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KODIAC/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

COLD BAY COMMUNITY CENTER
Cold Bay, Alaska
September 17, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Skinner, Chair
Jeff Wasley
Patrick Holmes
Samuel Rohrer
Coral Chernoff
Daniel Smith
Natasha Hayde
Brett Richardson

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/17/2025)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay so, it's 9:02. I guess we'll go ahead and kick off our events. And then for audio, obviously, if you're having any issues hearing, just jump in or wave your hand to let us know that the audio is not coming through. Okay. So, we're going to go ahead and start with the invocation before we do the call to order. This is the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council fall meeting September 17th through 18th, 2025 in Cold Bay. And Pat Holmes, if you're on, would you like to give the invocation?

MR. HOLMES: Yeah.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, you are coming through loud and clear.

MR. HOLMES: I think I've got at least the verbal part. Okay, finest time. I would like to continue Becky's swell work on welcoming folks to our meeting. Normally at this point, I would be holding up a carving that for our RAC Council of Liitna' Suu the ultimate deity of the Alutiiq people and reference to our needs to be thinking about at our meeting, trying to solve things and provide for the greatest opportunity for subsistence for folks that live in our region and hope that we can do this in the best sense of duty and spirituality. And so, I would ask folks to perhaps think of the -- for a few seconds here on trying to do that. and so often myself I will say the Lord's Prayer if you folks would like to do that, that would be great.

So, unfortunately, I'm 80 and I forget things when I get started. So, just let's just have about a minute here to just stop and think in a really positive way on how we can accomplish the goals for our Council. Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the

1 power, and the glory, forever. Amen. So, there we go and
2 back to Becky.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks,
5 Pat. Okay so, before we do roll call and establish
6 quorum, just a reminder, if you're going to speak, make
7 sure you're at a mic and you hit the button when you see
8 the red light, you're ready to go. And I will go ahead
9 and hand it over to Leigh for roll call and establishing
10 quorum.

11
12 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Leigh
13 Honig for the record I'll begin with Jeff Wasley.

14
15 MR. WASLEY: Present.

16
17 MS. HONIG: Pat Holmes.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Present.

20
21 MS. HONIG: Thank you. Karen Kalmakoff
22 is absent and excused. Sam, were you able to call in?

23
24 (No answer)

25
26 MS. HONIG: Coral Chernoff.

27
28 MS. CERNOFF: Here.

29
30 MS. HONIG: Rebecca Skinner.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Here.

33
34 MS. HONIG: Daniel Smith.

35
36 MR. SMITH: Here.

37
38 MS. HONIG: Natasha Hayden.

39
40 MS. HAYDEN: Here. Good morning.

41
42 MS. HONIG: And Brett Richardson.

43
44 MR. RICHARDSON: Here.

45
46 MS. HONIG: We have seven out of nine
47 seated Council members so, we have a quorum. Thank you,
48 Madam Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Great, thank you.
2 The next item is meeting announcements.

3
4 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Once
5 again, this is Leigh Honig Council Coordinator, for the
6 record, and I have a few housekeeping items to go over
7 before we begin the introductions. So, this is a
8 regulatory meeting that is being recorded and
9 transcribed. For those attending our meeting in person
10 there is a sign-in sheet at the table at the front. If
11 you could sign in for each day that you're here, we'd
12 appreciate that. And for those joining online, we do
13 have the agenda and all the meeting materials at our
14 website at doi.gov/subsistence and if you go to the
15 Regions tab it's under the Meeting Materials tile. For
16 those online please remember to mute yourselves when you
17 are not addressing the Council. If you have called in,
18 you may press star six to mute and unmute yourself. Once
19 again, this is a regulatory meeting, and the Council
20 will be discussing and deliberating on wildlife
21 proposals. There will be an opportunity for tribal and
22 public comments during that proposal period. I'd also
23 like to remind folks that there will be time for tribal
24 and public comments on non-agenda items. The Chair will
25 announce these each morning, and there will be an
26 opportunity for those present, as well as those
27 participating on the phone to speak on non-agenda items.
28 We would ask that you hold any comments on proposals or
29 agenda items until such time that they come up before
30 the Council so they can hear all pertinent information
31 at that time when they are working through the proposals.

32
33 If you would like to address the Council
34 during the meeting for folks in the room, we have a blue
35 comment card that you can fill out and you can hand it
36 to myself or any other OSM staff member. This will help
37 us keep track of anybody who would like to speak
38 regarding a specific agenda item. And if you are online
39 using the Teams platform, you can raise your hand and
40 if you are calling in, you may raise your hand by
41 pressing star five. You may also email in your comments
42 if you would like to subsistence@ios.dio.gov. And if
43 you're unable to stay with us until the public comment
44 opportunity is open, you can submit the comment via our
45 email and please indicate your name, affiliation and
46 what proposal your comment addresses. The written
47 comments are going to be accepted until the start of the
48 presentation of each proposal. It is also, important to
49 remember to identify yourself before addressing the
50 Council so we can keep record of who is speaking

1 properly. All right. Thank you very much for allowing
2 me to share this information, Madam Chair.

3
4 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Great. Thank you,
5 Leigh. Okay. The next item is welcome and introductions,
6 and I'm going to start online -- that's not true. I'm
7 going to run through my list and if you're online, you
8 can introduce yourself. If you're in the room, you can
9 come forward. So, I'll start with the federal agencies.
10 So, we'll start with -- I see Glenn up so, we're going
11 to start with BIA.

12
13 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madam Chair and
14 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the
15 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
16 Affairs. Always a pleasure to attend your meetings.

17
18 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Great, thank you. Is
19 there anyone else from BIA on the line?

20
21 (No response)

22
23 Okay, next, we'll go to Fish and
24 Wildlife Service. I don't think we have anyone in the
25 room so, we'll start with online Fish and Wildlife
26 Service.

27
28 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
29 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator with
30 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm based in Anchorage,
31 out of the regional office and also, the Interagency
32 Staff Committee member. So, good morning.

33
34 MR. SCHWENGER: Good morning. I'm Dave
35 Schwenger, I'm Acting Refuge Manager at Kodiak National
36 Wildlife Refuge.

37
38 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: All right. Is there
39 anyone else online from Fish and Wildlife Service?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Okay. We'll go next to OSM. I'm sorry,
44 we'll start in the room.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madam Chair,
47 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Katya
48 Wessels and I'm Council Coordination Division Supervisor
49 with OSM. And currently I'm also acting deputy assistant
50 -- sorry, Deputy Director for Operations. Thank you.

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DR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the Council, I'm Jason Roberts. I'm an Anthropologist with OSM.

MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the Council. I'm Kendra Holman, and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: That was everyone from OSM in the room. We'll go to OSM people who are online.

MR. STONE: Good morning. Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with OSM. Glad to be here.

MS. MCDAVID: Good morning. This is Brooke McDavid. I'm Council Coordinator for Eastern Interior and Y-k Delta.

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, I'm not.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. DAY: Good morning, everyone. Oh, one more. Sorry, Chair. Good morning. This is Janel Day, Cartographer with Office of Subsistence Management.

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you. I'm not hearing anyone else from OSM. Okay, are there any other federal agencies online that I didn't specifically call on?

(No response)

Okay. Hearing none. Are there any people from Alaska Department of Fish and Game online?

MR. POETTER: Yeah, good morning. My name is Aaron Poetter. I'm the new Federal Subsistence Liaison with the Division of Wildlife Conservation. I'll be working with the -- Mark Birch who has been your previous point of contact on this transition to become the primary based out of Anchorage. Good morning.

MS. CHRISTIANSEN: Good morning. This is Maddie Christiansen. I'm the Subsistence Resource Specialist for Southwest.

1 MS. VANDERVOORT: Good morning. This is
2 Amy Vandervoort. I'm the area Wildlife Biologist for
3 Fish and Game over Units 9 and 10.

4
5 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: All right. Is there
6 anyone else from Fish and Game online?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Okay. Are there any other government
11 agencies, whether federal or state, that I haven't
12 specifically called on who are online?

13
14 (No response)

15
16 Okay. And then we'll go to anyone else
17 online. So, this would be Tribes, Native corporations
18 and members of the public. Do we have anyone else online
19 who needs to introduce themselves?

20
21 MS. ANDERSON: Hi, I'm Shanoy Anderson
22 with the Qawalangin Tribe and I have my Coordinator here,
23 Keegan Jones, online as well.

24
25 MR. JONES: Yep. I'm Keegan with the
26 Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska.

27
28 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Is there
29 anyone else?

30
31 (No response)

32
33 Okay. Not hearing anyone. We'll come
34 back to Council members. So, for this section, for the
35 introduction, if you could keep it brief, maybe your
36 name, the community you're from. If you want to state
37 an entity that you're with, you can do that. We're going
38 to have an opportunity for Council member reports. So,
39 that's where you share the -- you have more time to
40 share more information at that point. So, I'm going to
41 start to my left. That'll be Daniel.

42
43 MR. SMITH: Good morning, everyone. I'm
44 Daniel Smith representing Kodiak subsistence users. I'm
45 also the Tribal Biologist with the Shungnak Tribe of
46 Kodiak.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak
49 representative.

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1 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: And we'll skip over
2 to Brett.

3
4 MR. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Brett
5 Richardson, representing Unalaska.

6
7 MR. WASLEY: Good morning. This is Jeff
8 Wasley, representing Cold Bay. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, and then
11 online Pat.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: I'm just trying to figure
14 out how to drive this machine anyway. Yeah. Pat Holmes,
15 Kodiak lived and worked almost every place on -- in our
16 region. Anyway, I -- hopefully we'll try to do my best
17 here on working way through things. I guess I'm kind of
18 the token geezer elder of the group, but anyway. Thank
19 you.

20
21 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: And Natasha.

22
23 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning. Natasha
24 Hayden. I am in Kodiak. I serve on the Native Village
25 of Afognak Tribal Council, and I've got I represent
26 subsistence and all users really, here in our region.
27 Thanks.

28
29 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks. And I'll
30 check again if Sam was able to join.

31
32 (No response)

33
34 Okay, and my name is Rebecca Skinner.
35 I'm from Kodiak and I'd like to welcome everyone to our
36 KARAC Fall meeting for 2025. We'll go on to the next
37 agenda item number 6, which is review and adopt the
38 agenda. So, if we can have a motion to adopt the agenda
39 and then if we have changes or commentary, we'll do that
40 after we have a motion. Can I have a motion to adopt the
41 agenda?

42
43 MR. RICHARDON: I move to adopt the
44 agenda.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: I moved move to adopt.

47
48 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, Coral
49 Chernoff said second. Alright. We have a motion and a
50 second. So, I do want to note for the agenda item number

1 7, report from the Secretary's Office that will be given
2 by Sara Taylor, who is supposed to be flying out here
3 to Cold Bay. She's not going to arrive until noon. So,
4 we're going to take number 7 out of order. We'll just
5 take it after she arrives at a at a natural breaking
6 point. So, that's one kind of change I wanted to
7 highlight. Before we get into other additions or
8 specific changes in general. We're going to be starting
9 at 5. I do plan to break for lunch right around noon so,
10 and I think an hour for lunch should be fine for us here
11 because I think we have food left over, potluck food.
12 So, lunch will be approximately 12 to 1 and then I
13 anticipate wrapping up around 5 just to give people an
14 idea of when the break points are. So, for the agenda,
15 are there any other additions or changes questions or
16 comments on the agenda before we approve it?

17
18 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, Leigh Hoenig,
19 for the record. There are just some very minor changes
20 under item 11, Council training. We are just going to
21 move item c, the members roles and responsibilities
22 first, and then we'll go through how to make, amend and
23 rescind a motion and then the proposal and closure review
24 procedure. So, those items are fresh on the Council's
25 mind before we jump into the proposals. Additionally,
26 at the end of the agenda item 15B, the correspondence
27 update can be removed from the agenda as there was no
28 correspondence generated at the winter meeting that
29 needs to be discussed. Those are all the changes I had.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thanks,
33 Leigh. The other comment that I wanted to make is that
34 in regards to number 7, we will hear the presentation
35 from Sara Taylor when she arrives. I anticipate that
36 will be today. But, if we do take action to generate RAC
37 comments, I don't plan to take that up until tomorrow
38 so, that we have time to hear the presentation, absorb
39 it, think about what comments we'd want to make, and
40 then we would take action on that tomorrow. And
41 similarly, for the -- our annual report, which is item
42 12.c.ii, if we get to that today, we can start the --
43 open up the topic for the annual report. But I plan to
44 take action on the annual report tomorrow so that we do
45 have today and tomorrow to think about what items we
46 want to identify. So, there will not be action on that
47 particular item today, even if we get to it on the
48 agenda. Okay. Are there any other comments, questions
49 or changes?

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 Okay. Seeing and hearing none. Is there
4 any objection to approving the agenda with the changes
5 noted?

6

7 (No response)

8

9 Okay. I don't see or hear any objection.
10 The agenda is approved. So, item 7 again, we'll skip
11 over this one until the presenter arrives. So, we're up
12 to agenda item 8 review and approve previous meeting
13 minutes. This should be in page 7 of the thick meeting
14 book that we have. And again, if we could get a motion
15 to approve the minutes and then if there's corrections
16 or changes, we'll take those and then we'll take the
17 vote. Is there a motion to approve the previous meeting
18 minutes?

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve, Madam
21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Pat. Is
24 there a second?

25

26 MR. RICHARDSON: Second.

27

28 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, thank you. Is
29 there any discussion or questions on the previous
30 meeting? Minutes. Go ahead, Daniel.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
33 Just one comment on Council member reports for my report.
34 When I was talking about the increasing number of
35 overwintering swans along the Road System. This is on
36 page 9, and then it mentions specifically in Lake Rose
37 Tead and Carlson Pond. If we could change Carlson Pond
38 to Kalsin Pond.

39

40 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, and Kalson, K
41 A L S I N?

42

43 MR. SMITH: Yes.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: For the AI. Thanks.

46

47 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Is there any
50 further comment or corrections to the minutes, or would

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1 people like a few minutes just to double check there's
2 no additional comments?

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Couple minutes.

7

8 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, thanks Pat.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, if
13 everyone's had a chance to take a look at the minutes,
14 are there any further corrections or clarifications
15 before we take action?

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, I don't have
18 anything, but I noticed that we had that discussion about
19 youth membership. Perhaps later in the meeting we might
20 have a -- update us if we've progressed on that at all.
21 Thank you, Madam Chair.

22

23 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Question, is
24 anyone -- do we have any OSM staff that plan to speak
25 to the Federal Subsistence Board work session or actions
26 regarding youth membership? Because I think -- okay, so,
27 that will be covered somewhere. Thank you, Pat. Okay.
28 So, with that, is there any objection to approving the
29 previous meeting minutes? And just for the record, that
30 would be meeting minutes from our March 6th through 7th,
31 2025 meeting.

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Okay. Seeing and hearing none. The
36 minutes are approved. Next -- All right, next agenda
37 item, the regional subsistence Sends reports. So, we'll
38 start with Council member reports. And again, I will
39 start to my left. So, Daniel, if you'd like to give your
40 Council member report.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
43 So, it was a very abundant spring for emperor geese in
44 Kodiak. Winter counts from earlier this year, conducted
45 by the Shungnak Tribe of Kodiak had indicated an increase
46 in birds overwintering on the Kodiak Road System
47 compared to previous counts that occurred in 2010 and
48 2015 through 2017. This is unlike the statewide decline
49 that has been occurring over the past five years. The
50 emperor geese have arrived to Kodiak just over the last

1 few weeks from their fall migration and on our first
2 fall survey, we counted just over 600 birds in Women's
3 Bay and Middle Bay combined. This seems right around
4 25:00 schedule compared to last year when we conducted
5 these counts. But I did get some reports from down at
6 the south end and east side of Kodiak, near Tugidak
7 Island, as well as Old Harbor, that there weren't any
8 geese down there yet. So, that's interesting that they
9 may potentially station on the Kodiak Road System going
10 farther south later in the fall. Two local Aleutian tern
11 colonies were monitored this year on the Kodiak Road
12 System. There were higher numbers of Aleutian terns at
13 both of these colony areas compared to recent years of
14 near 200 Aleutian terns at the Pasagshak Lake or Lake
15 Rose Tead colony, and around 40 to 50 at the Kalsin Spit
16 colony. But unfortunately, there was not a high nesting
17 success in these birds due to predation by land mammals
18 and birds such as crows and magpies as well as
19 disturbance from people. Over the egg incubation and
20 chick rearing phase, there was only an estimated five
21 fledglings that survived from that colony of 200 and 3
22 fledglings that survived at the Kalsin Spit colony. A
23 statewide Aleutian tern survey was just completed by
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agency
25 partners this year, and so, we should have a more
26 thorough understanding of those statewide population
27 level trends soon.

28
29 The Buskin signal crayfish still appear
30 to be having a downward trend in population size based
31 on suppression efforts that we have conducted near-
32 weekly this year and by hosting monthly summer community
33 events to get more people involved in this control
34 effort, by trying to suppress this crayfish population
35 in the Buskin. Signal crayfish have been known to be
36 very omnivorous and opportunistic in their diet, and
37 data suggests from an ongoing dietary intake study that
38 crayfish consume diverse food types throughout the year,
39 and these crayfish tend to increase by eating animal
40 based, nutrient rich food sources like salmon carcasses
41 later in the summer and into the fall while they're
42 available, while consuming aquatic plant material and
43 aquatic insect larvae more often in the spring and winter
44 months. A full analysis and a publication of this dietary
45 study from signal crayfish in the Buskin should be
46 completed by next year. And so, we should have more of
47 a solid scientific article published on that next year.

48
49 For red salmon, the Buskin River had a
50 very productive season for sockeye achieving their upper

1 escapement goal, which allowed subsistence harvesting
2 throughout the entire season. Pasagshak also had a strong
3 run getting into their escapement goal, while I was able
4 to go gillnetting in June and getting enough reds for
5 the whole entire year in that one trip. One thing I did
6 notice about the Buskin over the last couple years is
7 the increase in the amount of jack sockeye that are
8 returning to the Buskin, and so, it would be interesting
9 to know maybe from Fish and Game or the -- yeah,
10 sportfish who manages that where if they are in fact
11 seeing an increase in jacks returning to the Buskin in
12 their weir counts. For pink salmon it was a above average
13 pink salmon year, even though odd years are -- tend to
14 be higher with escapement and catch and I believe this
15 was the second or third largest pink salmon year harvest
16 ever in Kodiak. And for silvers, it was a very dry
17 summer, and the silvers came back a little bit later
18 than usual, from what I've observed in the local rivers
19 that I fish at as they usually wait for that rain to
20 raise the water levels and so, it was a little bit later.
21 But Buskin appears to be off to a good start with
22 obtaining their escapement goal this season for silvers.

23
24 For the shearwater die-off, late last
25 month, I observed a pretty significant shearwater die-
26 off of Pasagshak Bay and Surfers Beach on the south end
27 of our Road System, where I counted 35 dead shearwaters
28 over just a mile long stretch on Surfers Beach, and then
29 15 more on a half mile stretch at Pasagshak Bay. And all
30 these birds were keeled and really starved. And so, they
31 weren't really getting as much food and whether it's
32 just the apparent lack of food or if they were exposed
33 to some sort of toxins, that's really the thing we're
34 trying to investigate. There has been a harmful algal
35 bloom advisory in Kodiak that has been ongoing, and it
36 could have been the cause for this die-off and we're
37 currently being -- those birds are currently being
38 tested for paralytic shellfish toxin poisoning. So, we
39 should know a little bit more in the next couple of
40 weeks.

41
42 And lastly, I'll touch on the whales in
43 our area. We had a larger than normal die off-of gray
44 whales this year, with 24 confirmed strandings of gray
45 whales which is quite substantial. This goes -- even
46 more die offs than when it was in that unusual mortality
47 event. So, these strandings are continuing. A lot of
48 them have been due to killer whales killing these gray
49 whales, but some have been due to starvation. And so,
50 that's an ongoing trend even after this unusual

1 mortality event, which ended in 2023. It is good news,
2 though, that there is still a large group of gray whales
3 upwards to about 150 gray whales that are right off of
4 Narrow Cape and this is a really productive area, and
5 we're consistently seeing them feed throughout the
6 summer. And this is really atypical, usually they bypass
7 us later in the spring. But -- and go up to, you know,
8 places like Unalaska and into the Bering all the way to
9 the Arctic. But there has been a consistent group hanging
10 around Kodiak which has been great to see, and they are
11 definitely actively feeding based on their behavior and
12 yeah, that's it.

13
14 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thank you, Daniel.
15 Coral.

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Wow. I don't know what to
18 say after that report. I appreciate Daniel being on here
19 now. He's a value to the community, for sure and with
20 his biological background and his work with Shungnak and
21 funding to, like, be out on the Road System all the
22 time, like, you can hear what a value that is and is
23 going to be to our committee here. So, like Daniel said,
24 I think a lot of the -- like our berries, our fish, our
25 deer, they seem to be -- populations seem to be doing
26 really well this year. I did note early on and throughout
27 the summer that -- and I was calling people and asking,
28 there seemed to be a lack of seagulls around. I went on
29 a kayak one day, and where I go to one place where
30 there's usually probably at least 50 nests, there was
31 zero nests and I saw one seagull, and that whole day
32 kayaking, I saw four. So, I was a little concerned and
33 puzzled by that because, you know, we have our canaries
34 running. Seagulls are just something like you hardly
35 notice because you just live with them. You see so, many
36 of them. So, that was pretty unusual, the lack of
37 seagulls and lack of nests near town.

38
39 We had our spring -- I'm involved with
40 the spring, with AMBCC. We had our spring meeting. The
41 surveys for 2025 showed that nesting populations were
42 up from last year, but they're still not high enough for
43 an opening in 2026. So, 2026 will be closed for the fall
44 hunting season and the spring -- the spring subsistence
45 season. So, that's a little disappointing, but we hope
46 that it looks like the trend is that those numbers are
47 rising again, though. After our AMBCC meeting in the
48 spring, Daniel and I attended a training for bird flu,
49 H5N1. So, it was a two-day training, and it was full of
50 a lot of -- we got a lot of information about the data

1 that they have about bird flu, kind of the trends,
2 migratory patterns, and how they spread and how often
3 they spread and how avian spreads across the globe. And
4 then we talked about it spreading into poultry,
5 livestock, people, a lot of marine animals. There was a
6 large mortality event for sure of seals. I can't remember
7 where, but South America. So, seals and sea lions have
8 had mortality events and then there's been a few spread
9 to human events. We also -- so, we increased our
10 understanding of transmission, you know how that works.
11 And we also learned safe practices and sampling. We had
12 training in full Tyvek sampling and how not to spread
13 it when you're doing sampling and to have good safety
14 practices and I think that is about all I have for my
15 report. So, thank you.

16
17 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thank you, Coral.
18 Brett.

19
20 MR. RICHARDSON: Brett Richardson,
21 Unalaska. So, this year since the last meeting, I think
22 a couple of days before the last meeting was the first
23 snow we had, which was in March. I almost didn't make
24 it. And then pretty much snowed straight, felt like until
25 May. And most of the late fall and early winter was warm
26 and downright balmy for Unalaska. And then we got a late
27 winter. And -- so, in May, everything melted off and
28 seemed to bring about kind of a warm summer. We've had
29 a great summer. The best I can remember in the last
30 decade in terms of low winds, higher temperatures,
31 sunnier days so, a greater opportunity to get out into
32 the bay, inner bay and even outer bay. So, we've had --
33 here was heavier rain and wind during that time previous
34 to summer and then it is ebbed off and so, we have higher
35 average temperatures now, more sunny days, less wind and
36 rain. So, more fishing people have access to different
37 runs further from the inner bay. We've had people go to
38 McLees quite a bit more, Volcano Bay actually, and had
39 a lot of success in terms of setting nets and sockeye
40 gathering. I personally have set net multiple times on
41 Front Beach, Agnes Beach, in Reese Bay and in Broad Bay
42 and Naticun, and had decent returns. I'd say average as
43 far as sockeye goes. So far in the silver season I've
44 got about ten so far, couple pinks and even found a
45 chum, which is the first chum I've ever seen in that
46 area. And so, overall, a mostly average season, I think
47 average -- there's some -- we don't know about McLees
48 because there's no weir there right now. There is -
49 there was one set up in the Iliuliuk River, which
50 actually had a good return for reds which was over 2000

1 -- 2441, which was surprisingly good, 244 pinks. And so,
2 that ran through July 31st and now there's, you know,
3 hundreds of pinks running through there at this time.
4 Halibut and cod seems to be average to decent. I think
5 it depends on how far out you can get. Inner bay is
6 spotty, outer Bay is better results. You know, again,
7 it depends on weather and access with boats and so, that
8 does limit some potential for certain community members
9 to catch halibut. Otter population is exploding, they -
10 - there are 3 rafts of at least 20 to 30 in 3 or 4
11 different locations just in front of my house and
12 everywhere you go. Seals and sea lions seem more
13 prevalent. There have been, you know, lots of whales so
14 far this summer. And so, overall, an average summer
15 maybe. Doesn't feel like it's gone down at all, which
16 is good news, and I hope that is a trend that continues
17 if not increases. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Brett.
20 Jeff.

21
22 MR. WASLEY: Hello, Jeff Wasley, Cold
23 Bay. Just first like to welcome you all to Cold Bay and
24 glad we got some good weather for you guys to go out and
25 check things out. I'll start, kind of echo what Brett
26 said with the weather pattern. It was, you know, mild
27 winter and then kind of switched in early spring and
28 became kind of miserable and stayed that way through
29 most of June, really. It was a cool, wet summer. With
30 July and August turning right around and being really
31 nice. And with that, I think we had a really good berry
32 production across pretty much all species of berries,
33 except maybe the wild strawberries, but lots of salmon
34 berries. The crowberries are super abundant, more
35 nagoonberries than I've ever seen. So, that's kind of a
36 nice treat. Ptarmigan seemed to have another good
37 production year. Even this week, we're running into some
38 family groups that are still -- we're just passing on
39 them because of the little ones are too small yet, not
40 very sporting. So, I just kind of let them grow up first.
41 Halibut, cod, for rod and reel on the Bay have been
42 really good this summer. Maybe the average size is a
43 little smaller on the halibut, but we've been catching
44 good numbers of them. The cod are spotty, but often
45 good. Lots and lots of pinks this year, like super
46 abundant Russell Creek. I think a good average year on
47 chum or maybe better than average. Got our first silver,
48 I think August 11th and they're still -- we're getting
49 fresh ones coming in daily with sea lice. So, it's been
50 a strong silver year. Russell Creek had a lot of high

1 flow for a couple of weeks so it's tough to fish, but
2 it's gone back down to normal. Sockeye's this summer was
3 kind of mixed. I did hear reports of some actually decent
4 fishing down at Mortenson, but I wasn't able to get down
5 there myself and then -- so that's kind of good news.
6 It's been down for 7 or 8 years now. The Swan Lake fish,
7 with all the spring rain and summer rain we have, the
8 flow is greater and it's just a real small creek that
9 goes over like this little beach berm. And I think with
10 the greater flow, the sockeye were able to just kind of
11 go in a lot easier than usual. So, like if you haven't
12 really seen it, it's kind of hard to explain, but it's
13 a really tiny creek. So, if you get a really big tide
14 and south wind, they can sneak in there. But -- on a
15 normal year. But this year the flow was so high in the
16 creek, I think they could go in kind of whenever they
17 wanted. So, they didn't stack up on the beach for folks
18 to net and snag them like usual, so.

19
20 Onto waterfowl, kind of a big change
21 this year. It's the first year I think ever we can't
22 hunt brant in September. So, that's been a big hit to
23 this community and a lot less people coming out. So, and
24 from my intel on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, one of the
25 main breeding areas that sound like almost a complete
26 bust there. Not all the brants have come down yet, and
27 we haven't been hunting them. So, I haven't looked at a
28 lot of them, but we haven't seen many young ones yet
29 this year. So, we're hoping that the birds further north
30 and like the North Slope of Alaska, Russia and the
31 Canadian Arctic, hopefully they had a much better hatch,
32 so we'll see. The emperor goose closure is, you know,
33 still in effect and like Coral said it, the spring index
34 was up to like 25,000, which is a good sign and we're
35 hoping that maybe last year's was just an anomaly
36 because, you know, they could get it wrong once, you
37 know, they could miss. And talking to the pilot
38 biologists that does those surveys, she said that they
39 do three days and the middle day like it was snowing,
40 and it might have impacted their index. But so far, from
41 what I've seen from emperors coming down here this year,
42 there are some large family groups. So, that's a good
43 sign. I've seen some with, you know, 4 or 5 that have
44 made it this far so.

45
46 Puddle ducks have been great and we're
47 lucky to have the USGS folks out here working with the
48 refuge, sampling birds for bird flu again this year it
49 was a real last minute -- they literally found out the
50 day before they were going to come out that they could

1 do it. So, it'll be the 15th year of them coming out,
2 and we help them sample all our ducks and I think we're
3 over 300 puddle ducks for them already this year. So,
4 it's been really good. And last year they detected a
5 strain of high path bird flu in a pintail that we got
6 out here, and it was the same strain they got detected
7 in Florida a few months later, and actually a couple
8 people died from it. So, it's -- I think it's important
9 science that should continue because we get so many birds
10 in this region that are crossing from Asia and different
11 parts of Alaska so. But I'm just glad they're able to
12 do their science and like, you know, keep people informed
13 of what's coming. I think that about wraps it up. Like
14 I said, last year, we were down on silvers a little bit.
15 This year, it seems to be really strong and they're
16 still coming in, so. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thank you. We'll go
19 to our online Council members. I'm going to start with
20 Natasha.

21
22 MS. HAYDEN: Good morning. So, this - I
23 experienced -- I had the similar observations that Coral
24 made, some of the ones that Daniel made. Daniel gave a
25 very thorough report. So, thank you for that, Daniel.
26 We had our -- at our culture camp this summer on Afognak
27 was very successful. We had a lot of participants over
28 five camps and really, we had some of the best weather
29 that I've ever seen in July and August, which was
30 incredible. And then we also were able to successfully
31 harvest salmon at Litnik. And there was a couple of
32 successful seal harvests and sea otter harvests and was
33 able to harvest a deer using the educational permit in
34 August. And really, it was just an affirmation of the
35 bounty that is available to our people here and that for
36 thousands of years had supported the Alutiiq people in
37 Afognak and Kodiak. Berries, really incredible berry
38 season. Salmonberries just kind of kept coming and
39 coming and coming. We had a bear in our backyard this
40 summer for the first time. We've been here for 14 years,
41 and we got a berry patch in our backyard. We live in the
42 neighborhood between Walmart and Mill Bay and yeah, I've
43 just never -- we've never had a bear in our yard before.
44 I don't know if everybody's aware, but a bear had to get
45 put down later this summer that had just gotten very --
46 a lot -- very too comfortable being around people in a
47 residential neighborhood that had been around for
48 several weeks. Unfortunate that that bear had to get put
49 down, but there was just so much food available for the
50 bears this summer, and it was just everywhere. So, it

1 seemed like it was almost sort of lackadaisical about,
2 you know, munching its way through town. I did notice
3 that, because it was so dry and I'm still noticing -- I
4 think it was so dry for so long that the blueberries,
5 like a fantastic bumper crop of blueberries. But a lot
6 of them seem to be just drying up prior to being able
7 to get fully ripe. Which is just also very unusual for
8 us, because usually we get enough rain in the summertime
9 so that the bears -- berries get plumped before they
10 start to wither.

11
12 Lots of deer, just saw a couple of deer
13 this morning next to the road and lots of bears. We were
14 deer hunting on Afognak a month ago, and saw lots of
15 bears, lots of sows and cubs, little cubs. So, cubs of
16 the year and one-year olds, along with the sows. Didn't
17 see very many boars, which I thought was unusual and I'm
18 not really an expert in the bear habits, but if they're
19 just located in different places at that time of the
20 year, we just didn't see very many of them. We did get
21 -- we were successful in getting seagull eggs. Earlier
22 this summer, it seemed like, I don't know if there's
23 just more pressure for people who are doing seagull egg
24 harvesting or if the timing was off because we didn't
25 see a lot of eggs at any one time. We went a few times
26 and what we did find was fairly sporadic. So, I don't
27 know if that's -- what that's an indicator of, but I
28 just never really seen it like that before. And then,
29 yeah, lots of salmon for the first year in quite a few
30 years, we were able to obtain all of our subsistence
31 salmon fairly early in the year. There's been a lot of
32 years recently where we've been fishing all the way
33 through the end of July and even to the 1st of August,
34 to be able to make sure that we get enough salmon for
35 our household and for our elders and the people that we
36 share with. But we were able to get that earlier this
37 year so. I'm looking forward to seeing what the
38 conditions are going to be like this winter after having
39 such a dry, warm summer. It still is quite warm. It
40 still is in the low 50s, which I think is a little bit
41 unusual, but kind of enjoying it and sort of like the
42 dog days of summer here in Kodiak. So, that's all I
43 have. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks. We'll go
46 next to Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madam Chair. Kind of
49 exciting to hear everyone's reports and I was really
50 tickled to hear about the Unalaska area because I usually

1 -- decades ago, spent most of my spring and summer out
2 there, counting fish and checking things out. So, I think
3 it's tremendous the things that the Q Tribe is doing. I
4 think that in Kodiak, the work that the Shungnak natural
5 resource people are doing and the KANA PSP monitoring
6 is wonderful, and I believe that Shungnak, I'm not
7 certain, but I believe they still have their program
8 where they're preparing subsistence seafood in smaller
9 portions for the senior members. And you know, I'm not
10 a member of the tribe, I do work more on the receiving
11 end. We used to go catch 50 salmon a year, can up 5
12 cases, and you know, basically give three quarters of
13 the fish away and now we're more on the receiving side.
14 And I would thank those folks that are so generous to
15 us. Some of the guides bring by a deer and goats and
16 whatnot and but, you know, I just not much for climbing
17 mountains anymore. And I see more deer over at Near
18 Island in front of the corporation buildings, and I can
19 get out to even look at on the mountains. I think I
20 would make an observation to support the difference in
21 the gull populations. Very few glaucous wings of big
22 gulls and then the smaller ones, the mew gulls are
23 definitely in smaller numbers from watching from our
24 house. And I would think that's a reflection on, what
25 do we have only four processors working now? And I see
26 a whole lot less slime and whatnot floating out to bay
27 with the tides and a whole lot fewer gulls feeding on
28 it. So, I think that's a reflection of what's going on
29 in the other fisheries and it's a significant change,
30 and I would also support the comments on the berries.
31 We were able to get all the salmonberries that we wanted
32 within walking distance of our house on Mission Road.
33 And incredible, I did go up to look for lingonberries,
34 but, where we used to go when the boys were little, 40
35 years ago, the elevation of the alpine zone is probably
36 500 to 800ft high and where we used to get the
37 lingonberries, there's a ten-foot-high alders and even
38 bigger spruce. So, there's tremendous changes as the
39 climate is altering things in the Gulf of Alaska and
40 around our area. And even though, early on I did not see
41 the amount of bumblebees, which were the earlier
42 pollinators but I did notice that there were a lot of
43 other insects. There's a similar insect that's called a
44 serpent fly that looks like a hornet, but it's a fly.
45 And they're I'd say their numbers were 100% more than
46 usual, and I think that they were doing their best to
47 fill in the niche and keep all the berries supported.
48 And again, I would thank my neighbors that are commercial
49 fishermen and subsistence fishermen and that share their
50 catch with Patty and I, because our health and vigor has

1 diminished. And it's just so wonderful to live in a
2 place like Kodiak where people share, and grandchildren
3 or great grandchildren of folks, I used to bring food
4 to call up and make sure that we've got enough stuff in
5 our freezer. So, I just wanted to thank everybody in our
6 community for continuing with the support of our
7 subsistence. We did not dig any clams this year, but I
8 shifted over to -- on low tides, getting more limpets
9 and chitons to kind of fill the niche and even tried
10 some different types of algae that I haven't done before.
11 But, anyway, moving slower, but appreciate what
12 everybody else does for us and for the other elders in
13 the community. Thank you very much.

14
15 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks,
16 Pat. Okay. I will give my Chair's report. So, I thought
17 I would take advantage of this opportunity to give an
18 update on what happened at some of the other regulatory
19 meetings where the RAC submitted proposals or comments.
20 So, at our last meeting, we voted to submit comments on
21 several Alaska Board of Game proposals. And I did attend
22 the Alaska Board of Game meeting, which was March 21st
23 to 28th. And the ones that the KARAC took action on,
24 proposal 87, we opposed that and that did fail at the
25 Board of Game. Proposal 123, we opposed that and that
26 did fail at the Board of Game. And then proposals 126,
27 127 and 128, those were the night vision goggle
28 proposals. We opposed those particularly for the Kodiak
29 area, that did carry at the Board of Game. So, the
30 statewide that the night vision kind of infrared goggles
31 are allowed. But I personally submitted a proposal for
32 the upcoming -- I'm going to call it the Kodiak Board
33 of Game meeting to prohibit those in the Kodiak area.
34 And that Board of Game meeting is March 20th to 25th,
35 2026. So, we -- the Board of Games, we, like won on two
36 of the three that we commented on. It's a bad way to put
37 it. So, that was Board of Game.

38
39 I also wanted to note that at our last
40 meeting, we did generate a proposal related to the Alaska
41 Peninsula-Aleutian Islands finfish. This was for
42 Unalaska, I think changing the harvest times for salmon.
43 That meeting is coming up February 18th to February 24th
44 in 2026. The proposal book isn't even out yet, but I
45 just wanted to remind people that KARAC did generate a
46 proposal. It is going to be considered at that upcoming
47 Board of Fish meeting. Also, just to let people know
48 there's another upcoming Alaska Board of Fish meeting.
49 It's the Alaska Peninsula Aleutian Islands cod meeting.
50 That one will be October 30th to 31st, and it'll be held

1 in Anchorage.

2

3 I did represent KARAC at the Federal
4 Subsistence Board work session. That was held on July
5 23rd to 24th and primarily, I -- I'm not even going to
6 try to remember what I said. I think I spoke to our
7 annual report that we submitted, and then the Federal
8 Subsistence Board did take action on the statewide
9 proposal that would allow the sale of bear hides. And
10 so, the RAC Chairs that were there were able to speak
11 to their Council's position on that. Also, upcoming,
12 this is of interest to our region. The North Pacific
13 Fishery Management Council will be taking final action
14 on the chum salmon bycatch issue. That meeting will be
15 February 2nd to February 11th, 2026, and it is a very
16 limited meeting. I think that's the only substantive
17 issue -- big substantive issue that's going to be dealt
18 with and that will be in person in Anchorage.

19

20 I also wanted to update at our last
21 meeting, we voted to send a letter regarding the Chinook
22 Endangered Species Act petition. But sending the letter
23 and drafting the letter would depend on what the -- what
24 came out of the federal process. So, the KARAC direction
25 was if necessary, we will send a letter and the -- on
26 the federal side they missed a deadline. So, nothing has
27 actually happened yet. I just wanted to let everyone
28 know that we didn't send a letter because the process
29 got delayed. But I'm assuming that that direction for
30 the letter still stands. So, if they do take action
31 before our next meeting, we can generate the letter that
32 was approved.

33

34 And then the last thing, I just wanted
35 to report on my subsistence activity, I was able to get
36 out last week to gillnet silvers, and we got 22 silvers
37 in about 45 minutes. So, the whole time from setting out
38 the net to pulling the net back in took 25 minutes,
39 which seemed exceptionally fast and was very exciting
40 because the silvers hit the net and there was lots of
41 splashing, and they'd hit one side of the net, we'd go
42 to pick those, and then we'd look around and they'd hit
43 the other side of the net. So, it was a very exciting
44 45 minutes with a little bit of panic toward the end,
45 like, we better pull this net, we better pull this net.
46 So, yeah, it was exciting to have more fish. The fish
47 has been kind of lean there at Buskin the last few years.
48 So, that was very exciting. And I'm just reviewing my
49 notes to make sure that I got everything I wanted to
50 touch on. Okay, so that is my Chair's report. We did

00023

1 introductions at the beginning, but we've had two people
2 join in the room here. So, if you guys want to come up
3 and introduce yourselves and then we'll move on to the
4 next agenda item.

5
6 MS. FOSADO: Good morning, Madam Chair,
7 members of the Council. Maria Fosado here, Izembek
8 Refuge Manager. Welcome to Cold Bay.

9
10 MR. KALLIN: Good morning, Madam Chair
11 and Council members, I am Jeff Kallin, Deputy Refuge
12 Manager at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

13
14 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Great, Thank you.
15 Okay we will go into the next agenda item number 10,
16 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. After
17 this we will be taking a break because there's a little
18 bit of setup that needs to be done before the Council
19 training agenda item. So, is there anyone who wants to
20 give public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.

21
22 (No comment)

23
24 Okay. Seeing and hearing none. We'll go
25 ahead and take a ten-minute break. So, that'll be at --
26 we'll reconvene here at 10:16 and do agenda item number
27 11, Council training, thanks.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. It looks like
34 we have our technical issues resolved. So, we'll go ahead
35 and come back to order, and we are on agenda item 11
36 Council training. And I'll hand it over to Katya.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madam Chair. For
39 the record, Katya Wessels, OSM. I'm going to present you
40 with one of the trainings, and then Leigh will do the
41 other two. And the first training is the Council duties
42 and Council member responsibilities. And some of you,
43 you know, been on the Council for a while so, you're
44 quite familiar with the topics that I will be discussing.
45 Some of you who've been on the Council for shorter
46 periods of time. So, that will be good to do this
47 training. So, I -- we will start with you applied to
48 serve on the Council, and you went through this long
49 process of being interviewed and waiting, and then you
50 finally received a letter in the mail from the Secretary

1 of the Interior, and it says that you got appointed on
2 the Council. Hooray! So, you -- in the letter, they
3 mention the name of your Council Coordinator who will
4 you know, tell you what are your duties and
5 responsibilities as the Council member. And, you know,
6 you all know that the Councils were established by the
7 mandate of Title VIII of ANILCA. But if you read the
8 Title, it says there are six Councils. But actually,
9 when the program was established, there was a record of
10 decision and through that record of decision, there were
11 several options. So, it was decided that ten Councils
12 is the best way to reflect the various subsistence
13 regions in Alaska. Therefore, their ten Councils were
14 established. And the Councils, they are -- they're non-
15 discretionary advisory committees because they're in
16 Title VIII. So, there are certain objectives and scope
17 that the Council activities should cover. And they
18 outlined in Title VIII, and also in your Charters. And
19 in your Charters, there's even a section that talks about
20 objectives and scopes. And the two main things really
21 is that the Councils are advisors to the Federal
22 Subsistence Board and the second scope is to provide the
23 public forum for the discussion of any subsistence
24 issues in the region and provide a platform for the
25 people who want to talk about these issues. They don't
26 necessarily need to be the members of the Council, but
27 they just have an opportunity to come and talk to you
28 and you know, express their concerns, share their
29 knowledge. And that's why it's, you know, like -- it's
30 a little bit, you know, disappointed that we don't have
31 much public here because, you know, that's one of the
32 main purpose of the Council. So, we just will make a
33 mental note that we need to do a better job advertising
34 it in the communities, you know, I think if we would be
35 meeting in Kodiak, you would have more people present
36 at the meeting. Okay, and the Councils, they are vital
37 link between the public and the Federal Subsistence
38 Management Program because you like I said, you are
39 providing the public forum.

40
41 Okay. So, now I'm going to talk about
42 the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So, the Councils
43 were established by the mandates of ANILCA, but they
44 were chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
45 For short, is known as FACA and all the Councils are,
46 you know, chartered under FACA. And what is FACA? FACA
47 is the law that governs all Federal Advisory Committees,
48 not just Regional Advisory Councils, all Federal
49 Advisory Committees that advise the federal government.
50 So, this law was established, meant to provide -- to

1 promote transparency and accountability of the advisory
2 bodies and to minimize the influence of special
3 interests. The Charter defines Council duties and
4 responsibilities as advisory committees and expectations
5 of -- for all of its members. So, each Council must have
6 an active charter. Like every two years, your Council
7 reviews the charter and can suggest changes. It's not
8 necessary to make changes, but the Secretary also
9 reviews the charters every two years and then they sign
10 it. And then you have an active charter. Your current
11 charter expires in January of 2026. So, the Secretary -
12 - the charters were sent to the Secretary after you
13 reviewed it, after the Board reviewed it. So, now it's
14 with the Secretary awaiting for them to review it and
15 sign your new charters for the next two years. So, the
16 FACA also mandates the election of officers. Every year
17 you elect for one-year term, your Chair, your Vice Chair
18 and the Secretary. So, each of the Council member is a
19 representative member and -- but you don't represent
20 your communities. You represent user groups. Either you
21 represent a subsistence user group, or you represent a
22 commercial sport user group.

23
24 So, FACA again mandates the diverse
25 representation of interests. That is why the Federal
26 Subsistence Board established the 70/30 rule. That we
27 call it 70/30 rule, which means that 70% of the
28 membership on the Council can be subsistence user group
29 representatives, and 30% can be commercial sport user
30 group representatives. So, for your Council, you fulfill
31 that quota, you have three members that are commercial
32 sport user group representatives. You're one of the most
33 excellent Councils in that regard because we have a hard
34 time with some other Councils getting out of commercial
35 sport people applying for the Councils so, and you also,
36 you know the rest of the Council is 70% is subsistence
37 user group representatives. So, the announcement of the
38 Council meetings, according to FACA, needs to be
39 published in Federal Register at least two weeks prior
40 to the Council meeting. We usually publish it much
41 earlier than that, just to be on the safe side, because
42 it takes a long time to get published on Federal
43 Register. But, we also advertise the meetings on the
44 radio and the newspapers, you know, on the Facebook. So,
45 just trying to spread the word that the users have an
46 opportunity to come and talk at these meetings. And all
47 Council meetings are open to the public, again, per FACA.
48 The only reason the Council might want to have an
49 executive session, if you have some kind of a personnel
50 matter, like you want to discuss the behavior of the

1 Council members, then you can have a closed session. But
2 otherwise, all Council business is public business. All
3 the documents that we provide to you, we can -- we would
4 provide it to the public as well. Your meetings are
5 getting recorded, transcribed. We publish these
6 transcripts on our website, and we also include all this
7 information to the general Federal Advisory Committee
8 Act database, where members of the Congress would go to
9 and look for information on your Council if they want
10 to, and any public member can do that as well. So, all
11 Council documents as a part of the public record and
12 always available for public viewing. I guess I should
13 stop, you know, and -- because I already talked a lot
14 and see if there's any questions? Any -- yes, Rebecca.

15
16 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I was curious
17 if you could give a little bit more commentary. You said
18 that we don't represent our communities, we represent
19 user groups. In our Council charter we do kind of divide
20 it up into subregions. So, in that regard, do we
21 represent our subregions or are we still -- we're
22 representing user group, and we are responsible for the
23 entire KARAC area? If you could just speak more to that,
24 I think that'd be helpful.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Thank you for your
27 question. Yes, you still represent your user group, but
28 the whole reason why the Board strives to have the
29 balanced membership across the region, because each
30 region is very vast. So, if you live in a certain part
31 of the region, you might not be familiar with the issues
32 of the other part of the region. That is why we want to
33 have the equal representation of various communities
34 across the region. Like Kodiak/Aleutians region
35 stretches all the way from Kodiak to Pribilof Islands.
36 You don't have anybody from Pribilof Islands on your
37 Council, but it would be great if you do. It would be
38 great if you have somebody from Adak, you have now
39 somebody from the Peninsula, you know, that is, you know,
40 like Sand Point and Cold Bay. You have representatives.
41 But the majority of the representatives are from Kodiak.
42 Well, you have somebody from Dutch Harbor, Unalaska. So,
43 that is good. But, you know, some other areas are not
44 represented and that's why, you know, it would be also
45 very helpful if the Council members spread the word when
46 they can, when they travel to other parts of the region,
47 that people from these other communities can apply and
48 although it's not an open season now for applications,
49 anybody really can apply at any time. We'll just hold
50 the application till the next open season. the

1 applications on our website and, you know, it can be
2 printed, it can be mailed to that individual, it can be
3 emailed, they can call us. I hope I answered your
4 question, Rebecca.

5
6 Okay. If there is no more questions
7 we'll move on to the next slide. Okay, so Council has
8 duties as a whole. It's not just individual member
9 responsibility. It's just your own -- your whole Council
10 has these duties. Your duties is basically, they are
11 also outlined in the federal subsistence regulations in
12 the CFR and in your Council charters. And every year,
13 each Council provides recommendations to the Board on
14 Regulatory Wildlife and Fisheries proposals and reviews
15 closures that are under consideration that year. And
16 most often, the Board gives deference to the Councils,
17 to the Council recommendations because you the users in
18 the region and you possess the best knowledge of the
19 resource, condition and user's needs. That's why there
20 is a difference. The Board and its ANILCA says that in
21 section 805(c), the Board may choose not to follow
22 Council recommendations on take of Fish and Wildlife.
23 If they're not supported by substantial evidence, they
24 violate principles of Fish and Wildlife management is
25 detrimental to satisfaction of subsistence needs or
26 contrary to other federal laws. So, those are the only
27 exceptions. Most of the time that doesn't happen.
28 Sometimes there are different contradicting
29 recommendations from different regions. If it's a
30 crossover proposal or a statewide proposal, then the
31 Board has a little bit of a dilemma figuring out with
32 which recommendation to go. So, that is why it's so
33 important for representatives from the Council,
34 primarily Chairs, to be at the Board's regulatory
35 meetings to help the Board figure out which is the best
36 way to go. So, the Councils also provide the Board
37 recommendation on special action requests, on policies
38 and management plans, fisheries resource monitoring
39 plans, customary and traditional use determinations,
40 determination of rural status and prioritization of
41 subsistence user groups when the resource is low. Okay,
42 are there any questions in regards to any of what I
43 said?

44
45 (No response)

46
47 Okay. We'll move on to the next slide,
48 which is continuation of the duties of the entire
49 Council. So, ANILCA Title VIII requires that each
50 Council submits an annual report to the Board, or ANILCA

1 says to the Secretary about the Secretary delegated that
2 authority to the Board, and you convey your regional
3 needs and recommendations for management of various
4 subsistence resources. And again, I spoke about the
5 public forum. You provide the public forum to the members
6 of the public, interested and knowledgeable in the
7 matters and issues of subsistence and public
8 participation is always encouraged. And in some regions,
9 some Councils have the duty of appointing the
10 Subsistence Resource Commission's members that are NPS
11 Subsistence Resource Commissions. The title VIII of
12 ANILCA also speaks about that. And the Councils also
13 develop regulatory proposals when there's a call for
14 proposals. They don't just provide the recommendations.
15 As you know, you can put in your own proposals. And I
16 think that's about it in regards to this slide. Are
17 there any other questions, comments?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Okay, if not, we're moving on to the
22 next slide and I'm just going to talk about Council
23 members' responsibilities. So, when you apply to serve
24 on the Council, you know, and nomination panel member
25 called you for an interview, one of the first questions
26 that they ask you are you, you know, willing and able
27 to attend the meetings twice a year, and that's one of
28 your responsibility as a Council member to attend the
29 meeting twice a year. Yes?

30
31 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, I had a
32 question. So, we do have the technological ability for
33 virtual participation. Is there a kind of a program
34 expectation or any kind of expectation that we should
35 be attending in person, or is it exactly the same
36 attending virtually versus attending in person?

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Well, there's no written
39 rule about like prohibiting a Council member to attend
40 the meeting virtually. But, as you know from the
41 experience, when it was Covid time and we only had
42 virtual meetings, it was extremely difficult for
43 participants, Council members, you know, staff, public
44 members alike to be on the phone for two days. The
45 discussions were not as productive. It's much better
46 when we attend in person and then you also -- you go to
47 the communities; you have chances to meet with the
48 community representatives who can come to the meeting.
49 You also, you know, see the community, you see, you
50 know, the environment. You're able to get familiar with

1 the layout of the land and, you know, learn about other
2 issues during the informal discussions with the public,
3 with other Council members. So, it's much more
4 beneficial for Council member to attend the meeting in
5 person and we understand, of course, that there can be
6 circumstances when people cannot attend the meeting.
7 But, prioritizing Council meeting participation, that's
8 what we are looking for. And, you know, also, we try to
9 provide all the meeting materials to the Council members
10 in advance as much as possible. You know, sometimes
11 they're delayed but, you know, especially for the fall
12 meetings, the materials are very lengthy, long analysis.
13 We hope that you have time to review these materials
14 prior to the Council meetings. Of course, we're not
15 expecting you reading the entire book because, you know,
16 reading 2 or 300 pages it's kind of difficult. But at
17 least be familiar with the issues, especially that are
18 important to your parts of the region, is very good. I
19 have a question, Rebecca.

20
21 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, I don't have
22 a question. I have a comment, and this seems like a good
23 place to make it. As far as the meeting materials, I
24 really appreciate being able to access them online. What
25 would be really helpful if there was an option to
26 download the entire book. Because right now, if you go
27 online, you can click on each individual -- if there's
28 a link, you have to do it one at a time. But particularly
29 because sometimes the book is really heavy, or if you
30 put it in your suitcase and not your backpack, your
31 suitcase can get lost and not make it. And some of the
32 communities have limited bandwidth. It's -- it would be
33 really handy to be able to download the whole book. Just
34 click on one link, download the whole thing and have it
35 on my laptop. So, I realized not everyone has that
36 preference, but I just wanted to note that that would
37 be -- if there is the opportunity to do that on the
38 website, that would be a handy feature, at least for me.
39 Thank you.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we used to do that.
42 But we are also required by federal government to make
43 all our materials compliant with the Disabilities Act.
44 So, some of the documents are so complex we would have
45 a hard time converting them. That's why we went to what
46 we have right now. But we can definitely send the whole
47 book to the Council members in an email. You know, we
48 cannot put it online, but we can send you notes because,
49 you know, actually, Leigh is the person responsible for
50 putting all the meeting books together so, she can easily

1 email you the meeting books as a PDF document. Yeah, and
2 I will make a note of that and we can do that definitely
3 for all of the Councils, not just Kodiak/Aleutians if
4 that's more helpful.

5
6 So, the other thing that I wanted to
7 mention is that your individual knowledge is
8 instrumental in developing robust recommendations for
9 the Federal Subsistence Board. That's another reason for
10 all Council members to prioritize their participation
11 at the meeting. Then the other duty -- now, your other
12 responsibility as a Council member is to bring the
13 information from your communities to the Councils and
14 back to your communities. You learn something in your
15 community, you bring it to the Council to discuss it as
16 a whole, but also, what you learn at these meetings, the
17 changes, the issues that were discussed. Please bring
18 them back to your communities and share it with people.
19 You don't need to have some meeting in your community,
20 but, as you, you know, move through your daily business,
21 meet with other people, you can discuss things that you
22 learn here. This way you are, you know, helping people,
23 your communities, learn about federal regulations, learn
24 about our program. Because what I find out also,
25 sometimes people like confuse us with ADF&G, especially
26 when we were part of Fish and Wildlife Service. They
27 really confused us, Fish and wildlife, Fish and Game.
28 You know, people don't know really what we're doing at
29 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and they
30 know that -- so you're -- you know, you would be helping
31 us if you talk with people in your communities about
32 what we actually do and what you guys were doing at the
33 meeting. So, that is one of the responsibilities listed,
34 not in the same terms that I'm talking about. But, you
35 know, basically that's the essence of it. Let's see.

36
37 Okay. Well, I'm going to move to the
38 next slide and that's continuation. Okay. So, Leigh
39 currently is your designated federal officer. So, she
40 carries that pompous title under ANILCA -- I mean, sorry,
41 FACA. That's what they call somebody who coordinates the
42 Council, designated federal officer. So, the request to
43 the Council members is, you know, when Leigh
44 communicates with you, please get back to her reply to
45 her messages. If you have questions, ask her for
46 clarifications. You're responsible for communicating to
47 her and coordinating things like, you know, your travel
48 schedules and you know, if there is any changes you need
49 to communicate to her directly. Don't change your
50 flights yourselves because we might not be able to cover

1 the flight cost if you change it yourself and things
2 like that. Also, when you're appointed to the Council,
3 you're appointed for a certain term. Usually it's three
4 years, unless you come into a seat that had only two --
5 one year left and as a part of your responsibilities,
6 you're supposed to serve your entire term. Unless you
7 know you move out of the region, then you're supposed
8 to resign because you need to reside in the region, or
9 if your other duties prevent you from serving, also,
10 inform your designated federal officer about it so we
11 can plan accordingly. Because also, in your charters,
12 like if there is more applications, we can have
13 alternates and if those alternates pass the vetting, we
14 can appoint somebody out of cycle to that vacant seat.
15 Yes.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, for the
18 alternate individuals do -- when they apply, are they
19 applying for an alternate seat or it's just if you have
20 extra people whose names aren't being forwarded -- I
21 mean, how does that like -- how do you know if you're
22 like in the running for an alternate seat or not? And
23 does the individual choose that, or does somebody in the
24 selection process choose that?

25
26 MS. WESSELS: No. Everyone is applying
27 for a Council seat. So, through the process, after each
28 applicant is interviewed and ranked and rated then the
29 Federal Subsistence Board decides who is going to be put
30 into a seat and who is going to be selected as alternate.
31 So, all of these names, including the alternates, are
32 forwarded to the Secretary. All the individuals undergo
33 vetting. Sometimes it happens that the Secretary decides
34 and moves an alternate into a seat, despite of Board's
35 recommendation to put somebody else in a seat. But, you
36 know, if there's an alternate and if they're vetted,
37 their name is there, and we can just shorten the
38 appointment process because they're already being
39 vetted. Then it just --that's when the appointments out
40 of cycle can happen if the seat is vacated you know, out
41 of cycle.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Another
44 question. The list that's forwarded to the Secretary.
45 So, the Federal Subsistence Board makes the decision
46 about what names to forward. Are they forwarding all of
47 the names that have met the -- I'm going to call it
48 minimum requirements, like they live in the communities,
49 etc. so does a big list of names go to the secretaries
50 with like stars next to the ones who the Board is

1 recommending for a Council seat? Or is the Federal
2 Subsistence Board only forwarding the shorter list,
3 which is, here's the specific people we recommend for a
4 Council seat and then here's the names we are
5 recommending for alternate seats?

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So, the names that
8 are forwarded are the people who met the qualification
9 requirements, the five who met the five criteria. It's
10 -- there's -- you know, there's several ratings, you
11 know highly qualified, qualified, minimally qualified
12 and not qualified. The only names that are not forwarded
13 usually is the ones that are not qualified, and they
14 usually ranked according to their qualification. So, if
15 somebody doesn't have any experience, let's say in, you
16 know, subsistence or commercial sport uses, they might
17 be rated not qualified and, you know, their names are
18 not forwarded. All the names pretty much are all
19 forwarded by the Board with the Board's recommendation,
20 who needs to be put in the actual seat and who needs to
21 be an alternate. Okay, so one more thing to mention
22 about Council member responsibilities that, you know,
23 it is great when you participate in other resource
24 meetings like AC meetings, Board of Fish, Board of Game
25 meetings and -- but, when you participate in these
26 meetings, like, for example, your Council can -- want
27 to provide a comment to the Board of Game, and you select
28 a person on your Council to go and present to the Board
29 of Game the Council's position on certain proposal. So,
30 when the Council member comes there, they're presenting
31 the Council position. If the Council member has a
32 different opinion from what the Council has, they cannot
33 present their personal opinion as the Council's opinion.
34 So, we ask you to refrain of presenting your personal
35 opinion as Council opinion. You can make the separation.
36 You can present the Council's opinion and say that's the
37 Council's position. But, I personally have a separate
38 position and can present your position. But you need to
39 make that distinction when you present it to the Board
40 of Fish, Board of Game, AC, whatever else you're going.
41 Okay. Are there any other questions in regards to these?
42 And if not, we're moving on to the next slide. Okay. Go
43 ahead.

44
45 MS. CHERNOFF: I do have a question. So,
46 when it talks about serving on the Council and then we
47 were talking about attendance, whether online or -- is
48 there a limit to like -- can you be removed from the
49 Council for not attending enough meetings? And what is
50 that criteria, or is there any criteria for that?

1

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So, you need to have
4 unexcused absences. Basically, you did not communicate
5 with your designated federal officer that you're not
6 going to come. You did not provide a valid reason why
7 you're not going to come and if you missed like two
8 meetings in a row, you can potentially be removed. There
9 needs to be a discussion that will need to happen among
10 the Council. Maybe that's one of the executive session
11 the Council can have, but it -- you know, if a Council
12 member knows in advance that they have some other
13 business that preventing them from attending the Council
14 meeting, let's say they work and you know, they cannot
15 get time off work or they have business and they have
16 clients at that time. That's a legitimate reason, you
17 know, because not everything can be foreseen that you
18 cannot come to the meeting. But, if you're just, like,
19 blatantly, you know, ignore you know, that there is an
20 invitation to a meeting and, you know, didn't
21 communicate that you're not coming, or if we if you said
22 it first, you come in and then you just didn't show up
23 and didn't provide a reason. That's unexcused absence
24 then. Did I answer your question?

24

25

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think you did.

26

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CHAIPERSON SKINNER: So, a couple of
questions on this. That last paragraph around the
conflict of interest, the last part of the sentence says
"in which the member or the entity the member

1 represents". What does that mean, entity the member
2 represents, does that because as you said, we represent
3 user groups, not communities or I assume entities. But
4 can we interpret that to mean like our employer? Okay.
5 So -- and then it talks about not participating in
6 deliberations or votes. Is there a difference between --
7 -- so, I think of deliberations. That's the conversation
8 that happens before a vote or an official action. If
9 what we're doing is we're sitting up here just giving
10 feedback and we're not voting. Does that also fall under
11 this kind of heading of discussion in which somebody
12 should not participate if they -- like, if their employer
13 has one of those interests in in the matter? Does my
14 question make sense?

15
16 MS. WESSELS: I think so. I -- maybe I
17 can provide an example, you know, for example, if you're
18 representing a tribe, if you're working for a tribe and
19 the tribe is applying for Fisheries Resource Monitoring
20 Program Grant and that, you know, topic comes for
21 discussion by the Council, you probably want to you know,
22 excuse yourself and not participate in this discussion
23 or voting on that matter. You know, I mean, the Council
24 is not deciding which FRMP projects are being funded,
25 but, you know, like -- it's just like a theoretical
26 example if the Council would be discussing that, you
27 know we don't have these situations very often,
28 honestly. But we need to say this.

29
30 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Oh, okay. Because
31 just so -- for transparency, the way I read this
32 paragraph and then the discussion that we just had, an
33 example, that if a Council member has an employer or
34 their own company and that employer, that entity applied
35 for a grant because it's right in their, I would
36 interpret this to mean they shouldn't really participate
37 in discussions. And I'm not hearing a distinction
38 between discussions that lead to a vote versus
39 discussions that don't lead to a vote. And that's what
40 I was trying to ask if there was a difference, but that
41 best practice, they should not participate. If they
42 don't participate -- do they need to actually leave the
43 dais, or can they sit there and just not -- just like
44 announce that, oh, I'm announcing a potential conflict
45 and I don't plan to participate, and then they can
46 continue sitting here, or how does that normally work?

47
48 MS. WESSELS: They can remain in the
49 room. They just, you know, don't participate in the
50 discussion and I think, you know, this language was

1 written by the Solicitor. So, the one you see on the
2 screen, I think it's more applicable to the matters where
3 the Council votes and makes a decision. You know, like
4 if you just discuss something in general and nothing
5 results from it, if you're not providing any kind of
6 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Management
7 Program like on priority information needs or something.
8 I'm just thinking about in the past, you know, I think
9 Della was excusing herself when the King Cove Road was
10 discussed because that -- you know, she has interest in
11 it, not really financial interest or anything, but
12 still, there's benefiting her community.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

15
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17
18 MR. WESSLES: Okay, so.....

19
20 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. Go ahead, Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I was wondering. I can
23 understand this is a sticky wicket, but in the case of
24 where you know, we're looking at different grant
25 proposals. Sometimes you want to know more details on
26 the grant as to what is involved. And you -- if we had
27 a member that was part of that group, that would be the
28 person logically to ask the questions of, they wouldn't
29 necessarily have to be part of the debate, but they
30 could provide clarification or if there was an option
31 in which their proposal had multiple facets. But
32 (distortion) the most important facet of this proposal.
33 And you might consider discussing or providing a
34 background for funding that, and not necessarily all the
35 multiple steps. I guess, that's -- I'm rambling, but
36 there should be some way to get more in-depth information
37 if the persons available. And then just have them say
38 that they're not doing that as a conflict of interest,
39 but to provide information. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Pat. So, I
42 guess, again, just for transparency, if this comes up
43 later in the meeting, I -- the -- my view is if you're
44 sitting at this Council table that is different than if
45 you're sitting in the audience. So, we have had grant -
46 - people who've worked on grants sitting in the audience
47 before they were able -- so they were available to answer
48 questions. I do see that as different from sitting at
49 the Council table and I, in general, I do have concerns
50 that if you're here at the table because the program has

1 flown you in and you're on the Council, kind of taking
2 advantage of that to provide additional information that
3 other applicants didn't even know was an opportunity.
4 Not that I'm reading like nefarious purposes. It just
5 doesn't look good. So, this is like the appearance of
6 impropriety. That's how I'm falling on viewing this. But
7 what I would suggest, if this does come up later in the
8 meeting, is that the person announce what -- whatever
9 their potential conflict is. And I guess we can take it
10 from there. But I just want to be -- you know, let
11 everyone know this is how I'm viewing it and why. All
12 right. Thank you.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So,
15 we're moving on to the next slide and that's the last
16 one. And that's about the Chair's responsibility. So,
17 being a Chair, Council Chair is a position of great
18 trust and great responsibility, at the same time and you
19 should know that all the Chairs, all the Council Chairs
20 spend countless hours performing their duties outside
21 of the Council meetings. They work with Coordinators on
22 developing the agendas for the Council. They're very
23 actively involved in developing these agendas, and the
24 Council Chairs needs to be knowledgeable in Robert's
25 Rules of Order and run the meeting according to these
26 rules. The Chair is responsible for making sure everyone
27 who wants to speak at the Council meeting has an
28 opportunity to speak, and the Chair needs to encourage
29 and facilitate that discussion. And the Chair also needs
30 to make sure that the appropriate actions are taken as
31 a result of the discussion. Every time after the Council
32 meeting, the Council Coordinators prepare the meeting
33 minutes, and the Chair needs to review and certify them,
34 and that's a FACA requirement. And that's long before
35 the Council sees the meeting minutes at the next meeting
36 and approves them. Chairs also review the annual reports
37 that in their draft, that the first draft goes from
38 Council Coordinator to the Chair and same thing with
39 Council correspondence. Even before the leadership team
40 at OSM sees these drafts, the Council Chair reviews them,
41 and that makes sure that these draft annual reports and
42 correspondence really reflect the Council's position.
43 And the Chairs also play the critical role of being
44 advisors to the Board, and they represent the Councils
45 at the Board meeting, and they present the Council's
46 position on the proposals and other things. So, that's
47 a very, you know, involved role and, you know, it's an
48 honor. And thank you to the Council Chairs for doing
49 that. Just, you know, keep it in mind and please provide
50 support to your Chair. So, that concludes my training

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1 today and if there's any additional questions, I would
2 be happy to answer them.

3
4 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: It's a quiet group
5 today. Oh, okay. Yeah. Go ahead.

6
7 MR. POETTER: Jeff here. So, I think back
8 to that conflict. So, if we think we have a potential
9 conflict, we could just say, hey, can you help us
10 clarify? Do we need to...? Thank you.

11
12 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, that'd be my
13 recommendation. Usually with conflict issues, the number
14 one thing is, did you disclose it? That can avoid a lot
15 of potential issues down the road. So, yeah, if you
16 disclose it and then I think it would help, then we
17 could get -- either the Council can weigh in and -- or
18 we can get assistance from OSM about whether there's an
19 actual conflict or not. And, I mean, for me, if somebody
20 says, like, I'm not for sure if I have a conflict, but
21 I feel like I have a conflict, I don't feel comfortable
22 participating, that -- I mean, I'm supportive of that.
23 I'm not going to take the stance of, no, you have to
24 participate. So, I appreciate when people recognize the
25 situation and say, hey, I think this, you know, this
26 might look odd or something to people outside of the
27 room. And again, that's not reading in bad intentions
28 to anyone. It's just for people outside of this process
29 when they're just looking at it from the outside,
30 sometimes things can come across in a way that you know
31 wasn't intended, or maybe it wasn't even how it was, but
32 it does make a difference how people perceive things,
33 in my opinion. Coral.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Madam Chair.

36
37 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. We'll hear
38 from Coral and then Natasha.

39
40 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, thank you. And I
43 guess that brings up for me, if somebody announces that
44 they have a conflict, then who decides whether -- does
45 the Chair decide whether there's a conflict or not? And
46 then what if others on the Council disagree with that?
47 Is there a process for that?

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Honestly, the issue of
50 conflict doesn't come very often. We just talk about it

1 because we need to make the Council members aware. I
2 think that it will be decided together by the Chair and
3 the designated federal officer at -- in the moment when
4 that potential conflict of interest is presented. You
5 know, OSM staff will assist the Chair if there is some
6 kind of decision needs to be made, figuring out if we
7 need to, we can also, you know, ask the legal counsel
8 for -- to weigh in if that's something really complicated
9 and really needs that involvement.

10
11 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: We'll take Natasha
12 and then Daniel.

13
14 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks. Madam Chair, I have
15 a question that's going to kind of take a look at it
16 from the other side. What if Council members have an
17 opinion that one of our colleagues has got a conflict
18 that hasn't been declared? What is -- is there a process
19 for that? And also, not because of any sort of like, you
20 know, nefarious reasons, but just thinking that maybe
21 there's a potential for being a conflict that exists
22 that hasn't been acknowledged.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Well, you can definitely
25 bring it up. You know, you might want to do it outside
26 of the actual Council meeting to figure out really what's
27 going on. It doesn't need to be on the record
28 specifically. The whole reason -- this training, you
29 know, like it's on the record now. But theoretically we
30 were going to do the training for all the Council members
31 outside of the Council meetings. We just -- you know,
32 because we're low on staff, we had no time to have a
33 separate Council training. So, the same thing with if
34 there's any issues of conflict of interest, they can be
35 brought up to the designated federal officer/Council
36 Coordinator Outside of the Council meeting and, you
37 know, figure out what to do with it.

38
39 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: All right. Daniel.

40
41 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
42 I just have one more question regarding this discussion
43 of conflict of interests. If, let's say someone is, you
44 know, sitting on the Council and did have some
45 involvement in a certain grant, like FRMP, would they,
46 you know, be -- or would it be up for discussion, like,
47 you know, if it comes up later in this meeting to state
48 that conflict of interest before the review of all the
49 proposals? Since I think there's like, you know,
50 multiple proposals for FRMP funding so that there isn't,

1 you know, potentially some bias in between the other
2 proposals, or would it just be that specific proposal
3 that the person you know had worked on I guess, if that
4 makes sense?

5
6 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, I think that
7 given the -- because there's multiple applications for
8 one set of money, I would recommend that the disclosure
9 be at the beginning. And then this feels like a very
10 squishy topic that -- it's in our charter. But, yeah, I
11 mean that even that's up to interpretation. So, I think
12 if this comes up later in the meeting, we'll probably
13 take it at that. But, yeah, it would be good if the
14 disclosure could come at the beginning of the item,
15 because if -- you know what I mean, like the different
16 -- there's the different applications are all competing
17 against each other. So, I think that the disclosure
18 should be at the beginning of the item. Okay. Thanks.
19 All right I think -- looks like that's all the questions.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. If there's more
22 questions later, you know, I can answer them off the
23 record. Thank you so much.

24
25 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Are we moving to
26 presentations from Leigh now, or is this -- is that the
27 end? Okay, great.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 Okay. So, in the room, Leigh is just
32 relocating up to the front. So, that was agenda item
33 11C, Council member roles and responsibilities. And then
34 Leigh is going to do the presentations for 11A and 11B.

35
36 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair
37 Leigh Honig, for the record. So, we'll start with how
38 to make, amend and rescind a motion. And on page 19,
39 there is a step-by-step guide for this main motion
40 progress. And I'm just going to go through the steps on
41 the record. So, the first step in the -- is that a member
42 addresses the Chair and the Chair recognizes the member
43 by their name. Third, the member proposes a motion and
44 the correct way to introduce a motion is to begin with
45 "I move that", and then state the proposal, and it's
46 important to note that the motions are always made in
47 the positive as well. Another member then needs to second
48 the motion. The Chair will then recognize that the motion
49 has been moved and seconded and will open the floor for
50 discussion on the motion. After the discussion, the

1 Chair will put the motion to a vote by restating the
2 motion and ask for the Council's vote and then finally
3 the Chair will announce the result of the vote. So,
4 moving on to page 20, we have steps for if a motion is
5 amended and this one can get kind of tricky. So, this
6 one kind of lays it out nice and clearly. So, the first
7 few steps are very much the same. You know the member
8 will put the motion to amend on the table, also needs
9 to be seconded and then the Chair will open the
10 discussion for the amended proposal. And if we move to
11 step seven, the Chair will put the motion to vote but
12 stating what the main motion was and then what the
13 amended motion is, the Chair will announce the results
14 of the vote on the motion to amend the main motion. The
15 Chair will put the main motion, as amended, to a vote
16 by restating what the motion -- the main motion, as
17 amended was, and then the Chair will also announce the
18 results of the voting. I also want to point out that
19 we've made these little yellow cards in front of you to
20 kind of help with that process as well, as a little
21 reminder. So, that's all I -- that's short and quick for
22 the make and amend. Oh, I do want to point out we printed
23 these out to put at your seat too on the -- a nice little
24 flow chart. Kind of just reiterating this information,
25 just a different way to digest that information. So,
26 that's all I had for this presentation. If there's any
27 questions or if not, I can move on to the presentation
28 proposal or procedure for proposals.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. This is
31 Rebecca. I don't have a question, but I did want to
32 comment again, I brought this up at past meetings. In
33 the process of making a motion and then the discussion
34 on the motion, it is really helpful if people will
35 actually state why they're voting one way or another.
36 And for -- I think for -- well, I'm going to speak for
37 Leigh a little bit. for Leigh, I assume, and for myself
38 in -- so she's drafting the minutes, I'm reviewing them
39 and then whoever is at the Federal Subsistence Board
40 presenting the Council's actions, when questions come
41 up about why did the Council vote this way, or why a
42 vote came out a certain way, or what was the perspective
43 on either side? It's really helpful to have heard what
44 the positions were on either side and -- well one,
45 because if you don't say it, we don't know. But also,
46 then it ends up in the transcript. So, we can go back
47 and check. So, I'm not -- I guess selfishly, I'm saying
48 it makes it a lot easier to do minutes and then explain
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board what happened, or what
50 the discussion was, or what were the concerns, or what

1 were the major points on either side of a vote if they're
2 articulated at the meeting. So, I just want to make sure
3 everyone understands how important it is to have that -
4 - the words that are explaining why you voted a certain
5 way. Because if all we have is the vote, it's really
6 hard to explain to anyone why we did something. So, I
7 just wanted to put that plug in. Thanks.

8
9 MS. HONIG: All right. Thank you, Madam
10 Chair. That is really helpful to put all those
11 justifications on the record. So, moving on to item 11c
12 the presentation procedure for proposals. This one can
13 be found on page 21 of your meeting booklet, and also
14 on your nameplates, on the back of it kind of has the
15 information again if you want to refer to it quickly.
16 So, when we get to the wildlife proposals the Chair is
17 going to announce each of these steps for each proposal.
18 And this will provide an opportunity for various
19 agencies, Councils, committees and the public to
20 participate and there will be time for tribal and public
21 comments. And as a reminder to make a comment, if you
22 are in the room, please fill out the blue testifier
23 form. If you're in Teams, you can raise your hand. If
24 you're on the phone, you can press star five to raise
25 your hand or star six to unmute, and then you can also
26 submit comments via email to subsistence@ios.doi.gov.
27 So, the first step is staff are going to present the
28 analysis in the public comments that were received
29 during the open public comment period. Step two is the
30 report from staff on the Board's consultation with
31 tribes and ANCSA Corporations and for this meeting,
32 those were held back in August. And I'd like to note
33 that in November, there'll be another opportunity for
34 tribes and ANCSA Corporations to meet and provide -- or
35 receive consultations with the staff.

36
37 So, step three is time for the agencies
38 or tribal entities to provide comments. Then there will
39 be an opportunity for advisory groups to comment, and
40 the advisory groups are other RACs, State Fish and Game
41 Advisory Committees and Subsistence Resource
42 Commissions. Step five is, if there are any public
43 comments that have been received through the email or
44 the blue comment cards, they can be shared at this time.
45 And then the Chair will then open the floor for any
46 public comments. I apologize, so step five is just if
47 I've received emails, I will present that to the Council
48 and then the Chair will open up the floor to public
49 comments. The next is the Council will move into making
50 a motion on the proposal and to kick that off, the

1 Council will make a motion to support the proposal just
2 to bring the issue on the table for discussion. On the
3 back of this page, on page 22, there are also additional
4 question prompts that are there to help stimulate the
5 Council's discussion and develop their justifications
6 for the records. So, those questions that the Council
7 should consider when developing their justifications and
8 recommendations is, is the Council's recommendation
9 supported by substantial evidence such as biological
10 data or local and indigenous knowledge? Additionally,
11 will the recommendation allow for continuation of
12 subsistence uses? Is this recommendation consistent with
13 established fish or wildlife management principles? And
14 for proposals which the Council does have that deal with
15 customary and traditional use determinations, the
16 Council should consider in what ways are customary and
17 traditional uses evident, and there are criteria for
18 that. And, it didn't make it into the meeting book, but
19 if we need to go through the eight criteria, I'd be more
20 than happy to put it up on the screen for the Council's
21 reference. And additionally, the Council does have some
22 crossover proposals for different reasons -- for
23 different regions and I'd like to just make a mention
24 on how to vote for those if the Council wishes to defer
25 to the home region, the appropriate motion is to take
26 no action and defer to the recommendation of the Home
27 Council. If you just say defer, then that makes it sound
28 like you're, like tabling or putting that motion at
29 different time. And so, once again, all this is on the
30 back of your, your nameplates as well too. So, thank
31 you, Madam Chair. That is all I have for this topic.

32
33 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, are there
34 any questions on what we heard, or anything related to
35 what we heard?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 Okay. So, not seeing anyone, not hearing
40 any questions. We will move into action items. So, this
41 is number 12. Okay. So, actually number -- or letters A
42 and B. So, A: relevant regional wildlife reports from
43 agencies and B: developing recommendations. Those were
44 -- there's nothing -- I don't want to say we're skipping
45 over. We're just not -- there's nothing to cover.

46
47 MS. HONIG: Sorry, Madam Chair. Yes, the
48 developing recommendations was just -- it's kind of
49 confusing. That's just kind of standard language that
50 we have on the agenda. But, with that training that we

1 just did that takes that a step -- or in the -- in place
2 of that. And so, we can move on to the regional proposals
3 and closure reviews.

4

5 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, we're
6 going to go ahead and start with the first proposal in
7 the agenda which is WP26-32, Unit 8 brown bear,
8 recognized customary and traditional uses of Kodiak and
9 it looks like we have Dr. Jason Roberts approaching.

10

11 DR. ROBERTS: Yes. Good morning, Madam
12 Chair, members of the Council. Jason Roberts,
13 anthropologist at OSM, and I'll be giving you a summary
14 of the analysis for WP260-32. This analysis begins on
15 page 23 of your meeting book. WP26-32 was, as you all
16 know, submitted by your Council, and it requests that
17 the Federal Subsistence Board recognized the customary
18 and traditional use of brown bears in Unit 8 by residents
19 of Kodiak, and so, the Council defined Kodiak as
20 including all the communities along the Road System. The
21 Kodiak Road System, except for the Nimitz housing
22 development, the U.S. Coast Guard Base, and the Pacific
23 Spaceport Complex, or otherwise known as the Kodiak
24 Rocket Launch Facility. And so, a map of this proposal
25 area is shown on page 34 of your meeting book. The
26 proponents state that customary and traditional use
27 determination for brown bears in Unit 8 should include
28 residents of Kodiak, as previously defined. Noting that
29 all residents of Kodiak Island have a long history of
30 harvesting brown bears for food and using brown bear
31 parts in traditional handicrafts. They also explained
32 that the importance of accessing brown bears for food
33 and other needs on Kodiak Island is well documented.
34 They argue that residents of the more remote communities
35 located off the island's Road System already have a
36 customary and traditional use finding for brown bear,
37 and that residents who have the same history of use
38 should not be excluded from this determination and
39 associated harvesting opportunity under federal
40 regulations. So, looking a bit at the key points in the
41 regulatory history. In 1986 the Alaska Board of Game
42 made a positive customary and traditional use finding
43 for brown bear in Unit 8. However, this finding was
44 reversed the next year in '87 after no residents
45 requested a permit for the special subsistence
46 registration hunt that occurred during the '86-'87 year.
47 And there was no federal subsistence hunt, and no
48 communities were recognized as having customary and
49 traditional use of brown bears in Unit 8, when the
50 Federal Subsistence Program announced its first

1 regulations in 1992. However, the Board did carry over
2 a customary and traditional use determination for deer
3 in Unit 8, for all Unit 8 residents from previous state
4 regulations. And this determination is notable because
5 deer, as you all know, are an introduced species on
6 Kodiak Island. While the Kodiak brown bear is an endemic
7 species whose name is derived from an Alutiiq word for
8 island and has been present there for thousands of years.
9 In 1996, a proposal requested the Board recognize
10 customary and traditional use of brown bears in Unit 8,
11 by all Unit 8 residents. When considering this proposal,
12 the Kodiak/Aleutians Council at the time noted concerns
13 that allowing residents of Kodiak City to harvest brown
14 bears under federal regulations could negatively impact
15 the guiding industry by substantially reducing the
16 number of permits available for other Alaska residents
17 and non-resident hunters. However, it appears at the
18 time of these discussions, it was not clear that the
19 Board could allocate a specific number of permits to
20 individual communities. The Council at that time
21 ultimately recommended the Board recognize the customary
22 and traditional use of brown bears by residents of
23 Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and
24 Port Lions, all of which are located off the Road System.
25 And the Council requested the communities of Ouzinkie
26 and Port Lions be added to the C&T based on histories
27 of migration and intermarriage between those communities
28 and Old Harbor and Larsen Bay.

29
30 In 1997, the Board recognized the
31 customary and traditional use of elk in Unit 8 by all
32 Unit 8 residents, and this determination is notable
33 because elk, like deer, are an introduced species on
34 Kodiak Island and further, maybe more notable, Kodiak
35 Island -- Aleutians Council recommended that all Kodiak
36 Island communities be included in this customary and
37 traditional use determination after hearing testimony
38 about the history of kinship connections and sharing
39 among and between communities on Kodiak. And so, this
40 current proposal, WP26-32, is the first to request an
41 expansion of the customary and traditional use
42 determination for brown bear in Unit 8 since the
43 determination was made for off road communities only in
44 1996.

45
46 So, when the Federal Subsistence Board
47 makes customary and traditional use determinations, they
48 do this based on a holistic analysis of the eight factors
49 that you can see shown on page 36 and 37 of your meeting
50 book. And so, the Board makes these determinations for

1 the purpose of recognizing the pool of users who exhibit
2 some or all of these eight factors. And by policy, the
3 Board does not use these determinations as a means to
4 restrict harvest or manage resources. So, if a
5 conservation concern exists for a particular resource
6 or population in question, the Board prefers to address
7 those concerns through things like harvest limit
8 changes, season restrictions or other regulations,
9 rather than by limiting customary and traditional use
10 findings. So, looking at kind of the evidence we have
11 for customary and traditional use of brown bear by the
12 Kodiak community, subsistence practices continue to form
13 a key basis of cultural identity, family life and
14 community well-being in both remote and accessible
15 communities on Kodiak Island. Based on subsistence
16 harvest data for 2021, residents of Kodiak Road System
17 -- household residents here, the average household
18 harvested about 224 pounds of wild resources with
19 salmon, non-salmon fish and large land mammals,
20 primarily deer and caribou, contributing the greatest
21 amount of harvest by weight. They're often close social
22 ties across Kodiak Island communities, and residents of
23 the Kodiak Road System often share subsistence resources
24 with smaller residents of smaller communities located
25 off the Road System, and vice versa. And in recent years
26 more residents from Kodiak off road communities have
27 relocated to communities along the Kodiak Road System
28 because of issues like declining commercial fishing
29 opportunities, age, and increasing cost of living in
30 these more remote communities.

31
32 So, the Kodiak Island Road system
33 includes about 100 miles of developed roadway on
34 northeast Kodiak Island. Most residents in this portion
35 of the island are found in the administrative areas of
36 Kodiak City, Kodiak Station, census designated place or
37 CDP, Women's Bay CDP, Mill Bay CDP, and Chiniak CDP, but
38 there are some residences along the Road System that are
39 located outside of these administrative areas. The Road
40 System also includes Nimitz, the U.S. Coast Guard Base,
41 and the Pacific Spaceport Complex, which the proponents
42 would like to exclude from this proposed C&T
43 determination for brown Bear due to differences in
44 average length of residents, harvest and use of
45 subsistence resources, subsistence knowledge, and access
46 to facilities and services that are distinct from the
47 rest of the community. The U.S. Coast Guard Base is a
48 discrete community within Kodiak Station CDP. Available
49 information indicates that Nimitz is a new off base Coast
50 Guard housing development within Kodiak Station CDP,

1 which is scheduled to be completed sometime this year,
2 and the Pacific Spaceport Complex is located south of
3 Kodiak City at Narrow Cape, and the current land use
4 agreement for the spaceport doesn't permit the
5 construction of long-term lodging facilities. But Alaska
6 Aerospace has identified a need for lodging of up to 300
7 people and may pursue revising the land use agreement
8 to build lodging facilities on site or nearby. However,
9 in their management plan for the site, they note that
10 those lodging facilities would primarily be for short-
11 term housing for employees or contractors who need to
12 stay there during certain rocket launches.

13
14 Research from 2021 indicated that the
15 demographic makeup of Kodiak Station CDP differs from
16 other communities along the Kodiak Road System. On
17 average, residents of Kodiak Station are much younger
18 than residents of Kodiak -- other Kodiak Road System
19 communities, have resided in Kodiak for a shorter
20 duration, or more likely to be employed year-round and
21 harvest less subsistence foods by weight. And so, this
22 information is shown in more detail in table two, on
23 page 36 of your meeting book. And similar trends were
24 documented in the early 90s in the last subsistence
25 survey that was conducted in that area. Coast Guard
26 personnel are typically only stationed for three-year
27 tours. But the Kodiak base is above average in requests
28 for extensions to stay based in the area due to the
29 appeal of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation
30 opportunities. But the relatively short residency of
31 many Coast Guard base residents and other military
32 personnel does impact their resource use practices.
33 Although Kodiak Station residents regularly harvest fish
34 and wildlife Mishler and colleagues and previous
35 research noted that newcomers do not participate as much
36 in traditional subsistence activities as long-term
37 residents because it generally requires 2 or 3 years to
38 get acquainted with harvest methods and gear types, and
39 to become familiar with the seasonal locations of
40 available wild resources.

41
42 So, Kodiak brown bear have been a
43 distinct subspecies present on Kodiak Archipelago for
44 around 12,000 years. Archaeological evidence from sites
45 across the archipelago documents that Alutiiq people
46 have consistently harvested and used brown bears for as
47 long as they've been on the island. Historic records,
48 oral histories, and traditional stories also document
49 Kodiak Island resident's cultural and spiritual
50 connections to bears. Many of these records, emphasizing

1 the similarities between bears and humans and these
2 beliefs have shaped the way that Kodiak residents have
3 hunted, used, and behaved toward bears for generations.
4 Knowledge of brown bears and how to hunt, process,
5 preserve, cook, and share them has been passed down from
6 generations among the Kodiak Alutiiq. This knowledge of
7 brown bear behavior and hunting was traditionally passed
8 down from older men to younger men. Written accounts
9 starting in the 1700s describe patterns of brown bear
10 hunting on Kodiak Island, including in historic villages
11 near the contemporary Kodiak Road System communities.
12 Traditionally, almost all edible parts of the bear were
13 consumed. Non-edible parts were often used to make
14 tools, clothing, bedding, handicrafts, and medicines.
15 We'll hear more about that in 26-34.

16
17 Subsistence harvest and use of brown
18 bears has evolved alongside the commercial harvest of
19 brown bears since at least the 1800s. Alutiiq hunters
20 around this time were often hired as bear hunting guides
21 due to their knowledge of bear behavior, local terrain,
22 hunting locations, and bear processing skills. And
23 again, accounts in the early 1900s identify many brown
24 bear hunting sites used by Alutiiq residents, including
25 several near what is now the Kodiak Road System. But
26 it's important in your considerations on this analysis
27 to note that brown bear harvest opportunities have
28 generally declined since the early 1900s, and brown bear
29 hunting scene has definitely become more heavily
30 regulated and potentially more of a specialized
31 activity. The availability of deer and elk populations
32 that were introduced in the 1920s is likely also
33 contributed to a decline in brown bear harvests over
34 time. Non-resident and non-local hunters have also come
35 to account for a substantial portion of the yearly brown
36 bear harvest in Unit 8. Residents of the Kodiak Road
37 System currently have access to state registration hunts
38 that occur in the road accessible portions of the island.
39 Proximity to registration hunt areas for which permits
40 are unlimited can facilitate Road System resident's
41 opportunity to hunt brown bear. However, compared to
42 areas where draw permits occur, the road accessible area
43 of Kodiak Island has the lowest number of brown bears,
44 a higher concentration of hunters, and generally lower
45 success rates. The likelihood of an individual Unit 8
46 resident receiving a permit in any given year is pretty
47 low.

48
49 Looking at contemporary -- a bit more
50 on contemporary hunting and use, a household survey data

1 from 1982 to 2021 shows consistent below harvest of brown
2 bears by residents of Kodiak Road System communities.
3 Previous household surveys suggest that residents of
4 several off-road Kodiak Island communities use, hunt and
5 share brown bear more frequently than residents of
6 Kodiak Road System communities. However, the use of
7 brown bears is evident across all Kodiak Island
8 communities. Because brown bear hunting tends to be a
9 pretty specialized activity, conducted by a small number
10 of households and limited by bear and permit
11 availability, it's also possible that some bear hunting
12 activity may be missed during these household
13 subsistence surveys. Harvest records from 1990 through
14 2023 also indicate that residents of Kodiak Road System
15 have consistently harvested brown bears, and that the
16 number of permits obtained and bears harvested per year
17 by Road System residents compares pretty favorably to
18 that of the more remote Kodiak communities who already
19 have C&T. And this information is shown in more detail
20 in the tables and figures on pages 48 to 50 of your
21 meeting book. And it's important to note, and some of
22 those figures, we weren't able to break down that data.
23 As to harvest taken by residents of Kodiak City, Kodiak
24 Station CDP, or other Road System communities.

25
26 And so, just wrapping up here we
27 presented a couple of potential alternatives on page 50
28 just to try to maybe, depending on how the RAC goes with
29 this make the potential regulations a bit simpler and
30 easier to understand. And I could probably come up with
31 some other ones right now after having thought about it.
32 But those may be something you want to take a look at.
33 So, the OSM preliminary conclusion is to support this
34 proposal with a modification to revise the customary and
35 traditional use determination area to include all
36 residents of the Kodiak Island Road System, except for
37 residents of the U.S. Coast Guard Base. And the
38 justification is that brown bears have been customarily
39 and traditionally used and harvested by residents of
40 Kodiak Island, including people residing in the
41 northeast portion in the area of the present-day Road
42 System. These harvest and use practices are based on
43 knowledges [sic] -- knowledge, and beliefs that have
44 been passed down through generations. Available harvest
45 data from the past several decades indicates that
46 residents of the Road System have consistently hunted
47 and harvested brown bears at low levels, and that the
48 average yearly number of permits obtained and brown
49 bears harvested by Road System residents compares very
50 favorably to that of more remote communities.

1
2 Additionally, there are strong social
3 relationships that involve sharing of subsistence foods
4 between Road System residents and the more remote
5 communities, and many residents from more remote
6 communities have started relocating to the Road System
7 area. So, if this proposal is adopted, almost all
8 residents of Kodiak Island would have a customary and
9 traditional use determination for brown bear in Unit 8.
10 So, the proposed modification is intended to improve
11 user understanding and potentially ease enforcement by
12 simplifying the regulatory language. Excluding the Coast
13 Guard base from this determination follows previous
14 determinations made by the Board. Other Coast Guard
15 housing located off base would not be excluded under
16 this OSM modification, because it appears there's no
17 super clear way that I'm aware of, or that we're aware
18 of to delineate those communities from other residents
19 of Kodiak Station CDP. Additionally, the modification
20 doesn't exclude the Pacific Spaceport Complex because
21 it appears there are currently no residences at these -
22 - this facility and potential future housing built there
23 would be for short-term stays for people who would not
24 qualify under federal regulations. And then lastly, if
25 this proposal is adopted as written or is modified or
26 in some other way, the Board would still need to adopt
27 WP26-33 to provide residents of the Kodiak Road System
28 communities with federal subsistence permits to enable
29 brown bear harvest. And so, that's it for my long-winded
30 presentation.

31
32 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, if I may
33 interrupt, we're trying to show -- get a map on the
34 screen to help with this -- the C&T proposal area.
35 Thanks.

36
37 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: So, I don't think
38 that was on the record. The map is on page 34.

39
40 DR. ROBERTS: Yeah, yeah, I mentioned
41 that at the very beginning. Yeah. That was our best
42 interpretation of the Council's intent for the potential
43 proposal area.

44
45 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay so, that was
46 the introduction of proposal and presentation of
47 analysis. Are there questions to Jason about -- sorry,
48 to Dr. Roberts about the proposal or the analysis? I'm
49 sorry, the analysis. Daniel, go ahead.

50

00050

1 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 I guess at the end of your analysis and the justification
3 it mentions, excluding the U.S. Coast Guard base from
4 this determination follows determinations made by the
5 Board. I'm fairly new to the Council, and so, it's -- I
6 think the reference is in 2023. What determination was
7 that?

8
9 DR. ROBERTS: Yeah, through the Chair.
10 That was the C&T determination for salmon. And so, I
11 guess that statement is a little misleading because some
12 C&T determinations in Kodiak do not specifically include
13 -- exclude the Coast Guard Base. Some do, that one does.
14 There was a proposal that wanted to include it and the
15 Council at that point was pretty set against that for
16 the reasons that I kind of discussed in this analysis.

17
18 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Are there any other
19 questions? Coral, go ahead.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

22
23 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, we'll hear
24 from Coral and then we'll go to you, Pat. Go ahead,
25 Coral.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess in reading through
28 this, I was a little confused about -- does the Coast
29 Guard Base exclusion include Lake Louise, Nimitz and
30 Aviation Hill?

31
32 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. The OSM
33 modification would only exclude the Coast Guard Base
34 proper. So, any other area within Kodiak Station CDP,
35 which is a larger area, that would not specifically be
36 excluded through the OSM modification. However, that's
37 the OSM modification and conclusion. The Council is free
38 to.....

39
40 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Can you say that one
41 more time but, differently because I thought I was
42 following you and then I lost you. Can you just repeat
43 what you said slightly differently?

44
45 DR. ROBERTS: So, the Coast Guard Base
46 is part of Kodiak Station CDP, but Kodiak Station CDP
47 is larger than.

48
49 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, Kodiak
50 Station CDP does include.....

00051

1
2 (Simultaneous speech)

3
4 DR. ROBERTS: The Coast Guard Base.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER:like Nimitz,
7 Lake Louise.

8
9 DR. ROBERTS: From my -- yes.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay.

12
13 DR. ROBERTS: Yes, so does -- is everyone
14 clear on that now or...? No?

15
16 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: I'm clear on what I
17 think you said so.

18
19 DR. ROBERTS: So, the OSM modification
20 only excludes the Coast Guard Base proper. However,
21 there are other areas within Kodiak Station CDP that the
22 Council wanted to exclude, under the OSM modification,
23 those areas would not be excluded. However, the count -
24 - this is the Council's proposal. The Council can feel
25 free to, you know, support whatever they want to.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And I think I missed
28 this. Why is the OSM modification limited to -- why is
29 it -- yeah limited to just the Coast Guard Base and not
30 the Kodiak Station CDP. I think you said this, and I
31 just missed it.

32
33 DR. ROBERTS: So, because Kodiak Station
34 CDP is bigger than the Coast Guard Base, it includes
35 some long-term residents who have no affiliation with
36 the military, potentially. It -- and we don't know --
37 we know for sure, right, people on Kodiak Coast Guard
38 Base are based there generally pretty short period of
39 time and maybe shouldn't qualify for this. Other
40 residents, it's unclear.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And then can you
43 give a little more detail, the residents who are included
44 in that but are not Coast Guard affiliated, like where
45 are those residences? I'm trying to -- because the --
46 I think even on the map, even if you blew it up, I think
47 you kind of lose the detail. So, I'm thinking of the
48 Base. Like Aviation Hill, it's an obvious separate
49 little spot. The Nimitz housing is a pretty obvious
50 separate set of houses. I'm trying to think of what

1 other residences could fall within that area that would
2 not be Coast Guard affiliated. So, if you could get,
3 like, let us know what those are, I think that would
4 help.

5
6 DR. ROBERTS: Yes. So, within Kodiak
7 Station CDP as a whole, there's the base, there's
8 Aviation Hill, there's Nimitz, Lake Louise, there's the
9 refuge housing, refuge staff. I believe.....

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Lower Government Hill?

14
15 DR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Lower Government
16 Hill.

17
18 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Where is Lower
19 Government Hill? And either Pat or Jason can answer that.

20
21 DR. ROBERTS: Go ahead, Pat.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: It's just across the street
24 and down towards the base of it. And you also have the
25 on the base, you've got the unaccounted housing. But the
26 Lower Government is considered it's on the base. I have
27 more to talk about on that, but that's where it's at.

28
29 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, I'm still not
30 clear. I'm trying to visualize where that is. It's
31 outside of the base perimeter. Is it on the Aviation
32 Hill side or where is -- I'm still not following that.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Okay, well, basically you've
35 got Aviation Hill, which is above the airport to the
36 west, northwest. Lake Louise is to the northeast of the
37 airport. Nimitz Park is about three miles off the base,
38 and that's where they're building the new housing and
39 tore down the old housing. Upper Government Hill, I think
40 I just mentioned that that's just immediately north of
41 the base. But it's considered on base by the Coasties.
42 Lower Government Hill is on the base, inside the fence
43 it's just beyond the school east -- I mean, Peterson
44 School and the unaccompanied housing barracks that's on
45 base. And I'll make my arguments later, but that's
46 basically where things are at. I have some pertinent
47 information that probably OSM doesn't have.

48
49 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, that answered
50 my question. Thanks, Pat. Do -- go ahead, Coral.

1

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. So, Dr. Roberts, the
4 -- I just want to clarify. So, the residents of the
5 refuge housing that's on there, that's the only other -
6 - and do we know how many houses or how many people
7 there? And are those resident -- those aren't -- my
8 understanding was they weren't permanent residential
9 housing, therefore seasonal workers and stuff. And so,
10 do you have any information on that, in which case they
11 would not ever qualify if they're temporary housing?

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DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Yeah.
There is some housing at the refuge for seasonal
employees. I believe there's also 2 or 3 houses for more
long-term employees. I don't know currently if any
permanent staff are living in those houses. It's not
many people.

CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks. And, Pat, I
think I skipped over you. Did I not actually call on you
to make -- to ask your -- the question that you had?

MR. HOLMES: No, ma'am. I guess what I'd
like to make a point that new folks at OSM weren't around
for, what was it, Becky, when you were helping coordinate
the Kodiak rural versus non-rural arguments, what, 20
years ago or so? And one determination that we got from
the Board that our community pressed very hard was that
Roberts mentioned part of it, is the cultural difference
between Coast Guard folks and people on the Road System.
And so, at that time, in our initial arguments, and they
agreed with us that the whole Coast Guard complex. And
I think that's what you want to call it, or CDP, do not
necessarily participate in traditional subsistence use.
Some of them do, some do stay. But I -- but a lot of
them do not extend, and I'd say the majority of them do
not. And so, in the past that was excluded back when we
were having those arguments and then when they finally
the whole argument spun around statewide and just
fighting what was urban rather than non-rural. But I
think our entire communities supported not including
folks that work for the Coast Guard Base and basing that
on traditional cultural uses. Because most of them come,
they'll get a sport fish permit, you know, they might
at the end of get enough to get a gillnet, but still a
lot of them don't even -- it's a whole different culture.
And so, that -- I'm very much in favor of the whole Road
System continuing and having a customary traditional
definition, but definitely not folks involved with the
Coast Guard and probably the people that Mr. Roberts has

1 been chatting with at the Coast Guard Base weren't around
2 then either. So, anyway I would not go with their
3 modification. I would have to expand that and include
4 associated housing areas. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: I'm sorry. Yeah, I
7 allowed us to get a little off track, so I was allowing
8 clarifying questions of the presentation before we get
9 into our -- we have a process we go through and I
10 apologize, but, yeah, Pat, if you have additional
11 comments, definitely bring those up when we get to the
12 discussion part.....

13
14 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Are there any
15 other.....

16
17 (Simultaneous speech)

18
19 MR. HOLMES: (Indiscernible), pardon me.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yep. Okay. Are
22 there any other clarifying questions on the
23 presentation, on the analysis? Daniel, go ahead.

24
25 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
26 I don't know if it was in your analysis, but did you
27 come across the amount of people or the percentage of
28 people that work with on the base, but do not live in
29 Kodiak Station CDP?

30
31 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Mr.
32 Smith, I could not answer that question. Yeah, that's
33 pretty hard to find out.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess I wanted to
38 clarify, when I look at the citations and then in reading
39 through, there are definitely, I think, three tribes
40 that exist in the Road System. Was there any conversation
41 or consultation with those tribes, or did you strictly
42 look at written literature?

43
44 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, as you
45 know we have standing consultations on all proposals
46 that come before us.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And let -- I -- I'm
49 going to change the word consultation to discussion or
50 outreach, because I think that's more what the question

1 is. So, we have, yes a formal consultation process, but
2 I think the question is more along in the process of
3 putting this together. Was there outreach or dialogue
4 with those tribes?

5

6 DR. ROBERTS: No, we were limited to what
7 was written, right, transcripts. Did not do a specific
8 outreach to the tribe.

9

10 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, I think
11 one more and I think we'll wrap up the question section.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: So, in saying that, like
14 do you have a mandate to only be limited to written or
15 could you have or in this process can there be discussion
16 and outreach to tribes?

17

18 DR. ROBERTS: Well, there certainly could
19 have been. But typically, our outreach is limited to the
20 proponents of proposals. You know, that could be a way
21 to certainly improve the process, but yeah.

22

23 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you. I
24 think we'll try to take the next section, which is report
25 on Board consultation. I think it does dovetail very
26 nicely with what was just being said. And then after we
27 get past that number 2, I think we'll go ahead and break
28 for lunch. So, who is doing report on Board consultation?

29

30 MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
31 There were no comments received during the tribal
32 consultations. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIPERSON SKINNER: Thanks. Coral, go
35 ahead.

36

37 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
38 do have a question, and I don't know if this is the
39 appropriate place to ask it, but we have in front of us
40 like a summary of our proposed regulation. And I was
41 wondering if it's just standard procedure to not
42 actually provide us with the actual proposal that we put
43 forward because we don't have that in front of us. So,
44 I was just wondering if that's standard procedure to not
45 see the original proposal because it's hard to remember.
46 Back then I was like, oh, is that what we said, or what
47 was our justification? And make sure that it all made
48 it into this analysis. It's an interesting.....

49

50

1 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, if
2 you're looking at -- your entire proposal, should be in
3 the issue and discussion section, like your
4 justification for the proposal that that should be in
5 there.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, and then
8 particularly since this was a RAC generated proposal,
9 it would obviously be in the transcripts.

10
11 DR. ROBERTS: Oh yeah. Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Transcripts and
14 meeting -- potentially meeting materials.

15
16 DR. ROBERTS: Sorry. Through the Chair
17 I'm forgetting. So, we changed the title of the what
18 used to be the discussion section is now the proponent
19 statement section. So, through the issue statement and
20 the proponent statement that should show the proposal
21 that the Council submitted.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: In the sense of it
24 was cut and pasted.....

25
26 MR. HOLMES: On what page, please.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: That's on page 24.

29
30 DR. ROBERTS: Yeah. The proposed
31 statement is generally verbatim. There may be some --
32 yeah.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I think then
35 what we'll do. So, we've gotten through the first two
36 steps of the presentation procedures for proposals.
37 Let's go ahead and take an hour break for lunch. Coming
38 back at 1:00. And at 1:00, we'll start with number 3
39 agency comments. So, under here are listed Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game, federal agencies and tribal
41 entities, Native, tribal village and other. So, we'll
42 be back here at 1:00.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: We -- yeah, we
49 started a little bit late, But Sara Taylor did arrive.
50 So, what we're going to do is -- oh, we're -- we'll --

1 she can introduce herself later if you want to -- okay.
2 We're going to finish the proposal we're on right now
3 and then when we're done with this proposal we will hear
4 from Sara Taylor, and that would be under agenda item
5 7. So, where we left off with this proposal is we are
6 on number 3, agency comments. So, this is Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game, federal agencies and tribal
8 entities, Native, tribal village and other. So, is there
9 anyone from Fish and Game online who wants to comment
10 on this proposal?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 Okay, I am not hearing anyone. Is there
15 anyone on from any of the federal agencies that wants
16 to comment on this proposal?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 Okay. Not hearing anyone. Are there any
21 tribal entities which would be Native, tribal village
22 or other that want to comment on this proposal?

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 Okay. Not seeing or hearing any. We're
27 on to number 4 advisory group comments, which is other
28 Regional Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees or
29 Subsistence Resource Commissions. Do we have anyone
30 online from any of those groups that would like to
31 provide comment?

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 Okay. Not seeing or hearing any. Summary
36 of written public comments.

37
38 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. This is
39 Jason Roberts. There are no written public comments
40 received on this proposal.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you. We
43 are now -- sorry. Okay, we're on to number 6, public
44 testimony. Do we have -- I can see there's no public in
45 the room. Is there anyone online who wishes to give
46 public testimony?

47
48 (No response)

49
50

1 So, a reminder, if you've if you're on
2 the phone, on your phone only and you're muted, you can
3 unmute on the Teams program by pressing star six. And
4 then if you're joined through Teams on a computer, it's
5 going to be a button on your screen. So, is there anyone
6 for public testimony?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Okay. I'm not hearing any. We're up to
11 number 7. This is Regional Council recommendation, so,
12 we'd be looking for a motion to support, and then we
13 would vote that up or vote that down. So, is there a
14 motion?

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Move to support, Madam
17 Chair.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Pat. Is
20 there a second?

21

22 MR. RICHARDSON: Second.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. We have a
25 motion and a second. The motion is to support this
26 proposal. We're on to discussion and justification. Who
27 would like to start? Carol, go ahead.

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Madam Chair.
30 Yeah, I am definitely -- I'm in support of this wildlife
31 proposal to recognize customary and traditional use. I
32 think there's a great deal of confirmation about the
33 importance of bear to all the people of the island, and
34 I would like to see the rest of the people of Kodiak
35 Island have the same access that people in the villages
36 do as traditionally they were all the same people.
37 There's -- you know it's been outlined pretty well in
38 this analysis that bear are important. They have been
39 in use and are still in use. They're still important.
40 So, I'm in favor of this.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thank you. Further
43 comments or discussion? Daniel, go ahead.

44

45 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
46 would also be in support of this proposal allowing more
47 subsistence opportunity for people of Kodiak. I do have
48 maybe a question, or it could lead to more of a
49 discussion about the exclusion of the Coast Guard Base.
50 I just -- during lunch, I just looked at the Kodiak area

1 subsistence fishing regulations under federal
2 subsistence and the customary and traditional use
3 determination for the Kodiak area, except the mainland
4 district. The determination is residents of the Kodiak
5 Island Borough, except those residing on the Coast Guard
6 Base. And I guess a question maybe to you, Jason, would
7 be is that comparable, the exact same thing as the Kodiak
8 Station CDP, or is it just those residing on the base,
9 as we talked about earlier?

10
11 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, Mr.
12 Smith. Yeah. So, that was one of the reasons for the OSM
13 modification would kind of maintain consistency because
14 the Coast Guard Base is smaller than Kodiak Station CDP.
15 So, yeah, if you were to exclude Kodiak Station CDP,
16 which you certainly can, that would be a bit different
17 than what's in the regs for salmon.

18
19 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think I would be in
20 support of the Kodiak Station CDP as opposed to the
21 base. Just -- excluding just a little bit of the
22 residents on that are involved with the Coast Guard Base
23 and just excluding a small portion of those that live
24 on the base but making it a larger area like Nimitz,
25 Aviation and other Coast Guard housing, I think if there
26 would maybe be some conflicts within the base if we just
27 limit one portion of the base.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I'll make a
30 comment here. We essentially received a recommendation
31 from OSM to streamline the language. So, what we've moved
32 to support is the language on page 23 and a proposed
33 streamlining modification that would I think require a
34 motion to amend would be -- I'm not going to try to
35 wordsmith, but basically that C&T applies to all
36 residents of the Kodiak Island Borough except for the -
37 - yes, please.

38
39
40 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Yeah.
41 So, you know, right now the C&T reads several different
42 communities that have C&T. And then what we have there
43 kind of adds another community, except for some
44 communities within that community. So, it gets pretty
45 complicated. My suggestion would be like Chair Skinner
46 mentioned, would be to kind of rephrase the customary
47 and traditional use determination if you want to support
48 this, to say something along the lines of all residents
49 of Kodiak have customary and traditional use
50 determination for brown bear in Unit 8, except and

1 whichever groups you want to exclude use that just to
2 make it a bit simpler.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. And then just
5 following on what Daniel just said, if it is the wish
6 of the Council to allow -- to provide C&T for all
7 residents, except for those living on the base and the
8 associated areas of Aviation Hill and Nimitz. That would
9 be all Kodiak residents, except for those living in the
10 Kodiak Station CDP. So that -- we'd want a motion to
11 amend to make that clear, that that's, 1: that that's
12 what we mean, and it would also help streamline the
13 language. All right. Are there additional -- Coral, go
14 ahead.

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess I'm still
17 confused. And so, to save me the time, is there a
18 definition somewhere of what is meant by the U.S. Coast
19 Guard Base and what that includes?

20
21 DR. ROBERTS: Yes. So, the best I can
22 give you is that the Coast Guard Base is a discrete
23 community within Kodiak Station CDP. It takes up most
24 of that CDP, but there are other areas within the CDP
25 that are not the base.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Is it fair to say
28 it's what's in the perimeter? So, the perimeter, I mean,
29 the fenced area where you have to get checked in through
30 the gate. So, anything behind the gate would be the
31 Coast Guard Base?

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: So, I guess that nothing
34 in these documents shows me what that is. So, I feel
35 like that's an interpretation by people. And so, I guess
36 I'm not comfortable unless I know what we're going to
37 call it and there's a definition for it.

38
39 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. I
40 believe the motion currently is for the -- excluding the
41 CDP which is a defined administrative area that is
42 different than the base.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. So,

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

47
48 CHAIRPERSONSKINNER: Yeah. Let me make a
49 comment and then I'll go to you, Pat. So, the language
50 in the current proposal, I'm looking at page 33. It does

1 spell out not included residents of Nimitz, U.S. Coast
2 Guard Base and the Pacific Spaceport. My understanding
3 of your report or analysis is that the CDP -- I keep
4 forgetting the name of it. The CDP includes Nimitz and
5 the Coast Guard Base and Aviation Hill. So, that's it.
6 Okay, Pat. Go ahead.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I would sincerely disagree
9 because you have Lake Louise and that's not Nimitz and
10 that should be -- I think the CDP should be included in
11 this. This is what our Council has endorsed for more
12 than 20 years. And I think that just because it makes
13 it hard to read does not -- that it shouldn't be included
14 and I think that the original wording that we had that
15 the Coast Guard Base and associated housing facilities
16 or the Coast Guard Station CDP, because the folks that
17 live on the base my experience of more than six years
18 in Kodiak, they have a whole different culture. And so,
19 I think that they traditionally don't go and do anything
20 subsistence. They do some once they've been a while.
21 But, for the most part they don't, and I think
22 particularly on the bear issue they if they want bear,
23 they can go for a Road System permit or whatever else,
24 But, I don't think this is appropriate for this proposal.
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, So, just to
28 clarify one more time, the Kodiak Station CDP includes
29 the Coast Guard Base, which is anything inside the
30 perimeter and includes Aviation Hill, it includes Nimitz
31 and includes Lake Louise. So, it really -- it's a defined
32 area. So, we know what the geographical area is, and
33 it's the kind of the broadest area that encompasses
34 primarily people associated with the Coast Guard. Okay.
35 Leigh, go ahead.

36
37 MS. HONIG: We were just provided a map
38 that we might want to put on the screen that might help.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, So, we're in
41 the process of getting a map shared on the screen and
42 online that shows exactly the area that we're talking
43 about. While that's being set up, are there further
44 comments or questions? Coral, go ahead.

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: So, can we clarify again,
47 because you said something that now made me confused.
48 Is the motion that we adopted, was it to support the
49 proposed regulation that we forwarded or is it to support
50 the regulation with OSM's modification? Because that --

1 it sounds like we're going to amend. And so, that'll
2 make a difference if there's an amendment to this.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: My understanding
5 is the motion was to support the proposal. I'm
6 considering the proposal to be what's on page 23. So,
7 we have a table where it has the proposed regulation.
8 In that box, that's the language that is the proposal
9 and the motion was to support the proposal. So, if we
10 don't amend all of that language there is included, or
11 we could amend to say all residents of Kodiak except for
12 the Kodiak Station CDP. And what we got -- I think what
13 we're going to get clarification on is exactly what is
14 within the Kodiak Station CDP, I hope. Go ahead, Brett.

15
16 MR. RICHARDSON: Brett Richardson,
17 Unalaska. Basically, I would defer to Kodiak residents
18 on the Council. However, my opinion would be to support
19 the proposal with modification. I feel that if you can
20 qualify, you can qualify. So, that's all. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: What was the very
23 last part of what you said? I just didn't hear it.

24
25 MR. RICHARDSON: If you can qualify for
26 this, you should be able to get a permit regardless of
27 where you live.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, we have
30 a map in the room. And is this also sharing on the
31 screen? Okay. So, anyone who's online or in the room can
32 take a look at the map. Does someone want to speak to
33 the map and walk us through what we're looking at? Or I
34 can keep talking. Okay. I think -- looks like we're
35 teeing up some more comments here.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think what Robert
38 just explained does not address the whole shebang and
39 then that's in my mind what's important, is all the
40 housing areas. Louise, Nimitz, Aviation Hill and the
41 Base.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, I think
44 we're getting Janel online to speak to the map just to
45 say again, I -- so, when I asked what's included in the
46 Kodiak Station CDP, it's what's within the gate. So, we
47 in Kodiak, we call that the base. It's the Aviation Hill
48 housing the Nimitz housing. So, the housing that's in
49 that big, flat, open area that you can see from the road
50 and then Lake Louise, which I'm interpreting, we mean

1 the housing that's kind of on the other side of the lake
2 as you're driving past. So, it would include all of that
3 falls in within -- and includes also, the Fish and
4 Wildlife housing there. That's right by the refuge
5 building. But, if Janel is online and wants to speak to
6 this -- the map, that would be great.

7
8 MS. DAY: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
9 And I'm going to drop another map in the chat. Because
10 it actually shows the location of the different housing
11 areas within the Kodiak CDP. What's on the screen now
12 just shows what the initial proposal was asking for. So,
13 you'll see the Kodiak Station CDP label underneath the
14 U.S. Coast Guard Base label and hard because I don't
15 have a pointer. But basically, if you follow the
16 perimeter of that kind of purple-ish line, cause [sic]
17 it, like, wraps around, like Pyramid, like over to
18 Women's Bay along the coastline of Women's Bay. Down
19 kind of that Cliff Point area. And then it comes up
20 again along Women's Bay and then wraps back around. So,
21 that's the extent of the -- or the full extent of the
22 Kodiak Station CDP. And if someone's able to share the
23 map that I just dropped in the meeting chat, there's a
24 little more detail on that one that I think will help
25 answer some of the questions about where things are
26 relative to the CDP boundary.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thank you, Janel.
29 So, how does this relate to the housing that's down at
30 Cliff point? Is that included in the CD -- in the CDP
31 or not? No. Okay. I'm seeing Jason shake his head that
32 the cliff point housing would -- is not going to be in
33 the Kodiak Station CDP.

34
35 MS. DAY: Yeah. And if you like look at
36 the map you can see like Cliff Point is like not purple-
37 y. It's more of just that like color. So, that means
38 that it's outside of the CDP area. So, that would be
39 included in the C&T and excluded from the Kodiak Station
40 CDP exclusion area.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. And I see
43 Katya has her hand up. Go ahead, Katya.

44
45 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. This is kind of not
46 related to your discussion, but it is. I would like to
47 ask everyone who is speaking to mention their name first
48 before they speak, because we have this meeting recorded
49 and then we have this transcribed. And it's very
50 difficult for people to transcribe it to know who is

1 speaking. They cannot recognize you by your voice. So,
2 just mentioning your first and last name very quickly
3 first would be helpful. Thank you.

4

5 MS. DAY: So, I'll go ahead and do that.
6 My apologies. For the record, my name is Janel Day. I'm
7 the cartographer at OSM and I'm happy to be talking
8 about this map. But, yeah, also, if we can pull up that
9 other map, that would be helpful.

10

11 DR. ROBERTS: It's up. Janel.

12

13 MS. DAY: Okay. I'm not seeing it on the
14 shared screen.

15

16 DR. ROBERTS: It's up in the room. It's
17 not up on Teams yet.

18

19 MS. DAY: Oh, okay. That's fine. I just
20 -- yeah, I want -- before I spoke to it, I just wanted
21 to make sure that people could see it. But this one has
22 stars and little labels that show where the different
23 housing areas are relative to this CDP area.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: We have a -- sorry.
26 We have a question from Coral.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Sure. Yeah, this is Coral.
29 So, can somebody -- I don't know if somebody in the room
30 or Janel. So, I'm still not sure, according to this map.
31 And I know Kodiak, but I'm not sure from the map where
32 that Kodiak Station CDP encompasses. It's not the
33 Woman's Bay, Bells Flats, right?

34

35 MS. DAY: Correct. It's the one just...

36

37 (Simultaneous speech)

38

39 MS. CHERNOFF: Because they're the same
40 color. So, I didn't -- I couldn't really tell. And then
41 there's lines and I couldn't really tell.

42

43 MS. DAY: Yeah. So, yeah, the lines just
44 represent the boundaries between -- like this map
45 originally was created to show all of the CDPs in the
46 Kodiak Road System area. But, yeah, just to the north,
47 you see kind of that ziggy-zaggy [sic] line. That's the
48 dividing line between the Woman's Bay CDP and the Kodiak
49 Station CDP.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Jeff, go ahead.

2

3 MR. WASLEY: Jeff Wasley. So, for us, not
4 from Kodiak, this is kind of a bit -- are there residents
5 in this purple area that are not Coast Guard folks
6 besides Fish and Wildlife?

7

8 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I'll
9 take a first stab at that because I asked that question
10 of Jason earlier, and he can speak, but what he basically
11 said is, the only people who live in this area that
12 aren't Coast Guard would be the people, the refuge. The
13 refuge people who live at the refuge building.

14

15 MR. WASLEY: Jeff Walsey again, so do the
16 members on this -- do you guys feel the same way about
17 Fish and wildlife folks as the Coast Guard folks, or...?
18 I'll just kind of leave that up for you guys.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: So, I'll respond, and I
23 and I asked before so, it'd be nice to know how many
24 houses are there? Is it temporary housing? Because if
25 it's temporary housing, it's a non-issue, right? If
26 there's two houses and the refuge manager lives there
27 or not -- I guess I was having a conversation somewhere
28 else that to me, it's like there's always exceptions
29 within things, right? So, if there's the refuge manager
30 and the deputy manager that live in two of the five
31 houses there, and they become ineligible to hunt, is
32 that fair to have those two exceptions and just live
33 with that. But I guess like in our analysis, we didn't
34 get how many houses there are, are they temporary, are
35 they permanent residents? And I think one of the places
36 at least might even be -- there might be 1 or 2 Coast
37 Guard houses on there. So, I don't know. I -- to me, I
38 think it'd be easy enough to just exclude those who are
39 associated with the refuge and refuge housing. It would
40 just be easy for me to exclude those couple out of that
41 Coast Guard area. And then I also, want to say like this
42 has been really difficult because as you see, we talked
43 about the U.S. Coast Guard Base, and we know what that
44 means. The people who live with the Coast Guard and have
45 Coast Guard housing. And then in the analysis, you see
46 a lot of language from subsistence survey that happened.
47 And they're using like Kodiak C -- whatever it is.
48 They're using this other language and then up here we
49 see Kodiak Station. So, we're using all kinds of
50 different language for the same thing, which is why I

1 think we have So, many questions too and it makes it a
2 little more confusing. So, we're trying to figure out
3 what we're going to call that language because like I
4 asked, is their language like, what do we mean? Like in
5 the 2023 fishing closure when we say it's excluding
6 members of the U.S. Coast Guard Base. There is no
7 definition anywhere in this book or in the language for
8 that. So, what do we mean by that? So, we're going to
9 have to create a definition for what we mean because
10 we're using different defining language for the same
11 place, Kodiak Station, Kodiak CDP or whatever that is
12 and U.S. Coast Guard Base. So, that's what's kind of
13 making it a little bit confusing too.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Alright. Further
16 discussion or questions.

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Okay. So, what I've heard So, far -- or
21 I'll summarize where I think we are. So, on page 23 we
22 have the original proposal language and the motion is
23 to support this language. If we want to do -- if we want
24 to have different language. So, if we want to refer to
25 the -- either just the U.S. Coast Guard Base, which is
26 shown in the purple, right, the solid purple there with
27 the star on it, or if we want to refer to the Coast
28 Guard Station CDP, which is census designated place, and
29 this is a geographic area that's used across the multiple
30 governments, federal government, you know, the state for
31 voting purposes. So, it's a recognized boundary area.
32 If we want to use the Coast Guard Station CDP, that's a
33 choice and if we want to then create a little carve out
34 within that to -- not sure whether to exclude or include
35 the people that live at the refuge. So, those are those
36 are options that we have, we have original language. We
37 could amend it to be the Coast Guard Station CDP. And
38 then there's the question of what to do with the people
39 who live at the refuge. Coral, go ahead.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry, Madam Chair. I
42 just want to also point out that Natasha has her hand
43 online quite a bit ago.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Yep. And,
46 Natasha, if you want to speak, you need to speak up. You
47 need to actually say that because I can't see your hand
48 up. But I'll call on Natasha, and then I'll go to Coral.

49
50

1 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thanks, madam Chair.
2 I just was wanting to express my thoughts on this
3 proposal. On the motion, I'm supportive of it. I'm
4 supportive of excluding the Coast Guard CDP for all of
5 the reasons that have been highlighted in particular,
6 that the -- those properties are occupied into
7 completely by Coast Guard personnel and their families
8 and they are by nature are transient population. And so,
9 they would not have -- I wouldn't -- in my mind that
10 would exclude them from being eligible for a customary
11 and traditional designation. And then I'm also
12 supportive if we were to entertain an amendment to make
13 sure that the Fish and Wildlife owned housing that is
14 lumped into that area were to be exempted so that they
15 would be eligible to participate in hunting activities
16 if they did meet all of the other resident requirements.
17 And so, I was just wanting to provide those comments on
18 this proposal. Thanks.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Natasha.
21 Hold on. Okay, sorry. Leigh has been trying to jump in.
22 I'm going to take Leigh and then we'll go to Coral.

23
24 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Madam Chair. I
25 thought it would just be pertinent information I just
26 received from Jill. So, Dave from Kodiak Refuge has been
27 listening in, and he provided us with the information
28 that he has roughly six residents with four full-time,
29 year-round Fish and Wildlife Service employee occupants.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right, thanks.
33 Coral.

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, so, maybe someone
36 can help us understand. This area -- I guess I don't
37 know but, my understanding was this is part of the
38 wildlife refuge. And so, that is within this Coast Guard
39 land. So, is that a fact and is there actually boundaries
40 that identify that this is part of the Kodiak Wildlife
41 Refuge? Because that then would be easy to exclude that
42 section and identify it by it being the Kodiak Wildlife
43 Refuge.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Are you asking for
46 the best way to identify or kind of parse out those
47 people who live on the refuge? Is that what you're --
48 okay.

49
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, Madam Chair, instead
2 of saying residents -- because I don't know how we would
3 say that. Like residents and employees of the refuge,
4 or is it actually identified as the Kodiak Wildlife
5 Refuge, then we could just exclude that whole section
6 out of the Coast Guard since it just lies within there.
7

8 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, can I make a
9 suggestion? What I would suggest is that the -- if --
10 that we get the RAC intent. So, if the RAC -- if what
11 we end up with is there's a motion to amend the new
12 language refers to the Kodiak Station CDP will be
13 excluded from a C&T finding, except for the people
14 associated with the refuge. That we capture that and
15 then the exact language of how that's worded that could
16 be worked on by the people who do that for a living. So,
17 I think as long as we're clear with what we mean, the
18 actual language part can be done later. Daniel, go ahead.
19

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair,
21 this is Daniel Smith. I guess I could take a stab at a
22 motion to amend. So the amendment would not be
23 necessarily the OSM preliminary conclusion, but so,
24 motion to amend where the regulation, I guess, would
25 read is Unit 8, residents of Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Kodiak,
26 Kavik, Karluk, Ouzinkie and Port Lions and the Kodiak
27 Island Road System, except for residents of Kodiak
28 Station CDP, which does not include residents of Buskin
29 River State Recreation Site and Kodiak National Wildlife
30 Refuge.
31

32 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Is there a
33 second?
34

35 MR. RICHARDSON: Second.
36

37 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thank
38 you. Discussion or questions? Coral, go ahead.
39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: I don't know if we've done
41 this before, but is there a way we could get that, like
42 in writing or take a break and have a -- see it like
43 what that is, or we could read it like four times, either
44 way.
45

46 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. If there's a
47 way to -- for someone to type it and project it, I think
48 that would be handy. And then I also, have a related
49 question for -- I'll directed toward Jason. But I see
50 Katya at the mic. Go ahead Katya.

1

2

MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessles. The motion to amend was made. It needs to be seconded before any other discussion occurs. Oh, it was? Okay. Sorry, I missed it.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, while I think we're getting the computer hooked up, my question to Jason. I thought I recalled discussion whether it was in this meeting, or maybe it was on the side during a break, that more streamlined language might be that everyone, either within the Kodiak Island Borough or everyone within the relevant Unit 9 -- 8, within the unit has the C&T, except for the people at the base. So, instead of listing out every single community, just saying this whole area except for -- okay, yeah. Because at this point, the list of who we're excluding is going to be much smaller. So, I'm just throwing that out because it was something that came up in discussion earlier about streamlining. So, if we wanted to, we could take the -- everyone in the borough or Unit 8, however you want to do it, is like -- has the C&T, except for the people in that kind of Coast Guard-related CDP. But, anyway, we do have a motion and a second. So, we have a motion on the floor, and it can be further amended or withdrawn if we wanted to change the language. But we are, I think, getting the language typed up right now. Okay, let's go ahead and stand down for five minutes so that Kendra's not feeling the pressure over there. So, we'll reconvene at quarter till.

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(Off record)

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(On record)

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MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I'm seeing two versions, and I guess I would -- right? So, I would recommend that we only be seeing what was in the amendment put forward by member Daniel Smith, because the other was not put forward.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, I'll go
3 ahead and read what's on the screen. We now see one
4 version. It's the motion -- or the proposed language
5 would be -- so for C&T use determination brown bear
6 would be residents of Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Karluk, Old
7 Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions and the Kodiak Road
8 System, except for residents of the Kodiak Station CDP,
9 which does not include the Buskin River State Recreation
10 Site and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge facilities. So,
11 that's the current motion on the floor. Daniel, go ahead.
12

13 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair,
14 this is Daniel Smith. I'd like to withdraw my main motion
15 and make a second amendment.
16

17 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, let's see if
18 we have concurrence by your second.
19

20 MR. RICHARDSON: Second.
21

22 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. All right,
23 So, your motion is now withdrawn. Go ahead.
24

25 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you. So, the
26 amendment would be all residents of Unit 8, except for
27 residents of the Kodiak Station CDP and then in
28 parentheses, (this does not include residents of the
29 Buskin River State Recreation Site in Kodiak National
30 Wildlife Refuge).
31

32 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Is there a
33 second?
34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.
36

37 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thank
38 you. So, do we want to wait until Kendra types that or
39 should do -- are there comments or discussion that we
40 can have while she's typing? Coral, go ahead.
41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I guess I would just
43 recommend just to make it a little clearer, maybe say
44 residents of Unit 8, except for -- oh no, residents of
45 Unit 8, including the residents within Buskin River
46 Wildlife Refuge facilities. Except. Except.
47

48 (Simultaneous speech)
49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Is -- are you
2 proposing accept residents?

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I think this is just
5 up for discussion. So, I don't know how people feel
6 about it. Aren't we just in the discussion mode? And
7 however people feel about it, like somebody could make
8 an amendment or depending on what the feel is, I just
9 feel like it would be cleaner. Yeah. So, I guess I would,
10 I mean, I feel like it'd be cleaner to say revise the
11 customary and traditional use determination to include
12 all residents of the Kodiak Island Road System,
13 including the residents within the Buskin River Wildlife
14 Refuge facilities, whatever except residents of the U.S.
15 Coast Guard Base or except residents of the Kodiak
16 Station CDP.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, my reaction to
19 that is -- to me it's cleaner the way it is because you
20 start off with the defined boundary of Unit 8, except
21 for the defined boundary of the Kodiak Station CDP, and
22 then the exclusion or the exception applies to the Kodiak
23 Station CDP. So, when I'm reading it, to me anyway, it
24 makes sense if you put the exclusions or the exceptions
25 right after residents of Unit 8. It's like you're talking
26 about someone who's been accepted from something that
27 you haven't gotten to yet. Go ahead, Jason.

28
29 DR. ROBERTS: Sorry. Through the Chair,
30 Jason Roberts. Just a thought. So, you might -- could
31 tinker with what's in the parentheses right now, just
32 and just say instead of this does not include because
33 you're getting into, like, multiple exceptions. You
34 could just say Buskin River State Recreation Site and
35 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are also, included in
36 the C&T or something.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Go ahead, Kendra.

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: So, through -- Kendra Holman
41 for the record. So, the other thing is if you have the
42 exceptions that we don't want to go at the end, we can
43 list them out and the exact regulatory language after
44 the meeting, we can sit down with our regulations
45 specialist and make sure that we have them written how
46 they need to be written for regulations. If we just make
47 it clear exactly who you want, exempt from this. So, it
48 would be -- if we had it all residents of Unit 8, Kodiak
49 CDP. Who all do you want exempt from that within the CDP
50 and then we would be able to get the specific -- you

1 know, make it clear who you want exempt, and then we
2 will be able to get it written how it needs to be written
3 in the proper regulatory language with Justin at that
4 time.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. That's true.
7 So, we can wordsmith this, but it's going to be -- the
8 regulatory specialist is going to change it if it's
9 necessary anyway. Okay. So, I guess, Daniel, do you agree
10 that this language that's showing right now, this is
11 consistent with the motion -- that this is the motion
12 you that you made?

13
14 MR. SMITH: Yes, it is.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, we had a
17 motion and a second. This is the motion on the floor. I
18 think that our intent is clear, and we accept that when
19 this language, if it goes through the process and -- or
20 as it goes through the process, it will probably be
21 changed up by the regulatory specialist. But our intent
22 is clear. So, whatever they wordsmith, it will be
23 consistent with our intent. Are there additional
24 questions or comments? And I want to make sure Pat and
25 Natasha, do either of you have additional -- I don't
26 want to forget you since you're online.

27
28 MS. HAYDEN: This is Natasha, Madam
29 Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes. Go ahead,
32 Natasha.

33
34 MS. HAYDEN: I'm supportive of the
35 revised motion. I'm really appreciative of this. I think
36 it's good and yeah, I'm supportive of it. Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, thanks. I'll
39 go ahead and.....

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Oh, sorry. Go
44 ahead, Pat, and then I'll make my comments. Go ahead,
45 Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Since you asked the
48 question. I agree with Natasha. I think it's moved in a
49 good direction and should be solvable the way it is.
50 Thank you.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks, Pat. So, I do intend to support this proposal. I think it's clear that historically and anthropologically, bears were traditionally used by people in the Kodiak area and by Kodiak, I mean the Kodiak Road System area. I think that that's it is well documented. I do like the language that we're looking at, because it does carve out people who live on the Coast Guard Base or in Coast Guard housing and in other actions we've had we've talked about the fact that Coast Guard families or Coast Guard personnel do tend to have shorter residence in Kodiak. Most of them do come in on their whatever it is, 2- or 3-year terms, and then they transfer out, and I think this recognizes that. And I also agree with the exemption for the Buskin River State Recreation Site and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, because we have had refuge staff that lived in the refuge facilities, but they lived there for many years and they were definitely viewed as part of the community, and they engaged in other subsistence activities. So, I agree with including that exemption or carve out from the carve out. And I'm looking around. Are there any final -- Coral, go ahead.

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MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I guess while we're talking about that, it just dawned on me that I don't know if people want to include the -- we do have -- we can have a lot of Navy. We don't have like a Navy base, but we do have a Navy Seal area. So, while I hate to bring this up last minute, I don't know if the Council, that's something that they would like to include with the exclusion of the Coast Guard Base, or if we can or can't do that because it didn't show up in the analysis. But they're very temporary and circulating out of the community also.

DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, the Kodiak Station CDP includes the Coast Guard base. So, what you're then.....

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, what I would suggest is if you want to make a motion to add that exclusion, you can go ahead and see if -- how that goes. Go ahead.

MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. At this point I would like to make an amendment to add the exclusion of the Navy base. The residents of the Navy base at Spruce Cape.

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Is there a second?
2 Okay, not hearing a second. The motion dies for lack of
3 a second.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Yes, go ahead
8 Pat.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering is there
11 actually housing? There's no housing down at the Buskin
12 River Recreational Site. There's just seasonal person
13 that helps the parks, and there's -- I don't believe
14 there's any housing down there at all or anybody living
15 there other than people coming up to camp.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, if Jason has
18 anything. If not, I think Daniel can speak to this. He
19 brought some traditional knowledge. Go ahead, Daniel,
20 if you want to explain why you included that.

21
22 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair,
23 this is Daniel. I guess I don't have like a clear answer
24 about why I put that. I guess the terminology of the
25 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge housing from my
26 intention, I thought it was on the State Recreation Site.
27 But it might not be.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Didn't you say
30 there was a full-time biologist that lives in housing?
31 A state biologist?

32
33 MR. SMITH: Yeah, on the Kodiak National
34 Wildlife Refuge facility.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, So, they're
37 already encompassed in the Kodiak National Wildlife
38 Refuge.

39
40 MR. SMITH: Yes.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, we have
43 a choice. We could delete the extra language or proceed
44 as is. Coral, go ahead.

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I don't know if this
47 is something that could get captured in that intent part
48 that if there is no housing there, that could be
49 eliminated. And then we could just go with the Kodiak
50 National Wildlife Refuge. But I think he included it

1 because we're not really sure and I'd asked the question
2 of does the refuge own that land or what's considered
3 refuge? And so, hopefully we've just captured the intent
4 in that, and then note that the Buskin River State
5 Recreation Site maybe should be looked into and if
6 there's no housing, it could be eliminated.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, I'm
9 seeing nods that the final regulatory language, there's
10 enough to go on. Our intent is clear. I understand from
11 Daniel's comments that his understanding of the people
12 he was trying to exempt all live within the Kodiak
13 National Wildlife Refuge facility so that would capture
14 all the people. The other language about Buskin River
15 State Recreation Site, here aren't any other known
16 residences outside of the Kodiak National Wildlife
17 Refuge facilities, So, I think that our -- this does
18 capture our intent and then through the regulatory
19 language drafting process or cleaning up process that
20 can be cleaned up. So, we don't have to make another
21 motion and amend, etc. etc. Go ahead, Kendra.

22
23 MS. HOLMAN: Excuse me. Kendra Holmen
24 through the Chair to answer Coral's question. Some quick
25 searching, from what I'm seeing, there's no actual Navy
26 housing as part of that Navy facility. There is temporary
27 places for people to stay, but it's used as a training
28 station. And so, there should not be any Navy housing
29 there for people to be there long-term.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Are there any
32 other comments or questions before we go to a vote?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Okay. Seeing none. We'll try -- is there
37 any objection to the motion? And let me restate the
38 motion. So, the motion is to -- I guess first we're
39 going to vote on the amendment, and then we're going to
40 vote on the main motion. But the entire thing is changing
41 our C&T determination to include all residents of Unit
42 8, except for residents of the Kodiak Station CDP, which
43 is generally what we think of as the Coast Guard and
44 associated housing areas. Except for people who live in
45 the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge facility. So, they
46 would also have the C&T. So, at a high level, that's
47 what we're doing. So, the language on the screen
48 represents an -- oh no, we don't have an amendment
49 because you withdrew your motion. So, this is the motion.
50 Okay. We have one motion on the floor. This is it. Is

1 there any objection? Let me see.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels. I believe
4 that you have the original motion. Before you made the
5 motion to amend the first motion to amend that, you
6 withdraw -- withdrew then and then you made the second
7 motion to amend. So, I think you need to vote on the
8 amendment and then vote on the original motion, as
9 amended.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes. True
12 statement. Yes. Okay. So, we're voting on this language,
13 which is the amendment, and then we'll vote on the main
14 motion, which is the same language. We're just making
15 sure that that's what we mean to do. So, is there any
16 objection to approving the amendment, which is C&T,
17 would be allowed for residents of Unit 8, except for
18 residents of the Kodiak Station CDP. This does not
19 include the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge facilities.
20 Is there any objection?

21

22 (No response)

23

24 Okay. Hearing and seeing none. The
25 amendment passes, and now we'll vote on the main motion,
26 which is exactly the same thing. Is there any objection
27 to the final motion which is providing a brown bear C&T
28 for residents of Unit 8, except for residents of Kodiak
29 Station CDP, this does not include the Kodiak National
30 Wildlife Refuge facilities?

31

32 (No response)

33

34 Seeing and hearing no objection. This
35 motion passes. So, we're done with proposal WP 26-32.
36 And now we will invite Sara Taylor up to introduce
37 herself and talk about agenda item 7, which is report
38 from the Secretary's Office.

39

40 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
41 name is Sara Taylor. I work for the U.S. Department of
42 the Interior. I work in the Secretary of the Interior's
43 Anchorage office. So, the Secretary has two offices. One
44 of those is in Washington D.C., and one of them is in
45 Anchorage and that is where I am based full-time. And I
46 am a career position, so I am there all the time. I am
47 from the southwest. I grew up in Arizona and California.
48 I moved -- I spent most of my adult life here in Alaska.
49 I moved up here with an internship for the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service. I met an amazing man who's become my

1 best friend and partner ever since, I've never left his
2 side. I also, met a young Jeff Wesley out at Field Camp
3 when we were interns and we have lived in many places
4 across the state, but never the never the Peninsula. I'm
5 very, very grateful to be here and feel very privileged
6 to join you at this meeting today. And the main topic
7 of our report is that the Secretary is right now
8 contemplating doing a review of the subsistence program.
9 So, the program that you see before you has been around
10 since the early '90s and has been fine-tuned during that
11 time to meet the needs of subsistence users. And so,
12 we're continuing that tradition of fine tuning and a lot
13 of the really detailed, labor intensive expertise that
14 you provide for all of the work that we do, in addition
15 to that, there's a whole bunch of administrative layers
16 to the program that also execute to make sure that your
17 job is as simple as possible. You see a lot of those
18 people up here and then also, I work with a lot of those
19 people in D.C. who spend a lot of time making sure that
20 the subsistence program is right sized and focused and
21 productive and working for everyone in it. But one of
22 the most difficult things for us, really, especially for
23 people in D.C., is the cobbler very rarely knows where
24 the shoe pinches, right. So, it's really important for
25 us to get the information that we need to make sure that
26 the policies we have are working, right. And so, this
27 review is part of that. So, in 2009 this was also done,
28 which was about ten years after the Katie John
29 regulations. So, they did a kind of a ten year look back
30 at how things are working and that was -- a report from
31 that review was released in 2011 right after the
32 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and some changes to the
33 program were made because of that review. There were
34 also a lot of recommendations that were made as a part
35 of that review that we're also still looking at because
36 they were not accepted or were not -- there was no action
37 taken on those. So, we are looking at all of that
38 feedback. But we're also really looking for feedback
39 right now. And the Secretary is targeted the review,
40 based on the feedback that we've received recently, in
41 the past few years, we've received a lot of feedback
42 including from this Council, also from the other
43 Councils, also from the people we serve and other users
44 who are very interested in the work that we do. So,
45 we've been getting a lot of letters telling us that some
46 things need to be looked at. So, we have focused the
47 review around those items. But, as part of the review,
48 we're starting with a scoping process. So, in this
49 scoping process what we're looking for is feedback about
50 how to conduct this review, right. Like what should we

1 be looking at? We have seven topics that we identified
2 from the feedback that we've received, and those seven
3 topics are kind of in draft right now, we're looking at
4 those, but we're also looking at any topics that you
5 think need to be a part of this review or a focus of
6 this review. I will walk through each of those topics
7 in just a moment, but I do want to clarify one thing,
8 and it's with a sincere apology attached to it. I -- I'm
9 still learning so, I don't always say things the right
10 way and so, for that I apologize. But also, that the
11 process that we have makes this a difficult conversation
12 because the comments that we're asking for these scoping
13 comments, right. What are we looking at? Are we looking
14 at the right things? What else do we need to be looking
15 at? What elements do we need to be looking at? That
16 feedback is going to have to be provided to some extent
17 on the record at this meeting. And so, I'm coming to you
18 with this list of items to think about without offering
19 you the chance to really look at it and think about it,
20 talk to the people you trust, and talk to the people in
21 your regions about what's best. So, I want to clarify
22 that though your comments have to be made on the record
23 in order to be included in the Council letter, if one
24 is sent on this scoping process, there will be a 60-day
25 public scoping process during which time you can submit
26 comments. You can align with other groups to submit
27 comments and that. But for comments to come from the
28 Council in a letter through the correspondence policy
29 that we have, those comments will need to be made here
30 on the record. So, I'm here to try and help facilitate
31 that conversation and answer as many questions as I can
32 for you while I'm here. I'll be here the rest of the
33 meeting, I'm available anytime.

34
35 So, I will start briefly with the first
36 topic, which was recent. So, last year we moved the
37 Office of Subsistence Management from the U.S. Fish and
38 Wildlife Service to the Assistant Secretary for Policy,
39 Management and Budget's Office. So, Congress asked us
40 to move the Office of the Subsistence Management from
41 the Fish and Wildlife Service to the office of the
42 Secretary. And a lot of that was about providing the
43 direct access that was lacking before, and also just to
44 be able to provide a little bit more particularized
45 attention for the RACs in D.C. conversations, right. So,
46 to really start wrapping the subsistence program into
47 the policies the department executes generally. And so,
48 I think that that has been working from what I have seen
49 so far. But you are the experts in terms of results. So,
50 when we made that decision it was with a thought that

1 Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
2 was the ideal location for the office, and I can explain
3 why we thought that that was the case. And I can also,
4 explain what the assistant Secretary for Policy,
5 Management and Budget does, if you have questions about
6 that. But it's important to know that there's -- the
7 direction from Congress was to move the Office into the
8 Office of the Secretary. So, I can tell you what other
9 parts of the Secretary's office exist as well. So, you
10 can see if maybe there's a better place for it, or you
11 can also tell us what you consider the ideal place to
12 be, and that will help us with the criteria.

13
14 So, that is the first topic, was that
15 move of the Office and I know that this Council wrote
16 us a letter specifically about that and the lack of
17 participation in advance of that move and the lack of
18 conversation. And so, that's still -- that's important
19 feedback for us as well. The next topic that we're
20 looking at, and while I'm walking through these topics,
21 I also want to be very clear that these are just sample
22 topics. Nothing has been decided yet. The Federal
23 Register notice will list some topics and those will be
24 topics of concern. Any topic that you think we're missing
25 or not looking at is part of the scoping process. Please
26 let us know what other topics need to be of interest to
27 us. So, the second one is the RAC membership criteria.
28 So, we have -- I -- if anyone has questions, I brought
29 the criteria. I have an old application, thanks to the
30 amazing staff at OSM. And so, I do have the criteria
31 here it is a resident of the region that the member
32 represents that has resource knowledge. So, knowledge
33 of the region's fish and wildlife resources. They
34 practice subsistence uses, or they have knowledge of the
35 region's subsistence uses, customs and traditions. They
36 have awareness and knowledge of other uses knowledge of
37 the region, sport, commercial and other uses, leadership
38 skills leadership and experience with local and regional
39 organizations, communication skills, the ability to
40 communicate effectively, especially with diverse groups
41 of people and availability, a willingness to travel and
42 attend RAC meetings without compensation. All of those
43 things. So, that's the criteria as it is now. We're very
44 open to feedback on how that criteria is being
45 implemented, whether there needs to be more criteria,
46 whether this criteria needs refinement or whether there
47 needs to be less. So, if you see this criteria as working
48 or not, that's very important and useful information for
49 us. And if there are no questions about those two, I
50 will move on to the third, which is the composition of

1 the Federal Subsistence Board. So, this was recently
2 changed as well. During the 2009 review I mentioned
3 earlier one of the outcomes of that review was the
4 addition of the public members to the Board, the two
5 public members that were added to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board. And last year, as a result of tribal
7 consultations and listening sessions that were held
8 across the state we added three additional public
9 members to the Board. So, that is now -- so, the Board
10 is now five federal employees representing the regional
11 directors of the land managing agencies and the BIA. And
12 then we also have the Chair, and then we have five public
13 members. So, that's the current composition of the
14 Federal Subsistence Board. And I realize that there's
15 only been one meeting with that current composition so
16 it may be difficult to say how things are going right
17 now. But, if there was anything we missed in taking that
18 action or anything we overlooked, this is a great time
19 to know that so that we can pivot if we need to. The
20 fourth is -- the fourth topic that we're looking at is
21 the regulations. So, these are the handy dandy. Is this
22 the best way to do this? I think that's really the
23 ultimate question. The way that we do the regulations,
24 the way that we have the overlap, there's a lot of
25 reasons why this is done this way. So, this is not an
26 attempt to come in and monkey with it without knowing
27 what the reasons are. But is there a better way that we
28 can do it? This is especially important information for
29 us because we are not subsistence users using those regs
30 in the field. And so, what it's like to do that is
31 difficult for us to contemplate without feedback. So,
32 can we combine the regulations? Is there a way that we
33 could simplify them? Any kind of tips, or even just
34 whether that's important? That's really good for us to
35 know. Because that would be a lot of work and so, if
36 it's not important, it'd be good to work on that, on
37 something else. So, the fifth -- I'll pause for questions
38 again, just if anyone has questions so far on these
39 topics.

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Okay. So, the fifth one is the process
44 for special actions and the process for special actions
45 is available in the program overview. That's a handout
46 here in the back. There is a page here, pages 8 and 9
47 that describe the special action request process. So,
48 this is what we're really taking feedback on. Is this
49 working? Is this helpful for subsistence users? Is this
50 creating meaningful opportunity or is this a barrier or

1 is this a hindrance? How is this working and how can we
2 make it simpler? Do there need to be more special
3 actions? Do there need to be zero special actions? What
4 is the -- and what are we -- when we look at special
5 actions and we look at how they're used, are there things
6 that we can do to improve that? And the sixth topic is
7 non-rural determinations. This is also addressed briefly
8 in the subsistence program overview handout. On page
9 three, there's a description of the non-rural areas. So,
10 as I'm sure you know you're either in an urban area,
11 which is very -- which is pointed at and said, that's
12 an urban area, right. Because we know that it has more
13 than 7500 residents, etc., right. So, we know that's an
14 urban area. Everything else is non-rural. So, is that a
15 good way to do it or have we reached a point, I think
16 we're doing it differently may be appropriate. I think
17 that's really the ask. Because I think it can be
18 difficult as a topic to discuss. So, it's how can we
19 also make this easier for people to discuss that would
20 help to any kind of feedback on how important these
21 determinations are and the stakes that are involved.
22 Yes. Yes, Madam Chair.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, a question.
25 This is Rebecca. I'm not quite sure what to make of, you
26 know, is there another way to do this? So, for example,
27 could that mean defining the rural areas -- so, right
28 now it's -- everything is rural except for these areas.
29 Could the new way of doing it be defining these areas
30 are rural. So, basically your starting point is your
31 non-rural unless you're identified as rural. I mean is
32 that kind of an example of an alternative. I'm not sure
33 what.....

34
35 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: What might -- what
38 alternatives might look like. So, I'm trying to get some
39 kind of example or a little more description.

40
41 MS. TAYLOR: Sure. So, yes. Is that a
42 good way to do it? But, also, I think what should the
43 criteria be? Where is the demarcation line, right,
44 between urban and rural? When it comes to the impact of
45 the subsistence program, is that the right number,
46 right, of communities that aren't eligible to be
47 subsistence users? So, any kind of -- and the criteria
48 for that are in regulation, I believe so that's something
49 I can also show, what that criteria are.

50

1 (Pause)

2
3 Okay. Sara Taylor again, my apologies.
4 So, the last topic that we had kind of drafted as part
5 of this targeted review and as I mentioned, please let
6 U.S. know what other topics we need to be looking into.
7 But the last topic that we're thinking about is the
8 involvement of the state of Alaska in the program. Are
9 we adequately including our partners at the state? Are
10 we including them too often? Whatever the case may be
11 you know, the participation level, is that right? Do we
12 need to be doing more or less? Yeah. So, any questions
13 about that? I know every region is very different in
14 this respect too. So, I'm looking forward to a diversity
15 of experiences with this one.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: This is Rebecca.
18 So, I am assuming you -- you're not just looking for --
19 yes, we need the involvement of Fish and Game biologists,
20 because that seems pretty obvious that absolutely, we
21 need that you're talking about something else, like a
22 higher level of involvement by the state? Okay.

23
24 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah. Do you see the level
25 of involvement that the state has right now is adequate
26 for the job that you have to do and the job that we all
27 have to do? And the requirement and the Secretary's
28 obligations that we're meeting, is the state's level of
29 involvement sufficient, or should we be doing something
30 different to make sure that we get the information we
31 need? And this includes also data sharing, things like
32 that, right. So, those were the topics there's going to
33 be, as I mentioned, a Federal Register notice. It's going
34 to be published. It's going to list the targeted review
35 topics, whether they're these ones or other ones or
36 whether they're changed. I'm not sure yet. That won't
37 be clear until the final is published. But that Federal
38 Register notice will come out. It will explain that there
39 is a 60-day public scoping process during which you can
40 submit comments. But, for the RACs because we're going
41 to be developing the scoping report in the first quarter
42 of 2026. So, because of that, the RACs really do have a
43 much longer period of time that they can contribute to
44 this, because the RACs can send the Secretary letters
45 anytime they like. But, to make sure that the comments
46 are included in the final scoping report, we would just
47 need to get those this calendar year. And I know Katya
48 is an amazing resource for how to craft the letter based
49 on the feedback that you're able to provide today and
50 then reflection on that feedback later. So, I know that

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1 you're in great hands for being able to help craft that
2 letter according to all of the statutory requirements.
3 And just as a personal note, if you have any issues with
4 those statutory requirements, please speak up. I've been
5 working on this.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Is that -- okay.
8 Are there questions or comments? I feel like it's a
9 quiet group. Coral, go ahead.

10
11 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I guess, like, I would
12 just say we haven't had much time. And so, maybe I don't
13 know if we can have some time and bring this up again
14 tomorrow to get our comments on record. But, yeah, I
15 think the start of targeting this review is here not
16 having enough time to give thoughtful comments for
17 things that are going to be in place for a lot of years.
18 That's unfortunate.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And Sara, you are
21 going to be here through Friday, right?

22
23 MS. TAYLOR: Madam Chair, yes. Sara
24 Taylor. Yes, I will be here through Friday. And also
25 available anytime you have questions, right. Not just
26 Friday. I'll be here in person until Friday, but you can
27 call me anytime.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Yeah. So, as
30 I said earlier, when we did the agenda, we would take
31 this presentation. But, if we're going to take action,
32 it's not going to be until tomorrow. So, Sara, you will
33 be here So, we can come bombard you with questions and
34 whatnot at breaks and after. But, if there are comments,
35 observations, questions that people want to make now I
36 think we probably -- you'd welcome that?

37
38 MS. TAYLOR: I'd welcome that.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Anything else?

41
42 MS. HAYDEN: Madam Chair, this Natasha.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Go ahead, Natasha.
47 We'll take Natasha and then Pat.

48
49 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
50 Thanks, Sara for the presentation. I'm just wondering

1 what the - what guided the time frame on this that we
2 just got this -- we just got the information, the short
3 statement, I think a week ago. And the opportunity to
4 make comments is going to close before our next set of
5 meetings and our winter meetings, which would be, I
6 think, in February or March. And why -- or is it possible
7 for the Secretary to delay the federal noticing so to
8 allow us to have that winter meeting to be able to really
9 provide in-depth comments on the -- what the Secretary
10 is asking about.

11
12 MS. TAYLOR: Through the Chair. This is
13 Sara Taylor. I will take that feedback with me. I -- I
14 am -- just to for full transparency, I am already
15 bringing that feedback with me from the North Slope
16 Regional Advisory Committee. I think the biggest
17 challenge for us -- the Secretary -- we announced at the
18 Federal Subsistence Board work session that this review
19 would commence, and we've been working on, I think, what
20 the four corners of the review would be since then. As
21 far as the scoping. After the scoping process comes the
22 action, right. Well, the scoping report will provide a
23 set of recommendations. Those recommendations will be
24 considered for action, and the action stage will come
25 with more process. So, for example, if we wanted to
26 change the procedures that I mentioned earlier in
27 regulation, we would have a rulemaking package. So,
28 there would be a proposed rule, there would be a comment
29 period, and then there would be a final rule. There's
30 potentially a lot of process to come and I think the
31 thought was that we want to really make sure that we
32 adequately and thoroughly use these processes and make
33 sure that they -- the opportunities are there for people
34 to contribute, all of the processes that may come, the
35 scoping process being the first. But I really do
36 recognize and want to acknowledge that the RAC meetings
37 in September had almost hours of notice really, for what
38 this discussion would be.

39
40 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you. Thanks,
41 Madam Chair.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Pat.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madam Chair. Yes, Ms.
46 Taylor I really appreciate that you came to present this
47 information to us because frankly, we and all the tribal
48 folks in our region were quite dismayed that what
49 precipitated this big change, that we weren't included
50 at all in the communications, even when we asked. And

1 getting new members on the Board is good, three members.
2 But we ended up not getting anything close to our neck
3 of the woods, and -- but I'm saying this from perhaps a
4 broad perspective, I understand and the need because at
5 65 years ago, I was a kid up in the Interior, and boy,
6 there was nothing better than the chum salmon coming up
7 out of the Tanana River. But all those problems and
8 changes were terrific and so, I'm glad that there's an
9 attempt being made to try to make this system work
10 better. And I dearly hope that communications with all
11 the RACs will continue at a broader basis. So, thank you
12 very much for trying to stop by and brief us. If I'd
13 known you were coming, I would have not gone down to see
14 my grandsons down the States and gone out to Cold Bay,
15 which I dearly love it there. So, thank you so much.
16 Bye.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Pat. All
19 right. Are there further comments or questions. Oh,
20 that's me. Okay. So, I'll make a few comments. I also
21 really appreciate that 1: that you came out to Cold Bay.
22 I know you were at North Slope meeting yesterday, So,
23 appreciate the time and the effort to come down here. I
24 also appreciate the notice and early involvement of the
25 RACs. As you noted, we were pretty frustrated that we
26 didn't know anything about what was happening with the
27 proposal to move OSM, and the way it was presented was,
28 oh, the RACs wanted this. And we're like, well, we didn't
29 even know about it. How could that be? So, while it's
30 unfortunate that the timing is, is short and we -- I
31 mean, yes, we would love to have more time to consider
32 and develop comments. I still appreciate that there's
33 an effort to let everyone know, to bring everyone along
34 at the same time. Even though, yes, the timing is
35 frustrating.

36
37 I think that these program reviews given
38 that they're not done very frequently, they are a big
39 thing and with the scoping, it's almost a blue sky. So,
40 it's very big. Almost anything could come to the table.
41 I don't think we're probably going to have a lot of
42 discussion right now, today. But hopefully, the rest of
43 today and tonight people can think about comments or
44 suggestions that they want to have in comments. And I
45 do hope that the RAC does want to submit comments on
46 this. So, are there any other questions or comments on
47 this agenda item?

48
49 (No response)
50

1 Okay, I'm not seeing any. But thank you
2 very much. So, it's 2:30. I think we'll go ahead and
3 take -- let's take a 15-minute break and come back at
4 2:45.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (On record)

9
10 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. We're going
11 to go ahead and get started again. And this is WP26-33,
12 it's -- I'm going to call it a companion proposal to the
13 one that we just did and we have Kendra. It looks like
14 you're on point, so I'll hand it over to you.

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. For
17 the record, Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.
18 So, I am going to be presenting a summary for wildlife
19 proposal WP26-33. It can be found starting on page 5 of
20 your supplemental book. So, WP26-33 was submitted by the
21 Kodiak/Aleutians, by you guys, your Council requesting
22 up to 4 brown bear permits be allocated for the Community
23 of Kodiak. And of course, this is -- the Board should
24 pass the other one first before this could -- these
25 permits could be issued if they pass this one as well.
26 So, the proponent states that the Communities of Kodiak
27 Island have a long history of customary and traditional
28 harvesting of brown bears for food and traditional
29 handicraft. Additional information from the proponent
30 can be found on the proponent statement section of the
31 analysis, which is on page 6 of the supplemental
32 materials. So, in 1996, the Board established the brown
33 bear season community harvest quotas and customary and
34 traditional use determination for the communities of
35 Akiak, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and
36 Port Lions. In 2014, the Board increased the number of
37 federal permits to 11, and in 2024 the Board removed the
38 locking tag requirement for brown bears in Unit 8.
39 Biologically, Kodiak brown bears -- it's broken down
40 into 6 management areas, which have 8 survey areas.
41 During the 2021 and 2022 surveys the densities were
42 slightly below objective area, objective range within
43 two survey areas.

44
45 So, this is just a very brief -- what's
46 going on in the biological section. So, the Sturgeon
47 area -- survey area has been below density objectives
48 for the last two surveys now which would be the 2018-19
49 and the survey -- the last surveys had it at 57% of the
50 lower end of the density objective range. So, survey

1 areas and density objectives can be found in figure 1
2 and table 1, which is on pages 10 and 11 of your
3 supplemental materials. So, this shows -- yeah, shows
4 those ranges. So, we do have the one area, the Sturgeon
5 area which is below that density objective range with a
6 possible conservation concern area. The female Kodiak
7 brown bears successfully reproduce approximately every
8 4 to 6 years. Litter sizes are small and have long
9 intervals between successful reproductive events and
10 have short potential reproductive periods, which leads
11 to low rates. In addition, they exhibit high fidelity
12 to home ranges, with little immigration and emigration
13 happening. Residents of Kodiak can currently harvest
14 brown bears under state regulation -- excuse me, state
15 registration permit RV230 for the Road System or enter
16 the drawing permits for brown bears. All of these permits
17 allow for only one brown bear every four years. Table
18 2, which can be found on page 13 of your book, provides
19 all of the harvest data within Unit 8, so you have your
20 state and federal harvest in there. So, table 3, which
21 is on page 14 of your supplemental book, you can see
22 from regulatory year 2000 to regulatory year 2024
23 federally qualified subsistence users have averaged a
24 harvest of 1.6 brown bears per year.

25
26 So, from 1983 until 2013, Unit 8
27 residents have averaged harvest of 15 bears per year,
28 accounting for roughly 4 to 6% of the annual harvest.
29 So, this would be under state sporting regulations. The
30 federal FB08-02 permit hunt is very under-subscribed,
31 with only 1.6 bears out of a maximum of 13 reported
32 harvest for the average. Additionally, that harvest only
33 comprises of 0.7% of the total Unit 8 brown bear harvest.
34 There is an alternative considered, and this would be
35 to delegate an -- alternative conclusion to be
36 considered would be to delegate authority to Kodiak
37 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to define hunt areas.
38 So, while Unit 8 itself does not have a conservation for
39 brown bears overall, as mentioned earlier, there is
40 areas within the unit that do have some conservation
41 concerns. So, this alternative to allow the manager to
42 define harvest areas provides the in-season manager with
43 the flexibility to address concerns by excluding areas
44 if needed. If that conservation concern is there and
45 appropriate. So, if this proposal is adopted up to for
46 brown bear permits in Unit 8 could be issued to the
47 residents of the Kodiak Road System. However, residents
48 of Kodiak System do not currently have that C&T for the
49 Unit 8 brown bear, so therefore this proposal would not
50 be able to take place without 26-32 being adopted by the

1 Board as well.

2

3 If both proposals are adopted,
4 subsistence hunting opportunity for residents along the
5 Kodiak Road System will increase. There is no
6 conservation concern overall for the Unit 8 brown bear
7 population but impacts from the potential additional
8 harvest is not -- and impacts from the potential
9 additional harvest is not anticipated to create an
10 overall conservation concern. At a smaller management
11 scale, there are conservation concerns within that
12 southwestern Kodiak management subunit also, known as
13 the Sturgeon Survey area. So, the OSM preliminary
14 conclusion currently is to support -- again we also have
15 that other alternative considered, for the RAC to
16 consider as well for providing that delegation of
17 authority to the refuge so the RAC can consider both
18 alternatives. So, thank you, Madam Chair, members of the
19 Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thank you. Are
22 there clarifying questions on the analysis report?
23 Coral, go ahead.

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I think this is a
26 clarifying analysis but -- or question. On page 11 under
27 the geographic units, which one is it that we're talking
28 about the possible approaching conservation concern?

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, through
31 the.....

32

33 MS. CHERNOFF: Or is it one of the brown
34 bear aerial survey areas?

35

36 MS. HOLMAN: Oh, sorry. So, member
37 Chernoff through the Chair. This is Kendra for the
38 record. So, that area is the -- I had it in here,
39 southwest. I'm making sure I'm saying the right one here.
40 The Sturgeon survey area which is within the southwest.
41 So, the southwestern Kodiak -- so in the table 1, it's
42 listed as the southwestern Kodiak. So, that independent
43 bears of 180 to 260 range is their density objective
44 range that they would like to see, and currently that
45 Sturgeon area within the larger southwestern Kodiak
46 area. So, the Sturgeon survey area within that
47 southwestern Kodiak area is where they've got that 57%
48 of the lower end of their range. So, they're below
49 management objective by 43%. If that helps.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Go ahead, Coral.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: It does and -- I think,
4 and second question is in the geographic units over here
5 and they talk about the density. There's 1,2,3,4,5,6
6 units and then on the map the aerial survey areas,
7 there's 8. So, do we know how those correspond? Like can
8 I put that information together?

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: Member Chernoff, through the
11 Chair. So, there is 6 -- so, for the state side of
12 things, for getting that biological harvest data,
13 population data there are 6 management subunits and then
14 they have 8 survey areas within those six. So, I can --
15 I -- yeah. So, I can get a map for you that shows you
16 where those 8 areas are. But I do know that that -- the
17 one with the conservation concern does fall under that
18 southwestern Kodiak area.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Further question.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF Yeah. So, we have a map of
23 the 8 areas, but maybe a map of the geographic units?

24

25 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And a clarifying
26 question. Since the density objective ranges are managed
27 by subunit, those are the important chunks. So, yes, we
28 have these areas, these aerial survey areas. But the
29 areas that have management implications are the subunits
30 that are in the table at the top of page 11. Do I
31 understand that correctly? Or maybe that's something we
32 could get clarification on?

33

34 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. Honestly,
35 the state would be the best to answer exactly how all
36 of -- how they are doing that, I don't want to speak on
37 their behalf. What I know is that the one survey area
38 is below objective -- is below that lower management
39 level.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Yeah. So, I'm
42 trying to understand if there are actually density
43 objective ranges for the 8 aerial survey areas because
44 table one says density objective ranges by management
45 subunit. So, it makes it sound like those are the
46 important chunks of land that have associated density
47 objective ranges. So, I just -- I'm trying to get that
48 clear in my mind.

49

50

1 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. I'm
2 going to pull up a document and see if I can see it in
3 there. I don't know if the state manager is on to be
4 able to answer that question directly. Otherwise, I
5 might need a minute to do some research and get back to
6 it.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. And if there
9 is a state manager online, they can jump in. Oh, and
10 then I do think I had a hand up. Pat, did you have your
11 hand up?

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. I -- a few
14 minutes ago, I believe that the assistant area biologist
15 for game was trying to tune in so, he might be on. And
16 if he's not, I might be able to give you a little
17 clarification. I don't know how they do it for sure, But
18 I think the point is, where is the problem at? And the
19 Sturgeon River is north and west slightly of Karluk, and
20 it has chum salmon runs, and the chum salmon runs have
21 been weak in recent years. And so, at least back when I
22 was doing salmon when you'd see a drop that way, then
23 the bears would truck off and move to a different part
24 of the island. So, perhaps if he's online, he might be
25 able to give you a little more information. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER Coral, go ahead.

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: And also, for Kendra, if
30 you're pulling up a map, can we pull up a map of -- is
31 all this area -- or it would be an area, a federal area
32 that would be able to hunt in and make sure that the
33 area -- just to know if the area of concern is within
34 the area that's eligible to be hunted.

35
36 MS. HOLMAN: So, member Chernoff through
37 the Chair the area of concern is on refuge land. It is
38 in that area. I don't know if we have an overlaying map,
39 But I do know that we have multiple maps and I would be
40 able to pull them up to show you. But it is -- part of
41 it is on refuge land. So, yes and then I was just pulling
42 up those other maps trying to see which document had it
43 in there right now for -- so, you can see the difference
44 between the 6 management areas and the 8 or the. Yeah,
45 6 management areas and the 8 survey areas.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, Pat.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I saw
50 Daniel's hand first. So, we'll take Daniel and then we'll

1 take Pat.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair,
4 this is Daniel Smith. I had one question, Kendra, about
5 the Sturgeon -- what do they call it? Game Management
6 Unit? So, under sport hunt, how frequently are bears
7 harvested in that area?

8

9 MS. DAY: So, member Smith through the
10 Chair, I don't have that specific information broken
11 down that far, that would -- if the state manager is
12 online yet. If they're available. That would be great
13 for them to maybe be able to answer.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, while we
16 are waiting to see if we can get a state manager online,
17 I'm going to go to Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I can't tell you how they
20 manage but, basically, I think would address Coral's
21 concern and that the area where Sturgeon is at is a fly-
22 in. A lot of the more popular bear hunting areas, either
23 you access for the coast or land in the lake and up in
24 Sturgeon, it's a river, and it's kind of tight to get
25 in there. So, it wouldn't be, I would assume, a place
26 that most subsistence hunters would want to bother to
27 go to. Myself, I just hop in my skiff and run around to
28 the other part of the island, to the refuge, and be a
29 whole lot easier to get out and trying to fly in there.
30 But, I just -- personal opinion. Hopefully the game folks
31 will come on.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, it looks
34 like we're trying to get a map up on the screen and
35 share it online. I -- if I haven't heard that there's a
36 state manager online, once we take a look at the map,
37 we're probably going to move away from this section. So,
38 this was the introduction of proposal and presentation
39 of analysis section. And I'd like to take clarifying
40 questions so that the Council and the listening public
41 are all on the same page about what it is we're talking
42 about. So, after we take a look at the map, if there's
43 no state managers, we'll move on to number 2, which is
44 report on Board consultation. And so, we can see a screen
45 in the room, and I assume that's online as well. Not
46 yet? Okay.

47

48 MR. POETTER: Okay. Madam Chair, this is
49 Aaron Poetter with Fish and Game. I had reached out to
50 the area manager for Kodiak wildlife and didn't -- did

1 not receive any response that he'd be available for
2 comment for today's meeting. From a personal experience
3 standpoint related to Sturgeon, we -- state regulations,
4 we do manage for both spring and fall opportunities down
5 there via draw for both residents and non-residents, the
6 harvest limits are fairly limited. I am aware that there
7 -- while there is federal public lands down there,
8 there's a lot of corporation lands surrounding the
9 Sturgeon River as well. So, access as Council member
10 Holmes had mentioned can be difficult at times. Madam
11 Chair.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
14 Thank you for sharing that information. Do you -- can
15 you speak to from a from a state management perspective,
16 the smallest level that the bear are managed to, is it
17 the subunits or are they actually managed down to the -
18 - we've been talking about Sturgeon. Is that a does that
19 actually have meaning in the state management world? So,
20 is there a Sturgeon area designation that's relevant for
21 determining densities and or issuing specific permits?
22 That was my question. Trying to understand the
23 relationship between the aerial surveys, which there are
24 8, and then the 6 sub -- geographic subunits.

25
26 MR. RICHARDSON: Yeah. Madam Chair, that
27 great question and unfortunately, that is well outside
28 my area of expertise. I apologize.

29
30 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. All right. Thank
31 you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, Kendra,
34 if you want to speak to the map.

35
36 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, this
37 is Kendra again. So, we have this presented on the Team's
38 channel as well. You can see there's a map. This is from
39 the state species management report. So, this is their
40 -- there's -- so, you can pretty easily identify that,
41 you know, from that map on page 10 of the supplemental
42 book, there are 3 survey areas within that southwest
43 Kodiak. There's one within the northwest and you can
44 kind of look at the other areas. They're pretty easy to
45 identify which survey areas are in, which of the density
46 objective areas. So, within Sturgeon area, when -- I was
47 able to talk with the manager as well. He did mention
48 that because -- so, there is -- Karluk Lake is within
49 that Sturgeon management area. They do get a lot of fly
50 in hunters. Part of that lake is surrounded by non-

1 federal area, and kind of that southern portion of that
2 lake is surrounded by refuge land. So, it's kind of a
3 mixed bag and that -- I'm getting out of the map that's
4 in the regulation book. So, that would be the best place
5 for you guys to kind of go and look at that. You can see
6 where the refuge land is adjacent to that lake.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. So, did you
9 say that -- I forget which direction you did it -- that
10 Karluk is within the Sturgeon area or Sturgeon is within
11 the Karluk area. Did I miss hear you?

12
13 MS. HOLMAN: No, I believe Karluk Lake
14 is the lake that's within the Sturgeon area.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay.

17
18 MS. HOLMAN: Because how I'm looking at
19 the two maps together.....

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, yeah.

24
25 MS. HOLMAN:that's what it looks
26 like.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Because the map on
29 page 10, it looks like what I assume this Karluk Lake
30 like, because it's a lake is within the purple-y area
31 that's labeled as Karluk.

32
33 MS. DAY: Look, I'm sorry, I was looking
34 at the wrong area.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay.

37
38 MS. HOLMAN: So, this sturgeon area
39 is.....

40
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, Sturgeon is
44 west.

45
46 MS. DAY: I was looking -- I just -- I
47 was -- my discussion involved -- there is a lake that
48 people fly into that does have a lot of harvest somewhere
49 in that southwest area. So, I guess it looks like there
50 could be a couple of different lakes that he was

1 referring to, so.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, that --
4 yeah, that clarifies the confusion that I just had. So,
5 have you finished addressing the map on the screen? Okay.
6 So, we have now heard that there won't be a state manager
7 who can answer Daniel's questions. So, I am going to
8 move on to number 2, which is report on Board
9 consultation. And this is where consultation with tribes
10 and ANCSA Corporations.

11

12 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, there were no
13 comments received on this proposal.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you,
16 Leigh. There is one more clarifying question from Coral.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. Thank you, Madam
19 Chair. And Kendra, the table on page 11, can you answer
20 for me -- there is a list in the geographic area for
21 southwest, and in the documented references these 180
22 to 260, like those populations are down. And I just
23 noticed that that number 180 to 260 is just listed for
24 independent bears. And then there's a total bears of 250
25 to 375. So, I'm -- is the independent bears, is my
26 question, is that like male bears that they would be
27 keeping track of separate for the purpose of -- those
28 would be the bears hunted in a bear guided season? Is
29 that -- I guess my question is, would an independent
30 bear be a male bear?

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: So, member Chernoff, through
33 the Chair. So, my understanding is that because these
34 are aerial surveys, those are just bears that they see
35 alone, independently. So, they're not able to tell the
36 sex of the bears during those. I have never done these
37 surveys myself to be able to give you any more
38 information on that. I do know that they are the aerial
39 surveys, so they're not going to be able to tell the
40 difference from the air. But they are bears seen by
41 themselves. So, they wouldn't be a side with cub's things
42 like that. Beyond that any more detail would need to
43 come from the state manager.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Go ahead, Coral.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: My other question is from
48 the same table. So, there's a listing for independent
49 bears, and then there's a listing for total bears, and
50 then there's another listing, and that's 250 to 375. And

1 then there's another total that says total bears and it
2 says 920 to 1381. So, can you tell us what the two
3 columns that say total bears means? And they have very
4 different numbers.

5
6 MS. HOLMAN: Again, through the Chair
7 those, those numbers from the state. I don't know when
8 I've -- the numbers that the focus seems to be on when
9 in management reports and during conversation seems to
10 be the independent. Is that independent bears -- I don't
11 know, beyond that. Again, that would be -- we'd need to
12 get more information.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, and I hear
15 somebody's phone might need to be muted online. I will
16 note that, and I'll go to Daniel. That -- so, there's
17 three columns. The first two columns are basically bears
18 per 1000km². So, it's independent bears per 1000km² and
19 then total bears per 1000km², and then the final column
20 is total bears. So, I think the first two columns have
21 this thousand-kilometer square, kind of boundary and
22 then the last column is total bears. But, yeah, I agree
23 to get better information, it'd be helpful to have the
24 state manager. Actually, I think I've been trying -- kind
25 of seeing your hand trying to go up. So, I'm going to
26 go to Jeff first, and then I'm going to go to Daniel.

27
28 MR. WASLEY: Jeff Wasley. I think it's
29 the first two are just like density, right? Density
30 number. And the last one is the total bears for that
31 area. So, I think they're just with 1000km², they're
32 getting a density to compare the areas regardless of
33 size. So, like -- I think that -- does that make sense.
34 Okay, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Daniel.

37
38 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was
39 just going to also clarify what you were both saying.
40 In relation to Coral's question, that with -- this is
41 two densities and this is total bears, so.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. So, we
44 had backtracked with the clarifying question on the
45 analysis. We wrapped that up. We already did the report
46 on Board consultation with tribes and ANCSA corporations
47 there. There was no comment. We're on to number 3 agency
48 comments. This includes Fish and Game, federal agencies
49 and then tribal entities. So, I'll start with Fish and
50 Game. Does Fish and Game have any comments on this

1 proposal?

2

3 MR. POETTER: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
4 Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to speak. We're in
5 the process of developing our comments related to the
6 federal subsistence proposal. So, we don't have anything
7 to provide you at the -- at this point. And
8 unfortunately, the area biologist is not here to speak
9 to more specific questions, Madam Chair.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thank you. Next
12 federal agencies, are there any federal agencies with
13 comments on this proposal?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 Okay. Seeing and hearing none. Are there
18 any tribal entities with comments? These could be
19 Native, tribal village or other.

20

21 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, not related to
22 this one, but I guess there was a travel and ANCSA
23 comment that Kendra will speak to.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, we're
26 going to -- and this was part of the Board consultation?
27 Okay. So, we're going to -- hearing no agency comments
28 from federal agencies or tribal entities. We're going
29 to backtrack up to report on Board consultation, and
30 I'll hand it over to Kendra.

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: Actually, I'm sorry. I put
33 the notes for 35 and 33 so, there -- it was correct in
34 the first place. I'm sorry.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Circling
37 back around. Alright. We are down to number four advisory
38 group comments. This includes other regional Councils,
39 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and Subsistence
40 Resource Commissions. Are there comments from any of
41 those groups?

42

43 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madam Chair, you are the
44 first and I believe only Regional Advisory Council to
45 hear this proposal. And I don't -- we have not received
46 any written comments from any of them. I don't know if
47 anybody else is online that would like to comment, but
48 we've not received anything written.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, well it looks
2 like we don't have anyone trying to get our attention
3 online. I don't see anyone. I don't hear anyone. Moving
4 on to a summary of written public comments. Were there
5 any written public comments?

6
7 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, there were no
8 written public comments received on this proposal.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
11 In the room, who would like to testify on this proposal?
12

13 (No response)
14

15 Okay. I'm not seeing or hearing any
16 public testimony. We are now up to Regional Council
17 recommendations. So, this would be a motion to support
18 that then we could vote up or down. So, is there a motion
19 to support proposal -- oh, now Jason wants to talk.
20 Okay. Go ahead.
21

22 DR. ROBERTS: Sorry, I should have talked
23 the first time. I just wanted -- because I don't think
24 it's totally clear from the proposal exactly how you
25 want to manage the permit allocation process if you were
26 to support this. Because a registration hunt typically
27 first comes, first serve. Yeah, Kendra.
28

29 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. So, Madam Chair, this
30 is Kendra. So, to add to what Jason is bringing up is
31 currently, you know, through the communities. The refuge
32 manager works with the communities to get their names,
33 and those people get the permits. So, that system would
34 not necessarily be appropriate or work maybe for Kodiak
35 for this larger number of people. So, that would be
36 something to look at. If it's a registration permit
37 again, it'd be first come, first serve. So, the first
38 four people through the door would get the permits and
39 that'd be kind of the end of it, or.....
40

41 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, a question when
42 you say, I think you said the refuge works with the
43 community, what does that mean? What -- who is the
44 community?
45

46 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair,
47 typically it's like with the smaller communities, there's
48 a tribal office. They'll work with the tribal office. A
49 lot of times they'll have names of the people that they
50 want to get them or something along those lines.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, that's
3 helpful because obviously there are tribes on the Road
4 System so that may be an option. Next question. Is that
5 something that we have to, one, specify in the regulatory
6 language. And then regardless if it needs to be
7 specified, I assume it would be helpful to get our intent
8 like how we intend this to work, even if it's not
9 required to be in the regulatory language.

10
11 MS. HOLMAN: So, yes. Madam Chair, if you
12 guys would at minimum give us the intent of if you want
13 to stick with the draft permit -- or excuse me, the
14 registration permit. There's options for a draw. My
15 concern would be the complications that a permit would
16 come with being for just the one community versus drawing
17 for all of the communities. So, definitely make it clear
18 how exactly you're thinking -- you guys would like to
19 see those allocated in your recommendation. If you would
20 like to include something in the regulation, you can
21 also add that too as an amendment if you would like.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: But are we required
24 to include it in the regulatory language?

25
26 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, no.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: And if we went --
29 so, there's two options. One is registration. One is a
30 draw. If we went with the registration but, we don't --
31 we may or may not. I'm not aware of that we've already
32 identified like a tribal partner who could handle that
33 if we don't have that actually worked out, is that
34 something that can be worked out later if this ends up
35 passing? So, we could -- an entity could come forward
36 and say, we're willing to act as the being in charge of
37 the registration process. And I see Jason approaching
38 as well.

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, I wouldn't --
41 a couple of different options. We could revisit that
42 aspect of it at the winter meeting. We -- I think -- I'm
43 not sure.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, let me jump in.
46 I'm just trying to narrow down what it is we have to
47 decide today so, we don't have to decide it today. But
48 we can say, well, this is what we're thinking, but it
49 can be worked out later. That's mainly what I'm trying
50 to ascertain.

1
2 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. So, Madam Chair so, I
3 guess what I'm -- I'm thinking through the process right
4 now of working with a tribal entity is -- worked with
5 remote communities. I'm not sure of the full regulation
6 ability of that idea within an area that is not a remote
7 community where managers cannot get out to as easily.
8 So, that's part of what my thinking is at this moment,
9 right now.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, do you mean in
12 Kodiak because you actually have, like, Fish and
13 Wildlife staff that it may make more sense for them to
14 handle the registration hunt? Is that the distinction
15 you're making?

16
17 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Madam Chair. So, in
18 regulations, it's not in regulations, but it's not in
19 regulations that they can work with these tribal
20 entities in these remote communities where the managers
21 can't get out to. But with Kodiak and the refuge being
22 right there I don't know that that is something that is
23 the right -- is something that can be done.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. But.....

26
27 MS. HOLMAN: Was hoping Justin might be
28 online to be able to help clarify this, but I don't --
29 okay.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Should we go to
32 Justin?

33
34 MS. HONIG: Go ahead, Justin.

35
36 MR. KOLLER: Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
37 members of the Council. This is Justin Koller,
38 regulation specialist for the Office of Subsistence
39 Management. I've been listening to most of the meeting,
40 and I think that since our program is not specifically
41 a tribal program, it caters to rural Alaskans and in
42 Kodiak, there's a great mix of tribal and non-tribal
43 folks, and they're all considered rural. So, in -- we
44 can't direct or have a tribe issue permits with such a
45 high demand in this area, especially for potentially for
46 these permits, we can't just let the tribe decide who
47 gets them or a tribe or something like that. My
48 recommendation here at this point would be to have some
49 sort of equitable way of allocating these permits. And
50 one way to do that is to have you know, a registration

1 permit where anybody can get a permit, and you manage
2 it as a quota. Now that that's probably not ideal, with
3 so few permits available and tracking the harvest. So,
4 the other alternative would be a draw permit, where you
5 have four permits available and anybody that's eligible
6 for those permits in this case, in the Kodiak Road --
7 on the Kodiak Road System excluding those people or
8 whoever has customary traditional use determination for
9 these permits or for brown bear would apply and have a
10 fair chance of getting this permit.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, let me
13 summarize what I think I heard. We have two options for
14 allocation. One is registration. One is draw. If we do
15 registration, the registration process would be handled
16 by the refuge and if -- either way if we do a draw that
17 would also be handled by the refuge. But then that's --
18 I mean that's more like a lottery draw system and that
19 should be included in the regulatory language? Yes.

20
21 Okay. So, either way, it sounds like we
22 are going to need an amendment to address the allocation
23 part. So, the motion -- we don't have a motion. Awesome,
24 okay. Because we don't have a motion, we can actually
25 address this all in the motion and not have to do
26 amendments. But we do need to indicate how we would like
27 the permits to be allocated. So, your choice is
28 registration or draw, understanding that that will be
29 handled by the refuge. And otherwise, the other language
30 in the -- on page 7 is fine and adequate. So, the only
31 thing we're adding is the allocation methodology. Is
32 that correct?

33
34 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, yes. So, you
35 have the changing the regulatory language to what's on
36 7, including the language for draw or registration
37 permit. And then you have the two options of how it was
38 written or the alternative considered which I -- okay.
39 Yeah. So, those are your two things that you need to
40 make decisions on within your motion for modifications.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Do you have
43 a comment or question, Coral? Otherwise, if not, I think
44 I'm going to propose standing down for just a couple of
45 minutes to make sure we can get on the same page about
46 what the motion can be. So, hopefully we can take care
47 of this in one motion instead of having a motion and
48 then an amendment. But go ahead, Coral.

49
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. I guess I'm
2 uncomfortable with, like, having a -- not knowing what
3 the other areas' systems are. And then I'm concerned
4 with that we might -- if we're required to have a
5 different system and not have more time to discuss that.
6 Like, I would rather like by regulation, if someone tells
7 us how this is done, like a more comfortable with that.
8 But, if it's not in writing and different people are
9 guessing, I'm less comfortable with that because then I
10 would like to take a guess at -- a stab at how it's run,
11 you know?

12
13 MS. HOLMAN: So, member Chernoff, through
14 the Chair. So, as far as you're asking about how the
15 permits are issued?

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, and if they're
18 different in different villages or if they're all the
19 same, and if there's a regulation to speak to that how
20 they're done. I'd like to see that before, I guess I
21 have any more conversation about it.

22
23 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So, through the Chair,
24 there's -- Justin, correct me if I'm wrong. I don't
25 believe there's a specific regulation on how it's done.
26 I can tell you how other managers are doing it, and I
27 can tell you how I've seen it done. As far as the
28 registration versus the draw, I know from speaking with
29 the refuge manager that the other communities she works
30 with the tribal office that's in the community to get
31 the names and get the permits issued to those people
32 through the tribal offices, just because that is a an
33 entity within those small, remote communities that they
34 can communicate with to get everybody what they need.
35 As far as having Kodiak being on a draw versus the rest
36 of the communities, I guess that might be more of a
37 Justin to confirm that that is a possibility versus not
38 or if this would end up having to make everybody go on
39 to a draw. Which.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I think it's
42 going to be really important to get that clarification
43 from Justin, because I certainly don't want to vote in
44 favor of something that is going to undermine the
45 existing system in our village communities that is
46 currently working. So, if Justin can confirm that it is
47 okay for Kodiak to have an -- if this passes, yada yada,
48 that Kodiak allocation can be based on a draw system,
49 and the other areas in Kodiak can still continue to
50 allocate by registration.

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MR. KOLLER: Madam Chair, this is Justin Koller again. If you recommend having a draw in -- for the Kodiak for Kodiak permits, it's not going to affect the regulations, what they say for the other brown bear permit available in other communities in Unit 8.

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: But is it correct that the regulations, in fact, don't say anything for the other, for the villages? I thought that's what was said is that there aren't -- there isn't actually regulatory language explaining how those work.

MR. KOLLER: Madam Chair. That's correct. There is nothing in regulation that explains how they work. What is in regulation is a definition of registration hunts and registration hunts are administered on a first come, first serve basis. And so, if it's a registration permit, then that's how it would be administered.

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you. So, I would like to take a brief stand down before a motion is made. But is there any other discussion or questions that RAC members want to cover before we take a -- like a brief five-minute stand down?

MS. HAYDEN: Madam Chair, this is Natasha. Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes. Go ahead, Natasha.

MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. I just have a question. Just something that I've been thinking about is if we were to include distribution of the permits in the form of a drawing for the permits, would it -- would we -- would the refuge be issuing up to and only up to for permits, knowing that the way that the state manages drawing hunts is the issue of x number of permits based on an anticipated 25% success rate by harvesters. So, example, if they are wanting to get 25 animals taken, they would issue 100 permits. Because typically there's only a 25% success rate. So, that's one of the things that I'm just wondering about. Would we need to include language to try to make it so that the people who are hunting are able to harvest up to four animals versus only four permits being issued. Thanks.

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Kendra, do you want
2 to take a stab? Okay, go ahead.

3
4 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, this
5 is Kendra Holman. So, as the proposal is written right
6 now, it is for up to four permits. So, any changes that
7 would include the possibility of using a harvest quota,
8 as you have described, would be different than what is
9 being proposed right now. Right now, it is based on the
10 permit numbers. So, that would be a completely separate
11 modification to this proposal.

12
13 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Is there any
16 further discussion or questions before we take a brief
17 stand down to -- just to make sure that as we get a
18 motion on the floor, we can do this as efficiently as
19 possible?

20
21 (No response)

22
23 Okay. Seeing or hearing none. Let's take
24 a brief stand down. It's 3:36 so, that would be 3:41.
25 We'll come back shortly. Thanks.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (On record)

30
31 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. We're going
32 to come back on the record. I think we have a couple
33 more questions. Coral, if you have your question, go
34 ahead.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I do. This is kind
37 of -- yeah, I guess I want to have a better understanding
38 of how registration works and how draw works. Because
39 it was stated that, you know, the first four people that
40 come in the door get the permits. But I know under state
41 it doesn't work that way. Like people sign up and
42 register and then you call in, you say, hey, I got one,
43 and that's one down. So, a lot more people register than
44 what is available. So, I don't know if you work with the
45 registration department and the draw department or if
46 we can get somebody online that for sure can explain to
47 us how that works. That would be some information that
48 would be valuable to me.

49
50

1 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. So,
2 With a registration permit it -- they can set a number
3 of permits. So, for permits total can be issued. First
4 come first serve walk in get your permit. Anybody else
5 who comes in after those first four people, there's no
6 permits available. With a draw permit, they set a time
7 period of when people can request to be put on the draw
8 list. The manager then has to have this -- a place to
9 have this list and manage it. From that list of people
10 who have requested to be on the draw, it should be a
11 randomized system to select those for permits. One of
12 the things to consider with this draw permit as well,
13 is that a draw permit in Kodiak could have thousands of
14 people putting in for it, but there could also be a
15 couple hundred people try and show up at the refuge to
16 get those four permits for a registration hunt.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. We have
19 Justin Koller.

20
21 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Thanks, Madam Chair.
22 This is Justin Koller, the Office of Subsistence
23 Management. I just wanted to point out in your discussion
24 about how many people would potentially be wanting one
25 of these for brown bear permits. Federal regulation does
26 require that brown bears, the meat, be salvaged and --
27 for human consumption. So, the number of hunters that
28 would want to hunt brown bear and Kodiak, I'm not sure
29 what that number is, but the number of people that would
30 want to harvest a brown bear for food is probably a lot
31 smaller than that. So, something to consider. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Alright. Thank
34 you. And I just received word that Nate Svoboda is online
35 and I'm going to say is happy to try to answer management
36 questions. He did say that they're still drafting their
37 comments, but I think if there's questions about, you
38 know, structure or how things work, I'm assuming he'd
39 be willing to answer that. So, I guess let's make sure
40 we have Nate on audio, and then Daniel, if you want to
41 ask the question you had. We'll see if Nate is able to
42 answer that. So, Nate, are you -- do you have audio?

43
44 MR. SVOBODA: Yep. Thanks, Madam Chair.
45 Can anyone hear me, okay?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. You're
48 coming through very well. Thank you.

49
50 MR. SVOBODA: Great. Thanks.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay, so, Daniel,
if you want to ask your question.

4

5

MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
This is Daniel Smith. I just had one question regarding
the Sturgeon game management unit, and I guess the
hunting that goes on in that area, how many bears are
harvested in general and if that's the one of the main
causes for the decline in the area?

11

12

MR. SVOBODA: Thanks, Daniel. Through the
Chair. Yeah, I couldn't really speak to -- I just -- I
wasn't aware this meeting was today, so I don't have a
lot of that prepared or available right at my fingertips.
So, I couldn't really speak to the number of bears that
are harvested in the Sturgeon area. But, no, we don't
believe that the presumed decline in abundance is
related to hunting. Hunting pressure in that area has
stayed pretty consistent for about the last 40 or 50
years without any really major fluctuations. We believe
it's -- and again, we don't have any hardcore evidence
to support this, it's stuff we're looking into in
cooperation with the refuge. But we believe the decline
in the population is largely due to resource abundance
and bears simply moving out of the area to find greener
pastures, if you will.

28

29

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks,
Nate. Coral.

31

32

MS. CHERNOFF: I didn't have a question
for Nate, but I did want to go back to the registration.

34

35

CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay so, this is
Rebecca. I do have a question for Nate. This is a -- I
think you should be able to answer this. It's more of a
kind of a higher level how things work there, question.
We have a listing of geographic subunits and a note that
density objective ranges are developed for each of the
subunits. And the subunits are Afognak in Northern
Islands, northwestern Kodiak, northeastern Kodiak,
southeastern Kodiak, southwestern Kodiak, and then
Aliulik Peninsula. So, we have these subunits and then
we also have the map of the aerial surveys and what I
was wondering is from a management perspective. Are the
relevant areas that you use during management, are those
the subunits? And then the aerial surveys is more the
geographic area that's flown for a survey, but it doesn't
have the same kind of formal importance as the subunits?

50

1 Or anything you can say to clarify, those two kinds of
2 sets of areas would be helpful. Thank you.

3
4 MR. SVOBODA: Yeah. I don't know if I
5 understand the question exactly. We don't manage bears
6 on Kodiak by subunit or even by those hunt areas, right.
7 We manage on an island wide basis. So, yeah. Could you
8 clarify your question one more or just read me your
9 question one more time? Sorry.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Actually, I think
12 you answered my question.

13
14 MR. SVOBODA: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Which is that bears
17 are managed on a whole unit -- GMU basis.

18
19 MR. SVOBODA: That is correct.

20
21 MR. SMITH: Okay.

22
23 MR. SVOBODA: Yeah. You're right, you're
24 right. But, let me just clarify a little bit more. If I
25 could please. We do have, as you point out, Madam Chair,
26 we do have various surveys that take place throughout
27 most of those subunits, and that's pretty much what we
28 use to -- well, not solely, but that's one of the things
29 we use to make our management decisions. So, one of the
30 things we've noticed, you know, we -- somebody brought
31 up Sturgeon. So, we have Sturgeon River survey, we also
32 have a Southwest Kodiak survey. Both of those surveys
33 have indicated that the bears -- the bear population has
34 decreased below our minimum thresholds that are outlined
35 in the Kodiak Bear Management Plan. And then we will
36 make our decisions on management based on those surveys,
37 in addition to other metrics such as hunter effort or
38 hunter success, So on and so forth. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks,
41 Nate. Are there any other questions for Nate? Well,
42 before we move to Coral's question, which was on a
43 slightly different topic.

44
45 (No response)

46
47 Okay. I'm not hearing or seeing any.
48 Coral if you want to go ahead with your other question.

49
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, I wanted to clarify
2 my understanding of registration for Kendra. So, you
3 said registration is first come, first serve. So, they
4 will end. You're saying that they will only issue four.
5 So, the first four people that walk in the door?
6

7 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, so, through --
8 excuse me. Member Chernoff, through the Chair. So, this
9 proposal as written is up to four permits. So, if there
10 are four permits of that up, if they do issue all four
11 of them, there would only be four and it would be the
12 first four people that walk through the door to get
13 those permits for registration. If for some reason they
14 have to change that and there's only two permits because
15 that's where that up to language comes in, is that --
16 it can be changed based on conservation concerns, things
17 like that. So, that number of permits could be anywhere
18 from 0 to 4, and it would be the first people walking
19 through the door up to that number.
20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. So, then I look in
22 the -- when I look in the definitions. The definitions
23 in the federal subsistence book actually explain it as
24 I understand registration to be so, which is different
25 than what you're explaining. So, I want to make sure
26 that we clarify this. So, it says registration permit
27 means a permit which authorizes hunting and is issued
28 to a person who agrees to the specified hunting
29 conditions. Hunting permitted by a registration permit
30 begins on an announced date and continues through the
31 open season or until the season is closed by Board
32 action, which was my understanding of how permits -- so,
33 they're not allowing for the hunt of 100 species of, you
34 know, 100 of something or something. They're leaving --
35 this sounds like what my understanding is, is that door
36 is open until you have reached that 4 taking of the four
37 bears. Not that you only issue four permits. So, I don't
38 know. It says -- yeah, registration permits or until the
39 season is closed by Board action. Registration permits
40 are issued in the order applications are received and
41 are based on priorities as determined by 50 CFR. I don't
42 know what that means. I'd have to look that part up.
43

44 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. So,
45 the registration permits are in the order received. So,
46 if opening day of when they're going to issue permits
47 is July 15th, on July 15th, the first four people that
48 come in through the doors get permits, if it takes three
49 months to get those four people to come in, then that's
50 open until those for permits, because this proposal is

1 written as up to four permits. So, this -- that set
2 number of permits is all that can be issued from the set
3 date of when they can start issuing them until that
4 number is reached, it is open to first come first serve.
5 So, it could take an hour. It could take three months.
6 It could take -- they could never get them all filled.
7 It all depends on that. As far as the priorities those
8 are referencing our -- ANILCA, the C&T breaking down to
9 potentially an 804 analysis in that prioritization. And
10 so, that is the dates and seasons being closed, this
11 season already has dates that have been set by the Board.
12 So, it would be within those season dates. I think I
13 covered everything. If I missed something, let me know.
14

15 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. So, I
16 think we're at a -- one decision point is, do we want
17 to go ahead and proceed with this proposal? Are we ready?
18 Is somebody ready to make a motion? Or another option
19 is to table this until, I would suggest, first thing
20 tomorrow morning so that people have a little more time
21 to wrap their heads around the information that we've
22 heard today, the discussion, and then formulate a motion
23 that fits in with all of that. So, do we want to keep
24 going and get a motion on the table and finish this
25 proposal or delay until tomorrow morning on this
26 particular proposal?
27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, Pat.
29

30 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes. Go ahead, Pat.
31

32 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to move to adopt
33 the motion.
34

35 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, you're
36 moving to adopt the proposal? Is there a -- well, let
37 me ask this. We have been told we need to adjust the
38 allocation issue, which is not in the current proposed
39 language. So, did you want to propose how the permits
40 would be allocated? And we've talked about the option
41 of a draw or registration.
42

43 MR. HOLMES: Thinking on that
44 perspective, I'm sorry, I think probably best to wait
45 till tomorrow and chew on it a little more overnight.
46 Thank you. Sorry to jump ahead. Thank you, bye.
47

48 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thanks, Pat.
49 Go ahead, Coral.
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess in light of
2 looking like this is going to be viewed different from
3 the communities that have been issued permits. I would
4 like to make a motion to amend this to be issued not
5 permits, but I don't know how to word -- this hunt is
6 for up to the taking of four bear. As opposed to permits.
7 And I will -- I don't know if there's -- look for a
8 second on that and then -- and like I said, the reason
9 is because I assume that it would be treated similarly
10 as it is in the villages where several times and I think
11 even today it said that I think it was always indicated
12 that the tribal entities are involved, or they bring
13 forward names and can bring them to the federal. And now
14 it's sounding like that's a little bit different. And I
15 think the idea is for us -- and I also foresee that
16 people just putting in their names and taking those for
17 permits, and then people who have the need or the
18 customary and traditional use not having access to
19 those.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, you
22 stated a motion to amend. I think you're actually just
23 at the motion level. You didn't address the allocation
24 issue. What was your plan as far as that? Did you plan
25 to include that in your motion? So, let me let me back
26 up. I feel like we might be at a point where thinking
27 about it and formulating a complete motion that has
28 everything will make more sense. Katya, go ahead.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
31 Katya Wessels. I think the Council is getting more
32 discussing the merit of the proposal. So, there really
33 should be a motion on the floor in order to continue any
34 kind of discussion. You know, it's one thing you are
35 trying to figure out what types of allocation there can
36 be, but you know you're waiting, what is better? And you
37 know you need to have a motion on the floor in order to
38 have a legitimate discussion or just table it till
39 tomorrow. You need to have a motion to table it too.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. I mean, from
42 what I've heard, my suggestion is that we table this
43 until tomorrow morning because I do not -- I haven't
44 heard enough of a definite proposal that captures all
45 of the elements that I think we need. So, I just don't
46 think we're ready for a motion. Go ahead, Jeff.

47
48 MR. WASLEY: I second that.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Alright. Maybe
2 Jeff could make the motion to table it for first thing
3 tomorrow. And if somebody wants to second that, we'll
4 move from there.

5
6 MR. WASLEY: Jeff Wasley, here. Yeah.
7 Make a motion to table this discussion till tomorrow
8 morning.

9
10 MR. SMITH: I'll second that.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Great. Thank you.
13 Is there any further discussion on the motion to table
14 until tomorrow morning? Okay. And just to be clear, my
15 thought is that we would start with this at 9 a.m. So,
16 it'll be the first thing we start with. Is there any
17 objection to the motion?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Okay. Hearing and seeing none. We're
22 going to table WP26-33. We will take it back up at 9
23 a.m. tomorrow morning and hopefully start with a motion.
24 So, whoever is looking at doing a motion, just be
25 prepared with your motion language at 9 a.m.

26
27 Okay. So, I'm going to check in. I know
28 we took a break not too long ago. Do people feel like
29 they need a break, or can we keep going? Okay, I'm not
30 seeing anyone jumping up. We're going to keep going.
31 Okay. We are up to WP26-34. This is Unit 8, brown bear.
32 Allow the sale of handicrafts using any non-edible
33 byproduct, and we have Jason Roberts at the table.

34
35 DR. ROBERTS: All right. Good afternoon,
36 Madam Chair, members of the Council, this is Jason
37 Roberts again, with OSM. I'll be providing a summary of
38 the analysis for wildlife proposal 26-34. This analysis
39 begins on page 65 of your meeting book. Proposal 26-34
40 was submitted by Coral Chernoff. It requests that the
41 Federal Subsistence Board allow the sale of handicrafts
42 made from the non-edible byproducts of legally harvested
43 brown bear taken under federal subsistence regulations
44 in Unit 8. The proposal requests that sales be permanent
45 and limited to consignment only, that each article have
46 an attached registration permit number that is retained
47 with the handicraft, and that the sale of these
48 handicrafts not constitute a significant commercial
49 enterprise. The proponent also requests that transferred
50 or gifted non-edible byproducts be accompanied by a

1 wildlife transfer statement that is permanently retained
2 by the handicraft, and that handicrafts made from the
3 hide or unattached claws of brown bear be sealed by an
4 authorized ADF&G representative, and that sales be
5 limited to domestic transactions in the U.S.

6
7 So, the proponent states that residents
8 of Kodiak Island have a long and well-documented history
9 of harvesting brown bear for food and using brown bear
10 parts for traditional handicrafts. The proponent notes
11 that historical writings, contemporary publications, and
12 museum collections across the world document that brown
13 bears were traditionally harvested and used by Kodiak
14 residents to produce handicrafts, including the rain
15 parkas made from the intestines of brown bears, whales,
16 and seals. The proponent notes that the sale of
17 handicrafts from non-edible byproducts of legally
18 harvested wildlife, is an established practice in
19 Alaska. And also, noting that federal regulations
20 already permit handicrafts to be sold -- made and sold
21 using non-edible parts of brown bears in some game
22 management units in Alaska. And further states that
23 permitting these uses is not expected to significantly
24 increase the take of brown bear in Unit 8, since the
25 brown bear populations are healthy and currently only
26 13 permits are available for federally qualified users
27 to harvest brown bear in Unit 8 under federal regs.

28
29 So, looking at the regulatory history,
30 the sale of brown bear parts has been regulated since
31 the early 1900s and became stricter after brown bears
32 were added to Appendix II of the Convention on
33 International Trade in Endangered Species in 1975. In
34 1980, ANILCA defined subsistence uses as including the
35 making and selling of handicrafts from non-edible
36 byproducts of fish and wildlife. Federal subsistence
37 regulations governing the use of brown bear parts in
38 handicrafts, particularly the use of claws, have been
39 contentious due to concerns about incentivizing the
40 harvest of a species with a low reproductive rate. The
41 high value of some brown bear parts in international
42 markets, particularly gallbladders, and variation in
43 local cultural norms related to the use and sale of
44 these parts, and Councils have historically varied in
45 their recommendations on proposals to allow the sale of
46 handicrafts using -- made using brown bear parts. The
47 Board has therefore primarily implemented regionally
48 specific regulations related to the use of brown bear
49 parts and handicrafts made for sale.

1 In the past, the Kodiak Aleutians
2 Council has generally considered the sale of non-edible
3 brown bear parts and handicrafts made from them to be
4 culturally inappropriate for their region and voted
5 against these proposals. However, the Council was
6 recently divided regarding a proposal that would permit
7 the sale of brown bear hides harvested by federally
8 qualified users under federal regs. Some Council members
9 who oppose this proposal emphasize that selling brown
10 bear parts is not traditional or culturally appropriate
11 on Kodiak Island, but that perspectives on this may be
12 changing. Members in support highlighted the value of
13 making full use of a harvested animal, and the potential
14 of such use to help offset the high cost of living in
15 rural Alaska. So, during your deliberations on that
16 proposal, the Council voted to support the proposal.
17 However, the Board twice deferred the proposal to
18 provide additional time to further investigate how brown
19 bear hides could be legally sold in areas with one bear
20 harvest limit given the current restrictions under state
21 regulations and CITES. And to provide Councils with time
22 to reconsider the proposal given the new information.
23 And at your subsequent meeting as you'll recall, your
24 Council motioned to support that particular proposal
25 failed on a tie vote. So, looking at cultural knowledge
26 and traditional practices related to this proposal, as
27 stated previously, the production and sale of
28 handicrafts from non-edible portions of fish and
29 wildlife continues to be an important economic activity
30 for many Alaskan residents. That helps in part to support
31 the continuation of subsistence activities and
32 lifestyles. And residents of the Kodiak archipelago have
33 harvested and used brown bears for generations. Historic
34 and ethnographic data indicate that all parts of
35 harvested brown bears were traditionally used for food
36 except the hide bones, claws, head, and entrails. Bear
37 hides were either left at the kill site or used as bed
38 covers or sleeping pads. Bones were used for tools and
39 for traditional medicine, and teeth were used for
40 adornment. The skulls of harvested bears were
41 historically left in the field because it was believed
42 to be disrespectful to the animal to take or use them.
43 And brown bear intestines and sinew were traditionally
44 used to make rainproof, parkas, bags, hats, window
45 coverings, and drums. And bear intestines were
46 considered and are considered stronger and better suited
47 for those purposes than sea lion intestines. But they're
48 also generally harder to acquire and so, some Kodiak
49 artists and craftspeople continue to produce these sorts
50 of traditional items made from these non-edible parts of

1 brown bears.

2
3 The OSM conclusion is to support
4 proposal WP26-34, with modification to add Unit 8 to the
5 existing unit specific regulations regarding the sale
6 of specific brown bear parts, and to specify that in
7 Unit 8, federally qualified users may also sell
8 traditional handicrafts made from brown bear intestines.
9 The OSM modification does not include language limiting
10 sales to consignment, only restrict sales to within the
11 United States, or require a wildlife transfer agreement,
12 or require a bear registration permit number to be
13 attached to and permanently retained with the
14 handicraft. This is primarily because adopting these
15 elements of the proposal would increase regulatory
16 complexity and make federal handicraft regulations more
17 restrictive in Unit 8 than in other areas of Alaska
18 where they're allowed. So, the proposed modification
19 would largely align federal subsistence brown bear
20 handicraft regulations in Unit 8 with those of other
21 regions that allow those practices with the addition of
22 -- the specific addition of intestines. And the
23 proponents request to restrict sales to consignment only
24 is likely not needed, because there's already regulatory
25 language stating that the sale of handicrafts may not
26 constitute a significant commercial enterprise.

27
28 And so, moving into the justification
29 here, the Council has regularly expressed concern about
30 regulations that might promote an increase in brown bear
31 harvest, while also noting that sale of handicrafts made
32 from brown bear parts is not culturally appropriate in
33 their region or traditional. And so, this has been kind
34 of a complicated proposal for us. However, recent
35 discussions at Council meetings have indicated that this
36 stance may be changing. There's strong evidence that
37 brown bear parts, particularly intestines, have long
38 been used to produce handicrafts and other goods on
39 Kodiak Island, and allowing the limited sale of
40 handicrafts made with these parts would enable federally
41 qualified users to more fully utilize and benefit from
42 brown bears harvested for subsistence under federal
43 regulation. It may also help these crafting practices
44 and other subsistence practices to continue, and OSM
45 supports providing such an option for interested
46 residents of Unit 8. Federal subsistence regulations
47 define handicrafts in such a way that the parts used
48 must be changed significantly, which is intended to
49 ensure valuable items like bear claws are not just sold
50 as raw items. Additionally, ADF&G is now able to track

1 -- seal and track brown bear claws used in handicrafts,
2 and previous information documented during Board of Game
3 meetings indicates that brown bear harvest did not
4 increase substantially after the state began allowing
5 the limited sale of brown bear hides. And internet based
6 sales of brown bear hides and parts are monitored by law
7 enforcement to ensure they come from legally harvested
8 bears. Furthermore, the brown bear population in Unit 8
9 is closely managed, and there are currently only a
10 maximum of 13 federal subsistence permits, potentially
11 17 depending on the outcome of 26-33 available to harvest
12 brown bears each year in this area. Federal regulations
13 require that the hide and edible meat of harvested bears
14 be salvaged so given these factors, allowing the use of
15 intestines, claws and other non-edible parts in
16 handicrafts and the limited sales of these handicrafts
17 appears unlikely to result in a substantial increase in
18 brown bear harvesting, but it could provide local
19 craftspeople with an important mechanism to continue to
20 work and attain a limited amount of income from it. So,
21 that's what I've got.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thank
24 you. Are there any clarifying questions?

25
26 (No response)

27
28 Okay. Not seeing or hearing any. We will
29 go on to the next step, which is report on Board
30 consultation. This is with tribes and ANCSA
31 Corporations. Who is doing that?

32
33 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, there were no
34 comments on this proposal.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
37 All right. Next up, agency comments. This includes
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, federal agencies and
39 tribal entities, including Native, tribal Village and
40 other. Are there any fishing game comments on this
41 proposal?

42
43 MR. POETTER: Yeah. Madam Chair, Aaron
44 Poetter from Fish and Game. As the -- this falls squarely
45 within the federal process outside of the states. So,
46 we have pretty limited thoughts or comments on it, and
47 we're still drafting those and -- but they'll be
48 available for the FSB meeting. Thank you.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thank
2 you. Okay. Are there any federal agency comments?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 Okay. And are there any tribal entity
7 comments?

8
9 (No comment)

10
11 All right. Seeing and hearing none. Next
12 step, Advisory Group comments, which includes other
13 Regional Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees and
14 Subsistence Resource Commissions. Do we have anyone
15 online from any of those groups that wishes to give
16 comment?

17 (No comment)

18
19 Okay. Seeing and hearing none. Summary
20 of written public comment.

21
22 DR. ROBERTS: Madam Chair, Jason Roberts,
23 there were no written public comments submitted on this
24 proposal.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
27 Okay. We're on to public testimony. We do not have any
28 public in the room. Are there any public online that
29 want to give testimony?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 Okay, we're up to the Regional Council
34 recommendation here. I'd be looking for a motion to
35 support the proposal, and then we can vote it up or down
36 from there? Is there a motion call? Coral.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Motion to support wildlife
39 proposal WP26-32, allowing the sale of handicrafts made
40 from non-edible byproducts of legally harvested brown
41 bear.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Is there a second?

44
45 MR. SMITH: Second.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. We have
48 a motion and a second. Discussion. And do we have a hand
49 up online?

50

1 MS. HONIG: Pat, you have your hand
2 raised?

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. I'm going to
5 vote against this. We've have gone through this many
6 times. I mean, as much as 25-30 years ago or quite a
7 while back decades. We had a statewide and so, for all
8 of our meetings, I generally try to call elders from the
9 different villages and see what they thought. And at
10 that time, all of the villages were against selling bear
11 parts because it was a question of spirituality. I recall
12 one time, more than 40 years ago, I was out deer hunting
13 and found a bear skull up on top of a rock way high up
14 higher than Pillar Mountain and it was facing the east.
15 And I asked Walter Matvey about it, and he said that
16 that was a sign of respect, spiritual respect for the
17 bears. And that there was really, really, really strong
18 feelings about yes, using handicrafts, using them
19 themselves, using them in your family, but, not to sell
20 them. I've recently had a chat with maybe cousin Ronnie
21 Lind over at Karluk yesterday, and he hasn't changed his
22 mind. He still feels that it's inappropriate. I've
23 talked to some other elders several who died in the last
24 couple -- last year or two, and they feel very strongly
25 against selling these types of handicrafts. Making them
26 is okay but selling them to make a profit just violates
27 all their sense of the continuing spiritual relationship
28 with bears. And at our previous meetings, we voted not
29 to go with the rest of the state and yes, there is a
30 change of perspective. It seems to be a bit of a
31 generational thing. But I checked with some of the
32 places, and some of the young folks don't feel that way.
33 I think if we were really wanting to objectively evaluate
34 this, we probably should tuck it away and get either the
35 federal or state subsistence folks to go out and
36 interview everybody in the villages and get a good shot
37 on what people think here on the Road System as well,
38 particularly our indigenous folks. Because I think it's
39 just something that from what I gathered from the elders,
40 It's just not acceptable. And I think we haven't gotten
41 a lot of comments because a lot of folks really didn't
42 get a notice of our meetings other than you know -- so,
43 I guess, I'll shut up at this point. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thanks,
46 Pat. I also just want to clarify the proposal we are
47 dealing with is WP26-34. I think when Coral made the
48 motion, she may have misstated the number, but -- okay.
49 So, we are doing WP26-34. But she also read the -- what
50 I'm going to call the short title. So, I think we're all

1 on the same page about which proposal we're dealing with.
2 The other thing is when giving comments on this, if you
3 state -- well, so the motion is to support the proposal
4 as written and I think we also have some OSM
5 modifications. But the motion that was made was to
6 support the proposal, there was no mention of the
7 modification. So, if the modification needs to be added
8 or if you support with OSM modification, please state
9 so in your comments. Unless Coral, you intended to
10 include the OSM modifications. Okay, so the motion on
11 the floor is to approve the proposal as written. All
12 right. Any additional -- Coral, go ahead.
13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: So, Coral Chernoff here.
15 So, I wrote this proposal because, I myself as an Alutiiq
16 person, now, I think I'll be 60 next week so, I could
17 be an Alutiiq elder at this point. I have been working
18 with bear gut for over 20 years. I think it's well
19 documented in here and through museums and research and
20 collections in the United States and all over the world
21 that working with non-edible bear parts was very
22 customary and traditional. And I wanted to point out on
23 page 85 there are two photos. The photo in the top is
24 also -- a PhD -- former -- a PhD, I think he has an
25 Anthropology PhD, Sven Haakanson from Old Harbor. That
26 is him working with gut in Juneau. He does a lot of work
27 with gut, and he teaches down at the Burke Museum and
28 also, brings gut and gut teaching and Alutiiq culture
29 into his classrooms. So, that is him in the top picture
30 where you don't see his face and that was a few years
31 ago in Juneau when he did a project there. They had a
32 exhibition of gut parkas from all over the state. I had
33 some pieces in that exhibit also, and then he had an
34 afternoon of talking about bear gut. The picture below
35 is -- that is my work. I was surprised to see that in
36 there. Those are my gut bags that I have. I will have
37 to say it says contemporary handicrafts produced using
38 brown bear intestines and none of those are brown bear
39 intestine. But they are seal and sea lion intestine. So,
40 different intestine is worked with and acknowledged. And
41 working with it, I feel like -- I think the former
42 comment mentioned the spirituality of it, I do feel like
43 it's very spiritual work as an Alutiiq member. So, I
44 very much support working with it, I think -- what --
45 while I do -- speaking to the modifications that are
46 listed here, I did include limiting sales to consignment
47 and the other restrictions having the wildlife transfer
48 agreement, I included those parts, including the
49 registration number of the bear that was shot to
50 alleviate because there's been past concerns about maybe

1 overharvesting and illegal harvesting. And so, I added
2 those things in there because those are the ways things
3 can be tracked. But I guess if OSM and the federal
4 entities cannot do that and do not have the money or the
5 systems to do that I'm willing to take those, make an
6 amendment later to take those out of there.

7
8 And then last thing for now is -- oh,
9 so part of the modification was that there would be use
10 of -- I think there's listed uses of other things in
11 there that they're like phone and something else. But I
12 specifically worded mine as non-edible byproducts and I
13 see that in the OSM analysis they suggested the
14 modification of adding, may also sell traditional
15 handicrafts made from brown bear intestine. But I have
16 to say, I would like the wording to remain as non-edible
17 byproducts. I also work with bear stomach, bear throat,
18 the lining of bear lungs, the lining of bear kidney. And
19 so, the modification that was suggested in this OSM
20 analysis does not cover what I intended the proposal to
21 cover. I think that's all I have for now.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: All right. Thank
24 you. Comments, questions, discussion?

25
26 (No response)

27
28 Okay. So, I do not have a clear handle
29 myself on the proposed -- the proposed regulation versus
30 the OSM modification. So, Jason, if you could -- and I'm
31 thinking that the two relevant pages are essentially
32 pages 67 and 68, and then page 86, can you point or
33 speak to what are the main differences or which sections
34 am I looking at with the differences?

35
36 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, Jason
37 Roberts. So, I think the place where that's explained
38 the best and the analysis is on page 86 under OSM
39 preliminary conclusion, that second paragraph, the
40 modification presented below does not include language
41 limiting sales to consignment only. It doesn't restrict
42 sales to within the United States, require a wildlife
43 transfer agreement for transferred or gifted brown bear
44 parts, or require a bear registration permit number to
45 be attached and permanently retained. So, that in
46 addition to the point that Coral just pointed out, that
47 we did change it from all non-edible byproducts to
48 intestine specifically, along with, if you look at that
49 I think it's roman numeral i. So, it would include skin,
50 hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew or skulls.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Can I jump in
3 because I -- so my -- I think my question is, where in
4 the proposed regulation, where does it address the
5 consignment? And is that because it's part of an existing
6 regulation that the proposed language is being added to,
7 or was that actually new proposed language?

8
9 DR. ROBERTS: Consignment is in the
10 proposal, limited to consignment sales is in the
11 proposal.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: I'm sorry. Can you
14 speak up?

15
16 DR. ROBERTS: Limiting it to consignment
17 only is in the proposal. It's not in our modified.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes. What I'm
20 asking is where is that in the proposed language and I
21 think I'm looking at page 67 and 68, okay.

22
23 DR. ROBERTS: 68.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: So, it's on page 68.
26 So, just -- I know this is standard. I just want to make
27 sure all the bolded language is new. That's language to
28 be added. OSM is saying we don't need to deal with that.
29 My other question is you're -- the OSM changes are
30 limited to basically just those two paragraphs. So, J7
31 and then I? So, it's just changing two things into
32 paragraphs, the proposed language addresses a bunch of
33 different sections. So, just structurally because I
34 didn't go look to see the -- like the -- all of the --
35 these sections and the regulations. Is it important that
36 -- like are we -- I just want to make sure we're not
37 missing something. But -- go ahead.

38
39 DR. ROBERTS: Some of the regulations
40 included in this analysis, probably too many are
41 relevant regulations. But I don't think they actually
42 have to be changed for the purpose of this proposal.
43 It's just for your understanding of where these things
44 are defined. So, providing you with definitions of what
45 a handicraft is in subsistence regulations, for example.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, just so
48 I understand, on page 68 that part there's paragraph 11,
49 which is the proposed language and that's where the
50 consignment is mentioned. So, that paragraph 11 which

1 isn't addressed at all in the OSM modification, it's not
2 necessary to change anything in paragraph 11 unless you
3 specifically wanted to require consignment, etc.?

4
5 DR. ROBERTS: Yes.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
8 Yeah, sorry. It's just -- it's kind of been a long day,
9 and I'm trying to compare the two sets of regulatory
10 proposed language.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair. Question.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yep. Go ahead, Pat.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: I'm wondering, I believe
17 that CITES requires that if this happens with the
18 handicrafts that they be retained within the U.S., if
19 it's not consigned within the U.S., then it would be a
20 violation of the International Treaty Act.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah, and I'm
23 thinking, I see Coral has her hand up. I'm thinking
24 that's why the proposed -- in the original proposed
25 language, why that's included in paragraph 11. Because
26 it does specify it's -- may only be permanent and by
27 consignment within the United States. But Coral did you
28 -- were -- I couldn't tell if was your hand up or --
29 okay. Alright. Further comments or questions or do
30 people want a few minutes to ponder? Go ahead, Coral.
31 Okay. We'll go to Daniel and then Coral.

32
33 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
34 I just had one question. Since I'm fairly new to looking
35 at handicraft proposals. So, in current federal
36 regulations this is page 67, J11, I believe, or maybe
37 no, I think just section 11, the sale of handicrafts
38 made from the non-edible products of wildlife, when
39 authorized in this part may not constitute a significant
40 commercial enterprise. Is there a specific definition
41 regarding the significant commercial enterprise? Okay.

42
43 DR. ROBERTS: So, I can't go, remember
44 off the top of my head. But we do cover a bit of that
45 back and forth that went on with that in the regulatory
46 history section of this analysis. But, to my
47 understanding, we do not have a specific definition of
48 what that is in regulations.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.

1

2 MS. CHERNOFF: I also want to note, in
3 this past year or year and a half, somebody was
4 commissioned to make a parka for the Alutiiq Museum --
5 commissioned by the Alutiiq Museum to make a Parka. It
6 currently is hanging in the museum. People seem to be
7 supportive of that also. My understanding was this was
8 always illegal. Federal Wildlife Service was notified,
9 and I haven't heard back so, I assume that -- I don't
10 know, I'm not assuming anything, but the -- currently
11 that gut is hanging -- that gut parka is hanging in the
12 museum. So, I guess that's just another maybe support
13 of the people who are still using their guts, continuing
14 to use their gut. The Alutiiq Museum commissioned
15 something out of their gut. So, yeah, I just wanted to
16 make note of that.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Pat, go ahead.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, Pat.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yep. Go ahead, Pat.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Earlier, Coral had raised
25 the question of whether it was illegal or not. I did
26 contact the museum. They referred me back to Nate, at
27 the Fish and Game, and I asked him about it, and he said
28 that they had -- it was gut from sport killed bear and
29 that they had checked with the troopers and the other
30 enforcement agencies, and being that was done for the
31 museum, I -- my details may not be correct. So, you
32 probably want to ask him when you get him online
33 tomorrow. But basically, the whole thing was viewed to
34 be a kosher activity and was not illegal. Thank you,
35 Madam Chair.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yeah. Thanks. So,
38 and just to clarify, it's obviously not the purview of
39 the RAC to dig into specific cases or violations or
40 potential violations, that -- that's not what our job
41 is. But I do take the example as indicative that the way
42 that -- not -- there is a lack of clarity because clearly
43 things are being made out of bear gut. They are being
44 purchased and sold and so there -- while at the same
45 time, I think we're getting pretty strong indication
46 that it is illegal to sell the bear gut, things made of
47 bear gut. What I take out of that is there is a lack of
48 clarity. This proposal is an opportunity for the Council
49 to create a clear standard is what's coming to my head,
50 but that's not the -- what I'm wanting to say. But it's

1 an opportunity for the Council to clarify that at least
2 with subsistence bears, it will be legal to sell things
3 that are made of the non-edible or the bear gut and that
4 includes selling them to institutions like museums
5 because that is still a sale. Okay so.....

6

7 MS. HAYDEN: Madam Chair.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yep. Go ahead,
10 Natasha.

11

12 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you, this is Natasha
13 Hayden. So, I -- I'm supportive of this proposal, and I
14 have a lot of thoughts about the discussion -- about the
15 proposal and about the discussion and I, unfortunately,
16 am also, closer to 50 than 20 years old and -- or closer
17 to 60 than 20 years old. And so, I've got a lot of time
18 here in Kodiak as an Alutiiq person, where there's been
19 so many changes in our community and our ability to have
20 a relationship with our resources in my lifetime. And
21 while I understand that Pat has got, you know, decades
22 of experience in conversation with elders from our
23 region and what the position was and the beliefs around
24 the spirituality of the relationship with the bears, I,
25 as an Alutiiq person, believe that the changes that we
26 have withstood warrant a broader perspective on that
27 relationship. And before our meeting this morning, I was
28 reflecting on my father and his impact on myself and his
29 mother, who passed away before I was born. So, I never
30 really, I never got to know her. But -- that I think
31 that they would probably be supportive of our desire to
32 be able to continue to have a relationship with these
33 animals in our region and that everything has changed
34 so dramatically. That is -- I feel like if I were to not
35 be supportive of this, it would be almost like biting
36 off my nose to spite my face, to say, well, you know,
37 40 years ago, everybody viewed it this way based on
38 customs and traditions of the Alutiiq people in our
39 region. I think that's it's dismissing how we've had to
40 adapt to continue to exist here and that this is one of
41 the ways that we would continue to adapt. I don't want
42 to be disrespectful. I don't mean any disrespect to Pat
43 and his lifetime of knowledge and relationships with the
44 people in our region. But, I think that -- I mean, I
45 know that because I've talked to bear harvesters or
46 people in villages where they don't eat bear anymore
47 because there's deer and because there's elk and there's
48 so many -- you know, there's a Walmart and a Safeway and
49 you know, that's not really -- it's not the same. Not
50 everybody has the same opportunities as everybody else

1 does. But that in itself is a barrier to being able to
2 fully utilize that resource for subsistence that, you
3 know, people are not as -- in some in some communities
4 are not as interested in harvesting a bear and then
5 consuming the meat so they don't, you know, which is
6 which is right, you know. But if somebody is engaging
7 in that subsistence activity and is fully utilizing the
8 animal and, you know, harvesting all of the meat for
9 consumption, then I would -- I'm supportive of being
10 able to create handicrafts for sale of the non-edible
11 parts and I believe that my dad would agree with that.
12 And I believe that based on just where we are as a
13 society now that I'm okay with being supportive of this
14 proposal. So, thank you.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Thanks, Natasha.
17 Coral, go ahead.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah. Would this be a time
20 to introduce an amendment to this proposal?

21
22 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: I'm sorry. I was
23 just double checking. Can she amend her own proposal,
24 or does it matter? Okay. Yeah, this would be -- yeah.
25 This is a good time to do that.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. I would like to make
28 a motion to amend this proposal WP26-34, id I get that
29 right? To remove the language limiting the sales to
30 consignment only. To remove the language that restricts
31 sales to within the United States. To remove the language
32 that would require a wildlife transfer agreement for
33 transferred or gifted brown bear parts and for to remove
34 that a bear registration permit number be attached to
35 and permanently retained with the handicraft.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: But -- I guess
38 before I ask for a second, I just want to double check.
39 That's basically the OSM modification.

40
41 DR. ROBERTS: Through Chair. That's
42 correct, except that I believe Coral wants to keep in
43 that all non-edible parts.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. All right.
46 Thank you. All right. Is there a second to Coral's
47 motion?

48
49 MR. RICHARDSON: Second.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. We have a
2 motion and a second. So, this is an amendment. Is there
3 further discussion on the amendment? I think Coral is
4 formulating a question or a comment. Go ahead.

5
6 MS. CHERNOFF: So, leaving in the non-
7 edible and I guess this is a question for OSM. When I
8 look for definition, I do not see a definition for non-
9 edible parts in the back, so how does that get addressed?

10
11 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. I
12 believe that's part of the reason why we made that
13 modification where we listed out -- we added Unit 8 to
14 that list of non-edible parts that were already in
15 regulations for other areas and then included intestines
16 just because it seemed like the proposal focused a bit
17 more on that aspect than others. But yeah, so we would
18 have to come up with some sort of definition of non-
19 edible parts, I believe.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: We have Justin
22 Koller. If you want to go ahead, Justin.

23
24 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
25 Chair. Justin Koller, OSM. I was just thinking about
26 this definition of non-edible byproducts. And you're
27 right, there isn't a definition in our regulations, but
28 there is a definition of edible meat. And I'm not quite
29 sure how that plays in, but for black bear, brown and
30 grizzly bear, edible meat means the meat of the front
31 quarter, hind quarters, and meat along the back stroke
32 -- or excuse me, meat along the backbone.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. So, just to
35 clarify again as we go through discussion, the amendment
36 is to remove the bolded language that you see on page
37 68 at the top paragraph and the second paragraph that
38 bolded language would come out. But the language on 67
39 about handicrafts made from any non-edible byproducts
40 would remain in. Is there further comments, discussion
41 or question on the amendment before we vote?

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Okay, I'm not seeing or hearing any. So,
46 we will -- let's take a voice vote on this one. And the
47 amendment again is removing from the original motion the
48 language you can see on page 68, which is in Unit 8,
49 each article must also have a bear registration permit
50 number attached and must be permanently retained with

1 the handicraft. And also removing the bolded language
2 in that second paragraph, which says for brown bears
3 harvested in Unit 8, sales may only be permanent and by
4 consignment within the United States if the non-edible
5 byproduct was transferred, gifted, a signed Wildlife
6 Transfer statement must be permanently retained with the
7 handicraft So, that language would be stricken. Okay. I
8 think we're ready to vote. Leigh, if you want to walk
9 U.S. through that.

10
11 MS. HONIG: Sure, Madam Chair Leigh.
12 Honig for the record. So, I'll just go down the line and
13 call, and you can say yes or no. Jeff Wasley.
14

15 MR. WASLEY: Jeff Wasley here. Earlier
16 we addressed this, and Sam and Pat had made good points
17 that reasons why not to do this, but I look at the
18 subsistence take, and it's like a bear and a half for
19 the entire island, and I don't see how selling a few
20 handicrafts is going to be detrimental to the resource.
21 So, I'm going to change and vote in favor, yes.
22

23 MS. HOING: Pat Holmes. How do you vote?
24

25 MR. HOLMES: Was this going to --
26 amendment eliminate the having to have the
27 registration.....
28

29 (Simultaneous speech)
30

31 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes.
32

33 MR. HOLMES:permit restricted to
34 the U.S. or beyond?
35

36 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes.
37

38 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to -- come back to
39 me later. I gotta think on it more. Thank you.
40

41 MS. HONIG: Okay. Coral Chernoff.
42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.
44

45 MS. HONIG: Rebecca Skinner.
46

47 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Yes.
48

49 MS. HONIG: Daniel Smith.
50

1 MR. SMITH: Yes.

2 MS. HONIG: Natasha Hayden.

3 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

4 MS. HONIG: Brett Richardson.

5 MR. RICHARDSON: Yes.

6 MS. HONIG: And Pat, are you ready to
7 vote?

8 MR. HOLMES: Reluctant, yes.

9 MS. HONIG: Okay. Madam Chair, that is
10 all Council members voting in favor.

11 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
12 So, that was on the amendment. Now we're back to the
13 main motion, as amended. So, I will attempt to clarify
14 so we're all on the same page. What the main motion is
15 amended, it -- at a high level, this proposal will allow
16 the sale of handicrafts made from non-edible brown bear
17 parts and the specific changes in language are to add
18 Unit 8 to the paragraph where it says you may sell
19 handicraft articles from the skin, hide, pelt or fur,
20 including claws of a brown bear and it also adds in
21 specific language, in Unit 8, you may sell handicrafts
22 from I don't know if that should say made. You may sell
23 handicrafts from any non-edible byproducts of brown
24 bears taken from Unit 8, and that is in a different
25 paragraph. But that is the language that we are now
26 voting on. Are there any final comments on the motion
27 as amended? Coral, go ahead.

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. I would like to
29 clarify with OSM, something which I may require another
30 amendment. So, in this analysis it has -- the subsistence
31 taking of fish and wildlife and shellfish general
32 regulations and under 7 it says if you are a federally
33 qualified subsistence user, you may sell handicraft
34 articles from skin, pelt, fur, whatever. So, in the book,
35 it does not say you have to be a federally qualified
36 subsistence user. So, I'm wondering if that language can
37 get put like -- so, like in the case of, could Daniel
38 get bear gut, send it to someone in Palmer, and can they
39 make something out of the gut, or do they have to be a
40 federally qualified user? Because it says here, but it
41 doesn't say that in the book. So, because they don't say

000127

1 the same thing, I'm requiring clarification.

2

3 DR. ROBERTS: Clarification through the
4 Chair. I'm going to have to send out a lifeline to Justin
5 Koller if he's still on.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Justin, if you're
8 on, you can address this question.

9

10 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Madam Chair Justin
11 Koller with the Office of Subsistence Management. I
12 think the question was that regulation number 7 that
13 just specifies the handicraft -- the sale of the
14 handicraft articles from certain non-edible parts of a
15 brown bear needs to also say in Unit 8, you may sell
16 handicrafts from any non-edible byproduct of brown bear
17 taken in Unit 8. Is that -- was that the question?

18

19 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: No, the question is
20 -- so, the regulation specifies that you have to be a
21 federally qualified subsistence user. However, in the
22 book, I think Sara referred to it as the handy dandy
23 earlier. So, the printed out book with the subsistence
24 regulations in that book, it doesn't include the
25 language about having to be a federally qualified
26 subsistence user. So, I think the question was, I don't
27 know, is that correct? And maybe the book should be --
28 in in future versions should be updated to include that
29 clarification from the regulatory language.

30

31 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
32 think I see. I'll have to take a look and make sure the
33 book matches what's in regulation, but our regulation
34 are targeted towards federally qualified subsistence
35 users, and those are the ones that are eligible to hunt
36 and fish under our regulations. So, the fact that it
37 says that in the general regulations means that it
38 doesn't necessarily have to also say that in the unit
39 regulations.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. And I think
42 just to clarify, the regulations are controlling the
43 handy dandies, the booklet is provided for convenience,
44 But ultimately it's what's in the regulatory language
45 that controls. Is that correct?

46

47 MR. KOLLER: That's correct, Madam Chair.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
50 Okay. So, are -- Coral., are you good?

1 MS. CHERNOFF: I think so, well, because
2 if it's not in the future going to be printed in the
3 book stating that you must be a federally qualified
4 subsistence user in order to sell handicraft, I would
5 make an amendment to add that to the proposal.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: I -- so, my
8 recommendation is that's a completely different issue
9 than the proposal. So, our proposal is changing the
10 regulations. And if someone were to be cited or what you
11 have to follow is what's in the actual regulatory
12 language changing what's in the book, that's a decision
13 by whoever puts the book together. I don't know what
14 people do that, but I think certainly it's clear from
15 the record that maybe that's something they need to add
16 into the book. And I know Natasha has a hard stop. So,
17 if possible, if we want to vote on this with Natasha,
18 we -- she has a hard stop at 5:00. Okay. Are there any
19 other comments, questions, clarification, statements?
20 I'll just say briefly that as I really appreciate
21 Natasha's comments from earlier as an Alutiiq that grew
22 up in Kodiak, I think it's really important or it is
23 important to me that I not be defined, and my culture
24 not be defined by people -- by other people. And what
25 I've heard consistently with this -- these particular
26 proposals, is that the Alutiiq people who are using these
27 resources and engaging in these activities support the
28 direction this is going and that cultures and practices
29 do change. That's just how it works. There's that quote,
30 evolve or die. If we didn't adapt to things, we would
31 likely not still be in existence. And that's just to
32 have growing up in Kodiak and having ancestors that grew
33 up in Kodiak, I can guarantee that they were adaptable,
34 and they did what worked for the situation they were in.
35 So, to me, it's very important to recognize that things
36 do change over time. And we need to listen to the
37 generations as they come up. We cannot be locked -- from
38 my perspective, we cannot be locked into ideas of how
39 things were and that they just don't change. Okay. Let's
40 go ahead and do a roll call vote on this one, Leigh.
41

42 MS. HONIG: Okay. Starting from the top
43 again. Jeff Wasley.
44

45 MR. WASLEY: Yes.
46

47 MS. HONIG: Pat Holmes.
48

49 MR. HOLMES: I'm really torn. Natasha's
50 comments have really struck me very, very hard and but,

1 I'm afraid I'll have to vote no because of my talks with
2 all the old timers and probably you're correct, Natasha.
3 But -- thank you. No.

4
5 MS. HONIG: Coral Chernoff.

6
7 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

8
9 MS. HONIG: Rebecca Skinner.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

12
13 MS. HONIG: Daniel Smith.

14
15 MR. SMITH: Yes.

16
17 MS. HONIG: Natasha Hayden.

18
19 MS. HAYDEN: Yes. Thank you.

20
21 MS. HONIG: Brett Richardson.

22
23 MR. RICHARDSON: Yes.

24
25 MS. HONIG: Madam. Chair, that the vote
26 of six yays one nay.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
29 So, before we lose everyone or anyone on the phone, we
30 -- when we reconvene at 9 a.m. tomorrow, we will be
31 starting with the proposal that we previously tabled.
32 That's WP26-33. This is the Unit 8 brown bear issuing
33 up to four permits to Kodiak. Is there anything else
34 that we need to announce or let people know before we
35 break for the day?

36
37 MS. HONIG: Not that I'm aware of. Thank
38 you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON SKINNER: Okay. It looks like
41 we're good in the room so we'll go ahead and adjourn.
42 Adjourn? Recess. Recess? Adjourn? Recess? Whatever.
43 We're going to break for the day, and we're going to
44 come back at 9 a.m. tomorrow. Alright. Thank you
45 everyone.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49
50

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 129 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIA/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 17th day of September;

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

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

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 19th day of November 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager