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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

HYATT PLACE
January 12, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Dunaway, Acting Chair
Kenneth Nukwak, Sr.
Richard Wilson
John Christensen, Jr.
Robert Hill
Walter Kanulie

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/12/26)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well. Good morning. I'm Dan Dunaway. I'm the Vice Chair of the RAC, and Nanci can't be here, so I guess I get to do the honors. And I want to welcome everybody. Robert, Richard, and John, thank you so much for joining us. Really appreciate that. Let's see, do you have some first things?

MS. CHAPA: Sure, I can go ahead and go over Meeting Announcements. Again, my name is Gisela Chapa, and I will be the Designated Federal Officer for this meeting. Your Council Coordinator Leigh Honig couldn't be here today so, I'm just filling in for the time being. Housekeeping items to go through before we begin Introductions. I just want to let everybody know that this is a regulatory public meeting that is being recorded and transcribed. For those attending or meeting in person, please make sure to sign in at the front table over there. For those joining online, the agenda and meeting materials can be found online at doi.gov/subsistence under the Regions tab. Look for Meeting Materials tab. For those online, please remember to mute yourselves when you're not addressing the Council. If you're calling in on your phone, you can press star six to mute yourself -- to mute and unmute yourself.

At this meeting, the Council will be discussing and deliberating wildlife proposals, and there will be an opportunity for tribal and public comment during that proposal period. I'd also like to remind folks that there will be time for tribal and public comment on non-agenda items, and our Chair will announce this, and there will be an opportunity for those present as well as those participating over the phone to speak on non-agenda items. We'd like to ask for you to hold any comments on proposals or agenda items until such a time as they come up before the Council, so the Council can hear all pertinent information at the time you're working -- they're working through that item. If you would like to address the Council during the meeting for those in the room, please fill out the Blue Testifier Forms, and I already have a couple lined up, and this

1 helps us keep track of everyone who'd like to speak
2 regarding a specific agenda item. If you're online using
3 Teams, please raise your hand. If you're calling in, you
4 may raise your hand by pressing star five. You -- if you
5 would like to email your comments in, you may do that
6 as well by emailing subsistence@ios.doi.gov. If you are
7 unable to stay with us until the public comment
8 opportunity is open for the particular proposal you
9 would like to address, you may consider submitting a
10 written comment instead, and again, you can do that by
11 emailing your comment to subsistence@ios.doi.gov. You
12 will need to indicate your name, affiliation, and what
13 proposal or closure your comment addresses. Written
14 comments will be accepted until the start of the
15 presentation of each proposal or closure review
16 analysis, and those will be sent to myself, and staff
17 will be sharing those with the Council. Lastly, please
18 remember to identify yourself for the record throughout
19 the meeting. This helps us identify who is speaking on
20 a specific issue on the record. Thank you for allowing
21 me the time to share this information, Mr. Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
24 very much. Yeah, we have a lot of material to go through
25 today. So, we want to encourage participation but also,
26 I'd like everybody to keep in mind that we've got a lot
27 of material to go through. So that brings us down to
28 Invocation. I'd like Orville, if you could say a few
29 words for us to open the meeting. Thank you.

30
31 MR. LIND: Thank you. Good morning,
32 everyone. Please stand. Heavenly Father, we thank you
33 for another special day, Father, for giving us the
34 opportunity to gather here today. Father, we thank you.
35 In Genesis 1:26, you say that let us make man in our
36 image according to our likeness and let them rule over
37 the fish and the sea, over the birds of the sky, and
38 over cattle, and over all the earth, over every creeping
39 thing that creeps on the earth. Thank you, Lord, for the
40 blessings that we're able to do this. In Proverbs 27:23
41 you said, know well the condition of your flocks, and
42 give attention to your herds. Thank you, Lord, for
43 allowing us to come together to work together, Lord, and
44 that we go through the day with your guidance and with
45 your wisdom, so that our ideas, decisions, and our
46 smallest accomplishments bring you glory. And all his
47 children said, Amen.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
50 Orville, very much for that. And with that, I guess

1 officially call us to order here. I got 8:51. The next
2 thing on our agenda is I'd like to call for a moment of
3 silence and honor and remembrance for our recently
4 passed member Billy Trefon. Man, that's -- I miss him.
5 And then also our State Biologist John Landsiedel, who
6 was particularly -- he just really seemed to fit with
7 the area. And he had a tragic plane crash last summer.
8 So, if we could all just take about 30 seconds.

9
10 (Moment of Silence)

11
12 Well, I wasn't timing myself, but
13 thanks, everybody. Be thinking of him a lot. So, with
14 that, Gisela could you call the roll, please?

15
16 MS. CHAPA: Absolutely. Nanci Morris
17 Lyon. Dan Dunaway.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Here.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak. If you
22 wouldn't mind speaking to your mic.

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: Here.

25
26 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. John Ryshek.
27 Richard Wilson.

28
29 MR. WILSON: Here.

30
31 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

32
33 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Here.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

36
37 MR. HILL: Here.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.

40
41 MR. KANULIE: Here.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have
44 six Council members present. We do have a quorum.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
47 excellent. I want to thank everybody for making the
48 effort to get on board. Sure, good to see you, Robert,
49 Richard, and John. Too bad you're stuck. But okay. Now,
50 so have you done all the announcements? Okay. I'm leaning

1 on her pretty hard. So, with this, I guess we go around
2 the Council first, and then our attendees to introduce
3 everybody. I guess I'll just start. I'm Dan Dunaway from
4 Dillingham. I forget how long I've been on the RAC. And
5 I've lived in Dillingham area for something like 38
6 years. And appreciate the confidence people have in me.
7 So good to see you. Thank you.

8
9 MR. KANULIE: My name is Walter Kanulie.
10 I'm from Togiak. I've been around for a while.

11
12 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native) Manokotak (In
13 Native). My name is Kenneth Nukwak, Sr. If you guys want
14 my last name in Yu'pik, you guys would need to work on
15 your throat pronunciations. I am from Manokotak. I grew
16 up in Manokotak and live off the land. Been taught that
17 from childhood. On my second or third year with Bristol
18 Bay RAC. Good to be here.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Say, John,
21 you want to chime in?

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hi. John Christensen
24 from Port Heiden. Just a board member -- RAC Council
25 member.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Robert.

28
29 MR. HILL: Hey. Good morning. Robert
30 Hill. Live in the communities of Kokhanok and Naknek.
31 Been on the Council for, I don't know, I think this is
32 my third year, so glad to be here.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
35 Welcome, Robert. It's really good to have you aboard.
36 And, Richard, good morning.

37
38 MR. WILSON: Hey. Good morning, Dan.
39 Yeah. Rich Wilson. Been on it for a bit. I'm in Naknek
40 here. Still trying to get in Anchorage. Don't know why
41 they canceled this yesterday, but I, you know, I'll try
42 to get there later today. I'll probably be with you for
43 a couple hours here this morning, and then I got to get
44 off and do some other things here prior to my flight.
45 And then tomorrow kind of this meeting here kind of
46 overlaps with some of that fishery stuff that we're
47 involved in here locally, too. So, we'll see how all
48 that goes. But good morning to you all.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
2 Richard. And I believe he's our Secretary as well. He's
3 been a helpful long-term member. And hope you have a
4 safe travels in. With that, we can start around the
5 room. Do you want to do agency folks? I see somebody
6 raising their hand. Thank you.

7
8 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
9 La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for the Office
10 of Subsistence Management, and given our compressed
11 timeline, I thought that perhaps the leads of each agency
12 could introduce their staff. I'd love to tell you all
13 how much I love the Bristol Bay region and that my babies
14 were babies there, but I'll stop there. And for my team
15 here in the room, we have Kendra Holman, who's our
16 Wildlife Biologist. We have Jason Roberts, who is our
17 Regional Anthropologist, and we have Jarred Stone for
18 Fisheries for your region, and we have the wonderful
19 Orville Lind who is of course, a resident of the region
20 and our Native Liaison. Thank -- oh. Oh, thank you. And
21 Grace Cochon is with our team, on a detail to help us
22 with the Council Coordination and also the programmatic
23 review. Thank you.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
26 Thanks, Robbin. That's probably a good suggestion. So,
27 what other agencies want to take a shot? Thank you.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
30 members of the Board. Eva Patton with the National Park
31 Service, Subsistence Program Manager and ISC member. And
32 in the room here, we have -- we actually have a new
33 Superintendent for Lake Clark National Park, Grant
34 Hilderbrand. And then we have Liza Rupp, who's our
35 Cultural Resource person for Lake Clark as well. And Kim
36 Jochum in the room here too -- also on our Subsistence
37 team at the Regional Office. Really wonderful to see you
38 all and hear voices online too. Good morning.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
41 Who else? What other agencies we got?

42
43 MR. CULLIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 This is Stan -- oh, go ahead. I'm sorry. Yeah. Can you
45 hear me okay?

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go
48 ahead. Who are you again?

49
50

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1 MR. CULLING: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This is
2 Stan Culling, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Acting
3 Refuge Manager. I also have Truett Cawlfeld, Fisheries
4 Biologist, and Jannelle Trowbridge, Wildlife Refuge
5 Biologist. And we are based in Dillingham today.
6 Apologize that we couldn't make it, but we're being
7 fiscal with our dollars. And with the shorter notice,
8 we just opted to attend via Teams. So, appreciate the
9 opportunity. Thank you.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
12 Stan. Good to hear you. I'll probably get to some of the
13 other online folks after we get the in person folks. We
14 have a little list to call, so go ahead, sir.

15
16 MR. BREEDEN: Hi, everybody. Good
17 morning. I'm Dan Breeden with BBNA. I'm the
18 President/CEO. And in the room is Gayla Hoseth. She's
19 the Director of Natural Resources. You all know her.
20 Anyway. Thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
23 you very much. Who's next?

24
25 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, everybody and
26 Mr. Chair. Gayla Hoseth, like Dan Breeden just said,
27 with Bristol Bay Native Association. I'm also here with
28 Alaska Federation of Natives as a Co-Chair and also
29 Curyung Tribal Council. I would also like to recognize
30 my staff online. I got Cody Larson and Jorjana Dray.
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
34 You need a wheelbarrow for all your hats. Continue.

35
36 MR. ANDERSON: Hello. George Anderson,
37 Chignik Intertribal Coalition. And I have no staff, so.
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
41 George. Good to meet you in person. I think we have
42 before, but you've been online a bunch, and I really
43 appreciate how dedicated you are. Thank you.

44
45 MS. LUHRS: Hi, Mr. Chair. Leilani Luhrs,
46 Official Tribal Representative for the Community of
47 Togiak today, and a tribal member.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
50 Welcome. If that's everybody present. Let's see. Oh, but

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1 somebody's pointing to a Jill, so.

2

3 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. My name is Jill
4 Klein. I work at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm
5 the Regional Subsistence Coordinator.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
8 welcome. Glad you could make it. So, let's see, we had
9 Togiak Refuge. Do we have anybody else from OSM that is
10 online and hasn't been introduced?

11

12 (No response)

13

14 How about BIA?

15

16 (No response)

17

18 Anybody else from Fish and Wildlife
19 Service?

20

21 MR. WEHAUSEN: Yes. Good morning, Mr.
22 Chair. My name is Brian Wehausen, and I am now the Refuge
23 Manager for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National
24 Wildlife Refuge is based out of King Salmon. Yeah. Sorry
25 we couldn't attend in person as well. But Bryce Woodruff,
26 who is our Mammal Biologist, is my staff member on the
27 meeting today as well. And I believe he'll be presenting
28 later on in the agenda.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
31 Thank you, Brian, and very good to have you guys aboard
32 as well. Let's see, I was asking Park Service, but BLM,
33 do we have anybody?

34

35 (No response)

36

37 And Forest Service?

38

39 (No response)

40

41 How about anybody else that we haven't
42 heard from yet? So, you're welcome to speak up.

43

44 MS. VANDERVOORT: Hey, good morning, Mr.
45 Chair. This is Amy Vandervoort with Alaska Department
46 of Fish and Game in King Salmon.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh,
49 excellent, Amy. Great to hear you on. Thank you very
50 much. So, with that, I think we can move on to Review

1 and Adopt the Agenda. Gisela, that's right? I keep on
2 trying to add more letters or something. But we have a
3 slightly altered agenda, I believe. And you've
4 distributed it to everybody? Okay. Before I put it out
5 to other folks, the one thing I was wondering about
6 adding is if we could discuss having a letter written
7 to Billy Trefon's family thanking him for his
8 contribution to the RAC over the years. But with that,
9 I'll hand it off to -- does anybody else have any
10 comments on the agenda? We got some hands up.

11
12 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
13 Chapa, and I just wanted to let people in the room know
14 that the latest agenda is a handout. And for our Council
15 members present, I'll give you an updated copy. I'm not
16 sure that you have one. Give me a second.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I'm
19 looking for a motion to adopt the agenda.

20
21 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I make a motion to
22 adopt the agenda. This is John.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
25 John. Is a second?

26
27 MR. NUKWAK: I'll second that. It's
28 Kenneth.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
31 Kenneth. Appreciate that. I guess really, at this point,
32 I was wondering, I could -- can I make a motion to add
33 that we discussed, you know, briefly having a letter of
34 thanks and condolences to Billy Trefon's family?

35
36 MR. NUKWAK: Does that have to be in a
37 motion?

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think it
40 does.

41
42 MR. NUKWAK: If so, I shall make the
43 motion to your wording.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
46 very much.

47
48 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's
2 certainly okay. Do I have a second?

3
4 MR. KANULIE: Second.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
7 Walter, for the second. And let's see. I'll let Gisela
8 get this distributed before we -- but if there's any
9 discussion, please raise your hand. I can't see the Teams
10 screen from where I'm sitting. So, I'm dependent on
11 Gisela here to bump me. Or as people feel free to speak
12 up. Thank you.

13
14 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
15 Chapa. I apologize, I do not see copies of the agenda
16 on the table, so I will just -- if you're okay with
17 that, I can briefly go through the items that were
18 scheduled to discuss, so people online and in the room
19 know what to expect for our meeting.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Please do.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Okay, so after Review and
24 Adopt the Agenda, we have Review and Approve Meeting
25 Minutes. We'll have Regional Subsistence Report from
26 Council members and our Chair. After that, item ten is
27 Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items. Item 11
28 is Action Items. We will begin with the Secretarial
29 Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
30 And it's time-certain at 10:30 a.m. After that we have
31 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Chum Salmon
32 Bycatch DEIS, that is also time-certain at 1:00 p.m.
33 Then we'll jump into Relevant Regional Wildlife Reports
34 from Agencies. And that is before Developing
35 Recommendations on Wildlife Proposals and Closure
36 Reviews. The list of regional proposals and closure
37 reviews that we will be -- the Council will be discussing
38 today will be WP26-36: Unit 9 wolverine, shorten hunting
39 season dates; -37: Units 20 -- excuse me, Units 9 and
40 17 beaver, remove firearms restriction on their trapping
41 regulations; -38/-39: Unit 17 brown bear, increase
42 harvest limit, eliminate permit requirements and extend
43 season. 26-40 is Unit 17A and 17C caribou, close federal
44 public lands to caribou hunting except by residents of
45 Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak. Manokotak, thank you.
46 Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekuk. Then
47 we'll go into Wildlife Closure Review 26-05: Unit 9C
48 moose closure review. Another Close Review, 26-07: Unit
49 17; caribou. Then we have two Crossover Proposals and
50 Closure Reviews. WP26-35: Unit 9D caribou, modify season

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1 dates. WP26-41/42: Unit 17 moose and caribou, eliminate
2 take from boat moving under power. And then we'll jump
3 into a Statewide Proposal 26-01: move authority
4 delegated through letters into unit specific
5 regulations.
6

7 After that, we'll go through a review
8 of the 2024 Annual Report Reply, and we will work on
9 developing our topics for Fiscal Year 25. Then we'll go
10 through Meeting Dates. Then we'll go over the Fisheries
11 Resource Monitoring Program and Partners for Fisheries
12 Monitoring Program. We'll discuss Other Business.
13 Closing Comments and Adjourn. And I apologize for not
14 having extra copies of the agenda. I will be sure to see
15 if I can get you copies later today.
16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
18 very much for that. So, we have a motion on the table.
19 Is there any discussion or -- it looks like Robbin has
20 something. Go ahead, Robbin.
21

22 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. I just wanted
23 to note that you had requested the agenda be modified
24 to include an action item or discussion topic on a letter
25 to Billy Trefon's family. And so, if that's what you're
26 considering, would there be a suggestion about where
27 that might be best taken up? Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm
30 not sure where to put it up. And in some ways, I'm
31 tempted to just jump on it first thing and get it out
32 of the way, if that's the pleasure of the Council.
33

34 MR. NUKWAK: I'll just go with the flow
35 to keep the meeting going.
36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
38 Thanks. So do I hear somebody calling for the question
39 on the motion to amend the agenda to acknowledge Billy
40 Trefon's participation?
41

42 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Question. This is John.
43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
45 John. With that, Gisela, could you call the roll on the
46 votes?
47

48 MS. CHAPA: Okay. We have Dan Dunaway.
49

50 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

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MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill. Yes

MS. CHAPA: And Walter Kanulie.

MR. KANULIE: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have six votes yay.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. Since I was leading on that, I'd be willing to work with Gisela and Leigh, maybe on the specific wording, but, as you know, Billy lived kind of in a far corner of the region and brought some good insight from his area. I spent quite a bit of time with him in some of these meetings, and so I'd be willing to kind of work on the wording and maybe pass it around before we send it off. Is that acceptable to everybody?

MR. WILSON: Sounds good, Dan. Thank you for doing that.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I hear no objection, we can carry on with that and I appreciate it, everybody. Oh, man, I just miss him. We used to correspond personally, off and on, steadily, and -- anyway. So, thank you. With that let's go to Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes. And I'll look for a motion to approve or to -- yeah, motion to approve and then we can discuss if there's changes.

MR. WILSON: This is Richard. I'll move to approve the last meeting minutes.

MR. KANULIE: Oh. Somebody got that already?

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
2 Richard. Do we have a second?

3
4 MR. CHRISTENSEN: This is John. I'll
5 second.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thanks,
8 everybody. That's great though. Sometimes we end up with
9 long delays when we're doing remote stuff, so. So, it's
10 been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

11
12 MR. KANULIE: Question.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
15 Rocking and rolling then. So, if we could have a vote
16 on the motion to approve the minutes. We didn't have any
17 discussion objecting to what's in there. Thank you. So,
18 I'm going to just ask if there's any objection and go
19 for an unanimous consent.

20
21 (No response)

22
23 Hearing no objection, I must.....

24
25 (Simultaneous speech)

26
27 MR. WILSON: I agree.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
30 Richard.

31
32 MR. WILSON: No, I'm just agreeing with
33 you, Dan.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
36 you. We're hearing no objection. Let's say that they're
37 approved with unanimous consent and moves us down to
38 Regional Council Member Reports. And can we start with
39 you, Kenneth, and go around the table and on
40 electronically.

41
42 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. What kind of reports
43 are you looking for from a Council members? Like -- what
44 -- how the animals were doing? When we were hunting? How
45 much we saw?

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,
48 pretty much kind of a brief summary of your assessment
49 of the subsistence since our last meeting. Thanks.

50

1 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. Last year we didn't
2 have a good winter, so I didn't go out much. During our
3 steam house stories, much of my cousins didn't go out
4 hunting too, not until March or April. So that was a
5 horrible winter last year. And then except that -- pros
6 and cons to that. We didn't get to hunt moose. But fall
7 time came around. Our summer hunt opened for moose. I
8 think there was plenty of moose with Manokotak side.
9 What I heard from the Nushagak River looking at -- on
10 Facebook, seemed like they were doing pretty good too.
11 And then Togiak side, I think they were doing the same
12 thing. So, they had plenty of moose. And then for
13 Manokotak side, we have problems with wolves now. Just
14 waiting and looking for a moose to come out on a calm
15 day, me and my son heard a pack of wolf pups howling
16 right within the heart of where we hunt moose. And a
17 friend of mine that saw them says there's about 8 or 10
18 pups in that pack. So that's going to be a problem in
19 the future. And that -- predator control needs to be
20 implemented for the IGMP or whatever we can put in there
21 to control the population and probably make it a year-
22 round thing for that, if that's possible. Not to
23 completely eliminate the animals because they are
24 beautiful animals. Only thing is, they literally finish
25 off the ungulates that we harvest, too. And then
26 ptarmigans were plenty, again. There's still a lot of
27 ptarmigans, and the caribou within the Nushagak --
28 (indiscernible). I think their population is steady
29 there, just from what I experienced while out hunting.
30 And there was plenty of fish. I'll make it that long.
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
34 Kenneth. Walter.

35
36 MR. KANULIE: I haven't been around. I
37 really haven't gone anywhere lately. But you know, I was
38 watching the Bay all winter, and I was starting to think
39 that Bay was warm because it didn't freeze over it. It
40 didn't really freeze over even though it got cold. I was
41 starting to think that water was warm, but I really
42 haven't gotten anywhere. But I know they opened the moose
43 season over there, but I know that snow is bum, is not
44 blown over. It's not blown over yet, so it's still soft,
45 so. But I'm sure there's some of the guys will or the
46 young men will probably try to go out, but that's
47 basically it.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
50 you, Walter. You may turn your mic off. And Richard, what's

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1 going on in your country?

2

3 MR. WILSON: Well, are you guys tired of
4 the cold yet?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible).

7

8 MR. WILSON: It's kind of a normal. I
9 guess, yeah, we've been under some pretty severe
10 temperatures compared to what we have in the past. In
11 the most recent past, anyways. It's kind of kind of nice
12 to see lakes freezing up, rivers about froze down to the
13 neighborhood here, and they're probably about ready to
14 cross from South Naknek, you know. And -- but yeah, we
15 finally got a little snow coverage here to help out the,
16 you know, from sewers and water lines and it's been
17 pretty challenging, especially with the wind that we've
18 been having. But beautiful day today. As far as just,
19 you know, this fall we had pretty decent fall. I noticed
20 several kills people were talking about and boy, sure,
21 it was a strange kind of year, but this winter here, I
22 haven't heard of much happening. I think this might be
23 1 or 2 moose that people have targeted, but I don't know
24 that that many people have actually gotten out. I see
25 the caribou, the North Peninsula Herd is starting to
26 show against the, you know, closer to the neighborhood
27 here in little groups. Nothing big but little groups and
28 they seem to be pretty healthy. So that's good to see.
29 Somebody got a decent sized bull here the other day, and
30 it was good to see it. But -- and then we -- smelting.
31 Yesterday the wife and I were there smelting, and a
32 coyote walks up and he's pretty scroungy looking. And
33 we started getting a closer look and boy, he just -- I
34 don't know if he's going to make the winters. So, he was
35 approaching us like he wasn't even afraid. He was so
36 hungry he had to come, and we threw him a few smelts to
37 hold him over, but I don't know if that guy's going to
38 make it. So, that's the latest I've observed. I'm still
39 looking forward to, you know, to the increased daylight
40 and being able to get out and enjoy some of it. So, I
41 won't take up too much of you guys' time, but I'm sure
42 we'll discuss a little more along the way. Appreciate
43 it.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
46 Richard. That's interesting. I was told not to feed
47 smelt to the dogs, so see how he does. Robert, how about
48 you?

49

50 (No response)

1

2

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Hill, if you can unmute yourself. Oh. Thank you.

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MR. HILL: Yeah, yeah, I got it. Sorry, my screen just locked me out there for a second. Yeah. Likewise, we're having a good cold snap up here. I think it's really welcome in the respect that if there is invasive species around that aren't designed for the -- our winter conditions that may chase those out. Our lake is frozen all the way across, Iliamna Lake. I stopped measuring it. Ten inches was really good to travel on, so I just quit checking at that, and that was quite a while back. Yeah, we're still running around trying to brave the cold conditions. As far as looking for our winter moose, we haven't had success yet, but there's definitely some animals in the area, and we're trying to get used to the cold again, too. Our caribou population back on the Kukaklek Shelf there seems like it's really healthy. I've seen animals pretty consistently through the summer and fall, even down off of the Shelf. And we're making good progress working with the Park Service in regards to getting access to those animals for our community. And that's really appreciated and has been a good community building activity. And maybe I guess the other thing that I would mention, on top of what other people have seen is I have noticed that the beaver population seems like it's really healthy between Kokhanok and Naknek. It seems like there's a lot of active beaver ponds. And I had a chance to run the Kaskanak River a little bit this fall, and the population up there was super healthy too. But yeah. Thanks for your time.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you very much, Robert. Appreciate that. Yeah. I'm pretty pumped about the -- working with the Park Service there and seeing some young folks have an opportunity to make harvest. I was hearing some talk about wolves around Kokhanok. Do you know anything about that?

MR. HILL: Yeah, we've -- we have had wolves around Kokhanok a little bit. We had one lone wolf, and it's actually hung out here around my house quite a bit and plays with the dogs and stuff, but it seems like it's maybe opened the door for a couple of more wolves to come in. And we have just recently, last week lost our first -- not myself personally, but there was a village dog that got taken by the -- by one of the wolves. So yeah, they're maybe getting a little too

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1 friendly.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,
4 thanks. Well, there's a few guys there who know how to
5 deal with that, so thank you very much. And John, how
6 are you doing?

7

8 MR. CHRISTENSEN: We're doing good down
9 here. The ptarmigan population is huge, to say the least.
10 I mean, like, near Pilot Point, there were so many the
11 airplane couldn't even land at one point till they scared
12 them off. There was hundreds of ptarmigan on the runway.
13 There's a lot here in Port Heiden. The caribou was shown
14 back up in the past week -- past two weeks. There was
15 about 20 about two weeks ago, now somebody's seen about
16 500 yesterday. So, they're just hanging out. Then
17 there's been wolf tracks all over, near the river and
18 in town, and I expect more to show up with the caribou
19 coming in. The moose population has been really good.
20 Everybody who went out hunting got one, so. And then you
21 could actually be picky and pick what size you want.
22 Regulations will only allow for 50 inches or bigger for
23 our state hunts, so that's what most people go on. And
24 there's a few taken, I believe. And there's -- the
25 rabbits have come back. They're not the big ones. They're
26 the small ones. And that's it.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
29 Thanks, John. That's great to hear. You could be picky
30 about which moose. So, I think we've got everybody but
31 me. We had a pretty decent moose season. I believe it
32 was extended. I didn't manage to hunt myself. Kind of -
33 - there was a snow early on, and then there was a stretch
34 of bad weather, but other people got out with the
35 extension. I hear a few moose were taken in the winter
36 season. Once again, I couldn't get out. We just -- the
37 wind blew all the snow away. I've heard of a few folks
38 smelting, but it's been really cold. One thing noted is
39 that funky winter weather, berries were kind of hard to
40 find. Some of them, it was -- people eked out some
41 salmonberries. My experience was blueberries and
42 blackberries were just almost non-existent. Highbush
43 cranberries are thick. But we're also seeing a fair
44 number of ptarmigan, some right in Dillingham. And let's
45 see. Yeah, we're looking forward to -- I'm thinking the
46 rivers should be frozen down to the cape. We might be
47 able to get down there and get some Nushagak Peninsula
48 Caribou and appreciate the Togiak Refuge accommodating
49 hunters for that. And, yeah, as far as the invasive
50 species, Robert, I'm hoping this cold weather is killing

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1 the slugs that are decimating my garden. So, with that,
2 we can move on. Unless there's any other comments. Thank
3 you.

4

5 Okay. Now, is this Chair's report a
6 separate thing or...?

7

8 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Well, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. Gisela Chapa. If you can give your own report or
10 if you or add on to what you just shared.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think
13 that's all I have for now. Thanks. Okay. Public and
14 Tribal Comment on Non-agenda Items. Do we have anybody
15 that wants to -- we have some blue cards and if anybody
16 wants to come forth at this time. Thank you.

17

18 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
19 received two comment cards, but I believe these are for
20 the program review. And so, we'll -- I believe we're
21 going to give opportunity for the public to provide their
22 input after the presentation.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
25 great. That would be probably a better time. So, we're
26 kind of more in context unless there's some time
27 constraints or concerns. Get this pen to work. With that,
28 we're moved down to we -- well, should we skip ahead to
29 other stuff? Since we're -- at 10:30 we'll have the
30 Secretarial Review. And then also the -- I guess we
31 could go straight to -- if there's no objection, go to
32 relevant regional wildlife reports from agencies. And
33 first off here, I'm looking at Nushagak Pen Caribou Herd.
34 Truett or Stan, are you ready to talk to us?

35

36 MR. CAWLFIELD: Hi, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
37 can give a quick update on the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
38 Herd.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh. Go
41 ahead. We'd appreciate it. Thanks.

42

43 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah. I'll just hop right
44 into it. The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd Planning
45 Committee met July 17th of this summer to set the hunt
46 structure up for the 25/26 season. A harvest objective
47 was set of 200 animals. Permits were distributed to the
48 seven main communities for permit distribution.
49 Unlimited permits would be available to folks who wanted
50 them, two per person. And at the point that we reach 200

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1 harvested caribou, the hunt will be closed. So those are
2 sort of the bullet points for the hunt.

3
4 A photo survey was conducted for the
5 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd this summer. The
6 population estimate was about 650 animals, and a
7 composition survey was conducted in October of the herd.
8 The government shut down prevented refuge staff from
9 being involved in that composition survey. But our state
10 partners aided us in conducting that survey and found a
11 cow to calf ratio of 60 calves per 100 cows, and a bull
12 to cow ratio of 53 bulls per 100 cows. And up to this
13 point in the season, we have 18 caribou reported
14 harvested on the Nushagak Peninsula. So, with that, I'll
15 take any questions about the caribou herd. Thanks.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
18 Truett. Anybody in the Council have questions? Looks
19 like Kenneth has one. Go ahead.

20
21 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. On the working group
22 for the caribou down the Nushagak Peninsula, is there
23 anybody from Manokotak that joins that group?

24
25 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yes, sir. Each of the
26 communities is represented on the planning committee.
27 And I can -- let me just pull up that list and I'll tell
28 you who the Manokotak representative was this year.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 Bear with me here while I pull up my
33 minutes.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Maybe we can
38 have Walter ask his question while we wait for you to
39 find your notes. Walter, go ahead.

40
41 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yep.

42
43 MR. KANULIE: I went to, like Goodnews
44 River, and I used to see caribou in those -- below
45 Goodnews Lake. I know it's a long shot. But I mean, do
46 you think there's like any -- I mean, would they travel
47 that far up maybe or -- I mean, I've seen him before.
48 I've seen him in when I went out over there, you know.
49 So, but I haven't been out in so long. I was just
50 wondering if -- I mean, it's probably expensive to take

1 planes out, but I was just wondering, I mean, if there's
2 -- if they see any that far west in that section?

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
5 you, Walter. From my own knowledge, I believe they do
6 look all over that area. And there's been some
7 discussion, at least I've talked with the State
8 Biologist about just how many are out there and whether
9 a harvest could happen. Maybe if Truett (indiscernible),
10 and maybe he's got his other info now, he might be able
11 to answer both questions. Go ahead, Truett, if you have
12 stuff. Oh.

13

14 MR. CAWLFIELD: Sure. Yeah. So, I've got
15 my minutes pulled up here now. Andrewski Toyukak from
16 Manokotak Village Council was the Manokotak
17 representative on the planning committee this year. And
18 then if I understand the question correctly, you're
19 asking if -- you're asking about the caribou out towards
20 the Goodnews area. Those are not Nushagak Peninsula
21 Caribou. They're managed as a separate herd. The Refuge
22 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game work
23 cooperatively to monitor those caribou. We did a photo
24 survey on those caribou this summer. Off the top of my
25 head, I believe we counted about 1,200 to 1,400 animals
26 in the greater area as part of that portion of the herd.
27 Currently, they're managed as Mulchatna Caribou, and
28 they're closed to any hunt. Does that sufficiently
29 answer your question? Are there any other questions or
30 pieces of that question I might have missed?

31

32 MR. KANULIE: So, where can we go hunt
33 caribou?

34

35 MR. CAWLFIELD: Where? Well, currently
36 the Nushagak Peninsula is the only herd available for
37 hunting on Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
40 Great. Thanks, Truett and Walter. And you know,
41 Kenneth's both on the RAC and the Advisory Committees.
42 He might like an invite to the caribou committee in the
43 future. Any other questions? Go ahead, Walter.

44

45 MR. KANULIE: You know, we have -- this
46 probably isn't like, I don't know if this is an
47 appropriate question, but for, like, walrus out in,
48 like, Round Island, the Twins and, sometimes we see them
49 on (indiscernible), you know but you know, I'm wondering
50 if they avoid Round Island now because sometimes they

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1 say that there's just like 1 or 2 sometimes. I haven't
2 gotten -- gone in a couple of years.

3

4 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah. I can't really
5 speak to.....

6

7 (Simultaneous speech)

8

9 MR. KANULIE: I think it's -- I think
10 basically I want the young men to go out and learn, you
11 know for themselves, so. But I was just wondering -- I
12 know ADF&G watches them or somebody watches them, but
13 there's -- we -- there's these tankers anchored out just
14 above High Island, and I don't know if they make lots
15 of noise, you know, these big -- I think they supply
16 fuel for barges that go around. So, it's not a proven
17 fact, you know, but animals are sensitive -- well, I
18 don't know if walrus are sensitive to noise that much,
19 but I was just curious about that.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
22 you. Sounds like Truett might have a comment and then
23 Kenneth was indicating. So go ahead, Truett.

24

25 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. One more question on
26 the new boundary line for the (In Native). How far up
27 were the caribou out when there was an aerial survey
28 standing? And that'll be my final question. Thank you.

29

30 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah, the aerial survey,
31 Kenneth, was conducted in July and usually -- well, every
32 year the caribou are calving further down on the
33 Peninsula. So that time of year when the photo survey
34 is happening the caribou herd is further south on the
35 Peninsula. If that answers your question.

36

37 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I was referring to the
38 new boundary line further north.....

39

40 (Simultaneous speech)

41

42 MR. CAWLFIELD: Right. So, when the photo
43 survey was conducted, they were pretty far south and
44 east of the new boundary line.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Truett, did
47 you have any observations on walrus, or Amy, do you have
48 anything you can pass on from the state? Go ahead.

49

50

1 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah, just a few notes.
2 The Round Island walrus specifically are managed by
3 ADF&G, and I can't really speak specifically to the haul-
4 out patterns or spatial distribution of walrus on Round
5 Island, specifically. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
6 does monitor some haul-outs out towards Cape Pierce and
7 on Hagemeister Island. I can't really speak with any
8 confidence today whether their distribution is -- has
9 been significantly affected by those tankers you're
10 referring to. They are sensitive to noise. They can be
11 spooked off their haul-outs, but I can't really speak
12 to any specifics about Round Island.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thanks,
15 Truett. Amy, do you have any information? I know Ellen
16 isn't available online right now, so thanks.

17
18 (No response)

19
20 I'm not hearing from Amy. She can break
21 in. Maybe -- I'm also getting a hand waved from Gayla.
22 I guess I'd invite her up to the table and see what she
23 has. Thanks.

24
25 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gayla
26 Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association for the record.
27 Thank you, Walter, for bringing that issue up. Under
28 BBNA, we have the Qayassiq Walrus Commission and most
29 recently at the North Pacific Fisheries Management
30 Council, we were able to bring the Chairman and Peter
31 Lakutaq from Togiak, and Mickey Sharp from Twin Hills
32 to advocate of what you were just bringing up at this
33 meeting here at the RAC. And I think that it's really
34 important, as it ties to the sanctuary of Round Island
35 and the protection that we are supposed to have around
36 Round Island and also the Marine Mammal Protections Act,
37 and also, how does this affect everything in the
38 ecosystem that affects the Togiak Wildlife Refuge. So,
39 we are bringing this concern. Walrus are starting to
40 haul-out in about -- above Port Heiden, for the male
41 walrus are starting to haul-out up there and the
42 females are going as far as up to Point Lay. So, this
43 is something that we really need to pay attention to.
44 There are noise disturbances that are being tracked.
45 There's acoustic studies that we have two years of data
46 that are in the Togiak Bay, and we're looking at how are
47 we going to analyze that data, because not only does it
48 affect walrus, it also affects the belugas and the seals.
49 And so that is something that we are looking at and
50 figuring out how do we make everything work to make sure

1 that the marine habitat is protected. I was going to
2 save this for the North Pacific Fisheries Management
3 talk specifically on chum to bring that up, but just so
4 you know, we're aware of that and we're looking for
5 funding to continue to attend the North Pacific
6 Fisheries Management Council as everything is connected
7 with the trawlers, and then the Amendment 80 fleet that
8 is trawling right up below the Cape. So, I hope that
9 helps answer your question.

10
11 MR. KANULIE: You know, one time we went
12 to Hagemeister on the south side and there's surfs there.
13 And one time we had to get the -- Moses Fritz called the
14 Coast Guard to get that, to get some of that, because
15 we were going up on our lines, our line skips, and some
16 of them got -- the surf got them, waves. And particularly
17 we prefer going to, like Round Island because we don't
18 have that kind of surf, you know. And then going down
19 to the south end of Hagemeister, it's the Bering Sea and
20 that it has that surf, surf waves. So just -- I mean,
21 it's -- we don't hunt that much, you know. We prefer to
22 let the young men try to go and learn by themselves, you
23 know, so. But just something that I heard, like Peter
24 Lakutaq and Frank (indiscernible), the people that
25 taught us to hunt walrus. That's the concern, I guess I
26 thought I'd bring it up.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
29 Walter. Thank you very much. Forgot about that hat,
30 Gayla. So really appreciate that input. Is there any
31 other comments?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 Okay. Thank you very much. Yeah, I know
36 there's been trawl -- Yellowfin Sole trawl around Round
37 Island and sometimes even tender traffic when there's a
38 big herring fleet, so it does bear keeping an eye on it.
39 With that, thanks, everybody. Still have time here.
40 Should we move on to developing recommendations
41 wildlife proposals? So, I see a note here. Who does this
42 presentation?

43
44 MS. CHAPA: I can give the Council a
45 brief overview of the presentation procedures. So, to
46 go over the procedure for the proposal presentation, as
47 we go through each proposal, you can refer to page 23
48 of the meeting workbook and follow this process. Council
49 members also have this process in the back of your
50 nameplates. And so, the Chair will announce each step

1 of this process, which provides an opportunity for
2 various agencies, Councils, committees, and the public
3 to participate. There will be time for private -- excuse
4 me, there will be time for tribal and public comments.
5 And as a reminder to make a comment, if you're in the
6 room, please fill out the Blue Testifier Form. If you
7 are on Teams, you may just raise your hand. And if you're
8 on the phone, you may raise your hand by pressing star
9 five. You can also submit comment via email to
10 subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
13 Gisela. And also, I want to recognize we had a couple
14 people join us. Lisa Grediagin, right? And I forget your
15 name, sir. You're the lawyer for BBNA, aren't you? Okay.
16 Welcome. Good to see you here. Thank you.

17
18 MS. CHAPA: Sorry. Could you state your
19 name on the mic just so that we have it on the record?
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. FARLEY: Yes, ma'am. Felipe Farley.
23 F as in Frank-E-L-I-P-E. F as in Frank-A-R-L-E-Y. Have
24 a good morning.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
27 Thank you very much. It's always good to see as many
28 participants as possible. Well, the first one to look
29 at here is WP26-36 on page 25. And for Unit 9: wolverine,
30 shorten hunting season dates. So great. Great. Thank you
31 very much. We can possibly get through a couple of these.
32 I do hope to have a short break before we do the time-
33 certain, just to -- (indiscernible) coffee and.....

34
35 MS. CHAPA: It's WP26-36: Unit 9
36 wolverine, and that's on page 25 of the meeting book.

37
38 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Sorry about that.
39 I was trying to go to the wrong one. So, Mr. Chair,
40 members of the Council, my name is Kendra Holman, and
41 I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Bristol Bay Regional
42 Advisory Council with the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. I will be presenting a summary of the
44 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP26-36, can be found
45 starting on page 25 of your meeting book. This was
46 submitted by this Council, a request to shorten the
47 wolverine hunting season in Unit 9 to match the state
48 season of September 1st through the last day of February.
49 Proponent states that the Alaska Board of Game adopted
50 Proposal 22 at their January 2025 meeting to shorten the

1 Unit 9 wolverine hunting season to close the last day
2 of February, which became effective July 1st of 2025.
3 This proposal would maintain alignment with the state
4 and federal wolverine hunting seasons throughout Unit
5 9. Federal regulations for the wolverine hunting in Unit
6 9 transferred from the state regulations in 1990, when
7 the Federal Subsistence Management Program began. The
8 hunting season and harvest limits have remained the same
9 since then.

10
11 Wolverines are present throughout Unit
12 9, although no population estimates have been conducted.
13 Wolverine abundance remains unquantified due to the
14 impracticability of formal assessment. Low densities
15 appear to be confirmed by local trappers, who report
16 that wolverines in both Units 9 and 17 are scarce, but
17 stable. Female wolverines may have 2 to 3 kits per litter
18 in their den and may be nursing at the end of February
19 and into March. Due to their low reproductive rates,
20 wolverines can be susceptible to overharvest in heavily
21 trapped areas with no neighboring refugia as a source
22 population.

23
24 Across Alaska, both wolves and
25 wolverines are highly prized for their fur, which is
26 used in trim locally, made parkas, and other items of
27 clothing or handicraft. While not as prominent in
28 activity as in the past, rural residents still
29 participate in trapping as a source of income in the
30 Bristol Bay region, particularly for wolverine. And a
31 common pattern described in most reports is that the
32 smaller percentage of households in each community
33 report harvest or attempted harvest and use of
34 furbearers than those reporting harvest or use of the
35 salmon and large mammals like caribou or moose. In most
36 cases, only a few households are responsible for the
37 majority of the harvest and the use of furbearers, likely
38 in association with keeping a trapline.

39
40 Wolverine harvest and trapper numbers
41 have declined over the past decade. Unit 9 harvest
42 averaged 60 wolverines per year in the mid-1990s and has
43 declined to 17 wolverines per three-year rolling average
44 in recent years. From 2019 to 2023, March has been the
45 third highest reported harvest of wolverines, as well
46 as 40% of the harvest comprised of females. This can be
47 found in figure 1 on page 29 of your meeting book.
48 Between regulatory years 2012-13 and 2021-22, 10% of the
49 wolverines harvests in Unit 9 occurred in March, on
50 average. This information can be found on figure 2 on

1 page 30 of your meeting book. Wolverine harvest can vary
2 from year to year, reflecting trapper effort that varies
3 with travel conditions. This proposal decreases
4 subsistence opportunity for federally qualified
5 subsistence users by shortening the federal season for
6 wolverines in Unit 9 by one month. While there is no
7 apparent conservation concern for Unit 9 wolverines,
8 shortening the season could protect denning females and
9 potentially entire litters. Adopting this proposal would
10 also decrease regulatory complexity and confusion by
11 maintaining alignment. The OSM preliminary conclusion
12 on this proposal is neutral. So, thank you, Mr. Chair,
13 members of the Council. I'd be happy to address any
14 questions.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
17 Kendra. Any questions from the Council?

18
19 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard here. Is
20 it time to put this on the table, or do we have to, you
21 know, to discuss?

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's a
24 good point, Mr. Secretary. You go ahead.

25
26 MR. WILSON: I'll move to put WP26-36 to
27 adopt.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
30 Do I hear a second?

31
32 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'll second. This is
33 John.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, ma'am.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: If I may, I believe the
40 Council needs to go through the presentation process to
41 allow an opportunity to get more information, and the
42 public to also provide more information before going
43 into the motion process and the voting process.

44
45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, so we
47 can't just discuss it with that motion on. That was
48 certainly going to encourage discussion. And I think
49 maybe the process is a little different from the Advisory
50 Committee stuff, so.

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MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And the Council will definitely get into the discussion and the motion process. But this is an opportunity to go through -- getting additional information. One is to get information from the Board consultation, an opportunity for the agencies to provide comments. Get more information from any other advisory groups that may have commented as well. And so on, before we get into the voting process.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Hear that everybody on Council?

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I always thought we put it on the, you know, brought it up in order to discuss it. But I guess there's a different procedure here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, it seems to be. I was thinking your way, Richard, but well, if we can go ahead with the -- we had the introduction, so. Tribes are next.

MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Council members, good morning. For the record, my name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. During the consultation sessions we held on August 19th for this region, there were no questions or comments made. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Orville. Did I see BBNA get ready to comment? (Indiscernible). Any other tribes, ANCSA corporations online or speak up?

(No comment)

With that and no comments. So go to agency comments. Fish and Game have anything, Amy?

MS. VANDERVOORT: Amy Vandervoort. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I have no comments. I'm not sure if Aaron Poetter is on, if he can speak to any official comments or not for this one.

MR. POETTER: Yeah. Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of the Council, Aaron Potter. I'm the new Federal Subsistence Liaison for the State of Alaska. Good morning. Yeah. So related to the Proposal WP26-36,

1 as it seeks to align regulations with the state. And
2 it's consistent with opportunity the state is already
3 providing. Yeah. We don't see any conservation concern
4 related to that. On a broader scale we are still
5 developing our official positions to be submitted to the
6 Federal Subsistence Board related to wildlife proposals
7 for this cycle. So, we may not be able to provide you
8 very specific support, opposition, etc., type positions
9 to these proposals, but we are certainly here and
10 available to speak to any questions you might have or
11 kind of broader scale aspects of proposals. So, thank
12 you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
15 very much, Aaron. Other federal agencies?

16
17 (No comment)

18
19 Seeing -- I don't know if Robbin's --
20 she's doing something separate. Okay, Tribal entities
21 again. Speak up or hold your hand up.

22
23 (No comment)

24
25 Seeing none. Advisory group comments.
26 Other regional Councils. Do we have any information from
27 there?

28
29 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman, for
30 the record. So, the Kodiak/Aleutians Council did hear
31 this proposal as well at their meeting couple months
32 ago. So, the Kodiak/Aleutians supported this proposal,
33 acknowledging the Bristol Bay RAC's concerns about
34 increased harvest of female wolverines and the
35 importance of wolverine fur to local handicraft makers.
36 Wolverines are in low density species, and the Council
37 finds it reasonable to provide a break during the denning
38 season, particularly given the increased deficiency by
39 snowmachine based hunting.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
42 Kendra. Looks like Gisela has something.

43
44 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In part
45 of your packet as well, you will see a letter from the
46 Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
47 with comments as well, and I can read it onto the record.
48 So, for -- oh.

49
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1 MS. RUPP: I'm here. Thank you. Sorry.
2 Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council. For the record,
3 Liza Rupp, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
4 Subsistence Coordinator, and since I'm here, I might as
5 well do it. So, yeah, the SRC met in September and looked
6 at this proposal, and as you may see in the letter there
7 were some concerns about shortening a hunting season,
8 just generally. But they were unanimous. The SRC was
9 unanimous in their support of the alignment of state and
10 federal seasons and also supporting the wishes of the
11 Bristol Bay RAC. So, they support this proposal.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
14 you. Other groups?

15
16 (No comment)

17
18 Is there any other SRCs, with the
19 Aniakchak, did they have comments?

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and members of the
22 Council, Eva Patton with the National Park Service
23 Subsistence Program. Unfortunately, the Aniakchak SRC
24 meeting was canceled during the furlough and -- during
25 the government shutdown, and they were not able to
26 reschedule prior to the Bristol Bay RAC meeting. So,
27 they will be meeting later in February. Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
30 That speed bump of the disruption. Other Regional
31 Councils? Fish and Game Advisory Committees? To my
32 recollection, we didn't even touch any wildlife stuff
33 at the Nushagak Advisory Committee. This fall we're
34 totally absorbed in salmon. I don't know if there's
35 anything from any other ACs.

36
37 (No comment)

38
39 Apparently not, and we heard from SRCs.
40 Summary of written public comments.

41
42 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, members of the
43 Council, there were no written public comments received
44 on this proposal.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
47 Do we have any public testimony at this time?

48
49 (No response)

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1 Hearing none, I guess at this point,
2 Richard, if we want to start the motion process again,
3 I look to you.

4
5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, yes. Thank you.
6 It's Mr. Wilson. I move to adopt WP26-36.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
9 Richard. Do we hear a second?

10
11 MR. NUKWAK: I'll second that.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
14 Kenneth, for the second. So, do any Council members have
15 some comments to bring forth? Go ahead, Kenneth.

16
17 MR. NUKWAK: I just had a question for
18 Kendra. Was there any surveys done on the hunters? You
19 said that there was 30 taken in the 90s. Is that by the
20 year? Yearly?

21
22 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah.

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: And 17 in the 2000s? On a
25 yearly basis again?

26
27 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. So,
28 they don't -- they do the surveys of the trappers. That's
29 the only estimates that we have for getting any kind of
30 population information. Back in the 90s, yes, there was
31 an annual average of 30 per year. The caveat to that is
32 going to be that these aren't necessarily based on just
33 Unit 9. The way the state does it is it's a regional
34 area. I'd have to look at exactly what -- where all is
35 in that region with Unit 9. And then currently they do
36 it on a rolling three-year average, not on an annual
37 basis. And so that rolling three-year average now is 17
38 per year. So, it's shifted from annual to the three-year
39 average and dropped in half, approximately.

40
41 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. And I was thinking
42 that there's probably just less hunters out there with
43 our young kids not really being educated in nothing.
44 Especially with the demand of the price for fuel
45 consumption. Because I remember back in the 90s when my
46 oldest brother was alive, there was quite a few of us
47 hunting wolverines back then. But now, nowadays I
48 haven't even taken my sons out or even my grandkids.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank
2 you for that, Kenneth. Any other comments? Walter.

3
4 MR. KANULIE: Yeah. Wolverine is not like
5 a particular game animal, you know. And it's for the fur
6 basically, you know, that -- I haven't got one. I haven't
7 got a wolf. I've got a fox, but it just -- I guess it's
8 because it's not like a game that, I mean, something
9 that we eat, that I'm not interested in going after, but
10 I think the fur is good up until like March, maybe,
11 Kenneth? That fur, that wolverine fur. February, March,
12 the winter coat. And that's when they -- yeah. And I
13 think that's when they want to get them. But Unit 9 is
14 where? Oh, okay, so. You know, we usually don't try to
15 step on toes when it's like other units, so.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
18 Walter. I'm trying to remember. I think there was some
19 folks in the Dillingham area that leaned towards the
20 longer season. But it's been a year or two before the
21 discussion. I think a lot of the drop recently is from
22 really poor travel conditions in the Dillingham area and
23 possibly other places. And then my observations around
24 Dillingham, one trapper can make a big difference. We've
25 had a couple of ultra motivated wolverine trappers. One
26 moved to the southeast. And then most recently, sadly,
27 our Biologist John Landsiedel passed away this summer.
28 But I'm kind of inclined to go with the broader
29 recommendation of the Council. Is there any more
30 discussion?

31
32 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard here.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
35 Richard.

36
37 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I -- you know, we've
38 discussed this one, you know, in prior meetings and I'm
39 in favor of this one. You know, we all know that, you
40 know, we try to protect our mammals when they're in, you
41 know, denning, mating times in their cycle. And this is
42 one of them. I think in the, you know, we've seen it on
43 the state side. They've already agreed to it. You know,
44 although our travel time does appear to be better in our
45 spring, seem like our winters are shifting a little bit.
46 But just to protect the, you know, the wolverine in
47 there, you know, the reproduction, the cycles that I'm
48 just going to be in favor of this one.

49
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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
2 Richard. Anybody else? (Distortion)

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Do I hear a question?

7
8 MR. NUKWAK: Question.

9
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11
12 MR. WILSON: Question.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
15 Richard and Kenneth. With that, Gisela, could you do a
16 roll call vote?

17
18 MS. CHAPA: Absolutely. Dan Dunaway.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

21
22 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: No.

25
26 MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Yes.

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30 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

31
32 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

33
34 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

35
36 MR. HILL: Yes.

37
38 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.

39
40 MR. KANULIE: Yeah.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have
43 five yays and one nay. The motion passes.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
46 Gisela, and thank you to everybody. Looking at the clock
47 and such, we have a little extra time. I didn't want to
48 take a 15-minute break, but I don't think we have time
49 to take up another item before the time-certain
50 discussion. So, can we take a break till 10:30? Thank you.

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(Off record)

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(On record)

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. My watch says 10:33. I got to have too much fun visiting. And I want to thank whoever brought this wonderful fish and muffins and other goodies. I was telling people I actually had salmon for breakfast this morning because I saw some leftovers in the fridge. So, do we have -- who is it now online? Sara? Okay. I think everybody's settled in to hear you, Sara. When you're ready, please go ahead.

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MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can you hear me?

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

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MS. TAYLOR: Great, great. Hi. My name is Sara Taylor. I work for the Secretary of the Interior in his Alaska Office, which is there in Anchorage. I'm very sorry I couldn't join you today in person. I am here with my family. I'm very privileged and grateful to be joining you from my traditional homelands. I'm here where my mother grew up, about 30 miles across the border from where my grandmother grew up. And I'm here with my family to celebrate the life of someone who passed recently. And I'm very glad to be able to call in and join you today to discuss the Secretary's Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

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I've been an Anchorage resident for quite some time. I've been an Alaska resident for about 23 years now. I was fortunate to work for the Alaska -- the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources as the ANILCA Coordinator. That was my first job in Anchorage, and I was also very, very lucky to spend some time with the Alaska Court System as the Law Clerk for Judge Fred Torrisi in the Dillingham Superior Court where I spent a year with my family when my daughter was just a baby, and I treasure -- we treasure our time in Dillingham as a family, and it's very, very special to me. As a state employee I was also on the Planning Team for the Togiak Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Revision, as well as the Public Use Management Plan Revision. So, I'm very familiar with the region and very glad to be able to present to you today and answer any questions that you might have about the

1 program review and anything else you may want to know
2 about the program itself.

3
4 So, as you may know the Secretaries of
5 the Interior and Agriculture have announced that they
6 are conducting a comprehensive review of the Federal
7 Subsistence Management Program, which is exclusive to
8 Alaska. This review and your participation, particularly
9 as an advisory group, will really help us to ensure the
10 program is effectively serving Alaskans and the
11 resources that they depend on. On his first day in
12 office, President Trump signed Executive Order 14153,
13 and that directed all Interior Department Bureaus to
14 consider the cultural significance of hunting and
15 fishing in Alaska, and the statutory priority for
16 subsistence management that is required by ANILCA Title
17 VIII, and also to conduct meaningful consultation with
18 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, before we enact
19 any management plans or any regulatory processes that
20 might affect the ability of Alaskans to hunt and fish
21 on their public lands. The President also ordered all
22 government departments, which includes the Interior
23 Department and the Agriculture Department, to review all
24 of the federal programs and processes that we maintain
25 and that we administer, and this includes the Federal
26 Subsistence Management Program.

27
28 To be very clear, this is not a
29 rulemaking process. If you go to the web page for this
30 review on the government's regulations web page, which
31 is where you can find more information and see the
32 Federal Register Notice that issued in mid-December, it
33 says that it's a proposed rule, but it is not -- this
34 is not a formal rulemaking process. This is just a public
35 scoping process and what we're looking for is to gather
36 information about the effectiveness of the program and
37 in particular more information about some of the topics
38 that have been raised in correspondence that we've
39 received about the program and in some of the topics
40 that have been part of the reviews that we've done of
41 the program in its last 30 plus years of existence since
42 the late 90s. And then we did a review in 2009, a
43 comprehensive review that was also led by the
44 Secretary's Alaska Office. And this one will be led by
45 the Secretary's Alaska Office again. And that is myself
46 and my colleague, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary
47 for Alaska Affairs, Kara Moriarty, who also sends her
48 regrets for not being able to join us today.

49
50

1 So again, this is not a formal
2 rulemaking process. It is just a scoping process and we
3 are looking for information on some specific areas of
4 the program in particular. And those areas are the
5 relocation of the Office of Subsistence Management from
6 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Office of the
7 Secretary. So, this relocation was executed in the past
8 few years, and it has effectively happened. We are
9 grateful to have the Office of Subsistence Management
10 in the Office of the Secretary under the Assistant
11 Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget. Another
12 topic we are looking for more feedback on are the
13 membership criteria for Regional Advisory Councils, as
14 well as the composition of the Federal Subsistence
15 Board. Any -- the way that -- we're also looking for
16 more information on how federal and state regulations
17 for the program interact and how users are able to use
18 those regulations. Especially if there's any
19 duplications or inconsistencies with those regulations,
20 we'd like to make it as simple as possible for folks on
21 the ground. We're also looking for more feedback on the
22 special action regulations, as well as the role of the
23 State of Alaska, particularly the Alaska Department of
24 Fish and Game, their role in the program and in
25 subsistence management. And we are also looking for
26 information on procedures for rural determinations. So,
27 when a community is a rural community or a non-rural
28 community, we're looking for information on how those
29 determinations should be made. And also, if you find any
30 other areas of the program that we should be taking a
31 close look at or that we should be including in this
32 review, we would love to know that. Please include that
33 in your comments.

34
35 So, this scoping process, like many
36 scoping processes, is really about listening and
37 learning and gathering information so that we can
38 proceed thoughtfully, and particularly due to the
39 importance of this program to the people we serve. So,
40 if the Secretaries do determine that any changes do need
41 to be made to the program, that will follow this process.
42 So, there will be -- if regulations are required, there
43 will be an official rulemaking process that will follow
44 at a future date. There's no timeline for this right
45 now. We're just in the middle of a 60-day scoping period
46 that started in mid-December, and comments are due by
47 February 13th. And for the Regional Advisory Councils
48 and the Subsistence Resource Commission for the Park
49 Service, as advisers to the Secretary, you have the
50 ability to send us those comments and that feedback,

1 without -- you know, you can send that to the Office
2 through the Federal Subsistence Board at any time.

3
4 So, and again, I just want to make sure
5 everybody is aware that if there is any kind of official
6 rulemaking, it will follow this, and there will be a
7 whole other opportunity for Alaskans to be able to
8 comment on the proposals at that time. So, I just want
9 to say thank you so much for your time here today at the
10 meeting, and as well as for your commitment to this
11 process, for your commitment to the Federal Subsistence
12 Management Program. The work you do is incredibly
13 important and something that is vital to so many people.
14 And I want to thank you for all of the hard work that
15 you put in to these meetings and to your participation
16 in the program and open the floor, please, any questions
17 that you might have or any feedback you'd like to
18 provide, I'm here for that. And I'm -- I apologize again
19 for having to call in remotely. I'm actually in a parking
20 lot in Yuma, Arizona, and so I can hear you and I hope
21 you can hear me. But I'm -- I can be here for as long
22 as you need. I'm also happy to come back after the lunch
23 break if more discussion is required. And thank you
24 again, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to present to the
25 Council.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
28 very much, Sara. I see we have some blue cards on this
29 topic. I'm wondering about taking those first here as
30 we hear more to and help us decide what we want to say.
31 So, George Anderson, are you ready?

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair, members
34 of the board. Is this the time you want to -- for me to
35 talk about the petition to the Safari Club -- or that
36 was put in by them? Is that right?

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: If it's in
39 regards to how the federal subsistence system operates,
40 I'm not real familiar with the Safari. I think I looked
41 at it, but.....

42
43 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go
46 ahead. Sure.

47
48 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Yeah. I
49 apologize to you. I'm not really equipped right now. I
50 will have written comments in by February 13th, which I

1 believe is a deadline. I will talk about the things that
2 are -- affect us as people immediately as a removal of
3 seats, either by tribal or public. I believe these seats
4 are occupied now by folks who are knowledge holders, who
5 bring dynamic and to the decisions of policy makers that
6 would be lost if these seats were removed.

7
8 Secondly, I just -- the mechanics of the
9 thing, it talks about turning over the management to the
10 state. Now, I don't really have a lot of experience with
11 wildlife. But I will talk about my experience with state
12 policy and subsistence. They claim it's priority. Over
13 the last 20 years or so, I've seen the Subsistence
14 Division reduced to a section for a great time. During
15 that period, a lot of institutional knowledge was lost.
16 Folks like Jim Fall, Lisa Scarborough, Hazel Nelson,
17 Marybeth Lounger, just a lot. I know there's a lot of
18 great folks left, but I'm not completely sure the
19 capacity is there. Now it's headed up by -- as they turn
20 back to a division recently, it's headed up by Director
21 Pappas. I believe he has knowledge. And I'll move into
22 resources now. Does -- would he have the resources to
23 be able to manage additional tasks? Every time I attend
24 a policy by Board of Fisheries, the first thing I hear
25 about the higher ups at the Department is budget. They
26 can't budget for anything beyond what's on the plate
27 right now. So, I would encourage us as Alaskans to reach
28 out to our legislators and ask for building a budget
29 back for ADF&G, and maybe we can return to a time when
30 the state can manage more -- better under a subsistence
31 priority. Right now, I don't believe the capacity is
32 there. Again, I'm not really prepared to talk about this
33 topic, but I just learned about this and trying to learn
34 more. That's why I'm attending today, to listen to other
35 testimonies and look forward to getting comments in
36 officially before the deadline of February 15th or 12th
37 -- 13th. Sorry. So that's all I really have.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
40 very much for that, George. Does anybody on the Council
41 have any comments or questions for George?

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Hearing none. Thank you very much. And
46 George, I really appreciate you calling in on a bunch
47 of our other meetings. It's been really helpful. For
48 some of us in the Bay itself don't have that much
49 experience, so it's been really helpful. Thank you.

1 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, it's great to have
2 the opportunity to share and comment. Thank you.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
5 Second blue card is Gayla. You're welcome to come up.

6
7 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
8 members of the Council. I have a couple of hats that I'm
9 wearing today, but I'm going to first start off with my
10 tribal hat. I'm the First Chief of Curyung Tribal Council
11 that's located in Dillingham, Alaska, and we represent
12 over 3,000 tribal citizens of the Bristol Bay region. I
13 first found out about this scoping period, I believe it
14 was, geez, I was in Minnesota when it happened, and I
15 was listening to the Northern RAC as that was rolling
16 out and just really concerned with not everybody
17 understanding what is happening, what these changes
18 mean. And since then have been working on how am I
19 getting outreach and education on this important topic.
20 Our tribe recently also attended the National Congress
21 of American Indians Conference in November of last year.
22 And NCAI has a resolution in support of what I'm going
23 to be speaking on the record here today. And just to
24 have a formal record, I have our Curyung Tribal Council
25 Resolution 2026-01. It is protecting the Federal
26 Subsistence Board public members and the location of
27 the Office of Subsistence Management. Whereas the
28 Curyung Tribal Council is a federally recognized Indian
29 tribe listed in the Secretary of Interior's annual list
30 of federally recognized tribes issued in accordance with
31 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes List Act. Whereas the
32 Curyung Tribal Council is a federally recognized tribe
33 for the community of Dillingham, Alaska, and the mission
34 of the Curyung Tribal Council is to serve tribal members
35 and preserve our cultural values, to protect our
36 sovereign inherited rights, and to promote our social,
37 economic, and political progress.

38
39 And Curyung Tribe recognizes that the
40 State of Alaska is facing a growing and urgent food
41 insecurity crisis, worsened by the catastrophic declines
42 in our once reliable salmon runs and wildlife
43 populations. The management of subsistence fishing and
44 hunting on federal lands and waters in Alaska is
45 regulated by the Federal Subsistence Board and advocacy
46 by Alaska Native Organizations, including Alaska
47 Federation of Natives, recently resulted in an addition
48 of three newly tribally nominated seats to the Federal
49 Subsistence Board, bringing the total number of public
50 and tribal seats held by rural subsistence users and

1 users possessing personal knowledge of and direct
2 experience with rural subsistence in Alaska to six,
3 balancing the Federal Subsistence Board between Alaskans
4 and subsistence experience and politically appointed
5 agency staff. And whereas, the Federal Subsistence Board
6 serves a necessary role in the management of fish and
7 wildlife in Alaska, because the State of Alaska is
8 legally unable to enforce the rural priority for
9 subsistence hunting and fishing established by Congress
10 in Title VIII of Alaska National Interest Lands
11 Conservation Act, ANILCA. And Whereas Alaska Native
12 cultures depend economically and culturally upon the
13 wild foods harvested from the sea, air, land, and rural
14 Alaska. And whereas the Safari Club International
15 submitted a petition for revisions to the Federal
16 Subsistence Board in May of 2025 calling for the removal
17 of three public seats and the three tribal seats of the
18 Federal Subsistence Board, requiring that the Federal
19 Subsistence Board defer to the Alaska Department of Fish
20 and Game and restrict the Federal Subsistence Board
21 authority to manage fish and wildlife for the benefit
22 of non-subsistence hunters and fishers.

23
24 Whereas the Office of Subsistence
25 Management, OSM, is the office that administers the
26 Federal Subsistence Board. Whereas the advocacy by the
27 Alaska Native organizations, including Alaska Federation
28 of Natives, recently resulted in the move of OSM out of
29 Fish and Wildlife Service into Department of Interior's
30 Office of Policy, Management, and Budget, PMB. Whereas
31 OSM can serve better the subsistence priorities of rural
32 Alaskans while residing within PMB. Now therefore, be
33 it resolved that the Curyung Tribal Council urges the
34 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to reject
35 the Safari Club's petition, maintain the present
36 composition of the Federal Subsistence Board, including
37 the three public seats, three tribal seats, uphold the
38 intent of Congress as expressed in Title VIII of ANILCA,
39 to protect the rural Alaskan subsistence way of life and
40 ensure that any action taken by the Department of
41 Interior or Department of Agriculture does not result
42 in lessening any of our subsistence protections for
43 rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives. And be it further
44 resolved that the Curyung Tribal Council calls upon the
45 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council to take a position
46 asking the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
47 to reject the Safari Club's petition, maintain the
48 present composition of the Federal Subsistence Board,
49 including the three public seats, the three tribal
50 seats, uphold the intent of Congress as expressed in

1 Title VIII of ANILCA, to protect rural Alaskan
2 subsistence ways of life and ensure that any action taken
3 by the Department of Interior or Department of Ag does
4 not result in any lessening of subsistence protections
5 for rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives.
6

7 Be it further resolved that the Curyung
8 Tribal Council calls upon the Secretaries of the
9 Interior and Agriculture to hold an All Regional
10 Advisory Council, RAC meeting and public meetings
11 throughout Alaska and rural residents -- rural
12 subsistence users, before proposing any regulatory
13 changes to revise the competition or powers --
14 composition or powers of the Federal Subsistence Board
15 and request tribal consultation with the Curyung Tribe
16 in Dillingham. Be it further resolved that the Curyung
17 Tribal Council supports the Secretary of Interior's
18 Order 3413, which moved the OSM, Office of Subsistence
19 Management from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
20 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy,
21 Management, and Budget, and urges that the Secretaries
22 maintain the present structure of the Federal
23 Subsistence Board and RACs. Be it finally resolved that
24 this resolution shall be the policy of Curyung Tribal
25 Council until it is withdrawn and modified by a
26 subsequent resolution. We adopted this on January 6th
27 of 2026, in time to make it here to this meeting, to
28 have our resolution. And I'll make sure that you have
29 that as a part of the record.
30

31 I just wanted to emphasize that, you
32 know, that we really advocated for the three tribal seats
33 to be to be added to the Federal Subsistence Board. And
34 that took a lot of work and a lot of effort. They just
35 got appointed last year. They haven't even been on there
36 for a full year and we're -- already the Safari Club is
37 already advocating for change. Those three tribal seats
38 are Frank Woods, Ray Oney, and Ben Payenna. And then we
39 also have our three public seats Charlie Brower, Rhonda
40 Pitka, and Tony Christianson. With those six people
41 sitting on the Federal Subsistence Board, they're the
42 ones who have the knowledge of our areas and
43 strategically mapped around the State of Alaska, that
44 each part of our state is represented with traditional
45 knowledge. That is important when it's making decisions
46 and when the Federal Subsistence Board is making those
47 decisions that affect our way of life. When you look at
48 the five federal agency seats that serve on the Federal
49 Subsistence Board, it is a revolving door. We are
50 constantly educating and those of you who have seen me

1 and known me for years, we say this every single time.
2 We're constantly educating the Federal Subsistence Board
3 of our ways of life, our cultures, our traditions, and
4 having those six seats on this Board helps ensure that
5 we don't have to continuously repeat ourselves as we see
6 depletion of our fish and wildlife resources in our
7 areas. Also, it's really, really important that the
8 RACs, the ten RACs receive all of the same information
9 being presented to the RACs from the Secretary's Office.
10 I know that all of the information is not -- was not
11 being shared from the two previous RACs that had met. I
12 don't know about the other ones, but I'm listening in
13 as much as I can and making sure that we have a clear
14 view of what these impacts are on us.

15
16 And that's where I really, really want
17 to emphasize to the Department of Interior and the
18 Department of Agriculture, is that we need to have an
19 All RAC meeting before any of this rolls out again. We
20 met in February, I believe of 2024, was the first time
21 that we had an All RAC meeting in eight years. These
22 changes and these impacts are going to have significant
23 impacts on the way management is for the Federal
24 Subsistence Board. If we don't have this All RAC meeting,
25 the information once the recommendations come out is
26 going to be -- we're going to be segregated out and all
27 of the information isn't going to be the same. This
28 stuff is complex. We need to make sure that people are
29 understanding what we're talking about, and what the
30 changes that are happening and how they're going to
31 impact rural residents of Alaska. And if we don't have
32 that, that's a disservice to all of us in the State of
33 Alaska.

34
35 I do know that there's going to be a
36 public hearing meeting, and I didn't hear if there was
37 going to be a date, and maybe Sara, you can chime in on
38 when that public hearing is going to be. And I -- you
39 know, we also have in February before -- the deadline
40 for comments to be submitted is February 13th. We have
41 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council from February
42 2nd to the 11th, and everybody is fighting for chum
43 bycatch and making decisions on chum bycatch. And as
44 we're advocating for subsistence and how these are
45 impacting all of us, people are going to be running to
46 North Pacific and scrambling, and we're working on how
47 are we educating everybody to comment on this Federal
48 Subsistence Board petition and scoping period. 60 days
49 isn't enough, of course, where there's, you know, we're
50 already almost at the 30-day mark when it rolled out in

1 December. So, it's really important that we have more
2 than one public hearing. And like we said in the
3 resolution, it needs to be happening in rural Alaska,
4 where the rural residents are, and really focusing on
5 education to understanding so that people know what
6 we're talking about, because those of us who are involved
7 understand what's going on. And as things are moving at
8 a fast pace, everybody's calling and saying, what's
9 happening? I really want to encourage tribes to request
10 tribal consultation now, and also ANCSA corporations to
11 request tribal consultation.

12
13 I'm going to put my AFN Co-Chair hat on
14 now. So, this is something that AFN really advocated,
15 like I stated before, of the three tribal seats. At the
16 December AFN meeting, we formed a Subsistence Task Force
17 that is going to be up and running this week to figure
18 out how we're going to educate Alaskans on this issue
19 and how important these impacts are going to be having
20 on us. And those of you who might be interested in
21 serving on the Task Force, please let me know.

22
23 That's pretty much -- I think I covered
24 everything. You know, I would not want to see the Federal
25 Subsistence Board to just be a management board of the
26 federal agencies or -- and/or the State of Alaska. The
27 makeup of the Federal Subsistence Board is good as it
28 is right now, is the best that it possibly can be, and
29 we don't want to see any changes to that. And, you know,
30 I don't know how many more people are planning on
31 testifying on this issue. You know, before we can testify
32 for agencies, for nonprofit organizations, for tribes,
33 for ANCSA corporations, we need to have meetings,
34 present this information to the Board of Directors, and
35 take formal positions on this. And so, how much time
36 does that give us to really round up and talk to all of
37 the tribes, all of the ANCSA village corporations, and
38 the regional corporations to educate and have input on
39 this? And that's a task in itself. And so that's what
40 we're working on. And I'm really happy to have this time
41 to be here in person to testify on this. It's very
42 important. It's not just a scoping period of gathering
43 information. We see significant changes that are going
44 to be coming and it's really important that we come
45 together and have a unified message to the Department
46 of Interior and Department of Agriculture. Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
49 Gayla. Very thorough and highly motivated. So, thank
50 you. Any comments or questions from the Council members?

1 Kenneth.

2

3 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you, Gayla. And then
4 it is very important to keep what is on right now, the
5 Federal Subsistence Board the way it is. I understand
6 how it works. Since -- thanks to you and (indiscernible)
7 have educated me a lot on that. And when I put in the
8 proposal, I understand that if the four -- the three
9 public members and one more that was with them on their
10 side, along with the four federal agencies. Without
11 those four on there, I wouldn't have any votes on the
12 proposal. So, without would have been 4-0. But with those
13 other four that were implemented and working wonderfully
14 for my knowledge, my TEKs, they were on the side of the
15 Natives keeping our -- the way we hunt, and our knowledge
16 is still in there, but if this one is removed and
17 changed, then we'll go back to where we started from.
18 So, we got to keep this going. And that's all I'll say.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
21 very much, Kenneth. Other folks?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Okay. Gisela's pointing out Gayla had a
26 question for Sara. Sara, would you have a response
27 regarding the public hearing open house plan? Okay.

28

29 MS. TAYLOR: Yes. We are still working
30 to finalize the date and location for the open house. I
31 think we're hoping at this point that we can align with
32 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in February, so
33 we're working towards that as a goal presently. But the
34 actual date and location of the open house are still
35 pending, but they will be posted as soon as we have that
36 information finalized, that will be posted to the
37 Department of Interior's OSM website. I put the link in
38 the chat for anyone who is able to access that.
39 Otherwise, if you navigate to the Federal Subsistence
40 Management website online it has a link there to what's
41 being called the scoping process. And you will see that
42 link and you'll be able to click on that link, and that
43 link will take you to information about the public
44 hearing as well as information about how to submit
45 comments. And I do want to emphasize, too, that the
46 Department -- the Secretaries are always, always
47 available for tribal consultation. And I think for that
48 tribal consultation to really have a meaningful effect
49 on this process, it would be good to align those
50 consultation requests with the scoping period, so that

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1 we are able to capture as much as possible during that
2 period for subsequent review within the departments.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
5 And remind me, when is that Federal Subsistence meeting
6 in February? The date?

7

8 MS. TAYLOR: I know -- Gisela can give
9 you more information, but I believe it begins February
10 4th.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
13 That's not a lot of time. Gisela is waving at me. Go
14 ahead.

15

16 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I was going to
17 give Robbin La Vine an opportunity to chime in on those
18 dates.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
21 you, Robbin.

22

23 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Members of the Council. The Federal Subsistence Board
25 scheduled their work session for Thursday, February 5th.
26 The Board will be busy that week with Board member
27 training. We have a number of new Board members, agency
28 board members, and so that training will take place on
29 the 4th. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
32 Thank you. Any other Council comments? Go ahead, Walter.

33

34 MR. KANULIE: You know subsistence is
35 common to everybody, you know, no matter where you come
36 from and up here it's -- we need federal and state to
37 regulate everybody. Otherwise, there'll be no more game,
38 you know, so. But -- I mean, everybody's been doing it
39 for a long time, you know, subsisting but sometimes I
40 think about -- do we regulate everybody? You know, my
41 older brother Ivan said that we don't own animals, you
42 know. But, yeah, I understand what you're talking about,
43 you know, it's -- but sometimes it's like a hard
44 decision, you know.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
47 Walter. Richard or Robert or John, any comments?

48

49 MR. WILSON: No.

50

1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: No comment.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Now, I heard
4 at least two say no comment. Thank you very much. If
5 something pops up, please speak up. I tried to wrap my
6 head around this, and I think some of what Gayla and
7 George both bring up, this stuff is complex. Just trying
8 to digest the Federal Register was overwhelming, and I
9 was born and raised a bureaucrat. But I have really
10 enjoyed being a part of this Council. I sit on it as one
11 of the first expansions to the Council, where I think
12 officially, I'm a sport commercial representative. My
13 thoughts were that that might have brought a better
14 balance to -- because you can't -- kind of a little bit
15 like Walter was saying that you can't make these
16 decisions, you know, in a real narrow focus when there's
17 so many different user groups and needs and wants. Even
18 though I grew up here in Anchorage, my dad raised me to
19 respect the subsistence needs in the village because he
20 spent a lot of time in villages and had friends and saw
21 for himself places like Takotna and Cape Lisburne and
22 Cape Romanzof and other places. I've found from my own
23 guidance, looking at what the Kodiak/Aleutians' comments
24 put out is super helpful. So, quick on my own mind to
25 add to this or do we -- so we're supposed to do an action
26 on this. So, should I hold my comments until after we
27 put this on the table then or...?

28

29 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
30 if it helps the Council go through each bullet to develop
31 your thoughts and official position as a Council. It
32 would help to wait until Robbin can present and help
33 facilitate the discussion. And the expectation, of
34 course -- the expectation of providing formal comments
35 is an action item if the Council wants to submit
36 comments.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
39 Thank you. And before I ask Robbin, though, I saw a
40 couple other people come into the meeting here and in
41 case they wanted to make public comments, I want to
42 recognize and give them the opportunity. We have some
43 online.

44

45 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, if I can, Mr. Chair,
46 we have Matt Anderson, who's raised his hand.

47

48 MS. HOSETH: Finish mine?

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, Gayla,
2 you weren't finished?

3
4 MS. HOSETH: Yeah. Sorry. Just thank you
5 through the Chair. Just to kind of go with what Kenneth
6 was. You know, we used to be an 8-member Federal
7 Subsistence Board. Now it's an 11-member Board. And with
8 that, when we were working on his positioning of wolf
9 and wolverine and caribou with the use of a snowmachine.
10 It took us four years because of a failed vote. This
11 way, when we bring proposals to the Federal Subsistence
12 Board, we will no longer have any more failed votes. And
13 I just want to emphasize what Robbin said is that they
14 have training because we have new people coming on board.
15 That's what I'm talking about the revolving door. And
16 it is important for subsistence. So, as you guys draft
17 your -- I know I talked fast because I know you guys
18 are, you know, wanting to get through all this, but
19 please, please take a position of retaining the three
20 public seats. The three tribal seats. OSM being in the
21 location of the Department of Interior and really
22 holding the departments accountable for an All RAC
23 meeting, I think that is the biggest message as well,
24 is that we have an All RAC gathering where we all come
25 together on this issue, so thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
28 Gayla. Oh, and in mentioning time wise I had a kind of
29 a meeting with Gisela and Lisa yesterday. And
30 recognizing that we have a lot to do, we were kind of
31 planning on just grinding on through lunch and kind of
32 work. There's a bunch of goodies back there, and we're
33 planning to try to carry on with that just for
34 everybody's information. So, with that, I see, should
35 we go? Do you want to go first, Robbin, before these
36 other folks or should we? Yeah. Public first. Good. Mr.
37 Anderson?

38
39 MS. CHAPAR: An you may.....

40
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42
43 MR. ANDERSTROM: (Indiscernible). Chair
44 and members of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
45 Council, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.
46 My name is Matthew Anderstrom. I serve as the Second
47 Vice President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand
48 Camp. I'm speaking on behalf of our statewide
49 organization and the Alaska Native and rural communities
50 who depend on federal subsistence protections. The

1 Alaska Native Brotherhood is the oldest Alaska Native
2 civil rights organization in the world. For more than
3 100 years, we have advocated for Native rights, land
4 protections, and the survival of subsistence ways of
5 life across Alaska. I'm here today because the proposed
6 changes put forward by the Safari Club International and
7 the federal programmatic review that closely follows
8 those proposals pose serious risk to Bristol Bay
9 communities. Bristol Bay is not just a world-class
10 fishery. It's a subsistence homeland. Families here
11 depend on salmon, moose, caribou and other resources not
12 as recreation, but as their primary source of food,
13 culture, and identity. Weakening federal subsistence
14 authority, reducing the role of Regional Advisory
15 Councils, or shifting more deference to the State of
16 Alaska, threatens that foundation. The state remains out
17 of compliance with ANILCA, and history has shown that
18 when subsistence is balanced equally against sport and
19 commercial pressure, rural communities lose. Emergency
20 and special action authorities are especially critical
21 here. Failed salmon runs, changing river conditions,
22 weather extremes, and rising fuel costs are not
23 theoretical risks, they are lived realities in Bristol
24 Bay villages. Federal flexibility allows managers to
25 respond quickly to protect people when conditions
26 change. Maintaining the status quo is not about federal
27 overreach. It is about honoring the law as Congress
28 intended, prioritizing subsistence first, relying on
29 local and traditional knowledge, and ensuring that
30 decisions reflect conditions on the ground. From the
31 perspective of Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp,
32 ANILCA is working. Undermining it would not improve
33 management. It would destabilize food security, culture,
34 and community well-being in Bristol Bay. We urge this
35 Council to oppose changes that weaken federal
36 subsistence protections and defend the role of RACs in
37 safeguarding the subsistence rights of Bristol Bay
38 communities. I thank you for your time and for the work
39 that you do.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
42 sir. Council, any questions for Mr. Anderson?

43
44 (No response)

45
46 Hearing none. I do have one. Just, I'm
47 not real familiar with ANB, and I was in my mind that
48 when my son was going to school down in Sitka, I always
49 kind of tend to think of it as a Southeast organization.
50 Is it mostly Southeast, or is it statewide? Over.

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MR. ANDERSTROM: It is statewide. The majority of our camps are located in Southeast, and we have also branched out and have camps in Washington and in Oregon.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Great. Thank you. I think I stayed in a place right across from that nice facility you have there in Sitka. So, thank you very much. Some really well worded stuff there. So, any other comments, questions from Council?

(No response)

Hearing none. Again, thank you for your testimony. And do we have Melanie Brown on the line? Over.

MS. BROWN: Yes, I'm right here. Thank you. I really -- I don't have much to say. I'm still trying to fully understand what's happening with this plea by the Safari Club, but I was really heartened to hear that Mr. Anderstrom brought that up. I'm late to the call. I'm assuming that it was already brought up, but just please add my name to the list of people who are very concerned about what could happen if the Safari Club's wants are heard and responded to. I too was raised in the Anchorage school system, but I returned to Bristol Bay every summer. And I now own a home there, and I recognize the importance of subsistence and traditional and customary lifeways to people who live off of the road system and who rely upon this way of feeding themselves utterly. And my fear is that the Safari Club, if their desires prevail, will basically move Alaska towards becoming a big game safari kind of territory.

And I just also wanted to bring up the fact that I think it is important to hold All RAC meetings like Gayla suggested. I bore witness to the all RAC meeting that happened two winters ago, and it was a very powerful time for people to come together and gain strength by being together with their different regional bodies. And I think it's a great way to really join forces and increase in power. And already the Southeast Alaska RAC has taken action on this item and has some sample language. I'm sure you already have it in your possession, but if it would be helpful for me to forward that piece, I would be happy to do so. I have a copy of it that could possibly serve as a template for all of the RACs to come together around. Or maybe even if there

1 are ways to make the language more powerful, to build
2 upon what has already been done by the Southeast RAC.
3 And also, I just want to mention that there's also a
4 Sisterhood of Alaska Natives. The Alaska Native
5 Sisterhood works hand in hand with the Brotherhood in
6 case, you know -- I myself am not yet a member. I've
7 thought about it and then there are always other things
8 in my life that cause me to forget about joining. But
9 also, I'm sorry I failed to introduce myself properly.
10 I am a member of Naknek Native Village Council. And I
11 work for Salmon State and to protect wild salmon
12 throughout the State of Alaska in different ways. But
13 thank you for giving me some time today. And I appreciate
14 the good work that all of you are doing through this
15 process.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
18 Melanie. Appreciate that. I'm glad you took the time to
19 speak up and hope you submit your own comments directly.
20 The Council have any questions, comments for Melanie?

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Hearing none, I guess let's hear from
25 Robbin next. Thank you.

26
27 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Members of the Council. My name is Robbin LaVine,
29 Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM. Former resident
30 of Dillingham, Bristol Bay where my babies were babies
31 and supported and nurtured by the community out there.

32
33 I wanted to remind you that this is an
34 action item for your Council. Both here in the room and
35 Council members online, we're looking for your comments,
36 your suggestions, your feedback on this Programmatic
37 Review. And I want to remind you that these are not --
38 this is an opportunity to just scope and figure out
39 where we're at with the Federal Subsistence Management
40 Program. We often, as Sara said, we often hold -- the
41 Secretaries hold a review of how the Federal Subsistence
42 Management Program is working, how it's serving its
43 intent under Title VIII of ANILCA. Right now, there are
44 a number of areas, topics that there -- we're looking
45 to focus on. You've heard from the public their comments
46 and concerns, and now at this point, it's time for you
47 to discuss these topics. So, if you agree, we can take
48 these topics one by one. Again, your input is critical
49 in helping make -- the Secretaries make an assessment
50 of the program. And if anything useful comes out of this

1 period, they might propose some changes to the program.
2 Right now, they're not proposing any changes. They've
3 got these topics that they want some feedback on so they
4 can think about it and see if any changes are necessary.
5 So, here you and everybody else has an opportunity to
6 let them know what you think about that. And if there
7 are any topics that haven't been mentioned in this review
8 that you think they should look at, the Secretaries. You
9 can propose those, too.

10
11 One more thing before we begin. We did
12 hear a number of people talk about this Programmatic
13 Review, and they brought up their comments and concerns,
14 and I wanted to let everyone know if they want to submit
15 a comment on these topics as individuals or as
16 organizations outside, you know, not part of this RAC
17 that they can -- I think the deadline is February 13th,
18 and they can email -- send an email directly to
19 subsistence@ios.doi.gov or they can mail directly to the
20 office of the Secretary Senior Advisor for Alaskan
21 Affairs, and they can submit it through the Federal
22 Register Portal, and all of those instructions are
23 online. So, if anyone has any questions on the break,
24 you can talk to me and we can direct you to more guidance
25 for that as individual comments on our website. I believe
26 we have another hand up. So, before we proceed with our
27 Council action item, perhaps we can listen to one more
28 testifier.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
31 Thank you, Robbin, and thank you, Gisela. Mr. Mike, go
32 ahead please.

33
34 MR. MIKE: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 to the Regional -- Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
36 Council. I'm sorry, I just called in, and I just was
37 online and didn't realize this scoping was in process,
38 and as I understand it's the deadline for comments is
39 February 12th. So like, it's a very short time for public
40 to comment. I mean, February 12th is coming up pretty
41 quick, and as a resident of Alaska, you know I encourage
42 all public and Regional Advisory Council -- there's the
43 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council coming up
44 addressing bycatch in the Bering Sea for the communities
45 of the AYK region. So that's very important. So, there's
46 a lot of deadlines coming up. So, but first of all, I
47 appreciate the Department of Interior to move OSM from
48 Fish and Wildlife to the IOS, and I think that's a great
49 step forward. And it takes the optics off from the Fish
50 and Wildlife Service, showing that there are under --

1 in control of OSM, and this way with the Interior of
2 Secretary, I believe, IOS. I think that will be more --
3 as far as optics is more independent from various
4 agencies, for example, like Fish and Wildlife Service,
5 BLM or National Park Service. So, but anyway, I
6 appreciate the move, so.

7
8 As far as the makeup of the Federal
9 Subsistence Board, I support Gayla Hoseth's comments.
10 We need more local residents from Alaska to sit on the
11 Federal Subsistence Board. And like many agencies within
12 Alaska, managers are imported to run our federal public
13 lands, and they're there for only like 3 to 5 years and
14 they're gone and retired in Hawaii or somewhere. So,
15 it's a constant turnover. The communities of Alaska are
16 constantly educating imported managers about the
17 lifestyle of subsistence users in Alaska. And that's
18 very frustrating. We need more local born managers that
19 will stay in Alaska. And for example, we have a Refuge
20 Manager in Alaska that was born and raised in Alaska,
21 and he's doing a great job. So, but anyway. As far as
22 the makeup of the Federal Subsistence Board, each agency
23 has a staff committee to help them with technical data
24 and help develop recommendations on specific policies
25 or regulations. So, I'd like to see our public members
26 be assigned staff committee members that are able to
27 provide technical support for our public members. Thank
28 you, Mr. Chair. Oh. I'm sorry. My name is Donald Mike,
29 for the public. Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
32 Donald. So good to hear you on, as our former Coordinator
33 and all, and cherish you continue to participate and
34 have some useful comments. I wanted to double-check you
35 said you would like to see these new public members have
36 a staff assigned to them. Is that what you were saying?
37 Over.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd like to
40 see public members be assigned staff committee members
41 for our public members to -- I mean, they're dealing
42 with a lot of information sitting at the table and more
43 often than not, they are making decisions without
44 technical support. And they need technical support for
45 them to help make decisions before Federal Subsistence
46 Board actions are taken. Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
49 Thank you, Donald, again. I hope you're submitting some
50 written comments directly as well. Any comments,

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1 questions for Donald from the Council? Kenneth, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. NUKWAK: Donald, this is Kenneth
5 Nukwak. (In Native).

6
7 MR. MIKE: Kenneth, I'm retired, and I'm
8 staying involved in the public process, like the North
9 Pacific Regional Advisory Councils and Federal
10 Subsistence Board. And I try to keep track of Board of
11 Game and Board of Fish actions and like Gayla I want to
12 be a subsistence advocate for our rural communities and
13 people like yourself that help develop and change our
14 hunting and fishing regulations. Quyana.

15
16 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Quyana, (In Native).

17
18 MR. MIKE: (In Native).

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
21 Other Council members?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Hearing none, again thank you so much,
26 Donald. It's always good to hear your voice. And I think
27 we'll probably see you around as well. We have another
28 blue card here by Louie Green from Nome. Please come
29 forward. Thank you.

30
31 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
32 my name is Louis Green from Nome. I wear quite a few
33 hats. One of them is the Seward Peninsula Regional
34 Advisory Council Chair. I've been there since 2010. I
35 also served for the Northern Norton Sound Advisory
36 Committee for Fish and Game from '93 on for 13 years,
37 and most of the time I was the Vice Chair. I'm the
38 Director for Sitnasuak Native Corporation on the
39 Executive Committee, and I'm on the Bering Straits
40 Regional Native Corporation Executive Committee. Also,
41 a (indiscernible) shareholder and a Mary's Igloo tribal
42 member.

43
44 Sitting here reflecting on the history
45 of all this state management, federal management, and I
46 sat in the -- I reflected in my mind thinking about the
47 Marine Mammal Protection Act that was put into place.
48 And I think I was at a hearing in 1971, in the Nome
49 courtroom, listening to Ted Stevens talk about how they
50 were going to protect the marine mammals. I don't see

1 that happening. There's an industry that pretty well
2 annihilates whatever they catch. I won't elaborate on
3 that much more. That was in '71. And in 1975, June in
4 UAF, I attended Boise State on behalf of my high school,
5 Nome-Beltz High. And there Ted Stevens was telling us
6 about the Magnuson-Stevens Act and how it was going to
7 protect our fisheries resources and removing foreign
8 fleets out of the Bering Sea in the Gulf. So, step it
9 forward a little bit, 1993, I started serving as a
10 Village Corp. Director, Sitnasuak Native Corp. I also
11 started taking part in the Northern Norton Sound
12 Advisory Committee. We did a lot of work, but we never
13 were heard at the state level. So, I kind of stepped out
14 of that scene for a while. I got back involved with the
15 Federal Subsistence Board process through the Seward
16 Peninsula Regional Advisory Council in our area. And
17 when we make decisions on federal lands, we're heard and
18 things happen.

19
20 What I'm seeing here is where the Safari
21 Club wants to come in here and remove that. Why? What
22 is it? Is it this state management will allow them to
23 have their way? Just witnessing this, a lifetime of this
24 stuff with subsistence, I watched salmon runs in the
25 Nome area depleted completely down to the point of last
26 summer, right in front of my own camp on the Nome River,
27 not one pink salmon was in the spawning grounds. Nothing.
28 You know, in '93 when I started, we had something going
29 on then. We still had something left to fight for. When
30 you don't even see a pink salmon in your river, you got
31 to really look back and say, geez, we didn't gain
32 anything. I served one year as a Tier II salmon workgroup
33 under the Board of Fish in Nome. Trying to put a
34 framework together with the people in that community,
35 which kind of was pretty divisive. And we got put -- had
36 Tier II put on us in 1999, and it was almost 20 years.
37 And then they decided we're going to get out of this
38 instead of just stepping it up to a subsistence level,
39 they went straight to commercial fishing. Kind of makes
40 you wonder, that's state management. I think that it's
41 very important. And back in the 90s, when we were talking
42 about it at Board of Fish meetings, we were talking --
43 there's a handful of us talking about it. It's important
44 for the federal subsistence -- for the federal level and
45 the state management to get together and co-manage the
46 fisheries under intercept. There hasn't been any. It's
47 just -- you look at the numbers over the last 30 years
48 and nothing's been done to manage for subsistence. So,
49 I wanted to bring that up here, listening to you folks
50 talk because of the fact that I have a problem with the

1 state management, and I can't see that they're going to
2 be very effective if they get to do the whole thing on
3 their own. I think that it's very important to protect
4 the federal subsistence side of management on federal
5 lands and not relinquish to the state. I don't know what
6 else I can offer. I'm here on my own self. Stated what
7 the positions I hold. But anyway, thank you for allowing
8 me the time, Mr. Chair.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
11 you. So just to clarify, you're speaking strictly for
12 yourself and not for the RACs, the ACs, just CYA. So,
13 thank you very much. Council members, any questions?

14
15 MR. CHRISTENSEN: This is John, I have
16 none.

17
18 MR. KANULIE: I remember when I was a boy
19 when we fished over and they closed our bay lots of
20 times because we weren't getting the escapement. And we
21 used to go down to (In Native), another bay, and that
22 was chums. No reds. No reds. Just the ones up at Togiak,
23 you know, I, you know, I don't know how, yeah, the feds
24 in the state, you know, I, you know, if I don't leave
25 or the governor gets changed, maybe it'll change, you
26 know. And then vote other people, you know or Trump,
27 another Democrat to become the President. But you know,
28 things change, you know. And you know that, probably
29 seeing lots of that. So, but decision-making is, you
30 know, it -- I mean, I'm not a lawyer, you know. So, but
31 -- and then there are lots of lives in Alaska. Nome, our
32 area, so. Southeast, Interior, so. I was just speaking
33 out of experience. State regs, and I wish there was more
34 feds in our area so we can go hunt caribou. But that's
35 how it goes.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
38 Walter. Kenneth, you had something more?

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, sir. Louie made a good
41 point on the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Springtime, we go
42 hunting for seals just about every spring for the next
43 winter's seal oil supply. And then for the first time
44 this year -- there's always a lot of trawlers out there.
45 And I was going to present this during the North Pacific
46 Fish Management but I had to bring this up now. There
47 was hardly any seals at Protection Point, because that's
48 where we go. And then a lady from Port Heiden area came
49 to Manokotak to do business. I don't know what kind of
50 business that was. But she reported that there was a lot

1 of -- probably thousands of seals on their side. So,
2 they've relocated along with the walrus. And when the
3 herring hit, when the run hits and they start spotting
4 out, seals pop up one after another with a lot of eggs
5 on their mouths all over their face. We didn't see that.
6 This is the first time this year I've experienced that.
7 And I hope I don't experience that this spring. I'll
8 make a report, if I do or if it's a good report, I'll
9 probably throw that in too. Thank you, Louie.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
12 Did you want to respond, Louie?

13
14 MR. GREEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 For both of you. You know, I hear this talk about in the
16 Bay area about dropping the chum or -- excuse me, is it
17 the coho (indiscernible). The coho count?

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, not
20 counting cohos? Yeah. The Department has not been
21 running the sonar long enough on the Nushagak River.

22
23 MR. GREEN: And they're talking about
24 doing away with bio escapement goals? Is that -- am I
25 hearing that?

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: There are -
28 - some of them are going to optimal goals and quite a
29 few different names. We might be seeing a whole bunch
30 of new stuff here in the next few days.

31
32 MR. GREEN: Yeah, okay. Thank you. I
33 asked that question for a reason. In Nome, they decided
34 to drop our escapement goals because we weren't making
35 them. Gene Sandone of AYK, he was the Director at the
36 time. They came up -- the Department decided that's what
37 they were going to do to manage their fish. And my
38 question to him was, why are you dropping the escapement
39 goals when we're not making any? He said, well, if we
40 drop them, that means you get the fish sooner. And I
41 looked at him and I said that doesn't make a lot of
42 sense, because what you're doing is you're allowing us
43 to deplete our own system. State management has not been
44 good. Teller, Alaska, in the 50s into the 60s had a
45 thriving salmon, dry fish -- they had a market, they --
46 that was their economy. We lost all the reds up there
47 for a long period of time. Marine mammals, that Marine
48 Mammal Protection Act has been violated for decades.
49 Native folks were supposed to take them because it's
50 allowed. Anybody else is not allowed. There's an

1 industry out there that's literally throwing away like
2 their trash. And if one of us gets a seal and it goes
3 bad or something on the beach, you never hear the end
4 of it.

5
6 So, this thing with the Federal
7 Subsistence Board now, you know, I've been attending
8 meetings since 1993. And whether it's the Northern
9 Norton Sound Advisory Committee at Fish and Game level,
10 or the Federal Subsistence RAC level, and not putting
11 anybody down here that's staff. But we see just staff.
12 It's always staff and public participation is low. It's
13 hard to get people to actually come up and speak, you
14 know, because they feel they can't or they're afraid
15 that if they talk out, it might be something against an
16 organization like a CDQ in my region. So, there's only
17 very few of us that sit at the table. My encouragement
18 is to have more. The idea that the Federal Subsistence
19 Board has a 6 to 5 vote. Now that's really, really
20 important to maintain. That means that's not staff
21 driven. That's public driven. The people that use the
22 resource to have the TEK, TEK, like we do. We've been
23 around a long time. So, protecting that Federal
24 Subsistence Board processes like big, big time important
25 to us. So, thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
28 Any other questions, comments for Mr. Green?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 Hearing none, we probably got to get
33 moving on the points here. And thank you very much for
34 taking the time to hear from farther up north. A real
35 eye opener for me. So, thank you. Robbin, go ahead.

36
37 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the Council. A couple of housecleaning or
39 housekeeping items just to share with you all. First,
40 there was some discussion about the first week of
41 February. That week is busy with a lot of different
42 meetings that are important to all of you. The Federal
43 Subsistence Board is holding its work session, and a
44 work session is really non-regulatory issues. So, it's
45 not about subsistence regulations. It's about the
46 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. It's 2026 FRMP
47 Monitoring Plan. And they will be meeting for the day.
48 There may be some other updates. There may be an
49 opportunity for the public to provide testimony to the
50 Board on the program or other issues. But that Board

1 meeting is not the place for providing comments on the
2 Programmatic Review. Just to let you all know, we invite
3 you all to participate. We are working on the monitoring
4 plan. We are having a number of programmatic updates,
5 what's going on with the federal subsistence management
6 program. More like in-house. Like, you know, how are we
7 doing with staff? How are we doing with the regulations
8 as far as our regular housekeeping stuff? It's -- so,
9 it's not -- we will not be addressing the Programmatic
10 Review other than to have maybe an update where we're
11 at and to remind everybody listening of the February
12 13th deadline. There will be announced somewhere around
13 that time, a listening session on the Programmatic
14 Review for the public to attend. And once we know more
15 that will be posted on our website, we'll try to get the
16 word out to you. That will be the place for the public
17 to provide their comments to the Secretaries at that
18 time, and then also or also written comments by the
19 13th. Thanks.

20
21 So that's housekeeping I believe. Okay,
22 so now we're back to your action item. And again, we are
23 looking at -- if you look up on the board, we've got the
24 seven issues that this review is focusing on. And if you
25 agree, we can take them one by one. And what I might
26 suggest is that our Board members, with your backs to
27 the screen, come sit on the side so that you can see
28 what we're doing as we document your comments. Awesome.
29 Yeah. Well actually, you can bring a chair over right
30 there where the microphone is or you could sit with me.
31 You can sit next to me, I don't mind.

32
33 We've heard a number of -- some
34 testimony from the public, Board members -- sorry,
35 Council members, you provided some testimony that I
36 might suggest aligns with number six, role of the State
37 of Alaska and ADF&G within the Federal Subsistence
38 Management Program. I've also heard the Council members
39 make comments on the composition of the Federal
40 Subsistence Board. So, we've already started this
41 discussion. But why don't we start at the very top and
42 see if anyone has any comments on the relocation of OSM
43 from the Federal Subsistence -- from Fish and Wildlife
44 Service directly into the Office of the Secretary. So
45 that was just a very recent move, and I'm wondering if
46 any of the Council members has comments or suggestions.
47 Do you notice anything different? Is there -- are there
48 benefits? Challenges?

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I have
2 some comments, but I want to defer to the other Council
3 members first. So, we can't see hands up now on the
4 board. So, Richard, John, and Robert, go ahead and chime
5 in if you've got something.

6
7 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I don't have anything
8 at this time.

9
10 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Dan, Richard here.
11 Yeah. I can't see what you guys are seeing and this is
12 kind of -- I'm not real -- it's too bad I'm not sitting
13 there, and I can kind of absorb more what's going on
14 there, but I'm going to have to just kind of see what
15 you got to say and all, you know, and I'll respond back
16 to that. Thanks.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
19 John. Thank you, Richard. Yeah. We have up on the screen
20 kind of the seven now, eight bullet points. And we're
21 trying to start at one, which Robbin mentioned was the
22 movement of OSM to the Policy and Management or, I don't
23 know, alphabet soup. So well, I'll jump ahead again.
24 I've taken a lot of cues from the KARAC. Also, man, I
25 just really appreciate both Anderson comments, you know.
26 But personally, and so also process-wise, we're going
27 to make comments and then we maybe move to adopt these
28 comments in some form to forward? Go ahead.

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 MS. CHAPA: I'm Gisela Chapa, for the
33 record, and yes, I think that as the Council discusses
34 each of the topics on the screen, the Council can discuss
35 and then at the end of the discussion, it'd be easier
36 to just make the motion to approve as discussed. And
37 that is why we also have that on the screen so that you
38 can see some of your discussion items reflected on what
39 can be put forth in your written comments.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
42 Thanks. Makes me wish that our online folks could see
43 that list as well, but I'll plunge ahead here. I was a
44 little baffled by the whole move, but I also get to
45 understand -- understanding that probably -- and there's
46 times that I wondered too, that -- did Fish and Wildlife
47 Service have undue influence because it was in their
48 Office. At the same time, also hearing that they provided
49 a whole lot of support services that are now kind of
50 question of who's going to do them or how. But we've got

1 the momentum to that one move. And I really would not
2 want to see it switch at this time, see how it works,
3 if it can work, is my personal preference on that. We're
4 just barely getting -- the dust is barely settling on
5 it. So that's my main point on that move. Thank you.
6 Kenneth, go ahead.

7
8 MR. NUKWAK: Question for Robbin. Is this
9 a proposal for the move? Before I go to the next comment.

10
11 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Nukwak, no, this isn't
12 a proposal for the move. The move has already happened.
13 It happened last year. OSM was moved out of Fish and
14 Wildlife Service and directly into the Office of the
15 Secretary. And as we're looking -- this as they're
16 looking for your comments on the program itself, and
17 we're doing the scoping review, they want to get your
18 feedback on that move. Do you notice any difference? Do
19 you think it's a good one? Do you have other thoughts
20 or ideas? But the move has already been made. And so,
21 they're just wanting to get feedback on that recent move.
22 Thanks.

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: Having heard that I cannot
25 say anything without talking with the -- having
26 consultation with the people that are working on this
27 already. Maybe I can talk with the BBNA Director. And
28 you -- how you guys like it? Because I'm not the one
29 working there. I can't decide for the people that are
30 working. Otherwise, I'll be stepping on their toe and
31 probably see a lot of frowning faces or happy faces.

32
33 MS. LA VINE: Thank you for asking.
34 Actually, I would just -- I'll keep my response brief.
35 All the people that work in OSM love their job, and we
36 want to do our job. The move, the lift and shift from,
37 you know, kind of one agency to another was supposed to
38 be seamless, but it wasn't. It was very distracting. And
39 as Dan notes, we're still -- the dust is still settling.
40 But any additional moves will do the same thing and
41 potentially extend that distraction. Our team loves the
42 work we do, and we love to serve you and support the
43 Councils. So, I guess that's all I have to say. There's
44 some benefits, you know, as far as more direct
45 communication, we're closer to the Secretary and can
46 have a more streamlined communication with the
47 Secretary's Office. At the same time, a lot of the
48 support that we had when we were in U.S. Fish and
49 Wildlife Service, that support has gone away, and we are
50 still trying to identify how we are going to fill those

00060

1 -- that support gap. So that's still part of the process.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MR. NUKWAK: I would have to talk with
5 you more in order to have better answers in the future.
6 But seems like leaving the way things are for now while
7 the dust is settling -- leave the way it is. But I'll
8 certainly talk with you more on this. Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
11 else?

12
13 (No response)

14
15 I'll jump in again. Okay, good. It's
16 support services are lost. I want to make sure that
17 thought was captured in this part. If we have no more.
18 Because we do kind of watch time. I don't want to rush
19 this, but we need to move along. If there's no more
20 comments on this point, can we go to number two? Go
21 ahead.

22
23 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Topic
24 number two is comments on the criteria for Regional
25 Advisory Council membership. Currently, we function
26 under the 70%/30% composition split for a region. That
27 means we're targeting or trying to have 70% of our
28 Council members represent subsistence knowledge and
29 expertise, and that there is 30% of the Council members
30 that represent commercial and sport interests in the
31 region and their expertise. So that's where we're at the
32 moment. And we are looking for your feedback on how that
33 is working and if you have any additional ideas about
34 criteria for Regional Advisory Council membership.
35 Thanks.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
38 Kenneth.

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I understand that part.
41 30% of him and 70% of me, I'll put it that way. But the
42 way I see it, even if there is 70% for -- what I need
43 it, it's never met. From day one, when I start
44 experiencing this, I'm hardly supported. When I try to
45 advocate for my people, (In Native). The ones that speak
46 Yup'ik are not represented the way they are supposed to
47 be represented. The ones that are living in the villages,
48 not in the (indiscernible). That's why we are getting
49 citations when we are not supposed to be cited. That's
50 why we are being monitored by snowmachines and

1 airplanes. Airplanes are from the federal flying over
2 Manokotak literally on a blue-sky day. (In Native).
3 Flying high up in the sky looking for blood maybe on the
4 tarp. Even sometimes with helicopters. I'm just trying
5 to represent the people out in the smaller villages that
6 have limitations to their vocabulary. My vocabulary was
7 limited until I started attending these meetings. I had
8 to use a dictionary in order to bring the meanings to
9 some of the words that -- easy words that you guys
10 understand easily. I had to define them through Google.
11 Thanks to whoever invented this stuff. They should have
12 invented it before I was born. So, having said that,
13 I'll stop there.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
16 Kenneth. Any other Council members with comments? Looks
17 like Walter has some. Go ahead.

18
19 MR. KANULIE: I've been to lots of
20 meetings. I used to see the elders that didn't speak
21 English, and you know, English was my second language.
22 I grew up speaking -- my first language was Yup'ik. And
23 then the elders I saw, they made themselves the same as
24 the people that came into -- that Fish and Game people
25 right there -- they made themselves the same level as
26 them. You know, regulation was -- I guess it started
27 when everybody else came up here, you know, so but --
28 and that's good. It's good. It's good for the animals,
29 the fish and wildlife, so. But like he said, you know,
30 I guess it's something that we were never regulated on.
31 I mean, going back to that first one, I guess I would
32 want it to keep OSM with FFWS, you know, and then the
33 regional -- you want everybody else on board, you know,
34 so.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
37 Walter. Richard, John, Robert?

38
39 MR. WILSON: Hey, Dan. Yeah. Rich here.
40 You know, the percentages, I really haven't, you know,
41 valued much on how what percentage is what. But, you
42 know, as we all sit on this Council, you know,
43 everybody's sitting there for a purpose, you know, and
44 to, you know, to respect others and to respect your own
45 region and to supply information from your area. You
46 know, I just -- it's a good opportunity and I, you know,
47 and you know, yeah, it's kind of a diverse group, but
48 in a way that's good because you get a feel for, you
49 know, other user groups and how the resources being used
50 and how it's needed, you know. And so as long as we got

1 a good voice and we could, you know we could send that
2 on to, you know, our Federal Board, you know, the needs
3 of the communities and what's important to us. And I
4 really appreciate, you know, OSM, you know, with all the
5 -- with their staff and all their support groups, you
6 know, to help us out because a lot of this information
7 we need, you know, it's got to be fresh information, you
8 know, the biologists and all that for us to make good
9 decisions, you know, we're only one in the community
10 here, and some people have the access to, you know, to
11 be able to dig into numbers and things. But we depend
12 on people that have jobs that do that. So, it makes our
13 job a lot easier when we get to, you know, hear from our
14 agencies and get updates and recent updates on what
15 population counts are and what, you know, different
16 things because that's what they're there for. So,
17 appreciate it and I'll stop there.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
20 Richard. John or Robert?

21
22 MR. HILL: Yeah, Dan. Yeah, Dan, this is
23 Robert. You know, I feel like I'm fairly new on the
24 Board and kind of reiterating what Richard's saying, I'm
25 getting an education, and I'm learning a lot through
26 this Board, and I'm trying to pass that along to members
27 in my communities. And I guess I just I don't have a
28 stance on the percentages. So yeah, that's my comment.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
31 Robert. I see Robbin's got her hand up here real quick.

32
33 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 know we're trying to keep things sort of lean and quick
35 because we are running out of time, but I realize what
36 may also help is to remind people about currently what
37 our membership criteria are, who qualifies as members,
38 you know, and obviously, you all qualified. You all
39 applied and we're grateful. And so, a reminder of what
40 the Council, what your job is, is that you are providing
41 advice and recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
42 Board about subsistence hunting, trapping and fishing
43 issues on the federal public lands in your region. So,
44 your number one job is providing advice, your expertise,
45 and information; and the criteria that we have listed
46 now is that you must be a resident of the region that
47 you represent; you have knowledge of the fish and
48 wildlife resources; you have knowledge of the region's
49 subsistence uses, customs, and tradition; you have
50 knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other

1 uses; you have leadership skills, communication skills,
2 and the willingness and ability to travel and attend
3 these meetings twice a year and sometimes the Board
4 meeting. So currently that's the criteria. What we're
5 looking for, regardless of whether you are a -- someone
6 with a lot more sport and commercial expertise or
7 subsistence expertise. All of that criteria, your
8 knowledge of the regions and traditional uses of the
9 resource. You know, from your communities, is equally
10 important. Would you add anything else to that criteria?

11

12 MR. CHRISTENSEN: This is John.

13

14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go
15 ahead, John. Thank you.

16

17 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, I like the way
18 the criteria is now. I don't know about the subsistence
19 needs up north or -- but in my region, we try to --
20 we'll help each other out if our -- if needs are not
21 met, but I think I like it the way it is now. And yeah,
22 that's all I have.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
25 John. That's very helpful. I see Kenneth's finger up.

26

27 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, Robbin. I'll just add
28 on make sure ANILCA is being followed. Alaska National
29 Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which is hardly
30 followed. It's just there, hanging on the wall for people
31 to read and then forget about it. What Congress passed
32 needs to be followed. Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
35 Anybody else? If not, I'll offer a few things. I am a
36 beneficiary of the expanded RAC from, I forget what,
37 1998 or 2002, somewhere back there. And I've -- I really
38 enjoy the opportunity to be on here. I applied because
39 I had been sportfish biologist for the Bristol Bay region
40 and a good chunk of the lower Kuskokwim. So, I felt like
41 I had community knowledge, knowledge of individuals,
42 biological knowledge. And I'm also still kind of
43 primarily a subsistence user, not the extent of Kenneth
44 and some of the other folks, but certainly as far as my
45 opportunities -- my activities for a year, I'm more
46 subsistence than anything else. But I think -- my hope
47 was that I could bring some balance. I also -- my hope
48 was with expanding the RAC at that time, you have a
49 broader range of stakeholders. I was in a stakeholder
50 training thing with -- oh, now I'm blanking -- Hans and

1 Heidi. I forget their last name, but it's all about
2 making sure all your stakeholders have an opportunity.
3 And that removes a lot of criticism. And I like to
4 believe that helped or otherwise people just want to
5 tear it down because they didn't feel they had a stake
6 in it. And so, I try to hit a balance on this. So, I do
7 like it. I had a -- I haven't forgotten you, Kenneth,
8 but I want to carry on my thought here. This summer, I
9 was representing the RAC at the Summer FSB meeting and
10 with our new members -- I mean, Frank, I like working
11 with him, and I have worked with him on the AC for a
12 while, I really felt that it was an improvement to have
13 these added folks. Also, in the last 4 or 5 years, I
14 felt like -- and I think a lot of this is due to Gayla
15 banging on the door saying, you got to respect
16 subsistence. And she was banging on the doors in D.C.,
17 that really pushed them a lot harder. I'm thrilled to
18 death that they have that small caribou hunt for Igiugig
19 and Kokhanok. Those folks, friends of mine in both
20 communities have been wanting that for a long time. I
21 felt that we've had a more responsive, more respectful,
22 like what Kenneth was saying -- ANILCA and the mandates
23 of subsistence. So, I kind of like to keep both pieces
24 the way they are, and I'm the big chatterbox here. So,
25 I'll turn over to Kenneth here real quick.

26
27 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. Through the
28 Chair. Commercial. I haven't chimed in on that, and I
29 haven't hardly seen commercial interests in there
30 concerning the bears and the wolves. Why is it not being
31 implemented commercially? Bear hunting and wolf hunting.
32 There's a lot of them. Too many. And there's commercial
33 there on federal lands and even state lands where you
34 guys should be working. Bring people in. That'll control
35 the predator control. Probably put it in there. I hardly
36 see that.

37
38 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Nukwak, through the
39 Chair. There are -- there's a difference between people
40 taking action on management issues and the people who
41 sit on this Council to bring their knowledge and
42 expertise. So, Dan has a good understanding of
43 commercial and sport uses, especially as a, as you know,
44 a former biologist. And, and he has a good understanding
45 of subsistence as a resident of the region, as do you.
46 You also, even though you are a subsistence user, you
47 have knowledge of, you know, commercial and sport
48 activities, but all of your combined knowledge is on
49 subsistence fish and wildlife regulations. So, your
50 combined knowledge that you bring here is -- for

1 recommending the Board to take action on subsistence
2 regulations, not commercial or sport management issues.
3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.

6
7 (Simultaneous speech)

8
9 MR. NUKWAK: So. Sorry. Through the
10 Chair. My words are binded.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
13 you, Kenneth. Yeah. We used to beat on the feds about
14 predator control -- pretty much a blanket prohibition
15 in a lot of the federal lands. But they've heard us loud
16 and clear and all but -- yeah, you know, and I believe
17 you fish commercially. Richard fishes commercially, I
18 think Robert does, and I think John do. So, we're all
19 kind of multitaskers on here and Nanci is a lodge owner,
20 but also take subsistence. So -- our Chair. So, I think
21 that's how we try to work on it. So go ahead, Kenneth.

22
23 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I understand Robbin's,
24 and thank you. But at the same time, it would have helped
25 out my way of life by not -- to tell a story, a short,
26 brief story of the folks that raised me. My parents and
27 my grandparents. They sit down on table, and I was
28 probably five, six, seven, ten years old. And sometimes
29 I heard them say that this kid's probably not paying
30 attention to what we're saying, but I got it right here.
31 One of the stories they told was that predators when
32 they come in, they come in by a strong force and then
33 they wipe out. They wipe out the reindeer herd. And then
34 once that's gone, along with what the predators wiped
35 out, afterwards, they're gone too. So that's why I
36 thought I'd put it -- throw in the commercial interest
37 in there. That way, commercially, they would help out
38 my way of life by protecting the ungulates and whatever
39 else we eat that needs help. Thank you.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'll take
42 one more shot here. I'm looking at the comments we have
43 on number two. I would kind of hope if D. kind of
44 summarized my comments that I would add, like to add
45 that I believe that both the RAC and the Federal
46 Subsistence Board has been improved and more effective
47 because of the expansion. And with that, I'm hoping we
48 could move on to number three. But if anybody else wants
49 to speak up -- I see Lisa's come to the table. Go ahead,
50 Lisa.

1

2 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
3 record. I just wanted to make this Council aware that
4 the Eastern Interior Council suggested, like currently
5 on your application, you have to click check whether
6 you're subsistence user or sport commercial, and they're
7 discussing similar to you all how oftentimes you're both
8 and that they almost find it offensive that they have
9 to choose one and kind of limit themselves, pigeonhole
10 themselves into one, and so their suggestion was to allow
11 people to check both boxes instead of just one.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
14 Lisa. Yes, yes, I feel a little awkward as I'm not a
15 hardcore sport only user. So, I guess I would like to
16 see that -- the option for showing our kind of multi-
17 use capacities to be recorded in our application. Thank
18 you.

19

20 Okay I see, and then number three is the
21 makeup of FSB. So, I was kind of spanning two points on.
22 But if we've -- if we're done with number two, I'll
23 defer to the Council for comments on the makeup of the
24 Subsistence Board, which is kind of like the final action
25 recommendations that all funnel to them from the RACs,
26 if I'm not mistaken. Go ahead.

27

28 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. I have a question
29 now, will this be handed out at the end of the day as a
30 hard copy to the members? Council members?

31

32 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sorry. Yes,
35 ma'am.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: This is Gisela Chapa for the
38 record. I think the reason why we're putting this
39 information up on the screen is so that you can kind of
40 see the main thoughts that would be captured in the
41 final comments submitted in this review process.
42 Throughout the meeting, I'm also taking notes and at
43 some point before the deadline is due, either myself or
44 Leigh or both of us, we're going to develop the formal
45 comments, and we're going to send it to the Council
46 Chair for review and approval before actually submitting
47 the comments. But we only have one day for our meeting.
48 And I think it'd be really hard to try to generate a
49 letter for the Council to see all of the discussion
50 points on the review.

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MR. NUKWAK: Okay. (In Native). Quyana.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you for that. I think it helps get reminded. So, again number three, are there any comments more about the makeup of the official -- the Board? And that's like Frank Woods from Bristol Bay and Charlie Brower from Barrow, I believe. And I forget the other person, but maybe Southeast were added, frankly. And could you remind me who was at Southeast? That was added?

MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There were -- over the course of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, there have been two expansions of the Board. The first one came out of the 2010 Secretarial Review of the program, and they expanded the Board by two public members. And then there is the Chair who is a public member. And then last year, well, no, the beginning of 2025, I think it was, very beginning. The regulations changed and the Board expanded further to include three tribally nominated Board members. And so, the Board went from eight Board members, made up of five agency board members, two public members, and the public member Chair to now eleven, because we added three more Board members. And so those additional members, the first two -- oh, the first three were the Chair, Rhonda Pitka, and Charles Brower. The next three as of a year ago include Frank Woods from Bristol Bay, Benjamin Payenna from Nome, and Ray Oney from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah. I thought the Chair did a great job this summer. I was really impressed. But yeah, I like it. The one thing I'm going to have to be honest about -- there's a lot of non-tribal subsistence users in rural Alaska, too, and I really want to be aware that we are concerned about disenfranchisement. And hopefully we have a balance there because we have so many public members there anyway. But I just want to add I would like to see that note recorded, but I think they're making great selections right now. And they all contributed well at that meeting. So, with that, I'll kind of open it up to the other Council members.

MR. WILSON: Hey, Dan, Richard here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. Go ahead.

1

2 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just a comment before
3 I get moving here. You know, Donald Mike, you know,
4 pointed out some pretty important information there
5 about the makeup of the Board, you know, and what the
6 support group behind them should look like. And I would
7 really emphasize that because somebody, you know, like
8 you mentioned, you know, it's just you sit on a board
9 and there's so many different things that you have to
10 be concerned about and represent, that if you had a good
11 team behind you, it really, you know, it does a lot
12 better than standing alone. So, that's my comment for
13 now.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
16 you, Richard. Yeah. Donald had excellent comments and I
17 was wanting to include that and almost forgot. So, thank
18 you so much. That is a critical part because yeah, what
19 would I do without Leigh or back in the days of Donald
20 Mike and Gisela today? So, any other comments, folks?

21

22 MR. WILSON: With any luck, I'll see you
23 before the end of the day.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. We'll
26 be hoping you have a swift and safe travels. Thank you.
27 We have John or Robert, any comments?

28

29 MR. CHRISTENSEN: No comments.

30

31 MR. HILL: No comment, Dan.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
34 you, guys. But yeah, Robert, don't hold back. You know
35 this country and I've really valued your comments. And
36 as a -- from being a pilot and being able to fly around
37 and look a lot more. So don't be shy. So, thank you. I
38 think with that then we can move to number four, federal
39 regulations and state regulations for duplication and
40 inconsistency. Go ahead if you have comments.

41

42 MR. WILSON: Hey, Dan, Richard here. One
43 more thought on that before I get moving again is, you
44 know, it's, you know, those agency reports or, you know,
45 the biologists and these departments are very
46 (indiscernible) to the Council there.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.
49 They are very helpful and essential. And on Togiak always
50 had a really top-level report, and I see the other

1 refuges are kind of adopted their format, and sometimes
2 Park Service comes in. Anybody else?

3

4 (No response)

5

6 Well, seeing none again, I got opinion
7 on everything. I've liked it. When I was working for the
8 state, I was committed to attending every RAC meeting I
9 could. Sometimes I was supposed to be in Igiugig and
10 Nunapitchuk or somewhere at the same time. That got
11 tough. But it's been a variable participation by the
12 state at times. Sometimes it seems to be up to the
13 individual person. It was a policy within Sport Fish
14 that I would be to as many of those as I could be, and
15 I would kind of like to see that more. I've been, you
16 know, John Landsiedel and Amy have been really good to
17 attend as much as they can. I think Evelyn's not
18 available, or she might be. So, yeah, staff reports from
19 the state agencies and their perspective on things is
20 helpful.

21

22 I -- one of my personal commitments and
23 going back to number four was that as a state employee,
24 I hated to see an individual stand on a riverbank going,
25 do I fish under federal rules or state rules? And I did
26 not want to see a Kenneth or Walter or even me standing
27 there and go, what applies? So, I've personally, and you
28 might have seen this in some of my actions over my
29 history, is trying to make them side by side as much as
30 possible because it's just -- you're not serving anybody
31 if we have bureaucracy squabbling. Bureaucracies are
32 there to serve the people, not to have little turf
33 battles with an audience or without. So, I'm proud of
34 this Council often as much as possible, trying to keep
35 things coherent and coordinated, but I've also been in
36 a few situations where I realized we just can't do it.
37 Or I think one time when we voted to extend jurisdiction,
38 when it didn't seem the state was adequate about
39 concerning depleted salmon runs in Bristol Bay, it's
40 time for the, you know, the federal ascendancy. So, as
41 much as possible, I'd like to see them consistent. And
42 I think we do a fairly good job, but I don't know how
43 other RACs do or this federal overall. So again, enough
44 of my chatter. Anybody else? Walter, go ahead.

45

46 MR. KANULIE: You know, you know that
47 they used -- I don't know if they still do, but they
48 used to do that stamp for ducks or duck stamps or
49 whatever they were. You have to buy them from the post
50 office. But you know, I -- I'm -- I sit in on that AC

1 Board back home and some -- we have like the state and
2 the feds, the federal, and sometimes there will like,
3 just like up their regulations or inconsistent, but
4 sometimes I like the federal side because we would be
5 allowed to hunt, you know, where the state don't allow
6 us, so. So, it's -- sometimes I like the federal
7 regulations.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, yeah. I
10 think I've been there myself once. Right, Kenneth.

11
12 MR. NUKWAK: I have a question for you,
13 through the Chair, on the regulation complexity. Don't
14 want to see users struggling with regulation complexity.
15 Are you referring to the translated words, or is that
16 more than that?

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do we? We
19 generally don't even respect that need much at all. More,
20 I was thinking -- and I remember Frank Woods came to an
21 AC meeting, and he'd been zipping around in his snow-go
22 between Dillingham and Igiugig just that morning. I
23 don't know how he did it, but he was mapping out federal
24 land separate from state lands to figure out where they
25 could, as Walter said, had more beneficial hunting
26 opportunities. And that was a heck of a lot of work on
27 his part. I still can't believe how much ground he
28 covered in half a day. But it's more that kind of thing.
29 Can I use a rod and reel for subsistence or not? Can I
30 take this species of fish or animal today or not? And
31 there were times where the -- there's still a few places
32 that regulations just flat butt heads. And then if you
33 have one or the other, enforcement officers, like you
34 say, flying around, up there in the sky, decide that
35 you're in violation, you're going, I just want to catch
36 a moose. I just want to catch a char or whatever. I
37 don't want to see people, you know, caught in these
38 bureaucratic quandaries when you're out there on your
39 snow-go and it's snowing and it's cold and it's like,
40 are you 200 yards wrong side. And there was a squabble
41 up around Mount McKinley in Denali Park, with a guy who
42 shot a moose that he ran into the boundary, or even the
43 Park Service didn't know where the boundary was, and it
44 was kind of ugly for him. That's the kind of thing I
45 don't like to see. Go ahead, Kenneth.

46
47 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, that's what happened
48 for a community member in Manokotak. He got cited when
49 he was about a quarter mile to a mile out of -- outside
50 of the 17A line, I think. And that was not too long ago,

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1 probably about five years ago or so.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go
4 ahead. Yeah, Gisela.

5

6 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may, just to
7 follow up with Mr. Nukwak comment earlier. You mentioned
8 that language is a real barrier for some non-English
9 speakers, and I wondered if you also wanted to include
10 that. Perhaps it doesn't fall within number four.
11 Perhaps it falls within item eight, which is like extra
12 comments or extra things for the Secretaries to be aware
13 of. That perhaps language is a barrier, that we're not
14 necessarily reaching out to all of subsistence users
15 that might not speak English and that a way to engage
16 them is to present the information in a language that
17 they understand. Is that what you were trying to get to?
18

19

20 MR. NUKWAK: A majority do speak English,
21 except the vocabulary, just the vocabulary I'm referring
22 to. There's maybe five or so that probably don't speaking
23 English that proficient.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, that
26 is a good point. I think in some cases, the concepts in
27 modern resource management are really hard to translate
28 into Yup'ik from my very rudimentary understanding. So,
29 but that's why I appreciate the federal system often
30 provides translators. I've sat in long, long meetings,
31 mostly Yup'ik. And that's where my favorite word, (In
32 Native) came from. So, anything else?

33

34 MR. NUKWAK: I know this is a long shot,
35 but Natives out there in small villages, they do read
36 in Yup'ik alphabet and pronunciations. If this was
37 translated, probably quite a few -- more than quite a
38 few people would be reading in Yup'ik and understanding
39 what they're reading, and probably start asking
40 questions like, is this really real? Is this what we're
41 supposed to do? Is this what we're not supposed to do?

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's
44 interesting. I'm glad we're going to capture that here.
45 Anything else on number four?

46

47 MR. KANULIE: Mr. Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.
50 Walter.

1 MR. KANULIE: You know, the concept of
2 thinking. I mean, it's, I mean, everybody knows it, that
3 sometimes we think a different way, you know. And then
4 when it conflicts with the fed and state, and people get
5 angry, you know. But when you get educated and you start
6 understanding this is for everybody, you know, and then
7 it's -- I think it's easier.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Very, very
10 true, Walter. I've experienced that with my wife now and
11 then. So, yeah. Listen, but we need to move on because
12 we do have another presentation at 1:00. If we don't
13 have any more, can we move to the regulation governing
14 special actions?

15
16 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Members of the Council. So, the topic number five is
18 considering the regulations governing special actions.
19 And special actions are those short term regulatory
20 actions based on an emergency of either conservation
21 concerns or the subsistence uses of the region are --
22 let's see. Not, it's not, not so much that they're not
23 being met, but concern for the subsistence uses.
24 Sometimes it can be an emergency situation, like
25 weather. For example, one time you had a special action
26 extending the season on the Nushagak Peninsula because
27 no one had been able to travel, and that was considered
28 a very short-term fix. And so, we call those special
29 actions. Do you have any comments on how that works?
30 And, is there -- are there any changes you would propose?

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Council
33 members.

34
35 MR. KANULIE: You know, Fish and Game,
36 they allow us to -- they extend moose season sometimes
37 because people can't go anywhere, you know, so. I like
38 that.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.

41
42 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Walter's got a good
43 point there on the extensions for the hunt because
44 sometimes the elements vary, and we realize that
45 sometimes we have a good snow conditions and sometimes
46 we don't have no trail at all. And by the time the season
47 is over, the snow falls and the season is out -- closed.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
50 Excellent points. John or Robert?

1

2

MR. HILL: Yeah, if I can. This is Rob. You know, I can kind of reiterate that a little bit. A lot of our hunting is based on our conditions and, you know, the winters and the springs and stuff are not consistent, maybe as they used to be. I wish there could be maybe something, you know -- there's things like the Potlatch moose and the educational moose permits and stuff like that that are available to communities. A lot of our moose resource in particular is on state lands around us. But I kind of wish there could be a system in place that maybe there was a permit available or a number of permits available to the communities that could be taken as travel permits or as hunting conditions permit. I just kind of feel like a system like that would be pretty -- would make a lot more sense in a subsistence lifestyle community. That's it. My comment.

18

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's very interesting, Robert. I'm glad we got that one down. Does John have anything?

23

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MR. CHRISTENSEN: If they plan on extending hunts for moose in the wintertime, I'd like to be not forgotten about down this way. Some people would like to get a winter moose, but it is -- the weather this year was, like, really bad and cold. So, nobody's been -- went look for a winter moose. So, I'd like them not to forget about us.

30

31

32

MR. WILSON: Hey, Dan. Richard here. Can you still hear me?

33

34

35

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

36

37

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MR. WILSON: Yeah, just a thought here. I probably know the answer already, but on the Katmai National Park here.....

40

41

42

(Distortion)

43

44

45

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, man, he's probably on his phone in the car. I think we lost you, Richard. Robbin.

46

47

48

49

50

MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for further clarification. Our comments are on special action regulations and the special action really is a tool in use by this program for when emergency situations

1 come up. Either a population is crashed or, you know,
2 subsistence users need more time or, you know, something
3 needs to be shut down because too many have been
4 harvested. It allows a very quick response. And so, we're
5 asking about some special actions in general, not unique
6 to your region, but do you find this tool to be useful?
7 I'm hearing that you are. You guys are coming up with
8 even more suggestions as we sit here. But really, we're
9 talking about special actions as a tool, a regulatory
10 tool. Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
13 Robbin. Go ahead, Kenneth.

14
15 MR. NUKWAK: And then how often does the
16 special action request is used within a community or
17 within a unit? I don't know if I'm asking that the way
18 I wanted to. I don't know if you understand what I'm
19 trying to ask or not.

20
21 MS. LA VINE: Through the Chair. Mr.
22 Nukwak, let me try. So, we have permanent regulations,
23 right. And you all are part of proposing changes to the
24 existing regulations or providing recommendations on
25 proposals to change regulations. And then it's all in
26 our handy-dandy, in that regulations book until it gets
27 changed again, which takes a long time. Special actions
28 are meant to take very quick short-term actions. These
29 regulations apply for one season, maybe two at the most,
30 and then they're done. And you asked how often are they
31 used? I can't say specifically. What I will note is that
32 over the course of my time in the Federal Subsistence
33 Management Program over ten years, they are being used
34 more and more each year, at the same time that we are
35 doing our normal regulatory cycles. So they are becoming
36 more frequently submitted. Thank you.

37
38 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
41 you, Robbin. And Lisa, go ahead. I'm really watching
42 time. I'm kind of hoping we can get through it all before
43 we do a kind of a snack break here but go ahead.

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
46 record, and I just -- if you guys want to include the
47 comments about allowing a system to, you know,
48 distribute permits in the community to allow people, you
49 know, the options to hunt when conditions are
50 appropriate, I mean, you certainly can, but that is

1 already possible. You know, you just have to work, you
2 know, through the proposal process to establish a
3 community hunt. And so, I'm not sure if that really gets
4 to the special action regulations. It's more you guys
5 just need to work on developing a proposal when the time
6 is right to, you know, specify the criteria you want in
7 that community hunt and the season dates and permit
8 numbers and things like that. So, I just wanted to let
9 you know that's already possible, you know. But you can
10 -- it's up to you if you want to include that. Thanks.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
13 you, Lisa. And Ken, mind if I jump in a little bit and
14 then I'll get you. I think special action in some form,
15 shape, whatever, is absolutely mandatory. As a former
16 manager, also as a current user, it's wonderful to have
17 some flexibility. The feds in the old days would set
18 stuff down in July, and that's the way it had to be. And
19 this is like commercial fishing and other things. And
20 it's something that really chafed. I think often -- I
21 don't know all the details now, I know that some of the
22 emergency requests that go to the state have rules that
23 frustrate, especially New Stuyahok. They've got to be
24 certain conditions to meet to get the EO, and a lot of
25 times they just can't meet them. I haven't encountered
26 that or I'm not aware of encountering that with the
27 federal system. Overall, I've been pretty pleased to see
28 that they have flexibility. That's not just whatever's
29 in the book is in the use of kind of, wait till next
30 year. So that's what I can think of. It's just absolute
31 mandatory. As far as the actual details of how it's
32 done, I cannot think of a major difficulty right now.
33 And certainly, the managers at Togiak Refuge have been
34 pretty, pretty accommodating, but -- and that's my
35 peace. And, Kenneth, go ahead.

36
37 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I'll hold off on my
38 question.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, go
41 ahead. I'm kind of hoping to wrap that up. If you have
42 anything, go ahead.

43
44 MR. NUKWAK: I'm hungry.

45
46 (Shared laughter)

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Speaking of
49 subsistence, can we -- I think we have -- excuse me, we
50 have one more here that I'm not sure we need to get real

1 deep into because it has moderate impacts on us. And
2 that's number four or number seven, I'm sorry. Board
3 procedures for non-rural. I know that's real stressful
4 for Kodiak, Ketchikan, Bethel, and there was a time where
5 we thought the criteria might -- we had comments -- it
6 was really worried, even to Dillingham, depending on how
7 you draw circles around the populations. But my
8 impression is that that's much less a worry now. But
9 again, I'll defer to the Council for their comments
10 first.

11
12 MR. KANULIE: Is this on a special action
13 thing?

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No. Number
16 seven, board procedures for non-rural that would --
17 because if you get declared non-rural like Anchorage all
18 of a sudden, you don't have -- get to go have near as
19 much fun, a lot more restrictions. Okay.

20
21 MR. KANULIE: We'll leave that to the
22 state.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
25 Kenneth?

26
27 MR. NUKWAK: On this Board procedures for
28 non-rural determinations, are you referring to the
29 difference between urban Native from a rural Native?

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I might look
32 to Robbin, but I believe yeah. Depends on where you
33 live. So go ahead, Robbin.

34
35 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. Through the
36 Chair. The Board procedures for non-rural determinations
37 help the Board identify who is eligible to participate
38 in the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and
39 eligibility includes, are you a rural resident? And do
40 you have Customary and Traditional uses of these
41 resources? So, in this particular case it's defining
42 what is rural, right. And so for your region, the Bristol
43 Bay region, actually, there are no communities right now
44 that are defined as non-rural. They're all rural
45 communities. In other regions like Southcentral and
46 Eastern Interior and Southeast, there are communities
47 that are very large, have all sorts of other different
48 kinds of characteristics that people say, yeah, they're
49 not rural. They do not meet the criteria for
50 participation in the Federal Subsistence Management

1 Program. So, this is about defining which communities
2 are rural and which communities are non-rural. In your
3 region, again there are no non-rural communities, and
4 it is more of a stressor for other regions. Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6
7 MR. NUKWAK: I think I need to -- and I
8 don't want to experience it. I need to experience it to
9 get your answer, and then I don't want to experience it.
10 That's where I'm at right now. But to be honest, I think
11 I'd rather just have communities that are out there, me
12 being the one hunting and subsisting off the land, I
13 think I'd rather keep it that way without anybody else
14 coming in. Shooting what I'm about to shoot if he's
15 standing right next to my motor.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
18 Kenneth. Guess why I live in Dillingham instead of
19 Anchorage? Walter or Robert or John? Walter, go ahead.

20
21 MR. KANULIE: You know, we would rather
22 not be regulated. Being out there, rural, and -- but you
23 know, for our families that live here, we bring them
24 food, you know, we sometimes send them food. So, yeah.
25 And then they come to the villages and -- so, and then
26 they hunt. So, I mean, it's like, are you going to
27 regulate people that live here? I mean, they're -- and
28 then what being non-rural?

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
31 Robbin.

32
33 MS. LA VINE: Through the Chair. The --
34 it's -- you know that you have two different subsistence
35 regulations under the state. You know, there are state
36 regulations on -- for state lands and under the Federal
37 Subsistence Program, there are federal regulations for
38 federal public lands. Both have a subsistence priority,
39 a subsistence use priority. And those activities happen
40 outside rural areas. They cannot happen like within
41 Anchorage or Fairbanks or Juneau. They take place in
42 rural locations, and we just have a procedure for making
43 sure we confirm, yeah, these folks over here, they're
44 rural, you know, people in Togiak. Manokotak. Yes,
45 they're rural. There's no concern unless somebody
46 forwards a proposal to change regulations and say, yeah,
47 I think Dillingham is too big. And I think the Board
48 should consider Dillingham to be a non-rural community.
49 Or like as happened in southeast. Ketchikan. They said
50 we think Ketchikan has rural characteristics. We think

1 the Board should recognize Ketchikan as a rural
2 community. And they went through a multi-year process
3 and that status was changed. Again, for your region,
4 there's not a lot of changes in the characteristics of
5 your entire rural region, and there's likely no need for
6 the Board to consider rural and non-rural communities,
7 at least not now. Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
10 Go ahead, Walter.

11
12 MR. KANULIE: Now that I understand what
13 you're talking about, I don't like it. You know from
14 Anchorage to Ketchikan or Dillingham, I mean, I suppose
15 that they can regulate hunting around here, you know,
16 but even though they're from here, I think they still
17 have the ability to hunt something because I lived here.
18 I lived in Anchorage and we used to go out to the Cook
19 Inlet and hunt, got to Seward and Homer. So, I mean, if
20 that makes us not able to hunt, then.....

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,
23 Robbin.

24
25 MS. LA VINE: Yeah. If there's any of my
26 colleagues that can help clarify, but what you're
27 talking about is that you as a resident of Togiak now,
28 when you're in Togiak you can hunt in your region under
29 federal subsistence regulations. When you move and
30 relocate to Anchorage and you become a permanent urban
31 resident, you can't hunt under federal subsistence
32 regulations, but you can hunt under state regulations
33 anywhere in the state that you can participate in, that
34 you're allowed to, right. And so, the Federal
35 Subsistence Management Program Title VIII of ANILCA,
36 prioritizes subsistence uses, and they say by users who
37 are rural residents of Alaska, whereas the state
38 prioritizes subsistence uses by all state residents. All
39 Alaskan residents on state lands, right. So, it's the
40 difference between the federal and the state management
41 system, and we need a process to help us recognize who's
42 rural and who's non-rural. And we -- and when you make
43 a permanent move to Anchorage, then you are no longer
44 rural resident. When I make a permanent move to
45 Dillingham, I become a rural resident, even though I've
46 spent most of my life here. If I am now living with my
47 family in Dillingham and Dillingham is a rural
48 community, I can harvest under federal regulations as a
49 resident of Dillingham. Thank you.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And we
2 have somebody waiting to talk to us at 1:00 here and
3 it's past one. Go ahead, Lisa, and then we'll see what
4 we're going.....

5
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I was just going
9 to suggest, in the interest of time, that the Council
10 just leaves it as you guys don't have experience with
11 this process because the entire Bristol Bay region is
12 rural. And I mean, that's what other Councils like the
13 North Slope comments were that, you know, you just
14 haven't, you know, the entire region's rural. So, you
15 don't really have any experience with the procedure.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
18 Council. Kenneth's looking expectantly. Go ahead.

19
20 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Just to make it short,
21 I wouldn't want to nullify ANILCA, the way it's written.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
24 Kenneth. The other thing we can do is just kind of stop
25 discussion here and kind of wrap it up right after this
26 presentation. I think we're probably need, like, a few
27 minutes to run to the head here. So, let's leave it at
28 that for the moment. I'm sorry for the delays we're
29 imposing on our, I guess, North Pacific Council. Thank
30 you.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (On record)

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, folks
37 if we can regroup here. I'm not sure where Walter is.
38 Richard was running off the airplane. And John and
39 Robert, I believe, are online for their explanation. I
40 don't know if they can see this, but we got a -- the
41 North Pacific Council presentation up on the screen. So
42 when you're ready to go, please proceed.

43
44 MS. HAAPALA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
45 the record, and for those who don't know me, my name is
46 Kate Haapala, and I work on staff for the North Pacific
47 Fishery Management Council, and I'm wondering if it's
48 okay for us to just introduce ourselves who are at the
49 table here and then I can get going.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, yes.
2 Please do.

3
4 MS. HAAPALA: Okay. I can just pass this
5 one over to Sarah, since it's hot.

6
7 MS. MARRINAN: Hi. Good afternoon. I'm
8 Sarah Marrinan. I'm also a Council Staff and Analyst for
9 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, based out
10 of here in Anchorage.

11
12 MS. BAKER: Good afternoon. I'm Rachel
13 Baker, and I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and
14 Game, and I serve as a Commissioner Vincent-Lange's
15 Designee on the North Pacific Fishery Management
16 Council. And so at ADF&G, I focus on federal state
17 fisheries coordination. And I'm based in Juneau.

18
19 MR. MOLLER: And good afternoon. My name
20 is John Moller. I'm a sitting Council member from Juneau,
21 and I'm a commercial fisherman, a subsistence fisherman.
22 And I appreciate the invite here this afternoon.

23
24 MS. HAAPALA: Okay. Thank you. So yes,
25 we are here to talk with the RAC about the Council's
26 ongoing Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Action, and --
27 next slide, please. Okay. So this is just a short
28 introduction to our time with you today. So the North
29 Pacific Fishery Management Council, and I'll hereafter
30 refer to that as the Council, I know that gets confusing
31 sometimes with the RACs, but that's what I mean when I'm
32 saying it -- is considering new management measures for
33 chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and in particular
34 the pollock fishery, which I'll speak to later. And the
35 primary focus of that action is to reduce the western
36 Alaska component of bycatch. You have two staff members
37 and two Council members who are here with you today, and
38 the purpose of our time is to provide information about
39 this action and to share information about bycatch
40 issues more broadly and then answer any questions that
41 the RAC may have. And then also, of course, to build
42 relationships and engage in a discussion. And then, as
43 I'll talk about in a little bit, the Council is going
44 to make a final decision on a recommendation to the
45 Secretary of Commerce for a preferred alternative for
46 this action and the substance of that alternative. So
47 there's upcoming public comment opportunities. If the
48 RAC wishes to write a letter to the Council, or to the
49 National Marine Fisheries Service as the agency
50 considers the Council's recommendation. So hopefully our

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1 time with you today can help inform that letter, if you
2 so choose to write one. And then I would just note that
3 we don't have a quorum of Council members here today.
4 There's just John and Rachel. So please note this is not
5 a meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management
6 Council, so if members of the public have comments to
7 inform the RAC, you know, we would expect that after
8 this but not providing comments to the North Pacific
9 Fishery Management Council. Next slide.

10
11 Okay. And then this is just to make the
12 RAC aware that the Council has undergone some recent
13 efforts for outreach and engagement on this issue, and
14 this is just a short summary overview. The Council spent
15 a lot of time earlier in 2025 throughout the spring
16 attending other RAC meetings and providing similar
17 information to what we have for you today. We're just
18 at a slightly different place in our process, but
19 otherwise you can see a little bit of what we have been
20 up to. And then I would just note, if you are interested
21 in the letters or comments that have been provided to
22 the Council or to the agency on this issue, I can make
23 those links available to Gisela if you'd like. And then
24 most recently, and I'll speak to it, but the Eastern
25 Interior RAC and the Western Interior RAC did provide a
26 comment letter on this. The Draft Environmental Impact
27 Statement, the Chum Salmon Bycatch Analysis, that was
28 published by the National Marine Fisheries Service. So
29 that's also available for you as a reference point, if
30 you would like. Next slide.

31
32 So just briefly, and to provide a short
33 bit of overview of the Council and its purpose. The
34 North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the
35 National Marine Fisheries Service, or NMFS, manage U.S.
36 fisheries and federal waters off of the coast of Alaska.
37 The Council itself is not a federal agency, but rather
38 the Council makes management recommendations to NMFS and
39 the Secretary of Commerce, and then it is NMFS
40 responsibility to write, implement and enforce those
41 regulations. Next slide, please. And the Council's
42 management authority covers four different regions
43 across the state, the Arctic, the Bering Sea, the
44 Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska. And while the
45 Arctic region falls under the Council's jurisdiction and
46 authority, there are no commercial fisheries that are
47 prosecuted in U.S. federal waters in that area. But
48 within the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and Gulf of
49 Alaska, the Council primarily manages groundfish, which
50 includes species like Pacific cod, pollock, flatfish,

1 sablefish, and rockfish, and it also includes the
2 management of the bycatch that occurs in these
3 groundfish fisheries, which is what we're focused on
4 today. Next slide.

5
6 So the proposed management measures to
7 reduce western Alaska Chum Salmon bycatch in the -- are
8 focused on the Bering Sea pollock fishery, and that's
9 because this is the primary groundfish fishery that
10 encounters chum salmon and composes over 99% of the
11 bycatch. So the figure that's on this slide here helps
12 to illustrate this. Although it does look like it's very
13 hard to see the red, so it could just be an error on my
14 part, or the way that we're looking at it because --
15 printouts. Okay. Sorry about that, but the Annual Chum
16 Salmon Bycatch in Other BSAI Groundfish Fisheries, if
17 you have a printed out version, should show a small red
18 bar that is stacked on top, representing less than 1%
19 of the annual bycatch. The Annual Chum Salmon Bycatch
20 in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery is shown in the larger
21 black bar. If you have that slide as a reference for
22 you. So, next slide, please.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 Okay. So a Purpose and Needs Statement
27 is required by federal law, and it states the underlying
28 reason that a proposed action is being considered as
29 well as the need for it. So the main goal, as I've
30 mentioned before, is to minimize chum salmon bycatch
31 from current levels, with a particular emphasis on
32 reducing Western Alaska chum salmon bycatch to the
33 extent practicable. And since 2020, Western Alaska chum
34 salmon have seen severe declines with negative impacts
35 to directed fisheries, communities and tribes, and so
36 this action has -- is being considered in light of these
37 recent and ongoing declines. Next slide, please. So,
38 while the goal of this action that the Council is
39 considering is to minimize Western Alaska chum salmon
40 bycatch, not all of the Chum Salmon that are taken in
41 the Pollock Fishery originate from Western Alaska river
42 systems, nor does that component of bycatch contribute
43 the majority. So this slide is showing you the six
44 different regional groupings that the chum salmon caught
45 in the pollock fishery originate from, and then the
46 circles within these figures represent individual
47 populations. So Western Alaska chum salmon what we're
48 referring to is shown in panel C with the yellow and the
49 blue circles. Yes. Thank you. So the yellow circles

1 represent Coastal Western Alaska chum salmon, and the
2 blue circles represent Upper-Middle Yukon fish.

3
4 Oh, okay. Thank you. And then, next
5 slide. Okay. And then this is a snapshot of our most
6 recent year that we have data available for. So again,
7 we're looking here at Western Alaska chum salmon, and
8 since 2011 this component of the bycatch has been about
9 19% on average. So in other words, out of the chum salmon
10 that are taken in the pollock fishery, an average of 19%
11 are from Western Alaska river systems. But the genetic
12 composition of the bycatch is a little different each
13 year, and I think table 1 in your information sheet that
14 we had provided to you in September and should be
15 available on your E-agenda, has a table showing the most
16 recent five years, so you can get a sense of that
17 interannual variation. On the right hand side of the
18 slide, the pie chart is showing you the genetic
19 composition of just that single year, 2024. So in that
20 year, the Pollock Fishery caught 32,000, or
21 approximately 32,000 chum salmon as bycatch, and just
22 over 13% of those fish were from Western Alaska, which
23 is approximately 4200 chum salmon. Next slide.

24
25 This is just an overview of the action
26 and where the Council has been thus far. So while the
27 Council is coming in to making a final recommendation
28 at its February 2026 meeting, the origins of this action
29 extend back to 2021, and the Council has undergone
30 several different iterations of the analysis, modifying
31 those alternatives, and then taking and receiving input
32 from different advisory bodies as well as members of the
33 public. Next slide. Okay, so this is just a high-level
34 overview and snapshot of the five alternatives that are
35 being considered. And these are different ways to meet
36 the Purpose and Need Statement of this action, so in
37 that sense, the Purpose and Needs Statement is what's
38 driving what's being considered.

39
40 So the Council is required by law to
41 consider and include a no action alternative, and that
42 is alternative 1. So if alternative 1 was selected, it
43 would maintain the existing regulations for chum salmon
44 bycatch in the Bering Sea. Alternative 2 -- 2 through
45 5, excuse me, are all of the action alternatives which
46 are different ways to change those status quo
47 regulations, and I'll speak to each one of these
48 alternatives in more detail, but these are essentially
49 different caps and with different consequences. So
50 closing the Pollock Fishery early in the B season, or

1 time and area closures, as well as changes to incentive
2 programs, and all of the action alternatives are focused
3 on the B season Pollock Fishery, and that runs from June
4 10th to November 1st. Those are the regulatory dates.
5 And then the reason for that is -- it's when the Pollock
6 Fishery encounters over 99% of the chum salmon that are
7 taken, so. Next slide.

8
9 So if alternative 1 were to be selected,
10 the status quo regulations would be maintained. And this
11 is just meant to give you a high-level depiction of what
12 those regulations are. So on the top part of the slide,
13 on your top panel here, our different rolling hot spot
14 closure areas, so under status quo chum salmon bycatch
15 avoidance is managed under a rolling hot spot system.
16 And this is a dynamic or -- a series of dynamic area
17 closures where high encounters of chum salmon are
18 identified and then they are closed, typically for a
19 week in time, and the fishery is moved to other locations
20 and places. And then, in contrast to that more dynamic
21 and rolling weekly closure area that targets encounters
22 for that week, we have the chum salmon savings area, and
23 this is a fixed-time area closure in the Southeastern
24 portion of the Bering Sea as well. Next slide.

25
26 Okay. So then alternative 2 would
27 include an overall hard cap that would be in effect
28 during each pollock B season. So if this cap is met,
29 fishing must cease immediately. And all bycatch chum
30 salmon throughout the duration of the B season would
31 accrue to this cap. The current range of hard caps that
32 are being considered is one 100,000 to 550,000 chum
33 salmon. And then there are four different options being
34 considered to divide that cap among the different
35 fishing sectors, and those ways or approaches to
36 dividing the cap are based on bycatch history or the
37 sector's pollock allocation. So that's alternative 2 at
38 a really high level. Next slide.

39
40 Alternative 3 is similar to alternative
41 2 in that it includes a hard cap, but that hard cap
42 would only be in place in years of low chum salmon
43 returns, or low Western Alaska chum salmon abundance.
44 And in order to determine years of low abundance, there's
45 two different indices that are being considered, but
46 only one could be selected for use. Option 1 for an
47 index is the three-area index, and option 2 is the Yukon
48 area index. And these two indices, as I said, would be
49 the way that abundance is measured to determine whether
50 or not a hard cap would be in effect. Next slide, please.

1

2 Alternative 4 would add six different
3 provisions to the existing regulations for the Salmon
4 Bycatch Incentive Plan Agreements, or what we call the
5 IPAs. These incentive plans are legal contracts among
6 members of the pollock industry, and federal regulations
7 hold specific goals for salmon bycatch avoidance, that
8 the contracts must design measures in response to in
9 order to be compliant and in line with those regulations.
10 The incentive plans are reviewed and approved by NMFS,
11 and then each year, the Council also receives annual
12 reports on performance as an accountability measure. So,
13 these proposed changes would modify the regulations to
14 require the Incentive Plans use historical genetic data
15 more rigorously, evaluate catch and bycatch data to
16 inform closures more frequently, and to ensure that
17 encounters are not increasing without vessels responding
18 by moving, as well as closing larger areas under that
19 dynamic closure program that I had mentioned before.
20 Next slide, please.

21

22 Alternative 5 would implement an in-
23 season corridor during the B season Pollock Fishery. So
24 this is essentially a time and area closure for chum
25 salmon avoidance. Meeting a corridor bycatch cap is what
26 would trigger the closure, so this is different from
27 alternatives 2 and 3 that include a hard cap with the
28 potential to close the B season fishery early. This would
29 close a corridor, a certain area, to fishing for a window
30 of time. The corridors bycatch cap range is 50,000 to
31 350,000 chum salmon, and if the cap is met, the corridor
32 would close from that date through August 31st. So
33 there's a specific time window June 10th to August 31st
34 that we're looking at under this alternative; and
35 fishing may continue outside of the closed area during
36 this timeframe. Next slide, please.

37

38 So the Council is currently considering
39 three different options for an in-season corridor and
40 the actual area for the corridor is the same across all
41 three of the options being considered. On the left-hand
42 side of the slide here, this grouping of red squares
43 which represent groundfish stat areas, that is the
44 corridor. The way that the three options differ from
45 each other is the areas inside that would close. So,
46 under option 1, if the corridor bycatch cap was met, the
47 entirety of this red area would close, and fishing would
48 be allowed for impacted vessels to fish in these blue
49 stat areas, which represent open fishing grounds for the
50 Pollock Fishery. That doesn't mean that the fishery

1 extends all of those areas, but just the possibility is
2 what's being represented. Sub-option 1, would close
3 approximately 75% of the fishing area, and that's what's
4 being shown here for you in the middle portion of the
5 slide. So here the red stat areas that would close are
6 shown again and -- as well as the blue stat areas that
7 would remain open, and you can see that there are what
8 ends up being 11 stat areas, but there's a grouping of
9 four up here in the top left, and then another grouping
10 of seven down here by Unimak, that would remain open if
11 the cap was met. And then option 2 would close 50 to 75%
12 of the fishing area inside; and the areas that would
13 close here would be selected by the Incentive Plans as
14 well, and then reviewed and approved by NMFS, and federal
15 regulations would specify the different criteria that
16 would be required to be used in making those selections
17 prior to their review and approval. Next slide, please.

18
19 We know -- I know for sure that's a lot
20 of information, and the alternatives are very
21 complicated and, of course, I'm happy to answer
22 questions on that when it's appropriate, but this is
23 meant to be a resource. There's been a lot of interest
24 in whether or not alternatives can be combined and how
25 they might work together, so this is just meant to give
26 a snapshot in -- if there's different concepts or
27 alternatives that the RAC is interested in. So
28 alternative 1 cannot be combined or selected with any
29 of the other action alternatives you're choosing to --
30 the Council will be choosing to maintain the status quo.
31 But then there's a series of different combinations that
32 could be made between the modifications to the Incentive
33 Plan Agreements as well as the corridor bycatch cap and
34 the hard cap. Next slide. Okay.

35
36 I am nearing the end of the
37 presentation, so this is just going to walk through the
38 next steps, and then my final slide that I'll speak to
39 is going to provide some additional resources. So just
40 a reminder that the National Marine Fisheries Service
41 had published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
42 on September 12th in 2025 and opened a 120 day public
43 comment period on that Draft EIS. That period just closed
44 on January 5th. And that document, the Draft
45 Environmental Impact Statement, or the DEIS, is exactly
46 the same as what will be presented to the Council at
47 final action. So the Council's upcoming February meeting
48 is scheduled for the second to the 11th at the Egan
49 Center here in Anchorage. There's an option to provide
50 public testimony in advance to the Council, if you'd

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1 like to make written comments, any member of the public
2 may do so. And that deadline is January 30th, so it's
3 for every Council meeting the Friday before the meeting
4 would begin. And then any member of the public may also
5 provide oral comments to the Council during the meeting
6 as well. You don't need to be in person, if you would
7 like to do so, you can provide testimony to the Council
8 remotely through the Zoom platform that the meeting is
9 being held on. Next slide.

10
11 And then, as I just mentioned before,
12 here's a list of additional resources that are available
13 to you. The information sheet that we had prepared was
14 distributed to RAC Coordinators, and I believe it's
15 available again on your agenda. There's a link to the
16 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, if you'd like to
17 have access to that document there's the link here, the
18 third bullet that's down on this slide is going to give
19 you access to the docket where you can see and read
20 public comments to the agency. When that period closed
21 on January 5th, there were just over 600 comments that
22 were submitted during that window. And then the last two
23 are just links to the Council's web page to help you
24 learn more if you're interested and learn more about how
25 to navigate the process and what a Council meeting is
26 like, so. That's it.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
29 you. That's a lot of material. I mean, that's -- that
30 represents a ton of stuff. Is there anything else you
31 want to add to that? Any of the other members here, or
32 -- if that, I'll open it up to our Council members to -
33 - for questions. And what we comment here, we just get
34 more information, we're not -- whatever we mentioned to
35 them wouldn't be recorded as a public comment, but we
36 could format a memo or a letter or something and submit
37 that as a formal comment. But before I go there, you
38 said that the public comment for the February 2 to 11
39 meeting ended January. What was the date?

40
41 MS. HAAPALA: January 30th is for.....

42
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: 30th.

46
47 MS. HAAPALA:written comments to be
48 submitted in advance of the meeting for the Council, but
49 during the meeting itself, there's still an opportunity
50 for oral comments.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, so -- but if we were to compose some written comments, we need to get it completed and submitted by January 30. Okay. With that -- any of our members want to speak up?

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Thank you, through the Chair. I have a question on these Draft Environmental Impact Statements. How many percent [sic] of the ocean floor is being impacted after the study? You guys have the number, percentage all the way from Round Island, all the way down to the corridor, and even with the Port Moller area, where the chum salmon pass through. And the king salmon.

MS. HAAPALA: Sorry, just a quick clarifying question. Are you asking if we know the percentage of the chum salmon that have been caught inside that corridor window, or am I missing...?

MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

MS. HAAPALA: Yes. So, off the top of my head, I think it is just around 60% of the B season bycatch that has been taken inside of that corridor area. So the red grouping, and then I'm happy to reference my binder here and double check that, but I think we're in the ballpark.

MR. NUKWAK: Okay. Thanks for the answer. The salmon that pass through Port Moller, when they were killed off out in the ocean, it kills off -- it's like trying to protect the moose population. Except these are fish. They may carry millions of eggs within their sacks, but on a yearly basis, if they keep being bothered, I'll just use my native words. If they keep being bothered now then their declining will just keep on going on until they're not there anymore, and we're headed there. And then I'm just being honest. That's where the Port Moller area to -- on defense for the AYK area, I have cousins up there. I am from Bristol Bay. I am from Manokotak, and I live off the land, and I live off the Bering Sea. And I am starting to feel the struggle. My cousins up in the AYK area, they've already felt that. They're not allowed to fish, and it's been in the news, and I'm pretty sure you guys have read that, and it hurts. I never -- I haven't got a taste of real king salmon strips for about 5 to 6 years now, just from the Nushagak River. That's our snack time meal. We feed our children. It's like candy. Chum salmon the same thing.

1 Red salmon, chum salmon and king salmon, especially.

2

3 The time -- when I was a kid, the king
4 salmon were huge. When my dad would bring them up after
5 a commercial fishery, I used to see king salmon like
6 this and -- this way and that, so round, heavy. I don't
7 see them anymore. And I'm going to the Round Island --
8 years ago, I think, before I was born or after I was
9 born, 1960s, the state of Alaska made a sanctuary down
10 in the Round Island area, Walrus Island, and Natives
11 were not allowed to go down anymore. No. But there --
12 I've heard stories of my grandparents and my great-
13 grandparents going down there for walrus to -- for the
14 whole winter. And then the state comes in. After I did
15 some research, the state allows the trawlers to even go
16 a little bit beyond the Round Island area down to Cape
17 Constantine, and trawl out there. And the walrus, they
18 feed off (indiscernible) clams. And without clams not
19 being there -- we've seen the news channel, two news.
20 We've been seeing a ton. Sometimes in a regular basis,
21 sometimes they forget about it. They relocated to the
22 Port Heiden side, and that makes it a little bit further
23 for us to go hunting down that way. And the reason why
24 I bring up Port Heiden -- I know it's kind of easy to
25 go out there and hunt for walrus there, but out of
26 experience, what I've experienced, because I've been on
27 a boat that was stranded on the beach, a 32-foot boat.
28 Those were western waves, I call them the western waves
29 because when the wind picked up from the west, they were
30 about as high as this building right here, this room.
31 And it filled up the powerboat, the fishing boat and it
32 was of no more use. That's why we don't go out there for
33 walrus. If the wind picks up, then our hunters are dead
34 or are hiding from the wind somewhere. Which makes us
35 worried.

36

37 Being a Native, I'm just being honest,
38 I think it would be best if the trawlers were just
39 completely shut down until everything comes back. Just
40 completely shut down. Our Native people in the AYK area,
41 they're shut down. I'm just being honest. And I think
42 the walrus will probably come back to the Walrus Island
43 area. If there's any other solutions -- just be happy,
44 it's me that's talking. If you met with a bigger
45 population of Natives, I don't think it would be a
46 friendly environment. Otherwise just be thankful, I'm
47 not -- there's nobody behind me, so. But I know you guys
48 need work, but I wish we had more problems -- more
49 answers to the declining whatever the sea mammals we eat
50 for them to come back. And this Environmental Impact

1 Statement should have been done a long time ago. And
2 there needs to be more monitoring for the trawlers out
3 there. There have been reports before I found out that
4 there's a boundary section that they're supposed to be
5 inside, and they are about 10 to 15 miles outside of
6 their boundary line, and they are not being monitored.
7 Maybe 1 or 2, but that's still breaking the law.

8
9 There are longliners out there for
10 halibut that have seen them early in the morning. And
11 the only reason they'll be there is because they are not
12 being monitored. They need to be monitored, and if
13 they're doing that, they need to be cited. I was cited
14 for following the caribou because they thought the
15 caribou was going to have a heart attack and drop dead
16 when I was following behind it, behind the congregation
17 of a herd of caribou. And that was a \$500 citation.
18 Everybody needs citations. So, I hope we meet somewhere
19 on the good side, but I don't think I'm a very good
20 friend right now, although I may have a smile. I'm just
21 being honest. If I had a dry fish, I'd give you a dry
22 fish, and we can have dry fish in talk more, if you can
23 sit on my table and convince you make money out of maybe
24 fishing for red salmon instead. But pretty much the whole
25 communities within the smaller communities with
26 smartphones coming out, they understand how much impact
27 is being done out in the Bering Sea. And we realize
28 that, we know what's going on. We see the trawlers out
29 there when we go around Cape Constantine to Kulukuk
30 to gather clams, and my worry is if the clams are being
31 scooped up also, maybe the clams will probably also be
32 in the decline. And there's a lot of Native food out
33 there that we eat. We grew up on. And that's our college.
34 We've been educated into it. It's just within our blood.
35 It's a free meal to us. And what the Kipnuk --
36 Kwigillingok went through? Those are my wife's first
37 cousins, and her brothers and sisters. And they're going
38 to be really feeling it when they get back home. They're
39 going to be trying to gather food once they get to get
40 go home in a year or two, if they can. Right now most
41 of them are here as evacuees. And they are craving for
42 Native food. If the trawling industry and any other
43 industry wipes out that Bering Sea floors, we'll be in
44 the same shoes as they are. (In Native) this way of life
45 has been with us from time immemorial. (In Native). We've
46 been taught how to thrive and persevere through
47 gathering from the day we were born and is still -- were
48 are still teaching our children out in small
49 communities. And right now, my two sons, they're hunting
50 on their own. I taught them. I taught them if they catch

1 a seal or a walrus, how to tie a rope around their mouth
2 without losing it, but if you lose it, they have also
3 been taught to wait for one tide, or two tides for to
4 start floating in order to preserve that so the seal oil
5 can be rendered. But the salmon population is very, very
6 important. And we need it.

7
8 I'm feeling the domino effect for the
9 Nushagak Bristol Bay area. The king salmon decline is
10 there, but we are still being allowed to fish for red
11 salmon. I'm going to restate what I just said in the
12 beginning. I haven't got a king salmon. I have, actually,
13 I have not gone up to the Lewis Point area for about
14 over five years now. And listen to the reports from Fish
15 and Game and the escapements, year by year, the numbers
16 of the king salmon escapement is going down. It has not
17 gone up. If you look at the reports from Fish and Game,
18 you guys will understand what I'm saying. (In Native)
19 Quyana. Thank you for listening to me.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
22 Kenneth. Did you want to respond to Kenneth? Any of you?
23 So, go ahead.

24
25 MR. MOLLER: If it's appropriate, Mr.
26 Chairman.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: May as well,
29 yeah. And Robert and John, I haven't forgotten you, but
30 Mr. Moller's got some stuff here, so go ahead, please.

31
32
33 MR. MOLLER: Yeah. Forgive me if I
34 butcher your name Mr. Nukwak. I really appreciate your
35 comments overall. I just wanted to make a couple of --
36 couple of statements and -- just so in the event that
37 you were not aware. So our February North Pacific Council
38 meeting and one of the purposes of the presentation here
39 was to address the chum salmon bycatch issue that we
40 have in front of us in the February Council meeting. The
41 February Council meeting is a special meeting, and it's
42 primarily dedicated to that one issue of the chum salmon
43 bycatch. In fact, I think five of the six days we're
44 meeting is addressing the chum salmon bycatch, and
45 there's opportunity for the public to continue to --
46 their input and share their concerns and stuff in terms
47 of what they're seeing in their villages and whatnot to
48 other Council members at that time. But I do appreciate
49 that.

50

1 And one other thing I wanted to just
2 comment briefly on was, it was brought to my attention
3 at the last December Council meeting, the walrus
4 decline, and the situation on Round Island. And I was
5 grateful for the fact that some of your stakeholders
6 from Bristol Bay took the time to help educate me on the
7 historical perspective, and their view in terms of that,
8 and I believe the Council has asked the managing agency
9 in the federal side for more information on that. So
10 it's something the Council is actually -- is asked [sic]
11 for more information so we have a better understanding
12 of it. And so in the event that you weren't aware of
13 that, I just wanted to mention that. I thank you for
14 your comments.

15
16 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. One more thing that I
17 forgot to mention was the seal population. They have not
18 declined, except they have relocated, to my
19 understanding. Springtime I went out to Protection
20 Point, and it's not very far from the section that is
21 open for trawling from Cape Constantine to Walrus
22 Island, and they're usually there and they pop up one
23 after another during the herring run with herring eggs
24 all over their face, except this past spring they weren't
25 out there. And then there was a lady that came to
26 Manokotak from Port Heiden and made a report that there
27 was about thousands of seals on their side, right across
28 the Bering Sea, on the eastern side, I mean.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
31 Kenneth. John or -- well, first, thanks for making it
32 back, Walter. We're getting anxious about having a
33 quorum to be able to do business. And we just had a full
34 presentation of this pamphlet. Actually, there's quite
35 a bit more, I think, backup material behind it. It's a
36 ton of stuff to absorb, but maybe you can follow along
37 and if -- oh, thank you, Robbin -- kind of add to it as
38 we go. I was going to ask John or Robert if they cared
39 to comment on what's been put before us. Over.

40
41 MR. CHRISTENSEN: This is John. I don't
42 have a comment, but I think the lady that went to
43 Manokotak from Port Heiden was my wife. She was doing
44 seal and sea otter surveys, and her relatives are from
45 there, so she go up [sic] there and visit. Yeah. We do
46 have a lot of seal and sea otter here in the thousands,
47 so that's all I have.

48
49 MR. KANULIE: Hey, John.

50

00093

1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. KAULIE: Is that my niece,
4 Jacqueline?

5

6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yep.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I was
9 wondering that same thing. Jacqueline's everywhere, so
10 -- but it looks like Kenneth has another comment.

11

12 MR. NUKWAK: Question for John. This past
13 spring, has the number -- did you pay attention to the
14 seal population and the number going up on your side?
15 Right across from me, from Protection Point?

16

17 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I did not pay attention
18 to those. I do see a lot of seals when I'm out fishing.
19 And there's thousands and thousands in Pilot Point, I
20 know. And when we go to the beach here, we always see
21 thousands of them just swimming around, especially when
22 the hooligans in the candlefish come in.

23

24 MR. NUKWAK: And are you the one taking
25 pictures of the walrus that are dead on the beach of
26 Port Heiden? Or is that.....

27

28 (Simultaneous speech)

29

30 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, yeah.

31

32 MR. NUKWAK:your cousin?

33

34 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It's probably my
35 brother. He goes up to beach all the time and goes
36 looking for (indiscernible).

37

38 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. Maybe next time we'll
39 talk to each other face to face.

40

41 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
44 There -- Robert, do you have anything to put in?

45

46 MR. HILL: Just that, you know, I agree
47 that there or I think that there is something that needs
48 to be done with respect to putting some restrictions on
49 the bycatch that's being -- that's happening on the trawl
50 fleet. It's hard to -- hard to gauge what impact that's

1 having on the ecosystem as a whole, but I as far as just
2 -- if you're looking at the dog salmon in particular, I
3 think it probably needs to be reactionary, and if you're
4 going to be specific about trying to manage for that
5 bycatch, then it's something you need to be -- I think
6 option 4 or 5, I don't have it up on my screen here, but
7 looked like it might be appropriate in regard to
8 corridors where they're catching more bycatch. Yeah.
9 There we go. Yeah, I think -- yeah. Alternative 5, I
10 think, is what I was looking at. Seems like it might be
11 appropriate.
12

13 MR. KANULIE: You know, I was on the
14 (indiscernible), and when we had lots of hits back in
15 '88 in Togiak and (indiscernible) mentioned that they
16 had a closure down in that Area M back then, and that's
17 when we got all that fish. I think some of them even got
18 like 200 -- 200,000. So I mean, we don't want to stop
19 fishing down there, you know, but -- oh, the other thing
20 I want to ask a biologist is our king salmon, I mean, I
21 don't want to say prehistoric, but are they prone to,
22 like going extinct like, other than the other salmons
23 or...?
24

25 MS. HAAPALA: Thanks for the question.
26 My name is Kate, and I work on staff for the North
27 Pacific Fishery Management Council. Unfortunately, I
28 don't think the four of us are best suited to answer
29 whether or not king salmon are at risk of extinction in
30 a different -- well, yeah, just full stop there.
31

32 MR. KANULIE: There used to be lot of
33 king salmon. My older brother said he would fill up his
34 small boat with king salmon, probably like in the early
35 60s back home in Togiak, and I'm just wondering why they
36 declined. I mean, I know when the Japanese had their
37 longlines out there, before Ted Stevens did that
38 corridor out there, and maybe that was why they used to
39 close our bay lots of times.
40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Go
42 ahead, Kenneth, I know you meant to have something. Go
43 ahead.
44

45 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. Through the
46 Chair. One more question, on the biomass bycatch for the
47 herring is at 1% and there's a proposal from North
48 Pacific that it wound up at 2 to 3%. I'm opposed to
49 that. When the biomass comes into Togiak area, we just
50 don't go for clams. We go for both clams and if the kelp

1 herring -- herring eats on kelp, if they're there, we
2 collect them to store for the winter. And if the 2 or
3 3% is added on, over the years the numbers can -- and
4 it's true, the numbers can go down, and it will not be
5 helping us. That's -- there's a lot that we eat out
6 there as a Native food that if we cook the king salmon,
7 we eat the whole thing. And you'll know what you're
8 eating. If it's if it's a bone you feel, you just take
9 it out and throw out what can't -- what you can't
10 swallow. Nothing is wasted on a fish. Nothing. If you
11 eat a dry fish, and if you know what you're eating, you
12 also eat the skin, either raw -- as a dry fish, either
13 raw or you can put it over the fire and it takes only a
14 second to put it over the fire and then put it in your
15 mouth. And it's very healthy. I want you to try that
16 someday. Maybe right now, there's king salmon strips
17 over there. I'm not kidding. If you have a lighter, put
18 a lighter over it and try it out. Quyana.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
21 Kenneth. Yeah, I was looking at the skins over here when
22 -- I used to let my boys, when they were teething, hang
23 on to that skins [sic]. It's the best thing, but John's
24 indicated he has some comments, too.

25
26 MR. MOLLER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Nukwak for that comment
28 regarding the bycatch on herring where there's
29 discussions going on at the Council level to increase
30 that. And if you're not aware of this, there was plenty
31 of Council members that spoke on this issue as we were
32 having discussions around the table, and a fair amount
33 of -- including myself -- I mentioned to, you know, a
34 caveat about any adverse impacts to subsistence harvest.
35 Is the caveat that not only I spoke to publicly, but
36 other Council members as well when we were having a
37 discussion. I just want you to be aware of that.

38
39 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Take
42 my turn on a few things. Quick question on, you know, I
43 see -- I follow some of this stuff on the internet and
44 there's a raging anti-trawl pages or groups. I've been
45 told, and I forget, how you calculate the numbers of
46 chums because sometimes they're just sausage coming out
47 of those big cod ends and stuff, so you convert it to,
48 like, adult size chum? Is that how you do it, or maybe
49 you could explain?
50

1 MS. HAAPALA: Sure. Thanks. I think I can
2 take a go at this one. I certainly can't speak to what
3 a fish looks like when it comes out of the trawl net. I
4 haven't been on board a vessel while it's operating, but
5 the -- every vessel in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery
6 is monitored. So there's different operation types. Your
7 motherships and catcher processors carry two NMFS
8 certified observers on board at all times. They also
9 have cameras that are stationed on board the vessel and
10 are set at different locations to make sure that fish
11 are monitored when they are dumped out of the cod end
12 and they go into the factory and catcher vessels either
13 carry one observer, and then there are observers at the
14 shoreside processing plants where they deliver to, or
15 they have the same rigorous electronic monitoring on
16 board the vessel. And then our -- again, the bycatch is
17 monitored at the plant. So every salmon in the Pollock
18 Fishery is counted. I'm not an observer to be able to
19 then speak to how any different kind of estimation would
20 be made. If you're looking at fish that are damaged, but
21 in terms of monitoring, it is very comprehensive. But
22 if anyone had anything else to add, surely take it.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.
25 Keep it.

26
27 MR. NUKWAK: I had a question on
28 monitoring. Is that a person monitoring or a camera
29 monitoring? And also on the switches on the monitors.
30 I'm pretty sure they have switches because a person can
31 turn off the switch and, while monitoring from a satellite,
32 they can disappear.

33
34 MS. HAAPALA: Thanks for the question.
35 It's both. It's people and cameras that are responsible
36 for monitoring on these vessels, so -- if that answers
37 your first question, and then the switches, maybe you're
38 thinking of AIS, and that's different from cameras that
39 are set up specifically for monitoring bycatch and catch
40 and landings. But at least for that portion, because I
41 don't work for Office of Law Enforcement and AIS, I'm
42 not familiar with all of those rules. I mean, vessels
43 are required to carry it, and have it turned on, but if
44 an observer does witness any crew member violating any
45 of the regulations that is reported to the Fishery
46 Monitoring and Analysis Division, and then there is an
47 investigation into that, and fines can be cited on the
48 vessel or the captain and crew, and then every June, the
49 Council receives the Annual Observer Report, and
50 included within that are the Office of Law Enforcement

1 and Citations. So the Council, I guess, just bringing
2 it back to what we do and this -- the Council's process
3 is that there still is an opportunity and you guys are
4 made aware at the June meeting when those annual reports
5 come back too. Does that answer your question?
6

7 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Except one more, I have
8 thousands of questions. On the observer, are they on the
9 marine vessel?

10
11 MS. HAAPALA: Yes, sir.
12

13 MR. NUKWAK: For instance, if -- what
14 about if the whole boat, do they have policies to follow
15 if, like if for the people on the vessel, they decide
16 to do something illegal, is that also being monitored?
17 Or do they have logbooks, and if they -- all this stuff
18 I'm trying to talk on -- they're very hard to observe
19 unless you have honest people. I've just got to make
20 sure they're honest people that -- otherwise they get
21 into trouble and they're not -- they won't be the only
22 ones getting into trouble. They will also get you guys
23 in trouble also, because I'm pretty sure there's
24 thousands of policies you guys have to follow that are
25 unwritten.
26

27 MS. HAAPALA: I can't speak to whether
28 or not the fishermen are honest, but yes, there are
29 observers on board. There are rules and regulations that
30 must be followed. Observers have their own, I guess if
31 you can call them logbooks, but they own record keeping,
32 and they also have their own computer station and
33 software scaling station, and so that communication is
34 ongoing and daily. And they are required to report if
35 they see any sort of violation against the rules for
36 catch and handling. That is the case.
37

38 MS. BAKER: Through the Chair. Thank you,
39 Kate, for that, and Mr. Nukwak. Just to add on to that,
40 I just want to be clear, the observers, the humans that
41 are on the vessels are certified by the National Marine
42 Fisheries Service. So not -- the fishermen don't pick
43 who they want. It's certified. And so they're not federal
44 employees, but they do meet requirements established by
45 the National Marine Fisheries Service. And just again
46 to, I think to get to the Chair's earlier question and
47 your comments in terms of the actual numbers that come
48 out, what the observers are estimating when they see the
49 pollock halls come on board. There's observers on the
50 vessels who are doing their own estimation, but as Kate

1 also mentioned some portion of the fleet also has the
2 cameras that we talked about. And for those vessels, in
3 addition to the cameras, that's why we have observers,
4 human observers at the plants where they deliver. So
5 there's also counting down there if it's not actually
6 done on board the vessel. And the camera in that case
7 is to ensure that everything they caught comes into the
8 shore plant to be counted. So I think -- I just wanted
9 to add that on to just underscore what Kate said. We do
10 have different sectors of the Bering Sea Pollock
11 Fishery, and they are monitored in slightly different
12 ways, but it is either human observers or cameras or
13 both, depending on the fleet.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
16 for that, Rachel. I want to continue with a few my
17 comments, if you don't mind. I'll start off with not
18 long after I got on the -- this RAC, this was a huge
19 issue and we had a meeting like this time of year in
20 Anchorage, which was unusual because we like to keep
21 them in the region so local people can participate. So
22 we had it in there at the, I don't know what it's called
23 now, what I call the Westward Hotel downtown, and right
24 next door to us, the North Pacific Council was meeting.
25 And we also were coordinating with several of the other
26 RACs, I believe, on the coast. And we were upset. And I
27 look at this graphic here on -- and no page numbers. Oh!
28 I hate it to not have [sic] page numbers. The one that
29 has the current salmon bycatch action at the bottom. And
30 I believe it was right around 2007, 2008, we made --
31 this Council in coordination with other ones, went and
32 publicly testified as individuals at the Council, like
33 we're right next door and drove for a really hard cap,
34 a cap that the trawlers did not want and some of the CDQ
35 groups also did not want, even if there are people saying
36 that -- this is something that still baffles me a little.
37 And then you see from 2007 on to '11/'13. we had a pretty
38 reduced bycatch, and I like to see that. I felt we'd
39 been effective or combined with other folks. And then I
40 start hearing, kind of slowly building uproar. Seemed
41 like it came out of Homer, partly, and this whole group,
42 I forget what they're called, Stop Bycatch or something,
43 and this thing's growing and growing, and some people
44 have said that, well, the trawlers slowly kind of got
45 the rules nudged back to where they could take more.

46
47 It's a huge, huge fishery. And I used
48 to live in Dutch Harbor and was part of the big crab
49 fishery as a biologist, and then also as the beginning
50 of the trawler, so I kind of have a concept of some of

1 this. I've taken trawl classes. We did trawl research.
2 We went from crab pot research, which was for king crab,
3 which it wasn't very good, and went to trawl, but also
4 in there we'll catch chums from this big to full size
5 chums and how do you make, you know, a count to that is
6 -- in my mind, one of the questions. Do we have adult
7 equivalent that's based on poundage. That was kind of
8 what I was trying to get at earlier. But we've seen this
9 increased bycatch. At the same time, I used to also be
10 responsible for the sport fisheries in the lower
11 Kuskokwim. And being in those communities, I learned we
12 depend on fish in Bristol Bay, but it ain't [sic] nothing
13 like the people from Eek and Kwethluk and all up and
14 down the Kuskokwim. And to hear them have to be closed
15 or nearly closed, I can -- I feel like I can individually
16 feel that impact. Because I've been in the meetings where
17 it was dry fish and oogruk was lunch, and those folks
18 don't have the economic opportunities. You know, I've
19 heard of people in villages, they were burning their
20 kids' clothes trying to keep warm. Some of those folks
21 are unbelievably poor, and they know the Yukon is not
22 much different. My son, who now lives here in Anchorage,
23 his very best friend is from Alakanuk. They just did a
24 900-mile boat trip this fall from Alakanuk to Nenana.
25 So this concerns me. It's almost inconceivable to see
26 them so closed down.

27
28 Now, also, I've looked at a lot of the
29 data, conversed with a bunch of people, it's kind of
30 hard to put your entire thumb on just the trawlers. It's
31 an easy thing to do. But is it the right thing? And I
32 listened to Dr. Schindler and some of the other folks
33 there's more going on, but we also feel that no kings
34 in the Nushagak and around Bristol Bay, it's a concern
35 for all the rivers in Bristol Bay. And so what can we
36 do where? And I see these big numbers here that have
37 grown since 2013. Yeah. I'm glad to see starting 2022
38 they were down again. But out of getting to this is I
39 think -- I would like to see this Council submit a letter
40 of concern with some comments to the North Pacific
41 Council, maybe acknowledging some of these issues.

42
43 Also, I kind of wish, you know, it's
44 maybe, you know, we're just looking at chums. How about
45 let's go back and have the chums, all this data for
46 chums, in the same trawls, in the same activities. How
47 much kings were bycatch? How many halibut? I hear a lot
48 of ranting and raving now about -- someone guy posts
49 like daily or weekly about how much halibut bycatch, and
50 some of that might be Gulf of Alaska and not Bering Sea,

1 but a combined all the other species and not just handily
2 focus on chums. Let's see it all. And like Robert says,
3 I think something needs done. I might lean a little
4 towards the caps to get us back down what we saw between
5 2007 and -- I'll even go to 2013. And then bring up
6 herring bycatch. I don't know where that fits in my
7 mind. I hadn't thought about it a whole lot, but that's
8 some of the comments I have because, again, I just think
9 about the people in some of those villages on the lower
10 Kuskokwim that just don't have much and what we can do.

11

(Simultaneous speech)

12

13
14 MR. NUKWAK: Chair, sorry to interrupt
15 you. Maybe if I gave you a gallon of herring eggs, you'll
16 hop on.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Stevie
19 Wassillie used to keep me in herring eggs, and I was
20 really grateful, but I'm not trying to wind mine up. But
21 one other thing, Kate and some of the other folks that
22 are dealing with is, there's nothing like being on the
23 deck to see for yourself, you know. And that's something
24 as an Assistant Crab Biologist, I first out of Dutch
25 Harbor and then later Sand Point, I also was on the deck
26 doing the trawl work with the folks. Partly because that
27 was our budget, but I would highly recommend, if you
28 could get a week on a trawl. Hopefully not this time of
29 year. I've been out in the Pribilofs in March and then
30 steady northwest 35 miles an hour for the entire time
31 we're out there. I was on the (indiscernible), which is
32 a whole lot less stable than a trawler with a net in the
33 water, got bruises from getting slammed around on that
34 boat. So anyway, there's some comments and let's see if
35 John or Robert, or if there's somebody wants to propose
36 that we offer a comment, you know, formally make a motion
37 to comment to the North Pacific Council. Over.

38

39 MR. NUKWAK: Are you waiting for a
40 comment? Maybe Walter will.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Or I'd
43 be open for a motion, if there's

44

(Simultaneous speech)

45

46
47 MR. NUKWAK: I'll make a motion that Dan
48 Dunaway or whomever, make a letter -- draft a letter up
49 for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do I have a
2 second?

3
4 MR. HILL: I'll second.

5
6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'll second. This is
7 John.

8
9 MR. KANULIE: I'll second this motion.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
12 I think we got three seconds on that. Thank you. I've
13 kind of looked at -- Gisela, would it be appropriate for
14 just me, or maybe if we get something, we could circulate
15 it among the Council for before we actually submit it?

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I might need to check
18 with someone on process. And I was going to ask for
19 clarification to the Council, like what specifically you
20 would like to see in the letter. I think if there's
21 consensus within the Council's at least about the
22 general topic to include in this letter, then I can go
23 and do the background work that needs to be done to
24 draft something and then present it to our Chair for
25 review.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
28 you. And go ahead, Robbin.

29
30 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 might want to also clarify this particular action item
32 on the agenda. You were to receive a presentation from
33 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on the
34 status of the Chum Bycatch EIS, and you are looking for
35 feedback on your options to consider for action. Is that
36 correct? So outside of the letter, which may be more
37 broad, you know, on expressing comments on the fishery,
38 you are specifically hoping that this Council might
39 provide their preference for options considered. Is this
40 correct or can you clarify that ask? Thank you.

41
42 MS. HAAPALA: Thank you, Robbin, for the
43 question. Yeah, I'm happy to provide clarification. And
44 then if folks want to add on, they can. So if there
45 weren't -- I think we're trying to make the RAC aware
46 that there is an opportunity for you to provide a comment
47 letter, and yes, if the RAC would like to provide those
48 comments, it would be most helpful at this stage for the
49 RAC to provide input on the different alternatives being
50 considered, and if there is a preference, or you would

1 like the Council to consider one or a combination of
2 those alternatives. Certainly you can raise other points
3 in that letter as well. Some of which have been mentioned
4 here, but that is the main focus of what we're -- what
5 we are here to talk about, and then also what the Council
6 is going to be focused on in February.

7
8 MR. MOLLER: If I could just add a little
9 bit. So, as mentioned, we are at Final Action time here
10 and it is extremely helpful for us Council members to
11 see specific, you know, recommendations from the public
12 when it comes down to the alternatives that we have in
13 front of us. That is not to say that we, as Council
14 members, are not extremely sensitive to some of the, you
15 know, discussions and heartfelt, you know hardships that
16 our people are facing in the community. So I just wanted
17 to make sure that this Council, you folks, are aware
18 that we Council members are extremely sensitive, and we
19 hear -- we hear quite a bit about it you know, and having
20 lived in the village, couldn't say that I experienced
21 some of the hardships we're seeing and some of the Yukon
22 and Kuskokwim River communities, but I'll tell you that,
23 you know, to the extent that my fellow Council members
24 can understand, we certainly get a lot of testimony on
25 that. And I just want to make sure that it's not just
26 the specifics on the alternatives. We want to hear, you
27 know, about your specific conditions and stuff out there
28 as well, so. It doesn't go unheard, is what I want to
29 make sure.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
32 for that. I should add, I think I was working the docks
33 in Dutch Harbor when John was skippering a boat or
34 working on a boat. It's kind of been fun to reconnect.
35 We didn't know each other real well, but I do remember
36 John Moller being some man, a local guy, because I used
37 to joke it was a suburb of Ballard out there. So to
38 carry on, Kenneth, with what you motion -- you made it
39 would be my intent to try to capture, boil down a lot
40 of the comments we've all thrown in here. I really
41 appreciate Robert actually having a specific
42 recommendation because, frankly, I'm still a little
43 overwhelmed about which one I would think, but -- or
44 would want to support, but at minimum, it would be a
45 letter that we've made these comments. I think we can
46 all agree that the bycatch is a major concern and the
47 potential impacts on subsistence users. We were even
48 concerned there was a couple summers I never caught a
49 chum in my subsistence nets in the Nushagak, which is
50 just weird. They seem to bounce back. We had better

1 numbers in the Nushagak this year, but the Board of Fish
2 was threatening to make it a stock a concern. And now
3 we have a king salmon stock of concern, chum salmon
4 stock of concern; both that are very difficult to manage
5 when you have a insanely unprecedented high number of
6 reds that all the commercial guys are going to want to
7 catch every single one that's not needed for spawning
8 and a very hard balance to reach.

9
10 But so anyway, my intent would be to
11 capture all our concerns and if we could kick around
12 even amongst us, what -- maybe even if we think, well,
13 look at number 5 and some of us like number 2. But,
14 yeah, having it actually sailed out in some of that
15 water, it's like, man, some of that's right on top of
16 where all you guys caught the crab, and we're all the
17 tanners were and were all -- some of the opilios were.
18 I've been on crab boats all the way to where we were
19 kind of nervous that we might be in Russian waters.
20 That's like two days west of Saint Matthew and so -- but
21 this it's a big industry, also. A lot of people like the
22 McDonald's Fishwiches [sic] and Mrs. Paul's Fish Sticks,
23 and you can't just blanket shut them down and be like,
24 trying to shut Ford down and just saying -- just because
25 there's a rubber shortage or something. So somehow have
26 a balance. And I think we can get there. But with your
27 guys' permission, I'll work with Gisela on that. Any
28 last comments? Because we do have time constraints and
29 more to do.

30
31 MS. CHAPA: If I may, Mr. Chair. Okay,
32 so a couple of things. There's a motion on the table
33 with a second for the Council to draft a letter to the
34 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to capture the
35 concerns about bycatch. Is that correct?

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'll look to
38 Kenneth. He was the maker of the motion.

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: Can you repeat that, please?

41
42 MS. CHAPA: There is a motion with a
43 second on the table for the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
44 Council to draft a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries
45 Management Council to capture your concerns about
46 bycatch.

47
48 MR. NUKWAK: If that's the wording, we're
49 going to use to (In Native), to fix it up, then I go with
50 that. If that's the recommendation, I'll go with that.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, is there a motion so we can respect that. Great. Thank you. Go ahead.

MS. HAAPALA: And if I also may, Mr. Chair, make clarification or maybe provide an additional tool for the Council in regard to the Chum Bycatch EIS. Earlier in the month, I believe, the Eastern Interior and the Western Interior RAC met jointly to also discuss all of the potential alternatives, and I can summarize the alternatives that they supported, and I can also briefly share the letter with their specific comments, but one thing at a time. There's a motion on the table about a letter, but I also wanted to make that information available to the other Council members, that I could share the comments from the Eastern Interior and Western Interior RAC on the issue.

MR. NUKWAK: I remember this lady mentioning. I forgot your name.

MS. HAAPALA: Kate.

MR. NUKWAK: Kate. That this meeting was concerning the Portmore area. Can on that letter -- can you include the Walrus Island area down to Cape Constantine, and wherever else there [sic] impact? I'm pretty sure the whole seafloor is impacted by now, without doubt.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir. That would definitely be appropriate. Shoot, I had a thought that flit through my mind, but yes. And we're -- we heard other concerns about other sea mammal impacts, which I'm not really aware of, but definitely it's been a hot issue in the Nushagak Advisory Committee a few years ago that the yellowfin sole guys were trawling over the top of our halibut longliners, apparently in waters that weren't supposed to be trawled between the Nushagak Peninsula and Round Island. And Kenny Wilson, rest his soul, was out there getting nearly run over by trawlers in his 32-footer and a few other guys. The state troopers I know started flying out there and trying to record stuff, but they don't have a -- I don't know if they have recently because their budgets are short. They were trying to document activity, but -- and coordinate with the Coast Guard. But yeah, go ahead, Ken.

1 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I am out there. I am
2 aware. I'm out there personally. My whole body and my
3 boat, even my grandson. To tell you a funny story, we
4 are anchored out 3 or 4 miles below a (indiscernible)
5 creek between Cape Constantine and Protection Point, and
6 we -- on our way home we stopped by on a beach to relieve
7 ourselves. And then my four-year-old grandson, once he
8 got off the boat, he knew where to go. I go all the way
9 up that way, and his dad started chasing after him. And
10 I told grandma, well, he didn't want to be at the boat
11 anymore. I think he thinks we're going to be out anchored
12 out there all day again.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's open
15 country. The people go out there and open skiffs, it's
16 like. So, but yeah, since we're in kind of the discussion
17 on the motion, were you going to give us the -- these
18 other letters now as part of the discussion or circulate
19 them after the meeting.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Gisela Chapa for the
22 record. So with the motion on the table to write a letter
23 in regards to bycatch concerns, I'd assume the Council
24 would like to go ahead and vote on that. And then I will
25 go back and listen to the records and make sure that I
26 include all of the items that have been discussed under
27 this specific action, and then I can try to work with
28 Council Member Nukwak and with you to ensure that it
29 captures the intent that was discussed today. And then
30 if the Council would like to provide recommendations on
31 the alternative for Chum Bycatch EIS, that we address
32 that after motion has been voted on.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

35
36 MR. NUKWAK: I think I'll refer to Alex
37 [sic] or Siri.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Who?

40
41 MR. NUKWAK: Alex or Siri. They'll answer
42 for me.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: They try to
45 make me go off on a fence row in Nevada once. I don't
46 trust them at all. So, okay, is there any more discussion
47 on the motion before we call the question?

48
49 MR. NUKWAK: Question.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Questions
2 have been called. Gisela, can you read off votes? Thank
3 you.

4
5 MS. CHAPA: Okay. This is a very broad
6 topic, but the notes I have are that we have a motion
7 on the table for the Council to draft a letter to North
8 Pacific Fishery Management Council to address your
9 concerns on bycatch, and it may include other species
10 besides just salmon.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, ma'am,
13 I believe so. And with the possible recommendations of
14 of 1 or 2 alternatives, maybe, and or -- yeah.

15
16 MS. CHAPA: I would -- if it's okay with
17 the Council, I would take them as separate. Just because
18 you've already have a motion on the table to write this
19 letter of concern, or I think the Council can also
20 rescind the motion and we take on the preferred
21 alternatives and add the concerns to that letter with
22 your alternatives for the Chum Bycatch EIS.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
25 What's the pleasure of the Council? I'm -- I don't want
26 to bog down too much here. I was thinking we had the
27 door open since Robert had recommended his preference
28 on alternatives. Okay.

29
30 MS. CHAPA: So then let me see if I --
31 if this summarizes the motion. It's a motion for our
32 Council to submit our concerns on bycatch and support
33 alternative 5. Is that correct?

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,
36 certainly indicate that one of the members expressed his
37 support for alternative 5.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm kind of
42 in some ways thinking generalized comments, but yeah, I
43 wasn't prepared to recommend one. I don't really want
44 to argue with Robert, but like I said, I'm kind of
45 unresolved. Some of those sound awful [sic] complicated,
46 but okay.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Okay. If I may also add, and
49 maybe ask Kate, alternative 5 comes with sub options.
50 Is that correct?

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MS. HAAPALA: Yeah, that is correct. Alternative 5 is the in-season corridor. And then there are three different options of -- to pick from in the sense that -- essentially what area do you want to close inside, and there's different tradeoffs that comes with that, but that's the primary design of the alternative there.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

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MS. CHAPA: Okay. And if I may I do understand the concept, and the topic we're discussing is very big, and I admit I do not fully comprehend, but I also wanted to share the alternative that the Western and Eastern Interior RACs supported. They, in fact, voted to submit their comments in support of alternative 5, option 1; alternative 2 with a cap of 50 to 100,000, and alternative 4. So I know this is a lot more than what this Council is discussing, but I just wanted to provide that extra information for the Council. So they supported alternative 1 with option 1.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Then you mentioned two others, did they have support for all of those or you just include their comments for all of those or -- probably help once they see them, but go ahead.

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MS. CHAPA: Yes. And I believe they voted on all the different alternatives, and I can share on the screen the -- their preferred alternatives as well.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Lisa.

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MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin. I was just at the meeting when they voted on this, so I'm fairly familiar with it. So they adopted the recommendations of TCC, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and yeah, it was all three together. Alternative 5 - option 1, alternative 4, and alternative 2. And just since I have the floor, I would just recommend separating these into two separate letters. I think they're just kind of -- they're all about bycatch, but this -- the EIS is very specific with these alternatives, so I think if you submit this letter on the EIS with all these alternatives, plus, you know, all these other species that it doesn't apply to, it'll be kind of confusing. So I'll just strongly advise the Council to just submit

000108

1 two separate letters. I think that would be the cleanest,
2 you know, option for everyone involved.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. That
5 sounds like really helpful advice. Thank you very much,
6 Lisa. That's why we have this staff. Thank you. So at
7 this point you're raising your hand, but are we ready
8 to vote?

9
10 MS. CHAPA: Well, I just wanted to check
11 in with the Council. There's currently a motion on the
12 floor with a second, and the Council can vote on the
13 submission of a letter to include concerns about
14 bycatch. So if you all wanted to go ahead and vote on
15 that, you can do that right now.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. The
18 horse ain't [sic] quite dead yet, but yeah, if we could
19 go ahead with the vote, please. Yeah, it's just easier
20 when you're online. I just -- I've ended up preferring
21 that.

22
23 MS. HAAPALA: I'm sorry if this is an
24 inappropriate time for this. The way that the Council's
25 process works. Sorry. The North Pacific Fishery
26 Management Council. You are welcome to submit two
27 letters. However, you can only submit one letter under
28 a certain agenda item. So it would be most appropriate
29 if you're going to pursue the pathway for two letters
30 to be submitted for the one that is focused on the EIS
31 alternatives to be submitted under the C2 agenda item,
32 which is what is specific for chum. And then at the end
33 of every Council meeting, we have the -- the Council has
34 staff tasking. So that's the E agenda item, and you can
35 submit the other letter there. And the reason for that
36 is that's where the Council considers new issues or will
37 circle back to different topics and issues that were
38 brought forward from the public or different agency
39 reports throughout the meeting. And so it's kind of like
40 the wrap up point, if you guys -- yeah.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
43 I kind of wanted him to be loaded up with all that
44 information before they make decisions, but if we can't
45 only submit one, we gotta [sic] submit the one that will
46 be most effective, I guess. So go ahead.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Gisela Chapa for the
49 record, and I think what Kate shared is mostly like a
50 process. So we are still good to proceed with our letter,

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1 and I'll just make sure that it gets submitted to the
2 right agenda item, so you all don't have to worry about
3 that. And you can go ahead and also provide your comments
4 on the Chum Bycatch EIS. So I think -- two thumbs up,
5 we're good to proceed.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. So
8 probably this one most likely be in the E agenda that
9 we're voting on first. So again with that, let's proceed
10 with the vote.

11
12 MS. CHAPA: Robert -- Sorry. Walter
13 Kanulie. On the mic, please.

14
15 MR. KANULIE: Oh. Yes.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Robert Hill.

18
19 MR. HILL: Yes.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson. And I think
26 we lost him. Yeah. Flying. Kenneth Nukwak.

27
28 MR. NUKWAK: (Indiscernible).

29
30 MS. CHAPA: Yes. I saw the eyebrow. Yes.
31 Dan Dunaway.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes,
34 please.

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have
37 five yays, so the motion passes.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And
40 you wanted to go ahead and present the -- I keep
41 forgetting which Councils did that, but -- and we gotta
42 [sic] do it quick because we still got quite a few things
43 to do. Okay.

44
45 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
46 Chapa, for the record, and so on the screen I have shared
47 the alternatives that the Eastern and the Western
48 Interior Council supported. Like Lisa Grediagin shared
49 earlier, they're supporting TCC's recommendations. And
50 earlier during the presentation, we heard from Council

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1 Member Hill, I believe. His support for alternative 5.
2 Just with the understanding that there is an additional
3 option, I guess, that the Council would have to specify
4 what your preference would be. And Eastern and Western
5 Interior supported alternative 5 - option 1 an in-season
6 quarter cap; and the Council strongly support the
7 implementation of the conservation corridor to decrease
8 the bycatch of Western Alaska salmon and allow their
9 uninterrupted migration to their natal streams. Although
10 the Council's would like to see permanent in-season
11 migratory corridors established, that is not an option
12 being considered. The strictest option is necessary
13 given the record low returns of chum salmon to the Yukon
14 -- excuse me. Yukon River that have resulted in complete
15 closure of subsistence fall chum salmon fishing, and the
16 inability to meet spawning escapement goals. Therefore,
17 the in-season corridor should be implemented if a cap
18 of 50- to 100,000 chum salmon is harvested and the
19 entirety of clusters 1 and 2 must be closed at that
20 time.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
23 It looks like they did a lot of work on this. Robert,
24 you suggested alternative 5. Maybe you have more read
25 up on this than I am. Probably you're more read up.
26 Would you care to discuss how you chose 5? Over.

27
28 MR. HILL: You know, Dan, from just from
29 my personal experience with the commercial fishing
30 industry, I feel like if you leave it up to the
31 individual fishing operation to, I guess, monitor
32 themselves or, you know, we're -- you were discussing
33 kind of like a cap and that would, you know, after they
34 reach a certain cap, then they would have to shut down.
35 I don't -- in my personal experience with commercial
36 fishing, I just don't think that would work. It just
37 seems like the more proactive -- making a corridor and
38 seeing how that works in respect to what the how the
39 bycatch changes, I think something like that needs to
40 happen. And then be able to change it from there. You
41 know, you -- I don't know if you're -- I mean, it seems
42 like a pretty simple concept to me, but that's why my
43 recommendation would be to go with option 5, and I don't
44 have a specific 1, 2 or 3 to go with that, but I feel
45 like that would be the right direction to go.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,
48 that's really helpful. Any other Council care to speak?
49

50 (No response)

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Oh, we have Lisa on the way in. Go ahead,
Lisa.

MS. GERDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, just speaking a little bit for the Western Interior and Eastern Interior recommendation, they pretty much chose, like, the strictest options that were available. And I know -- I think they like alternative 5 because the overall caps were lower than in, like alternative 2, and basically they just chose whatever was the strictest combination of alternatives. And I think they wanted it even stricter but given the confines of what the alternatives were, they chose what was the most conservative, strictest option. Oh, maybe you have a.....

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go ahead.

MR. MOLLER: I'm just curious. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious if I could, if it's appropriate. There was a little bit of discussion at the at the Council level regarding this option. In public testimony and other, I was wondering if at those RAC meetings, if there was any concern brought up about when you close corridors down because we have a Chinook, you know, bycatch program and now we're addressing the chum salmon bycatch discussion going on at the Council right now, but we already have a Chinook one in place that the Council passed a number of years ago. But there was some discussion at the Council level about, okay, you push this harvester out of these corridors about the potential unforeseen consequence you might see in terms of Chinook salmon caught when you push them into a different area. Where there's [sic] any discussions that those meetings regarding that?

MS. GERDIAGIN: Lisa Gerdiagin. There may have been, but I'm kind of out of my depth league of talking about fisheries issues here, so I don't remember the details of that. I'm sorry.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: All good points though. Thank you very much. Now Walter, Kenneth, anybody online, John or Robert, have any more comments?

(No comment)

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1 Lisa's information there was really,
2 really helpful. It kind of brings back to my time when
3 we first made a assault on the North Council the going
4 for the hardest line. And I start wondering if
5 strategically, we might be better off backing up the
6 other two RACs. At the same time, I'm torn because I
7 feel like I somewhat understand the trawls too. It's
8 just tough with -- I remember a new skipper in the Sea
9 Wolf, I can't think of his name now, but just chasing
10 fish before we had all this. I mean, one day he's halfway
11 to Port Moller trawling pollock and wind change and the
12 weather change, and he says I have to go halfway to Adak
13 tomorrow and -- so it can be tough. And I see John
14 looking at me.

15
16 MR. MOLLER: Bob Watson.
17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Roger that.
19 I remember all of those glorious big Marco boats and
20 stuff, so -- but yeah, it was all fascinating. I can't
21 believe I was a sportfish biologist because the
22 commercial stuff was so much more exciting. But anyway,
23 any other comments?

24
25 (No comment)

26
27 So do we have a motion on the floor to
28 support a particular alternative or to compose a letter
29 to support some alternatives? Or just where are we right
30 now?

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the
33 moment, we don't have a motion on the table. But again,
34 if the Council wishes to submit comments to the North
35 Pacific Fishery Management Council on your preferred
36 alternative for -- on the Chum Bycatch EIS, you could.
37 We did have Council Member Hill express his preference
38 for alternative 5 and the Eastern and Western Interiors
39 comments to support alternative 5 - option 1, in addition
40 to a couple other alternatives that this Council hasn't
41 necessarily discussed.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
44 you. And Mr. Moller here did -- yeah. The unintended
45 consequences. My boss used to call it the balloon effect,
46 you poke at one side, it bulges out somewhere else. But
47 open -- I think we should offer some comments in some
48 form even if it's not a formal support, but maybe that
49 we have discussed some of these. We do have some members
50 that support 5. And I'm almost leaning that way myself.

1 But I'm looking to -- and I don't feel prepared to read
2 through and really try to comprehend the full
3 consequences of the other options right now. Like I say,
4 I don't -- the idea of totally shutting down the trawl
5 fisheries just in -- ludicrous. It's not going to
6 happen, but if they can somehow greatly reduce their
7 impacts and get us back to reduce chum bycatch and king
8 and halibut bycatch, disruption of walrus feeding,
9 whatever, I'd sure like to see it, so. And we have to
10 focus on chum bycatch, right, on this one, because we're
11 -- so I'm open for a motion. Gisela.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: And if I may Mr. Chair, the
14 Council does -- is not required to submit comments. I
15 think this is an opportunity for your Council to do so,
16 but if you don't have to.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Or
19 even if we didn't submit a letter, if we had a motion
20 to submit kind of a list of comments we've collected
21 here, I would be open to that. Over.

22
23 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. I don't
24 see why -- I can't understand -- what I'm comprehending
25 on the AYK, it's very funny that there's completely shut
26 down. They can't do nothing. They cannot put fish on the
27 table. While the North Pacific Fishery Management is
28 allowed to fish with the declining numbers in front of
29 the whole world to see. And we're seeing it. We're
30 watching it. If anybody online can put a time in on this
31 because I'm just trying to wrap this around my head.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Looks like
34 Robbin wants to contribute something. She sat down here.
35 Go ahead. And thanks, Kenneth too.

36
37 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
38 just looking to see if anybody else had their hand
39 raised. I wanted to, just as a point of order, recognize
40 that we have already passed a motion -- that you passed
41 a motion to capture Council comments and concerns
42 regarding bycatch in a letter to the North Pacific
43 Fisheries Management Council. And so that -- maybe? And
44 they voted, yes. And the motion passed, right. So it
45 could be that that is inclusive of this discussion here,
46 unless you want a discussion letter specific to the
47 options or, you know, like a one to address specifically
48 to the options. So are we looking at two different
49 letters then?

50

1 MS. CHAPA: Yes. And through the Chair,
2 this is Gisela Chapa. Yeah. Two separate letters because
3 I think what was presented to the Council earlier today
4 is just very specific to chum bycatch, and the Chum
5 Bycatch EIS -- draft EIS. And again, as a follow up to
6 the Council, you have one Council member that expressed
7 support for one alternative, but again, the Council
8 doesn't necessarily need to submit comments on the Chum
9 Bycatch EIS if you don't consider it appropriate at this
10 point.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I do. I'm
13 looking for some help, but if they're just worn out on
14 it. We can move on.

15
16 MS. CHAPA: And, Mr. Chair, if I may.
17 Yes. I guess in the interest of time, we can go ahead
18 and move on before we adjourn. I can bring it up again
19 to the Council in case you need 5-10 minutes to discuss
20 it during the break, and -- so we can always come back
21 to this item if that works for you.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
24 If it's a pleasure of the Council -- Robbin.

25
26 MS. LA VINE: And one other thing I might
27 note is that you, representatives from the North Pacific
28 Fisheries Management Council staff and board members or
29 Council members, you're here to hear their input and
30 information and their discussion so that you can develop
31 your recommendation to the North Pacific Fisheries
32 Management Council, is that correct? So you will be as
33 a working group, you are developing -- no? Okay. I am -
34 - where did I get that? All right. Sorry. I apologize.
35 So I was just wondering whether or not the discussion
36 that we've had on the record on options can inform the
37 process without a letter? Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Rachel, or
40 any Council?

41
42 MS. HAAPALA: Okay. Yeah, that sounds
43 good. So just quickly, Sarah and I are Analysts on the
44 Council staff, and so the Draft EIS -- we, along with
45 quite a few colleagues are the authors of that document.
46 So you could think about us as sort of the -- if you
47 have technical questions or you want to know about the
48 document or the process or the people to go to, and they
49 -- John and Rachel know a lot of things too, but they
50 are Council members, and so they offer a different

1 perspective, and they both hold voting seats. Sarah and
2 I are not decision makers. So we're here to share
3 information and also perspectives, and then, yes, what
4 is heard today, regardless of the letter is certainly
5 with the four of us, but also we are writing an outreach
6 report that covers the substance and the feedback and
7 the discussion that we have heard, which will include
8 this body as well as the other RACs that were on -- what
9 slide, three of the presentation and captures? That will
10 go to the Council in February as well. So there's still
11 also a written mechanism for that input and feedback.
12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
14 Gisela, your suggestion of kind of setting it aside for
15 the moment, especially knowing that Richard's in the air
16 and I don't know how he thinks on this, and I dearly
17 love to hear. So if it's a pleasure of the Council, can
18 we just set it aside? I wonder about taking a 5-minute
19 break, a real 5-minute break. And we always say that and
20 then -- because we got a lot of work to do yet. But I
21 also I really, really want to thank that Council staff
22 and members for coming and hearing this and that. That's
23 -- it feels good. And it helped our coordination and we
24 can get as much done as possible. Thank you. And did you
25 have something, John?
26

27 MR. MOLLER: Yeah. Just very short
28 closing statement if I could. Not to impede on your 5-
29 minute break here, but two things to follow up on Kate's
30 comment about, you know, our some of our purpose here.
31 The Council has taken -- has made it a priority to
32 outreach and take the issue and the conversation to the
33 stakeholders of which I, as a Council member, fully
34 support. I think when we start taking the discussions
35 to those most impacted, it's always better. But the
36 Council as a whole has made a decision to do that. That's
37 why we're reaching out to all the RACs and we've gone
38 to TCC and others. So in addition to what we do at the
39 Council and the opportunity for the public comment at
40 the Council meetings, and written comments, we are also
41 doing this outreach to make sure that we can try to help
42 the public be as informed as we possibly can. But my
43 last comment is this, Port Moller has been referenced
44 numerous times through our time, our short period of
45 time here, and I just want to make sure on the record,
46 that even though our names are spelled the same there
47 may or may not be any relationship, but I will close
48 with my grandfather was a sailor.
49

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
2 you. I think it's a real kick because I do remember
3 talking to a John Moller on the docks over. I think that
4 Peter -- Unalaska. So anyway, what a kick. Anything else?
5 Last minute?

6
7 (No response)

8
9 No. Take a break. Five minutes and we
10 gotta move on.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 MS. CHAPA: Good afternoon. This is
17 Gisela Chapa with the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
18 Council. If I can just check and see if Council member
19 Richard Wilson is online. Richard, are you online?

20
21 (No response)

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, if we
24 could try to come to order. We're kind of missing a
25 quorum just right now, but I'm wondering if we could do
26 some reports or other things that don't require -- the
27 only thing is, if our other members don't hear the
28 reports, it's harder to vote. At least we sometimes now
29 hear our reports before we make decisions. And it used
30 to be -- we'd make all our decisions, then several times
31 'if I had known that'. So anyway what do we have next,
32 Gisela? Or what could be next?

33
34 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
35 that since we don't have a quorum at the moment. Or
36 actually, I could try to do roll call again. Oh! We
37 have.....

38
39 (Simultaneous speech)

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Here we go.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: quorum. Yay! Woo!

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Hero of the
46 moment. But looks like Kenneth said it wasn't all that
47 involved for a while, and then his caribou issue, and
48 now he's on ACs and spokesman and we're (indiscernible)
49 and him to death. So we're not really, but he's a valued
50 asset. Thank you.

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MS. CHAPA: And, Mr. Chair, if I may. I think before the Council moved to the Chum Bycatch EIS -- Draft EIS topic on the agenda, you had discussed the comments for the Federal Subsistence Management Program Review, so the Council can revisit that topic to make -- to take action, or we can continue to work through the wildlife proposals.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I think the one hang up -- See, did we had a -- did we have a motion and, no? Pending. So we hadn't walked through all -- quite all seven points. We kind of stalled out on number seven. I don't know if we want to revisit it, or do we have -- have we talked about it enough to have a motion, or -- and it could be anywhere from to submit a summary of our comments that we've made or -- anyway, go ahead.

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MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, for the record, and I'm going to ask Kendra if she can share her screen again. To go over all of the topics and the things that the Council discussed. I believe that there's also the opportunity for the Council to provide additional feedback under other comments. You're not necessarily restricted to provide comments on the specific topics in the presentation.

28
29

(Pause)

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I appreciate you capturing those. I also -- so, typing and keeping up with people talking is a really tough job, so thank you for everything you do. So -- and I'm getting a note here. Alright. Whether we want to make a recommendation? From -- okay. Does anybody want to pick up on item seven, or have we discussed the rural designation enough, or what's people's thoughts? Personally, I'm -- since I don't think it's imminent for our area, I don't feel really ready to take any more action than what's the status quo, but I'll defer to the Council if you have comments.

43
44
45

(No comment)

46
47
48
49
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I'm not hearing any. Is there a thought to have -- I think we really do -- I would like to see something submitted kind of officially on these comments, whether it's just a list kind of like what's what Kendra has put posted up here. Also, I think there's

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1 been some requests that we push for an All RAC meeting.
2 That's big. I've been in two of them. They take a lot
3 of work, a lot of money. I'm worried about it running
4 into budgetary snags, but it doesn't -- that doesn't
5 mean we shouldn't recommend it. So what are your thoughts
6 on that, Council?
7

8 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. Are you
9 on number eight or number seven?
10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Throughout
12 number seven, here are no comments. I was kind of on
13 number eight, but we can drop back to seven if you care
14 to talk.
15

16 MR. NUKWAK: Number seven, I don't know
17 what to discuss on there. It is all rural already, right?
18 Yeah. Leave it there. So, are we on number eight now?
19 Good idea.
20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: When you say
22 good idea, does it mean that All RAC meeting is a good
23 idea, or just -- yeah. I think we have a number of other
24 items under there.
25

26 MR. NUKWAY: Probably after all the
27 recommendations have been completed. I think the All RAC
28 meeting would be sufficient, or something to discuss
29 about if -- without them being completed now and we
30 won't have much of a meeting, right?
31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Robbin.
33

34 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
35 Councilman Nukwak. an All Council meeting. I don't think
36 you were a Council member when we last had one, but it
37 is all of the Regional Advisory Councils coming together
38 for information exchange and to kind of like, come and
39 address statewide issues.
40

41 MR. NUKWAK: I was there.
42

43 MS. LA VINE: You were there. Okay, so
44 one of, I believe.....
45

46 (Simultaneous speech)
47

48 MR. NUKWAK: He wasn't.
49
50

1 MS. LA VINE: Oh, yeah. Okay. Yes. Mr.
2 Kanulie. Yeap. So I believe the suggestion for an All
3 Council meeting had to do with a Programmatic Review and
4 that if out of the Programmatic Review, the Secretary's
5 office wished to propose regulatory changes, that they
6 hold an All Council meeting to discuss those changes
7 with the Council so they can be informed about these
8 proposed changes in person. Right now we're just
9 entertaining feedback and ideas, and if they do -- if
10 what comes out of the scoping meeting is a proposal to
11 change regulations for the Federal Subsistence
12 Management Program, I believe they were recommending
13 that the Secretary's hold an All Council meeting for
14 feedback and to share information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.

17

18 MR. NUKWAK: I know this is off of her -
19 - it's not what you were discussing on, but not on the
20 road, which makes me kind of -- I was just thinking out,
21 if there's any proposal that pops up for non -- for my
22 region. The reason is that our -- not like the urban
23 setting.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I
26 could -- I think we could say that we believe we should
27 remain rural. Would be that every -- in any criteria you
28 can come up with, in my opinion, would keep us rural.
29 Something to that effect, if you're agreeable.

30

31 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So we should
34 add that line, then that we believe we're rural and want
35 to stay rural.

36

37 MR. NUKWAK: I think so. I think that
38 would be a critical or not critical, but I think that's
39 important though. Yeah. Unless somebody comes out and
40 gets an idea, you know. Gotta stay within the ANILCA
41 section.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's a
44 good point. The minute you take your eyes off something,
45 turn your back, think you're safe, something get you.
46 So, yeah, I would support at least a comment like that,
47 and -- great. Anything else? And thank you, Robbin, for
48 some of that clarity. I was wondering how we could --
49 can we legally kind of add that this was guidance we
50 received, that some of your comments there or?

1

2 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
3 received a lot of comments today, not just from staff,
4 but from participants and members of the public. You've
5 had a number of discussions about the seven issues, and
6 we've recorded a lot of that discussion. Kendra has
7 recorded your comments under those seven issues, and
8 Kendra has also recorded some of your recommendations
9 and suggestions as additional items that have been
10 shared by the Council. So if we look up here at item
11 number eight, this is what was captured ensuring ANILCA
12 Title VIII is followed. That predator control and
13 commercial hunting are an important part of subsistence
14 management. That the Yup'ik speakers of your region and
15 the indigenous speakers of other areas of Alaska are
16 often left out by not translating the regulations. And
17 then there was another comment that there should be a
18 specific system, or a system where a specific number of
19 permits are available to a community that can be used
20 when conditions are appropriate for harvesting, not
21 necessarily tied to specific season dates. So that
22 actually, to me, sounds more like a regulatory proposal
23 perhaps. And then a confirmation that another All RAC
24 Council meeting, in particular to address any regulatory
25 proposal recommendations that come out of this scoping
26 period be presented in All Council meeting.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I sure like
29 that. How about the rest of the Council?

30

31 MR. NUKWAK: And then, through the Chair.
32 I don't know what -- how to address this, the agents
33 that are upholding the law. If an agent is -- I'm on a
34 caribou hunt or a moose hunt, and then the agent shows
35 up and they're behind me for a good probably 4 or 5
36 stops waiting for my mistake, I don't know how to address
37 that. I know they're there to uphold the law, but I
38 think they're overdoing it or going -- I don't know if
39 I would use the word going over the boundary. But I
40 realize that they have to be there, but at the same
41 time, they're interrupting a hunter's hunt. And then try
42 to put it on a legitimate idea. I tried mentioning that
43 the color of the suit and the noise of the snowmachine
44 would have the caribou run off, and then there was a
45 defense for that, the caribou are colorblind. But it's
46 the noise that for 4 or 5 stops, I had to stop five
47 times. On the 5th stop, I had to turn around and didn't
48 realize I was on my way to get my citation. So, and I
49 don't think that citation was needed because that
50 caribou didn't drop dead.

1

2 On the TV shows like Starlink, I watched
3 other hunters, commercial hunters or people from the
4 Northern area, they go hunting worse than I did. Way
5 worse. And the caribous were still intact. They were
6 just scared, so -- what an animal does is just take off
7 but trying to put the wording in there -- I don't know
8 how to put the wording in, keep their distance out of
9 the -- at least stay out of the picture. That's before
10 I learned the scope. After that citation, I had to get
11 a scope and practice out. That way I wouldn't have to
12 follow the caribou or, I hate the word, chase. That's
13 what the law enforcement uses, the word chase to get
14 you. I hate that word. I didn't chase after my wife. I
15 followed after her and I got her.

16

17 (Shared laughter)

18

19 I always have to make silly jokes, too
20 many serious faces, (indiscernible) have to put a face
21 on them.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Comic
24 relief is welcome in bureaucratic meetings, so. Yeah, I
25 don't know if that would be part of the program review,
26 or if that would be something to take up with the
27 individual agents on their enforcement methods. But
28 yeah, some folks paint their Snow-Go white and they turn
29 their headlights off and do other things.

30

31 MR. NUKWAK: What I'm referring to is the
32 law enforcement.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, but if
35 you're out there with your lights off and your white
36 Sno-Go, white clothes and you're being sneaky and all
37 sudden there's a big red, loud Sno-Go with a bright --
38 you know, some of these Sno-Go have high beams, like
39 these dang cars that blind me around here. I'll call 'em
40 [sic] like arc welders. They're so bright. Yeah, it could
41 really mess you up. And I've nudged herds down there
42 going (engine noises) am I violating or not? But I'm
43 kind of thinking that might be taken up better with the
44 individual enforcement agents. I think, but Robbin, you
45 have something?

46

47 MS. LA VINE: Well, there's a little bit
48 of a discussion going on in our internal chat but just
49 saying that actually providing a comment under
50 additional items from the Council couldn't hurt. Just

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1 to say, you know, perhaps something broad like
2 enforcement should have training in cultural sensitivity
3 and traditional practice, you know, something like that.
4 And that there -- so that they are both aware of what
5 traditional practice looks like, and that they also have
6 baked into their practice respect and boundaries.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.

9

10 MR. NUKWAK: Sorry. And then most of the
11 rules are that are made now, I'm starting to understand,
12 come from like, RAC, Advisory and stuff like that. It
13 breaks our family unit the way we hunted in the past.
14 In smaller villages, we used to hunt as groups and now
15 the -- how the law is written, you cannot herd or
16 molester -- chase caribous, that law breaks our family
17 unit and how hunting a caribou -- that's how it was done
18 as long as it was there, but once that law came in, no
19 more family hunt. So just citation after citation.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I didn't
22 realize they were that numerous, but yeah, I know --
23 actually, we've had some pincher movements to catch
24 them. Some of it pure accident, but -- so, I guess some
25 of those regulations make it difficult. Has that been
26 captured? Okay. Anything else?

27

28 MR. NUKWAK: I have a thousand words. I
29 think.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do keep in
32 mind, we got a lot of business to get through.....

33

34 (Simultaneous speech)

35

36 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY:and
39 it's almost 4:00.

40

41 MR. NUKWAK: Well, we have till midnight,
42 right?

43

44 (Shared laughter)

45

46 I love meetings.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, you
49 might have a mutiny from the back stands here.

50

1 MR. NUKWAK: Don't worry about them. One
2 more. Since Manokotak is so close to Dillingham, they're
3 able to come into the community, and some hunters don't
4 like the agents coming in and looking in their sheds.
5 Even if the shed is open, probably keep their boundary
6 out of their sheds. Or looking for something. That's --
7 I'm just throwing out what I heard from my community,
8 what they went through. And when they told me, I didn't
9 like that.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I can
12 appreciate that. Kind of like wandering around in your
13 yards. I've had to ask sport fishermen to not wander
14 through yards in Igiugig. These are people's houses. You
15 don't do that in Anchorage, don't do it out here, so.
16 Anything else?

17
18 MR. NUKWAK: I mean that was the law
19 enforcement.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, ma'am.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So I just wanted to
28 share with the Council that all of the information that's
29 being captured in this document basically encompass
30 [sic] the general thoughts, and when it comes time to
31 actually writing the comments, I'm going to go back to
32 our -- all of our discussion to ensure that there's
33 enough context provided to the Secretaries on your
34 formal comments, and this is an action item that will
35 require motion, a second, and a vote.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
38 Thank you. Something I really love about being on the
39 RAC is the staff support because I was a Secretary for
40 the Nushagak Advisory Committee for something like 20
41 years, and it was just me, and sometimes -- once I
42 literally had 60 pages of minutes, which maybe I'd
43 overdone it, but -- writer's cramp. But it's wonderful
44 to be able to work, and have the recorders and such, but
45 so at this point, I'm kind of thinking -- what? We're
46 getting encouragement from Gisela, and we really got to
47 make some time here. I would be really tempted to hear
48 a motion to submit this list of comments as our view of
49 this whole proposed program review, kind of as recorded
50 and then somewhat edited by Gisela later. Can I hear a

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1 motion like that? Over.

2

3 MR. HILL: I so move, Dan.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
6 sir. Do I have a second?

7

8 MR. NUKWAK: Second.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
11 very much. Any more discussion?

12

13 MR. KANULIE: Question.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You're a
16 good man, Walter. If you could read a roll here and
17 record the votes. Thanks.

18

19 MS. CHAPA: Dan Dunaway.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

24

25 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

26

27 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

28

29 (No response)

30 I'm going to keep going. Robert Hill.

31

32 MR. HILL: Yes.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.

35

36 MR. KANULIE: Yes.

37

38 MS. CHAPA: I'm going to check and see
39 if Richard Wilson is online.

40

41 (No response)

42

43 And John Christensen, are you online?
44 The Council is currently voting on submitting comments
45 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program Review.
46 And if you are online, just remember that you're
47 automatically muted. You can unmute yourself through
48 Teams or by pressing star five -- star six, excuse me,
49 if you're joining over the phone.

50

1 (No response)

2

3 Okay. It doesn't appear that Mr.
4 Christensen is online. So we have four Council members
5 present, and we do not have a quorum. Okay, I'm going
6 to try to reach him over the phone. Give me a sec.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 Mr. Chair. He is online and again,
11 Council Member Christensen, the Council right now is
12 made a motion to submit comments to the Federal
13 Subsistence Management Program Review as discussed, and
14 so far we have Dan Dunaway, voting yay. Kenneth Nukwak,
15 voting yay. Robert Hill, yay. Walter Kanulie, yay. We
16 just need your vote. Yay or nay?

17

18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

19

20 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Council Member
21 Christiansen. And, Mr. Chair, we have five votes. Yes,
22 motion passes.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
25 you. I got a text here. Actually asking for a
26 clarification, is my understanding that that one of the
27 earliest points we had is that, I think we're voting to
28 keep OSM in the Secretary's Office. P whatever it is,
29 not leaving it in the Fish and Wildlife, just to verify.

30

31 MS. CHAPA: If I may follow up, I think
32 this is a comment that Council Member Kanulie had made,
33 and if you can just clarify if you meant to say that OSM
34 should have stayed under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
35 or in its current agency, which is the Office of Policy,
36 Management and Budget.

37

38 MR. KANULIE: I don't -- what was the
39 question?

40

41 MS. CHAPA: I can give a little bit more
42 context as a refresher. I know we saw that earlier on
43 in our meeting. So one of the topics that the Office of
44 the Secretary would like to get additional information
45 from Councils is your thoughts on the move of the Office
46 of Subsistence Management from Fish and Wildlife Service
47 to the Office of the Secretary, PMB for short. So, just
48 wanted clarification if you meant to say that the current
49 move is good, or if you'd like to see it reverted back
50 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

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MR. KANULIE: I wanted to revert back to Fish -- because we work with Alderman in Dillingham. Yeah. But then -- you know that -- I mean, why do -- why do they want to do that? I mean.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, go ahead, Robbin.

MS. LA VINE: So, Mr. Kanulie, the -- for the entire length of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, OSM so that's our office, the Office of Subsistence Management, and we are tasked with providing support to all the board members, and we are tasked with providing support to the Regional Advisory Councils. That's you. We've always been nested in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is one of our board member agencies, not in the Park Service, not in the Bureau of Land Management, not in the Forest Service, not in BIA, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And some people were concerned that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have undue influence. And so recently we were moved out of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service directly into the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. So we are closer to the Secretary of the Interior. We've lost some support that we had with Fish and Wildlife Service, but we have a direct line of -- a more direct line of communication to the Secretary. So there's different pluses and minuses to the move, right.

And so, I guess they want to know how you think the move should be, and I would -- or how, you know, what your thoughts are on the move. And you did mention that you value federal staff, right? You value federal staff like Andy Aderman from the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and he is wonderful. He's still part of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, which is across all the agencies, but he's not part of OSM. We -- so it doesn't -- he will always be here to provide his expertise. I think he retired, though. He did? So he retired. I'm so sorry. I am missing Andy too, but regardless, we will always have access to federal staff and, hopefully, we will also have access to our state colleagues. And you all have mentioned how important it is to have our State Fish and Wildlife Biologists and Managers attend these meetings to share their information with you. So where OSM is doesn't affect any of that. It affects OSM, right. It affects how we function, and the move was hard, but a move back would also be hard. It takes lots of work and more work from

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1 us out of our regular duties -- away from our regular
2 duties. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
5 Are you clear, Walter?

6

7 MR. KANULIE: Yeah, I have a better
8 understanding now. So it's okay, I guess, to be -- go
9 to IOS, PMB.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
12 you, because my -- certainly comment A captured my
13 desire, and I voted for just to kind of be on a record
14 here now that we've made the move, we're in it. I don't
15 want to -- we still gotta let things calm down where we
16 are, and hopefully things will -- you said you regrow
17 your roots and possibly some staff, so my full intention
18 is that I want to see it at PMD or PDM or ABC or --
19 anyway. Okay. So hopefully that's sufficient record. And
20 where are we now, Gisela?

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Now with that
23 clarification, the Council has voted on the comments on
24 the FSMP Federal Subsistence Board Program Review. We
25 can move on to wildlife proposals. Earlier in the day,
26 we went through WP26-36, Unit 9 wolverine. So if the
27 Council is ready, we can move on to WP26-37.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I
30 would like to do that. And who is this? Kara -- is the
31 Kendra's show. Kara. Kendra. On Dillingham we have
32 Kylie's and Kaylee's and a whole bunch that are all
33 similar, all similar age, and I get them all muddled up,
34 so.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: All right. So for the
39 record, Mr. Chair, members of the Council, Kendra
40 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. So, this is a
41 presentation of the summary of the analysis for Wildlife
42 Proposal WP26-37 can be found starting on page 33 of
43 your meeting book. WP26-37 was submitted by this Council
44 requesting to remove the firearms restriction for beaver
45 trapping in Units 9 and 17. This proposal is a
46 simplification of regulations and aligns with recent
47 changes to state regulations through the adoption of
48 state proposals 21 and 37, in January of 2025. These
49 went into effect January -- July 1st of 2025. This
50 simplification would be easier for users by matching

1 state and federal regulations, as well as removing
2 unclear regulations regarding beaver in Unit 9. Federal
3 subsistence trapping regulations for beaver in Unit 9 -
4 - Units 9 and 11 were adopted from state regulations in
5 1990 when the Federal Subsistence Management Program
6 began. Since then, season's harvest limits, methods, and
7 means have been expanded to accommodate the needs of
8 subsistence users and expanding beaver populations in
9 the Bristol Bay area.

10
11 So in -- the last change to federal
12 regulations for these was in 2002 and 2003, so it's been
13 a while. So as far as the biological side in Unit 9 the
14 most productive beaver habitat in the unit has a very
15 dependable water supply with little fluctuation in
16 stream flow and is adjacent to abundant and easily
17 accessible willow, aspen, cottonwood and birch
18 vegetation. Beavers are found from sea level up to
19 elevations of 2000ft. The biological information for
20 beavers is sparse in this area. However, local
21 residents, as well as federal and state biologists, have
22 noted that beaver populations have been increasing
23 within the Unit. ADF&G considers beaver populations in
24 Unit 9 to be healthy with no conservation concerns. Unit
25 17, historically, beavers have been in the most
26 important for furbearer and within the Unit, including
27 being an important food item. They are abundant
28 throughout most of the Unit and occur in all major
29 drainages and most smaller tributaries.

30
31 Seasonal closures in parts of Unit 17
32 have occurred on several occasions since -- throughout
33 the history, or based on area and drainage populations
34 when they need to recover from trapping pressure. While
35 biological data for beavers in Unit 17 is sparse, trapper
36 questionnaires from regulatory years '18 through '23
37 indicate beavers are common to scarce and have no change
38 in the population trend or conservation concerns. Within
39 Unit 9, beaver harvest has declined 80% from an annual
40 average of 460 in the 1970s to '90 and the 2010s, and
41 73 annually from 2012 to 2023. This information can be
42 found in figure 1 on page 39 at your meeting book.
43 Harvest reduction in the 1990s was primarily attributed
44 to reduced prices of pelts, cost of -- and the high cost
45 of both effort and expenses and diminishing trapping
46 interest among village residents. Poor traffic and
47 travel conditions likely contributed to recent
48 reductions as well.

1 Unit 17 beaver is the most consistently
2 used by trappers and represents an important commercial
3 and subsistence resource, as they are common and easy
4 to trap. Since 2018, total reported beaver harvest has
5 averaged more than 60 per year, while the number of
6 trappers has averaged just over 10 per year. This can
7 be found in figure 3 on page 40 of your meeting book.
8 While loafer prices and number of trappers, weather and
9 costs have contributed to the decline in beaver
10 trapping, their importance as a food assurance at a base
11 level of harvest assures a base level of harvest. Harvest
12 ceiling records do not fully represent subsistence
13 hunting effort or trapping success as beavers harvested
14 primarily for food often are not sealed.

15
16 So we have some alternatives considered
17 with -- in this analysis. So one was to eliminate the
18 statewide prohibition of taking a beaver with a firearm
19 under a trapping license. This information can be found
20 within the relevant federal regulation section on page
21 35 of your meeting book. Since federal regulations
22 prohibit the take of beaver by firearm under a trapping
23 license except in a provided unit-specific regulations,
24 another alternative considered was to allow the take of
25 beaver by firearms consistent with the trapping season
26 and harvest limits in Units 9 and 17, unit specific
27 regulations. This restriction is eliminated as proposed,
28 Units 9 and 17 would revert to general regulations, which
29 completely prohibit the take of beaver firearms under
30 trapping license, so that option was not selected.
31 However, that option -- that alternative, excuse me,
32 would meet the intent of the proponent increasing
33 opportunity for federally qualified subsistence users.
34 So that's -- meets the proponents' request but does not
35 -- not a good option from our review.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Can I
38 interrupt you a little bit.

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And I've
43 lost track on your part because I made a big mark on
44 here. I'm not sure I've whoever reviewed this got the
45 intent. I believe our intent was to allow firearms and
46 yet, under discussion effects -- have you got there yet?

47
48 MS. HOLMAN: I'm getting there here.

49
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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think
2 they've got it totally wrong.

3
4 MR. NUKWAK: On what page are you in?

5
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7
8 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: 41, right
11 there in the discussion and effects. I think there are
12 180 degrees off.

13
14 MS. HOLMAN: Discussion.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's a
17 problem with talking in a negative sometimes.

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: So, discussion and effects.
20 Sorry, I'm reading -- which paragraph in there?

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: The very
23 first line on halfway down under Discussion and Effects.

24
25 MS. HOLMAN: Oh. So that has to do with
26 how the proposal was submitted. Based on how the proposal
27 was submitted, that's what -- how it would affect. This
28 has to do with the relevant regulations that were not
29 submitted, and so we have an OSM modification that
30 addresses that so that the intent of the proposal is
31 met. So, there's an -- there's a relevant federal
32 regulation that -- this relevant federal regulation
33 makes it so the intent of the proposal, as the proposal
34 was written do not match. Once you consider the -- this
35 additional regulation, you have to make a modification
36 for it so that the intent of the proposal is met. Did
37 that help?

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I hope so.
40 We'll just stay on track here. I'm sorry to interrupt,
41 but my alarm bells were just going off. So go ahead.

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: So this additional relevant
44 federal regulation throws a kink in this is what this
45 is coming down to. If proposal WP26-37 is adopted as
46 proposed, Units & and 17 would revert back to the general
47 regulation, which completely prohibits the take of
48 beaver by firearm under a trapping regulation. This does
49 not meet the intent of the proposal. Okay. So that's
50 just what you were just talking about. However, users

1 may already harvest an unlimited number of beavers by
2 firearm during the entire trapping season on most
3 federal lands in these Units under state. No impacts to
4 the beaver population are expected, as there are no
5 conservation concerns for the beaver in the Unit. Any
6 regulation changes affecting the take of furbearers by
7 firearm under a trapping license would not only -- would
8 not apply to National Park Service lands.

9
10 So OSM has proposed a modification that
11 addresses this other federal regulation that threw the
12 kink in there. So our modification is to allow the take
13 of beavers by firearm under a trapping license and
14 putting that into unit specific regulations. So, instead
15 of having this -- here we'll come back to -- I'm going
16 to give you a page number here. So if you go back to
17 page 34 and 35 in your meeting book. So the current
18 federal regulation under beaver trapping, you can see
19 it's allowed from April 15th to May 31st. This proposal
20 was to remove that. However, because this federal --
21 this relevant federal regulation at the top of page 35,
22 because of that regulation, it would need to be put into
23 the unit specific regulations that allows the take of
24 beaver by firearm throughout the season established, so
25 it's the relevant federal regulations have to be changed
26 in order to meet the original intent of the proposal.
27 I'm hoping I didn't make that more confusing than it
28 should have been, but essentially it just comes down to
29 we have to address this other federal regulation.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Gotcha.
32 Yeah. Okay, good, because I think I've probably glossed
33 over some of this. Here's one of those situations where,
34 you know, I'm on the AC, we wanted to -- for a long time
35 we had -- we added that short period of firearms in the
36 spring to address a particular time. There's so little
37 beaver trapping that the Nushagak AC said, let's just
38 allow firearms full beaver season. And so then when we
39 wanted commensurate parallel regulations, and I think
40 we had a lot of agreement on this Council to do that,
41 somewhere in the technicalities we got mired in
42 federalese. So, okay at this point -- so if we have --
43 I would look for a motion to adopt with -- under the
44 language as recommended by OSM, I think would be the
45 what would work. Is that correct?

46
47 MS. CHAPA: Through the Chair. That OSM
48 modification.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, ma'am.
2 That kind.

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Yep.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So because
7 our whole point, and I believe in Richard, I think was
8 supportive of this, but he's trying to -- we want to
9 welcome Richard Wilson to the table here. He's been --
10 he got tired of bending his ear. But anyway, the whole
11 -- what I remember was we wanted to have it parallel.
12 The federal regulation allow you to use firearms
13 throughout the beaver season. I think Robert mentioned
14 that he's seen beavers abundance in his flying out of
15 Kokhanok and Naknek, and I'm seeing similar. And then
16 we had the days of beaver hide stacked to the ceiling
17 in L&M, and there's a couple places in Dillingham they
18 used to. It was a major economic impact, but it's not
19 anymore, but -- so there's really no reason to have
20 severe restrictions. So is anybody prepared to offer a
21 motion to adopt hopefully with the -- adopt the language
22 as recommended in the OSM preliminary conclusion?

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: Is that to use a firearm?
25 Am I comprehending it?

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir. As
28 much as I'm comprehending. Our intent was to allow us
29 to shoot beavers throughout the season.

30
31 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, through the Chair. So
32 that's what the modification does. The modification
33 meets the intent of the proposal.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Lisa.

36
37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa, again. I'm just
38 going to say what Kendra said in different words to see
39 if that helps. So basically there's a statewide
40 prohibition on the take of beaver by firearm under a
41 trapping license. That's a statewide -- unless it's
42 permitted under unit specific regulations, and so if we
43 just strike out and eliminate the unit specific
44 regulations as was proposed in, you know, the proposal
45 as submitted, then it reverts back to that statewide
46 prohibition. And so that's why there's that OSM
47 modification.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
50 great. That does help, and in some cases I did a little

1 bit of problem beaver removal, and I did lose a couple.
2 They got swept away as soon as I snuffed them, but so
3 that's some of the reason. But the folks I know of in
4 my area are very conservative and respectful and would
5 not be doing that much. So anyway, I'm looking for a
6 motion to adopt.

7
8 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. We do
9 have a lot of beavers now, even with Manokotak all the
10 way to Togiak, on Togiak trail. And they are a nuisance.
11 And I didn't know we were not allowed to shoot them with
12 a .22. They do block the paths of the fish, (In Native).
13 What they call them in English, catfish? They block their
14 paths on the tundra. These little contractors used to
15 damage their dam, they fix it in a day for free so they
16 can stay warm. So if it's to allow the use of firearm
17 with the -- is that with the license?

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: Yes. Through the chair.

20
21 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. I'll make
22 a motion to adopt. Is that to adopt?

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
25 Motion to adopt as recommended by the OSM modification.

26
27 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Correct?
30 Okay. Second?

31
32 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'll second. John.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I guess I'm
35 still off. So we got a second. I'm still not quite
36 following procedure, but we have a motion. But let's go
37 on to tribes comments on this.

38
39 MR. NUKWAK: My wording, I'll update my
40 wording to a firearm.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

43
44 MR. LIND: Good afternoon. Brother
45 Wilson, good to see you. Orville Lind, Native Liaison
46 for OSM. During the consultation session held August
47 19th, we did not have any questions or comments on this
48 proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
2 Do we have any ANCSA Corporation comments?

3
4 (No comment)

5
6 Seeing none. Agency comments, Fish and
7 game have any?

8
9 (No comment)

10
11 Seeing none. Federal agents, comments?

12
13 (No comment)

14
15 Tribal entities. I think tribal
16 entities, a lot of them left already. So it's the Board
17 of Fish carrying more weight right now.

18
19 (No comment)

20
21 Advisory group comments? I'll speak for
22 Nushagak since I'm on it. We didn't take up any -- fish
23 took all the time. We didn't look any wildlife ones at
24 that point for Nushagak. Other Regional Councils or
25 SRCs? Go ahead, Liza.

26
27 MS. RUPP: Oh. For the record, Liza Rupp,
28 Subsistence Coordinator for Lake Clark National Park and
29 Preserve. So I think the SRC missed the point also. I'm
30 afraid. So our letter says we support, or they support
31 sorry -- they support the proposal and they didn't
32 mention the modification because I think that missed us
33 also completely. So anyway, officially they support the
34 proposal, but I'm guessing -- I can't speak for them
35 anyway. Officially they support it.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm going to
38 guess that they.....

39
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41
42 MS. RUPP: I mean, I think they supported
43 the intent in the letter that they support aligning state
44 and federal regulations, and they also don't think that
45 there is any species concern, you know, abundance
46 concern with beavers, certainly in the Lake Clark area.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
49 Thank you very much. Let's see. Anybody else in there?
50 What's that?

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MS. HOLMAN: So, through the chair. So the Kodiak Aleutians Council heard this one. They did support the OSM modification as well. Council supports this proposal as it increases subsistence opportunity in Unit 9, which is the only one of the two in their region, and aligns with the home regions needs. Beaver harvest provides important food and fur, and reducing some dam impacts may benefit salmon passage.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great. Thank you. Public testimony, written or spoken?

MS. HOLMAN: There were no written public comments received on this proposal.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. This is where we should have had the motion. We have a motion, and a second. Discussion from the Council.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair. Thank you. So when you talk unit specific, is it specific enough to say Unit 9 instead of 9C, 9B, 9 -- is that correct? Just what I'm reading here is good enough for what we're after.

MS. HOLMAN: Yeah.

MR. WILSON: Or be specific with 9C, 9B?

MS. HOLMAN: You do not need to be specific of the sub-units. Saying Unit 9 will cover the entirety of Unit 9.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. It's good to see you sitting here. I appreciate it, so yeah. We're -- so, anybody else? John or Robert or Walter? Kenneth.

MR. WILSON: Richard. Just a quick comment. Yeah. We've -- you know, we all know that we got really good abundance in our systems, you know, and you can't hardly go up a creek where you're hunting for moose and stuff, where you don't have to watch out for beavers and they're all over the place. So I don't think this is going to affect the population at all, and it's just going to help some out that really want to harvest them.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
2 for that. Yeah. You know, if you don't have the squirrels
3 taletelling on you, you sit there ain't [sic] beavers
4 out slapping their tails when you're trying to sneak
5 around. I've also flown between Dillingham and Manokotak
6 and, I swear, some of those beavers got their houses out
7 there in the intertidal area or something. It's crazy
8 where they are. I'll be supportive of this, so if there
9 are any more comments or questions, or do we have a
10 question?

11
12 MR. WILSON: I'll call for the question.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
15 Richard. Can we read the roll?

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.

18
19 MR. KANULIE: Yes.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

22
23 MR. HILL: Yes.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

26
27 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

28
29 MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Yes.

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Dan Dunaway.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Motion
38 carries.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Excellent.
41 Next.....

42
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44
45 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. You
46 forget me.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Pardon me. Kenneth Nukwak.

49
50 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

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MS. CHAPA: My deep apologies. I'm sorry.

MR. NUKWAK: No problem.

MS. CHAPA: We have 6 yays. Motion carries.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you very much. Next one is Kendra show too?

MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So -- Oh. Wrong document. Sorry. Okay. So again, for the record, Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. This is the Summary of Analysis W -- for Wildlife Proposal WP26-38 and -39, can be found starting on page 45 of your meeting book. WP26-38 was submitted by Dan Dunaway requesting to increase the harvest limit for brown bears in Unit 17 and eliminate the State Registration Permit. WP26-39 was submitted by this Council requesting to extend the season. So the federal subsistence regulations for brown bears and Unit 17 have remained the same since 1999. Unreported harvest is an issue within the area and extending the resident season to year-round is hope that more people will report their harvest. While there's no conservation concern for the Unit 17, brown bears population information for them is sparse. The most recent density estimate was from 2004. All brown bears harvested in the state's general hunt are required to be sealed providing harvest information. Bears harvested by State Subsistence Permit RV500, which includes any harvest under federal regulations, only need to be sealed if they are removed from Unit 17. However, there has only been one RV500 permit issued since regulatory year 2020. Reported harvest reflects only a portion of the brown bears harvested in Unit 17, as each year, reports of shot and left bears reached the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in ADF&G. From 2011 to 2023 harvest of brown bears in Unit 17 ranged from a low of 54 in 2016, to a high of 167 in 2011. Figure 1 on page 53 of your meeting book has this information.

The harvest objective of at least 50% males has only been exceeded twice since 2011. While harvest exceeded 50 bears in every year -- every harvest year. Also found in figure 1. Average numbers of hunters who took two bears was 5 per year, ranging from 0 to 13, which compromise -- comprised of 0 to 9% of the annual harvest. Unreported harvest of brown bears is known to occur in unit 17. Human bear conflicts are common

1 throughout the unit for a variety of reasons. On the
2 state side, the defense of life and property bears are
3 often instances during June and July when residents are
4 typically out fishing and berry picking, but the
5 resident bear season is closed. This causes frustration
6 with people having to salvage the hide and skull, only
7 to surrender it to the state, leading to unreported
8 harvest during these closed seasons.

9
10 If proposal WP 20 -- proposals WP26-38
11 and -39 are adopted in Unit 17, brown bear hunt would
12 extend to the year-round, with a two-bear limit,
13 providing additional opportunity for subsistence users
14 under federal regulations. The registration permit
15 requirement would be eliminated and no impacts to the
16 brown bear population are expected, as users may already
17 harvest two brown bears year-round in Unit 17 under state
18 regulations, including on federal public lands. Cubs and
19 sows with cubs still cannot be harvested. Eliminating
20 the state registration permit requirement may decrease
21 harvest reporting and increase the burden on subsistence
22 users to seal all harvested bears. All of the front
23 claws and skin from the head are required to be removed
24 at the time of sealing from any bear taken under state
25 subsistence permits. Eliminating the state registration
26 permit could also benefit subsistence users, who would
27 like to retain the claws for use in handicrafts. The OSM
28 preliminary to conclusion is to support both WP26-38 and
29 WP26-39. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If there's any questions,
30 I'm happy to address them.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
33 I'm going to jump in since my name's on one of them. I
34 believe we took some action, and then there was a little
35 bit of confusion about the two bears versus the season.
36 And I ended up, I think, submitting that proposal to
37 make sure that wording was in there. I was also a
38 proponent for doing the year-round bear season for the
39 state, because the biologist -- I kind of -- I did it
40 to help the biologist. We have seen a number -
41 personally, I was seeing a number of Facebook posts about
42 bears that were shot in villages, and there was never a
43 report. And at the same time, the state was embarked on
44 their bear reduction program in the northern Unit 17,
45 which is very controversial and on hold right now, but
46 they were eager to have a better count of bears. And
47 again, whole -- in the middle of setting that season,
48 and down there in like Igushik Beach or over on Clark's
49 and stuff, they might have to whack a bear, but they
50 also had to deal with fish and to meet all of the DLP,

1 Defense of Life and Property rules, was really onerous
2 and burdensome where they had, I think, 30 days to get
3 the bear sealed under just an open season.

4
5 The Board of Game approved it, and this
6 is another effort to get state and federal regulations
7 aligned. We've had monster red salmon runs across
8 Bristol Bay. There's no shortage of bears. I'm hearing
9 from quite a few friends and various communities that
10 there's a considerable excess of bears. Despite what
11 some Wildlife Fund and some of the other money raising
12 agencies or groups from the Lower 48. I just saw
13 something on Facebook the other day, told a lie about
14 shortage of bears in their endangered. They are not. Not
15 in our area, so that -- for that explanation, I'm eager
16 to hear from the rest of the Council on this. I guess
17 we still got to go through tribes. Let's get -- I get
18 this straight. Let's go through the tribes and all that
19 stuff first. That's Orville show. It'll eventually add
20 up to 15 or -- yeah, 15.

21
22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Orville
23 Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. Again, for this proposal,
24 we don't have any questions or comments made. Thank you,
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
28 sir. Sarge, you got continuous fame down there at Homer
29 and that -- I still can't believe I was in that museum.
30 And I'm like, Orville's talking here somewhere. And I
31 knew his voice that they have recorded. So ANCSA
32 Corporations?

33
34 (No comment)

35
36 Has Fish and Game offered any comments?

37
38 (No comment)

39
40 Other federal agencies?

41
42 (No comment)

43
44 Tribal entities?

45
46 (No comment)

47
48 Other Councils, as Liza show here pretty
49 quick?

1 MS. RUPP: For the record, Liza Rupp,
2 Subsistence Coordinator for Lake Clark, on behalf of the
3 Lake Clark SRC. So I have a bit of a paragraph to read
4 here for the record, but the -- alright. So what the SRC
5 said the Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource
6 Commission voted to take no action on either of these
7 proposals, but the members do have several comments that
8 we/they would like to share with you. Esgaq members had
9 serious concerns about increasing the harvest limit to
10 brown bears. In recent years, the state has undertaken
11 intensive predator management in Unit 17, and there is
12 limited information available about how this has
13 impacted the brown bear population in the region. No
14 current population counts have been conducted. During
15 the last three years, the state has gunned down almost
16 200 brown bears in Unit 17. Bears range long distances.
17 In a 2014 to '18 study by Lake Clark National Park
18 Service Biologists, bears tagged within the park and
19 preserve moved many miles, west beyond the Mulchatna,
20 south to Iliamna Lake and north past the Stony River.
21 Most of the 40 or more tagged bears did not remain within
22 the Park and Preserve. Bears are a slow reproducing
23 species, and the impact of the combination of predator
24 control. The higher harvest limit on state regulated
25 lands, plus a higher limit on federal subsistence lands,
26 could have negative impacts on the overall population.
27 SRC members are generally supportive of extending the
28 brown bear season to year-round to match the state
29 season, and were neutral on the idea of removing the
30 state registration permit requirement.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
33 Thank you very much. Any other SRC's or regional
34 entities?

35
36 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. No
37 Regional Advisory Councils have taken this one up yet.
38 So the YK Delta does next week.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
41 great. Thank you. We have any written or public comments?

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: No written public comments
44 were received.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: We do have
47 interested public. Donald, come on up. Do we need a blue
48 card for him?

49
50

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1 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you
2 can just state your name and your affiliation, for the
3 record.

4
5 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Mr. Chair and
6 Council members. Donald Mike. And I'm representing my
7 wife and my subsistence household. I just want to thank
8 Council members from rural communities, and I really
9 appreciate the input that they provide to this Council
10 for the Federal Subsistence Board to consider. And you
11 guys represent your communities very well but I'll be
12 I'll be brief on Wildlife Proposal 2638-39 I support the
13 OSM conclusion. It will provide additional subsistence
14 opportunity. There are no -- currently no conservation
15 concerns. Thank you.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
18 Any questions for Donald or comments?

19
20 MR. NUKWAK: Donald. Are you ready to
21 head to Manokotak to shoot a bear under my house?

22
23 MR. MIKE: But -- what is the question
24 again?

25
26 MR. NUKWAK: Are you ready to go
27 Manokotak to shoot a beat under my house?

28
29 MR. MIKE: Yes, I am. If you come to my
30 house and shoot to bear at my wife's garden.

31
32 MR. NUNWAK: I literally been done, about
33 three years ago, in the month of June there was a bear
34 sat under a house in the middle of the town at around
35 11 pm.

36
37 MR. MIKE: Yeah, that's permissible, I
38 believe, under defensive licensed property.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
41 very much. Okay. At this point, I think is the
42 possibility of a motion if somebody cares to make a
43 motion. I'm ready to hear it. Kenneth.

44
45 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native) I shall move.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Move
48 to adopt both -38 and -39?

49
50 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do we have
a second?

MR. WILSON: Second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
Richard. Discussion, justification? I did kind of a
little spiel there. Anybody else have comments? Kenneth.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. These bears have been
healthy for a long time now, and unheard of four cubs.
When I told my late uncle, my mom's a distant cousin,
may God rest his soul, he just passed away last year
when I told him that I saw a sow with four cubs, and he
goes, that's unbelievable, that's unheard of, I don't
believe you. And he's -- that's the first time he heard
somebody tell him that. There was a sow spotted with
four cubs, and I've been spotting those bears with four
cubs and it's -- I think it's about time to control
their numbers, bring it down. And then at the same time,
when that -- we may or the, whoever sits on these RACs,
also has to pay attention to the wolf population because
with the elimination of one predator area, comes another
predator forming where the bears were giving cubs,
that'll make room for the wolves to come in, and that
needs to be paid attention to at the same time.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
for that. Anybody else?

(No response)

Well, I'll jump in here. I agree with
you, Kenneth. I've seen pictures once -- the one spring
before the salmon showed up, and there was something
like nine bears around a dumpster somewhere, and it was
obvious it was two sows, one with four cubs and another
sow with three cubs. And I've seen a few sows with that
many cubs early, but you don't see them by September,
they're down. And yet I'm hearing, especially from over
Richard's country, that they're bringing these cubs all
the way through winter to the next spring. And again,
like I say, some of the villages north of Dillingham,
with the boomer runs we've seen into Wood River and (In
Native), the bears are abundant. in in excess, I think.
So I'm going to be supporting this. Anybody else?

MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Richard
here. Yeah. There's plenty. There's definitely no

1 shortage of bear in our area either, and you know,
2 respect the Lake Clark SRC and their observations. You
3 know, everybody up there, maybe it's not quite as heavy
4 as some of our coastal areas, you know, with bear
5 populations and kind of respect their thoughts there
6 too. But I don't see, you know, if this passes, I don't
7 see how there's really that much more kills to be had.
8 I mean, you know, it's nice to have that -- be able to
9 take one that's being a nuisance in your yard, you know,
10 or something like that, and we have that ability now,
11 so I'll be in support of this, too.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
14 Richard. Robert or John?

15
16 MR. HILL: Likewise. We've got a really
17 good bear population here. I think this fall was possibly
18 the most bears in the area that I've seen in. I think
19 that was largely due to our very abundance here with the
20 scarcity in other places. But, yeah, I'm in favor of
21 this.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
24 Robert.

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'm in favor also. It's
29 -- I understand bear problem, firsthand.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: They get
32 kind of big down here. It's actually all over around
33 there, so thank you. I'd entertain a question.

34
35 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Question.

36
37 MR. HILL: Call for question.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
40 Question's been called and -- Gisela.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.

43
44 MR. KANULIE: Yes.

45
46 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

47
48 MR. HILL: Yes.

49
50 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

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MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: And Dan Dunaway.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Motion carries.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you everybody. Next -- what do we have next on here?

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair? Yes. That is Wildlife Proposal 26-40.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead when ready.

DR. ROBERTS: All right. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Jason Roberts. I'm an Anthropologist at OSM. And I've kind of taken over in the Bristol Bay region for Pippa, trying to fill her shoes. We unfortunately lost her to retirement last year, but without further ado, I'll be presenting a summary of Wildlife Proposal 26-40. The analysis of this proposal begins on page 57 of your meeting book. This proposal request to close federal public lands and portions of Unit 17A and 17C to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users and federally qualified subsistence users who do not reside in and Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Alagnak, Dillingham, Clarks Point and Ekuk, and it requests that disclosure be maintained regardless of the population size of the Nushagak Herd.

And if you'll remember, that's a recent change where you have that 900 population threshold above which the herd is opened up for harvest by other users. So the proponent states that he would like to change the federal regulations regarding the Nushagak Herd back to how they were prior to 2018, explaining that the reintroduction of caribou to the Nushagak

1 Peninsula in 1988 was designed to restore an important
2 resource for local communities, many of which have
3 historically relied on caribou for subsistence and
4 cultural practices, and so this change would, again,
5 prioritize federally qualified users residing in those
6 seven communities. And by limiting caribou hunting,
7 Nushagak Caribou hunting, to users in these communities,
8 the regulation would support sustainable harvesting
9 practices while protecting cultural traditions and
10 promoting long term food security.

11
12 And so this proposal is a bit more
13 complicated, I think, than we thought it was going to
14 be at the beginning. And I'm going to focus probably
15 mostly on the regulatory history, because I think that
16 will help us understand how it got to where it is now.
17 So the Nushagak Herd, as the proponent states, was re-
18 established in Unit 17 in 1988 when 146 caribou were
19 relocated from the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd in
20 Unit 9 with the intention of eventually providing
21 residents with a subsistence resource. And at the time
22 that the Federal Management Program announced its first
23 regulations in 1992, rural residents of Unit 9B, Unit
24 17, Lime Village and Stony River were recognized as
25 having customary and traditional use for caribou
26 throughout Unit 17. However, at the time, caribou
27 harvest under federal regulations was only open in Unit
28 17B and C. In 1994 the Nushagak herd had grown to a
29 point where [sic] was considered viable to establish a
30 hunt, and so a hunt was established in portions of 17A
31 and C, and a closure was instituted to all users with
32 customary and traditional use determinations except
33 those residing in the seven communities mentioned in
34 this proposal. And so the Board explained that these
35 seven communities located in the vicinity of the herd,
36 had been integral to the reintroduction and management
37 of the herd, that studies had shown caribou to be a key
38 component of subsistence economies in four of the seven
39 communities, and that supporting that proposal was
40 consistent with this Council's recommendation and the
41 terms of the Nushagak Caribou Management Plan.

42
43 So the odd thing here is that this board
44 action implemented a Section 804 restriction,
45 prioritizing a subset of federally qualified users with
46 a customary and traditional use determination for
47 Caribou in Unit 17 over others, but it appears that due
48 to kind of the unique way the herd was reintroduced and
49 cooperatively managed, and possibly the newness of the
50 federal program, there's never been a formal Section 804

1 subsistence user analysis conducted to correspond with
2 those restrictions. Since 1994, Nushagak caribou harvest
3 limits and season lengths have been increased and
4 decreased several times, reflecting changes in the size
5 of the population and hunting activities. Since 2015,
6 regulations regarding the herd have generally been
7 changed to allow for more harvest, primarily due to
8 concerns about the herd exceeding carrying capacity of
9 its range.

10
11 In 2016, your Council discussed options
12 to control the growth and potential overgrazing of the
13 herd by increasing harvest, and Council members at that
14 time expressed interest in expanding the C&T
15 determination for caribou in Unit 17 as a way to open
16 harvest and increase harvest among a larger pool of
17 federally qualified users, before opening the hunt to
18 other users. In 2018, the Bristol Bay Council supported
19 a modified version of WP18-22, which opened federal
20 lands within the range of the herd to all users when the
21 population was above 900, but closed these lands to
22 hunting by non-federally qualified users when the herd's
23 population fell below 900. The Council noted at that
24 time that the modification was intended to address
25 concerns regarding overgrazing, while also preventing
26 overharvest and maintaining a subsistence priority.

27
28 In 2018, the Bristol Bay Council also
29 supported another proposal which requested to add the
30 residents of Unit 9C and 9E to the customary and
31 traditional use determination for caribou in the
32 Nushagak Herd range. And this proposal was again
33 submitted partially in response to the Council
34 expressing interest in expanding that C&T to add more
35 federally qualified users before opening it to non-
36 federally qualified users. In 2024, the Board adopted
37 another proposal expanding the Nushagak hunt area
38 because it was noted that the herd had expanded its
39 range and frequently occupied areas outside the existing
40 hunt area, and this was curtailing some harvest and
41 subsistence opportunity.

42
43 In 2020, the Nushagak Planning Committee
44 revised the herd population objective moving it down due
45 to concerns about overgrazing. So the current management
46 objectives include maintaining a population of 200 to
47 600 caribou with 400 caribou representing an optimum
48 number for the area. And so the population of the herd
49 has fluctuated regularly over the years in relation to
50 harvest intensity, as well as what appear to be

1 occasional boom and bust cycles. Recently, the
2 population declined from about 1400 Caribou in 2015 to
3 a minimum count of 209 in 2020. As of 2024, the
4 population had rebounded to a minimum count of 573. And
5 so current management efforts are aimed at preventing
6 overgrazing while recovering the population and
7 providing for subsistence harvest. And the Planning
8 Committee determines by consensus the number of federal
9 registration permits to make available each year, with
10 tribal Councils typically distributing these permits in
11 their communities.

12
13 And so subsistence studies continue to
14 document the importance of caribou for Bristol Bay
15 residents with caribou usually contributing a
16 significant portion of total subsistence harvest in
17 these communities. And hunters in Bristol Bay generally
18 search for caribou in a wide area surrounding their
19 communities and this was one of the reasons for expanding
20 the C&T noted by the Bristol Bay Council. And whether
21 it has become an increasingly important factor, as noted
22 by your Council and other members of the public, and
23 when and where hunters can harvest caribou in recent
24 years as hunters have reported that weather has
25 generally gotten warmer over the past several decades,
26 and these changing weather patterns can lead to changes
27 in caribou migration and make well established methods
28 of accessing caribou more difficult and dangerous. And
29 harvest numbers have been lower than normal in recent
30 years, partially as a result of this issue.

31
32 The OSM preliminary conclusion on this
33 proposal is to oppose it, noting that the current policy
34 that was enacted in 2018 does a good job of balancing
35 the needs to maintain subsistence priority by closing
36 when the population estimate is below a population
37 threshold, currently 900 caribou, while opening the hunt
38 to a broader number of users when the herd exceeds that
39 threshold, to keep the herd within carrying capacity and
40 prevent unnecessary restrictions on other users. In-
41 season management of permit numbers and permit
42 distribution also prioritizes the communities most
43 dependent on the resource when the herd's population is
44 low, and we think that this will continue to achieve the
45 proponent's intent. Further residents of communities in
46 Unit 9 that currently have a customary and traditional
47 use determination for Nushagak Caribou have searched for
48 and harvested caribou in portions of Unit 17 for as long
49 as these reports have been kept. And the Bristol Bay
50 Council previously expressed support for the inclusion

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1 of Unit 9 residents in the C&T, specifically to provide
2 access to the Nushagak herd. Likewise, residents of Unit
3 17 also have a C&T determination for caribou in Units
4 9C and 9E, demonstrating this type of wide-ranging
5 regional pattern of Caribou harvest. And so that's what
6 I got.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
9 That's an excellent summary and matches up with my faulty
10 memory. Okay, let's go on to tribes in the Orville show.

11
12 MR. LIND: Afternoon, Chair, Council
13 members. During the August 19th consultation, we did
14 have a comment by the Natural Resource Director of
15 Bristol Bay Native Association, and first tribe of the
16 current Tribal Council asked about the closure that
17 talks about the Nushagak Caribou number and needed
18 clarification when it says it exceeds 900 to further
19 explained that. OSM staff replied that the 900 is
20 currently in regulation and was based on a previous
21 number that the Nushagak working group had. Currently,
22 the working group has reduced the number to 600 as a
23 management objective. In that management objective,
24 they're looking for co-management efforts on that, it
25 would be good to move in that direction when decisions
26 are being made on caribou that is harvested on the
27 Nushagak Peninsula, and that concludes the comment made.
28 Mr. Chair.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
31 very much for that. That's very helpful. Agency
32 comments, Fish and Game, Federal agencies, tribal
33 entities. I'm going to be -- trying to speed it up.

34
35 MR. CAWLFIELD: This is Truett Cawlfeld
36 with Togiak Refuge. Mr. Chair.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
39 Truett.

40
41 MR. CAWLFIELD: Just share the refuge
42 perspective here really quickly. There's a lot of
43 complicated regulatory history here. And, you know, a
44 number of stakeholders that come together on an annual
45 basis to set hunt structure and discuss what we want to
46 see happen with this herd. I think where things are
47 right now, there's consensus amongst the different
48 stakeholders between the state and the refuge and all
49 the different communities. And right now, the structure
50 prioritizes subsistence, prioritizes local users and

1 local communities are able to harvest caribou when the
2 numbers are available. And so, the refuge wants to
3 maintain status quo and will oppose this proposal.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
6 very much, Truett. Anybody else? I just want to say I've
7 participated or actually just sat in because I really
8 am not qualified to participate. But in those -- a lot
9 of those caribou -- Nushagak Peninsula Caribou meetings.
10 And I've seen some wonderful cooperation and
11 consideration through the years. I wasn't in this one,
12 but I think I was in Anchorage for that one, this year's
13 meeting. It is a -- maybe for some people that doesn't
14 amount to co-management, but it sure seemed like co-
15 management. At least some -- a form of it and I've
16 thought it's a wonderful thing. Again, the Nushagak
17 Advisory Committee didn't touch any game issues,
18 wildlife issues. I don't know if any other -- I don't
19 see any record of any other ACs weighing in, but I'll
20 look around the room. Yes, Kenneth.

21
22 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I am the maker of this
23 proposal. And in the past, I was a young man when there
24 was a move to transplant caribou down to the Nushagak
25 Peninsula. And listening to my late dad and other old
26 folks that have passed on, the reason they -- and I
27 don't think it's recorded the reason they brought the
28 transplant into the Nushagak Peninsula because they had
29 to travel long distances to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
30 area to hunt those. So, in order to hunt closer, they
31 got an idea to transplant to the Peninsula area so they
32 can hunt closer, and it's only about 30 miles, the
33 longest about 40 miles to travel, from the difference
34 from Togiak and Manokotak to the Mulchatna area is about
35 150 to 200 miles -- air miles, I think. So that's why I
36 made this proposal. And I was one of the young men that
37 was unloading these caribou when -- and Bo Darden was
38 the pilot, and his airplane was the color green, then
39 the army color, and then after the transplant was
40 completed, they were supposed to transplant 150, 3 or 4
41 of them died. So, 146 or 147 survived. And then Bo
42 Darden, after he got paid from whatever he was working
43 for, changed the color of his airplane. So that's why I
44 -- justification -- for the justification that I made
45 that to try and bring it back to the way it was for the
46 seven communities. And if it does not pass, I'll keep
47 on pushing for that and I'm not afraid to do that. Thank
48 you.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Very good,
2 Kenneth. Do what you think is right. That's why you're
3 here. Thank you. Is there any SRC comments? It's kind
4 of out of their location. Summary of written or public
5 testimony. Do we have anything? We've got a finger up
6 here. I already forgot your name. I'm sorry.

7
8 DR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Jason
9 Roberts.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Jason. Go
12 ahead please.

13
14 DR. ROBERTS: So, we didn't receive any
15 written public comments on this one.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,
18 my memory is good. It's just really short. Okay, we're
19 down here to number seven, Regional Council
20 Recommendation. Do we have a motion? Oops. So, got a
21 hand wave. Oh, Donald, come on up.

22
23 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Donald
24 Mike, private citizen. And earlier, I heard testimony
25 by Mr. Louie Green about public participation, and he
26 stated on record that, you know, these Regional advisory
27 Councils are held annually or twice a year, and we have
28 a lot of federal state staff present as public. But I
29 agree with Mr. Louie Green that we need more private
30 citizens to participate in these public meetings. Title
31 VIII of ANILCA is the law of the land. And we need more
32 public participation to help protect our ANILCA Title
33 VIII. But as far as this proposal, I am in neutral and
34 based on the wildlife closure review, that the carrying
35 capacity is recommended at 600 animals to prevent
36 overgrazing. Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
39 Donald. Yeah. When we had these in for a while -- in
40 fact, we still do when we have them in Dillingham. Often
41 the school classes come to participate, and they learn
42 a little more about it. And we even held him in the
43 school specifically to make it readily available. So
44 yes, it's always -- and then sometimes in Naknek, we do
45 have former members and public, but yeah, more public
46 is good. And look at -- Kenneth started out as public
47 and now he's not. So that's cool. Any -- do we -- oh.
48 go ahead Donald.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: I would like to support our
2 proponent's intent on this proposal but based on the
3 information that was provided by analysis you know,
4 preventing overgrazing on a small peninsula is important
5 to help protect the herd. Thank you.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
8 Donald. At this time, do we have any other input or is
9 it time -- oh, Lisa.

10

11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
12 record. And I just wanted to add, I mean, my
13 understanding from Kenneth. I mean, you want these
14 communities prioritized, and I think they already can
15 be under the current regulatory framework, where it kind
16 of balances/optimizes subsistence opportunity with
17 conservation, and that conservation is preventing the
18 caribou from overgrazing their habitat and out
19 migrating. Like leaving the peninsula or just, you know,
20 the whole population crashing because they don't have
21 habitat. And so currently, the Togiak Refuge Manager has
22 delegated authority to determine the number of permits
23 issued to communities. And my understanding is those
24 determinations are made cooperatively with this Nushagak
25 Caribou Planning Committee. Yep. Do you have a -- go
26 ahead.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. This
31 summer, me and my wife were visiting her parents when
32 the caribou permits for the Nushagak Peninsula were
33 brought in. And this is not the first time they run out,
34 so I don't know which community donates the caribou tags.
35 So, when the -- when those came in, we went to go get
36 some caribou tags for me and my wife and my two sons.
37 But I'd like to thank whoever -- whichever community has
38 been donating to Manokotak with the populations going
39 up in each small community, need to also look into that
40 and and probably keep that in mind. Thank you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
43 Kenneth.....

44

45 (Simultaneous speech)

46

47 MR. CAWLFIELD: Hi this is Truett
48 Cawlfied.....

49

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm hoping
2 -- yeah, go ahead.

3
4 MR. CAWLFIELD:I have a response
5 to Kenneth if that's okay, Mr. Chair.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir. Go
8 ahead.

9
10 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah. So, the refuge
11 prints and distributes the permits to all of the
12 communities. So, you know, Clark's Point, Ekuk,
13 Manokotak. I visited each of those communities
14 individually once the hunt structure was cooperatively
15 decided by the Planning Committee, and then we had all
16 those permits printed. I went to all those communities
17 and met with either someone in the Village Council or
18 found the representative who sat on the Planning
19 Committee and gave them the permits for distribution.
20 And Manokotak's case specifically, I know that they did
21 distribute all of the first round of permits that I
22 delivered. And then it might have been a couple months
23 later, we got a phone call that they had run out of
24 permits, so I took another batch of permits out to
25 Manokotak. But like we've discussed, the Planning
26 Committee this year determined that two permits would
27 be available per person and permits would be available
28 on an unlimited basis. So, folks should have been able
29 to get a permit and if they run out, if a community runs
30 out. I did my best to communicate. Just give us a call.
31 And, and we would try to remedy that as quick as we
32 could. So that's a consideration I'll keep in mind moving
33 forward when we determine as the Planning Committee to
34 have unlimited permits. I certainly don't want just the
35 fact that, you know, the people distributing them have
36 just physically run out of permits to prevent people
37 from having an opportunity to get a caribou. So anyways,
38 all that to say, I did my best to get permits out to the
39 communities and that's something I'll keep an eye on
40 moving forward. Just making sure that we can keep permits
41 and communities so that folks can have a chance at the
42 caribou. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
45 Truett. So, I imagine you might send a few more over to
46 KMO there for when Kenneth gets back.

47
48 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah, yeah. I mean last
49 I spoke with Andrews, they had permits, but I can
50 check on that for sure.

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MR. NUKWAK: Yes. And thank you. What's your name?

MR. CAWLFIELD: My name is Truett Cawlfild. I'm the -- I'm a Biologist at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Hi. Just to make a correction, you said that they ran out in two months. It ran out in a little over two weeks because I was in Kongiganak and once we got home that same day or the next day, we went to go check for caribou tag and they were out. But thank you very much for considering Manokotak and bringing in more caribou tags. And I'll do my best in -- to have Manokotak hunters report their tags. I'll announce that over the radio when I get home. (In Native).

MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah, that would be greatly appreciated.

MR. NUKWAK: And if you don't have any announcers, I'm able to announce in Manokotak. If you don't have any, if you don't find anybody to announce for you. Thank you.

MR. CAWLFIELD: Thank you, Kenneth.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Kenneth. And yeah, just don't be shy to calling Stan or to Truett. And because I do remember that they were saying they weren't really limiting, also their previous years, I think because through Manokotak closest to the herd and most dependent on it, I've seen some accommodations in the committee, so. But any other comment or do we have a motion to move on this?

(No response)

Well, at this point, the Council recommendation, do we want to move to support or -- and typically I'm accustomed to move in the positive and then if you don't support it, we can vote it down. Sometimes in the Council we've moved to reject. But whichever way, got to be careful how we vote, but it is an action item, and we do need a vote on it if possible.

MR. WILSON: Excuse me, Chair. Before we go to the voting portion I'd like to make a comment. You

1 know, it's a good thing when you have a surplus, you
2 know, in your area. You know, we -- the Nushagak I mean,
3 the Nushagak Herd is growing. We all know where it came
4 from and I keep mentioning that, you know, but you know,
5 we're neighbors. We have relatives on both sides of the
6 creek. You know, the -- you know, the (In Native)
7 separates us. Nushagak separates us. But we have
8 relatives on both sides. The -- you know, your customary
9 traditional use is also valuable over in 9C, and 9E, you
10 know family members and other C&T holders can come over
11 there. And when the -- when we have abundance, that's
12 happened. 9C of course, the Mulchatna Herd, you know,
13 is down. So, everybody's kind of feeling the pinch there
14 you know, you don't have that -- it used to be pretty
15 nice having those caribou outside your door and you know,
16 and you didn't really have to run very far. But in times
17 like this, when you know, when one herds you know, doing
18 well, there's a surplus we have, you know, the ability
19 to share that resource with other C&T holders. I'm going
20 to have to -- you know, I'm on that side of the coin
21 here. One question I had is, and this is because what's
22 coming down and perhaps our side is -- how do you
23 determine who gets the permits? How do they distribute
24 the permits over there on that herd?

25
26 MR. NUKWAK: I know, I don't know -- I
27 don't have the answer, but it is distributed to each
28 individual hunter. And then the caribou where we're
29 talking about, they are the cousins of the King Salmon
30 Caribou Herd. That's where they came from. And Bo Darben
31 put seven caribous in his plane with their antlers cut
32 off. And we -- there was a pen made, a really large one,
33 but decided not to use that. And I was in my early 20s.

34
35 MR. CAWFIELD: Mr. Chair, I can take a
36 stab at that question. This is Truett Cawfield.

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks.

39
40 MR. CAWFIELD: So, the permits are
41 distributed by the seven communities. So, Dillingham
42 Clark's Point, Ekuk, Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak.
43 Anybody -- so this year, you know, we were under that
44 900 threshold. So, any federally qualified subsistence
45 user is eligible to get a permit. If a federally
46 qualified subsistence user goes to one of those
47 locations, they can get a Caribou permit. Does that
48 answer your question?

49
50

1 MR. WILSON: Yes, it does. Thank you. It
2 helps. Yeah. I'm just trying to visualize how it works
3 over there in the south of the Naknek there on the
4 Northern Peninsula Herd. You know, they're allowing so
5 many caribou taken there. And I guess I'd be curious
6 there too, is how do they score -- if it's a scoring
7 procedure or if it's just so many permits available and
8 whoever gets them first? Or can somebody answer me that
9 one?

10
11 MR. CAWLFIELD: Sure. So, the Planning
12 Committee determined that anybody who wanted to get a
13 caribou permit could go get a caribou permit. People are
14 allowed two permits per person, and a harvest objective
15 of 200 animals has been set. So, when 200 caribou are
16 killed, then the season will be shut off. So that we --
17 that will put us around our optimum population objective
18 of 400 animals. And that'll allow us to have -- you
19 know, utilize them as a subsistence resource in the near
20 future, rather than killing too many caribou and having
21 to wait multiple years for them to recover. Hopefully
22 that answers your question. Let me know if I need to
23 clarify anything.

24
25 MR. WILSON: No. You're good. That's
26 good. I just because I'm you know, visualizing, you know,
27 permits going into the communities and then family
28 individuals, like I mentioned before, you know, there
29 could be a relative on one side of the creek, you know,
30 that wants a caribou. And I guess if that family member
31 decides to give that person, if he's qualifies [sic] a
32 permit to hunt that herd, then that's doable. And the
33 reason why I'm kind of going on this way, is we have
34 this new designated herd up there in -- on the, you
35 know, on the Kukaklek Herd. Okay. And we all kind of
36 know where that's going. But so far, they've had access
37 to, you know, a few of those caribou. And the herd is
38 growing greatly from the sounds of it, but trying to
39 establish right now the village, two villages get a
40 certain amount of permits a piece. So, I guess that's
41 why I'm kind of going this way. And so future in -- down
42 the road, we can see how this process is working, how
43 other communities have handled, you know, in excess, you
44 know, and hopefully one day I'll be able to hold my hand
45 up again and say, hey, you know I do belong in that
46 community. I might not live there right now, but I got
47 relatives there and other people like myself, you know,
48 might be able to take some of that resource. So that's
49 kind of where I'm going with this is that, you know, I
50 see where you guys', you know, your needs are, of course,

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1 you know, everybody's got their own needs. You want to
2 take care of home plate first. So, I mean, I get it, but
3 that's kind of where I'm heading with that. Thanks.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
6 Richard and Lisa is indicating.....

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin.
9 Just a more general answer to your question, Richard.
10 When -- it sounds -- when there's a registration permit,
11 oftentimes it's unlimited permits. So just anyone who
12 qualifies for that can get a permit when there is a
13 limited number of registration permits, those are first
14 come, first serve. And so how those are distributed is
15 usually up to the manager. You know, they might say
16 okay, starting on this date at this time we're start --
17 you know, call in to get a permit or come in to get a
18 permit. And then when they're gone, they're gone. And I
19 think in the issue of the Kokhanok caribou hunt, yeah,
20 there's a limited number per -- you know what I'm talking
21 about. I can't say it right now, but in that -- in the
22 Unit 9C Katmai Caribou hunt. Yeah. There's a limited
23 number of permits distributed by community. And so the
24 -- those permits just go to the community, and then it's
25 up to that community who gets the permits and how they're
26 distributed.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Thank you for that. And I
29 just, you know, it reminds me, and this is where I've
30 been for a while, is that, you know, you have seven
31 communities over on the Nushagak that are able to take
32 part of that herd. Well, the Katmai National Park and
33 Preserve is a big area, and there is at least three more
34 communities that are connected up to the park that also
35 should have access to that herd and -- but we haven't
36 yet. I mean, we've only established a small you know --
37 it was a short-term thing, you know, okay, we want some
38 caribou harvested here. So, let's put these two
39 communities out there first. I understand that, but also
40 there's other communities around that park that have
41 this -- should have the same opportunity as other
42 communities have had on their federal herds. So that's
43 kind of where I'm heading there.

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Just -- Lisa Grediagin,
46 that would be another proposal. You'd have to submit a
47 proposal, add those communities. Yep.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So real
50 quick, Truett. If Richard wanted to fly over to

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1 Dillingham, you could give him a permit to go down or
2 would (indiscernible) give one?

3
4 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah. If he flew over to
5 Dillingham and went down to (indiscernible). He's. If
6 he's a resident of Naknek, then he's eligible to apply
7 for a Nushagak Peninsula caribou permit.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's what
10 I thought. Yeah, I know Richard's reminded us, and some
11 of the other Naknek area reminds us that the grandparents
12 started over there in Jensen Field area and I think the
13 move to include them as Jason related some time ago was
14 partly to assure a slightly bigger circle than we had
15 had because there were threats to open it statewide.
16 And, shoot, we've got folks out of Anchorage that are
17 flying all the way to Adak to catch caribou. And I think
18 maybe even farther. So, we wanted to try to assure locals
19 for looked after first. So, at this point, though, I
20 still don't have any motion, but I and -- we got a number
21 of other things to get going, so. Or do we have a motion?
22 I've lost track. I'm getting tired.

23
24 MR. WILSON: I moved to accept WP26-40.
25 Oh, no. Is that one? Yes, that is -- okay.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do we have
28 a second?

29
30 MR. NUKWAK: I'll second that.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
33 Do we have any more discussion on this proposal now?
34 Anyway, anymore? I'll have something, but I'll wait for
35 the other folks first.

36
37 (No response)

38
39 I'm not hearing anything. With all due
40 respect to Kenneth, super appreciate that he's become
41 so involved. But for a number of reasons that were listed
42 here I'm inclined to not support this for some of the
43 stuff I just touched on, we tried to draw a bigger circle
44 to allow more locals. New Stu, Levelock, Naknek to take
45 a shot at these before we had to throw it wide open to
46 a general just state hunt really. This does protect the
47 interests -- I'm eager to get down there. I'm hoping the
48 river stays frozen. I hope the snow doesn't all blow off
49 the Port Heiden and the -- but I won't be supporting
50 this, but is there any other comments on this? Kenneth.

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MR. NUKWAK: This is going to create problems in the future, and I guarantee that. It'll be back on the table over and over again. If whatever the community cries out for, I'll put on the table. This is not coming from me.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, well, that's exactly the right thing to do. I think, you know, a couple more years, we'll see if that caribou move, if we keep the herd down on the Peninsula and not overgrazing. The last time I went hunting, it was pretty clear they were really digging hard for food. But then we had a couple years, you couldn't even travel down there, so. We'll see how it goes. But anyway, any -- is there question or any more comments?

MR. WILSON: Question.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. Gisela, go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Walter Kanulie.

MR. KANULIE: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

MR. HILL: No.

MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: No.

MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

MR. WILSON: No.

MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Dan Dunaway.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have two yays and four nos. The motion fails.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
2 very much. Next one. I'm getting tired, so I hope we can
3 move through these. Thank you.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MS. HOLMAN: All right, Mr. Chair,
8 members of the Council. Again, Kendra Holman, for the
9 record, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. So, this is a
10 Wildlife Closure Review 22-05. It can be found starting
11 on page 101 of your meeting book. So, this closure is
12 for Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River
13 from the south. Public lands are closed during December
14 for the hunting of moose, except by federally qualified
15 subsistence users under these regulations. So, this
16 closure -- let's see.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kendra,
19 before we go any further, I kind of promised some folks
20 we'd take a quick break. And can we take a break? My
21 back (indiscernible).

22
23 MS. HOLMAN: You're the Chair! I can
24 pause.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sorry.

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (On record)

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I
33 think we're close on the 5-minutes and probably over.
34 So, thanks to the staff providers again. So, Kendra, if
35 you're ready to roll. Go ahead.

36
37 MS. Holman: Alright, so Mr. Chair,
38 members of the Council, I'm going to kind of start over
39 since we had that break. Again, for the record, Kendra
40 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. This closure review
41 starts on page 101. And this is the closure review for
42 Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River
43 from the south. Public lands are -- federal public lands
44 are closed during December for the hunting of moose,
45 except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting
46 under these regulations. This closure has been in place
47 since 1992. ADF&G at that time proposed the limit to
48 change from one moose to one bull in the entire drainage
49 as a result. So, in 2022, the state lengthened the moose
50 season in Units 9B and C aligning hunt areas. They

1 extended the season by 20 days. And then in 2022, this
2 was reviewed and maintained by the Board. Since the
3 earliest 20th century, moose in the Alaska Peninsula
4 gradually expanded their range southwestward. This
5 expansion has accompanied -- was accompanied by a
6 dramatic population increase until the 1960s, when the
7 population peaked and began to decline. Suitable moose
8 habit in Unit 9 is relatively limited. The moose
9 population status and trend in Unit 9 is different for
10 several reasons, including low moose density, and snow
11 and weather conditions are frequently inadequate for
12 surveys. Aerial survey results from the Alaska Peninsula
13 and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge -- have done the
14 surveys. Information can be found in figures 1, 2 and 3
15 on pages 110 and 111 of your meeting books. This involves
16 your bull-cow ratios, calf-cow ratios, and your density
17 estimates for the population.

18
19 In recent years, the cow-ratio has been
20 relatively high, averaging 60 bulls per 100 cows, which
21 is well above the 25 bulls per 100 cows in the management
22 objectives. Alaska residents can harvest moose in Units
23 9B and 9C, occurs by registration permit RM272.
24 Nonresident moose harvested Units 9B and 9C occur by
25 registration permit RM282 on the state side. While
26 reported moose harvest can be parsed out by subunit, it
27 is not possible to distribute by hunt area. Therefore,
28 the number of moose being reported harvest only within
29 the closure area is not available. Although reported
30 moose harvest within Unit 9C provide us with some
31 insights. From 2000 to 2023, total reported moose
32 harvest in Unit 9C averaged 29 moose ranging from 16 to
33 43 moose per year. Approximately 90% of the Unit 9 moose
34 harvest occurs in the fall. Figure 4, which is on page
35 115 of your meeting book breaks down the reported harvest
36 -- reported moose harvest in Unit 9C by locals and non-
37 locals from 2000 to 2019. Local users are defined as
38 those with customary and traditional use determination.

39
40 If this closure is rescinded, non-
41 federally qualified users would be able to harvest moose
42 on federal public lands within that portion of Unit 9C
43 draining into the Naknek from the south during December.
44 It may also result in an increased moose harvest, though
45 increases are expected to be minimal as winter
46 conditions make this area difficult to access. While the
47 2022 and 2023 moose density estimates within the closure
48 area are above state management objectives for moderate
49 density moose populations, this low-density moose
50 population fluctuates with the dynamic equilibrium.

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1 While Unit 9C bull-cow ratios are above management
2 objectives and could sustain additional bull harvest,
3 calf-cow ratios indicate a stable population. Bull-cow
4 ratios within the closure area -- sorry. Hold on. I'm
5 reading something weird.

6
7 Okay so, bull-cow ratios within the
8 closure area were below management objective in 22 and
9 23, ratios in the adjacent survey area are very high.
10 And bull harvest is much more likely during the fall
11 when federal lands are open. Conservation concerns do
12 not warrant maintaining the closure, although OSM looks
13 forward to hearing the Bristol Bay Council on local
14 conditions/knowledge of continuation of subsistence
15 uses. The OSM preliminary conclusion at this time is to
16 rescind the closure. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If -- I can
17 address any questions.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
20 Any questions for Kendra at this time?

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Thank you. Any tribal or ANCSA
25 corporation, Orville?

26
27 MR. LIND: Good evening, Chair and
28 Council members. Orville Lind, Native liaison, OSM.
29 There were no questions or comments on this proposal.
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
33 very much. I was just looking to see if Amy's on or any
34 other Fish and Game comments, Federal agencies, Tribal
35 entities? Thank you, Eliza. It was good to see you. Oh,
36 yeah. Yeah, we had a number of people exit here. I once
37 again want to thank the bycatch folks for coming in and
38 others that have been that have to leave, but so any
39 agencies comments over?

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chair, members of the
42 Council, this is Bryce Woodruff with Alaska Peninsula
43 and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. The closure area
44 is within Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, and we have
45 some numbers for you specific to that area if you're
46 interested in them.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Please do.

49
50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: So, we survey this area
2 annually, and our most recent survey last fall, we
3 observed 40 moose and got composition estimates of 60
4 calves per 100 cows and 40 bulls per 100 cows, with a
5 density estimate of 0.59 moose per square mile. and the
6 average for the time period between 2020 and 2025
7 composition ratios are 40 calves per 100 cows and 43
8 bulls per 100 cows, with an average density of 0.67
9 moose per mile squared. And I'd be happy to answer any
10 other specific questions related to that.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
13 And how's that compared to -- is that a -- that's a
14 strong number or how on that? Over.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. Like Kendra was
17 saying that's above most of the state management
18 objectives in the area. And as she pointed out, in '22
19 and '23, the bull-cow ratio was below the 40 bulls per
20 100 cows. But in 2020, 2024 and 2025, it's been above
21 that.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great,
24 thank you.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF So, these numbers are
27 strong. Yeah.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
30 very much. Anything else? That's federal agents, tribal
31 entities. Any advisory groups? Did any on your side to
32 address this, Richard?

33
34 MR. WILSON: We have not. We're stuck on
35 the fish like you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: There's
38 nothing but red salmon. That's all we think about in the
39 bay, it seems sometimes. Advisory groups, Fish and Game
40 Advisory, Subsistence Resource. Liza left, so I'm
41 assuming she didn't have anything pressing. Written
42 public or...?

43
44 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. There
45 were no -- no other RACs have taken this up and there
46 were no written public comments received.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And I
49 see Lisa moving forward.

50

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin.
2 Donald Mike had to leave, but he asked me to convey his
3 public testimony. But he didn't write it down for me.
4 And so, I believe he wanted to retain status quo. Thanks.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
7 Correct me if I'm wrong but didn't my -- Donald was a
8 resident of the area for a while over there, so he knows
9 it pretty well. Richard said yes. So, it's gotta be.

10
11 MR. WILSON: It's true.
12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I
14 think I first met him. He was working for one of the
15 other agencies over there, so. Great. Well, good. I'm
16 glad we got that down. And that's down to number seven.
17 Regional Council recommendation, motion to support, if
18 we have a motion.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Are we in discussion mode
21 here?

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, I think
24 after we have a motion. But we got Lisa waving at us
25 again.

26
27 MS. GREDIAIGN: Yeah. Lisa just a
28 reminder that closure reviews, the motions are a little
29 different and so it's retained status quo, rescind the
30 closure or modify the closure. So instead of saying, you
31 know, I moved to adopt or I moved to support, you'd say
32 I moved to rescind the closure, or I moved to retain
33 status quo.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What's your
36 pleasure, Richard? You live there, I'm looking at.....

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MR. WILSON: I make a motion to leave
41 WCR26-05, the way it is.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So that
44 would be moved to maintain status quo.

45
46 MR. WILSON: Remain status quo.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Is
49 there a second?

50

1 MR. KANULIE: I'll second.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
4 Walter. I'll look to you, Richard. You live there. If
5 you have comments.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Yes, I do, thank you. Yeah.
8 You know, we've -- we're always looking for those new
9 updates on population estimates. It's nice to see that
10 we got a recent one there. In these areas, you know, the
11 peninsula down there is -- majority of it's on the
12 lowlands is state. And then you get up into the hills
13 and starting into the mountains and then you have, you
14 know, federal lands, you know. So, a lot of this that
15 we're discussing right here is just up the, you know,
16 up in the hills or up in the Big Creek area. And a lot
17 of these counts or the composition surveys were getting,
18 it's just what it is. It's a composition survey. It's
19 where the game has congregated. You know, they're -- you
20 know, everybody's in the same creek, you know, in a
21 certain time of the year and if you do it right you can
22 get a good count. But if you hit it wrong then there's
23 nobody there. Well, there's a reason for it. You know,
24 there's a lot of bear up and down those creek systems,
25 you know, in the fall and that, you know, they got a
26 recent survey here which indicates, you know, we're
27 still -- we still got some pretty good calf to cow and
28 bull to cow ratios here. So really glad to hear that.
29 But I just -- I don't ever get to hear any full -- like
30 I'm always harping here about getting full counts on a
31 certain species, we're getting composition surveys which
32 I can see, you know, at times it's the struggle trying
33 to get out there and get a get a survey done. You know,
34 it's either timing or lack of staff or something, but I
35 appreciate the info they gave us here, but I -- and
36 that's kind of my reasoning. I don't want to invite
37 other users than what we have. And there's not a -- I
38 just, I remember that December, like a season like this
39 year where you have good snow and stuff. Others are, you
40 know, they could come into the area and, you know, and
41 get a moose in there. But I'd rather just keep it local
42 and, and to the, you know, the qualified users in the
43 area there. Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
46 Richard. Other comments from other members?

47

48 (No response)

49

50

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1 Not hearing any. I have a great respect
2 for Richard's knowledge of the area, and I'm going to
3 have to agree with him on this. It is tricky. I always
4 think of Tom O'Hara trying his best to get us some
5 numbers with this very sad result. So, with that let me
6 entertain somebody calling the question.

7

8 MR. WILSON: Call the question.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Gisela, can
11 you do a roll call?

12

13 MS CHAPA: Thank absolutely, Mr. Chair.
14 Walter Kanulie.

15

16 MR. KANULIE: Yes.

17

18 MS CHAPA: Robert Hill.

19

20 MR. HILL: Yes.

21

22 MS. CHAPA: John Christensen.

23

24 (No response)

25

26 I'll move on. Richard Wilson.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Yes.

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

31

32 MR NUKWAK: Yes.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: And Dan Dunaway.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

37

38 MS. CHAPA: And I will try to go back to
39 John Christensen. Are you still online?

40

41 (No response)

42

43 John, if you are online and trying to
44 speak, you might be muted. I do not see him. Well, with
45 that. Mr. Chair, we do have five votes with yays. So,
46 the motion carries.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
49 you for that. And that was fairly efficient. We have
50 WCR26-07. And is that another Kendra? Thank you.

1
2 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Again, for the
3 record, Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with OSM. This
4 closure review can be found starting on page 121 of your
5 meeting book. So, this is the closure for Unit 17A and
6 17C, that portion of 17A and 17C consisting of the
7 Nushagak Peninsula south of -- oh, I'm gonna butcher
8 these river names here. The Igushik River, the Tuklung
9 River, the Tuklung Hills, west to the Tvativak Bay.
10 Tvativak. Thank you, Kenneth. Public lands are closed
11 to the taking of caribou, except by federally qualified
12 users unless the population exceeds 900 caribou. So, I'm
13 going to kind of limit this. We just did lots of -- you
14 heard lots of the regulation history on this herd, from
15 Jason shortly -- not too long ago. So biologically, the
16 management objective from the committee is 200 to 600
17 caribou with an optimum of 400, bull-cow ratios of 35
18 to 45 bulls per 100 cows. Harvest objective typically
19 10 to 30 caribou or I guess within the management plan.
20 So, table 1 can be found -- I had the wrong page number.
21 Table 1 -- oh no. It can't be found on page 70. It's
22 actually in the WP26-40. So, table one on there can --
23 you can find your population information, your bull-cow,
24 calf-cow, minimum counts, population estimates.

25
26 And we all know habitat decline is a
27 serious concern with this and the overgrazing. So,
28 harvest this year you heard is the goal is 200 caribou
29 unlimited permits. Tables 3 and 4, on page 79, you can
30 find your reported harvest information, ranging from 0
31 to 378 caribou per year. So, this existing closure
32 strikes an effective management compromise, particularly
33 due to the annual variability of the herd and harvest -
34 - population and harvest. The population objective has
35 been adjusted to 200 to 600 caribou.

36
37 If the closure were lifted, federally
38 qualified subsistence users would lose their subsistence
39 priority and would be less able to meet their subsistence
40 needs because of competition with non-federally
41 qualified users. If the closure would made [sic] more
42 stringent, the herd would be more likely to exceed
43 carrying capacity by overgrazing its habitat. The
44 current closure balances concerns of overharvest with
45 those of overgrazing. So, the preliminary conclusion is
46 to modify the closure to reduce the threshold to 600
47 based on the management plan. I will say that if Truett
48 is online and wants to give some input into that we
49 would welcome it. But that is all I have for my
50 presentation.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
Thank you. Truett, do you have anything to add? Over.

MR. CAWLFIELD: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll keep my comments relatively brief. And then if there's any more specific questions I can answer those and talk in a little more detail. But similar to my reasoning or the Refuge's reasoning, you know, with our discussion of the proposal regarding the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd we discussed earlier. Through discussions I've had with state partners locally and the community representatives that attend the planning committee over the summer, I'm -- I really think that just continuing with status quo is a compromise that all the stakeholders have been able to work with so far. Certainly, there's some disagreement. You know, folks would like to move a little bit this way or that way, but I think just maintaining status quo has worked in terms of creating subsistence priority, subsistence opportunity for local folks. And you know, under the current hunt structure and management plan, we're aiming to keep the herd at that 400 number, the optimum population objective. And I think, you know, when we have the weather, we're able to do so and I think, you know, when we don't have the weather, regardless of how we might change the hunt structure, we're not able to do that. And so, I'll just leave it there. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you very much. I guess we'll go to Orville and tribes.

MR LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair Council members, Orville Lind native liaison for OSM. There were no questions or comments on the proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Orville. ANCSA Corporations, Fish and Game, other federal agencies, tribal agencies. I'm -- better holler fast. Lisa, do you have something?

MS GREDIAGIN: Well, the comment Orville read earlier for 26-40 was actually for this closure review. So, we can just further for the record, reflect his comments from 26-40 for this closure review regarding the tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultations. Thanks.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
2 you. Was -- yeah. I'm getting hazy. So, was there more
3 than just a no comment for -- I know some of these are
4 kind of intertwined, really

5
6 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Orville Lind,
7 Native Liaison for OSM. So, the -- I guess it looks like
8 I had confused 26-40 with 26-07. And so, it was the --
9 what I read you earlier about the comments made was
10 really for 26-07 and not 26-40. If you would like me to
11 read that again, I can.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'd
14 appreciate it.....

15
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17
18 MR. LIND: Okay.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY:
21(indiscernible) on this.....

22
23 MR. LIND: During the consultation
24 session, we had a National Resource Director of Bristol
25 Bay Native Association and First Chief of the Curyung
26 tribal ask about the closure that talks about the
27 Nushagak caribou. Clarification number that says when
28 it exceeds 900 to further explain that. OSM staff replied
29 that the 900 is currently in regulation, and that was
30 based on a previous number that Nushagak working group
31 had. Currently, the working group has reduced the number
32 to 600 as a management objective and also saying looking
33 for co-management effort of that would be good to move
34 in that direction when decisions are being made on
35 caribou that normally are harvested on the Nushagak
36 Peninsula. That concludes the comment, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
39 great. It's very helpful. Let's see the other Regional
40 Councils, Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Nushagak
41 didn't tackle it. I don't know if Togiak did. Okay. You
42 know, that's something kind of cool. I believe we have
43 Togiak representative sits on the Nushagak AC and
44 possibly vice versa, so that we can -- there's some
45 fisheries that just requires coordination and it's
46 really helped so, but we didn't discuss that. Any written
47 or verbal public comments? Seen.....

48
49 (Simultaneous speech)

50

1 MS. HOLMAN: Oh. There are no written
2 public comments received, and no other RACs have heard
3 this proposal. Western interior does have C&T for it.
4 However, they did not take this up at their meeting.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
7 Lisa.

8
9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin on
10 behalf of Donald Mike. He supported retaining status quo
11 or -- actually he supported modifying the closure with
12 the OSM modification. Thanks.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
15 And so, we are down to regional Council recommendation.
16 So, one thing, before we get to that, I want to ask
17 Truett. I see in the book OSM supports, I believe,
18 preliminary conclusion to modify the closure to reduce
19 population threshold to 600 from 900. And yet you said
20 status quo. Could you clarify?

21
22 MR. CAWLFIELD: Yeah. My understanding of
23 OSM's thought process there, is that there's, you know,
24 concern about lichen depletion, which is the reality,
25 lichen is quickly depleting on the Nushagak peninsula.
26 And so that's why the population objective got shifted
27 by the Planning Committee. I believe 2018. It got shifted
28 down in order to slow down the depletion of those lichens
29 on the peninsula. And so, I think OSM's thought is a
30 fair one, which is, okay, so if we are readjusting the
31 population objective, why wouldn't we readjust the
32 population threshold so that if we're over that
33 population objective, we can bring it down quickly with
34 additional effort from outside communities. I think that
35 logic is totally fair, but I also think that just locally
36 in terms of you know, the seven communities and the
37 folks that sit on the Planning Committee and yeah, just
38 local stakeholder perspective, I think that folks are
39 nervous about opening it up to a broader state effort.
40 And so, I think we're still able to effectively manage
41 this herd without lowering the population threshold. And
42 I think that it's sort of is the compromise that all the
43 stakeholders have agreed to and has worked for us for
44 the last few years. And, and so for those reasons while
45 I understand OSM's reasoning, I think it's fair
46 reasoning just from the perspective of managing all the
47 stakeholders, different perspectives and coming to a
48 compromise the Refuge is going to recommend status quo.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
2 you. I didn't know if we needed to kind of enshrine the
3 600 through this closure review or if the management and
4 the setting that goal is separate and doesn't need to
5 say our blessing on it. So, I see Lisa, again just a
6 moment. Go ahead.

7
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, I
9 just want to emphasize to the Council that closures --
10 there's a really high bar for closures per ANILCA. And
11 so, we can only have a closure if it's necessary for the
12 continuation of subsistence uses or conservation
13 concerns. And so both for the, you know, previous closure
14 you did for moose in Unit 9 and now for this one, when
15 you're justifying your recommendation to really focus
16 on why this closure is necessary for either conservation
17 or the continuation of subsistence uses or both, because
18 that's -- the only way we're able to have closure and
19 regulation is when they're necessary for those reasons.
20 And just to be perfectly frank, I mean, you know, the
21 state is, of course, always against closures. And so,
22 if you don't have a really strong justification for it,
23 you know, then there's a chance the Board might go
24 against the Council's recommendation because it's not
25 supported by substantial evidence. You know and meets
26 those criteria and that's required by ANILCA. So, I just
27 wanted to bring that up. So, it's on the forefront of
28 your minds when you're making a recommendation and
29 justifying it. Thanks.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, Lisa,
32 then which one would be better for the whether you drop
33 the modified or the status quo? Which one is the stronger
34 case for the Council?

35
36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I mean, of course,
37 I mean, OSMs recommendation is 600 because that's what
38 the management goal is. And so, if the Council wants to
39 retain status quo, you know, and keep it at 900, you
40 know, I -- it doesn't seem like it's supported by
41 conservation to keep it 900. So, you'd really have to
42 focus on the continuation of subsistence uses. And
43 that's where it's just -- you know, if you just say, oh,
44 it's you know, a compromise or everyone likes it. You
45 know that if the state comes to the federal board meeting
46 and says we support 600 or we support this, and, you
47 know, your only justification for retaining 900 is
48 because it's worked. You know, I'm just trying, you know,
49 and kind of similar to the last closure, you know, that
50 when it's not supported by conservation concern, you

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1 really need to demonstrate how it's necessary for the
2 continuation of subsistence uses.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
5 I guess with that Council recommendations. Richard.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Through the Chair.
8 Richard here. Yeah, I see what -- you know, I can kind
9 of see the issue here. And it was kind of answered the,
10 you know, the department wants to see 600, you know, get
11 it, keep it down there. I mean, back in the day when you
12 had bigger numbers, 900 seemed like the one to do. But
13 now, taking a better look at it and knowing that the
14 lichen is kind of minimal, you know, we have now a new
15 estimate that would work better. And I can see why the
16 argument would be to -- you know, if you went down to
17 600, then the state won't be able to come back to you
18 so much and say, hey, why are you still sitting so high
19 at 900 when you know the objective is 600? And just so
20 I would be more in tune to line up with the 600 and just
21 let the department, as they have done a very good job
22 at administering, you know, the needs of the people
23 around there for that. And in doing that, it would kind
24 of mirror what they're trying to do.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
27 Richard. Kenneth.

28

29 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I'll go for a status
30 quo and just to justify the boundary line has been
31 expanded, Unalakleet River. The -- and the caribou move
32 up that way towards Togiak, and they have a lot of lichen
33 to feed on there. And they go roam back and forth, I
34 believe. I think the biologists with airplanes have more
35 information than I do on that.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
38 I remember Jimmy (In Native) I believe talking about how
39 there's pretty good lichen up in some of that new
40 northern area. But Walter from Togiak, you have any sense
41 on this? Over.

42

43 MR. KANULIE: I used to see them in the
44 Kulugak Hills. And then I've heard people seeing them
45 where he mentioned they were, so. I agree with Richard,
46 you know, on that 600 just due to sometimes we won't be
47 able to go to, you know even now, it's still, rough. I
48 mean, because it's not windblown snow yet., so.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
2 Walter. Yeah. I'm just -- I know that (indiscernible),
3 in one of those meetings I sat in, the biologists were
4 concerned that, well, we've knocked this herd down some,
5 but they're still seen evidence of overgrazing and such.
6 And the last time I got down there to catch any caribou,
7 boy, they were really digging on the tundra, and they
8 were finding sedges and stuff. I'm kind of leaning
9 towards the modification, because, yeah, the 900 works.
10 But I also remember when we were -- kind of had a lot
11 more caribou. There was some starting to be real pressure
12 from Anchorage and other places to be able to get rid
13 of some of these restrictions and come down. And that's,
14 I think when we started kind of broadening out and
15 allowing Richard to come over and so on. So, but Richard,
16 go ahead.

17
18 MR. WILSON: It's just one more comment.
19 When I think of this herd and I think of all the work
20 that's got put into you know, to where it is now, I
21 think of Andy over there. You know, he's been such
22 instrumental in -- for this herd where it is now in the
23 amount of, you know, all the staff he's got, you know,
24 that helped him put -- he's always come to us with a
25 massive lichen count. And I mean, just, you know,
26 everything, you know, he's done his homework, and he's
27 always done it well, you know, so. So, I gotta believe
28 that, you know, if the recommendation by them is this
29 number to lower to 600 because if you overgraze, they're
30 going to move on. That's what he was afraid of. You get
31 overgrazing and they're going to move out. And he goes
32 we don't want them to move out. So that's kind of my
33 reasoning behind some of this. So, thanks.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
36 Did you want to say something, Kenneth?

37
38 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I realize, and I
39 understand what this is about. I don't even have to look
40 at the book. I already read it and studied it. The 900
41 thresholds, when it reaches that threshold, it will open
42 these caribou to other. And the seven communities that
43 were able to achieve those caribou tags, most of them
44 will go to the other federally recognized subsistence
45 hunters. Where if it's brought down to 600 threshold.
46 600 (In Native).

47
48 (In Native Statement)

49
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1 I'm really a leaning to a status quo on
2 this. I know I am upset and disappointed about this. Why
3 OSM or Federal Subsistence Board did not approach the
4 south sound communities on this bypassing the Nushagak
5 Advisory Committee and Togiak Advisory Committees. I'm
6 pretty sure they went to the Togiak Advisory Committee's
7 table, except when we are represented in a small
8 community. Whatever is being discussed in the Nushagak
9 Advisory Committee is not presented to the Council
10 members most of the time, and that's disappointing part.
11 I'm going to have to scold some representations in
12 Manokotak when I get home. I'm going to remind them that
13 it's on their hand, not mine. If they try to pin this
14 on me when -- if it goes through. Whatever I discuss or
15 -- and present on this table does not come from me. It
16 comes from the community of Manokotak and any other
17 community that I represent, like Togiak and Twin Hills.
18 That's all I have to say.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
21 Kenneth. I think neither one would really hurt real --
22 the user's too much, but we don't have a motion at this
23 point. Somebody want to make a motion? And I sure wish
24 I could switch back between English and Yup'ik like you
25 do. I really admire your ability.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: And, Mr. Chair, if I may for
28 the record, I just wanted to remind Council members that
29 are in the room that you have a little card with the
30 motion options for closure reviews. You can make a motion
31 to retain the closure, to rescind the closure, modify
32 the closure, take no action, take no action and defer
33 to home region, or defer to a future meeting. But that
34 might not be ideal.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think it
37 would be best if we could make a recommendation. And so
38 -- Kenneth.

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: I would go for a take no
41 action until there's a little bit more education on some
42 of the Council members. My -- that's my suggestion.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, what
45 would that be? The FSB, Federal Board wouldn't have
46 anything from us come spring meeting. Is that correct?
47 If we took no action.

48
49 MS. HOLMAN: Yes.....
50

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Lisa.

4

5 MS. HOLMAN: Oh -- so through the Chair.
6 At this point, there would not be a recommendation from
7 the Board. There is still the spring meeting coming up.
8 However, we cannot guarantee how all of that will play
9 out. We're still waiting on dates set for this meeting
10 as far as when it's going to be. So potentially you
11 could take it up at your spring meeting if you would
12 like, which is 6 to 8 weeks, give or take. And we could
13 still probably get this into the Federal Subsistence
14 Board meeting materials to be able to be considered.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Lisa.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin. I
19 mean, this is a routine closure review, so it's required
20 to be reviewed by Board policy every four years. So, I
21 mean, if the Council doesn't take action on it now, I
22 mean, I can't predict what the Board would do, you know,
23 if they would defer it or retain status quo. But it's a
24 little different than a proposal because I mean, these
25 -- these closures are already in codified regulations.
26 We're just reviewing it per Board policy, you know, to
27 make sure it's still valid.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
30 Well, I worry that if we do no action and somehow are
31 not able to act later, what kind of message does that
32 send to the Board versus some -- taking some action. And
33 I could live with status quo, or I could go with the
34 modification. Kenneth lives a little closer. But I
35 think, Richard, you want to say go ahead.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Thank you, Kenneth,
38 for, you know, bringing that to mind. You know, you guys
39 haven't really had a chance to, you know, to visit this
40 as a community. You know, this proposal and it's -- this
41 is not in my backyard. It's in your backyard. So, I
42 would have to go with, you know, more what you guys are
43 thinking. And if it suits you better to just stay status
44 quo. Because it's not really hurting anything. It's just
45 the threat of the state maybe denying or, you know,
46 questioning what you're doing there is all we got here.
47 So, I'd be more status quo at this point. Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Is that a
50 motion?

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MR. WILSON: I move to take status quo.
Is that appropriate?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That is an
option. We have a second.

MR. WILSON: And that is on WCR26-07.
That right? Yeah.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.

MR. NUKWAK: I'll second that.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
Any other discussion? I think we've had a healthy
discussion. I sure don't want to see your feathers too
ruffled, Kenneth. I really respect your perspective and
you're out there. You're really out there and doing it
and deserve plenty of attention for that. So go ahead.

MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. My feathers are always
ruffled up. I gotta defend what's going beyond my table.
I think Orville and I have work to do on the
consultation. If I can set up. And keep -- probably keep
in contact with Orville on what the schedule is like
next week. If I can set up a consultation for him.
Combining the Manokotak Native Limited and Manokotak
Village Council. I will say as an attempt, because it's
always hard to bring people in. Is that okay with you,
Orville?

MR. LIND: When it comes to consultation,
it's always okay. I will be in Nome next week all week,
but I'll give you my cell number and we can talk.

MR. NUKWAK: I have your cell number.

MR. LIND: Oh, that's right, you do.

MR. NUKWAK: Whoever gave me their cell
number in here, I have it. If you give me your cell
number, I will store it in my phone. And I always know
who calls. Even President Trump.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I'm
glad that he listens to somebody. So, do we have any
more discussion, or do we have a question?

MR. WILSON: Call the question.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie. And if I may restate the motion, I believe the motion on the floor has been made by Richard to retain the closure or the status quo. And it was seconded by Kenneth.

MR. KANULIE: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

MR. HILL: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: John Christensen. I see that he's still not online, but I'll still try. John Christensen. Are you still online?

(No response)

And now, move on. Richard Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

MR. NUKWAK: (Indiscernible).

MS. CHAPA: And Dan Dunaway.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have five yays. So, the motion carries.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Great. Thank you. We have what? One, two, three, four, five. We got a few more to roll through. So, I guess not all of those are wildlife actions but. WP26-35, Unit 9D caribeast [sic]. Borrowed from Mac Menard.

MS. HOLMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair, again, for the record, I'm going to make this one really fast for you guys. Hopefully. So, wildlife proposal WP26-35 starts on page 127 of your meeting book. It was submitted by this Council, extending to -- requesting to extend the fall season for Caribou and Unit 9D from October 21. So, this Council does not actually have - is -- does not actually have C&T for Unit 9D. This proposal was put in

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1 by this Council because that 9D mix between Kodiak-
2 Aleutians RAC here. So, I can do the full presentation
3 if you would like. However, Kodiak/Aleutians RAC has
4 already voted on it. They're the only ones with C&T. I
5 will leave that up to you if you would like me to present
6 the whole thing.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, we
9 need to roll. My -- I have a little bit of my heart in
10 9D, because I'm probably taking a lot of caribou out of
11 there in the past. And there's a time where I -- think
12 we stepped in to support some of their needs down there.
13 And when we can support them, I'd like to but is --
14 should we take -- if we just take no action?

15
16 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if our Council
17 members can state it on record what the desire of the
18 Council is.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Richard, no action.

21
22 MR. NUKWAK: Second.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
25 else want to speak up? I'm inclined to roll with Richard
26 and Kenneth on this.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I'd better
29 clarify. No action on WP26-35.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I'm
32 going to ask for unanimous consent and if there's no
33 objection, we just roll on. Thank you.

34
35 (No response)

36
37 That means, no action there. WP26-41/42,
38 Unit 18 moose and caribou, eliminate take from boat. Go
39 ahead.

40
41 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. All right. Mr. Chair,
42 members of the Council again. Kendra Holman, I am only
43 going to present to you WP26-41. This Council does not
44 actually have a C&T for moose which would be WP26-42.
45 So I'm only going to present the caribou information.
46 That's the only one you need to take up unless you choose
47 otherwise. Wildlife proposal WP26-41 was submitted by
48 the YK Delta National Wildlife Refuge, requesting to
49 eliminate the unit specific provision allowing the take
50 of caribou from a boat moving under power in Unit 18.

1 The proponent states that these regulations are not
2 applicable due to many animals being harvested in
3 navigable waters, which under -- fall under state
4 jurisdiction. While not explicit in their submitted
5 proposal, the proponent has also expressed concerns
6 about enforcement issues that have arisen due to
7 conflicting federal and state regulations regarding this
8 issue. This provision was put into place back in 1991,
9 so it's been there for a while.

10
11 If these proposals -- if this proposal
12 is adopted, the take of caribou from a boat moving under
13 power would be prohibited in Unit 18, reducing
14 subsistence opportunity. No significant effects on
15 wildlife populations are anticipated. Adopting this
16 proposal would decrease regulatory complexity for
17 federally qualified subsistence users hunting caribou
18 by a motor driven boat in navigable waterways within
19 Unit 18. However, they may still choose to hunt under
20 applicable state regulations that authorize the take of
21 caribou from a motor driven boat whose motor has been
22 completely shut off and the progress from the motor's
23 power has ceased -- forward progress from the motors
24 power has ceased. State and federal regulations
25 concerning the take of wildlife from a boat will remain
26 misaligned statewide to some extent. State regulations
27 require a boat's motor be completely shut off, while
28 federal regulations require progress from the boat's
29 motor have ceased, allowing motors to remain running.
30 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to support WP26-
31 41. While adopting this proposal decreases subsistence
32 opportunity, these existing provisions increase the risk
33 of citations for federally qualified subsistence users
34 and have a high risk of confusion -- confusing federally
35 qualified subsistence users who may not understand the
36 compliance with the federal regulation may nonetheless
37 subject to them to state law enforcement issues.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
40 Orville looks ready to roll.

41
42 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, Council members,
43 during the consultation session, there were no questions
44 or comments on this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
47 very much. ANCSA, Fish and Game, Federal agencies sing
48 out. Trying to click through.

49
50 (No response)

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Other Regional Councils.

MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair so the Western Interior supported this proposal, and there were no written public comments received on this proposal.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. That's one of the things I wrote down is what are the folks that are right there, where -- what do they think? Thank you for that. So, no written and we don't have any public -- does Donald Mike have anything, Lisa?

MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa, I think he had something, but my brain is not retaining it. Yeah. So, I'm not going to speak for him on this one. Sorry.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: This one.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, I do remember. He was neutral.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's interesting. But that's good to know. But this actually goes -- his hometown is in this area. I don't -- I believe so Regional Council, what do we want to do? Or do we want to do anything? Kevin -- Kenneth.

MR. NUKWAK: I have brothers-in-law up there that'll wring my neck. I'll be in support of this because I also hunted up there. And you have to shoot from a moving boat with a boat. As a hunter, I realized that they're gone by the time you set their motor off and wait for them. Once they hit the -- once, their hooves hit solid ground underneath the water, they're faster than the boat. So, I'm in support of this.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, that's very interesting. And my son got his first moose. But I don't think it was in 18. I think he was farther up the river. And I'm glad to know his boat was stopped that time. But I'm concerned with the potential state federal conflict. And if this resolves that, that helps. But I think, Kendra, you're trying to.....

MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, I just want to clarify. Make sure I was hearing Kenneth correctly. So,

1 this proposal, by supporting it, you're supporting, not
2 removing -- so, you are supporting removing the ability
3 to shoot from a boat -- from a moving boat with the
4 underpower, with the caveat that it doesn't actually
5 apply in the navigable waters.

6

7 MR. NUKWAK: Can you -- I need to hear
8 it more than once in order to circulate?

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: No, absolutely. And that's
11 why I just wanted to make sure. So, this proposal is to
12 remove move the regulation that currently allows the
13 shooting of a caribou from a boat that's moving. So
14 currently you can, this proposal is to remove that. So,
15 I just want to make sure that that's what you meant to
16 support. Didn't think so. And that's why I wanted to say
17 something.

18

19 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. Quyana (In
20 Native). I will rescind my motion to support to oppose
21 this.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.
24 Because halfway through, I -- it dawned on me what you
25 said. Is it sound like you like they like to be able to
26 shoot underway, and you want to be able to continue
27 that? I didn't know that we'd actually made a motion
28 yet, so.

29

30 MR. CHAPA: Not formally in the form of
31 a motion. And I think I can -- I'd also like to remind
32 Council members that you can still make a motion in the
33 positive and just vote against it. And I think that
34 makes it a little bit easier for me to track the ultimate
35 action that the Council wants to make. And so just to
36 follow up on what I just said, you can still make the
37 motion in the positive but still vote against it.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
40 That's how we do it in advisory committee usually. One
41 thing, I had a question, if I may. There is a place
42 somewhere on the Yukon, I believe it is called Onion
43 Passage. Onion crossing, Portage. Is that within this
44 Game Unit? Oh, it's in Kobuk. So that's outside of this.
45 Okay. But I know that's a dearly held tradition there.

46

47 MR. NUKWAK: So, in the Kobuk, I
48 understand that they're allowed to shoot a caribou from
49 a moving boat.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. It's
2 been in there for a long time. It's kind of a unique
3 situation, but. And Lisa's raising her hand. Go ahead.

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. In Unit
6 23, you're allowed to shoot swimming caribou. And that's
7 under both state and federal regulations. So that's kind
8 of a unique thing about Unit 23 is taking a swimming
9 caribou. And the issue with this proposal is there's
10 just -- we don't want users to get put in that situation
11 where they are complying with state -- with -- they're
12 complying with federal regulations, but they're out of
13 compliance with state regulations so that then they are
14 persecuted, they're liable to be persecuted under state
15 regulations. And so even if that user says, well, the
16 federal regulations let me do this, they can say, well,
17 you're not on federal lands. You're on a navigable
18 waterway, that is state jurisdiction, and so now you're
19 going to get a ticket. You're going to get a citation.
20 And so that's where this proposal came from was the
21 Yukon Delta Refuge Law Enforcement had questions
22 because, you know, they were confused on this regulation
23 that's permitted, you know, the take of caribou from a
24 boat under power. But the states didn't, and just the
25 jurisdiction. And so it's the same thing you guys were
26 talking about earlier with the programmatic reviews. You
27 know, users are just confused and it's -- you know, you
28 don't want to put a user in that situation where they
29 think they're following the regulation and then they end
30 up getting a ticket, you know, they end up getting a
31 citation, so.

32
33 MR. NUKWAK: I have a question then who
34 can make the proposal to annex from the state to the
35 federal if it's under the jurisdiction of the state, the
36 navigable water?

37
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin. You
39 would have to submit that proposal to the state and
40 another difference between state and federal regulations
41 is federal regulations allow you to shoot from a boat
42 moving under power, whereas state regulations require
43 the boat's motor be turned off. And, I mean, you guys
44 know much better than me that that's -- you know, you
45 run the risk of once you turn the motor off, you're
46 gonna run into a log or can't start the motor again.
47 It's kind of a safety issue. But anyway, that is the
48 state regulation that if you're going to shoot from a
49 boat, the motor has to be turned off. And again, this
50 program has evolved over the past, you know, 30 years.

1 And one of the things is this jurisdiction over navigable
2 waterways, you know, that these regulations have been
3 in place for years and years, and it's been okay. But
4 now there's this magnifying glass on jurisdiction of
5 navigable waterways and so that's where this is -- I
6 mean, this isn't the only place -- Unit 18, not the only
7 place where this is allowed. And so, I wouldn't be
8 surprised if in subsequent cycles, we start seeing more
9 of these proposals to eliminate this provision in the
10 federal regs, because now, you know, we're saying that
11 federal -- that navigable waters are not under federal
12 jurisdiction for -- when it comes to wildlife.

13

14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thanks. Oh.

15

16 MR. NUKWAK: The safety concern. I
17 realize what you mean by shutting off the engine, because
18 I'm in that predicament all the time when I'm hunting.
19 I know this was not during my -- the sighting of the
20 moose when I took my father-in-law out hunting. But I
21 have to clean my boot and my jet, and I have to work
22 like a cowboy. You have to slow down real fast. Put it
23 up, and then just within -- take seconds and just take
24 the grass out and throw it back down. Start it again.
25 Well, when I did that, and I'm glad there was no moose
26 in front of us. My father-in-law was sitting in the
27 middle and he goes, he almost had a heart attack. He
28 goes ah wow. I didn't mean to laugh, but once I hit the
29 beach, I went over the hill where he won't hear me. And
30 I had to let it all out because that's the part he's
31 never experienced before. But that's the kind of hunting
32 we do in Manokotak. We hunt around the -- those
33 waterfalls. We have to go around those if we really need
34 to get meat and then there's a lot of downed trees. We
35 don't have time to set it off. But if you do set it off,
36 you better be very familiar with your engine. But with
37 new engines that we have trim and tilt, once we set it
38 off, we have to just trim it up and that -- and then we
39 have to learn that again. That's my two cents.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
42 This gets into the concerns where I've talked about. You
43 said, which rules am I hunting under? There's some recent
44 court decisions on some of the navigability that is gone
45 in the state's favor, I believe. It's a tricky one. I've
46 lost caribou and moose, or I have not been able to shoot
47 because I'm (engine noises), there just standing there.
48 And you cut the motor, and -- oh, and they run off. But
49 so, the one thing I'm really paying attention to is the
50 very people that live there support this. And I don't

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1 want to belabor it so much. We need to move on. But
2 Kenneth, go ahead.

3
4 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. The proponent to this
5 proposal, what's their stance on that?

6
7 MS. GREDIAGIN: The proponent on this
8 proposal is the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
9 And so that's a federal agency. You know, federal staff.
10 And it came from their law enforcement officer. That the
11 law enforcement officer expressed their concerns to, you
12 know, the refuge manager and subsistence staff at the
13 refuge. And then they submitted this proposal in
14 response. We've actually been in contact with them for
15 like a couple, you know, a year, I think, and kind of
16 preparation for this proposal because it had come up as
17 an Elliot.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, I had a
20 misunderstanding that it was coming from RAC. So, it's
21 coming from the.....

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: The refuge.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: From their
26 refuge. I'll have to ask one of my friends from the YK
27 RAC what their stance is on that.

28
29 MS. HOLMAN: And the YKDRAC doesn't take
30 this up until next week. So, the Western interior agreed
31 to it, but the YK doesn't have it until next week. So,
32 that's the best we can do on our end.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So Western
35 Interior. This isn't really quite there back or front
36 yard either. It's our next-door neighbor. I was
37 misreading that part. What's the pleasure of the
38 Council? We need to roll along.

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: Take no action.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Richard. Just one more
43 question before we go there. Has anybody ever been cited
44 on the state side of it for not shutting your motor off?

45
46 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair I that's
47 not something we know. And without talking to state law
48 enforcement, we wouldn't be able to get -- have that
49 information. But from conversations, it has come up as
50 an issue with federal law enforcement and people wanting

1 to hunt in compliance with federal regulations in areas
2 that they cannot. And so, by just removing it, it removes
3 the misunderstanding and potential to get a ticket by
4 those people.

5

6 MR. NUKWAK: And then when it comes to
7 what the YK Refuge is that referring both to the
8 Kuskokwim and the Yukon River?

9

10 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair. Yeah,
11 the Yukon Delta refuge is pretty much all of Unit 18.
12 Just -- I mean, you know, just about -- and yeah, I
13 guess just to re-emphasize, I mean, navigable water, are
14 state jurisdiction. And so, you could do this on non-
15 navigable waters on federal lands. But that's -- you
16 know, who's going to have a boat under power on a non-
17 navigable waterway. Because kind of the definition of a
18 navigable waterway is that you can drive a boat on it.
19 So basically, everywhere this regulation applies to is
20 state jurisdiction.

21

22 MR. NUKWAK: I run in a non-navigable
23 water.

24

25 (Whispered conversation)

26

27 I wait for the rain. I wait for how long
28 and then the rain drops from the floor. You can raise
29 up to that high. That's high enough for me to bring my
30 jet in. In order to catch my moose if I really want to.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Go
33 ahead, Lisa.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin. So,
36 I mean, yeah, that is great input, Kenneth. I mean, and
37 if you guys want to modify this to specify something
38 like non-navigable waterways, you know, so that then in
39 those situations that Kenneth was talking about that
40 it's a flood and you're able to take your boat in places
41 that aren't classified as navigable waterways, then you
42 could still take a, you know, caribou from a boat moving
43 under power.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Could I
46 insert here a little bit? Again, all of these getting
47 shades of definitions and one thing -- some of this gets
48 triggered by 1 or 2 very vigorous and law enforcement.
49 I saw over Naknek area one guy decided he had his --
50 enforcement officer, he had his own definition of a

1 (indiscernible). I was retired and my phone started
2 ringing. And I think finally that trooper kind of got
3 re-educated or something. You might have the same thing
4 up there. Also, the definition of navigable depends on
5 what agency you're talking about. Some places you float
6 a cigarette down and is navigable. In other places, if
7 you can't put a battleship through it, it's not
8 navigable, so. And I got sick of those arguments when I
9 was working. It depends on whatever in favor of the
10 particular agent, agency or individual. I can see where,
11 you know, going the route the Western did, it removes a
12 lot of that. But Richard, you had something.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I just, you know,
15 there -- the proponent, you know, looks like this is the
16 way to simplify things around there because they're
17 having a bunch of problems. So, and it's kind of out of
18 my area, so I'm -- I don't know. I'm kind of neutral on
19 this one, I guess.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm
22 kind of leaning towards no action and let's get rolling.
23 Over. Is there a consensus? No further action.

24
25 MR. NUKWAK: Take no action.

26
27 MR. KANULIE: No action.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No
30 objections. That's -- we can have the discussion. Thank
31 you very much. And that takes us down to what? WP26-01.
32 Go ahead.

33
34 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Mr. Chair last
35 wildlife proposal. This one starts on page 157 of your
36 meeting book. This one is the Summary of Wildlife
37 proposal WP2601, which is regarding the delegation of
38 authority letters statewide. This proposal is from OSM.
39 It seeks to remove the authority of managing federal
40 hunts out of delegation of authority letters and into
41 unit specific regulations. If adopted, the 61 delegation
42 of authority letters currently in use across Alaska
43 would be rescinded. The delegation of authority letters
44 were originally meant to provide management flexibility,
45 but over time have created inefficiencies. An action
46 taken under the delegation of authority, it counts as a
47 special action which triggers requirements for public
48 hearings, tribal consultations, Regional Advisory
49 Council recommendations. These processes are important
50 for unusual or emergency situations, but they add

1 unnecessary burden when applied to routine in-season
2 management actions like closing a hunt or setting a quota
3 -- when a quota is met. Sorry. As a result, the federal
4 in-season managers and OSM staff spend significant time
5 on procedural requirements for discussions that are
6 already expected every year. High staff turnover also
7 makes consistency difficult, and on top of that, OSM has
8 -- must maintain 61 of these letters, some of which
9 overlap, conflict and contain out-of-date guidance. By
10 moving these authorities into regulations, the in-season
11 management action would no longer trigger that special
12 action process. So, no more public meetings on it, no
13 more Regional Advisory Council input. Approximately four
14 pages of boilerplate delegation of authority
15 requirements would be replaced with one clear paragraph
16 of regulations. Public transparency improves, since
17 changes to the delegation of authority would have to go
18 through a proposal process. Oversight becomes simpler,
19 with clearer responsibilities, reduced administrative
20 workload. Importantly, the Board retains authority over
21 emergency closures and broader decisions. But in-season
22 managers would still have the ability to act quick within
23 the parameters that are set by the Board. This proposal
24 does not affect -- is not expected to affect wildlife
25 populations or subsistence opportunity. It is primarily
26 administrative, streamlining how reoccurring decisions
27 are made. It increases efficiencies, strengthens
28 coordination with the state and local users and makes
29 the process more transparent for the public.

30
31 So, one alternative considered is
32 replacing the phrase "coordination with" in regulation
33 with "seeking input" and "considering feedback from".
34 This clarifies the expectation for in-season managers
35 to communicate their actions and consider feedback
36 without adding the confusion that has developed around
37 the word "coordinate". The OSM preliminary conclusion
38 is to adopt WP26-01 with the modification to replace
39 "coordination with" and seeking -- "coordination with"
40 with "seeking input" and "considering feedback from" and
41 to modify WP26-01A and 26-01B with region specific
42 regulations. Adopting these changes would reduce
43 administrative burden, resolve consistencies and improve
44 efficiencies while maintaining transparency.

45
46 So, this Council is considering WP26-01
47 and WP26-01D as in Delta. Okay, so 26-01 is the broad
48 overview of moving it, 26-01D is specifically the
49 Bristol Bay delegation of authority letters and what is
50 specific to your region. So those letters start on page

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1 168. I guess it's not the letters, but the delegation
2 of authority. The samples of what the proposal is for
3 those regulations and putting them into regulation
4 instead of in the letters. So, we are looking for a vote
5 or a Council recommendation. That's the words I'm
6 looking for. We are looking for that on both WP26-01 and
7 26-01D. Let me know if you have any questions.

8

9

MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair.

10

11

12

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes,
Kenneth.

13

14

15

MR. NUKWAK: So, this is referring to re-
wording -- is a re-wording proposal.

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MR. NUKWAK: I have a question. Will that
affect my -- how I hunt or getting the permit or
reporting my permit?

1 MS. HOLMAN: No. Through the Chair, no.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any other
4 comments or questions? The simplification's really
5 appealing to me because I've waded through those
6 delegation authority and they are tedious. And if this
7 puts it out there more easily reduces government burden
8 and public response burden, sounds really appealing to
9 me. But I'm interested in the rest of the Council.

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, just
12 an example of some of the confusion that we have going
13 on is Unit 9C actually has three separate agencies that
14 have three different delegation of authority letters,
15 some of which overlap. So, who is actually supposed to
16 be managing, who is actually supposed to be doing what,
17 when we have a situation like this. Through this process,
18 we're fixing that and it'll be clear in written
19 regulation who is managing what.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.

22

23 MR. NUKWAK: So, they are conflicting?

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: Currently they are
26 conflicting. Yes.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I wonder,
29 are agencies bickering among themselves, trying to
30 figure out, is it either who wants to get out of it, or
31 who wants to take it over? It's like, put the turd in
32 who's pocket type thing, so. For the most aggressive or
33 whatever. So, John or Robert, I do appreciate you guys
34 hanging in there. It's gotta be murder. But any comments?

35

36 MR. HILL: You know, I'm for
37 simplification. If it's -- yeah, I would be for this.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
40 Robert, we missed you for a couple meetings, and now
41 you're probably going to drive you away again. I do
42 really thank you for hanging in there and putting in
43 some valuable comments. So, do we have a motion or more
44 comments, or do we go through the whole routine? And I
45 got hands up. Let's go Lisa and then Kenneth.

46

47 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, you need to go
48 through the whole process. But I just wanted to mention
49 one alternative OSM is considering that kind of came up
50 after this Council version was published, is just to add

1 the Nushagak Caribou Planning Committee to the list of
2 entities required for consultation or coordination with
3 for the -- you know, when you have to consult with ADF&G
4 and OSM and the Chairs of the Council to just add the
5 Nushagak Caribou Planning Committee to that required
6 list as well. So that would just be something for the
7 Council to consider adding for 26-01D.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So that
10 would more formally institutionalize the Nushagak,
11 because I think it's kind of semi unofficial at this
12 point, but it's worked well. So okay. Pleasure of the
13 Council, we need to roll.

14
15 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. Have we
16 adopted -- made a motion to adopt yet?

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, sir and
19 actually, I need to see if I'm going to run through the
20 list fast. And anybody from tribes, ANCSA, Fish and Game,
21 federal agencies, tribal entities, Regional Councils,
22 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Summary -- here is a
23 long written public comment from Ahtna. That's more
24 general, I think, and I'll stop there.

25
26 MS. HOLMAN: So, I can address a few of
27 those. And I don't know if anybody else is going to come
28 up. So, the written public comment received was from
29 Ahtna, was submitted comments in support, but only with
30 conditions. They stated that delegating authority to
31 local managers makes sense for timely decisions, but it
32 must include mandatory tribal consultation. Local
33 knowledge is critical when actions affect subsistence
34 species timing and access. They also urge transparency,
35 consistency across units, and limits on delegation --
36 delegated scope. Most importantly, regulations from
37 Units 11 and 12 must explicitly require consultation
38 with AITRC as recognized in WP25-01. With these
39 conditions, WP25-06 will improve both responsiveness and
40 cultural appropriateness of what in wildlife management.

41
42 Regional Advisory Councils. The
43 Southeast Council supported WP26-01 as modified by OSM,
44 and they supported their regional sub proposal. Kodiak
45 Aleutian, supported as modified by OSM, Council stated
46 that the proposal would streamline the process, reduce
47 unnecessary red tape and make regulations clearer and
48 more transparent by placing all relevant information
49 directly in regulation, rather than in delegation of
50 authority letters. They felt that this would make it

1 easier for the public to find and understand the rules,
2 and noted that if concerns arise later, the regulation
3 can always be changed. There were concerns that the
4 change could reduce opportunities for public and tribal
5 consultation, which they view as essential to the
6 Federal Subsistence Management Program. They emphasized
7 that the importance of maintaining a strong public
8 involvement and feel that any internal efficiency issues
9 could be addressed within the program, rather than by
10 altering established public processes.

11
12 Western Interior supports as modified by
13 OSM. The Council stated adopting this proposal as
14 modified by OSM would reduce the burden for holding
15 special actions for non-emergent and in-season
16 management actions. Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
17 Council supports as modified by OSM. It can't hurt
18 speeding things up, allows for faster in-season
19 management actions not to be slowed down by red tape.
20 Would be nice to not flip in different parts of the
21 book, trying to make it easier for everyone and not wait
22 on bureaucracy to happen. Eastern Interior supports
23 WP26-01 as modified by OSM, and they supported their
24 regional one as well. North slope supports as modified
25 by OSM. The Council states that the proposal will reduce
26 the administrative burden on federal land managers.
27 Additionally, the Council shared that the change would
28 not have an impact on subsistence uses.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
31 very much. Richard.

32
33 MR. WILSON: So, I take it that. Okay,
34 so say the Katmai National Park here, they got a -- they
35 got a delegated authority for the Mulchatna -- I mean,
36 the (In Native). And so, if we were to accept your
37 recommendation with the modification, do they still have
38 to come to the communities to coordinate with them? Would
39 they -- would that be mandatory, or can they just make
40 decisions on their own without confronting the people
41 that are involved in those specific units?

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, they
44 would not have to, they don't have to now, but they do.
45 So, in the delegation of authority letter now they have
46 to coordinate with OSM. They have to coordinate with the
47 Chair of the Regional Advisory Council. They -- I think
48 that's all they have to coordinate with. However, I know
49 that they coordinate with the communities. There -- keep
50 the communities very involved with that. So no, they do

1 not at this point, but they do not now. It's not in
2 there to be changed in any way. It'll remain the same
3 as it is now.

4

5 MR. WILSON: So I guess what I kind of
6 was asking is, is there any language you can put in here
7 that would say that they would have to consult with the,
8 you know, with the Unit, the people that are involved
9 here, or is that out of my scope of thinking here?

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, one
12 of the concerns is that they're not a management agency
13 and I could be wrong in using the word agency. I can be
14 corrected, but because they're not a management agency
15 putting it into the regulation would not be advisable.
16 We've had this conversation about other caribou herds
17 and that's why I say I might be using the wrong word as
18 far as agency, but because they're not a management
19 authority, being able to put them in the regulations
20 would be questionable. We'd definitely have to talk to
21 our Solicitor about the ability to do that. It was not
22 advised previously with another herd.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Okay. I guess the only
25 reason why I'm asking that is because the recent Kukaklek
26 hHerd there's and Robbie could, you know, chime in on
27 this if he wants, but there's they're gathering
28 information as communities and they're trying to be a
29 voice that's got to be heard with the Katmai National
30 Park. They're trying to, you know, trying to I forget
31 the name of it. Maybe Robbie's got it here.

32

33 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair to address
34 what you are saying now, the communities themselves is
35 what I'm referring to. However, the tribes themselves,
36 that's another conversation. So, if there is a tribal
37 entity there, that would be a different conversation.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well
40 and then I'm saw that Ahtna was supporting, but they
41 were highly recommending consultation and coordination
42 with the -- was tribes or the tribe or are they tribe
43 or not?

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: So, they have themselves in
46 there. However, they are -- already have themselves in
47 coordination with on at least one delegation of
48 authority from another proposal. So, they are already
49 in there on something. They just need one to ensure that
50 they remain in there. If this Council would like to add

1 somebody, a tribal entity, into this language for any
2 of these delegation of authorities you would want to
3 modify D.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
6 And, Lisa, you have more to add, or...?

7
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. At least
9 you can pretty much covered it. I was just going to make
10 that same distinction between entities like the Ahtna
11 Intertribal Resource Commission or the Tanana Chiefs
12 Conference. You know, those entities have already been
13 recommended or included in the list of entities required
14 for coordination. And like I said, you know, we're
15 recommending the Nushagak Caribou Peninsula Planning
16 Committee. But when you just talk about communities you
17 know, it's like who in the community? Like -- and it
18 just can kind of become untenable if you get, you know,
19 if you have an area with like 20 different communities,
20 you know, that's a lot of coordination. And that's why
21 like for the Eastern Interior, they agreed to just do
22 the tribal consortiums, you know, like Tanana Chiefs
23 Conference, you're just making one phone call instead
24 of 20 different phone calls.

25
26 MR. WILSON: I move. WP26-01 to -- what's
27 the word accept with modifications, that -- to replace
28 the term "coordinate" with "seeking input" and
29 "consideration from" these communities that we're just
30 talking about. I mean, from the -- not communities, but
31 tribes and whoever's, whoever's involved in that,
32 however you want to put it.

33
34 MS. HOLMAN: So, adding in the tribal
35 stuff would actually be a second motion to 2601 Delta.

36
37 MR. WILSON: I'll just leave it as it's
38 worded here, to consider feedback from.

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Oh yeah. No and that
41 is for 26-01, which is the general overall language. And
42 then if you want to add anything to your specific
43 regulations, it would be a second motion for Delta.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That might
46 be easier to track, so. So, go ahead, Gisela.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I
49 think what Kendra's saying is that the motion by Council
50 Member Wilson to support would be for 26-01. If the

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1 Council wants to add the modification to include
2 entities to coordinate with, that would be a separate
3 motion for.....

4
5 MS. HOLMAN: Yes. So, there is the OSM
6 recommend modification for 26-01, which includes -- so
7 he included both of the language that we're recommending
8 the modification for and he included the entities. So
9 that's where they need to be split is the -- we have the
10 OSM modification for 26-01. And then adding entities
11 would be to Delta. Does that draw the line?

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, we would
14 -- yeah man I'm getting fuzzy. Just 26-01 is all we're
15 addressing for now is that correct.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I don't want to add
18 anything at this time.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That really
21 sounds good to me. Do you have a second? Second, to
22 Richard's motion?

23
24 MR. HILL: I second.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
27 Robert. Any other discussion?

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Alright.
32 Gisela.

33
34 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Roll call vote. Walter
35 Kanulie.

36
37 MR. KANULIE: Yes.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.

40
41 MR. HILL: Yes.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.

44
45 MR. WILSON: (Indiscernible).

46
47 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.

48
49 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native).

50

1 MS. CHAPA: Dan Dunaway.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

4

5 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And I'll try again.
6 John Christensen.

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Okay. Mr. Chair, we have five yays.
11 Motion carries.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Excellent.
14 Thanks, folks, but it's good to understand this stuff
15 before we go on. So, you know, one thing I was trying
16 to figure out what entity might work for our area because
17 we don't quite have some of this formalized stuff. But
18 would BBNA? They have a subsistence section, which I'm
19 just kind of looking at the Council. And I think
20 everybody in the region is -- falls under BBNA and leave
21 it up to them to coordinate, because I was going, oh,
22 we got to do villages or something. But anyway, Council
23 I was -- do we want to second the motion then dealing
24 with 26-01D. Bristol Bay alone, 26-01D Bristol Bay.

25

26 MR NUKWAK: Oh, that is a separate -- I
27 understand now.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: It's
30 getting long. Yeah.

31

32 (Talking)

33

34 MR. WILSON: Okay. Is that WP2601B -
35 Delta, Delta, Delta. Yes, D. To support.

36

37 MS. HOLMAN: Did you want to add entities
38 like the Nushagak Planning Committee? BBNA, anything
39 like that? Did you want to add any of those entities to
40 the language that's in your book on page 169, 170, 171.
41 Those entities as applicable, so that we know, then we'll
42 be able to apply them as applicable to the correct
43 regulations.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Or if you
46 don't want to make a recommendation, we can move on.
47 Anybody else? What's the wishes? We're all holding our
48 heads at this point. I don't know how you're doing it,
49 Robert, but I -- hang in there. We're getting closer.

50

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1 MR. NUKWAK: Are you waiting for a
2 second?

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, we
5 didn't have a motion, and.....

6
7 MR. NUKWAK: I thought you already did.

8
9 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, Council member
10 Wilson made a motion to support 260-1D but the motion
11 can be rescinded if there's no need to modify and include
12 entities to consult is not the word, but to seek input
13 from.

14
15 MR. WILSON: I'll remove my motion.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah.
18 Well, and I think by leaving it there, we haven't
19 objected to anything. So, it's not like we are rejecting
20 it just -- is there too tired? Is that a response? I
21 mean -- so anyway. Okay, so essentially no more action
22 01 Delta. And that moves us down to Annual Report.
23 Gisela.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: So, thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
26 going to be very brief with the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual
27 Report Replies. And refresh the Council's memory that
28 in fall 2024, the Council put together an annual report
29 with topics for the Federal Subsistence Board to
30 consider and respond to. On page 185 of your meeting
31 booklet, you have a summary -- excuse me, you have the
32 response from the Board, and I'll provide a very brief
33 summary, or I can leave it at that. And if y'all have
34 questions, I can provide a little bit more detail.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: It's up to
37 other folks. I'm sure I read this probably before the
38 original schedule. I don't have any marks on it. So, if
39 anybody else cares. I'll -- what's the wishes of the
40 Council?

41
42 MS. CHAPA: It's not an action item.

43
44 MR NUKWAK: If it's not an action item,
45 I have nothing to say. First time I said that.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You know,
48 and I think I'd seen Anthony Christian as a Chair, I was
49 really impressed with him last summer. And Nancy's does
50 a thorough job. Yeah, I'm -- if everybody's okay, let's

1 move on. And the next one's an action or -- well, yeah.
2 We got identify issues for FY 2025. Aren't we already
3 in -- are we in 2025 now? Okay. Robbin, I guess.

4
5 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Members of the Council. So, remember when we were talking
7 about Council member criteria? You know what makes a
8 good Council member? And we talked about what is the
9 most important thing that you as Council members do on
10 this, on the -- in the Federal Subsistence Management
11 Program is you provide knowledge and expertise to the
12 Federal Subsistence Board, so they understand the
13 impacts of their actions when they are making decisions
14 on regulations, right. So they want -- you are here to
15 inform the board and That's your number one job. Part
16 of your other duties include drafting an annual report,
17 which includes a report on important subsistence issues
18 from your region. We've spoken to you over the last
19 couple of years about annual reports and our
20 programmatic replies, which is what you just saw. The
21 Board replies. And we've spoken about how we provide
22 information to the Board, and the reports are an
23 opportunity for us to share information with you when
24 we reply. And continuing that conversation, we would
25 like to highlight the following considerations as you
26 develop your report. So, you're thinking about things
27 you want to share with the Board.

28
29 So, first Title VIII of ANILCA gives the
30 Council's authority to submit annual reports. Those
31 annual reports should highlight subsistence trends and
32 issues from your region. Annual reports, along with
33 Council recommendations on regulatory proposals, are key
34 means by which the Councils prepare the Board to make
35 important decisions on regulatory matters. And how do
36 we use annual reports? We use your reports, your annual
37 reports in our analyses. We look at them. We see what
38 people have been saying. We look at -- to the past annual
39 reports to check trends and changes. Annual reports are
40 used by staff to help identify research needs, help
41 identify regional outreach needs, and annual reports can
42 provide recommendations on subsistence management
43 strategies and program processes. The Secretaries
44 established the Board and delegated to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board, the authority for administering the
46 taking of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public
47 lands, and the related promulgation and signature
48 authority for regulations.

49
50

1 So, in short. The authority the Board
2 has to act, all 11 members are on issues of take of fish
3 and wildlife on federal public lands, your subsistence
4 regulations of fish and wildlife. So that's really where
5 this program is most effective. Those issues outside of
6 subsistence fish and wildlife regulations, may be beyond
7 the Board's authority to take action or provide a
8 substantive response. If you are requesting a response
9 or action from the Board, please state like a specific
10 ask. Otherwise, these issues that you are presenting,
11 these are topics that you've recognized that the Board
12 should be aware of, and they are mostly and importantly,
13 informational. You're sharing important information that
14 the Board must track when they are making decisions. But
15 if you do want a response from the Board, please say
16 that specifically in the issue topic. Primarily, I'm
17 here to help manage your expectations. And Dan, you were
18 there when the Federal Subsistence Board reviewed all
19 of the Council's annual reports. It is not the Board
20 that initially writes these reports. It is staff,
21 federal staff that write these reports and then present
22 them to the Board. And the Board then is made aware and
23 that's where a conversation really happens. And that's
24 why we are going to be inviting, you know, the Council
25 Chairs or Council representatives on a regular basis to
26 attend the summer work sessions where we present the
27 annual reports to the Board. So, you're there, you can
28 provide more information, you can answer Board
29 questions, and you can hear how the process happens.

30
31 So again, managing expectations and
32 outcomes you know, is -- the Board can really act on
33 your recommendations, and the Board can take your
34 information and your knowledge, and it informs them when
35 they make decisions. Outside of that, there's
36 opportunity to write letters to other agencies or bodies
37 or directly to federal managers if you want actions. But
38 again, the number one purpose of the report is to keep
39 the Board informed. So, all the topics you identify now
40 are 2025 issues. So, the report that you just got back
41 was from, you know, the notification of everything that
42 happened in 2024. So, you are developing 2025 issues.
43 Usually this would have happened in the fall, but this
44 meeting was canceled. So, this is to kind of capture the
45 most up to date issues in your region all through last
46 year. And when you meet again in a couple of weeks, you
47 will only be able to approve the report that you have
48 developed today. You can add to the issues themselves
49 that you have already identified, but we won't be adding
50 new issues. So, with that, I'll let you guys answer, you

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1 know, ask questions or identify issues that you would
2 like to include in your report.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Council
5 issues that we want to put forward. I'm -- Congress
6 can't go do this again. Can we put that one in there?
7 This was a two-day meeting. And so, but anyway,
8 Councilmen, do you have some particular issues you want
9 in this report? Over.

10

11 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Okay. And I think
12 this is where the previous year's annual report topics
13 comes in handy. Last year, you all requested the Board
14 to do more outreach and engagement. And I think that is
15 still something that I've heard while we were going
16 through, like the review process, that perhaps there
17 could be like a language barrier or clarification on
18 some stuff. And the Board did respond to this and agrees
19 technically that, yes, outreach is something that is
20 important and that there's a need for additional
21 resources. And that was one of the things that the
22 Council put forth in last year's annual report. And there
23 were other concerns that the Council put in your annual
24 report and there were mostly information for the Board.
25 So, there wasn't like a huge response.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Which -- I have nothing new
28 that's coming to mind at the moment.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Kenneth.

31

32 MR NUKWAK: Yes. In my report, I left out
33 -- I realized I left out that in the Protection Point
34 section when we do a spring hunt, the seals weren't
35 there. They were there, but not many. And with the spawn
36 out of the herring. And they're usually there, but they
37 -- I guess they relocated to the other side, what we
38 call the other side. The eastern side of the Bering Sea.
39 Port Heiden area.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anything
42 Walter? Or Robert, do you have anything?

43

44 MR. HILL: Nothing to add, Dan

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: thank you.
47 A couple popped into my mind here. It is apparent to me
48 the date that Orville sought to consult with tribes,
49 August 19th, the day before moose season opens. And I'm
50 not going to blame Orville, but it's really tough to do

1 tribal consultation anywhere from, say, July through the
2 end of September. And it makes the tribes look
3 unresponsive. And then I've seen people really kind of
4 snarl at Orville, but it's kind of -- he's kind of forced
5 into a corner that he can't get out of. And that really,
6 you know, as it went along here, that concerned me. I
7 don't know what an answer is to that. But go ahead,
8 Robbin.

9
10 MS. LA VINE: Some of the things that we
11 try to do when we're -- you're developing your annual
12 report is answer questions if we can immediately. So,
13 we've been dialing in the tribal consultation process.
14 We hold regularly scheduled consultations with regional
15 tribes on the wildlife proposals and closure reviews.
16 And we've -- we used to hold them in the summer during
17 the public comment period only and we found that, yeah,
18 a lot of people are busy in the summer. And so, when we,
19 you know, send out invites not everyone can come. So,
20 then we decided to hold them also at the end of the fall
21 Regional Advisory Council meetings, right. So now we
22 have an opportunity for people to provide, you know, to
23 have consultations with the Board on the proposals and
24 just the proposals themselves to change regulations. And
25 you get to hear some early stuff. And the Council's
26 benefit from those comments right. And then after the
27 fall meeting when tribes benefit from your discussion
28 and the analyses we have another opportunity to consult
29 at the end of the fall meeting cycle. And that has
30 started to look pretty good. Additionally, we hold a
31 regularly scheduled consultations for all tribes and
32 ANCSA corporations immediately before a regulatory
33 meeting. So those are our three regularly scheduled
34 opportunities for consultations. And we are trapped by
35 when the proposals come out, as we have to, you know,
36 produce the analyses and get ready for the fall meeting
37 cycle. And then, you know, we're trapped in between fall
38 and winter meeting cycles. And all of the various
39 different agency meetings that happen right around this
40 time and then, you know, our Board meeting that needs
41 to benefit from all of this feedback. So, this year --
42 this last year, just as a, you know, an apology, we had
43 -- we were closed for business all through the majority
44 of the fall meeting Council. So, everything got
45 postponed. And now tribal consultations following these
46 Council meetings will be held in April. No, no, no. When
47 is -- February 18th and 19th, I believe.

48
49 That being said, I hear what you're
50 saying. There's no good time. You know, the people that

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1 we really want to hear from, the people that is most
2 important for the Federal Subsistence Board are you and
3 the people in your region are our rural residents, are
4 federally qualified subsistence users. These are the
5 people that know what's going on the ground. You know
6 the rhythm of your region and this weird regulatory cycle
7 that we have, we benefit from your participation. At the
8 same time, we recognize it isn't easy for you. And then
9 if you want to make this a topic anyway, for the
10 notification of the Board, you should, right. The Board
11 is still reviewing their tribal consultation
12 implementation guidelines trying to improve the process.
13 So, your comments on this issue would be an excellent
14 addition to your annual report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.
17 Kenneth.

18
19 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Trying to set up these
20 tribal and ANC consultations is a very difficult job,
21 even in a small community where I'm from. And then I
22 think they get discouraged because Manokotak has a very
23 strong feeling that they're not being listened to, and
24 they're scoping to -- eyeing for that advisory committee
25 of their own. And I had researched that this past winter,
26 and I find that -- I found the source on how to do that,
27 and I gave to them. They have to wait another year, or
28 I think, 1 or 2 more years before they apply. And it's
29 not just this young group that I'm with, I've heard from
30 the older generations that they're not being listened
31 to. Especially sitting in two advisory committees, the
32 Togiak Advisory Committee and the Nushagak Advisory
33 Committee. When I first got on, all I ever heard was
34 from those old folks. And now the people my age they're
35 not being listened to, what they really need and their
36 motivation is way down. So even if I turn the proposal
37 in, it gets shot down. Even if I speak on behalf of
38 them, it gets shot down. Because this is our way of
39 life. How we hunt. It's not the hub way we do. Just a
40 small community, tight knit. And the rules that we are
41 facing now, the tight knit we used -- in a tight knit
42 we used to hunt is disappearing. So, I'll see if I can
43 try and I'm just going to keep on trying to motivate my
44 community. But that's a very difficult job.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Excuse me.
47 Thank you, Kenneth. Yeah. You're probably working with
48 Natalie on if you want to form your own. It does get
49 tricky. There's times where -- well, number one, though,
50 Kenneth, you've made a huge impact, a huge impact. And

1 -- but we don't always get everything we want. And in
2 some cases, I don't know about Manokotak. I've been in
3 other communities where what the community really wants
4 just can't happen. In some cases, it's flat out
5 unconstitutional, and that's sometimes tricky, but other
6 times it's a matter of other folks understanding. But
7 carry on and you do have an impact. Go ahead, Kenneth.

8
9 MR. NUKWAK: And then the representation
10 for the upriver Nushagak, Portage Creek, (In Native) and
11 Koliganek. I don't know if they have any
12 representations. That's another thing that trying to
13 keep in contact with people that will not be committed
14 to calling me back on what their issues are. I have a
15 one friend that's finally on the Nushagak AC. You
16 probably know him. Wasley, Mimi.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I don't know
19 his nickname, but.

20
21 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, Mimi is his nickname.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, he was
24 there when we had a AC meeting in December here. Okay.

25
26 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, he's very eager to get
27 in. I just need somebody that'll keep in contact with
28 me to present to the Bristol Bay RAC.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah.
31 Yeah. He was eager. We've had some troubles with people
32 from some of those communities just not participating.
33 And so, I was -- and I don't know, you know, they're
34 there for a while and they're not later, but. Yeah.
35 Wasley was there, and the Ekwok representative who
36 missed many meetings was maybe Natalie grabbed him by
37 the ear. And I forget who we've had from Koliganek.
38 Chris Car is pretty steady out of Portage. Now he's got
39 a good cell phone and for a while he had major troubles
40 because he didn't have a cell phone and it was just
41 really hard. But yeah, build a fire under folks and
42 encourage them. Did you want to say something, Robbin?

43
44 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
45 what I'm hearing Kenneth say for, well, I hear, like,
46 the broad issue of tribal consultations and an ease in
47 in finding time frames for their regularly scheduled
48 consultations with communities and with tribes and
49 there's a discussion about that. There's also a
50 discussion I hear from Kenneth, which is more about

1 community representation and how the smaller
2 communities, I mean, if -- you know, Manokotak
3 specifically, but maybe more in general, even across the
4 region, how smaller communities, and maybe those outside
5 of the federal nexus are not being heard. And I recognize
6 that, like upriver Nushagak, Koliganek and New Stu and
7 those communities, they don't have an easy federal
8 nexus. Those are all state lands. So, their desire may
9 want to be involvement in an AC. But we're a federal
10 program and, you know, we're focused on the Board can
11 take action on federal lands.

12
13 So, but I'll -- oh! and one other thing
14 I wanted to mention. Sorry. The other thing I wanted to
15 mention is that we have these regularly scheduled tribal
16 consultations, but you can request a consultation with
17 the Board on subsistence issues anytime. So, you've
18 started that. You're working with Orville and you can
19 put that together at a time that is convenient for your
20 Council and our Board members. So that can happen and
21 then what I'm seeing kind of is actually two issues. One
22 is the tribal consultation process making it easier for
23 people to participate. And then two, a second issue is
24 how to address some of the rural communities that do not
25 feel like they have enough representation or they're not
26 being heard. Are those two separate issues that you guys
27 want to identify for your annual report, or do you see
28 them as combined?

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm trying
31 to look into others. Go ahead, Kenneth.

32
33 MR. NUKWAK: Can you come back on that?
34 Not, repeat.

35
36 MS. LA VINE: I heard two issues
37 discussed. I heard one under tribal consultations, and
38 the fact that many of the opportunities for tribes to
39 consult with the Board are inconvenient. They're not
40 held at good times, especially in the summer. The summer
41 is a really hard time for tribes to participate. And
42 then as that discussion continued with you, Kenneth, I
43 heard you begin to say, beyond consultations or
44 opportunities to consultations, I heard you express
45 frustration with your effectiveness in representing your
46 community and that small communities like yours or New
47 Stu or Koliganek lack representation. Is that correct?
48 Did I hear correct? Okay. That's.....
49

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. You
2 heard me correctly. Because when I spoke with Mimi last
3 (indiscernible), Sr. from New Stuyahok. I think there
4 is federal lands within their area, within their field
5 because I think everybody hears within dual management
6 areas, right.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: To some
9 extent, them, less than say Manokotak that's smack in
10 the middle of the refuge so, but yeah. And I think they
11 also have access to Nushagak caribou. So, I think so.
12 But yeah, I think as I become clear that there's two
13 issues there and concerns. I also think that Gayla and
14 Cody with BBNA have worked pretty hard to help people
15 learn how to be heard and how to be more effective. But
16 it's a kind of slow process.

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 MR. NUKWAK: (Indiscernible)

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And I think
23 your prime example is showing all of chemo. It can be
24 done. I remember different things when I lived in Dutch
25 Harbor, this guy didn't believe anybody would hear him.
26 And I -- and he was in a Board of Fish meeting and stuff.
27 I threw him a \$50 bill. I said, go talk to -- buy coffee
28 to that Board of Fish guy, and the next thing you know,
29 his proposal got adopted. He sat down. He actually told
30 me he bought a shot of whiskey to have courage and then
31 he bought a cup of coffee for the Board of Fish. And
32 they sat down when -- he was able to help him see it.
33 And the next thing you know, the small boat fleet in
34 Unalaska had a kind of a special carve out for fisheries.
35 So, believing you can be heard, but, like, you know,
36 you're determined and so, but yeah just keep on and it
37 still is a concern, so. Other people?

38
39 MR. NUKWAK: Are we getting pretty close
40 to wrapping up? Are we going for 12 midnight?

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I hope
43 not. I had a couple other comments, but I don't want to
44 dominate. So, Robbin.

45
46 MS. LA VINE: I would note that we've got
47 a little bit of wiggle room here. We need to identify
48 those issues that you want to include in your annual
49 report. And right now, we've identified two. And when
50 you come back during the winter meeting in a, you know,

1 a month or so or whenever you decide to meet, you can't
2 add more issues, but you can add more comments under the
3 issues you've already identified. So, if you have more
4 comments under, you know, tribal consultation and small
5 community representation and you know, the ability to
6 be heard you can say more the next time we meet.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Will that be
9 fleshing out -- I don't -- I just have three more here
10 I want to add, and I don't know if some of them would --
11 -- but yeah, fleshing out existing ones versus adding a
12 totally fresh one. My -- I wanted to reiterate, bring
13 up support for OSM for the new PMB location to regrow
14 their roots so they can -- it's in the annual review,
15 but for right here, right now, I'd like to see that we
16 support them being able to be as effective as they had
17 been getting their support. Number three, my comments
18 staffing for the public FSB members, I thought that was
19 a great idea. I forget who brought it up, but -- and
20 then -- and this is not quite right or not, but ongoing
21 concern for a king salmon populations in our area are
22 the other ones I wanted to bring up. So (In Native). Any
23 others?

24
25 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native)

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I don't
28 know.

29
30 MR. NUKWAK: Probably enough.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Next future
33 meeting dates.

34
35 MS CHAPA: (In Native), Mr. Chair, this
36 is an action item that does require a motion and a vote.
37 And I think the Council can -- could simplify the motion
38 by saying that you want to submit an annual report with
39 the topics discussed and yeah. And then we'll make the
40 magic happen.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Also moved.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do we have
45 a second?

46
47 MR. NUKWAK: Second.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
50 I do hear a question?

1
2 MR. WILSON: Call for question.
3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: All right.
5 Roll call vote.
6
7 MS. CHAPA: Walter Kanulie.
8
9 MR. KANULIE: Yes.
10
11 MS. CHAPA: Robert Hill.
12
13 MR. HILL: Yes.
14
15 MS. CHAPA: Richard Wilson.
16
17 MR. WILSON: Yes.
18
19 MS. CHAPA: Kenneth Nukwak.
20
21 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.
22
23 MS. CHAPA: And Dan Dunaway.
24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. Thank
26 you.
27
28 MS. CHAPA: Motion carries.
29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Now, future
31 meeting dates. And we had some picked. But do you say
32 there's a conflict and maybe we can get through these
33 quickly?
34
35 MS. CHAPA: Yes. So, your Winter '26
36 meeting dates are on page 191 of your book. The BBRAC
37 is currently scheduled for February 17th and the 18th,
38 but your Chair cannot make it. And so, the alternative
39 dates that the Council could meet would be in the week
40 of March 9th to 13th if the Council wants to consider
41 moving your winter meeting to accommodate your Chair.
42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I'm tired of
44 being Chair. I want to be -- I want Nanci to be here.
45 So, anyway, what's the wishes of the Council?
46
47 MR. NUKWAK: You're doing just fine, man,
48 Dan.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Luckily, we
2 have good coffee. Or so, good enough coffee. So, would
3 say March 10th and 11 work for our Council or what's the
4 pleasure? Over.

5
6 MR. NUKWAK: It will depend on my
7 schedule. I'll let you know, or whomever. Who do I let
8 know?

9
10 MS. CHAPA: That would be either me or
11 Lee, but the next meeting of the cycle is winter 2026.
12 So, the Council will need to make a decision as a Council
13 today. So, the alternatives are, keep the current
14 meeting dates, the 17th and 18th of February. But your
15 Council Chair will not be available or move the meeting
16 to the week of March 9th. So, the window is between
17 March 9th through the 13th.

18
19 MR. NUKWAK: If it's during the state
20 championship, that would be a perfect time.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Except
23 we're probably likely to be in Naknek.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: Yes. So, the current location
26 is Naknek. Yeah.

27
28 MR. NUKWAK: And probably that
29 championship will be Naknek.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Then it's
32 all good, so.

33
34 MR. NUKWAK: District wise.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I have no
37 idea. Richard

38
39 MR. WILSON: Is this a date that Nancy
40 will be able to make then? Is that what that is? Is that
41 why you're changing it?

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Yes, I believe so and I
44 apologize. I did not communicate directly with her since
45 I'm just filling in and this is just the information
46 that was given to me.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I can -- I
49 don't know. I don't know by every morning what my
50 schedule is, so find out from whatever phone calls

1 happen. I think I can make that March. I -- in a way,
2 would welcome a little more space between this meeting
3 and the next one, for staff so I can rest up. But again,
4 it's not just me. It's a Council. Robbin.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Well, let's shoot for the
7 9th and 10th then, and we'll just see what happens. We
8 have to adjust. We'll talk about that later.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.....

11

12 (Simultaneous speech)

13

14 MR. HILL: 9th and 10th sound good to me.

15

16 MS. LA VINE: I would just note for
17 parents and that may not be such an issue. But I think
18 that's around that time, at least here in Anchorage.
19 That's spring break. So, I don't know what time, like
20 beaver roundup is, but it's usually around that time
21 too. But that's in Dillingham, spring carnivals and
22 things like that. So just a heads up. Thanks.

23

24 MR. WILSON: So, haven't we before?
25 Haven't we just got, you know, pulled the Board or pulled
26 the Council at a later time and we can figure out what
27 is it? Is it cut in stone, we have to have a decision
28 here tonight?

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Only because this
31 is for the winter 2026 meeting, we need to have a date
32 right now. For your fall 2026 meeting, the Council could
33 still modify those dates at the next meeting. So, it's
34 just untimely because normally you would have your fall
35 meeting in September or October. And because it got
36 rescheduled to January, it just makes it around the
37 corner. Yeah, if that helps.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was
40 just looking. I don't know if we're going to have a
41 beaver round up in Dillingham or not. I think some of
42 the people who have been carrying it on their shoulders
43 for years finally threw up their hands. I can't find
44 anything right now. There may be other people picking
45 it up, but I honestly don't know. Yes, sir.

46

47 MR. NUKWAK: On Facebook, I caught one
48 of the people that were asking for -- about the round
49 up, and there was a response to that. If they're
50 still going for it, that'll be end of February. Like maybe

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1 February 25 on a Wednesday.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No. Then
4 March would be free and open, so.

5

6 MR. WILSON: So, say March 9 and 10.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That's a
9 motion, sir?

10

11 MR. WILSON: So move.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Do we have
14 a second?

15

16 MR. NUKWAK: Second.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
19 I'm going to call for unanimous consent if there's any
20 objections holler right now, please.

21

22 (No response)

23

24 Gisela.

25

26 MS. CHAPA: Okay, I'll take that as
27 unanimous consent. And I put it on my notes. And the
28 location is Naknek. And then just need confirmation that
29 the Council is still okay to meet October 28th and 29th
30 in Dillingham for the fall 2026.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Councilmen,
33 your comments.

34

35 MR. WILSON: At this time, I would say
36 yes, we can always move it if we need to.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
39 Somebody's got their hand up. Go ahead -- Nope. Robert.

40

41 MR. HILL: No, I didn't -- I didn't mean
42 to put my hand up. We'll just go with what's what
43 Richard's got.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I wonder if
46 you're looking for a lifeline or something, so. So
47 Richard's asked a motion and a second. Do we have a
48 second on the pre-selected dates? Over.

49

50 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think we have a motion and a second. Call for unanimous consent on that one.

(No response)

I hear no objections, and I don't see anything else on the list. Oh, wait a minute. I see a couple more. What -- go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Okay, Mr. Chair. So that concludes the list of action items by the Council. What you have left are just two updates. And then if the Council wants to add additional comments to the Chum Bycatch Draft EIS, we can take that on as well. If not, the Council's already made -- taken action to submit a letter that I can work to submit by the by the meeting deadline.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Council. So, Jarred's been steadfast. They're paying him lots of overtime, I bet. Yeah. All the coffee you can drink, so go ahead.

MR. STONE: That's pretty funny. Good to see everybody again tonight. Jarred Stone, for the record, Fish Biologist. I'll try to make this quick and easy. And let's talk about fish. So, I'm going to present a quick overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and describe a little bit about the funding process. And then really look to get any kind of comments that you might have about some of the proposals that were submitted for the Southwest region. And as some of you might remember, I had Council members Mr. Nukwak and Dunaway last fall meet with us to develop these draft priority information needs for the Southwest region. And it's a collaboration between your Council members and the Bristol Bay Council members. And -- so that list of priority information needs begins on page 193 of your Council books, and the actual list of the priority information needs starts on page 202. And so, the goal of this Monitoring Program is to fund research on federal subsistence fisheries, to enhance management, and to work with rural Alaskans to sustain these fisheries. The Monitoring Program process starts with the Council's identifying information gaps and then developing these information needs.

1 So, on page 203 you'll see a table. This
2 is the table of the projects that were submitted for the
3 southwest region. And so, all of the proposals have gone
4 through the review process. The first step in this review
5 process is for the Technical Review Committee to assess
6 the projects. These panel of experts review the
7 proposals based on five criteria. Those criteria are
8 strategic priority, technical scientific merit,
9 investigator ability and resources, partnership capacity
10 building, and cost benefit. The Technical Review
11 Committee then writes a justification that summarizes
12 what they thought of the projects. The justifications
13 can be found at the end of each project's executive
14 summary and the Council books. After the Technical
15 Review Committee reviews the proposals, we collect the
16 Council comments on the projects and that's what we're
17 doing today. Your comments on the Technical Review
18 Committee's justifications are combined and presented
19 to the Interagency Staff Committee. The Interagency
20 Staff Committee, who are Federal Subsistence Board
21 staff, also provide comments on the projects. The
22 Federal Subsistence Board will meet early next month,
23 February 5th at their FRMP work session. And I use
24 acronyms, I apologize, FRMP is our bureaucratic wording
25 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. These --
26 the meeting will then -- I'm sorry. They will be
27 presented with all of the information from the Technical
28 Review Committee, Councils and the AC and will then add
29 their approval of the monitoring plan. The final
30 selection of the projects will be determined by the
31 director of OSM, based on the provided input and how
32 much money is available. OSM funds as many projects as
33 possible based on our budget. The funded projects will
34 start this year in the spring of 2026. The whole process
35 happens every two years and projects can be funded for
36 up to four years. Again, this is not an action item, but
37 we're looking to seek your comments on any of the
38 projects that were submitted and if you would like, I
39 could just go through them very quickly and give you a
40 2 to 3 sentence summary of each. And then if you have
41 comments on them, I can gather those as we move along.

42
43 Okay, so we've got a mix of projects.
44 Again. Some are for the Kodiak/Aleutians region and then
45 some are for the Bristol Bay region. So, project 26-400
46 is the Buskin River sockeye salmon escapement. This is
47 a four-year project that continues the Buskin River
48 sockeye salmon stock assessment using a rigid tripod
49 picket weir. Additional components to the study design
50 include gathering scales for analysis of freshwater and

1 saltwater growth to compare to other environmental
2 factors. This project intends to carry out its Legacy
3 Youth Internship program as well. More details about
4 that project are found on page 204 of your Council books.
5 If the Council wishes, I'll just continue down the line
6 and work through these.

7
8 Project 26-401: Chignik River in-season
9 subsistence harvest surveys. This four-year harvest
10 monitoring project aims to obtain timely subsistence
11 harvest information for the sockeye and chinook salmon
12 from federally qualified subsistence users of the
13 Chignik area, including the five nearby villages of
14 Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik, Ivanof Bay and
15 Perryville. More details about that project can be found
16 on page 205. Next up, project 26-402: Estimation of
17 sockeye salmon escapement into Mcleese Lake in Unalaska.
18 This is a four-year study led by the Qawalangin Tribe
19 in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and
20 Game. They propose to continue a weir to enumerate adult
21 sockeye salmon in Mcleese Lake. Additional new
22 components added to the proposal include estimating
23 production thresholds for rearing juvenile sockeye
24 salmon, and continuation of a previously funded portion
25 of project 22-400 to use scale analyses of freshwater
26 and saltwater growth patterns to examine the growth and
27 survival of sockeye salmon. More about that project can
28 be found on page 208 of your Council books.

29
30 Next up, we've got project 26-403:
31 Addressing priority subsistence salmon concerns and the
32 Buskin watershed to enhance ecological strength and food
33 security of Kodiak. The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak proposes
34 a four-year study to conduct suppression efforts of
35 signal crayfish in the Buskin River watershed, and to
36 assess potential ecosystem factors influencing salmon
37 production, quantifying fishing behavior of subsistence
38 fishers, and document local traditional knowledge in the
39 watershed. This ambitious project collaborates with
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who would be the
41 primary lead on developing key respondent interviews,
42 hiring local research assistants, and conducting and
43 analyzing the surveys. More about this project can be
44 found on page 210 of your Council books.

45
46 Next up, project 26-451: understanding
47 the importance of resource networks in Alaska,
48 documenting subsistence fish sharing networks, and
49 select Bristol Bay communities. The project proposes to
50 document and analyze subsistence sharing networks in

1 four Bristol Bay communities and the process -- the
2 project will also produce updated household survey data
3 on salmon and non-salmon harvests, and record the
4 geographic extent of household salmon and non-salmon
5 search and harvest areas in each community. More details
6 on that project can be found on page 213 of your Council
7 books.

8
9 And that concludes all five of the
10 projects. I believe there were two that were pertinent
11 to the Bristol Bay region, and the other three were of
12 Kodiak Aleutians region. I'll take any questions. If the
13 Council has any or gather any comments that you might
14 have on projects. Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Any
17 comments? I'd like to submit that I'm glad to see this
18 resource networks. And I thought about that recently
19 when my son caught a moose up on the Yukon. But
20 eventually I got the liver and brought it back to
21 Dillingham, cut it up, and shared it with I think four
22 different families. And I started thinking about these
23 network studies. It's amazing. Kenneth goes up in his
24 relative's area and probably takes stuff up to him and
25 brings other stuff down, and it's a pretty fascinating
26 -- and it's critical as far as subsistence. Once Donald
27 Mike brought his muktuk here, fresh, my first chance.
28 So, and it gives you a bigger picture on how important
29 it is culturally as well as, you know, actually
30 subsistence, like keeping you alive. And so, I'm glad
31 to see that in there. I'm hoping that in the future we
32 have some other Bristol Bay ideas. I'm going to throw
33 them out here now, right where they're fresh in my mind.
34 But, you know, with our concerns for kings, I'm wondering
35 if something could be composed on like, look at Alagnak
36 River kings and look at have to have a federal nexus or
37 Big Creek kings, because in some of our Advisory
38 Committee meetings, the only place we're trying to count
39 kings, rather unsuccessfully, is on the Nushagak River.
40 I think there was a -- Togiak might be another place.
41 But anyway, I'll throw those out and comments from
42 anybody else?

43
44 MR. WILSON: Yeah, definitely. You know,
45 king issue over there Lake Nak -- in the Naknek area
46 there. We have -- there's -- I think there's some
47 proposals that we're going to be hearing about in the
48 next few days in the state, you know, to possibly get
49 into some monitoring-type atmospheres for those systems.
50 Because everybody wants to change the regulations, but

1 nobody wants to do the homework first. And so, there's
2 got to be a lot of homework before you can change
3 something, you know, realistically, so. So yeah, so
4 we're hoping that you know, maybe after this spring,
5 perhaps, you know, there might be a better direction on
6 where some of that funding and who's available for it,
7 you know, might be able to happen. So hopeful.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well said.
10 Thank you. Kenneth or Walter or Robert?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 Not hearing anything. Jarred, thanks for
15 hanging on to the bitter end. I was in Quinhagak once
16 and they heard the plane was landing and I hadn't had
17 my peace. I had about five minutes of a ten-minute spiel
18 and Harry Wales went next time, keep it short. So, any
19 shorter? And I just shouldn't have never come, so. Thank
20 you. What's next? Is that enough in...?

21
22 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
23 got one more update, and that's for our second financial
24 assistance program called our Partners Program. This
25 will be extra brief. Again, for the record, Jarred Stone,
26 Fish Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
27 Management. I'll give you a quick update on our partners
28 for Fisheries Monitoring Program, collectively known as
29 the Partners Program. The Office of Subsistence
30 Management posted a notice of funding opportunity. It's
31 basically a call for proposals for the partner --
32 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program this last
33 spring. This is a competitive grant for Alaska Native
34 and rural nonprofit organizations. The intent of the
35 program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
36 involvement in federal subsistence management by
37 providing salary funds to organizations so that they can
38 hire a professional biologist, social scientist or an
39 educator. The grant also provides funds for science and
40 culture camps, and paid student internships. There was
41 a total of eight applicants for new funding beginning
42 in 2026. This funding lasts for up to four years in
43 total. The Partners Program Review Panel, made up of
44 subject matter experts across various agencies, have
45 reviewed the proposals and the Office of Subsistence
46 Management Regional Director has approved funding for
47 three new partners. That includes the Bristol Bay Native
48 Association, Native Village of Eyak and the Ahtna
49 Intertribal Resource Commission. The next notice of
50 funding opportunity will be sometime in the spring of

1 2027, for funding to begin in 2028. If you'd like to
2 learn more about this program, or would like to contact
3 myself or Liz Williams via email or phone, our contact
4 information can be found on our web page under the
5 Partners tab. And if anyone is interested here, I'd like
6 to learn more about this just come see me and I'd be
7 happy to get you going and inform you in the right
8 direction with that program. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
9 concludes my presentation.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
12 very much. And Council?
13

14 MR. WILSON: Is it still open for more
15 entries, or are you know, is that timeline still open?
16 You got -- what does that look like?
17

18 MR. STONE: Oh, thank you for the
19 question. Through the Chair. That -- the timing of --
20 it's closed now for new entries. It won't open until
21 maybe sometime in the spring of 2027. And that will be
22 posted up on our website. We also, during that time hold
23 weekly consultation offerings so that if a prospective
24 partner wanted to apply, but they were maybe first time
25 having to navigate the portal or the process -- the
26 application process, we help them, walk them through
27 that and try to make sure that they have a successful
28 application or get in successfully. If that's.....
29

30 MR. WILSON: So, how was that advertised?
31 How does the person know that that program is even
32 available?
33

34 MR. STONE: Oh, thank you, I might have
35 skipped that part. So that's over grants.gov or
36 grantsolutions.gov. And those details -- there'll be a
37 specific announcement number that will be attached to
38 that notice of funding opportunity and that will be on
39 our website. And so, a person, if they during that time
40 went onto our website, they be able to find that number,
41 go into grants.gov, put that into the search and be able
42 to pull up the announcement. And generally speaking, for
43 the last cycles, the max cap has been set at around
44 \$168,000 per year. And so, I forget what that equals out
45 to after four years, 168 times four years. So, it's a
46 nice chunk of money to provide an opportunity for someone
47 to put their boots to the ground and really start. I've
48 seen a lot of times where agencies -- tribal agencies,
49 when they receive this funding, they hire somebody. And,
50 you know, it's like the ignition is set. And they are

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1 applying for other grants. They're doing this and
2 they're putting pieces of the puzzle together and making
3 things happen. And so it's pretty neat to watch.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
6 Thank you. Anybody else again?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Again, thank you for hanging on a long
11 haul. Other business 805(c), go ahead.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Hey, I'm gonna keep it brief.
14 The 805(c) report normally has all of the Board's action
15 on proposals that the Councils would have seen. And so,
16 the 805(c) normally summarizes if the Board acted
17 different than what the Council recommended. And for
18 reference, the 805(c) letter is on page 233 of your
19 meeting materials. And it basically says that the Board
20 approved all the proposals consistent with the Council's
21 recommendations. End of report.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I bet Gayla
24 was very happy to see it that way. So, she's been working
25 hard to make it happen that way. Thank you. Closing
26 comments from any of the Council. And raise your hand
27 and speak up.

28
29 (No comment)

30
31 Okay. I'm not really hearing any. I want
32 to thank the staff. This stuff can -- this is brutal and
33 it's brutal on us. But the staff probably has more to
34 do. So, find your way home first maybe. But I want to
35 thank -- and I -- she got out of here before I could
36 thank her, Lisa. Lisa, the depth of her knowledge I'd
37 never fully appreciated until today. And so please pass
38 it on to her and especially her boss. And again, with
39 Kendra, she seemed kind of tired. And I think some of
40 you get to do this all over again tomorrow. So, you
41 know, the beatings will stop when the morale improves
42 here. And thanks, everybody, for taking the time. This
43 was tough, again and damn Congress better not do this
44 to us again. And with that again, one last chance. And,
45 Robert, I thank you so much. You really did add some
46 really important information, and I don't know how you
47 did it. Thank you so much for being a part. And
48 hopefully, maybe we'll see you in Naknek in March.
49 Anything else?

50

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1 MR. HILL: Sounds good.

2

3 (Simultaneous speech)

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: My favorite
6 Yup'ik word -- oh. Go ahead. Go ahead, Robert.

7

8 MR. HILL: Oh, I was just going to say
9 sounds good. We'll see you in Naknek.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I look
12 forward to it. My favorite Yup'ik word (In Native). Is
13 that the right way? Enough already.

14

15 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native).

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: And I don't
18 know what that means. That's just more.....

19

20 MR. NUKWAK: Same as (In Native).

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh okay.
23 Yeah, with the gusts at times. A little trouble with
24 that one. So again, thanks everybody and the location
25 was good, our support was good. And thank you.

26

27 (Off record)

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29 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 216 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 12th day of January;

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 26th day of January 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager