motion, and I was going to comment, but I noticed that  
49 I'm still in kindergarten so, I couldn't quite say my  
50 peace.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so, this one  
3 is to establish a registration permit for Unit 22A North,  
4 and remainder for moose. Kelsi moved and Ronald Kirk  
5 seconded. We're in discussion.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 No discussion?

10  
11 MR. KIRK: Question.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been  
14 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17  
18 Sounds like five ayes and seems --  
19 against the motion, say aye. Same sign. Hearing none.  
20 Motion passes unanimously.

21  
22 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

25  
26 MR. KIRK: I think Elmer was trying to -  
27 - Elmer was trying to comment on the proposal for 22E.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I was going to  
30 call on him just to see what he had to say. Thank you.

31  
32 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
33 Mission. My comment was, I noticed that there is a  
34 guiding or landing strip north of American River that  
35 is being used by guided hunts. I know that for a fact  
36 because they use a Super Cub every year. Maybe after the  
37 end of or later part in the open season that they  
38 transport moose meat from that area to Teller and Brevig  
39 Mission. I have been a recipient of that, some of those  
40 meat that they do have transported. And my question on  
41 that was, is that in 22E or is that in subunit 22D, that  
42 was my main question, but I wasn't able to click my  
43 whatever for comment. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you,  
46 Councilman Seetot. Yeah, I was kind of questioning. I  
47 asked about the guide services. There was something on  
48 the level of five permits, Sara? And that does -- is  
49 that an inclusive, just -- is that just 22E?

1 MS. HENLSEE: Yeah. This is Sara. Yep.  
2 So, five permits for 22E. You got it, and then, yeah.  
3 If I could address Elmer's question too, right now.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Go ahead.  
6

7 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. So, there is a  
8 guiding operation up in Kelly Creek where Elmer's  
9 referring to, they are guiding clients in 22E under the  
10 draw non-resident permit. And then there's also -- they  
11 are able to guide resident clients in the 22D remainder  
12 area as well. So, both 22D remainder and 22E.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, thank you.  
15 That's up to (In Native) River area, seems like. I mean  
16 it's so, sophisticated. I see a strobe light going off  
17 in the middle of the night out there in the -- so, they  
18 can know where the runway is at. Okay so, does that  
19 answer your question, Elmer?

20  
21 MR. SEETOT: Yes, it answered my  
22 question. It's north of the American River, not (In  
23 Native) River. The American, (In Native), Igloo Creek  
24 all meet at a point far down below. So, that was pretty  
25 much my question that -- I was kind of concerned about.  
26 And I was just kind of figuring out if they do take the  
27 quota system out of -- or moose out of 22D, then that  
28 would count toward the harvest limit. But thank you,  
29 very much, Sara, for clarifying me on that.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for the  
32 question, Elmer. So, that means -- what we're doing is  
33 we're talking about the 22E becoming a registered hunt.  
34 So, we get more data out of there. So, I guess that's a  
35 good thing on that -- on the line. So, what are we at  
36 now?

37  
38 MR. GRAY: Louis?

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We did make a motion  
41 to pass it for -- go ahead, Tommy.

42  
43 MR. GRAY: Could I ask a question of  
44 Sara? I -- this is the first time I've heard of a guide  
45 guiding residents in in the American (In Native) River  
46 system. And those guided hunts are going to be taken  
47 away from the local residents, which was intended for  
48 the locals to keep. I mean, that's why non-residents  
49 were taken out of the system. What I'm curious about is



1 how many of these guided hunts in 22D are happening  
2 every year?

3  
4 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, this is Sara. It is  
5 a relatively new thing happening for residents, I think,  
6 as maybe a consequence of us reducing non-resident  
7 taxgsin 22E, and I don't have the number off the top of  
8 my head, the non-local harvest. And even then, I don't  
9 know that I could break it down by guiding, I guess I  
10 could. Maybe next meeting, if this is a proposal you  
11 submit, I can have that information available. I want  
12 to say it's less than five.

13  
14 MR. GRAY: I really think this is  
15 important. I mean five animals in, let's say the harvest  
16 in that region is 20 animals. That's 25% of the harvest.  
17 I think it needs to come up at the AC meeting also,  
18 Sara, so we can talk about it.

19  
20 MS. HENSLEE: Sure. Yep. Absolutely.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, this is Louis  
23 again. So, we're talking about 22E with the federal  
24 registration.

25  
26 MR. GRAY: But -- but what.....

27  
28 (Simultaneous speech)

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The 22 -- the.....

31  
32 MR. GRAY: What happened here.....

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

35  
36 MR. GRAY: What happened here was he  
37 brought up the American and (In Native) in 22D. And Sara  
38 alluded to taking resident hunts out of 22D. I went down  
39 the track that I was surprised that a guide is still  
40 operating in 22D and I'm curious, if I was up there, I  
41 would try and push as many resident hunters as I could  
42 so, I could make \$300,000 next summer. And that's what's  
43 going to happen in the guiding world in there. They will  
44 find folks in Alaska to hunt those animals that don't  
45 have to go through the draw system, and it's going to  
46 take food off of yours and mine and all the Teller  
47 local's food off the table. So, making people aware of  
48 it is important to me.

49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Thank you,  
2 Tommy. I was getting to that point where I was asking -  
3 - I was going to ask Sara if that -- she's talking about  
4 Alaska residents getting guided on 22D remainder or in  
5 E?

6  
7 MR. HENSLEE: Oops. Sorry, I'm missing  
8 my mute button here. Here's Sara. I -- they could  
9 technically do both so, I'll just leave it at that.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, they can -- in  
12 22D remainder, there's still opportunity for a guide to  
13 guide a Alaskan resident.

14  
15 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, that's correct. So,  
16 we have -- just to, I guess dive in the weeds on the  
17 state side of things. We have that in person availability  
18 requirement for the RM 840 hunt, which applies to 22B,  
19 C, and D, including remainder. So, yeah, as long as the  
20 hunters are coming during that period, which is July  
21 25th through August 25th, they can participate in 22D  
22 remainder. And I think the fact that the hunt starts  
23 during the availability period, the clients that want  
24 to participate for moose hunting in 22D remainder they  
25 -- there's not really much stopping them with that  
26 availability. It's kind of a you could call it a loophole  
27 just because that season starts earlier. Whereas I think  
28 with the other locations they start September 1st. So,  
29 it does restrict non-local residents, whereas with this  
30 earlier season start, they've kind of found a way around  
31 that restriction, if that makes sense.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that the August -  
34 - was it 10th or 15th?

35  
36 MS. HENSLEE: Yes. August 10th.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. August 10th.  
39 So, you're saying there are residents from, say, the  
40 Anchorage area that are actually doing guided -- getting  
41 -- having guides up there at that point in time, or am  
42 I...?

43  
44 MS. HENSLEE: Yes, I'm sure they're  
45 guided and not guided. So, yeah, a little bit of both.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do we have any --  
48 what's the -- generally I hear a lot of the residents  
49 up there taking these moose at that time. What's a count  
50 out of the Anchorage area that's taking them?

1  
2 MS. HENSLEE: I don't know, for 22D  
3 remainder specifically and I'm actually -- I wonder if  
4 Alicia is listening. We just pulled the numbers for what  
5 the percent harvest is for non-local residents for the  
6 moose subcommittee meeting. Maybe if Alicia can quickly  
7 find those numbers. I know it's kind of a big ask, but  
8 as far as the permit issuance, I believe the non-local  
9 residents are less than 10% of the total number of  
10 permits issued for registration permit RM 840. But yeah.  
11 Alicia, any chance you can pull that really quick? I  
12 know it's probably buried.

13  
14 MS. CARSON: This is Alicia. Sorry. Yeah,  
15 I'm trying to pull it right now and the internet is not  
16 cooperating with me. I can try and get it to you shortly  
17 here.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure, that'd be fine.  
20 It just got my curiosity, too. But the -- so, the 22E  
21 hunt, state hunt is -- there's five out of 22E but that's  
22 non-resident. Correct?

23  
24 MS. HENSLEE: Yep. That's correct.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, then  
27 resident, Alaska resident can still go up there. It's a  
28 -- it's been a green -- it's a not -- it's a non-  
29 registered hunt up there.

30  
31 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. So, there's no quota.  
32 The season runs from August through mid March so, it's  
33 a pretty liberal season. And I think that's probably  
34 what Brian's getting at with this, is just trying to get  
35 more information because yeah, it's hard to kind of  
36 manage properly when you don't know how many moose are  
37 actually coming out of an area and are reporting  
38 compliance has been pretty low on the state side under  
39 that harvest ticket. It's just the way that harvest  
40 tickets are managed. They don't have to report until the  
41 end of the year, basically. It's just hard to get numbers  
42 back from folks and then the vendors in Shishmaref and  
43 Wales are a moving target as well. So, having folks that  
44 can actually issue moose permits is a changing climate  
45 for sure.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, thank you  
48 Sara. So, under a registered hunt then that would be --  
49 you gotta come to Nome in August through -- or July.  
50 Excuse me. July 25th through August 25th?

000100

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MS. HENSLEE: Correct. Yep.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, that would be like the -- in the federal, what we're talking about would be the same. No? There's no.....

MR. UBEKALER: I mean, for like, the Unalakleet permit person, when I was working for the BLM, we flew out to Unalakleet, set up in a bunkhouse and issued permits for probably four days.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that's basically how they do it, right? You gotta go to the -- you gotta go to Unalakleet to get it done if you were a resident of the State, but that - no.

MR. UBELAKER: No.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No, you can't do that.

MR. UBELAKER: Yeah. No. Well, BLM would go to Unalakleet because it was Unalakleet residents only.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right. Okay. So, what happens if it's up there and a resident of the State of Alaska wanted to get a permit, would they have to go to Nome? If -- unless it's -- or not? Somebody up here. Who is that?

MR. AYERS: Jeanette.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Jeanette, go ahead.

MS. KOELSCH: Through the Chair. When we issue federal muskox permits we go to Shishmaref and.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

MS. KOELSCH: .....not recently, Wales. But normally we go and try to go to the village, and we coordinate that with the BLM.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, same thing for - - so, I'm sorry. So, that could be sort of the same thing with moose?

1 MS. KOELSCH: Yes. We could.....

2  
3 (Simultaneous speech)

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I mean muskox.

6  
7 MS. KOELSCH: .....do the same -- yeah.  
8 Same thing. We just -- I asked Letty about moose, and  
9 she said, nobody's ever asked, but we've never really  
10 want to say taken the moose permits to Shishmaref. We've  
11 concentrated on muskox, honestly. Just to be  
12 transparent, so.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, we're going  
15 to do this thing and we're going to get more data.

16  
17 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. And then.....

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good management.

20  
21 MR. UBELAKER: Basically, however it  
22 washes out in the end is going to be up to whoever is  
23 distributing the permits.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We already --  
26 yeah. We already, we already.

27  
28 MR. AYERS: -- the motion asked for 22E  
29 and 22A North end remainder. So, both of those.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're done.

32  
33 MR. UBELAKER: With the discussions on  
34 those. Yeah, a couple more potential proposals.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Okay. We're  
37 moving on to the next. Brian.

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. This one will get  
40 exciting. Unit 22A Unalakleet moose season. The proposal  
41 would be to extend the season from August 1st through  
42 September 30th and then establish a winter season  
43 December 1st to the last day of February. This would be  
44 because the State recently adopted their seasons in  
45 regulation and currently, the federal season is more  
46 restrictive than the State. So, the motion you could  
47 submit would be.....

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: housekeeping.

50

000102

1 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah.

2  
3 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

4  
5 MR. UBELAKER: But the winter season --  
6 so, the -- double check the -- winter season in 22A on  
7 the state side is December 1st through February 28th.  
8 And -- oh no, we would match it. Last day of February,  
9 would be the only difference.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 29th of February.

12  
13 MR. UBELAKER: Don't catch me on that.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's right. Okay,  
16 so, we're just -- this is housekeeping, and it mirrors  
17 the state, co-management.

18  
19 MS. IVANOFF: I already see that. We'll  
20 look forward to August 1st.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're making a  
23 motion.

24  
25 MS. IVANOFF: I'll make a motion.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second? A  
28 discussion?

29  
30 MR. KIRK: Second

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ronald Kirk second.  
33 Discussion? You want to say it one more time? Just make  
34 sure everybody's -- Brian.

35  
36 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. So, the proposal  
37 would be to extend Unit 22A Unalakleet moose season  
38 August 1st through September 30th. And to establish a  
39 winter season with dates December 1st through the last  
40 day of February.

41  
42 MS. HENSLEE: Hi, this is Sara. I just  
43 have a quick comment for discussion if now's the time?

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're on.

46  
47 MS. HENSLEE: Okay. Yeah, I just wanted  
48 to say the State is also interested in submitting pretty  
49 much the same proposal as what Brian just said, with  
50 just aligning state and federal seasons for housekeeping

000103

1 purposes. The only other addition is removing the  
2 federal permit. It just seems redundant and confusing  
3 to have to have hunters have two different permits for  
4 what's virtually the same hunt. So, we would like to  
5 just absorb that permit under our registration RM 841  
6 in the fall and RM 844 in the winter, and the seasons  
7 would be the same.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Sara.  
10 Brian.

11  
12 MR. UBELAKER: Bruce did mention that  
13 when he was talking about FM 22-01. He said he handed  
14 out one last year so, suggested getting rid of that.  
15 Yes, we could definitely include that in this proposal  
16 as well.

17  
18 MR. IVANOFF: I have a question.  
19 When.....

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

22  
23 MS. IVANOFF: When we are getting our  
24 state tickets, but we're hunting on federal land, does  
25 that still fall under -- like I'm just trying to get at  
26 the federally qualified users thing. If we're -- like  
27 if you're not from Unalakleet and you're hunting on  
28 federal land, but you have a state permit, how does that  
29 work?

30  
31 MR. UBELAKER: Isn't it only Unalakleet  
32 residents that.....

33  
34 (Simultaneous speech)

35  
36 MS. IVANOFF: The State is residents of  
37 Alaska.

38  
39 MR. UBELAKER: It now is?

40  
41 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

42  
43 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. So, federal public  
44 land closures (indiscernible) prohibit non-federally  
45 qualified users to hunt on federal public lands in 22A.

46  
47 MS. IVANOFF: Which is how it is now.

48  
49 MR. UBELAKER: Right now, we are  
50 recommending to lift that closure. So, you would be able

000104

1 to hunt on federal public lands with the state permit  
2 in the future.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, that's not  
5 a hang up, right, Sara?

6

7 MS. HENSLEE: No. We're supportive of  
8 rescinding the closure on federally qualified users  
9 consistent with OSM's recommendation.

10

11 MS. IVANOFF: But what we're discussing  
12 right now is just season, right?

13

14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Last day of February.

15

16 MR. UBELAKER: You get that one extra day  
17 for four years.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. What is this -  
20 - what did the states -- what was the dates again?

21

22 MS. IVANOFF: December 1st February 28th.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: Through the 28th.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All right so,  
27 we got a first and a second here. We got -- were under  
28 discussion.

29

30 MS. IVANOFF: Oh, yeah.

31

32 MR. AYERS: So, the motion on the floor  
33 was to extend the Unit 22A Unalakleet Moose Pass season  
34 August 1st to September 30th and establish a winter  
35 season December 1st to the last day of February.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

38

39 MR. AYERS: Which is similar to the  
40 changes just made by the State. That was another -- that  
41 was the motion. That was another discussion point on the  
42 floor about removing the federal permit requirement and  
43 just using the state permit requirement, but that was  
44 following the motion. I don't know if you all wanted to  
45 incorporate that or leave that as part of the process  
46 once the -- it goes through the -- because this is just  
47 a proposal, right? As part of the analysis. But it's up  
48 to the Council what you want to do with that.

49

50



1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What do you think?  
2 You made the motion.

3  
4 MS. IVANOFF: Whatever is easier for.....

5  
6 MR. UBELAKER: I mean

7  
8 MS. IVANOFF: .....the state.

9  
10 MR. UBELAKER: And honestly, if the state  
11 is submitting the proposal, they're both going to get  
12 analyzed at the same time, and we'll take the state's  
13 language into consideration as well. So, if you guys  
14 would like to mirror it, you can amend the motion. Or  
15 if you don't want to deal with it it'll work itself out  
16 in the wash.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Or we could just be  
19 inclusive of it to mirror the state.

20  
21 MR. UBELAKER: Sure.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

24  
25 MR. AYERS: Whichever way you want to go.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. That's why I  
28 was asking her. She's -- yeah. So, you and Ron, you and  
29 Ron? Yeah Ron, go ahead.

30  
31 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer Seetot.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep.

34  
35 MR. SEETOT: With all due respect to the  
36 current ADF&G personnel, in the past, I think there was  
37 animosity to the actions done by ADF&G personnel to the  
38 -- some of the elders that have passed on, mostly  
39 regarding fish. So, I don't -- I think, in my opinion  
40 that is the reason why you get such a low harvest report  
41 from some of these villages and that carries on, you  
42 know, for a long time with the hunters and with the  
43 local residents. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
46 Okay, so, we're in 22A to extend it, to August 1st to  
47 September 30th. The winter season December 1st to the  
48 last day of February. And then the only other thing is,  
49 is I guess it comes out in the wash as you work through  
50 it to whether, you know, who's -- is it just the state

000106

1 that issues the permit. That sounds good?

2

3 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. That's where  
6 we're at. Anybody have anything else to say about it?  
7 More discussion?

8

9 (No response)

10

11 Hearing no discussion.

12

13 MR. KIRK: Question.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been  
16 called. All those in favor of establishing a  
17 registration permit in Unit 22A North and remainder for  
18 moose up to mirror -- that's 22A. Excuse me, 22A this  
19 is -- I read the wrong one. Yeah. Considering the extent  
20 -- you extend the 22A the season from August 1st to  
21 September 30th and establish the winter season from  
22 December 1st to last day of February, match the State.  
23 All those in favor of the motion say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 We only got four ayes.

28

29 MS. CHAPA: I think we're missing Mr...

30

31 MR. GRAY: Okay. You're missing Tom Gray.  
32 I was on the phone with the mayor talking about getting  
33 a proposal in by Friday so, I -- whatever's going on,  
34 aye.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, that's five for  
37 five I think, that motion passes unanimously. What else?

38

39 MR. UBELAKER: The last one I got  
40 hopefully would be a simple one. To eliminate the federal  
41 moose permit FM 22-02 that is used for the winter hunt  
42 in Unit 22B, west of the Darby's. This permit has not  
43 been issued since 2001.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, I'm going to  
46 get one. No.

47

48 MS. CHAPA: Can you repeat that?

49

50 MR. UBELAKER: Eliminate the

1 registration moose permit FM 22-02 for the winter hunt  
2 in Unit 22B, west of the Darby's.

3

4 MR. GRAY: Can I jump in here?

5

6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. I was just going  
7 to call on you, Tommy.

8

9 MR. GRAY: I -- you know, part of what's  
10 going on -- right now 22B, the residents living in 22B  
11 aren't happy with the state system. The residents of 22B  
12 probably don't understand there's even a process for a  
13 federal hunt. So, right off the get go, I'm going to  
14 oppose this thing because I think we need to educate our  
15 people before we get rid of it. You know, the people  
16 need to be involved in that decision making process and  
17 to be honest, I don't know much about it and I should.  
18 In fact, I don't know anything about it. Yeah, and I'm  
19 -- I am proposing to our mayor to get a proposal in to  
20 address the federal hunt west of the Darby Mountains so  
21 -- and he's all excited about it. He's going to -- he's  
22 waiting for the contact person and he's going to get his  
23 people talking to OSM. So, anyway, I don't want to see  
24 this go away until it's fleshed out.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Well end of  
27 story.

28

29 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's -- we're here  
32 to provide subsistence. We're not want to take any away  
33 if there's additional opportunity because of a federal  
34 system, then let's have a good look at it before we make  
35 that decision, I think. Is there anybody else have  
36 anything to add to that?

37

38 (No response)

39

40 I don't hear anybody unless Elmer can't  
41 push the button.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: I'm fine. I'm fine with what  
44 has been discussed. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Thank you,  
47 Councilman Seetot. I was teasing with you a little bit.  
48 Not being disrespectful by any means. Okay so, that's  
49 where we're at. We're done with that.

50

1 MR. UBELAKER: I'm done with mine. I  
2 believe Jeanette had one she wanted to discuss. Bring  
3 to your attention.

4  
5 MS. KOELSCH: Yes. Through the Chair.  
6 Bering Land Bridge would like to get the Council's  
7 thoughts on extending the federal muskox Seward  
8 Peninsula season date in Game Management Units 22 and  
9 23 Southwest from March 15 to March 31. Currently, the  
10 season closes March 15th. The proposal would ask it to  
11 close March 31. This proposal would provide additional  
12 subsistence opportunity while ensuring the conservation  
13 of Seward Pen muskox populations. The change would  
14 affect five muskox hunts in GMU 22 and one muskox hunt  
15 in GMU 23 Southwest for a total of six hunts. We do not  
16 expect that there will be any biological impact or  
17 increased disturbance to muskoxen with this requested  
18 two-week extension. Cow muskoxen, specifically pregnant  
19 cow muskox will not be affected any more than they would  
20 have been if the season ended March 15. Cows will start  
21 to give birth in late April. So, we wanted to get the -  
22 - your input into this proposal.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody on the  
25 Council have any comments or questions? Jeanette. Kelsi.

26  
27 MS. IVANOFF: I like the idea of the  
28 proposal just because of our winters being so, up and  
29 down with weather. I think giving more chance when we  
30 have come springtime, these more stable weather  
31 conditions and we seem to be seeing more -- our rivers  
32 -- this is the period when, like, our rivers are more  
33 frozen, and I think it just provides safer conditions  
34 for our people to be able to get out and hunt this time  
35 of year. We're not -- you know, our winter blizzards are  
36 usually done by now. And yeah, I like -- I would support  
37 that type of proposal.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
40 Kelsi. So Kelsi supports your proposal, Jeanette.  
41 Anybody else have any comments on it? From the Council?

42  
43 MR. GRAY: I don't have any problem with  
44 it. I -- and I'd be happy to make a motion if we --  
45 you're looking for a motion, but you know, weather  
46 conditions. I've been -- I told the (indiscernible) this  
47 yesterday, I'll be here for an hour in the morning, and  
48 here I am four hours later, but.....

49  
50 MS. CHAPA: I tried.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's raining.

3

4

MR. GRAY: I -- you know, the weather. I haven't seen my reindeer for three days, and I thought I got a little window of time, and it's supposed to blow to 50 miles an hour tonight. So, I'm going to cut myself off here pretty soon. But with Jeanette's proposal, I'm all -- we should have done that a long time ago. And I think the State should follow suit with, you know, if there's an issue filling all the permits you know, I do know that people wait late, you know, they don't want to go out in February when it's 20 or 30 below, and they'll wait till March to go hunting. And I know of people that didn't get an animal because they waited till March, and it stormed on the weekends and they didn't get an animal. This little extra couple of weeks is going to help that. So, I'm right on with you guys.

19

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, we could do it at the Council level and make that proposal. So, it'd need.....

23

MR. GRAY: So, Jeanette, are you after a proposal or after just -- can you change regulation by yourself?

27

MS. KOELSCH: No, not this one. Not many actually, to be honest. But if the Council would like to submit this proposal instead of the National Park Service, I would -- and they support it. I would actually prefer that.

33

MR. GRAY: Well, I'll second the motion.

35

MS. CHAPA: There is no motion.

37

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There is no motion yet. Tommy, you could be the motion maker.

40

MR. GRAY: I'll make the motion.

42

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You don't cook. You just stir the pot. Right?

45

MR. GRAY: That's right.

47

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

48

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

50

000110

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. CHAPA: And could we ask for Jeanette to repeat the or get clarification on what units this would apply to?

MS. KOELSCH: It would apply to GMU 22 and 23 Southwest.

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, I second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, we're in discussion so, thank you.

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer Seetot, Jr. just a certain -- I mean, something I experienced even though you harvest from muskox. Don't do away with the hide. The (In Native)) the inside here. It's real good for insulation and I use it for my windows. I use it for my gloves. So, you know, that's natural. I just want you to understand that they say that we use every part of animal. That's one of the uses that I think we use for something we know will be very beneficial to us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Motions been made.....

MR. GRAY: Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....and a second. We're still -- oh, I hear a questions been called. Read the motion. Gisela, can you read it?

MS. CHAPA: Okay, let's see if this sounds accurate. I guess I was multitasking. Gisela Chapa for the record. There is a motion to extend the muskox season for two weeks to close in March 31st on Unit 22.

MR. GRAY: The motion is to create a proposal to extend the two weeks, blah, blah, blah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, in 22 Southwest. So, there's -- questions been called. Motion's been read. All those in favor say aye.

000111

1  
2 IN UNISON: Aye.  
3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right, all  
5 against, same sign.  
6  
7 (No response)  
8  
9 Hearing none. Motion passes  
10 unanimously. Thank you for bringing that to us,  
11 Jeanette.  
12  
13 MR. UBELAKER: Oh.  
14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oops.  
16  
17 MR. UBELAKER: Did you see Jeanette's  
18 comment on Unit 23? Did I see that? Sorry.  
19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What was on 23?  
21  
22 (Simultaneous speech)  
23  
24 MS. KOELSCH: Unit 22 and Unit 23.  
25 Southwest. Which is.....  
26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 22 Southwest.  
28  
29 MS. IVANOFF: 23.  
30  
31 MS. KOELSCH: 23 Southwest.  
32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 23 Southwest.  
34  
35 MS. IVANOFF: That's like Deering.  
36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.  
38  
39 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.  
40  
41 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Okay.  
42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that us? We're  
44 still.....  
45  
46 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, no.  
47  
48 MR. UBELAKER: No. That would go -- that  
49 would have to go.  
50

000112

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's got to go to the  
2 northwest.

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: But they've already had their  
5 meeting.

6  
7 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: They could either  
10 agree with it or.....

11  
12 (Simultaneous speech)

13  
14 MR. AYERS: Yeah. Yeah. We can submit the  
15 proposal.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Submit the proposal.

18  
19 MS. IVANOFF: And let it go through the  
20 process.

21  
22 MR. AYERS: So, they'll just take it up  
23 during their meeting.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

26  
27 MS. KOELSCH: Through the Chair. Yeah.  
28 They'll just take it up during their meeting. Similar  
29 to how, how caribou regs are brought through different  
30 RACs because of the customary traditional use and their  
31 range. So, this Council if they -- sounds like you want  
32 to and you've voted on it -- or you haven't voted on it  
33 yet, but they would just take it up and support the  
34 proposal or amend it, right?

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Amending it? Yeah, we  
37 already took it up and passed it. So, it's up to, you  
38 know, if there's something they don't agree with, they  
39 can make a change.

40  
41 MS. CHAPA: So, do we -- Mr. Chair.  
42 Gisela Chapa. So, do we need to amend the original motion  
43 to include Unit 23 Southwest? Because I think the motion  
44 was for a Unit 22.

45  
46  
47 MR. GRAY: The motion was for -- to  
48 extend the season for the five animals and the one  
49 animal. And if the one animal addressed 23, that means  
50 it was in there to address 23. That was the intent of



000113

1 the motion. How you wrote it, I don't know.

2

3 MR. AYERS: I think as long as we have  
4 verbal confirmation from everyone that 22 and 23  
5 southwest, then we're good to go.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

8

9 MR. GRAY: That's -- works for me.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The maker of the  
12 motion, I'll say the second.

13

14 MR. GRAY: The stirrer of the pot.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You can't cook, I  
17 know.

18

19 MR. GRAY: I have a second.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, it's -- does  
22 the second agree? I just want to make sure.....

23

24 (Simultaneous speech)

25

26 MR. KIRK: I agree.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: ...everybody's on  
29 the same page. Alright. We're good. Done. We're done.

30

31 MR. KIRK: I agree without the blah blah  
32 blah.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. See, that's why  
35 he can't cook. He can't read either. Alright.  
36 (indiscernible) done. Thank you.

37

38 MS. KOELSCH: I'm going to go off camera.  
39 Thank you and thanks to Lettie for bringing this up and  
40 to my attention. Thanks.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Okay.  
43 Where are we at here?

44

45 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair -- yeah. I was  
46 going to give everybody a quick overview of where we are  
47 in the agenda. So, we've gone through the call for  
48 federal wildlife proposals. We still have the Council  
49 Charter Review. That's an action item. But it should be  
50 brief. We also have the review and approve of the FY

000114

1 2024 Annual Report. Hopefully that is also a brief  
2 discussion. We have the Alaska Board of Fisheries call  
3 for proposals. That is only an action item if the Council  
4 decides to submit a proposal and then we have our future  
5 meeting dates.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. There's four  
8 items there.

9  
10 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The only thing that  
13 I thought about on the state level for Board of Fish was  
14 the fact that I thought maybe we could speak on behalf  
15 of subsistence use there on the west side of Cape Nome,  
16 which is inclusive of Nome on up, of having subsistence  
17 opening seven days a week instead of this on again, off  
18 again schedule they have. And it would be reflective of  
19 what it's like to the east of Cape Nome, which is seven  
20 days a week. Tommy, you got any comment on that? I know  
21 we're kind of a little bit out of order, I just.....

22  
23 MR. GRAY: It seemed to me it was - was  
24 it the other way around or...

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well.....

27  
28 MR. GRAY: I want to say Nikki Braem  
29 brought up this issue somewhere and.....

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think we're jumping  
32 the hoop.

33  
34 MR. GRAY: Anyway, I'm comfortable making  
35 sure subsistence is covered on this thing. But, whatever  
36 you want to do here.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So do on the east  
39 side, Tommy, at Cape Nome, it's open seven days a week.  
40 But it's not like that in front of Nome where people  
41 live, and the access is -- to subsistence on the west  
42 side is scheduled. And I don't think it should be. I  
43 think it should be seven days a week, but I mean, I'm  
44 throwing that in the air. We're not there yet. We're --  
45 I just threw that up for conversation and thought. So,  
46 anyway, we'll move through this process here. We're  
47 going to take a break here, but I think we need about a  
48 15-minute break.

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED: 15 minutes

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: At least 15. Are we  
3 going to keep pushing or are we going to -- do we need  
4 to take a lunch? I don't think.....

5  
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7  
8 MR. AYERS: We can take a quick break.  
9 Someone brought food.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay so, there is  
12 food here to snack on, so.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. If I may. So,  
15 right now we have five Council members available so that  
16 we can -- we do have quorum. So, as long -- I can also,  
17 try to reach out to Council Member Moses to see if he  
18 can call in because he got disconnected and wasn't able  
19 to reconnect.

20  
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, reconnect. And  
24 what about Martin?

25  
26 MS. CHAPA: He told me he was getting  
27 ready to get on a plane, but I can also reach out to him  
28 and see if.....

29  
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, because Tommy  
33 keeps wanting to run away.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: I -- if you're going on break,  
36 I'm getting on my snowmachine. I haven't seen my reindeer  
37 in three days. So, I'm headed out and it's supposed to  
38 be blowing 50 miles an hour tonight.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, we don't need a  
41 break. We need to act, we got Tommy in here. If we don't  
42 -- if we let you out the door, we don't know if we're  
43 going to see you or your reindeer for a week. So, what's  
44 our next...?

45  
46 MS. CHAPA: The next item, Mr. Chair, is  
47 a Council Charter Review, and this will be a very  
48 brief.....

49  
50

000116

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're going to read  
2 it to us? Read us.....

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And then we're going  
7 to say yes or no.

8  
9 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We want to add  
12 something, or we don't want it. In other words.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, if everybody's  
15 ready.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

18  
19 MS. CHAPA: Again, Gisela Chapa for the  
20 record and the current Council Charter can be found on  
21 page 150 of your meeting book. And all Subsistence  
22 regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the  
23 Federal Advisory Committee Act, also, known as FACA and  
24 these charters get renewed every two years. So, this is  
25 the time where the Councils can make some changes to the  
26 charter. So, we can open up the discussion to see if  
27 there's anything that you want to change in time for us  
28 to renew the charters. Most of the language in the  
29 charter is required by FACA, and that language cannot  
30 be changed. But there are a few minor modifications that  
31 the Councils can propose as long as there's detailed  
32 justification. And some of those changes might include,  
33 like the number of seats on your Council, the frequency  
34 of the meetings if you want to add like specific  
35 geographic membership on the Council or membership  
36 balance, if the Council does not want to propose any  
37 changes, then this is not an action item. If there are  
38 changes that the Council would like to submit, then this  
39 is an action item that requires a motion and a second.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I'm not going  
42 to close the door on it, but is there anything that  
43 anybody thought of that might want to see changed? While,  
44 we have everybody in the room. Tommy.

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

49  
50

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
2 Mission. Reason I never tried to take a leadership  
3 position or chairing positions is that sometime you're  
4 restricted from speaking your mind and I think number  
5 13 would pretty much kind of deal with that indirectly.  
6 But it's still kind of prevents, you know, people or,  
7 or Council members for matter of fact, to voice their  
8 opinions in -- for or against anything that may come  
9 before the Council. So, that was one of the claims that  
10 I kind of look at and say, oh, I'm not being able to  
11 speak my mind because we have been subjugated to  
12 colonization since time immemorial, since 1776. Most of  
13 our regulations, whatever, do come from the capital so,  
14 many miles away, it doesn't really actually address  
15 everything that the Native community has come through  
16 but that is something, you know, that I constantly think  
17 about. Thank you, Mr. Chair. No action on that. I just  
18 want to voice my comment.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I  
21 was laughing real hard when you said that you don't like  
22 to take the brunt, the lead. I did the same thing at the  
23 Northern Norton Sound advisory committee so I could bark  
24 more as Vice Chair seat. Okay, so. This highlighted?

25  
26 MS. CHAPA: Oh, that was my copy,  
27 remember?

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, yeah. Okay.  
30 That's it. Do we need to go through this or do we just  
31 yay or nay? Well.....

32  
33 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. If the Council  
34 wants to make changes, then that's when we move into a  
35 motion and a second, if the Council does not want to  
36 make changes, we just move on to the next agenda item.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Thank you for  
39 that. So, anybody -- any other comments about whether  
40 we should make changes or not? If not, we're just going  
41 to move to the next one.

42  
43 (No response)

44  
45 I don't hear anybody. Next.

46  
47 MS. CHAPA: I'll move on. We're now on  
48 review and approve the FY 2024 Annual Report. And I  
49 apologize, this report did not print in the original  
50 meeting materials. It's a blank page. So, I gave both

1 of you a handout, and I did email the copy of the FY 24  
2 Annual Report. It's this one.

3

4 MS. IVANOFF: This one?

5

6 MS. CHAPA Okay, so, the report serves  
7 to ensure the Board is aware of issues and concerns or  
8 current events that impacts the subsistence way of life  
9 in the -- in your region. And it also helps the Board  
10 to make informed decisions on regulatory and policy  
11 actions. At our last meeting in October, we identified  
12 four topics, two of which requested permission from the  
13 Board, and I'll just give you the overview of the topics.  
14 Topic one was youth engagement in subsistence practices  
15 and the federal subsistence management program in the  
16 Seward Peninsula region. This was one of those topics  
17 that the Council requested action or response from the  
18 Board. And you will see, under the request of the Board,  
19 we -- the Council has an opportunity to support the  
20 implementation of a policy and procedures practicum that  
21 is currently implemented in the southeast region. But  
22 it's -- the Council is requesting the Board to have a  
23 federal sponsor so that we may be able to replicate this  
24 program in the Seward Peninsula region. Topic two was  
25 request -- a request to host interagency workshops to  
26 address long standing issues negatively impacting  
27 subsistence users in the Seward Peninsula region. This  
28 was also a topic where the Council requested the Board  
29 to respond and then we included two topics that were  
30 shared for the Board's awareness. Those were the  
31 continued concerns over the impacts of trawling and  
32 commercial fisheries on Bering Sea salmon and again,  
33 this was an informational item to the Board. And the  
34 fourth one was concerns about the impacts of  
35 microplastics and pollution on the Arctic marine  
36 environment. And this was also an informational topic  
37 in our Annual Report. Sorry. And so, at our previous  
38 meeting, I mentioned I would draft the report and bring  
39 it to you for review so that we can make edits. If  
40 something doesn't look accurate, we can make that change  
41 or include additional information that may be missing  
42 from the report. And as a reminder, this is an action  
43 item.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

46

47 MS. IVANOFF: Just a formatting thing  
48 that I'm really OCD with on my own work. All of your  
49 numbers have underline, except for number four.

50

000119

1 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I can also answer  
2 any questions related to the draft annual report, if  
3 there are any.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good.

6  
7 MR. KIRK: Am I still on?

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. You're there.  
10 We're just all reading our Annual Report.

11  
12 MR. KIRK: Oh, okay.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If you see anything  
15 that you need to be corrected or you want to add  
16 something to it. This is the time. So, we're just going  
17 through it, Ron, just to make sure.

18  
19 MR. KIRK: I don't have a copy of the  
20 Annual Report.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oops.

23  
24 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Kirk, I mailed you a copy  
25 of the report in the supplemental materials. But perhaps  
26 it hasn't made it to you.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a way to  
29 email?

30  
31 MS. CHAPA: I can email it if  
32 there's.....

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do you have an email  
35 address?

36  
37 MR. KIRK: No, I don't. I have one, but  
38 I can't open it because remember, we're from the 50s and  
39 we don't know how to use this modern technology.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

42  
43 MR. SEETOT: Welcome to the club, Kirk.

44  
45 MR. GRAY: So, I think that's kind of  
46 like getting an email that has a packet in it 70 pages  
47 long and expect us to read it.

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: I apologize, Mr. Gray. That  
50 may have been the supplemental material packet. The

1 annual report was a separate document.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I understand, but I'm not  
4 going to -- you know, I went in and tried to read the  
5 proposals in the escapement goals and stuff, and that's  
6 as far as I got. I'm not going to go through a 70-page  
7 packet on my computer trying to read it. I don't mind  
8 doing it in a binder with pages of paper. But anyway,  
9 life goes on. Where are we at with this Annual Report?  
10 Are we looking for a motion or...?

11

12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's an action item,  
13 yes. As is or any changes for discussion.

14

15 MS. IVANOFF: Move to approve it.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We can move to  
18 approve it and move it on.

19

20 MR. GRAY: I second.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi makes the  
23 motion and Tommy seconds.

24

25 MR. GRAY: Question.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been  
28 called, in favor say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 We have five ayes. So, I don't think  
33 it's necessary to ask if anybody objects. I think we're  
34 unanimous. Motion passes. What's the next one?

35

36 MS. CHAPA: The next item is the call for  
37 proposals for the Alaska Board of Fisheries, including  
38 statewide finfish. And again, my name is Gisela Chapa.  
39 This is on page 204 of the meeting materials. And again,  
40 this is the Alaska Board of Fisheries call for proposals  
41 for the Artic Yukon Kuskokwim area and including  
42 statewide finfish. The proposals are due April 10th and  
43 this again is not necessarily an action item unless the  
44 Council wishes to consider this opportunity and submit  
45 the proposal to the Board of Fisheries.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.  
48 So, I mentioned that earlier that it's a statewide --  
49 excuse me, Board of Fish. Is that statewide fish? Yeah,  
50 AYK is included. Yeah, they're all in there.



1 Everything's on there all the way across.

2

3 MR. AYERS: So, Bristol Bay, AYK, Alaska  
4 Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik and statewide.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, I brought up the  
7 fact that in Nome -- on the east side of Cape Nome, it's  
8 open seven days a week for subsistence. I think it should  
9 be equally the same on the west side and instead of this  
10 Monday through Wednesday, and then you wait. And you  
11 know -- Tommy, I don't know if you've taken part in it,  
12 but it's kind of -- gets to be untimely a lot of times  
13 because of the weather there in front of Nome. So, I  
14 just thought it would be something that we could put  
15 forward if the other Council members wants to take it.  
16 I can just tell them, make the motion that we want to -  
17 - seven days a week from the west -- from Cape Nome  
18 west. Who's going to benefit is the subsistence  
19 fishermen - fishers.

20

21 MR. KIRK: Did you want that in the form  
22 of a motion, Mr. Chair?

23

24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. We can just  
25 take a motion, and then we can give it to staff and then  
26 take care of it.

27

28 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may add, we  
29 also need a justification.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Provide.....

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Or like a little bit more  
34 discussion.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, we could have  
37 a little more discussion, but so, we'll have a motion  
38 in a second and then we'll -- (indiscernible) this for  
39 discussion. So, we have a.....

40

41 MR. HENSLEE: Mr. Chair, if I may, this  
42 is Luke Henslee.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep, go ahead.

45

46 MR. HENSLEE: Okay. Thanks. For the  
47 record, assistant area management biologist for Norton  
48 Sound with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So,  
49 Council member Gray referred to, last week, I believe  
50 we had a Advisory Committee -- Northern Norton Sound

1 Advisory Committee meeting and a member of the public,  
2 that's Nikki Braem. She actually is submitting this same  
3 proposal that you were describing as to have the  
4 subsistence schedule on the west side of Cape Nome  
5 reflect the schedule on the east side. And so, it might  
6 be a redundancy to submit the same proposal. I think  
7 what you could do, and Gisela probably knows the details  
8 better than me, is draft, maybe a letter of support or  
9 give some kind of indication for the -- for -- of support  
10 for this this proposal that's been submitted by a member  
11 of the public.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Great, I like  
14 that. Thank you, Nikki, if you're still on. I think a  
15 letter of support, I guess that's -- we make a motion  
16 and second discussion on a support letter, and we're on  
17 to the next.

18  
19 MR. GRAY: So, Louis, I have a question.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

22  
23 MR. GRAY: The -- I want to say Nikki's  
24 proposals going to the State, would it make much  
25 difference if a proposal went into our federal system?

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, right now, the  
28 call for proposals is with ADF&G. Yes, for the next --  
29 this is the cycle for anything like that. So, if we just  
30 -- yeah, it's for the state right now and from our level,  
31 if we give a letter of support -- if Nikki Braem was a  
32 community member that submitted that proposal, we could  
33 get behind that proposal with a letter of support.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: Yeah, and I think that's a  
36 good idea. The last I heard, she was doing more research  
37 on it before she submitted it.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is Nikki on? I don't  
40 think so. She was on earlier.

41  
42 MS. KOELSCH: Oh Nikki was -- sorry  
43 Chair. Nikki was on during her lunch break. But, yeah,  
44 she did submit a proposal, and I can ask her to  
45 communicate with Giselle? Giselle? Sorry. Am I saying  
46 your name wrong? Say your name wrong. That's good.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Start it with H.

49  
50 MS. KOELSCH: If it's okay.

000123

1

2

3

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Gisela. Yeah. She  
said she's.....

4

5

MS. KOELSCH: Gisela.

6

7

8

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Gisela. Yes. I had a  
hard time with that too.

9

10

MR. AYERS: Yeah. That works.

11

12

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. That works.

13

14

15

MR. AYERS: She's going to submit it to  
you just so, you can see...

16

17

(Simultaneous speech)

18

19

20

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We vote to do it and  
support it and right at this table because it's action,  
right? So, we need to take action or is there something  
we gotta [sic] do?

23

24

25

MS. CHAPA: If the Council wants to  
submit the letter of support.

26

27

(Simultaneous speech)

28

29

30

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We want a letter of  
support.

31

32

MS. CHAPA: Then that is a.....

33

34

35

MR. GRAY: No move. I make a motion. We  
submit a letter of support.

36

37

MR. KIRK: I second the motion.

38

39

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ron second's motion.

40

41

MR. GRAY: Question.

42

43

44

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Questions and call  
all those in favor, say aye.

45

46

IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Unanimous. Motion  
passes. The letter will -- the staff will work on the  
letter and submit it. Next.

1  
2 MS. CHAPA: Next action items is future  
3 meeting dates. We have our fall 2025 meeting date and  
4 location is found on page 159 of your meeting materials.  
5 And the meeting is set for Tuesday, October 14th to  
6 Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 in Nome.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: (Indiscernible). Can  
9 we have it in Anchorage?

10  
11 MS. CHAPA: Well the meeting is scheduled  
12 for -- to be in Nome. I assume we could request a change  
13 of location, but I'm going to check in with Katya to see  
14 if we can do that, or the Council can choose to change  
15 the meeting dates.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. So.

18  
19 MR. GRAY: What -- when is AFN?

20  
21 MS. IVANOFF: 16th to the 18th is AFN,  
22 and then Elders and Youth is Monday to Wednesday, 13th  
23 to 15th.

24  
25 MR. KIRK: Did you say everything was 15  
26 to the 18th?

27  
28 MS. IVANOFF: 16th to the 18th.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: Go after the 18th. Don't go  
31 early. Going early is Beluga hunting time.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

34  
35 MS. IVANOFF: On me, sorry. Oh, yes.  
36 There's other meetings.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. It's  
39 conflicting with it. How about earlier? Well,  
40 that's.....

41  
42 MS. IVANOFF: First and second.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Which one are you  
45 putting it?

46  
47 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I think these...

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What are these? This  
50 is just a Saturday?. These are the windows. The grey

1 doesn't mean anything since it's the weekend, right?

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, the grey is the weekend  
4 and I don't believe we can schedule meetings on the  
5 weekends.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so, there's  
8 September 22nd through October 3rd, those two weeks.

9

10 MR. GRAY: What about the September --  
11 October 20th, 27th in that time frame.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Northwest Arctic is  
14 meeting, and so is Bristol Bay. They got four days  
15 blocked out. 27-28, 29-30.

16

17 MR. GRAY: How about the 20th? Yeah.  
18 There's no straight -- there's no two days for anything  
19 there either. That's YKRAC, Y-K Delta and Southeast; 21,  
20 22, 23.

21

22 MR. KIRK: So, what about September 22,  
23 23?

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's open.

26

27 MS. IVANOFF: Second and third.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: October 2nd and  
30 third. What'd you say, Tommy?

31

32 MR. GRAY: Yeah. If we're going to have  
33 it here in Nome it won't be that bad because.....

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're here to find  
36 our.....

37

38 (Simultaneous speech)

39

40 MR. GRAY: .....beluga nets over here  
41 anyway.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're fishing in  
44 front of a -- at that time anyway.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. If I may follow  
47 up. That if the Council decides to move the meeting it  
48 would require a motion.

49

50

000126

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All kinds of -- a  
2 motion.

3  
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6 MS. CHAPA: .....an action.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, what date are we  
9 going to -- we're going to do it in October. So, we're  
10 going to do it in the first week of October?

11  
12 MR. GRAY: I'm good. That's better than  
13 AFN time.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep.

16  
17 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

18  
19 MR. GRAY: I make a motion we move those  
20 dates, 1st and 2nd.

21  
22 MR. KIRK: I second the motion.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ron seconds the  
25 motion. Any discussion?

26  
27 MR. KIRK: Question.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been  
30 called. Are you good? Okay.

31  
32 MS. IVANOFF: Should be.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Alright for the first  
35 and the second. All those in favor of moving the meeting  
36 to the 1st and the 2nd, say aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39  
40 Unanimous. Passes 1st and 2nd, fall  
41 meeting.

42  
43 MS. CHAPA: And next is the -- selecting  
44 the winter 2026 meeting dates and locations. So, this  
45 is the last Council meeting of this cycle and so, I have  
46 an updated calendar for everyone. In short, every other  
47 Council has selected their meeting date so, the  
48 available dates look like February 17th to the 20<sup>th</sup>,  
49 March 9th through the 20 -- no, through the 13th and  
50 March 23rd to the 27th. Those are the available weeks.

000127

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We got Northwest RAC  
3 on the 24th.  
4  
5 MS. CHAPA: We can have -- OSM can have  
6 two meetings.  
7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Two? Okay. Do we want  
9 it after -- I, -- we don't want to get -- do we want it  
10 during the Iditarod?  
11  
12 MS. IVANOFF: And not during Iron Dog.  
13  
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And Iron Dog. Yeah.  
15 That's -- Iron dog strikes out the February 17th through  
16 the 20th.  
17  
18 MS. IVANOFF: 26 and 27.  
19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's the 26th and  
21 27th of.....  
22  
23 MS. CHAPA: Of March?  
24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: February.  
26  
27 MS. IVANOFF: February. Okay.  
28  
29 MS. CHAPA: And I'm sorry, but that.....  
30  
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Excuse me?  
32  
33 MS. CHAPA: That would be a conflict  
34 because.....  
35  
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, there's two  
37 already.  
38  
39 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, and I have the North  
40 Slope RAC meeting the two days prior.  
41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Yeah, it's two  
43 meetings there already that week.  
44  
45 MS. CHAPA: Again, the dates available  
46 or the weeks available. The week of February 17th, the  
47 week of March 9th and these are Mondays and the week of  
48 March 23rd.  
49  
50 MS. IVANOFF: 23rd, 24th.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You said Monday the  
23rd and Tuesday the 24th.

4

5

MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody on the phone?

8

9

Northwest.

11

12

MR. KIRK: 23rd and 24th, you said.

13

14

15

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You want to do it on  
a Monday, or do you want to do it on a Tuesday?

16

17

18

MS. CHAPA: Additional logistics if I  
may.

19

20

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

21

22

23

24

MS. CHAPA: I apologize. Mondays, the  
travel on Sunday can be difficult. I don't recall if  
it's Bering Air that has restrictions on Sunday travel.  
I have to double check I don't remember.....

25

26

27

(Simultaneous speech)

28

29

30

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so, if we move  
it to the 24th and 25th, that's Tuesday and Wednesday,  
and that gets -- unlocks Monday travel. March 24th.

31

32

33

34

MR. KIRK: Yeah. That'll work. Mr. Chair,  
I think that'll work, because a lot of people, a lot of  
the subsistence hunters like to go out early March, you  
know.

35

36

37

38

39

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. All right,  
24th, 25th. Kelsi.

40

41

42

43

MS. CHAPA: And then an additional  
question. The Council has approved hub communities or  
places to meet, those are Nome and Unalakleet.

44

45

46

47

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right. We can go to  
Nome, we did it before. That was I don't know how many  
years ago we did it, but we actually went there. I think  
I started it.

48

49

50



1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Are you looking  
2 at the winter 2026 meeting calendar.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep.

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: What'd you say? 24, 25, did  
7 they say 25 is Saturday? On my.....

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No. No. No. 24th is  
10 Tuesday, 25th of March is Wednesday. So, that -- it  
11 opens up March 23rd of travel day on Monday.

12  
13 MR. KIRK: I thought we were looking at  
14 February, Mr. Chair.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No. We jumped. We  
17 went through February saying no, no and then we moved  
18 it to March. After all the other things that go on in  
19 March. We went -- okay. So, February 17th through 20th,  
20 this is the -- the Iron Dog is going on. February 26,  
21 27 didn't happen -- couldn't happen because there's  
22 already two RACs meeting that week. We can't do that.  
23 And there's two of the March -- week of March 2nd.  
24 There's two of them that week, and Iditarod like March  
25 9th through the 13th. That's Iditarod. We didn't want  
26 to do that. So, the only open week basically was March  
27 24th or, excuse me, the week of 23rd with meeting dates  
28 on the 24th and 25th of March.

29  
30 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, on page 160, my  
31 calendar says March 19th is a Sunday, March 25th is a  
32 Saturday. There's a mix up somewhere in how they gave  
33 me the calendar. So, that's a -- I was questioning these.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

36  
37 MR. SEETOT: On Saturday that --  
38 that's.....

39  
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What this is.....

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: I can follow up.....

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: My calendar says 160.

47  
48 MS. CHAPA: Yes. Council member Seetot.  
49 There's an error, there's dates that are repeated on the  
50 second and third week, and so, that calendar is outdated.

1 I tried to share my screen so that you could see the  
2 latest calendar with all the other Council meetings that  
3 are already scheduled. And I can also -- I should also  
4 remind the Council that we can set the dates, and at our  
5 next meeting, we're still going to have to confirm or  
6 see if the meeting dates should be changed. So, there  
7 will be opportunity at our fall meeting to review these  
8 dates again.

9  
10 MR. SEETOT: Once again, Elmer Seetot.  
11 Tuesday is the 24th, Wednesday is the 25, Thursday is  
12 the 26th, Friday is the 24. Sunday -- Saturday is the  
13 25, Sunday is at 26 on my copy of the calendar. That's  
14 come how and trying to figure out why do they have a  
15 meeting on Saturday? So, there's a typo someplace. So,  
16 that's why I was questioning why would we have it on  
17 Saturday when they wouldn't even have it on Saturday?

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, because you got  
20 it right. But the -- when you first started reading it,  
21 March 24th is Tuesday, March 25th is Wednesday. So,  
22 Monday that on the 23rd, that's a travel day to get to  
23 where we're going to have the meeting. And then the 26  
24 would be go home. Okay.

25  
26 MR. SEETOT: On your calendar in front  
27 of me is the right calendar. But on Friday, it's March  
28 February 24th. Saturday, March. February 25th. Sunday.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Yeah.

31  
32 MR. SEETOT: That's how it is. On my --  
33 on my record show that I mean, on my copy show that's  
34 how come I was very confused. So, you can't pull one on  
35 me anymore.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Wasn't me. So, are  
38 we good with the 24th and 25th of March?

39  
40 (No response)

41  
42 I'm okay. Kelsi's okay. We got three  
43 others in here. What do you guys say? And then we have  
44 a chance to talk about it in the fall. Okay.

45  
46 MS. CHAPA: And we'll need a motion.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We need a motion.

49  
50 MS. CHAPA: And the location.

000131

1

2

MS. CHAPA: And the location.

3

4

5

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Location. Where do you want it? Okay so, Nome?

6

7

MS. CHAPA: That's easier for everyone.

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We have been there, wasn't a problem when we did it, I don't think. Very good. It was our fall time. There was some stuff that was -- I think it was a Unalakleet was in there, and we wanted to give people their opportunity to go walk in the door and say hi. So, we did that.

15

16

17

MR. AYERS: We can do it for the fall meeting.

18

19

20

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, we could do Nome.

21

22

23

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. Ronald Kirk.

24

25

26

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Yep.

27

28

MR. KIRK: Did you say 22, 23, March?

29

30

31

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 24, 25, that's Tuesday, Wednesday.

32

33

MR. KIRK: Tuesday. Wednesday.

34

35

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Need a motion.

36

37

MR. KIRK: Mine said 24, 25, Friday, Saturday.

38

39

40

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Don't -- yeah. I'm right. I'm the Chairman.

41

42

43

MR. KIRK: You're right, you're wrong. But when you're wrong, you're right.

44

45

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I like it. Yeah.

46

47

MR. KIRK: Hey. I so move, Mr. Chair.

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, there's a motion. Is there a second? Second Kelsi.

000132

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. SEETOT: Second. Elmer.

CHHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. For March 24th, 25th. Tuesday. Wednesday. Alright. Any discussion anymore?

MS. KIRK: Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Questions been called. All those in favor of March 24th, March 25th winter meeting say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. SEETOT: Me. I'm tired of saying aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's an aye for an eye. That's five, unanimous motion passes, winter meeting.

MS. CHAPA: And now we move to the fall 2026 meeting. So, it's the second page over there. I'm going to also share that screen.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: She's going to share the screen if you can see it on the corrected calendar, the one in our books is not correct.

MS. CHAPA: I think that one is okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. Is that -- is that.....

MS. CHAPA: Still helpful to see the other Council meetings. So, for fall 2026, the available dates are October 13th through the 23rd, and we also have September 15th through the 20th.

MS. IVANOFF: Say October 20th and 26th -- and 21st.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: One Council member says October 20th, 21st Monday -- and that's Tuesday, Wednesday fall meeting.

MS. CHAPA: And again, the approved hub communities for Council are Nome and Unalakleet.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Fall of 2026.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. GRAY: And has somebody done their homework to find out when the AFN is?

MS. IVANOFF: They won't announce it, but it'll probably be that Columbus Day week usually that week, the 12th to the 16th.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We can revise it if we had to. This is just -- we're just putting it out there. I need a motion for the 20th and the 21st of October if nobody has any issues with that at this point.

MS. CHAPA: And location.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Location. Where's the location, motion maker. I just wanted to see if you felt guilty or not. Okay so, October 20th, 21st.

(Pause)

We can revise it later if we have to. Anybody on the phone?

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. SEETOT: .....weather permitting.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Weather permitting. October 20, 21 in 2026, and we need a location, Nome or Unalakleet. Tommy.

MR. GRAY: I move we have it in Hawaii on that date.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's no Beluga over there.

MS. CHAPA: I like the way he thinks.

MR. GRAY: I don't mind Nome. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

MR. GRAY: So, I make a motion. You're getting down to minutes. I'm about ready to go out the door here so, hopefully we're at the end.

MR. KIRK: Second.

000134

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

2

3 MR. KIRK: Second, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

6

7 MS. IVANOFF: Question.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Questions been  
10 called, all those in favor of October 20, 21 and fall  
11 of 2026, say aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We didn't hear,  
16 Tommy?

17

18 MR. GRAY: Oh, aye. I made the motion so,  
19 it was pretty obvious. I, you know, I'm sitting here  
20 thinking we ought to go right into 2027 so, we don't get  
21 the scraps on meetings.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We'll do that next  
24 meeting. We'll jump the gun on them. Okay. And I -- so,  
25 I'm an aye. So, it's unanimous again. Motion passes for  
26 the dates of October 20, 21 fall of 2026, in Nome.

27

28 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and I  
29 think that concludes the action items.

30

31 MR. HENSLEE: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

34

35 MR. HENSLEE: Excuse me, if I may. This  
36 is Luke Hensley. I was hoping before you left the action  
37 items and before we lost Council member Gray, if I could  
38 give a quick update on a situation of a FRMP project in  
39 the Unalakleet River.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure.

42

43 MR. HENSLEE: That -- and it potentially  
44 could include an action item, which is why I wanted to  
45 mention it here and I'll make it quick. But -- well, in  
46 brief.....

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You'll be like --  
49 will you be like Nesquik?

50

1 MR. HENSLEE: I hope so. We have a --  
2 this project, the Unalakleet River Chinook Salmon  
3 Monitoring Project is funded by OSM funds through the  
4 Fishery Resource Monitoring Project. And there is  
5 currently a funding call that is out now with proposals  
6 due in the middle of May. So, we're trying to get  
7 together our proposal to continue funding for that  
8 project which has operated since 2010. And we've hit a  
9 little bit of a snag that I just wanted to bring to the  
10 Council's attention. And if I may, I'm just going to  
11 give some brief background on the project, and feel free  
12 to interrupt me at any moment.

13  
14 This project has been supported by OSM  
15 funds since 2010, which was the year of the project's  
16 inception. It's been in cooperation with the Bureau of  
17 Land Management and the Norton Sound Economic  
18 Development Corporation, with support from the Native  
19 Village of Unalakleet and the Unalakleet Native  
20 Corporation. The main objective of the project is to  
21 monitor chinook salmon passage on the main stem  
22 Unalakleet, and this project complements the North River  
23 tower escapement project, which has monitored chinook  
24 salmon passage up the North River since 1996. Before the  
25 Unalakleet Weir came online in 2010, the entire stock  
26 was managed with North River escapement estimates, as -  
27 - at the time it was thought that that was a pretty  
28 reliable index of drainage wide run strength was to just  
29 monitor the North River. But tagging studies in the late  
30 90s and the early 2000s really challenged this  
31 assumption and that was another objective of the  
32 Unalakleet River Weir, was to monitor the reliability  
33 of North River as an index stream. So, after 15 seasons  
34 now of running the weir, we've found that the proportion  
35 of chinook that are traveling to the -- up the North  
36 River is very dynamic as a proportion of the entire  
37 drainage wide escapement. We've seen as low as 26% of  
38 the entire Unalakleet drainage traveling bound for the  
39 North River and we've seen it as high as 90%. So, this  
40 has led us to believe that the North River is not as  
41 reliable as we had hoped as an index stream for drainage  
42 wide abundance.

43  
44 Additionally, after so many years of  
45 really great data from the Unalakleet River Weir, we've  
46 been able to develop a statistical model that's used in  
47 other parts of the State and has really proven to be a  
48 robust method of accounting for any missed passage days.  
49 Basically, it just fills in any gaps that we have in our  
50 data if we couldn't count because of high water or other

1 -- or if the project goes in late or comes out early,  
2 we're able to fill those in. So, this is all culminated  
3 in a proposal that we plan to bring before the Board of  
4 Fish, that Council member Gray referred to earlier for  
5 a drainage wide escapement goal for the Unalakleet  
6 drainage. The current escapement goal was developed in  
7 2005, and it just refers to the North River. And again,  
8 that's when we sort of believed that the North River was  
9 a more reliable index stream than it appears that it is.  
10 So, we believe that this drainage wide goal uses a more  
11 robust data set, namely all the data that we've been  
12 gathering over the last decade and a half. And it  
13 accounts for that dynamic stock proportion that we see  
14 bound for North River and Unalakleet mainstem.

15  
16 So, that's where we're at right now. The  
17 snag that we've kind of come upon is that in our normal  
18 call to the Native Village of Unalakleet and the  
19 Unalakleet Native Corp, they write us a letter of support  
20 every year. This year, both of those groups voted to not  
21 support the weir projects for reasons that they haven't  
22 formally clarified with me. There's -- I have my  
23 suspicions, and both groups have indicated they would  
24 like to see a transition to sonar methodology to monitor  
25 chinook salmon passage on the main stem -- Unalakleet  
26 main stem. So, the Department values their collaboration  
27 and their expertise, and we are exploring ways to, to  
28 accommodate this. Just to clarify, the Department  
29 believes that the weir is kind of the shining gold  
30 standard of salmon escapement monitoring because we  
31 actually count every single fish with sonars and towers  
32 and other methods. We, you know, count for a portion of  
33 an hour and then extrapolate that, so there's some  
34 uncertainty with those estimates. But like I said, we  
35 really value local input so, we want to be able to  
36 accommodate.

37  
38 This isn't something that we would be  
39 starting from ground zero. We've been doing sonar  
40 feasibility studies since 2022 on the main stem and the  
41 main reason that we initiated that was kind of to have  
42 a contingency plan for years when the river was too high  
43 to get the project in on time. We wanted to have a plan  
44 in place that we could potentially use sonar to monitor  
45 the beginning of the chinook salmon run. So, in order  
46 to responsibly transition to this sort of still untested  
47 methodology on the Unalakleet River, we've developed  
48 this strategy to conduct sonar feasibility studies while  
49 simultaneously running the weir to verify the escapement  
50 estimates that we're getting from the sonar. We want to



1 be sure that we can really put our trust in those  
2 estimates, especially as we seek to move to a drainage  
3 wide escapement goal. And so, the funding call is due  
4 very soon as I mentioned, and letters of support from  
5 local agencies are absolutely critical to getting these  
6 OSM funds. I've asked NVU and UNC if they could provide  
7 letters of support for efforts to transition to sonar  
8 methodology. And I wanted to request from this Board any  
9 insights or recommendations for chinook salmon  
10 monitoring efforts moving forward on the Unalakleet  
11 River. And then also, I'd like to request if you might  
12 consider submitting a letter of support for the  
13 continuation of chinook salmon escapement monitoring.  
14 With whatever methodology we determine is the most  
15 responsible and scientifically defensible. And when I  
16 say we, I mean all of our project partners, it's a  
17 collaboration and I kind of just wanted to gauge your  
18 group's thoughts on this issue. So, thank you for letting  
19 me talk for a minute and yeah, glad to hear any questions  
20 or thoughts.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Well, thank you  
23 for that. I don't know. Weirs, if they're not monitored  
24 and I know there's been some issues in the Nome area  
25 where people weren't active at the right time. In other  
26 words, when the weirs closed, they weren't out there  
27 monitoring it to let it -- allow it to be open to count  
28 fish and there's been some backups. Call it rumors or  
29 whatever you want to call it, but I never was real  
30 favorable to the weir on the Pilgrim River because I  
31 think it changed the timing of the runs of the sockeye  
32 there. I don't know if Tommy remember as much. Our  
33 grandmothers used to fish together in the area, and my  
34 grandmother would say, if we're not set up by -- we're  
35 catching fish by July 3rd, we're susceptible to the rains  
36 and when the rains come, then the fish running in just  
37 a few days when the river is high. So, they always had  
38 their time, and I seen that through the project that was  
39 going on there at the lake, Salmon Lake with the  
40 fertilization, it's changed things as the timing of the  
41 run for the sockeye is spread out and just -- I didn't  
42 remember it being so long. I'm a little younger than  
43 Tommy. I didn't remember it being as long as it lasted,  
44 but that was just one thought. I wanted to mention that,  
45 again that, you know, people that are monitoring those  
46 weirs have to be awake 24/7. They need to be maintaining  
47 those weirs and that's considered a problem. I'm not to  
48 say that I'm not in support of counting fish, but I got  
49 -- how clear is the water up there where kings spawn? I  
50 mean, I know you guys must have the spawning beds located

1 over this long period of time. I'm sure you should have.  
2 Is there a reason why you can't aerial count those fish  
3 when they're in the spawning grounds?

4  
5 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I haven't  
6 flown a survey on the Unalakleet, but -- and I -- but  
7 yes, there's been extensive telemetry work to identify  
8 chinook salmon spawning locations so, got a pretty good  
9 handle on where they're spawning. I understand they're  
10 usually pretty far up these tribs [sic] and, and it gets  
11 really bushy in there. So, I've heard, you know, boating  
12 is, is like expert level. So, spotting those groups from  
13 the air I think is pretty tricky. So, I could -- sorry.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Question. Why  
16 don't you fly with a helicopter?

17  
18 MR. HENSLEE: Oh, yeah. We're flying with  
19 helicopters.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And when -- are you  
22 taking photographs of the fish on the beds, spawning  
23 grounds?

24  
25 MR. HENSLEE: Currently we don't do any  
26 kind of photography. We -- I mean, we have our  
27 standardized aerial survey methods. So, you're right  
28 there is a whole spectrum of monitoring efforts that we  
29 could do to gauge the run strength and the abundance of  
30 chinook salmon on the Unalakleet, including aerial  
31 surveys. What that spectrum looks like is on one end,  
32 you have a weir that has no error bars. It's -- that is  
33 how many fish went up the river and I understand, you  
34 know, there's pros and cons to all these methods. On  
35 maybe the other end of the spectrum you would be looking  
36 more at aerial surveys. Now you have massive error bars.  
37 Did you survey, you know during the peak of the spawn  
38 for that species which changes every season, were  
39 conditions favorable, et cetera. et cetera. So, now you  
40 have massive error bars. So, along this spectrum of  
41 monitoring efforts, it's all about sort of your ability  
42 to be confident in that estimate. And so, sonar falls  
43 somewhere in between a weir and aerial surveys. It  
44 narrows those error bars. They still exist. And sort of  
45 the whole challenge is determining whether that method  
46 is even feasible on the Unalakleet River Weir. I think  
47 a lot of times folks have this perception that you could  
48 always use a sonar, you know, if you had one or you --  
49 or you were -- had a team to do it. It's very species  
50 specific and it's also site specific. So, there's a lot

1 that goes into determining whether or not that would be  
2 a defensible method of gauging abundance.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, and the other  
5 question about weirs is, you know salmon stray -- we  
6 used to have those conversations in the 90s at the Board  
7 of Fish meetings, and there wasn't a lot of favoritism  
8 by the Department -- that I recall back then, but that  
9 salmon strayed. Then it got to be that salmon strayed.  
10 So, Okay. So, if you got some chinook swimming up that  
11 river or kings running up that river, and they don't  
12 want to be there, they're just up there looking around  
13 and they want to get back out. Do they get back out with  
14 a weir in the way?

15  
16 MR. HENSLEE: That's a great question.  
17 The answer would be no. There's no way for a salmon to  
18 come back down the weir once they've gone up.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All right,  
21 thanks. That's pretty straightforward. I did have a  
22 question. I've asked this question in the past when Mr.  
23 Menard was still over there, and I asked about hatchery  
24 egg takes. You guys were -- the department was taking  
25 eggs from king salmon. And then it seemed like there  
26 were a lot of, like, 20 fish or 20 sets or something --  
27 pairs, I should say. So, when I asked for the data, I  
28 never saw any data on that. So, what did that contribute  
29 to the system when that was going on? Is it still taking  
30 place? I hear there's a recirculating hatchery system  
31 in the NSEDC building and Nome. So, is there any  
32 information about that that can come to this Council  
33 even later on? I don't need everything now. I just wanted  
34 to know that -- if we could have access to that and the  
35 results.

36  
37 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Mr. Chair yes. That  
38 is a -- an NSEDC project. They acquire a permit from  
39 Fish and Game, but that -- that's not something we've  
40 been involved with -- in the past if that was a  
41 collaborative effort between the department and NSEDC,  
42 that would be news to me. I know that Renee Ivanoff is  
43 the director for Fisheries Research and Development at  
44 NSEDC, and she does have all that data. That is -- and  
45 then but I can answer the question of trying to gauge,  
46 like, what kind of contribution that's had to returns  
47 or to the health of the stock. And the answer is it's  
48 really, really hard to say because you need to be  
49 sampling returning chinook and there's ways to determine  
50 whether or not that was a hatchery fish. But actually

1 getting out and sampling, usually it happens with  
2 subsistence or commercial catch. Well, there hasn't been  
3 a lot of that in the last several years. So, it's a --  
4 long answer short, it's really hard to tell. And NSEDC  
5 themselves is having trouble being able to justify their  
6 efforts to continue with their research permit. So, I  
7 know that's not a very satisfactory answer.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, I thank you for  
10 taking a stab at it but -- so, I'll come back around.  
11 The information is -- should be in your in your files  
12 because it's a -- Fish and Game allows this to take  
13 place through the hatchery process. You have to go  
14 through a process with the State to get a hatchery permit  
15 to do any of these egg takes. So, I find it kind of  
16 surprising to me that you wouldn't be able to provide  
17 any information on that, even though you weren't there  
18 then. I understand.

19  
20 MR. HENSLEE: So -- no, no, I'm sorry.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. NSEDC is a  
23 private non-profit and so, whatever they do has got to  
24 be the blessing of the State. They can't just do it  
25 without.....

26  
27 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....approval.

30  
31 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Let me clarify one  
32 point and the process you're referring to like is for  
33 hatchery scale production, which NSEDC is not currently  
34 at, not even close to, and hasn't actually given any  
35 indication that that's what they're moving towards.  
36 They've found sort of this loophole in our permitting  
37 process that we're trying to shore up, in that they're  
38 actually getting a permit to conduct research that maybe  
39 could someday develop into a hatchery program and  
40 there's currently no like, time limit for a continuation  
41 of that kind of permit and there's no formal like  
42 reporting requirement for that kind of permit. And so,  
43 that's how this project's been able to go on for so long  
44 without any kind of actual report on what we've been  
45 seeing. And so, you hit a really important distinction  
46 in that they're not doing a hatchery program. They're  
47 doing research and development that is related to a  
48 hatchery program. And so, I'm not trying to make any  
49 justifications or excuses, but I just want to say that  
50 that information that you're looking for, it resides

1 currently within NSEDC because we haven't had those  
2 reporting requirements for the type of permit that  
3 they've been acquiring year after year.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Well, they've  
6 done eyed egg misincubation [sic] eyed egg stuff and  
7 that didn't work. And they're doing a recirculation  
8 system in Nome, and that's not sounding like it's  
9 working. I asked Mr. Menard about the contribution of  
10 those eggs being taken and putting in the system that's  
11 supposed to create more fish. There's a biologist that  
12 said he walked up and down the beaches and picked up  
13 dead heads and was looking for a thermally marked  
14 otoliths out of those king salmon heads. So, there is  
15 information out there, and if you could please find some  
16 of that information and pass it on to this Council to  
17 really be appreciated. Because, you know, our business  
18 here is to create and make sure that there's subsistence.  
19 And I'm familiar with the salmon runs over there because  
20 I kind of grew up fishing down there and herring and  
21 I've been around a little bit. And the idea that a human  
22 being can do better than a fish and when you have a  
23 minimum amount, it's kind of makes you wonder under these  
24 -- these eyed egg missed incubation and this circulated  
25 hatchery. So, please get any kind of information to this  
26 Council on that. And thank you for your -- answering  
27 those questions. I know they're kind of hard for you.  
28 You're not -- you're new, you're recent. I think Tommy  
29 Gray has a question or something there. Tommy.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: So, not too often I don't have  
32 a question, I guess. The -- you know, when it comes to  
33 Fish and Game and managing a fishery, in the past I've  
34 always evaluated where I'm at in my river system and  
35 looked at the negative side of it. In recent years, you  
36 know, I might be critical of a program, but I'm after  
37 the positive side. And you know, the -- for example, the  
38 reading materials that we got for this meeting,  
39 escapement goals, I just struggle with Fish and Game's  
40 attitude on escapement goals. But that's a whole nother  
41 [sic] can of worms, a whole nother story and, you know,  
42 I think we all need to evaluate where we're at, even in  
43 our own lives, evaluate where we're at and how our run  
44 is doing or how we're doing, and then build a program  
45 from there. You know, you talk about 25% of the run of  
46 kings and 90% of the run of kings, and on and on. You  
47 know, I've been on the rivers here in this area for 70  
48 years, and I've seen highs and lows. You know, Louis  
49 talks about reds. I mean, I -- him and I were on that  
50 river as kids together running up down that river. I

1 think about my camp at the Niukluk, I've got a fishing  
2 lodge there. A few years ago, I counted between my camp,  
3 which is on a rifle to the next rifle a quarter of a  
4 mile away, I counted 19 kings. So, the potential's there,  
5 and, you know, when you take escapement goals away and  
6 all of a sudden you don't have an obligation to manage  
7 a resource, blah, blah, blah, I -- and I've heard it  
8 all. Believe me. Not only from OSM but from Fish and  
9 Game, from the Board of Fish, on and on. But when we  
10 take a step back -- I appreciate you coming to the Board  
11 looking for a letter of support. And, and I just want  
12 to put my thumb on the real issue. You know, I don't  
13 want to see the weir -- "weir go away" or that mission  
14 go away until we have a proven system that is capable  
15 of replacing that weir or that way of counting fish.  
16 Fish and Game -- those of us that have been sitting at  
17 the table, we all admit, quit spending money on  
18 helicopters, quit spending money on aerial surveys. They  
19 do us no good and, you know. I've been bear hunting  
20 coming down a creek that's overgrown with willows, as  
21 wide as my four-wheeler and bumped into silver salmon,  
22 spawning in a creek as wide as my four wheeler, at two  
23 miles from the end of the creek. I mean, it -- the --  
24 these fish are very resourceful. They get to isolated  
25 places and they're hard to count. This, what do you call  
26 it? Counter that you put in the water and count fish. I  
27 suggested that years and years ago. Let's put it in the  
28 river system and count fish. Just recent years, they  
29 wanted to do what you're proposing in the Fish River and  
30 Niukluk River. They moved the tower. I actually kicked  
31 them out of the property they had the fish counting  
32 tower on. They moved down to Fish River because that  
33 Native corporation said, come on down, set up shop. And  
34 I said, go ahead, that rivers too big. You can't count  
35 fish. Let's sit at the table and work issues out. Well,  
36 they moved. Ten years later, they came back. I gave them  
37 a 20-year permit, 20 or 25-year permit, renewable every  
38 ten years and I came to the conclusion something's better  
39 than nothing. And that weir at that point gave some  
40 representation of what both rivers are doing. Don't get  
41 rid of your one weir because you've got a bright idea.  
42 Prove out that other bright idea and I -- my personal  
43 opinion, you need to set up a sonar counting tower down  
44 below the Y, but you also need to set one up right next  
45 to that weir to compare nuts and bolts as they go across  
46 the road. So, anyway, you're looking for a letter of  
47 support. Let me phrase this, your looking for a letter  
48 of support to put in a sonar system -- for funding to  
49 put in a sonar system below the Y on that river system,  
50 is that right?

1

2

3 MR. HENSLEE: So, through the Chair.  
4 Council member Gray. Yeah. Thank you for all of that and  
5 before I address your question, I just want to say I  
6 really agree with your feelings that, yeah, there are  
7 certain systems that would be better for a sonar or  
8 better for a weir like a lot of times just the location  
9 and the geography of that drainage sort of dictates the  
10 methodology. And let me just take off my Fish and Game  
11 hat for a second and speak for myself. When I first saw  
12 the Unalakleet River Weir, I said, this would be an  
13 awesome spot for a sonar. It's just -- it's too big  
14 right there and it's flashy. As you know that river can  
15 get really high. It can also get really low. It's a  
16 great spot for a sonar. And so -- and then let me also,  
17 just comment that your comments about needing to run  
18 simultaneously to make sure sonar is giving us a good  
19 estimate. That's exactly what we're proposing to do. Is  
20 to, exactly like you said, run a sonar escapement  
21 monitoring program concurrent with the weir for a period  
22 of years to ensure that we're getting the kind of counts  
23 and be able to create these sort of correction factors  
24 to really, really be confident with our estimates. When  
25 you are talking about being below the Y, I assume you're  
26 talking about being below the confluence of the North  
27 River with the main stem?

27

28

MR. GRAY: Right.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Yeah, that's another  
idea that I've had. I'm not saying it's original thought,  
but I definitely thought about being able to sort of  
capture an idea of the run strength of that stock before  
they split into their respective spawning locations. And  
I think that's a really interesting project, and I could  
see that being developed more in the future. So, what  
I'm -- but what I'm looking for as far as a letter of  
support, let me just clarify that we intend -- we simply  
don't have enough time to create a proposal to ask OSM  
for funding for sonar efforts. So, what we intend to do  
is to go before OSM to request funding to continue weir  
operations and then with the intent of securing funding  
from other sources to concurrently run sonar operations.  
And I've already talked to Renee Ivanoff about bringing  
before their Board. The NSEDC Board, whether they would  
be interested in contributing towards sonar feasibility  
work. Let me just say sonar unit in itself is very  
expensive. Each one can cost 100,000 plus dollars. So,  
it's not like you just, yeah, run down to AC store and  
grab a couple sonars. It's a pretty big commitment. So,

1 what I'm asking for letter of support wise is just sort  
2 of the Board supports our collaborative effort to  
3 continue monitoring chinook salmon runs on the  
4 Unalakleet main stem. And that kind of, I feel,  
5 encompasses our -- we want to continue with our weir  
6 work and also, run sonar. Basically, just looking into  
7 the most responsible way to continue monitoring chinook  
8 salmon passage on the main stem, I hope that wasn't too  
9 confusing.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Luke. Thank  
12 you. I appreciate your comments. I, for one, you know,  
13 when I -- you know, this is a public resource, and NSEDC  
14 has taken public resource and you're saying that you  
15 don't have any data on what they did with all those eggs  
16 or any results of that stuff. I -- you know at this  
17 point I'll stand down on it. But in the future, you  
18 know, I plan on being around here for a while, and I  
19 want to know information that belongs to the public. And  
20 it can't just be retained by a private company and not  
21 -- nothing left out of there. It's a public resource.  
22 So, I think there's channels that maybe you need to go  
23 through to get to it, but I'd appreciate seeing some of  
24 that stuff across our table at the top here in the near  
25 future. One thing I wanted to comment on was the  
26 escapement goals. I think the State needs to raise those  
27 escapement goals. It's been everywhere, everybody's  
28 complained about it. And when I had a conversation with  
29 Gene Sandone years ago, it was the AYK director. I asked  
30 him about the escapement goals. Why are you lowering  
31 them? And he goes, well, you guys know, get the fish  
32 sooner. And I said, well, that means we'll be wiping out  
33 fish runs out a little quicker. Maybe you need to up  
34 those escapement goals so, it doesn't sound like it did  
35 very well across the board. So, anyway we're going to  
36 make a -- we're going to get a motion on this to move  
37 forward. But I would like to see some of that information  
38 that belongs to the public and -- on those king salmon  
39 egg takes and what the results are. It doesn't belong  
40 to a private company, it belongs to the people. So, I'm  
41 here to represent the people and I appreciate your time.  
42 Is there going to be a motion out here that Council --  
43 anybody want to make the motion to move forward for a  
44 letter of support for Mr. Luke.

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer Seetot.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes, Elmer?  
49  
50



1 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. He kind of mentioned  
2 all methods. I always think all modern methods that they  
3 use, all methods except ecological knowledge. We know  
4 or you probably know that fish pass even under the ice.  
5 And that's not just all species, but certain species,  
6 you know, move during high water, during cold water  
7 temperatures. You mentioned rain, rain being the main  
8 factor in all your -- all years that I have been fishing  
9 here. Last year was a disappointment because ADF&G  
10 closed the season for -- temporarily during the time, I  
11 mean, when the fish were running and you kind of  
12 mentioned rain as a big factor. A known fact is that  
13 fish move very fast. South winds around here just after  
14 4th of July and that that pretty much our area that I  
15 know has constantly have had south winds after 4th of  
16 July. 20 out of 25 years, maybe even 40 out of 50 years.  
17 Yet it -- they don't take into account what we try to  
18 tell them. I know that the State Constitution says for  
19 all the people. It just -- and then do they just cater  
20 to the ones that provide money to the State for sports  
21 fishing? Because in sports fishing, I have, according  
22 to -- heard pretty much you're playing with the fish  
23 that we eat. You need to do a lot of field work out in  
24 the bush or out in the places where the salmon go. You  
25 mentioned sockeye salmon. We just have a limited  
26 opportunity here. Majority of the fish that goes through  
27 there -- here pass maybe when the south wind is constant  
28 and we do have a lot of south wind. You mentioned  
29 something about Salmon Lake, increase of beavers and  
30 northern pike. They have to go -- the fry, the fish,  
31 they have to go through that gauntlet. Like I said no,  
32 sort of trying to go out into communities and say, what  
33 do you know about these fishes? And that was pretty much  
34 my main concern. Do the field work, make us happy instead  
35 of trying to be disappointed in one agency while they're  
36 trying to manage these resources and pretty much that  
37 was my main -- pet peeve was all methods. You didn't  
38 even include technology. You didn't even include local  
39 knowledge. That is very important. And what -- with all  
40 that in mind, climate change, I seen algae growing on  
41 the (In Native) River recently, and you never did see  
42 that through all the years that I have traveled in the  
43 (In Native). Take these things into consideration and  
44 do not just kind of rely on what you're very capable of  
45 or very fluent in computer technology. Like I say, I  
46 think I'll just advance myself to the second grade and  
47 study calculus since I know a little bit about pressing  
48 the button now.  
49  
50

1                   And my -- not my rebuke, my displeasure  
2 with ADF&G, it's just very mild right now. But  
3 personally, you hear a lot of people not really taking  
4 a -- you very seriously. And, and Mr. Green mentioned  
5 about NSEDC how they talk about this proprietorship  
6 information. Some elder told me wherever there is money,  
7 there is conflict and that's the problem with NSEDC.  
8 They got all the money. They can do whatever they want.  
9 They're headquartered out in Unalakleet. They try to ask  
10 them, no. Their meetings are private. Oh, they must have  
11 a private stock of fish for themselves. So, that is what  
12 I requested a ADF&G to do, do more field work. Listen  
13 to the people. Because next time, you know, it's going  
14 to be a lot serious, you know, for our fish and game  
15 resources to kind of meet your escapement goal and then  
16 for them to die. Their main trial is during the high  
17 water cold water system. And then we can't even access  
18 that resource that we have been very good stewards of.  
19 We don't even have a commercial fishery. Like I said  
20 many times before, the people I know during my father's  
21 age, they oppose commercial fishing because that would  
22 disrupt the enjoyment of the number two fish that we  
23 kind of highly prized. One -- the first one is being the  
24 chinook and the red and then the pink salmon for drawing  
25 the pink salmon. The first two are, you know, good eating  
26 right off the bat. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for my comments  
27 directed to ADF&G.

28  
29                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you,  
30 Councilman Seetot. Yeah, and I think we need to move on  
31 this one way or the other here. We're looking for a  
32 letter of support. I just want to let Luke know you're  
33 a young fella and you're new here, and I understand  
34 that. And if I sound kind of hard, that's -- I'm sorry.  
35 I didn't mean to be that way, but -- I did -- I think I  
36 did the first lake study on the red salmon at the Glacial  
37 Lake and that was in 1974. So, I'm kind of old and like  
38 Tommy says, we were raised on the Pilgrim River and the  
39 Kuzitrin Rivers, and we have TEK and Elmer alludes to  
40 the fact that, you know, Fish and Game needs to do the  
41 field work and not have some private company doing it.  
42 And so, the public is part of the process. Anyway, thank  
43 you, Luke. And we need to take action.

44  
45                   MS. CHAPA: It's up to the Council.

46  
47                   MS. MALLORY: Sorry, I just, I had a  
48 comment. If you -- if that was okay.....

49  
50                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Marianna?

1

2

3 MS. MALLORY: .....if you have a second.  
4 Yeah. Hi. I'm calling in from Fairbanks. I'm a  
5 subsistence resource specialist here. And our division  
6 is mainly focused on social science. So, we primarily  
7 work with people, and we do a lot of traditional  
8 ecological knowledge studies. I just wanted to put it  
9 in there that we have been interested in trying to do  
10 some more work together with biologists. And just kind  
11 of along the lines of what Elmer was mentioning about  
12 wanting to combine science and what people are saying  
13 in local knowledge. So, that's it.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Mariana.  
Thank you for putting in that.

MS. MALLORY: And we'll keep the -- we'll  
keep those comments in mind when we do get -- when we  
do apply for funding for projects. Some of the concerns  
Elmer mentioned and what we maybe could draft in response  
to that and approach the community with.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Well,  
thanks. A lot of people think I'm younger than I am, but  
I'm old. I'm almost 67 years old, I guess because I can  
still run. I guess people miscue on my age. So, thank  
you. Anybody on Council wants to make a motion for a  
letter of support?

MS. IVANOFF: I move to submit a letter  
of support for ADF&G efforts (indiscernible).

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Just need a second.  
Kelsi made the motion.

MR. GRAY: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that Tom?

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. GRAY: That's Tom, and I'll call for  
question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. You made it --  
you made the -- you did the second?

MR. GRAY: I did the second and the  
question.

000148

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, there you go.  
2 Speak up, old man. I'm deaf. Alright, so, first and a  
3 second call for question. All those in favor of the  
4 letter of support, say aye.

5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Aye and there's one  
9 more, we need five.

10  
11 MR. SEETOT: I'll say aye for the time  
12 being but note my disappointment over my comments. Thank  
13 you.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Okay, Thank  
16 you, Elmer. That's five. That's unanimous. There you go,  
17 Mr. Luke.

18  
19 MR. HENSLEE: Thank you very much and I'd  
20 also like to say you'll never hurt my feelings. I really  
21 appreciate getting other perspectives, and especially  
22 from folks who know the land and the resource better  
23 than myself. So, thank you very much, Council.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that  
26 comment. For the rest of us here. Us old guys, probably  
27 more. Anyway, what's -- break time? We haven't had a  
28 break all day. You guys said you wanted to get it over  
29 with today. Alright, 15? Okay.

30  
31 MR. AYERS: That's at 3:20?

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Try to get it over  
34 with so, we can all go home.

35  
36 MR. SEETOT: Be like the hunters out in  
37 the field. We don't take any breaks when we get something  
38 -- trying to get something.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: Okay, we'll see you this fall.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hey, Tommy. Thanks.

43  
44 MR. GRAY: Yeah, bye.

45  
46 (Off record)

47  
48 (On record)

49  
50 MR. AYERS: Thank you for the break.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're welcome for  
3 the break. I drive hard sometimes. Sometimes I hardly  
4 drive. So, it's 3:23, calling back to order here. We're  
5 going to be -- our next move was to have the chum salmon  
6 bycatch, Therese. And then we have a -- we had somebody  
7 that wanted to make public comment, that'll be after  
8 that. From Solomon, Lily. And then Council member  
9 reports. So, is she on?

10  
11 MS. CHAPA: Theresa, are you online?  
12

13 MS. VICENTE: I sure am. Good afternoon.  
14 Can you all hear me?  
15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Yep. You're  
17 coming through five by five. Thanks.  
18

19 MS. VICENTE: Awesome and I see Gisela  
20 is getting my slides up. While she does that, I'll just  
21 introduce myself. Hi, Seward Peninsula RAC. My name is  
22 Therese Vicente. I'm the policy and programs director  
23 with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.  
24 I'm based in Bethel, and my counterpart with the Tanana  
25 Chiefs Conference Krystal Lapp, I believe is also online  
26 and available for questions. I'll just pause and see if  
27 Krystal's got us.  
28

29 MS. LAPP: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me  
30 just fine?  
31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.  
33

34 MS. LAPP: Perfect. Perfect. So, yeah,  
35 my name is Krystal Lapp and I'm with Tanana Chiefs  
36 Conference. I'm the natural resource policy analyst  
37 here, and been working real closely with Therese, with  
38 KRITFC, on this cooperating agency. So, I want to thank  
39 Therese for providing this overview, because as you can  
40 tell, my voice is still coming back.  
41

42 MS. VICENTE: Okay. And I do apologize.  
43 I'm in the midst of preparing for our annual meeting,  
44 which starts tomorrow so, I only am able to be with you  
45 all for about 20 minutes. But I think that should be  
46 plenty of time to get through this and answer a couple  
47 questions. So, Gisela you could.....  
48

49 (Simultaneous speech)  
50

000150

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hey, just one thing.

2  
3 MS. VICENTE: Yeah, please.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Welcome back --  
6 welcome back to AFN.

7  
8 MS. VICENTE: I think that's for Krystal  
9 and TCC. It's a good welcome.

10  
11 MS. LAPP: Yes, yes. Thank you. We got -  
12 - we got all that done this last convention. So, (In  
13 Native).

14  
15 MS. VICENTE: Awesome. Gisela, you could  
16 go to the next slide for me, please. So, we were invited  
17 to share with you all a little bit about what's going  
18 on with chum bycatch at the North Pacific Fishery  
19 Management Council. And specifically, the Kuskokwim Fish  
20 Commission and Tanana Chiefs Conference roles as  
21 cooperating agencies in the current process. So, I'll  
22 let you all -- well, I guess we have folks on the phone  
23 too. Hopefully these materials could be shared by Gisela  
24 afterwards, but essentially what's going on is that  
25 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which manages  
26 federal fisheries off the coast of Alaska from 3- to 200  
27 nautical miles offshore. That includes all the  
28 groundfish trawl fisheries, pollock trawl fisheries.  
29 They are in the process of reevaluating how they manage  
30 chum salmon bycatch. There's currently no caps or limits  
31 on the amount of chum that can be caught as bycatch each  
32 year. There's some like interindustry measures to  
33 minimize chum bycatch, but they haven't been super  
34 effective in our opinion and according to the data for  
35 the last ten or so, years, they've been in place. So,  
36 in 2021, when chum bycatch kind of went through the roof  
37 was second highest on record at, I think 550,000 chum  
38 total from all genetic reporting groups. There's a big  
39 push to get the Council to address this and see what  
40 more could be done to make sure chum bycatch goes down  
41 and not up. So, in July 2023, the National Marine  
42 Fisheries Service began a NEPA, National Environmental  
43 Policy Act process. This is a requirement as part of  
44 putting a federal action into effect and getting that  
45 going to try to reevaluate or I guess put in new  
46 management measures for chum salmon bycatch. So, this  
47 NEPA process kicked off the Environmental Impact  
48 Statement analyses. And at that point, the Kuskokwim  
49 Fish Commission sent a letter to National Marine  
50 Fisheries Service requesting to be a cooperating agency

1 in this process. And about, I guess maybe 6 or 8 months  
2 later, Tanana Chiefs Conference did the same. And what  
3 it means to be a cooperating agency is to have special  
4 expertise about the subject matter at hand, in this case,  
5 chum salmon and work with the lead federal agency,  
6 National Marine Fisheries Service, in this case to  
7 provide the best available information for their  
8 analyses. So, currently what we have is National Marine  
9 Fisheries Service is leading this action with some input  
10 and help from North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
11 staff and then there's three cooperating agencies, the  
12 Kuskokwim Fish Commission, Tanana Chiefs Conference and  
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, we're supporting  
14 the lead agency by providing data, writing, reviewing  
15 sections that pertain to our special expertise about  
16 specifically chum salmon. And I think that covers this  
17 slide if you go to the next slide for me, Gisela.

18  
19 This is just a little bit more about  
20 what we've been able to provide as cooperating agencies.  
21 So, per our special expertise TCC and the Kuskokwim Fish  
22 Commission have brought forward traditional knowledge  
23 about chum salmon, stewardship of chum salmon. How chum  
24 have been harvested traditionally and used in our Yukon  
25 and Kuskokwim regions. Traditional knowledge about why  
26 every salmon matters. We've provided descriptions of our  
27 regions, the ecosystems there, the tribal nations within  
28 our regions. TCC did a great job providing a big overview  
29 about health and financial impacts of salmon declines  
30 in the Yukon region. We've provided information about  
31 impacts of declines in our ecosystems, and subsistence  
32 economies in our families and communities. We've talked  
33 about some of the cumulative effects contributing to  
34 salmon declines, including how bycatch across time, Area  
35 M intercept, hatcheries, all these things across time  
36 have contributed to chum salmon declines. We've also  
37 provided analyses from a tribal lens about environmental  
38 justice in this action, as that's something that has to  
39 be considered in NEPA processes currently.

40  
41  
42 There's two QR codes on this slide. I  
43 suppose you could scan them now with your phone and open  
44 them up or maybe Gisela could get you a copy of this,  
45 you could do it later. But those lead to two  
46 presentations. One given by TCC. One given by the  
47 Kuskokwim Fish Commission at the special chum salmon  
48 bycatch meeting the first week of February. And those  
49 just -- we -- Krystal and I, on behalf of our  
50 organizations, gave kind of summary overview

1 presentations of what our entities contributed to the  
2 latest EIS analysis for this action so, you can find  
3 more information there. I think you could go to the next  
4 slide, Gisela. Great and this is again -- Krystal put  
5 this together. It's just a reference point of the  
6 different sections of the last preliminary draft EIS  
7 that TCC and the Kuskokwim Fish Commission contributed  
8 to. So, we've really been working to elevate tribal  
9 knowledge and tribal voices in this action and in the  
10 analysis so that the North Pacific Council and the  
11 National Marine Fisheries Service have the most  
12 comprehensive and best available information at their  
13 fingertips. And so, the documents are -- I think the  
14 main document is like 300 pages and all the appendices  
15 combined were another 300 pages. So, this kind of  
16 pinpoints, you know, the sections that TCC and the  
17 Kuskokwim Fish Commission were able to contribute to,  
18 to get that data in front of our decision makers. So,  
19 that's just a reference there. I'll have you go to the  
20 next slide Gisela, please.

21  
22 Thanks. So, like I mentioned, there was  
23 a special chum salmon bycatch meeting the first week of  
24 February in Anchorage. And for about eight days  
25 straight, the Council and its Scientific and Statistical  
26 Committee and advisory panel discussed the latest  
27 preliminary draft EIS and the different management  
28 alternatives they have on the table. And we just wanted  
29 to share out, you know, from TCC and the Kuskokwim Fish  
30 Commission's perspectives, some key highlights from this  
31 meeting. Sort of staff presentations, there were  
32 cooperating agency presentations on the analysis and the  
33 information. One really important thing, we think, was  
34 that we heard support from the Scientific and  
35 Statistical Committee to include local and traditional  
36 knowledge in analyses like this one. It's pretty new for  
37 the North Pacific Council to look beyond just Western  
38 scientific information and numbers. And they're starting  
39 to turn to tribes and traditional knowledge holders to  
40 include, you know, more holistic set of information.  
41 There are actually several people from the Bering Strait  
42 region on a local knowledge, traditional knowledge and  
43 subsistence committee that put together a protocol  
44 several years back that's in the process of being  
45 implemented. So, this is just another step forward to  
46 including traditional knowledge from tribes, from the  
47 from the people in the decision making process at the  
48 Council.

49  
50



1                   There were days and days of testimony,  
2 I think over 200 people total across the bodies  
3 testified. And one of the things we heard tribal  
4 representatives share pretty unanimous support for were  
5 -- was developing a migratory corridor to protect  
6 Western Alaska chum salmon. I'll get into that in just  
7 a minute. As well as a cap. So, yeah, maybe that's --  
8 well, before I segway into kind of an overview of the  
9 alternatives, I'll just -- this QR code that's here  
10 should lead you to a website that has all the documents  
11 and recordings from that meeting. So, you could go back  
12 and catch up if you'd like and TCC organized a really  
13 powerful tribal unity room. That was a great space for  
14 folks to connect and brainstorm and debrief and all that.  
15 So, that's a great photo of some of the tribal  
16 representatives that were in attendance at this meeting.  
17 And I'll have you hop to the next slide Gisela and it's  
18 my last one here.

19  
20                   So, what actually -- I mean, at the end  
21 of the meeting, what the North Pacific Council did is  
22 they passed a motion revising the current management  
23 alternatives on the table and also, advising NMFS to  
24 publish the draft EIS and to keep the process moving  
25 forward. So, this slide has a high-level overview of  
26 what the five alternatives are, as well as next steps.  
27 So, beginning with the alternatives, the first one is  
28 status quo. So, just leaving things as they are that's  
29 required to have a NEPA processes. It doesn't seem as  
30 though the Council is leaning that way. However, it has  
31 to be on the table. Alternatives two and three are both  
32 to set a cap across the entire Bering Sea in the pollock  
33 trawl fishery, and the cap would be somewhere between  
34 100,000 and 550,000 chum salmon. Alternative two would  
35 just pick that number, one number between 100,000 and  
36 550,000 and have that be the cap year after year until  
37 it's changed down the road. Alternative three would only  
38 have that cap in place in years following low abundance  
39 on the Yukon-Kuskokwim and or in the Norton Sound region.  
40 There's some different thresholds they've established  
41 for each of those regions based on available, I guess  
42 abundance measures of chum salmon. So, in the Norton  
43 Sound region, it's a combination. I don't have the rivers  
44 right in front of me. I could get them to Gisela, but  
45 it's a combination of harvest and escapement of chum  
46 salmon within Norton Sound, and I think five or so,  
47 rivers in the region, like the (In Native), Pilgrim.  
48 There's a couple others. I'll look it up and pop it in  
49 the chat. So, if say like if this were in effect now  
50 under alternative three and there were low abundance in

1 the Norton Sound region, the cap would be in place the  
2 following year. But if there is like high abundance in  
3 Norton Sound, Yukon-Kuskokwim this year, there would not  
4 be a cap in place in 2026.

5  
6 Alternative four would implement  
7 additional regulatory requirements in the Code of  
8 Federal Regulations that the pollock trawl fishery would  
9 need to follow through their contractual avoidance  
10 plans, which they call Incentive Plan Agreements, or  
11 IPAs. I think there are six provisions. It would add  
12 that they would be required to follow, most of which  
13 they're already implementing voluntarily to reduce chum  
14 salmon bycatch. But until they're put into regulation,  
15 they could walk those back at any point. Some of those  
16 include using salmon excluders which are kind of like  
17 trap doors in their trawl nets that pollock can't swim  
18 out of. But salmon to some extent can. Others are finding  
19 ways to provide more transparent reporting about salmon  
20 bycatch in season to salmon users across Western and  
21 Interior Alaska. So, if the Council selects alternative  
22 four, those would be put into regulation. And  
23 alternative five would establish a migratory corridor  
24 north of the Alaska Peninsula. Ideally, we should have  
25 included a map here, but if you kind of imagine, like,  
26 it's basically right where Western Alaska chum are  
27 encountered the most by the pollock trawl fishery just  
28 north, like kind of on the other side of the Alaska  
29 Peninsula from the Area M fishery like through False  
30 Pass right in there just west of Bristol Bay. That's  
31 consistently where the most western Alaska chum are  
32 found. So, those chum coming back to rivers from Kotzebue  
33 up in the north, all the way down to Bristol Bay in the  
34 south.

35  
36 So, if this alternative were chosen,  
37 there would be a cap somewhere between 50,000 chum a  
38 year and 350,000 chum a year in place. And then there's  
39 a couple different options within this alternative to  
40 have a bigger area, to have only like 50% of that larger  
41 area and leave some areas open to trawling and not  
42 counting towards the cap. There's also an option to link  
43 it to chum salmon abundance on the Yukon River. So,  
44 there's a couple different pathways within that pathway.  
45 So, where the Council is at now is like these are pretty  
46 much the alternatives, there are pathways on the table.  
47 It doesn't have to be just one that they choose.  
48 Alternative one as the no action status quo alternative  
49 cannot be chosen with any of the others. But the Council  
50 could choose to do a combination of say, alternative two

1 plus four plus five or four plus five or something like  
2 that. Alternatives two and three are mutually exclusive,  
3 but either one of those could be combined with four and  
4 or five.

5  
6 And where we are now and where the  
7 Seward Peninsula RAC, or you as individuals, or with  
8 your tribe, or community or city could, you know, become  
9 involved is through public comment opportunities. So,  
10 right now, the National Marine Fisheries Service, North  
11 Pacific Council staff, analysts, Krystal and I, on  
12 behalf of our organizations as cooperating agencies and  
13 also, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, are updating  
14 and refining the analysis for publication as a draft  
15 EIS, and that is scheduled to be posted to the Federal  
16 Register in mid-August. Once it's published, there will  
17 be a 60-day public comment opportunity. So, that's a  
18 time when this RAC could provide comments. I suppose you  
19 would have to discuss them now. So, then your coordinator  
20 could get them all together. But Krystal could probably  
21 -- not to put you on the spot Krystal. But Krystal was  
22 working with the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and  
23 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta RAC about this as well. We gave  
24 this presentation to those three RACs at their request.  
25 Because they were interested in submitting a letter on  
26 this. So, there's one public comment opportunity coming  
27 up, likely in mid-August through mid-October. And then  
28 right now the Council is planning on meeting on this  
29 again in December 2025. It could also be February 2026,  
30 pending funding and at that point they will recommend  
31 final action. Which then kickstarts the National Marine  
32 Fisheries Service getting all their regulations together  
33 and implementing it.

34  
35 So, there's a public comment opportunity  
36 leading up to the December 2025 or February 2026 Council  
37 meeting on this. And there's opportunity to provide oral  
38 testimony in person if they meet in person and or  
39 remotely as well. And then for tribes, National Marine  
40 Fisheries Service is supposed to remain open to requests  
41 for tribal consultation on this issue at any point. And  
42 we can definitely help you get in contact with NMFS if  
43 your tribe is interested in doing that. So, that's kind  
44 of the next steps. I mean, even if all of this goes to  
45 plan in that way, based on how long it will take to  
46 implement any decisions made, it's unlikely we will see  
47 any new regulations or caps, corridors, IPA adjustments,  
48 anything like that in place in the Pollock Fishery until  
49 2027. So, this is a very long -- I mean, it's been going  
50 on now. It'll have been four years if 2027 is the

1    soonest, and really much longer. I know folks across the  
2    Bering Strait, Yukon and Kuskokwim regions have been  
3    testifying and speaking out against this for decades so,  
4    -- but that's where we're at. And then at the -- just  
5    at the bottom of the slide is Krystal's contact  
6    information and my contact information as well. We're  
7    happy to take questions, receive emails, find other  
8    times to meet. So, yeah, I'll stop it there. I could  
9    maybe take a question or two, but then I really do need  
10   to jump, and I apologize for that. I think that's all I  
11   had.

12  
13                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody from Council  
14   have any questions? Comments?

15  
16                   MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

17  
18                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

19  
20                   MR. KIRK: Hi. Ron Kirk, Stebbins. I'm  
21   wondering about bottom fishing trawlers. There was a  
22   trawler outside of Emmonak, not even two miles from  
23   shore. It was probably maybe a mile or less than a mile  
24   from shore bottom fishing. I'm wondering if that was  
25   ever reported. I know they get a lot of bycatch on those  
26   bottom fishing trawlers.

27  
28                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Therese.

29  
30                   MS. VICENTE: Through the Chair. I know  
31   last year there were bottom trawlers fishing for  
32   yellowfin sole a couple miles off the coast of Kuskokwim  
33   Bay, and that there was a letter sent from the Kuskokwim  
34   River Salmon Management Working Group to the state and  
35   NFMS about that and they -- by and large dismissed the  
36   concerns from people. I laugh just because it's --  
37   anyways. But they responded back and said that, you know,  
38   they're not actually catching salmon bycatch usually,  
39   but they have some of the highest numbers of halibut  
40   bycatch, which is another important traditional food and  
41   we definitely think they're harming the ecosystem. So,  
42   I mean, it continues. This action that I presented on  
43   would be confined only to the pollock trawl fishery and  
44   they're supposed to be fishing in the midwater and not  
45   on the bottom, but they do fish on the bottom sometimes.  
46   So, there's a lot of work that needs to be done still  
47   with the bottom trawlers in the Bering Sea. I don't know  
48   if that answers your question, but that's some  
49   information. Quayana.

50

1 MR. KIRK: No, it does not answer my  
2 question. My question was why is it bottom trawler fisher  
3 -- fishery right there? Not even two miles away from  
4 shore, about a half a mile from shore fishing when the  
5 limit is two miles out from the shoreline and I'm  
6 wondering why that wasn't reported. Because they do  
7 catch bycatch and they're not going to report it. They're  
8 not going to say, oh, we just threw ten king salmon  
9 overboard. They're not going to report that because they  
10 know they lose their permit, their first fishing permit.  
11 My concern is about salmon that they're catching as  
12 bycatch and not reporting it, especially if they're not  
13 complying with the two-mile limit. Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Theresa.

16  
17 MS. VICENTE: Yeah.....

18  
19 (Simultaneous speech)

20  
21 MS. VICENTE: Yeah, and I see Krystal has  
22 her hand up, too. I mean, I couldn't tell you why they  
23 don't comply. I wish they would comply, and they're  
24 supposed to stay at least three miles offshore. And there  
25 are protected areas in our region, too. So, that's  
26 something we can look into more. I know our tribes in  
27 the Kuskokwim are pretty upset about that as well. I'll  
28 pass it over to Krystal. Thanks.

29  
30 MR. KIRK: Yeah, it was.....

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead Krystal. Oh,  
33 sorry, Ron, you're still on. Go ahead.

34  
35 MR. KIRK: Yeah. I just -- I'm concerned  
36 because I have family in Emmonak and they sent me a  
37 picture of it because they know I serve on the Seward  
38 Peninsula Board, and they're wondering. They wanted me  
39 to bring this up during this meeting because they're  
40 concerned about their subsistence way of life, as we're  
41 all aware that they've been having a hard time trying  
42 to put salmon on their table for the past years, and  
43 they're finally getting a little last year, and that's  
44 their concern. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

47  
48 MS. LAPP: Am I okay to go real quick? I  
49 do have an answer to his question.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep, go ahead. I was  
2 going to ask you to speak.

3  
4 MS. LAPP: Yeah. So, through the Chair.  
5 Again, this is Krystal Lapp, Tanana Chiefs Conference.  
6 I just did a quick search on the North Pacific website  
7 as far as complaints that are lodged. I don't think that  
8 we're privy to that, unfortunately. It just gives us a  
9 process and how to lodge those complaints. So, I'm not  
10 aware if anyone has reported this specific instance.  
11 However, it could be reported at any time, especially  
12 if you have photos. I am more than happy to assist.  
13 Whether that's through the RAC, or whether that's  
14 through you personally or through your tribe get that  
15 complaint written up and submitted into the North  
16 Pacific. For my understanding, looking at the policy is  
17 those complaints are typically not done in these RACs  
18 or things like that. That's typically a personal  
19 complaint that's through the North Pacific Council. They  
20 just don't highly advertise it. So, I hope that answers  
21 your question. But again, I'm here to help you draft  
22 that complaint and get it through the process.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Krystal.  
25 Thank you for your question there, Ron. We have other  
26 Council have any questions, comments or concerns for  
27 this ladies? Elmer.

28  
29 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
30 Mission. Port Clarence Bay, last summer we were catching  
31 more reds than chum salmon. Over the past 20 years chum  
32 salmon used to be pretty abundant, along with pink  
33 salmon. However, this year we were catching more reds  
34 and pinks, and our people used to go up to (In Native)  
35 River late July, early August, even into September to  
36 get the chum salmon there because they have lost most  
37 of their fat during the migration. And that was good  
38 fish to dry because they dry faster without the fat. My  
39 question is what fish-eating fish other than sockeye --  
40 and most of our concerns is pretty much we ask how much  
41 fish did each person harvest or anything like that. I  
42 know that there are marine mammals out in our waters  
43 that prey on salmon so, and then which area of the Bering  
44 Sea would our chum salmon be there for the winter? That  
45 one of them is that -- this happened recently. We know  
46 that there's a lot of water pollution. We can consider  
47 these circumstances pollution, predation and such. But  
48 I just need to see if you know, if any of those can be  
49 partially answered or answered. Thank you.

50

1                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Great  
2 questions, Elmer. Is there a -- is there an answer for  
3 that? Terese or Krystal?

4  
5                   MS. LAPP: Yep. Sorry. Therese had to hop  
6 off and so, let me just -- and I'm on -- I'm working on  
7 my mobile phone right now. So, as far as where are the  
8 chum salmon hanging out in the winter time in the Bering  
9 Sea, I have a little bit of a lag on my on my end so,  
10 I'm not sure if I got your answer in it's -- or your  
11 question in its entirety.

12  
13                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That was a good part  
14 of it there Krystal, from Elmer.

15  
16                   MS. LAPP: Okay. Yeah, yeah. I did catch  
17 the discussion about the reds and the pinks. Because I  
18 mainly work on the Yukon River that's, you know, the  
19 main river in the TCC region. I -- my fingertips have a  
20 lot of quick data as far as how much is being used as  
21 far as chum salmon goes for, like, subsistence and  
22 commercial and things like that. From what we understand  
23 of the chum salmon, when they are basically teenagers,  
24 they're heading out to the Bering Sea, and they go out  
25 there and they hang out for a long time. And so, from  
26 just the bycatch genetic information that we have, we've  
27 been able to basically find the hotspots of where the  
28 chum salmon are hanging out. It's not complete because  
29 genetic testing is, like, intermittent and they don't  
30 test every single fish that comes off as bycatch. But  
31 we do have a big issue in the Bering Sea as a whole,  
32 with some that are coming from hatcheries outside of the  
33 US. And so, we have a lot of issues going on in the  
34 Bering Sea as it is right now. I will be happy to send  
35 a map to your RAC coordinator because I think explaining  
36 this over the phone like this is not very useful versus  
37 the map -- I'm a visual person -- will show those little  
38 hotspots of where all the chum salmon that are meant for  
39 the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim are typically being bycaught  
40 and I think that will be very useful to you and to the  
41 RAC as a whole. But basically, what we know right now,  
42 the average amount of chum that's meant for our regions  
43 that gets bycaught is around 18%. So, that's a pretty  
44 significant large number, especially when we're talking  
45 bycatch for the past 40, 50 years. But I can definitely  
46 provide tons and tons of data for you guys if you would  
47 like, and also, maps and just general harvest  
48 information, at least on the Yukon.

49  
50

000160

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Krystal.  
2 Elmer, did you get your answer?

3  
4 MR. SEETOT: Thank you very much, but I  
5 always be disappointed when I listen to the fishing  
6 report down at Kuskokwim-Yukon area when they have the  
7 fish closures down there because, you know, many people  
8 are dependent on the fish resources, you know, for their  
9 livelihood and for, you know, just for us eating. So,  
10 so, that was pretty much my area of concern. Thank you  
11 very much.

12  
13 MS. LAPP: (In Native) and I agree, I  
14 agree. We're just trying to bring our fish back and yes;  
15 I will email all of this data to you.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Krystal.  
18 We got something.

19  
20 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, if I may Mr. Chair,  
21 Gisela Chapa, I just wanted to share a comment that was  
22 posted on the chat and I think this was in reference to  
23 Council member Kirks comment. Lisa Ellana also, posted  
24 that you can also report possible violations of federal  
25 marine resource laws, including those involving trawlers  
26 in Alaska, by calling the National Marine Fisheries  
27 Service Law Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964. Just  
28 wanted to share that.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The year of the  
31 earthquake, 1964. So, I guess I'd make a comment here.  
32 A couple of things that I just heard here in the last  
33 few days that supposedly they're talking about trawlers  
34 being off the coast of Nome about 72 miles. And you  
35 know, that's red king crab country down there and  
36 probably goes all the way down there where Ron Kirk is  
37 at. And, you know, Stebbins/St. Michael's off up there  
38 somewhere. I know Kelsi, where were they catching the  
39 king crab close to Unalakleet at?

40  
41 MS. IVANOFF: King crab?

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, when they were  
44 crabbing over there.

45  
46 MS. IVANOFF: 30 miles off.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Just right off shore.  
49 So, yeah. So, you're catching king crab and out of  
50 Unalakleet close to shore, too. I heard a retired



1 biologist that testified here just sometime in the last  
2 week or so, that our Norton Sound red king crab are  
3 turning into cannibals or cannibalism. They're eating  
4 themselves or something. And I kind of thought that was  
5 an awful strange -- a find -- I never heard of such a  
6 thing. But if those trawlers are out 72 miles off of our  
7 coastline there, and they're down there where Mr. Kirk  
8 mentioned. They're right in our king crab grounds, and  
9 we got shallow waters out there. So, just, you know,  
10 FYI, if you keep your ears open for something like that,  
11 it'd be something we'd like to hear about. Kelsi.

12  
13 MS. IVANOFF: The -- at this last  
14 meeting, there's a lot of really good tribal  
15 involvement. And I would really encourage those comments  
16 that you guys had were really good -- were things that  
17 they need to hear at the Council level. And I would  
18 really encourage you to get involved in that process.  
19 You can call in to those meetings too, to make your  
20 comments to add to the Council, to the North Pacific,  
21 to the December meeting.

22  
23 MR. AYERS: If I could just jump in real  
24 quick.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Scott.

27  
28 MR. AYERS: Scott Ayers. We do recognize  
29 that this last time that was the Council meeting and the  
30 special chum meeting we were -- had a concurrent Federal  
31 Subsistence Board meeting happening at the same time.  
32 And there were other Boards going on. And we are actively  
33 trying to ensure that those don't overlap to the extent  
34 that we can. Meeting season is meeting season. That's  
35 always a challenge. But I know one of the things we were  
36 able to do this last time was recess for a whole morning  
37 and work with the Council so that folks from the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board meeting could get down to the Council  
39 and provide testimony and they worked to just provide  
40 an open block of time there. But we are trying as a  
41 program to make sure that we're not overlapping with  
42 other meetings as much as we possibly can.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, that was quite  
45 a fiasco because I'm one of the people that was  
46 testifying. I wasn't able to do the AP. I was listed on  
47 that. But I did testify at the North Pacific Fishery  
48 Management Council level as a citizen, I didn't do it  
49 under my hat here. But yes, those comments from these  
50 folks here -- I don't know if there's anybody else.

1 Tommy's not here. So, let's see, Elmer's commented, Ron,  
2 Kelsi, myself. So, I guess that's it. That covered us  
3 four for -- so, like I said, I really appreciate you  
4 coming here and doing a presentation for us and letting  
5 you know what's going on over there in the Yukon-  
6 Kuskokwim I will say this, I started dealing with this  
7 stuff at the Board of fish at the in 1993, and there was  
8 some handful of us there that were talking, and there  
9 were some people from TCC there too in the Yukon. We all  
10 kind of had the same attitude that if you don't manage  
11 any intercept fisheries for salmon, you're going to have  
12 a problem. And we pointed fingers at Area M and at the  
13 trawler industry. This goes back to 1993 and, you know,  
14 those were thoughts and for me to say that it was -- I  
15 was going off with the experience of how Norton Sound  
16 and Northway -- Nome Subdistrict was the first red flag  
17 in the whole deal. We started losing our chums, and  
18 everything else collapsed after that. And the thought  
19 was - is -- a collective thought of a small little bunch  
20 of people that we said that if you don't start trying  
21 to find a way to stop what's happened here to the  
22 Northern Norton Sound, you're going to end up with it  
23 in Unalakleet, you're going to end up with in the Yukon  
24 and the Kuskokwim and God help us if it starts happening  
25 in the Bristol Bay. And I just got some sockeye from  
26 Bristol Bay last year shipped up to me and there was a  
27 lot of small salmon so, they were really small. Kelsi's  
28 like, she knows what I'm talking about. And so, the  
29 resource of food out there for these fish is being  
30 diminished. And just an example by the method of somebody  
31 did the, you know, the math was if you took a -- the  
32 bycatch, they recorded at about 141 million pounds a  
33 year. 141 million pounds of bycatch and if you took an  
34 F150 Ford and parked it in Anchorage and leveled off the  
35 bycatch in the back of the truck and parked the next  
36 one, right, bumper to bumper and so forth and so on. The  
37 last truck would be parked in Soldotna. But that gives  
38 you any kind of an idea of -- I never saw anybody refute  
39 it. So, that just gives you an idea of what the reported  
40 bycatch is. And we know that the Gulf of Alaska doesn't  
41 get the attention because they're not required, I guess,  
42 to have observers. So, Krystal.

43  
44 MS. LAPP: Yes. Thank you. Through the  
45 Chair, you bring up a fantastic point. So, TCC is also  
46 currently working on an Area M proposal, which is going  
47 to be due to the Board of Fish on April 10th. And that  
48 is something that once we get that done and finalized,  
49 it's not done right now. We will be sharing out to anyone  
50 and everyone that would like to read it and sign on,

1 whether it's personal, your tribe, your corp. So, please  
2 feel free to keep my information and reach out at any  
3 time. Therese and I are always, always happy to assist  
4 anyone, especially as we're going through this EIS  
5 process. We want to ensure that even though we're the  
6 cooperating agencies that all tribal voices are heard.  
7 And because we are in this position if your tribe or  
8 your corp. or just yourself would like to provide  
9 information specific to your area that you want  
10 included, Therese and I have the ability to do that  
11 through the EIS. So, just wanted to put that out there.  
12 And then, yes, Area M is also another part that we are  
13 attacking. You are completely correct that we do not  
14 require observers. The biggest difference between the  
15 bycatch in the Bering Sea and that they do not retain  
16 it versus Area M it is retained and sold. So, we are  
17 working diligently on Area M as well because regardless  
18 of any progress we make in the Bering Sea, if we do,  
19 that's not going to mean anything if the Gulf isn't  
20 taken care of and then I do want to report that as of  
21 today, there is a 12,100-ish chinooks that have been  
22 caught in the Area M area so far and, and that does have  
23 a hard cap of 25,000 per year. They try to stay under  
24 that. But last year their bycatch was only 8,000 for the  
25 whole year. And now we're seeing a 50% increase in only  
26 three months. So, again, to keep my information handy,  
27 keep Therese's information handy, we're willing to help.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Just one  
30 more, one comment, and then Kelsi is right behind me on  
31 this. Those old arguments with Area M back in, you know,  
32 30 years ago. Sitting at the table with them talking  
33 about the intercept there and I knew some older  
34 fishermen that were down in the Area M and that would  
35 see salmon coming through by the bazillions, and they  
36 knew -- chum salmon and they would -- they knew that  
37 these fish were coming through in certain areas and they  
38 didn't always come through the same place all the time.  
39 But over a period of time say 20, 25 years, those fish  
40 could pass through, you know, every other year or 2 or  
41 3 or 4 years later, it would be through there. These  
42 were commercial fishermen that were down on the  
43 Aleutians. So, the idea is that, you know, these fish,  
44 they don't always swim in the same spot all the time.  
45 They do meander around through the area down there. But  
46 over a period of 25 to 30 years intercept you can whittle  
47 down runs, especially like on the Northern Norton Sound  
48 around the Nome area, smaller rivers. You start picking  
49 them off pretty soon you don't have any. So, anyway, I  
50 just wanted to put that out there. Kelsi had something.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

MS. IVANOFF: Hi, Krystal. I know with the Southern Norton Sound AC, and I know this is the case for a couple other ACs is we were waiting -- we weren't going to put in proposals because we knew -- we figured you guys would be coming out with one by the April 10th, and they are ready to receive and support that proposal.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

MS. LAPP: Through the Chair. Fantastic and thank you. I will be sharing the proposal. It'll be coming through the Fairbanks AC because that packs a bit more of a punch with TCC as a sign on. So, I will be sending that out to all of the AC area coordinators to get out to your guys' AC, and I believe that should be happening by the 7th.

18  
19  
20

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Be sure to send us some, keep Gisela busy.

21  
22

MS. LAPP: Absolutely, yes.

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. So, oh, and I was gonna -- if you're if you take names, there's a couple of places I'd like you to send some of this stuff to. And I sit on the Regional Bering Straits Board, and I sit on the Sitka Sound Village Corporation Board out of Nome. And I would say that to the -- sending this information to the corporations like, specifically for land department or land committees, if it's possible.

32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MS. LAPP: Yeah. Through the Chair, anything is possible at this point. I typically request just because I have a lot going on as well, I know everyone else does too. If there are specific entities that especially have emails, if that could be emailed to me or maybe put into this chat for record, I will note those down and also, talk with Therese. Just because she's a little bit closer to your guys' region on that Kusko part, and we can share any and all news that pertains to Area M, Bering Sea and also, reporting what's happening in-river as well. I was just at the Y-K Delta RAC, and it was really, really informative because I -- a lot of people hear about what's going on upriver like through the news or things like that, but it's a lot different when you're hearing it from a tribal member in that area. So, just keep that in mind. I'm happy to provide reports to any Council or Committee. Yeah. It's important that we talk. I want to say at the last meeting in February, it was noted by the SSC, the AP and the

1 Council that they were surprised of the amount of  
2 diversity of tribes that showed up. We had, I mean,  
3 pretty much everywhere except for the North Slope show  
4 up and testify and that unity right there is a big amount  
5 of -- they're not used to seeing that. And that really,  
6 really helped us, our like sovereign authority and our  
7 sovereign rights. And so, I just wanted to kind of put  
8 that out there as we have to keep showing up, keep  
9 engaging, and especially that unified voice that has  
10 power in these spaces.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. I just  
13 wanted to put one more thing out there that the Native  
14 corporations own the land and the land is what gets  
15 managed to -- by Fish and Game, mostly, with our  
16 fisheries, our fish and game resources. And I've been  
17 stressing that it's important that the owners of the  
18 land be a part of the solutions to what's going on.  
19 And so, I plan on, you know, I get the information, I  
20 plan on whether you send it directly to the corporations  
21 or you send it to Gisela, and she forwards it to me.  
22 That way I can bring it to those committees. I know that  
23 the tribes are out there, but the land ownership belongs  
24 to the corps and I think if you're going to protect your  
25 lands, you want to make sure that there's something on  
26 there that provides food for your -- the people that  
27 actually, you know, the shareholders that own the land.  
28 So, I hear they're doing that down there. They're getting  
29 down to Dillingham. They're -- their Choggiungis getting  
30 involved in that stuff at that level, somewhat. So,  
31 anyway. Thank you. Is there anybody else?

32  
33 MS. LAPP. Thank you for your time.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I don't think there's  
36 anybody else for anything.

37  
38 MR. KIRK: One more.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: One more? Ron, go  
41 ahead.

42  
43 MR. KRIK: Yeah. I just wanted to comment  
44 on the lady saying that it's only 12,000 fish that were  
45 caught in a bycatch. That's not accurate. 12,000 fish  
46 is like 40,000 fish in their stomachs that were caught  
47 in a bycatch. They need to take that into consideration  
48 about bycatch being caught by trawlers. Because you're  
49 not only talking 12,000 fish, you're talking 40 to 50,000  
50 fish inside the fish's tummy, you know. So, that's --

000166

1 that needs to be taken into consideration. Thank you,  
2 Mr. Chair.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,  
5 Ron. Krystal, I think -- I appreciate you coming forward  
6 and taking part in our meeting. It's important that we're  
7 all talking like you say. I think with that, I think  
8 we're all done and ready to move on to the next --  
9 somebody -- there's public comment. And that would be  
10 Lily from the Village of Solomon. Welcome your  
11 conversation, Lily, that you had to bring to us.

12  
13 (No response)

14  
15 (Indiscernible) see on there now or no?  
16 This battle is going to take a lot of people, a lot of  
17 energy. It's been going on for a long time, and it's not  
18 over.

19  
20 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, this is Gisela  
21 Chapa. I don't see Lily anymore on the participants list.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: (Indiscernible).

24  
25 MS. CHAPA: Believe so.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is Lisa on?

28  
29 UNIDENTIFIED: She just asked if public  
30 comments are available?

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes, public comment  
33 is available. We just called for a Lily from Village of  
34 Solomon.

35  
36 MS. ELLANNA: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I hear somebody.

39  
40 MS. ELLANNA: Hi, it's Lisa.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hi.

43  
44 MS. ELLANNA: Hello Mr. Chair. Is it okay  
45 if I provide some public comment?

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes, it is, Lisa.

48  
49 MS. ELLANNA: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You have the floor.

2

3 MS. ELLANNA: Thank you very much. So,  
4 this is not directly related to the fish issue. Is that  
5 the issue that you needed public comment on, or can I  
6 comment on other things?

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You can comment on  
9 anything you want when it involves Fish and Game.

10

11 MS. ELLANNA: Okay. Thank you so much,  
12 Mr. Chair. So, honorable Council members, through the  
13 Chair, I'd just like to introduce myself firstly, really  
14 quickly. My name is Lisa (In Native) Ellanna. I work for  
15 Kawerak Incorporated out of Nome. I work remotely from  
16 Fairbanks, and I am the manager of the Social Sciences  
17 Department. I work under Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. And  
18 I'm here today to share a little information and to  
19 thank you and the rest of the Council members for your  
20 support through a letter of support you provided for the  
21 ANCSA 17 D1 lands issue early last year. In January of  
22 2024, you provided a support letter for the federal  
23 government to retain the withdrawals of the D1 lands so  
24 that Alaska Native people that live on or near those  
25 lands could maintain their subsistence priority on those  
26 lands and there's 28 million acres in question. And the  
27 federal government went through the NEPA process,  
28 followed a very thorough process, and in accordance with  
29 federal law and found and made a record of decisions  
30 through the Secretary of Interior, that those 28 million  
31 acres should be retained by the federal government.  
32 Those withdrawals should be retained. We are grateful  
33 that that happened. But unfortunately, now the Trump  
34 administration issued an Executive Order repealing those  
35 -- attempting to repeal those land orders, those records  
36 of decision regarding the 28 million acres, D1 lands.  
37 So, what we are doing now is we are making our rounds  
38 as a tribal organization to connect with the RACs once  
39 again and see if you would be willing to provide another  
40 letter of support for those federal withdrawals of 28  
41 million acres to be retained by the federal government.  
42 So, that's the extent of my time and I thank you for  
43 hearing our concerns and we look forward to sharing more  
44 if you need more information. Quyanana.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Lisa. I  
47 had a question. Do you know -- we're glad to do that,  
48 but without any hesitation. But I had a question about  
49 D1 lands. Is that -- that's in -- did it become any kind  
50 of law that it stays status quo? Is that.....

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MS. ELLANNA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's provided in law?

MS. ELLANNA: Yes. It -- the Secretary of Interior made the decision to retain all the withdrawals and chose the no-action alternative to maintain the status quo. You're correct and then Biden administration affirmed that record of decision. So, yes. But the Trump administration has since repealed and issued Executive Orders.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, if it's -- yeah. So, the reason why I asked the question -- thank you for that. The reason why I asked the question, if it's in law, then it has to go through Congress to get changed. Wouldn't that be the route they would have to go?

MS. ELLANNA: No. Because it's an agency. It was an agency record of decision unfortunately.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ELLANNA: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody on the Council, on the phone have any questions or comments for Lisa?

(No response)

Hearing none from the phone line. Kelsi here. Do you have anything? Anything? Okay, well, I haven't got any more. That was question I wanted to know, to understand. So, we can do we can do the letters of support. That's not an issue.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. ELLANNA: Thank you Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: if the Council wants to do it.

MS. ELLANNA: Thank you, Council members. I will be in touch with Gisela. Thank you.



000169

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So -- I gota -- okay,  
2 hold on before you run away. Scott wants to ask.....

3  
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6 MR. AYERS: I just.....

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....bring forward  
9 here.

10  
11 MR. AYERS: .....two different things.  
12 One, if the Council wants to write a letter, it  
13 absolutely can, it just needs to discuss it on the  
14 record. So, we have a good justification to build and  
15 then there needs to be a motion and a quorum.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. We don't have  
18 a quorum right now. That's true. We lost somebody today.  
19 I mean, they got off the phone.

20  
21 MS. ELLANNA: Okay. Mr. Chair, would it  
22 be helpful if I provided a little more information by  
23 sharing a document on screen?

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We can't act on it,  
26 whatever it is. If you are able to get it to our  
27 Coordinator Gisela here that -- she might be able to get  
28 it out to us, but we can't act. Can't act on anything  
29 right now because we don't have the quorum.

30  
31 LISA ELLANNA: Okay, I understand, I will  
32 send information to Gisela. Thank you very much.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Well,  
35 thank you. I heard something, but I didn't hear it. Is  
36 she done?

37  
38 MS. CHAPA: I believe so, unless somebody  
39 else is available or wants to.....

40  
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Are there any other  
44 public comment out there on the phone? Any other people  
45 that want to make public comment?

46  
47 (No response)

48  
49 Not hearing anything. So, with that,  
50 we're pretty -- it would be Council member reports. Try

000170

1 to make some quick ones. We can get out of here. No,  
2 what else do we have to do?

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: (Indiscernible) Mr. Chair.  
5 Gisela Chapa. I just wanted -- I put on the chat, like  
6 the remaining agenda items just so that people that are  
7 online can follow along. So, you want to try to -- you  
8 want to try to get the meeting done today?

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If we could, you  
11 know, go as far as we can go.....

12  
13 (Simultaneous speech)

14  
15 MS. CHAPA: So now we have Council member  
16 reports that was voted on earlier today just to get all  
17 the action items done this morning and we discussed that  
18 we would move that to after the action items. Then we  
19 have agency reports. We have Division of Subsistence  
20 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Bering Land  
21 Bridge Agency report. And we have another organization  
22 that wanted to chime in and provide a report to the  
23 Council on youth engagement. And Office of Subsistence  
24 Management. And after that, I have other business and  
25 that I know we make pretty brief.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, do we want to do  
28 Council reports or do we want to hear people?

29  
30 MS. CHAPA: We've already done public  
31 comment on non-agenda items.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Public comment.  
34 Council members, start with you guys online. Elmer, you  
35 got anything to report?

36  
37 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr. Brevig  
38 Mission. Is that for the past year since the meeting or  
39 is that different from the closed comment, or can I  
40 integrate both?

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's our report about  
43 what goes on around us since.

44  
45 MS. CHAPA: Since our last meeting.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Since our last  
48 meeting, yes.

49  
50

1 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Elmer  
2 Seetot. Port Clarence Bay froze early in mid-November.  
3 Very -- not much hunting was going on due to a lack of  
4 snow conditions. Right now, our snow conditions are  
5 pretty white. It looked like it should have been here  
6 last November, but we do get a lot of snow, but it forms  
7 in a way of flakes. So, most of the snow that we have  
8 seen throughout from November to maybe last part of  
9 February has been horizontal. So, we do have a lot of  
10 wind events that do affect us even though it might be  
11 300 miles away. As I -- caribou I think they have been  
12 going up to A area because they really have been down.  
13 I think they found their nose what -- in the wind to  
14 pretty much make sure that they're not being in predator  
15 control.

16  
17 My other comments were this morning  
18 before I started. I may be blunt. I may be blunt in the  
19 way I talk, but I still have respect for the language  
20 used because I just might be talking about myself. The  
21 early 90s, Secretary of Interior recognized the 220  
22 tribes in Alaska as being U.S. -- as being sovereign  
23 tribes. So, there is little interaction between the  
24 tribes and the U.S. federal government, like the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board or such as you represented. ADF&G  
26 needs to travel or contact Teller for sockeye presence  
27 in the channel known as (In Native), early in the season.  
28 Water's been getting warmer in certain areas resulting  
29 in fish going belly up because there's no oxygen in the  
30 ecosystem, you know where these things occur. Like I  
31 said earlier TE -- ecological knowledge needs to be up  
32 there with western science. And then it was kind of  
33 pretty much nonexistent when ADF&G representative  
34 mentioned that our (indiscernible) were use for the  
35 counting of sonar because he didn't mention about local,  
36 or meeting with local people because people know when  
37 and where the migration will occur. And also, need to  
38 encourage more people in federal lands to apply for RAC  
39 membership and not be influenced by the municipal  
40 governments as stated by one of the elders in prior  
41 years. The elders know what they witnesses have received  
42 information in that area. And last of all, I would like  
43 to actually welcome Gisele to the Bad Weather Travel  
44 Club. Congratulations.

45  
46 (Shared laughter)

47  
48 And to wish everyone you know a  
49 successful spring season throughout. Because, you know,  
50 this is a time for gathering. This is time to do things

1 to get ready for the winter. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 just kind of integrate both. My report in the closing  
3 comments.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
6 Ron. Are you on, Ron?

7  
8 MR. KIRK: Oh, yes, Mr. Chair. I'm on.  
9 First, I'd like to thank the staff for putting this  
10 meeting together and making it possible for us to be on  
11 the phone like this, which is always good. And as far  
12 as our year went, you're -- I'm pretty sure everybody  
13 in the region is aware that our school burned down and  
14 now we have about 6 or 7 -- 6 yurts and two buildings  
15 in Quonset hut, tents for classrooms and kitchens and  
16 stuff. We've been struggling trying to get educational  
17 stuff for our children. And our children in our village  
18 weren't able to participate in any kind of sports  
19 activity for the district because we don't have a  
20 gymnasium. Other than -- and then other than that, our  
21 subsistence for this fall was pretty rough. And we did  
22 catch a few salmon this summer -- last summer, but it  
23 wasn't as abundance as it usually (distortion).

24  
25 We're looking to get a new school in the  
26 next 2, 3 -- to 3 years or so. And hopefully our students  
27 will be able to participate in sports activities again.  
28 So, they had to go -- when the school year began, we had  
29 to -- our students had to go first to kindergarten to -  
30 - I think it was 5th grade in the mornings and 6th grade  
31 to high school in the afternoons. They had to cut the  
32 class classrooms in half, but in mid -- by December they  
33 were done with all the yurts in the conference that the  
34 (indiscernible) was putting up for our community, for  
35 our students to come. Now they're all going to school.  
36 But like I state, they were left out of sports  
37 activities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron, for  
40 your report. That leaves Kelsi here in the room.

41  
42 MS. IVANOFF: This last fall was our  
43 first season after the Board of Game passed our new  
44 moose season, which was -- the community was really happy  
45 for. The Southern AC had put that proposal forward  
46 because people were getting Fish and Game to extend the  
47 moose season into October, when we weren't meeting quota  
48 and some of the residents were concerned of meat quality  
49 when you go into October. So, our solution was to open  
50 it earlier into August and it worked out. We had a good

1 harvest, and no one has even winter hunted I think  
2 because we all got our fill in. In September and August,  
3 I think fishing wise, I don't know. I was looking at  
4 Mary's last report, trying to -- seeing if she reported  
5 on anything else. Fishing wise, was kind of in line  
6 with, I'm sure, what the rest of the (indiscernible) saw  
7 last year. We had a really good berry year. Yeah, we got  
8 -- all I have.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.  
11 That leaves me. They had a good fall, moose hunt that  
12 was successful. It was only a three-day hunt. That's the  
13 hard part. It's really -- those of us that are lucky  
14 enough to have what we get in that short a span of time.  
15 You know, some of us feel for the people that spend all  
16 that money and all that time to be out there and don't  
17 have anything. Nome is a diverse community. It's, you  
18 know, you're talking 3500 people or more. And I heard  
19 that this year that the Unit 22C was -- I want to say  
20 it was like 17 moose quota and a hit 40 or more. To me,  
21 that's -- Fish and Game thought it was a great thing  
22 because they thought, well, there's more moose than we  
23 thought we had. But my thought was that, you know, for  
24 \$6 and some odd cents a gallon for gas and a \$15,000 go  
25 get 'em machine, whether it's a boat, a four-wheeler,  
26 or side by side, it's very competitive. So, these people  
27 are spending a lot of money to get some equipment, and  
28 then they got a lot of money to pay out for gas to get  
29 out there to do this, cultural things. But with their  
30 family members, it's really sad to see when there isn't  
31 enough to go around. That 40 moose to me dictated that  
32 people aren't -- don't have enough money to get farther  
33 than 20 or 30 miles out of town anymore because the cost  
34 of gas and the equipment that you have to have to compete  
35 with the other people out there. So, it's kind of like  
36 Jellystone Park, you know, everybody's out shooting  
37 across the road or, you know, I'm exaggerating. But to  
38 me, I've been around close to town and seen how the  
39 hunts are conducted, and it's just it drives me bonkers  
40 to think that this is what we're reduced down to. When  
41 growing up, there was so much room and so many, you  
42 know, weeks or months to go get moose. It's not the same  
43 anymore.

44  
45 So, the salmon, fishing the salmon, I  
46 fished on the east side. I fished east side of Cape Nome  
47 in the marine waters early on and I fished up the  
48 (indiscernible) early on, but I've also, fished Nome on  
49 the front -- on the coastline in front of town there.  
50 Because of the cost of going just down the coast 19

1 miles away is kind of a no brainer, you don't want to  
2 go down there if you don't have to. Trying to fish in  
3 front of Nome with the conditions, the weather that was  
4 going up and down. We had a lot of rain. I think it was  
5 the record years of rain. And so, the subsistence fishery  
6 from Cape Nome to the west is on a schedule, a weekly  
7 schedule. So, I don't think that fits really well,  
8 especially when the weather's so tough to, you know,  
9 it's hard to get your fish and process it without having  
10 to freeze it or something. Other than drying and smoking  
11 and whatnot. And I think that something needs to change  
12 there where subsistence takes priority over anything  
13 else. There was fish, it just wasn't good weather to  
14 deal with it. I wouldn't say lots of fish. I've just  
15 said there was fish available but limited.

16  
17 The fall time whitefish fishery on the  
18 Kuzitrin was -- me and my sons were successful when we  
19 went out and took care of the business there. We got  
20 what we wanted. The farming and hunting wasn't too bad.  
21 My young 9-year-old, 13-year-old, busy out there getting  
22 theirs. Oh, and the berries. Like Kelsi said, it was a  
23 good berry season overall, but I think that was due to  
24 the wet climate we had. We always say when it rains,  
25 we're going to have good berries. So, I guess you have  
26 to fall in line with that. We had plenty of rain. It was  
27 a record rainy year. So, that's all I have for my report.  
28 So, what are we up to next, Gisela?

29  
30 MS. CHAPA: Reports and we can start --  
31 I don't have any confirmation of tribal governments or  
32 Native organizations, but still.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'll ask for tribal  
35 -- are there tribal governments online that would have  
36 any kind of -- any reports to make? I don't know, Lisa  
37 was still on, but I don't know if she's got a  
38 different.....

39  
40 MS. ELLENNA: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. Go ahead, Lisa.

43  
44 MS. ELLENNA: This is Lisa. I just wanted  
45 to say that the extent of my testimony was kind of  
46 confined to the D1 issue and there are typically other  
47 staff from Kawerak from the Subsistence Department, or  
48 maybe Brandon Ahmasuk that typically is present, but I  
49 apologize. I can't testify on behalf of anything else  
50 other than the D1 issue at this time.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you very much for making -- letting us know that. So, that's Brandon and Chuck deal with that stuff. Correct, Lisa?

MS. ELLENNA: Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chair.

MS. CHAPA: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. So, under tribal governments, that was the extent -- she was talking about D1 land. So, we'll move on to any Native organizations.

MS. CHAPA: Oh, give me a second, I think.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Who's that?

MS. CHAPA: Are we still -- can you all still hear us?

MS. WESSELS: We can hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, we can.

UNIDENTIFIED: Loud and clear.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. What are we doing?

MS. CHAPA: It was just on my side. Okay. So, Native organizations, and then we can go there.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. I hadn't heard anybody from any Native organizations other than the tribal governments. That's -- so, I'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. Marianna.

(No response)

I think she's on. Her name's up there. Where's George Pappas?

MS. CHAPA: Let me double check, Mr. Chair, and see if she's still available.

1 MR. AYERS: We're getting towards that  
2 time of the afternoon where folks are starting to exceed  
3 their normal workday.

4  
5 MS. CHAPA: And let me go ahead and text  
6 her and see.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, see if she's  
9 there. So we have the Alaska Department of Fish and  
10 Game, then after that, it's National Park Service, item  
11 E on the agenda. Under 14, reports. BLM.

12  
13 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may. Gisela  
14 Chapa for the record. I'll see if Marianna is available.  
15 But yeah, we could -- if you want, you can go ahead and  
16 move on to the next until I get.....

17  
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. That's why I  
21 was looking ahead and saying something there. We'll see  
22 if we can reach out and get her. So, National Park  
23 Service is next on the list. Bering Land Bridge National  
24 Preserve. There she is.

25  
26 MS. KOELSCH: Through the Chair. Just a  
27 couple quick updates. The National Park Service applied  
28 for and received funding from the Inflation Reduction  
29 Act. In doing so, we reached out to the Native village  
30 of Deering, the Native village of Shishmaref, the Native  
31 Village of Brevig, and the Native Village of Wales, and  
32 conducted government to government tribal consultation  
33 for those subsistence funds and activities. And after  
34 we did that, we worked with Kawerak Incorporated to add  
35 to Kawerak's current PL 93-638 multi-year funding  
36 agreement with the National Park Service at Bering Land  
37 Bridge. And through that work, we funded Kawerak  
38 \$141,000 to develop activities for the Native Village  
39 of Brevig Mission, Shishmaref and Wales that support and  
40 improve the preservation of subsistence culture and  
41 increase climate change resiliency. So, in doing so,  
42 Kawerak has assumed the responsibility of the federal  
43 government for those activities, and they will be  
44 organizing outreach and scoping meetings in those  
45 villages. And those villages will inform the design of  
46 the engagement that they will be doing for subsistence  
47 activities. Many involving wellness subsistence  
48 activities. They will collaborate with those villages  
49 to support primary subsistence food security initiatives  
50 that are identified by those tribes through those



1   scoping meetings and identify ways to put those  
2   activities on.

3  
4                   They will engage with those villages to  
5   pay for associated travel expenses and other costs  
6   associated with those subsistence and climate resiliency  
7   activities. When I met with the Native Villages of Brevig  
8   and Shishmaref, yhey identified subsistence youth camps  
9   and culture camps that they would like to do with these  
10   funds and also camps related to food preservation, such  
11   as the teaching of canning as they had mentioned that  
12   many of the communities have had difficulty due to rainy,  
13   warmer weather and drying foods. So, one of the ideas  
14   that the tribal Councils came up with was alternative  
15   methods to have good food preservation for their  
16   subsistence foods like fish, caribou and moose. So, I  
17   wanted to, you know, let the RAC know about those  
18   activities.

19  
20                   The other village that we worked with  
21   that is not in this region, but it is culturally  
22   affiliated with Bering Land Bridge National Preserve,  
23   is Deering, and Deering chose also, youth camps that  
24   perpetuate subsistence hunting, gathering, fishing as  
25   well as similar food preservation workshops. And we also  
26   just want folks to know that the first Park film is  
27   taking place right now through a contractor. They have  
28   already filmed at Serpentine Hot Springs and in  
29   Shishmaref. The intent of the National Park film is to  
30   be told by the local perspective from those village  
31   communities that utilize Bering Land Bridge, which  
32   includes Deering, Shishmaref and Wales. So, the film  
33   contractors will be filming this entire year up until  
34   about September, working with communities to film  
35   various aspects of activities that they engage in the  
36   Preserve through a local perspective. And that is our  
37   update.

38  
39                   CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Jeanette,  
40   thank you very much for your report.

41  
42                   MS. KOELSCH: Oh! I think you have some  
43   supplemental activities about some caribou interviews  
44   and another report that you guys -- I just didn't want  
45   -- I don't want to talk about them but just don't forget  
46   to look at them. I just wanted to remind you that they're  
47   in the information. So, and a fish -- fisheries work  
48   that Letty did with some OSM funds. So, they're in there.

49  
50

1 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa and  
2 yes, they -- these reports are in the supplemental  
3 materials and I did check in with Letti yesterday to  
4 talk about these two projects. They were scheduled to  
5 be presented under wildlife reports before agenda --  
6 before action items. And I'm going to make a note of  
7 this so that I can move these reports to the fall meeting  
8 as well. But in the meantime, yes, the reports are in  
9 your supplemental reports.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
12 Gisela, and thank you, Jeanette. So, we're back up to  
13 item D under 14, and that would be the Alaska Department  
14 of Fish and Game with Marianna.

15  
16 MS. MALLORY: Yeah. Hi. Sorry I stepped  
17 out for like -- for the wrong moment.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thanks for  
20 hanging around.

21  
22 MS. MALLORY: No worries. Yeah, I think  
23 Gisela. Gisela, were you able to share your screen? Thank  
24 you.

25  
26 MS. CHAPA: Yep. Coming right up.

27  
28 MS. MALLORY: Yeah. So, just -- I'll just  
29 kind of go over and brief. I know we're -- we don't have  
30 a ton of time here. But I just kind of wanted to go over  
31 the projects that are in this area or near this area  
32 that are either wrapping up or in progress or in the  
33 works. So, yeah. Next slide.

34  
35 We are working on finalizing the Western  
36 Arctic Caribou Herd project. It's a harvest assessment.  
37 So, we went to eight communities over multiple years and  
38 the published report is expected in fall 2025. And  
39 community summaries of some of the key findings from the  
40 interviews that we did with local folks as well as the  
41 harvest numbers from that survey are going to be sent  
42 to all the box holders in study communities as well. And  
43 the focus area was Golovin White Mountain Shishmaref,  
44 Selawik, Shungnak, Noatak, Deering and Kobuk. So, some  
45 of these communities in the Seward Peninsula area, and  
46 some of them are Northwest Arctic up. And down the line  
47 we are -- we're hoping to develop a new multiyear  
48 outreach and education and harvest monitoring effort,  
49 kind of tailored to the priorities of Western Arctic  
50 Herd Working Group, and feedback that we've seen from

1 the Regional Advisory Councils. In the past, I know there  
2 was a joint letter that was sent out about research  
3 priorities and hoping to have a collaboration between  
4 government partners and tribal entities and everything  
5 like that. So, we're hoping that this project can help  
6 address that. And we're also seeking feedback through  
7 that project, hopefully, and how to make the permit more  
8 reflective of subsistence harvesting patterns. Because  
9 that -- that's been a --that's been something that we've  
10 noticed that it's not the most reflective necessarily  
11 of what we see in our work. And so, we're hoping that  
12 this might help. Let me see what else.

13  
14 Oh, we are hoping to seek out some broad  
15 approval from communities within the range of the herd,  
16 and I guess feedback on what would -- what specifically  
17 they would, they would like it to revolve around. And  
18 it would also be an outreach effort, possibly with  
19 biologists. And as well as with our team and any other  
20 partners that are willing to collaborate. And kind of  
21 get a little bit more of a chance for folks to speak  
22 directly to agency representatives year-round. Next  
23 slide.

24  
25 This is happening this year. It's funded  
26 by State of Alaska Legislature, and it's a comprehensive  
27 subsistence harvest survey to kind of get a baseline  
28 understanding of subsistence harvests and use and Nome.  
29 And we'll be doing household surveys as well as  
30 ethnographic interviews and mapping, as well as some  
31 participant observation and we'll be starting community  
32 outreach in fall of 2025. Next slide.

33  
34 Currently working on the Bering Land  
35 Bridge ethnographic overview and assessment. It's  
36 basically a giant book report of ethnographic resources  
37 for the Bering Land Bridge National Park and Preserve.  
38 With the current political climate we -- our travel for  
39 this is a little bit on hold. But we are working on the  
40 draft document and we're hoping to visit communities for  
41 consultation in the summer or fall now or very late  
42 spring in 2025 if the travel holds get lifted. Next  
43 slide.

44  
45 This is slightly out of this -- out of  
46 the range of Seward Peninsula but, holds some relevance  
47 to some similar patterns that have been noted by folks  
48 throughout this meeting and State AC -- Advisory  
49 Committee meetings that I've listened into and it's in  
50 progress right now. And we are -- it's specific to

000180

1 traditional -- sorry, traditional ecological knowledge.  
2 It's the end of the day, my brain is fritzing out. And  
3 we're working on assembling some of the main themes in  
4 those interviews now and a lot of it has been on --  
5 focused on climate change and some of the issues that  
6 folks are having with processing and catching fish due  
7 to those things. Next slide. That is it. If you have any  
8 questions my cell number is on there and my email is on  
9 there as well.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you.

12

13 MS. MALLORY: Yeah, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any Council have any  
16 questions or comments? Online?

17

18 (No response)

19

20 Not hearing any. Kelsi, no? I have none.  
21 So, thank you for your presentation.

22

23 MS. MALLORY: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's good to hear  
26 everything we need to hear. I guess that brings us to  
27 the next -- BIA -- the Bureau of Land Management, BLM.  
28 Do you have anybody on there for that?

29

30 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, Gisela Chapa,  
31 for the record. I did not get any reports from BLM. Just  
32 left it in the agenda just in case.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. What about the  
35 other organizations?

36

37 MS. CHAPA: Yes, we have Heather  
38 Bauscher. Sorry if I mispronounce your name Heather,  
39 online to give the Council a report on youth engagement  
40 and more specifically, the policy practicum.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. So,  
43 Heather, you have the floor.

44

45 MS. BAUSCHER: Hello everyone and thank  
46 you so much for the invitation to speak with you today.  
47 It's been interesting listening to some of the  
48 conversations you're having and thinking about some of  
49 the similar conversations we have in Southeast. Thanks  
50 Gisela, for inviting me to present. I threw together a

1 quick document to forward around to you all with just  
2 some notes on, sort of like, how we put the program  
3 together in Southeast Alaska. Some links to more  
4 information about it. Some of the developments over the  
5 last couple of years and the key part to share with you  
6 is at the bottom, I should have put at the top. But, I  
7 think the reason I was asked is because you all are  
8 interested in building your own program for the Seward  
9 Peninsula region, and I would say -- I just wanted to  
10 join today to share a little bit about how the program  
11 in Southeast has developed over the last, I guess, 7 to  
12 10 years and some of the structure we've built to make  
13 it work. And I think the last year or two has been the  
14 most exciting progress. As Louis saw, we had probably  
15 the largest group of students we've brought to a meeting  
16 yet, and it was like the first true success of trying  
17 to pilot remote cohorts in multiple places, working with  
18 students across the region simultaneously and that was  
19 really successful. So, I just wanted to share some of  
20 that and how we put that together. But I think the key  
21 things to have something like this happen in Seward  
22 Peninsula, you're going to need -- if you want the  
23 university credit or the university component, some  
24 partnership with university. Always need some sort of  
25 school district support, and definitely the teachers in  
26 the classrooms that are your champions, that are helping  
27 to encourage the students, as well as usually some sort  
28 of additional community partner. Tribal organization is  
29 ideal or another local NGO, sort of like what Sitka  
30 Conservation Society is doing. And then the key adults  
31 that are the mentors and the chaperones from the  
32 community to support the students, and I think it's  
33 really about finding the right people. And then the other  
34 big piece, other than finding students themselves, is  
35 funding the travel, which right now all of our travel  
36 funding is through the Forest Service, because the  
37 Forest Service manages subsistence in Southeast Alaska  
38 and has a voting seat. I will say that I started some  
39 conversations last year with some of the other agencies,  
40 but given the climate we're in right now, not sure about  
41 federal funding in the future, and we're still not sure  
42 where things are going to be at for some of this in the  
43 next couple years. So, starting to look to foundation  
44 money or other funding sources. But I'll just stop there  
45 and allow anybody to ask any questions they might have  
46 about the program or how we put it together.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hey, Heather.

49

50 MS. BAUSCHER: Hi!

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any members on the  
3 Council online? This is a new thing for us to be  
4 discussing Heather, it's you know, after I seen what I'd  
5 seen out there, what you were doing over the last few  
6 years with it. We're looking at the same kind of  
7 approach, trying to bring our youth into this. So,  
8 anybody on the -- online? We've -- we had a pretty hard  
9 day. I pushed everybody pretty hard, Heather. So,  
10 everybody is.....

11  
12 MS. BAUSCHER: That's reasonable. Well,  
13 if you want, I can make a couple offers. I was encouraged  
14 by my boss to also let folks know that for the last  
15 year, we've been in the process of creating a curriculum  
16 guide with all these materials that I've developed  
17 working with the high school kids and the university  
18 program. And those -- for those who don't know I'm from  
19 the Southeast region, I guess I didn't even give my  
20 title or a proper introduction, I apologize.

21  
22 My name is Heather Bauscher. I'm the  
23 fisheries community engagement specialist for the Sitka  
24 Conservation Society, and I work with other partners  
25 like Salmon State and Alaska Conservation Foundation.  
26 Mostly on issues related to fish habitat and  
27 conservation. But, the last couple of years, my work has  
28 really been focused on education and public engagement  
29 and all these regulatory management spaces and ten years  
30 ago, I myself, as a student, started going to meetings  
31 because I wanted biology credits and then when I finished  
32 my Master's in Teaching, I got asked to help instruct  
33 the program, and based on my experience working with  
34 alternative kids at the Alternative High School in  
35 Sitka, which was all experiential based learning, we  
36 created an experiential based learning curriculum,  
37 essentially for engaging with the meetings and actually  
38 bringing kids to the physical meetings, because what I  
39 found is you can't really learn to navigate these --  
40 this from books, like you got to go do it in real life.  
41 So, it's -- the class is taught over four weeks and the  
42 students Zoom in from their different communities and  
43 little groups with an adult supporting them and then we  
44 meet in a hybrid format like that for four different  
45 classes. So, like twice a week for two hours after school  
46 leading up to the meeting to get enough background to  
47 be able to be effective and practice speaking and  
48 preparing what you might say and picking what issues you  
49 want to follow. So, that's been really successful for  
50 engagement. The Southeast RAC has loved this. They've

1 been supporting it for, oh gosh, I mean it's been them  
2 encouraging it to continue that I've been able to keep  
3 finding funding over the years to keep doing this. And  
4 really, the Forest Service just stepped up pretty heavy  
5 in the last couple years. So, hopefully that continues.  
6 Sorry, I got lost there in what I was saying, but.....

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I do that all the  
9 time.

10  
11 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah, I was explaining  
12 about the program, but anyway, we're creating a  
13 curriculum guide. Now, we've taken all that material,  
14 and we're putting it into a guide so that other people  
15 can use this material and replicate what we've got going  
16 on. So, I'm probably hopeful -- they would love me to  
17 have this done in the next week or two, but it might be  
18 a little bit longer before that's ready fully for public  
19 use, but some of the pieces of it are already usable.  
20 So, I've been given the opportunity to offer if there's  
21 a way and you have the partners and the people to put  
22 together to try and do a remote cohort for 2026, the  
23 next meeting. If we could find the funding, we could  
24 probably figure out a way to have a remote cohort in the  
25 Seward Peninsula region. But we would need the right  
26 people to come together to provide that support. So,  
27 just throwing that out as a possibility or we could  
28 arrange some time to try to come to your region to share  
29 some of this curriculum material, similarly to the way  
30 we do the community workshops, but more in a way to  
31 identify people that could help support building this  
32 sort of a program there. So, those are two ideas that  
33 we had and we're willing to try to make happen if that  
34 would be stuff that you'd be interested in. And as we  
35 get closer to finishing this curriculum guide, I'd be  
36 happy to share any of those materials.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, great. How much  
39 interaction have you had with the, like, school Board  
40 level?

41  
42 MS. BAUSCHER: I would say that I have  
43 district partners in all the communities that we've been  
44 working with. I wouldn't say that I've actually had to  
45 deal with the School Boards too much, but so, far it's  
46 been specific teachers, staff members, leadership within  
47 the schools that have really been championing their  
48 participation in the program and helping to support  
49 things so that there are possibilities for students from

1 their communities to participate in this sort of an  
2 opportunity.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Yeah. Thanks.  
5 So, that's no particular organization. Just people that  
6 were highly interested in working with kids to do this?

7  
8 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah, I think it's really  
9 been that. That's why I said it's been like; the adults  
10 have kind of been key. And even in Southeast, so we have  
11 this now happening in four, almost five communities. But  
12 the structure of who's supporting the students in each  
13 place is different, which is kind of interesting. But I  
14 think that's just because every community in Alaska is  
15 unique. So, it takes a different combination of support  
16 for this to fly in each place.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Okay. That was  
19 -- I guess I asked a good question because that gives  
20 me a little more -- who's going to fit kind of thing  
21 when it comes to talking about my community.

22  
23 MS. BAUSCHER: So, yeah, and I kind of  
24 feel like it's a couple categories. You need the school  
25 district support and like specific teachers or champions  
26 within the district that are helping to recruit the kids,  
27 potentially travel with the kids or support them or some  
28 other additional part -- community partner to fill in  
29 that capacity more. I would say it varies from community  
30 to community who is doing more of the student support  
31 and then usually it takes some additional mentors or  
32 chaperones and usually nobody or so, you know, I feel  
33 like every couple of years I'm trying to find more  
34 funding. And in each community, it's -- nobody ever has  
35 enough money on their own to make it work. But if people  
36 kind of throw in together, like Hoonah send a bigger  
37 group than the other communities, but they were able to  
38 throw in extra money from Hoonah Indian Association. And  
39 then in Petersburg, it was actually the Petersburg  
40 Rotary Association that stepped up. So, I think it can  
41 look different in each place, and it's just a matter of  
42 finding the right partners.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, cool. That's  
45 good information. Yeah, like you were saying, they'd  
46 love to see it get done in a couple of weeks or a couple  
47 of days, but it's not necessarily going to work that  
48 way. I know how that goes. So, when you do have something  
49 solid, maybe being able to provide that might, you know,  
50 I might have to go handpick some people and try to get



000185

1 people together, but I'd need to have something in my  
2 hand to show them what -- how it would, you know, how  
3 things shape up along the way.

4

5 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah I think you're spot  
6 on -- oh, sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No. You're fine.  
9 Okay.

10

11 MS. BAUSCHER: I think you're spot on  
12 with hand-picking people because, like, I definitely  
13 found that once I wasn't physically in (indiscernible)  
14 anymore. Once I moved to Petersburg, it was harder to  
15 build that. So, I think it does help being physically  
16 present in the community to at least start finding those  
17 people or building that structure. It's kind of hard to  
18 do from afar.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, it'd be almost  
21 like a radio spot with you on it, on the -- on our local  
22 radio stations to kind of promote it.

23

24 MS. BAUSCHER: Well, we could try like,  
25 I could -- we could do a workshop and like, share some  
26 of those material and like, do something like that if  
27 that's like the pre-step to actually building it, I  
28 guess. I don't know.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

31

32 MS. BAUSCHER: But also, I'm willing --  
33 very willing to help continue this conversation in the  
34 fall, too. You know, sometimes these things take time  
35 to piece together.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Great. So, I really  
38 appreciate you taking the time. You probably waited a  
39 while today because the way we were running this meeting,  
40 I guess I could say we. There's two of me.

41

42 MS. BAUSCHER: Oh, it was very  
43 interesting to listen to. I enjoyed listening.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sure. We kind of  
46 have our way about ourselves here. So, anybody online?  
47 Anything from -- I got two Council members on -- online  
48 yet.

49

50 (No response)

1  
2 Doesn't sound like anybody has any  
3 further questions or anything. So, Heather -- you're,  
4 okay?

5  
6 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Okay. Well,  
9 thank you, Heather. Really appreciate your time here.  
10 And maybe we'll be able to connect again on this at a  
11 later date, and you'll have things more solidified on  
12 how you're -- you said to something about a curriculum,  
13 so I'd be interested in seeing that.

14  
15 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah. Well thank you so  
16 much for allowing me to present to you for a bit today,  
17 and I look forward to continuing the conversation in the  
18 -- in the future and more to come with the guide and the  
19 materials.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Great. Well, thank  
22 you.

23  
24 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We'll see you around.  
27 There's more meetings to go to and we're all going to  
28 go to them. All right. All right. We'll talk to you  
29 again. Thanks.

30  
31 MS. BAUSCHER: Sounds good. Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. All right. Where  
34 are we at? So, on the -- okay. Office of Subsistence  
35 Management. Who's that going to be, Hannah? Is with  
36 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update.

37  
38 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. That's me, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Okay.

43  
44 DR. VOORHEES: All right. Well, good  
45 evening, everyone. Again, this is Hannah Voorhees  
46 anthropologist with OSM, and I'm joined on the line by  
47 Jarred Stone, who's a fisheries biologist with OSM. This  
48 is an update on the recently concluded fisheries  
49 regulatory cycle. Oh, I guess I should pause and say I  
50 think that your agenda doesn't reflect this first item.

1 So, I'll give you a brief update on the fisheries  
2 regulatory cycle, and then I'll get into the next two  
3 items on your agenda. So, the Federal Subsistence Board  
4 took action on all the fisheries proposals and closure  
5 reviews at its February fisheries regulatory meeting,  
6 and we expect the new regulations to be published in the  
7 Federal Register in late spring or early summer; fingers  
8 crossed. We'll provide a formal 805C report during your  
9 fall meeting, but I can give you a summary of the one  
10 action that was relevant to this Council, if you'd like.  
11 Just quickly.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sure.

14  
15 DR. VOORHEES: All right. So, on  
16 Fisheries Closure Review FCR 25-01, the Board retained  
17 the status quo and this was a review of the closure of  
18 the Unalakleet River upstream of the confluence of (In  
19 Native) River to the taking of chinook salmon for all  
20 users. So, the Board retained that closure. The next  
21 fishery cycle will begin during your winter 2026 meeting  
22 and at that meeting, we'll provide the Councils with  
23 draft closure reviews, if there are any, for your region.  
24 And we'll also solicit proposals to change the federal  
25 fish and shellfish regulations. And that is the end of  
26 this first update. Are there any questions?

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody on  
29 Council have questions?

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 Hearing none.

34  
35 DR. VOORHEES: All right. Well next --  
36 thank you, Mr. Chair. Next up is an update on OSM  
37 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. There are no  
38 materials for this update. The Office of Subsistence  
39 Management administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
40 Program to gather information for the management and  
41 conservation of subsistence fishery resources in federal  
42 public waters. The monitoring program is also, directed  
43 at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries  
44 management by Alaska Native and rural organizations, and  
45 promoting collaboration among federal, state, Alaska  
46 Native, and local organizations. OSM recently published  
47 the Notice of Funding opportunity for the 2026 Fisheries  
48 Resource Monitoring Program and this opportunity closes  
49 on May 16th. Application information and supporting  
50 materials are available on the Office of Subsistence

1 Management website found at [foi.gov/subsistence/frmp](http://foi.gov/subsistence/frmp).  
2 We're seeking applications for projects that address  
3 Priority Information Needs developed by the Councils,  
4 including this Council, and applications will be  
5 reviewed by the Technical Review Committee, and  
6 summaries of project proposals will be presented to you  
7 at your next meeting for your input. And that is the end  
8 of my update on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
9 Program. Unless there's questions, I'll jump into your  
10 final update.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No questions here.  
13 Online, any questions?

14  
15 (No response)

16  
17 Hearing nothing. Hannah continue,  
18 please.

19  
20 DR. VOORHEES: All right. So, finally  
21 I'll give you an update on the Partners for Fisheries  
22 Monitoring Program. The Partners Mrogram, as it's also,  
23 known, is a competitive grant for Alaska Native and rural  
24 nonprofit organizations to strengthen Alaska Native and  
25 rural involvement in federal subsistence management by  
26 providing salary funds to organizations so they can hire  
27 a professional biologist or social scientist, or an  
28 educator. Program funds can also be used for science and  
29 culture camps and paid student internships. OSM recently  
30 published the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the 2026  
31 Partners Program, which, like the FRMP NOFO closes on  
32 May 16th. Application information and submitting  
33 material are again available on the Office of  
34 Subsistence Management's website. This time you can find  
35 those materials at [doi.gov/subsistence/partners](http://doi.gov/subsistence/partners), and you  
36 can also, contact Jarred Stone or Liz Williams for more  
37 information about this program. Their contact  
38 information is on the Partners web page or if anyone at  
39 the Council meeting is interested, you can just ask any  
40 staff member. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes  
41 the update on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
42 Program and again, I am available to answer any  
43 questions. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.  
46 Members on the -- online, any questions of Hannah?

47  
48 (No response)

49  
50

1                   Okay. Hearing none. Kelsi? I don't have  
2 any. Thank you, Hannah, for your report. So, we're at  
3 Scott.

4  
5                   MR. AYERS: The OSM report. That means  
6 we're getting close to the end. This is our end of  
7 meeting wrap up report just covering all things OSM that  
8 have happened since the last meeting. So, I'll try and  
9 jump through it quickly, as we always do, because  
10 everyone's always ready to leave. So, on behalf of OSM,  
11 I want to thank you all for your service and the  
12 exceptional work that you do on behalf of your  
13 communities and user groups. We obviously value your  
14 expertise and the volunteer contribution of your time  
15 and knowledge and experience to this whole process.  
16 Doesn't work without you all so thank you.

17  
18                   I've got a handful of topics. I'll just  
19 jump through them as quickly as I can. The first one is  
20 related to the move of OSM administratively. So, as you  
21 know, Congress moved us from U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service directly into the DOI, Office of the Assistant  
23 Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget which  
24 happened July 15th of this last year. This was one of  
25 many efforts the Department of Interior has made to  
26 strengthen Federal Subsistence Management Program and  
27 ensure that federally qualified subsistence users and  
28 Alaska Native people have an opportunity for meaningful  
29 engagement in the public process implementing the  
30 federal subsistence priority. This January, President  
31 Trump returned to the white House and with him, a new  
32 team of political appointees. Doug Burgum was sworn in  
33 as Secretary of the Interior. Recently, Tyler Hasson was  
34 appointed acting senior advisor to the Secretary. So,  
35 he's exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant  
36 Secretary for the Office of Policy, Management and  
37 Budget. Meanwhile, it's been business as usual at OSM.  
38 We continue to work with many of the same people within  
39 the Office of the Secretary in Washington, D.C., who  
40 helped us as part of our transition as well as the new  
41 political appointees. In February, we welcomed new  
42 public Federal Subsistence Board members Raymond Oney  
43 of Alakanuk, Benjamin Payenna of Nome and Frank Woods  
44 of Dillingham, and completed another successful Board  
45 meeting. We hope to have, as was stated earlier, updated  
46 federal regulations for subsistence fishing published  
47 in a Final Rule in the Federal Register soonish. We'll  
48 see what that process looks like. The proposed rule for  
49 the 2026 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle published on February  
50 7th and so, the Federal Subsistence Board is accepting

1 proposals as we went through earlier today through April  
2 4th so, Friday of this week.

3  
4                   Staffing updates first, in November of  
5 this past year, Justin Kohler was promoted from  
6 fisheries biologist to regulatory -- regulation  
7 specialist. Justin seamlessly transitioned to this very  
8 complicated position and has been working diligently to  
9 push forward new register -- Federal Register issues for  
10 us. Then in December of 2024 we officially welcomed our  
11 new director Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti. She's been acting  
12 in that role for six months before she was formally  
13 hired. Previously, she was the Alaska Native affairs  
14 specialist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And  
15 among regular OSM director responsibilities. She  
16 continues to lead OSM through its administrative move  
17 and has done a great job of that. There's still a lot  
18 of little things that are lingering that we're trying  
19 to take care of and make -- remake connections on the  
20 other side sort of speak. So, we can't wait to be done  
21 with that part.

22  
23                   Starting in February, Chris McKee came  
24 over to OSM from BLM to act as our Deputy Director of  
25 Operations for four months. Chris is the subsistence  
26 coordinator at BLM and a member of the Interagency Staff  
27 Committee or ISC. Chris previously worked for OSM as the  
28 Wildlife Division supervisor and before that, a wildlife  
29 biologist until 2020 and we're excited to have him back.  
30 It's been great to have another person in the office,  
31 even if it's temporary. On that note, I was formally  
32 appointed as Deputy Director of OSM just a few weeks  
33 ago. I personally started at OSM as a fisheries biologist  
34 in 2016 and have been our Fisheries Division supervisor  
35 since 2021 so, I'm excited about the new role. OSM  
36 fisheries biologist Karen Hyer recently retired so she  
37 could dedicate more of her time to finding fish in the  
38 high -- in the deep seas. Karen was a specialist in the  
39 Northwest Arctic region for many years and was heavily  
40 involved in the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
41 program. Her dedication and sense of humor and service  
42 training puppies will be missed at OSM. She regularly  
43 brought puppies in, and it was great. It was like she  
44 was training them, but they were like service dogs for  
45 the whole staff. It was fantastic.

46  
47                   OSM State liaison George Pappas moved  
48 to a new job with the State of Alaska Department of Fish  
49 and Game. He's now the director of the Division of  
50 Subsistence. George was a great leader at OSM, and while

1 we miss his insight and humor at our office meetings,  
2 we know he'll be excellent in his new role and look  
3 forward to working with him in that capacity. And lastly,  
4 we're heartbroken to share that our longtime Solicitor,  
5 Ken Ward, unexpectedly passed a few weeks ago. Although  
6 he worked mostly behind the scenes, Ken was truly  
7 dedicated to rural subsistence users in Alaska and  
8 (indiscernible) Title VIII of ANILCA. He was incredibly  
9 knowledgeable about ANILCA and always took the time to  
10 calmly explain it to the rest of us. Our thoughts will  
11 always be with him and his family.

12  
13 Real ID for travel. We continue to  
14 remind the Council members about change and requirements  
15 for U.S. travelers who must be real I.D. compliant to  
16 board domestic flights and access certain federal  
17 facilities beginning May 7th, 2025. So, this is coming  
18 up soon, finally, until it gets pushed again. Every air  
19 traveler will need to present a Real ID compliant  
20 identification to fly within the United States even when  
21 you fly on small commercial bush carriers. For our  
22 program, you will need to have your Real ID in time to  
23 travel to your fall 2025 Council meetings. Anyone  
24 looking for more information on this can go to the State  
25 of Alaska's Division of Motor Vehicles website.

26  
27 UNIDENTIFIED: Do tribal ID also works?  
28 (Indiscernible).

29  
30 MR. AYERS: Correspondence. Councils  
31 have received a handful of responses earlier this year  
32 from Secretaries based on issues raised during  
33 individual Council meetings and at the All Council  
34 meeting this past winter. OSM has also integrated a  
35 correspondence review standing agenda item in the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board meetings to keep them  
37 appraised of all ongoing and completed correspondence  
38 and -- to and from the Councils. We're aware of concerns  
39 that have been raised on timely responses and are  
40 continuing to work on ways to help expedite things moving  
41 forward. Councils generate a lot of correspondence, and  
42 often it's very slow to get the process, not necessarily  
43 out but get anything back and we're really trying hard  
44 to keep tabs on that and keep things moving as best we  
45 can.

46  
47 Upcoming meeting dates. The Federal  
48 Subsistence Board will hold a summer work session on  
49 July 23 and 24 of this year to discuss Annual Report  
50 replies, Council correspondence, and Council and non-

1 voting youth member -- youth leader nominations. So,  
2 we're excited about that. Tribal and ANCSA consultations  
3 on wildlife regulatory proposals and closure reviews  
4 will take place in August on the 23rd and 24th. There'll  
5 be future announcements about that for this -- in regards  
6 to times for those consultations. And for next year,  
7 we're looking at the weeks of January 28th and 29th or  
8 the weeks of February 4th and 5th for the Board's FRMP  
9 work session. We're also looking at the weeks of April  
10 6th through 10th or the 13th through 17th for the next  
11 wildlife regulatory meeting. And lastly, a quick  
12 litigation update. An update was provided to the Council  
13 during the fall 2024 Council meeting cycle. Since then,  
14 in the Kake Emergency Hunt matter, which is Alaska  
15 Department of Fish and Game versus the Federal  
16 Subsistence Board briefing has been completed before the  
17 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and a three judge  
18 appellate panel heard oral arguments on February 7th.  
19 We expect a decision sometime this summer. In the  
20 Kuskokwim matter, which is the United States versus  
21 ADF&G, the district court found in favor of the United  
22 States on claims and enjoined the State from taking  
23 further actions in violation of Title VIII on the  
24 Kuskokwim River. The State has appealed and briefing  
25 before the Court of Appeals is now complete. Oral  
26 arguments is scheduled for this coming month, April 11th  
27 and that's all I have for the OSM report.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Scott.

30  
31 MR. AYERS: Yep.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That leaves us -- any  
34 questions, comments online?

35  
36 (No response)

37  
38 Hearing none. Nothing for me. Nothing  
39 from you. Thank you. We are at.....

40  
41 MS. CHAPA: Other business.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Other  
44 Business, right here.

45  
46 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And it says Chair  
49 says that and then you say A, B and C.

50



1 MS. CHAPA: Yes. Gisela Chapa for the  
2 record, I'm just going to provide the Council a quick  
3 overview of the Council correspondence that's gone out  
4 since our fall meeting and it's not an action item. And  
5 I will reference both of you and on online, page 30 of  
6 your supplemental packet, that is the packet that is  
7 stapled, as the drafted letter that the Council  
8 requested to be sent to the Federal Subsistence Board  
9 about their concerns -- about the concerns on the trawl  
10 fishery on the Bering Sea salmon and the marine  
11 environment. And so, this letter was sent to the Board  
12 on March 12th and requests the Board to elevate these  
13 concerns to the Secretaries of the Interior and  
14 Agriculture. On page 32 of your supplemental materials,  
15 you also have a letter that was drafted to Nome public  
16 schools and Bering Straits School District. And this was  
17 in reference to an action item from the fall meeting  
18 wanting to have the school districts more engaged. But  
19 more specifically, in this letter, we were -- Council  
20 requested to explore opportunities to engage younger  
21 generations in the Federal Subsistence Management  
22 Program and in addition to that, the letter extended an  
23 invitation to both districts to attend the meeting. And  
24 at that point to have more dialogue regarding this  
25 priority, and after the meeting was approved and signed,  
26 I did reach out to both school districts to extend the  
27 invitation to the meeting. One representative from the  
28 Nome Public School District was planning on attending  
29 the meeting in Nome since she was based in Nome, but  
30 unfortunately, the weather happened, and not available  
31 for that. And if this continues to be a priority to the  
32 Council, I can continue to engage with the school  
33 districts and again, just to extend the invitation to  
34 upcoming Council meetings if this continues to be a topic  
35 of priority for the Council, and I can answer any  
36 questions. And that's -- that is Council correspondence  
37 updates.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.

40  
41 MS. IVANOFF: Did you hear anything back  
42 from the SSD? I.

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: I was able to talk to the  
45 assistant. I don't have her title.

46  
47 MS. IVANOFF: The superintendent's  
48 assistant?

49  
50 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

1

2

MS. IVANOFF: Kathy.

3

4

MS. CHAPA: Yes. Kathy. They seem pretty interested. The superintendent was tied up in a meeting at the time that I called and I followed up with more information. They -- both school districts seemed interested. But again, I think it might just be a matter of hearing directly from the Council and what the desires are in engaging the young ones.

11

12

13

14

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, I can't wait till Heather gets her stuff compiled into a curriculum. Because then there's something -- there's a tangible?

15

16

17

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

18

19

20

21

22

23

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And then say, go to the college campus schools and say, here, this is what's going on here. What part do you want on this? You know, the our region is pretty diverse and, you know, and so, it would be interesting to see what fish bites the hook.

24

25

26

27

MS. CHAPA: And I will also say the letters were also sent to the school boards as well. So, they went to the superintendents and school boards.

28

29

30

31

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right on.

32

33

34

35

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nobody online has anything for Gisela or...? S

36

37

38

39

(No response)

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. CHAPA: Okay. The next update for the Council is a young leader seat update. And this is a little refresher here. In fiscal year 22, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture added language to the Council charters adding the one non-voting young leader member to each Council. And this year, we advertise the opportunity for youth to join all RACs and the application closed February 16th. Our Council did not receive any letter -- letters of interest this cycle. And I would love to hear suggestions from you all, like what are those entities or organizations

1 that we should be reaching out to during the next cycle  
2 where we try to recruit the -- yeah.

3  
4 MS. IVANOFF: I know that was also the  
5 deadline for vacant seats. Was that -- were there any  
6 applicants for vacant?

7  
8 MS. CHAPA: For -- yeah. To -- for a  
9 regular Council members -- I shouldn't say regular, for  
10 our Council members, yes, and we received two  
11 applications for reappointment and one new application.  
12 But that still leaves -- even if we have reappointments  
13 in a new application. I think that still leaves us with  
14 two vacancies.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Two vacant?

17  
18 MS. CHAPA: I believe so, yeah. And if  
19 the Council doesn't have any other questions, I can move  
20 on to the next item.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. There you go,  
23 next item.

24  
25 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Again, this is just an  
26 update on a discussion that was brought up during the  
27 fall 2024 meeting and it's the use of per diem cards.  
28 Last meeting I had shared that the way Council members  
29 received travel advances and per diem -- stipends for  
30 when attending Council meetings is changing. And instead  
31 of getting a check now you have an option to either get  
32 a stipend card, which is kind of like a debit card that  
33 we pre-load with a travel advance payment to the card  
34 so the Council members can use it during their travel.  
35 And then we load the final payment directly onto the  
36 card, or the alternative is to have Council members elect  
37 a direct deposit option. But with this option, we don't  
38 provide a travel advance. We just provide the whole  
39 stipend at the end of the travel as part of the voucher.  
40 And this isn't necessarily something that needs to be  
41 discussed on the record, but I will follow up with all  
42 Council members either after the meeting or over the  
43 phone just to see what your preference is so that we can  
44 proceed and do all the administrative work behind it.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Then the card will  
47 be like a preloaded.....

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

50

000196

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You know, Starbucks  
2 card or wherever you -- a gift card.

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: Not necessarily a gift card.

5  
6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I mean.....

8  
9 MS. CHAPA: More like a debit card.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: But yeah, debit card.  
12 Gift card.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: So, instead of mailing or  
15 having checks at the meeting and having Council members  
16 sign for it, we'll just do that automatically on the  
17 card, or we can take care of that through direct deposit  
18 after the meeting. And that is the end of my.....

19  
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That is it.

23  
24 MS. CHAPA: (Indiscernible).

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, that brings us  
27 that was item 15. And we went through ABC. We're down  
28 to closing comments. Some of those fellows on the on the  
29 phone there kind of did that I think, closing comments.  
30 But I'll call on you again, Elmer, just to see if you  
31 had anything to add. our closing comments.

32  
33 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
34 Mission. Yes, I forgot to mention that I didn't receive  
35 no supplemental information from the tribal government.  
36 I don't think anyone is working there. Acknowledged my  
37 wife was receiving communication from Giselda - Gisela  
38 -- the coordinator, and then helping me set up the modern  
39 technology I call computer. Most of the information that  
40 came out of my lips were knowledge that I received from  
41 -- received or witnessed or observed during the years  
42 that I have served on Regional Advisory Council and a  
43 lot of technology, but I think she gave me a passing  
44 grade of F. I mean, I mean, D because it's done. Thank  
45 you.

46  
47 (Shared laughter)

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa and  
50 Council members Seetot, you get an A++. I was actually

1 thinking of mailing you a certificate. And I do realize  
2 the challenges with our meeting, I will follow up and  
3 send the -- additional copies of the supplemental  
4 materials and other information that were shared with  
5 me throughout the meeting. So, you have that for your  
6 records, but A++ in my opinion.

7  
8 MR. SEETOT: Thank you very much. And  
9 then, Mr. Green, I guess you're healthy because your  
10 grandma fed you well during the early years, as was most  
11 of the elders that help us grow up. And I remember those  
12 times, you know, when you talk about Kuzitrin River  
13 because, you know, it's been 67 years since -- since  
14 about 60 years since that time, you know, that everything  
15 was family, community oriented, family. Now it's a me  
16 generation with all their modern technology, which I'm  
17 not able to really master. So, thank you very much for  
18 the staff. Thank you for everything that has transpired  
19 up to this point. Once again, a very good fast meeting,  
20 two page into one. Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you,  
23 Elmer. This made me think (indiscernible). I went back  
24 to the early 60s and remembered the (In Native) Gussie  
25 and Joe Garnie and my grandma Elsie Ball, John Earl,  
26 these Isaac (In Native) and Clifford (In Native). Those  
27 are the good old days. And the people on the river there  
28 were all so close. So, yeah, this this new era we're in  
29 is kind of foreign in the -- in a sense that it's not  
30 the same as it was. You know, change happens. Thank you  
31 for your comments. And we'll move on to Mr. Ron Kirk.

32  
33 MR. KIRK: Yeah. Yeah, it was a good,  
34 productive meeting. And Yeah, the good old days are gone.  
35 Back in -- about 50 years ago, when we went down to our  
36 fish camp about 20 miles from here, we'd have a little  
37 village over there with everybody helping each other  
38 fishing. But now -- nowadays, everybody stays home and  
39 jump on a boat and go check the net around the corner  
40 or somewhere and come right back home. They don't even  
41 take time to gather subsistence together again and  
42 become a community. And we just had our annual potlatch,  
43 and I'm glad we always have our annual potlatch. I was  
44 able to talk to the Yukon people down there in Kotlik,  
45 especially the younger generation concerning how we need  
46 to keep our Native culture alive, our Eskimo dancing  
47 alive to get the spirits up among our young people.  
48 Because Alaska has a lot of suicides in the villages  
49 with young people. And that's where I was able to talk  
50 to over a hundred people there, a lot of villages, I was

1 able to pass that on. And but I sure miss our elders way  
2 of putting the communities together and having the young  
3 people work together. Thanks for this -- our time, Mr.  
4 Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron --  
7 Councilman Kirk. Kelsi.

8  
9 MS. IVANOFF: I just want to thank  
10 everyone for welcoming me. It was a good first meeting.  
11 Really intense being one day, but good. I like getting  
12 things done fast and orderly like that. I liked it. And  
13 for the staff and their adaptability to this. And hope  
14 you guys get some rest after, especially you, Gisela.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: She's going to get -  
17 - she earned her wings.

18  
19 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, my badge.....

20  
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22  
23 MS. IVANOFF: .....MVP gold now.

24  
25 (Shared laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: She's probably  
28 almost in the right seat of the jet.

29  
30 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, (indiscernible).

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I  
33 guess that's up to me. You know just - Elmer you just  
34 brought back old memories that pretty well sustained me.  
35 I, you know, I've trained a lot of kids over the years.  
36 I got kids 39 down to nine. So, that tells you the spread  
37 of their friends that were in my boat or at my camps  
38 and, you know, just kind of passed on from my grandmother  
39 to my mother and father. At Pilgrim Springs, we had  
40 everybody's kids out there, and that was before the road  
41 was built in there. There would be (indiscernible) --  
42 drop (indiscernible) -- (indiscernible) dropping his  
43 kids off with his plane, or Ron Engstrom coming out  
44 there with a boat and dropping off but there's always  
45 something. The Johnson family, like Doug Johnson and and  
46 Matt and the crew there, Cecil Johnson's, Bonnie  
47 Johnson's kids, they're always there different times of  
48 the year, but. Planting season and then, you know,  
49 harvest out there was a big deal with the young people.  
50 So, remembering what -- the ways I was brought up, it

1 was my grandmother, you know, somebody goes, how'd you  
2 learn how to shoot like that? I said, my dad took me to  
3 the dump and learned. I learned how to shoot good. But  
4 when I went hunting, it was with my grandmother. She  
5 taught me how to hunt well. We ate good. So, trying to  
6 bring that forward is, you know, been difficult over the  
7 years. And we've all experienced it. How the economy and  
8 things have changed things for us. But so, it's good to  
9 get back. I know, Elmer, I was raised in Imuruk Basin,  
10 just like you were. And I'm sure glad I was as I bring  
11 my kids up there, too now.

12  
13 So, thanks to the staff -- the  
14 adaptability of the staff. You know, the Native people,  
15 we always say we know how to adapt. And so does everybody  
16 in the room. We're all part of the same thing, the same  
17 family. So, appreciate all that and all the people that  
18 were on the phone. There were some people that waited a  
19 long time. Heather was -- I don't know how -- I didn't  
20 know she was on. She must have been on for quite a while.  
21 Her comment about how things were interesting here. So,  
22 thanks to everybody. Well, I pushed it kind of hard, and  
23 I guess I felt we could -- we were talking about it this  
24 morning before we did the meeting. I thought we might  
25 be able to put it through in one day. Thanks to  
26 everybody's hard work we got there. So, until the next  
27 time, and appreciate people from the public getting on  
28 the phone and listening in and taking part in these  
29 processes. So, it's important and and it's hard to get  
30 people to come and take part in it. So, thank you for  
31 the ones that were here and that's it.

32  
33 MR. SEETOT: That's what good leaders do,  
34 Mr. Chair. That's what good leaders do, you know, to get  
35 things done. Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is  
38 that Jarred waving at us?

39  
40 MR. STONE: Yes, sir.

41  
42 (Simultaneous speech)

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: .....today you're in  
45 the mountains.

46  
47 MR. STONE: I wish, I wish, yeah. No,  
48 good meeting.

49  
50

000200

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, anybody on the  
2 staff? Anybody got anything to add to it on the staff?

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: I will if I'm allowed, Mr.  
5 Chairman.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: (Indiscernible) was  
8 allowing.

9  
10 MS. CHAPA: Gisela.....

11  
12 (Simultaneous speech)

13  
14 .....I want to say it was unfortunate  
15 not to be able to get to see most of the Council members  
16 in person. But, you know, we got to fall to do that.  
17 Also, it was great to meet you in person after so many  
18 texts and travel changes, etc. It's great to finally put  
19 a face to the name and the number. And I also want to  
20 acknowledge all the hard work and like you said,  
21 adaptability from everybody in the staff to try to think  
22 on our feet and try to have the best possible way to  
23 still have our meeting. Give the Council an opportunity  
24 to provide and contribute put together proposals before  
25 the deadline. I know everybody worked really hard and  
26 yeah, I hope -- thank you to everyone and I hope  
27 everybody gets some rest after this.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Great job. So,  
30 Gisela, you're the coordinator.

31  
32 MS. CHAPA: Everybody.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I know they all  
35 kicked in, too. Somebody's gotta tell somebody. You're  
36 the one that tells me what to do. And I think maybe you  
37 have something to do with them, too. Maybe a little bit.  
38 Yeah. Anybody else?

39  
40 (No response)

41  
42 Item 17 is, ask for a motion to adjourn.

43  
44 MS. IVANOFF: Move too adjourn.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi moved.

47  
48 MR. KIRK: Second.

49  
50 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second from Ron.



000201

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

MR. KIRK: Yep.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. KIRK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN .....good hunting  
season down there.

MR. KIRK: Yeah. Thank you. You too.

MR. SEETOT: Thank you. (In Native).

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: (In Native)

(Shared laughter)

Okay. So, we're adjourned at 3 or 5:47.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDING)

## 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 201 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 1st day of April;

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 25th day of April 2025.

---

Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager