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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

THE NOLAN CENTER
Wrangell, Alaska
December 17, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Calvin Casapit, Acting Chair

Larry Bemis

Theodore Sandhofer

Albert Howard

Patricia Phillips

Louie Wagner

John Smith III

Donald Hernandez

Lewis Hiatt

Michael Douville

James Slater

Harvey Kitka

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Wrangell, Alaska - 12/17/25)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well. Thank you. My name is Calvin Casipit. I am the Vice Chair of the Southeast Regional Advisory Council, and I'm calling this meeting to order. I appreciate everybody in the audience coming in and appreciate your patience while we worked out some technical issues. So, with that, I'm going to ask DeAnna to do roll call and establish our quorum.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, this is DeAnna Perry Designated Federal Officer for the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. Larry Bemis.

MR. BEMIS: Here.

MS. PERRY: Frank Wright. And Frank was going to join us virtually. Frank, if you're online, if you could press star six to unmute your phone.

(No response)

Okay. Cal Casipit.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Here.

MS. PERRY: Mike Douville is in transit. Jim Slater is also in transit. Ted Sandhofer.

MR. SANDHOFER: Here.

MS. PERRY: Albert Howard. Albert, you were going to join us virtually as well.

MR. HOWARD: I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Thank you. Patricia Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Patricia. Louie Wagner.

MR. WAGNER: Here.

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Harvey Kitka is
2 in transit. John Smith.

3
4 MR. SMITH: Here.

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6 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Lewis Hiatt is
7 also in transit and Donald Hernandez.

8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm here.

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11 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Don. And for those
12 listening in we have had some significant weather here
13 in Southeast Alaska. And so, we've had to pivot with
14 some of our transportation arrangements. So, we do have
15 a few Council members that will be joining us in about
16 an hour or so, but for now, Mr. Acting Chair, you do
17 have a quorum. Eight of your 13 members are present.
18 Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
21 you, DeAnna. Do you have any meeting announcements that
22 we need to go over here real quick or...?

23
24 MS. PERRY: Yes. Mr. Chair, if I could
25 just do our routine announcements at the beginning of
26 the meeting. Again, this is DeAnna Perry Council
27 Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
28 Regional Advisory Council. This is a wildlife regulatory
29 meeting, and due to a lapse of government funding, it
30 was necessary for us to reschedule the meeting
31 previously set for October to Wednesday and Thursday of
32 this week. Due to a number of factors, the Council will
33 proceed with an abbreviated agenda at this meeting. For
34 those joining us on phone or by Microsoft Teams, you can
35 find the abbreviated agenda and meeting materials online
36 on the Federal Subsistence Program website. That
37 internet address is www.doi.govsubsistence. Then under
38 the regions tab choose Southeast and then meeting
39 materials. You'll note that all the meeting materials
40 for the full regulatory meeting that was previously
41 planned still appears there, but the agenda listed at
42 the very top shows what items the Council will be taking
43 up this week. For those attending our meeting in person,
44 please make sure that you sign in at the front table.
45 There's a sign-in sheet for each day of the meeting, and
46 we would ask you to sign in each day that you're present.
47 If people in the room would like to address the council
48 during the meeting, there are blue testifier forms right
49 next to that sign in sheet. If you'll fill that out and
50 hand it to one of the staff or myself, that will help

1 us keep track of anyone who'd like to speak. And also,
2 it would be helpful if you indicate if your testimony
3 is to a particular agenda item. Our acting Chair will
4 announce the time for tribal and public comment on non-
5 agenda items each morning. That will be an opportunity
6 for those present, as well as those participating on the
7 phone to speak on non-agenda items. We would ask you to
8 hold any comments on proposals or listed agenda items
9 until such time as they come up before the Council. That
10 way the Council can hear all the pertinent information
11 at the time they're working on that item. For those on
12 the phone or on Teams, we'll provide further instruction
13 on how to speak during public comment opportunities
14 later on in our meeting when we get to that on our
15 agenda. We would appreciate everyone's attention to the
16 mute feature on the phone and Teams platforms, so that
17 we can mitigate distractions in the meeting and be able
18 to capture a clear record of the proceedings. As I
19 mentioned, we have a number of council members
20 participating virtually, and we need to ensure that they
21 can be clearly heard. For this regulatory meeting, if
22 you would like to provide a comment on a particular
23 proposal, you can speak during the proposal process, or
24 you may consider submitting a written comment instead.
25 You can do that by emailing your comment to
26 Subsistence@doi.gov. Those will be sent to myself, and
27 staff and we will share those with the Council. Written
28 comments will be accepted until the start of the
29 presentation of the proposal. A quick reminder our
30 meetings are conducted by Robert's Rules, which helps
31 us provide structure and maintain order through the
32 meeting. All participants are expected to be courteous
33 and respectful in all interactions. As a matter of
34 meeting etiquette, if you look at the agenda, the items
35 marked on the agenda with an asterisk are the Council's
36 action items, and those must be addressed during this
37 meeting and will be striving our focus on those items
38 throughout the meeting. and for the council members when
39 we get to action items, if at any time you feel you have
40 a conflict of interest on a matter, please indicate this
41 on the record and you can abstain from voting on that
42 issue. But absent a conflict of interest, council
43 members are expected to vote on all action items. For
44 everyone speaking in the meeting, please remember to
45 identify yourself before you deliver your comment so
46 that we can capture an accurate record of our
47 proceedings. And lastly, before we begin, for those in
48 the room, I would ask you to take just a moment to look
49 at your cell phones and silent any ringer. I believe
50 that wraps up all the housekeeping announcements. Mr.

1 Chair, thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
4 you, DeAnna. This is where we have a little welcome and
5 I wanted to mention something before we begin. I wanted
6 to acknowledge that we were in the homeland of the
7 Wrangell Tlingit people, Alaska Native people here in
8 this meeting. And I just want to acknowledge that and
9 thank those folks to having us on their land and hosting
10 us at this meeting here in Wrangell. With that I will
11 ask that members introduce themselves and I think I'm
12 going to start with the phone first and have Council
13 members on the phone introduce themselves, and we'll go
14 around the table here with the folks here at the table.
15 And then hopefully we can have introductions of the
16 members that are still on their way. And hopefully
17 they'll be here in an hour, hour and a half. With that,
18 let's start on the phone. Don, would you like to
19 introduce yourself?

20

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Good morning,
22 everybody. This is Don Hernandez. I'm calling in from
23 Point Baker, where I live. I was not able to make it to
24 the meeting because of the weather, but I appreciate the
25 fact that our -- I'm the Chair of the Council, but I
26 appreciate the fact that Cal Casipit is our Vice Chair.
27 Is able to take over and run the meeting, so I appreciate
28 that. Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
31 you, Don. Patty, can you introduce yourself, please?

32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: Hi Chairman Cal, can you
34 hear me?

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes we can.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Yeah. This is
39 Patricia Phillips, I'm from Pelican, Alaska, it's my
40 home. I've been here, what? Over 50 years. Yeah, we
41 haven't had a mail plane in 18 days and Alaska Marine
42 Highway System ferry (In Native) canceled its run to
43 Pelican. So yeah, I'm kind of like weathered in Pelican.
44 But I have read my material, and I'm ready for this
45 meeting, so thank you. I'm really glad to have this
46 modern technology to allow me to dial in. Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
49 Patty, I'm especially pleased that you're on the line
50 and able to discuss some of these things that are coming

1 up here. Next, I have on my list, I have Albert would
2 you introduce yourself, please?

3
4 MR. HOWARD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
5 My name is Albert Howard. I'm from Angoon, originally
6 born in Sitka. Raised in Angoon for over 50 years. Mr.
7 Chairman, this year has been an interesting summer. I
8 actually had to subsist all summer, so. And I'll speak
9 more on that when I do my report. Snowing here quite a
10 bit, so I decided to stay home. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
13 Albert. Okay, I think that's all our members that are
14 online right now, so I think we'll start with the folks
15 in the room right now, Council members on the room, and
16 I'll start here with Larry, would you introduce
17 yourself, please?

18
19 MR. BEMIS: Good morning, glad to be
20 here. Now, I know the weather's been a problem for
21 everyone, but I've hung in there, and I managed to make
22 it. I'm from Yakutat, Alaska. I've been a resident for
23 over 60 some years, and I am glad to be on this Council
24 and serve the Yakutat area. Thank you.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
27 you, Larry. Next would be John. Would you care to
28 introduce yourself, please?

29
30 MR. SMITH: (In Native) Good morning. (In
31 Native) It's good to see your face. Gunalchéesh (In
32 Native). Thank you for all being here today. My western
33 name is John Smith III. I'm Eagle Nest Kaagwaantaan. I
34 represent Juneau of Alaska, and it's great to be here
35 today. And I'm a lifetime -- been here in Alaska all my
36 life.

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38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Ted.

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40 MR. SANDHOFER: Yeah, good morning, my
41 name is Ted Sandhofer from Petersburg, Alaska. I was
42 born and raised in South Central, but I've been down in
43 Southeast for about 35 years now. Happy to be here.
44 Hopefully everybody is surviving the snow. I think it's
45 nice to have some snow, but when it comes all at once,
46 it's kind of a little difficult. So good morning,
47 everybody. Thanks.

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49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
50 you, Ted. Louie?

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MR. WAGNER: Louie Wagner from Metlakatla. I've lived my life there, and a month in -- a little over a month I'll be 78 years there, and that's home for good. But it's good to be here, and I wish I brought my extra tufts with me, though. That would have been nice. Yep, just a lifelong member of Metlakatla Tribe, so thank you.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, that's to me. My name is Calvin Casipit. I am the Vice Chair of the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. I'm from Gustavus. Old timers probably recognize me from when I was staff to this Council many years ago. But anyway, I've been in Alaska since I was a teenager and really enjoy the subsistence lifestyle and way of life. And I've been passing that on to my grandkids and -- who happen to live in the same community that I do, which is really nice. With that, I'm going to ask that our Wrangell District Ranger come forward and introduce herself. Please come up to the table. Thank you.

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MS. HAUSER: Good morning. My name is Tori Hauser, I'm the District Ranger in the Wrangell Ranger District. I'm very happy to welcome you all here. Everybody who made the effort to get through the snow and get here, thank you so much. And everyone who's making the effort online to participate and make this a worthwhile couple of days. You know, there's a lot of important decisions and topics to go over so, without further ado, I hope you guys can jump into it and have a really good session.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you. Next, I'd like to -- next, I'd like to have staff introduce themselves. That table there, I guess we'll start with Katya.

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MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. For the record, my name is Katya Wessels, and I'm Acting Deputy Director for Operations with OSM. In my regular position, I'm Council Coordination Division Supervisor. I'm very happy to be here with you in person in Snowy Wrangell. Thank you.

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MR. AYERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council, my name is Scott Ayers. I'm OSM's Deputy Director for Sciences, and I am a first-time visitor here to Wrangell, and I'm very excited to be here and appreciate the work that you all are doing.

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1 Thank you.

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3 MR. CROSS: Good morning, Mr. Chair, and
4 members of the Council. My name is Robert Cross; I'm the
5 Subsistence Program Manager for the Tongass National
6 Forest with the U.S. Forest Service.

7

8 MR. CHEN: Aloha. My name is Glenn Chen,
9 I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
10 Affairs. Always a pleasure to attend your meetings.
11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
14 Glenn. Are there any staff online that can introduce
15 themselves, please?

16

17 MR. RISDAHL: Hey, good morning Cal, this
18 is Greg Risdahl. I'm the Subsistence Program Lead for
19 the Forest Service and Interagency Staff Committee
20 member. Sorry, I couldn't be there, but I'm there with
21 you in heart and spirit.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Excuse me,
24 I like the green screen behind you.

25

26 MR. RISDAHL: Pardon me. Cal, I didn't
27 catch you. What'd you say?

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Greg, I said
30 I like the green screen behind you.

31

32 MR. RISDAHL: Is it green? I have a
33 photograph on my screen but, anyway, no worries.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah,
36 that's what I meant, the picture behind you.

37

38 MR. RISDAHL: Oh, yeah, that's Cook
39 Inlet.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Any other -
42 - any other federal staff online?

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible).

45

46 MR. LIND: Good morning Cal, this is
47 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
48 Subsistence Management. Glad to be able to connect with
49 you guys online. Sorry I couldn't be there, it's always
50 one of my favorite places to go, Southeast, but good to

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1 hear you all on. Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Any
4 other OSM staff or Forest Service staff online?

5

6 (No response)

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8 Any other National Park Service, Fish
9 and Wildlife Service or BLM staff online?

10

11 MS. COHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, good
12 morning everyone. This is Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St.
13 Elias National Park and Preserve. I'm a Cultural
14 Anthropologist for the Park, and I hope one day I can
15 come to a Southeast Regional Advisory Council meeting
16 in person, but very happy to participate with you all
17 virtually.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: To me, it
20 looks like I think all the agency staff introduced now.
21 So, I think I'll go to the public in the room and if you
22 care to come up and sit at the microphone and introduce
23 yourself, we'd like that, so you can all come on up and
24 line up. Thank you.

25

26 MS. LEKANOFF: Good morning. Melinda
27 Lekanoff with the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

28

29 MR. BREEN: Good morning, Tyler
30 Breen.....

31

32 (Simultaneous speech)

33

34 MS. FORTNER: Good morning, Council, my
35 name is Sheena Fortner, Government Affairs, Ketchikan
36 Indian Community. President Gloria Burns is currently
37 on route.

38

39 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning everyone, my
40 name is Heather Bauscher, I'm the Fisheries Community
41 Engagement Specialist for the Sitka Conservation Society
42 and an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska
43 Southeast. We had two students that were trying to come
44 to this meeting, but one stayed in Sitka and one stayed
45 in Hoonah. (Indiscernible) Sitka is a senior at Sitka
46 High and then Mary Jack is in a shared role between
47 Sitka Conservation Society and Hoonah Indian Association
48 to help support the students in the program now, so
49 she'll also be participating, and hopefully we'll hear
50 from them at some point.

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MR. DELABRUE: Good morning everybody, my name is Joe Delabrué, I'm the District Wildlife Biologist here for the Forest Service. I'm glad you all made it in. Thanks for coming.

MR. ANDERSTROM: Good morning, my name is Matt Anderstrom. I am the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe Food Sovereignty Coordinator and an ANB Camp 13 President and here to represent Yakutat. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, I think that was everybody in the audience here. Like to go to the phone now, any public on the phone that would like to introduce themselves.

MS. TSIITS GIT'ANEE: Hi, this is La quen na'ay Tsiits Git'anee. I serve on the Organized Village of Kake Tribal Council, and also, I'm on the board for Native Peoples Action. Gunalchéesh, have a good meeting. I'll be just listening right now, thank you.

MS. TYNES HASSELL: Good morning, everybody. This is Carly Tynes Hassell, Senior Policy Coordinator in the Indigenous Stewardship Program Division for Kent Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Any other members of the public on the phone who wish to introduce themselves?

MS. SCHNEIDER: Good morning, M name is Barbara Schneider. I'm staff to Senator Stedman, and I'm here just to listen and observe today. I hope you have a great session.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Anybody else? Anybody else on the line who wishes to introduce themselves?

MS. PHILLIPS: Can you hear us?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah, I can hear you.

MR. PHILLIPS: This is James Philip. (Distortion). Just an interested person. Thank you.

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1 MR. MCDONALD: (In Native). This is
2 Justin McDonald, Natural Resource Coordinator from the
3 Organized Village of Kake.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
6 Anybody else?

7
8 MR. ROSENOW: Good morning, This is Kyle
9 Rosenow with Sitka Tribe of Alaska. Just listening
10 today, thank you very much.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. I
13 think we got everybody on the phone. If you haven't
14 introduced yourself and want to do so, do that now,
15 please. But I think we're done. Okay, Deanna's trying
16 to keep me in line here, I guess we are done with the
17 phone, for now. The next on the a-- next here is to
18 review and adopt the agenda. I would entertain a motion
19 to adopt the agenda.

20
21 MR. SANDHOFER: Mr. Chair, make a motion
22 to adopt the agenda.

23
24 MR. HOWARD: Second.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: It's been
27 moved by Ted and seconded by John. I think I heard
28 Albert, too. And as always, we kind of use the agenda
29 as a guide. I know we've had - we're going to have to
30 move some stuff around to accommodate people's schedules
31 and all, but we will be using this as a guide. And as
32 those changes come up, we'll deal with them.

33
34 Okay. This next item, I think we're
35 going to have to wait. Till, till some folks get here
36 on that jet. So I -- yeah, the next thing after that
37 would be -- okay. We're going to bring up our minutes
38 from our last meeting for approval, so if folks want
39 to.....

40
41 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I'm sorry,
44 I forgot to have a vote on adopting the agenda. Okay,
45 so members online, here in the room. Just we can do a
46 roll ca -- we can -- we don't have to do a roll call.
47 We can just do a voice vote? Okay, I'd like to do a
48 voice vote on adopting the agenda. All in favor, say
49 aye.

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

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3 MR. HOWARD: I call for the question.

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5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, I'm
6 sorry, I'm -- somebody has to keep me online in Robert's
7 Rules, I was skipping. Albert called for the question,
8 so I'll do that again. All those in favor of adopting
9 the agenda as guide, say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 Okay, agenda is adopted. Next on the
14 agenda is our meeting minutes from our last meeting. I
15 think folks have all had a chance to review those. I'll
16 ask for a motion to approve the minutes from our last
17 meeting.

18

19 MR. SANDHOFER: Mr. Chair, I move to
20 adopt the minutes from the winter meeting.

21

22 MR. SMITH: Second.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Moved by Ted
25 and seconded by John to approve the minutes from last
26 winter's meeting, last meeting. Folk -- can give folks
27 a few minutes just to go over their notes real quick,
28 and once I see folks have done that, we'll -- I'll
29 entertain a call for the question. And for folks
30 following along on the phone, the minutes appear,
31 beginning on page seven on our booklet that was given
32 to us last fall, so, you can see all -- it begins on
33 page seven of that big, thick book.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 Okay. It looks like we're done reviewing
38 minutes. I'd entertain the question.

39

40 MR. SANDHOFER: Call for the question.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Ted called
43 for the question. So, I'll do a voice vote on this one
44 as well. All in favor of adopting, of approving our
45 minutes from our last meeting.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 Motion carries, our minutes are
50 approved. The next on the agenda, item on the agenda --

1 I wanted -- we're going to have a little moment of
2 silence for one of our longtime Council members, and he
3 also was Chair, Bert Adams Kadashan from Yakutat passed
4 away last fall, and I met -- I knew Kadashan from way
5 before I met him. I remember being in the regional office
6 and reading in the Juneau Empire, his column, he used
7 to write in the Juneau Empire way back when, Kadashan
8 Speaks. And I really enjoyed his essays and his scholarly
9 work in those articles, I think he even published a
10 book. He was an accomplished author, and he published a
11 book about Kadashan Speaks. He was a wonderful human
12 being, I know he had the best sourdough I've ever tasted.
13 Truly a gentleman and it affected me pretty -- I was --
14 when I read that he passed, I was for a while there, I
15 was kind of beside myself, so, I'd like to take a few
16 moments to of silence to recognize Kadashan and all the
17 work he did for his people, for his community, for the
18 region, for us on the Council. So please join me in a
19 few moments of silence.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 Thank you. Okay, next on the agenda, we
24 have the regular Council member reports. And I think I
25 will start with Council members online again. So first
26 on my list would be Don. You want to do your report,
27 please?

28

29 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Cal. As
30 I mentioned in the introductions, I live in Point Baker,
31 and I've been here for a little over 40 years now, and
32 I'm kind of a semi-retired commercial fisherman. I've
33 gill netted in Sumner Strait for most of those 40 years
34 that I have lived in Point Baker. And I also do a little
35 halibut fishing and some hand trolling, but -- so that's
36 my experiences in the area. Our household is very
37 dependent on subsistence harvesting, as is the rest of
38 our community. And for this year, I guess probably the
39 biggest story is kind of what's happening in the present.
40 This is pretty exceptional snowfall for this Central
41 Southeast area where Point Baker is a part of here on
42 North End of Prince of Wales. I know that you know, the
43 Kake/Wrangell/Petersburg Unit 3 areas have been
44 particularly hit by heavy snowfall and really cold
45 temperatures so far here in December, and coming just
46 after the, you know, the deer rutting season, it's
47 probably very hard on the bucks, who are probably worn
48 down. It's really bad timing. I know if you go back a
49 little over 50 years, we had an event similar to this,
50 you know, in the early 70s, that really decimated the

1 deer in central southeast in particular, and it was many,
2 many years before there was even a viable, huntable deer
3 population in Unit 3. And, you know, this north end of
4 Prince of Wales is kind of in that same situation,
5 although I understand the south end of the island, which
6 we may hear more about from my colleagues down there
7 hasn't had as much snow, but we're hit particularly hard,
8 so that's worrisome. The fall was extremely stormy here,
9 in our area. We were hit with several extreme wind
10 events. A lot of forest is blown down here in our area.
11 It's kind of been a sort of a double whammy to our forest
12 ecosystem. We were really heavily impacted by the sawfly
13 outbreak that happened about five years ago. Killed a
14 lot of hemlock trees. And those dead hemlocks are --
15 have now been shedding a lot of limbs and falling down
16 in the last several years. And it's really the loss of
17 the hemlocks is kind of opened up a lot of the canopy
18 to these extreme wind events and it's really noticeable
19 the amount of blowdown that's happened; our community's
20 been hit particularly hard. We've had, oh, 3 or 4 houses
21 that have been hit by trees. Yeah, some real serious
22 damage, some people got off lucky. Big patches of
23 blowdown all around the community. And going back to the
24 summer, talk about the fish runs around here in Sumner
25 Street that I'm familiar with, I'd have to say it was a
26 very weak sockeye run for the gillnetters that fish here
27 in Sumner Strait, very poor catches. However, I have
28 been hearing that the subsistence fishery in the Stikine
29 was fairly successful, I think they had good escapements
30 in Stikine, but that doesn't seem to jive very well with
31 what the commercial fleet was seeing here. So, it's
32 always kind of interests me, what's happening there. I
33 know the fish do seem to be getting smaller, so maybe
34 gillnets need to get smaller to catch the sockeye these
35 days. The pink salmon was also very weak here in Sumner
36 Strait, very poor catches in the commercial fishery, but
37 I did see some -- what looked like pretty healthy
38 escapements in some of the local streams, so hopefully
39 that's an indication that at least some of the streams
40 did well. And coho catches were also just very poor, and
41 I don't really know how escapement levels were in local
42 streams, but the commercial catches were very poor. The
43 one thing that has done well is the chum salmon runs and
44 those, of course, are mostly hatchery fish, and they
45 kind of bolstered the catches for the commercial fleet,
46 fortunately, so. But other species or -- don't seem to
47 be doing as well. I don't know if they're going to be
48 looking for a Chair's report. I might just give that now
49 while I'm on here, but there wasn't any activity by me
50 as the Chair of the Council since we last met. I did

1 personally attend a couple of meetings. They had a public
2 testimony for our temporary special action requests
3 dealing with the deer seasons and upcoming potential 804
4 Allocations and Unit 2. I attended the meeting down in
5 Klawock. I didn't feel comfortable testifying as a Chair
6 at that meeting, because the Council had not really had
7 a chance to fully discuss all the implications of that,
8 but I did offer some personal testimony as a Unit 2
9 resident. And then I also listened in but did not testify
10 at the tribal consultation that was held in Hydaburg. I
11 just wanted to, you know, listen in on that just as to
12 be more well informed about, you know, what the local
13 tribes were concerned with in Unit 2 and the deer harvest
14 and 804 Allocations that are coming up before us. And I
15 also attended the Board meeting that occurred this
16 summer where the Board made its decision on the special
17 actions requests. But once again, I did not testify as
18 a Chair for the same reasons, I didn't really feel that
19 the Council had come to any real firm determinations or
20 recommendations on those temporary special actions, but
21 I did testify as a concerned resident of Unit 2. So, I
22 think that, concludes my report. Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
25 Don. That was really good, I'm glad you were able to
26 participate in those meetings with the Board and folks
27 on the island. Next on the list is Patty. Patty, you
28 want to give your report, please?

29
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Alright. Okay. So yeah,
31 this is Patricia Phillips calling from Pelican, Alaska.
32 So, we had a dry April and a wet summer until about the
33 third -- wait. We had a dry April, and we did have three
34 weeks of dry weather, that like -- in around end of
35 July, early August. But for the most part, we did have
36 a wet summer, except for that three-week window. During
37 that three-week window, salmon -- at the salmon streams
38 that I was, you know, fortunate to be near, salmon were
39 unable to move up the smaller spawning systems, there
40 was low stream flow. I was starting to get worried about
41 it because the salmon were just milling around in the
42 like -- I guess the where the fresh meets the salt water.
43 They were just milling around and unable to go up because
44 there was just no water in the streams. And then the
45 rain came on hard, and the fish were able to move up.
46 So, there were good sockeye and coho runs. I mean, when
47 I went to one system, I mean, the coho and sockeye were
48 just like leaping out of water. I mean, it was like,
49 whoa, this is incredible! It was -- it only lasted, you
50 know, maybe 30 minutes and then they calmed down and

1 they moved out. But yeah, it was a pretty interesting
2 year, I was able to go to both, you know, (In Native)
3 and Birch Bay for our sockeye. So, the berries were
4 abundant and saw, you know, better king salmon catches
5 in our area. So, you know, Pelican, we live on the water,
6 our waterways are our road system, and we have our --
7 we're a qualified community for rural SHARC cards and,
8 you know, tribal SHARC cards, and people in our community
9 take advantage of that. I mean, there's up to 4,000
10 pounds a year, according to our, you know, our community
11 survey that Fish and Game did in our community. About
12 4,000 pounds a year of halibut is harvested and shows
13 how significant that is for our food security, but I
14 would say that one of our SHARC card holders had two of
15 her sets go missing and this summer, last summer, and
16 this is like the first full year that The Unguided were
17 operating in our inlet, and so it just seems a little
18 suspicious, but we can't really prove anything. Just --
19 we can say that the gear is gone, and that's a hardship
20 for, you know, somebody who's trying to get halibut to
21 meet their needs.

22
23 So, I was able to get out and about in
24 -- during the hunt, that we started before our ten-day
25 subsistence only hunt. And we -- the first five days of
26 that subsistence only hunt was bad weather. So, we didn't
27 we didn't go out during those five days. We were able
28 to fish one of, I mean, hunt one of them, but it was
29 pretty nasty out there and pretty wind blowing all over
30 the place, so, we didn't get a deer. We did get a deer
31 early on, and we saw deer, but they were very skittish.
32 And then, you know, after the -- I think we got one
33 during the ten-day subsistence only hunt. But after
34 that, we, you know, the -- we had mild fall, even though
35 it started getting cold, we didn't really get snow until
36 now. So, we started seeing more bucks come down as the
37 season went on, so I happened to go out last week or --
38 yeah. Let's see. And it was really surprising, I mean,
39 there wasn't any snow to really drive him down, but it
40 was cold, and I think we saw 25 deer, ten of which were
41 bucks, two were undetermined of what sex they were, but
42 there was a lot of deer within the beech fringe area
43 along the, you know, certain areas of the forest. So,
44 it was good to see the quantity of deer. People do take
45 advantage of that ten-day hunt if the weather allows
46 them to. And you know, people are getting, you know,
47 local residents are getting out and hunting. So yeah,
48 that's kind of my report, so, thank you.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
2 Patty. Next, I'd like to hear from -- we'd like to hear
3 from Albert, if you give us your community report, that'd
4 be great.

5
6 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 spent a lot of time this summer out in Chatham, for the
8 most part, helping my uncles prepare for my dad's Kallik.
9 So, I have a pretty good understanding of Chatham Street
10 and what's happening. The cohos this year were pretty
11 good for about a week, and then we had 20 power trawlers
12 just from Danger Point to Point Sand, which was pretty
13 unusual, and that is basically a terminal area for Salt
14 Lake, the only -- one of three streams, but the main one
15 for Angoon. So, the return to Salt Lake, when I went up
16 there in September, was pretty minimum. I've checked
17 with locals here to see what their thoughts are. One of
18 the community members talks about the Coastal Management
19 Plan that had areas that merit special interest were
20 Whitewater Bay, all the way up to Parker Point. Went to
21 a meeting with the local IRA here, they talked about
22 their concerns with the sea otters and the change some
23 are trying to make to regulation. And the conclusion at
24 that meeting was to make it easier for Natives to move
25 sea otter pelts. I believe you guys remember Mr. Deville
26 saying putting a bullet hole in them was significantly
27 altering the hide. I'll just leave that at that.

28
29 (Distortion)

30
31 Some of the things we -- I've heard
32 about was when the government shut down, Angoon being
33 80% unemployed, it affected people on food stamps and
34 getting snacks. (Distortion) I'm sorry, Mr. Chair,
35 there's -- not sure what that is. That's not me. So, the
36 government shutdown.....

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, Albert. Sorry, we
41 are trying to mute some lines that are open on this end,
42 and just as a reminder, if you're participating by Teams
43 or by phone, if you could press star six to mute your
44 phone or turn off your mic feature on Teams, that will
45 help us mitigate any distractions. Sorry, go ahead
46 Albert, I think I have everybody muted at the moment.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, DeAnna. So, some
49 of the things that are mentioned is -- we all know the
50 high cost of living has many factors that affect our

1 ability to subsist. The cost of fuel, the cost of our
2 equipment, to go out and subsist is affected by the high
3 cost of living. I was mentioning that people were having
4 a difficult time during the government shutdown because
5 they weren't getting their SNAP benefits or TANF. So
6 maybe put this on our radar on setting up a -- some type
7 of system, when this type of thing happens that allows
8 us to take care of ourselves off the resources, we've
9 done for generations without, having what the
10 government's provided some people to rely on, that they
11 allow us to go back out into our resource and take care
12 of ourselves off of that without regulations threatening
13 to put us in jail for the human right to support
14 ourselves and feed our families. So, having said that,
15 this is, Mr. Chairman, the difference between rural and
16 Angoon and urban somewhere else is, Angoon does not have
17 an airport. We don't have a barge landing. We rely on
18 float planes and the ferry system to bring all our
19 produce to the -- for the store. And this time of the
20 year, as Mrs. Phillips alluded to earlier, we didn't
21 have a plane for one week, and the ferry wouldn't travel
22 to Angoon because of possibility of icing over. So, we
23 were basically stranded here with no service from
24 anywhere, and the shelves at the store reflected that.
25 Another thing a resident mentioned was our fuel. Our
26 only gas station, for whatever reason, seems to have
27 issues when it's subsistence is in sockeye, deer
28 hunting, you name it. And without fuel, we can't get out
29 there and get what we need to sustain ourselves through
30 the winter. So, there's a lot of variables that affect
31 Angoon and our ability to take care of ourselves and I
32 think regulations becoming one of them. When regulations
33 are changed, we're not at the table when it happens.

34
35 (Off record interruption)

36
37 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, I'm waiting, I
38 hear someone talking. It's not.....

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah,
41 Albert, we're having more technical difficulties here
42 that we're trying to get fixed up. I can still hear you,
43 but, yeah, there is some interference going on. We're
44 trying to figure that out right now.

45
46 MR. HOWARD: So, I mentioned earlier
47 talking about attending the Angoon Community
48 Association's meetings and a great question that was
49 asked, and they asked me to ask and they were supposed
50 to email letters to DeAnna with their concerns, was if

1 we could get the data on the exact impact Angoon alone
2 is having on the king salmon. Because, by closing it
3 just for Angoon, you're telling Angoon that we're the
4 reason the king salmon is failing. So, you're closing
5 it to us and nobody else or one other community. So,
6 they want to know what -- they want the data supporting
7 that fact; that, in fact, Angoon catches so many king
8 salmon that we're having a negative impact on the
9 population of the king salmon. So, I appreciate it --
10 their Council members asking that question, that was a
11 really good question.

12
13 We'd like to see regulations change to
14 make it easier for one person to beat-saying -- I've
15 mentioned this before as well, Mr. Chairman, and I think
16 we still should visit that at some point. And I'm
17 mentioning these things in my report, so they don't get
18 forgotten.

19
20 The deer population here seems to be
21 really good this this year, but the data the state's
22 putting out telling the world that Chatham has the best
23 deer population isn't helping our community at all.
24 Because we have not only do we have a good deer
25 population, we also have more pressure on the deer
26 population from other communities around Angoon [sic]
27 are bringing their fast, fancy boats here and it's hard
28 to -- hunting areas I'm usually hunting, and because of
29 the high population of outside hunters now in those areas
30 -- sockeye was -- you had to be there or you missed it.
31 I was fortunate -- my son and I were able to divide our
32 efforts to different locations, so if I didn't find them,
33 he did. But we had to get our limits for my dad's payoff
34 party. So, the effort was there, but we burned a lot of
35 gas doing it. One of my concerns -- I heard that's coming
36 faster than I'd like it to, is a new business is starting
37 a self-guided business as well. I know the Council has
38 discussed this and now it's going to happen in Chatham,
39 so. So, I think -- that's all I see in my notes. I'm
40 sure I have more as we go through the meeting, but I'll
41 save it for agenda items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
44 Albert. With that, I think we've got everybody, all the
45 Council members on the phone. We'll go around the table
46 here, at the room, and I guess I'll start with John.

47
48 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Cal. You know, of
49 course, I represent Juneau of Alaska, but I grew up most
50 of my life traveling around as a young man, harvesting

1 from different locations in Southeast Alaska, Sitka and
2 used to go out on the boat and harvest herring eggs for
3 the community with Herman Kitka, my great uncle, and
4 then even heading over to Klukwan and day shoot a harvest
5 hooligan and traveling to, you know, first when the
6 sockeye would start running, we would hit Excursion
7 Inlet and subsistence fish, and then we would go to a
8 (In Native), and later on we would, you know, go visit
9 our relatives in Angoon and go to Basket Bay. Now that
10 I'm older, I'm pretty busy, and working, I work for the
11 union, and hopefully someday when I retire, I can start
12 doing that again. But I do a lot of trade and agreements
13 with families, and just to share my perspective, I think
14 we had a meeting in Sitka, just before the herring season
15 opened, and I left some funds for my nephews to catch
16 me some herring egg, herring females, you know, they
17 kept the males when they were jigging, and I was really
18 impressed, when they sent it to me, how big they were.
19 They were very large and I haven't seen them that large
20 since I was a young man. I remember at Port Frederick,
21 growing up, that we used to catch a lot of herring and
22 herring eggs all over. And then you know, they stopped
23 coming into Port Frederick, but really, they were going
24 down into the portage. I remember going down there and
25 actually seeing them sneaking in the bay down into the
26 eight-fathom area. So, it was very productive for a lot
27 of herring eggs. I received a lot of herring eggs from
28 my family. And then, of course I have family in Klukwan
29 and (In Native), Haines and Klukwan that, you know, I
30 got a few gallon bags full of hooligan, and it sounded
31 like it was very productive from what family members
32 were sharing, so it was a big celebration of actually
33 seeing the hooligan people coming back, you know, into
34 their location.

35
36 As far as salmon this year, of course,
37 like I said, I'm pretty busy, but I [sic] preparing for
38 a celebration of ceremonies for my wife. She's (In
39 Native), I'm Kaagwaantaan so, supporting her family --
40 I would actually purchase because I don't have time to
41 go out and participate, but actually realizing it saves
42 me a lot of money on gas and travel and time by
43 purchasing salmon from the gillnetters. It was a very
44 productive year because I was putting 15 sockeyes away
45 every week with the family, and they're a very good
46 size, and the fishermen were sharing how productive it
47 was for them this year, so I see that even the coho were
48 very plentiful.

49
50

1 As far as also even -- you know, I'm in
2 Juneau, so in the spring when the herring were spawning
3 in Sitka, I was, you know, going out to harvest some
4 seals at Bridget Cove. I like to go out in that area
5 because the tide goes way out and then, you know, almost
6 a quarter mile or so, so if you harvest a seal, it would
7 be right on the beach, and we would drive out there. But
8 [sic] noticed that there was herring eggs on the kelp
9 there. So, it was very excited about seeing that, you
10 know, because you don't see that in that area, so I'm
11 sure Berners Bay, in that area, received a lot of herring
12 eggs from seeing that to my -- you know -- of course
13 harvesting seaweed was pretty plentiful this year, too,
14 so we harvested quite a bit, so that was very productive
15 in our area. Bull kelp and whatnot. You'd like to pickle
16 that. But as far as what I noticed is, through the years,
17 I've always harvested cockles and geoducks. And, you
18 know, because of the PSPs of the -- I don't -- I've lost
19 family members because of the clams and how high they
20 are on their numbers, so I haven't harvested clams for
21 almost 15, 20 years now. If I do get clams, I usually
22 just buy them from the store, just to protect my family,
23 but cockles, I harvest cockles. Some people shy about
24 harvesting at out of season, they would say. But I've
25 always harvested cockles all year round, and I'm still
26 here today. But I've actually brought some -- What I'm
27 sharing about Juneau is that the numbers of cockles are
28 really hard to harvest because me and my boy spent the
29 whole -- couple tide's going out and didn't really
30 produce more than three quarters of a five-gallon bucket
31 full of cockles and that's with the shell. So you can -
32 - you know, but the size of them were very nice, but we
33 really had to work at it. I tried to harvest a few
34 geoducks and noticed that the shells were really soft.
35 Like, I couldn't harvest any of them without breaking
36 the shells, so I noticed there's an issue there that's
37 not normal, but just to share that perspective of what
38 I seen and saw and visually - so, you know -- I did get
39 a few, not many geoducks, you know, just getting 5 or 6
40 of them was a celebration for me and my family. I think
41 I'm the only one that eats the geoducks, but I brought
42 some cockles today, some smoked cockles today, to share
43 with the community here. So, I'll be putting that on the
44 table. As far as deer, when I went over for our
45 celebration of Quggiq for my family -- I just want to
46 say that, through the whole fishing year this year, and
47 purchasing from the fishermen, I was really shocked when
48 we started bringing out how many jars of fish that we
49 had, how much smoked fish we had, how much dried fish
50 we had, took it over to the ceremony, and of course, I

1 have my sons and my family that, you know, I grew up
2 over there and raised all my kids, I have 11 kids and 2
3 of them are girls and 15 grandchildren. And when I went
4 over there, I was just happy because almost everywhere
5 I went -- I went for a couple drives and never got up
6 into the Alpines, but it didn't even snow. There was no
7 snow on the ground. So, you know that the deer were up
8 high, you know, all the big bucks and the elder deer.
9 But I seen [sic] the young ones everywhere. I was just
10 happy to see that. And of course, I don't harvest the
11 younger, but just want to notice -- let you notice that
12 I seen quite a few. I mean, not just 1 or 2. So I was
13 really happy to see that. And I realized too, when I was
14 just driving around, visiting my friends in Hoonah and
15 my family that I seen more big bucks in town than I seen
16 out in the field, there was quite a few big bucks just
17 strolling around right downtown Hoonah, so it was really
18 good to see that and share that perspective, because
19 I've traveled in different places.

20
21 So that's pretty much my -- but I just
22 want to share a perspective before I close about Bert
23 Adams and I can hear the shaking of the voice because
24 of the relationship that Cal has, and I just want to
25 share with him (In Native) of being strong and being of
26 courage, you know. But also, another Tlingit word I want
27 to share is -- we have no words for goodbye. (In Native)
28 is, in our culture, we'll say we're going to see you,
29 we'll see you again soon. Maybe not soon, but someday.
30 So gunalchéesh and thank you. I appreciate it. And really
31 good to (In Native), it's good to see all your faces.
32 (In Native). I'm done.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
35 John. I appreciate that. Okay. Ted, you're next.

36
37 MR. SANDHOFER: Thank you. So, I was
38 mentioning, I think Patty mentioned in Petersburg, it
39 was the second wettest April and the wettest May on
40 record, and it was also cold. So, you know, the
41 salmonberry harvest was quick. It came and went before
42 you knew it. Blueberries weren't very good this year. I
43 think cranberries were all right. And then people that
44 did dry gardens didn't have very good success this year.
45 A lot of people didn't even have gardens just because
46 of the cold, wet spring and early summer. Moose season
47 in central southeast was a record breaker this year. 147
48 animals and only 5% had the illegal horn antler
49 configuration, so kudos to those hunters. The biggest
50 take was on Kupreanof Island, but the Stikine River and

1 the Wrangell had a really good rebound this year, it was
2 a good harvest up to Stikine. Deer numbers are real good
3 in Central Southeast, I think everybody got what they
4 needed. As Don mentioned, you know, the recent heavy
5 snow is a concern, you know, especially now with the
6 cold snap coming. Hopefully we get a little rain off,
7 and those deer and moose and other game do all right in
8 the winter here. Don mentioned the Stikine subsistence
9 harvest was pretty good this year, I think everybody got
10 some fish if they tried. We all know that the stocks of
11 halibut aren't what they used to be. I think they're
12 smaller, and people had to go further to get them. But
13 I believe that if you tried, you did get your halibut.
14 I think Patty mentioned the unguided, non-resident
15 fisher-people, fishermen, fisher ladies, have a big
16 impact on subsistence users, you know. They take a lot,
17 a lot of halibut. I think there was a proposal that
18 didn't get in to the last cycle that is trying to
19 restrict those non guided, non-resident hunters to have
20 the same take as a guided, non-resident fisherman. So,
21 I think that would be good, I think that's going to try
22 to come up in the next cycle. The last thing I want to
23 say was, you know, with this programmatic review of this
24 Subsistence Program, there's going to be some -- there's
25 some proposed changes, you know, just much like the
26 changes coming across the country, I think this -- it's
27 very important that this Council do their best to protect
28 the subsistence, traditional cultural uses across
29 southeast because it's seems like there's some proposed
30 changes and we just need to be really cognizant that,
31 you know, take care of that. Thanks.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
34 you, Ted. And we will be getting to that -- those
35 proposed rules here soon, so. Next on the list we have
36 we have Louis. So, Louie, you want to go next?

37
38 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Chair. I'll start
39 with the first fish of the spring for us to go up to the
40 Unuk River, and the run was really good. We got our old
41 bucket limit and one for our -- we're allowed one to
42 bring one extra run home. But, while we're up there
43 using these cast nets, which is not our traditional way
44 to get fish, we're working on it. Lucky my nephew could
45 use it and my granddaughter, who was also with me. But
46 the fish were kind of a little bit scattered, but holy
47 cow, by the time John Hind, Forest Service biologist --
48 they had just left, and on that tide coming in, the
49 river was plugged with fish. That was always like the
50 old days where I always said you could walk on them. But

1 it was just solid, they just came in so thick and heavy,
2 it was wonderful to see, and I was just sorry that Mr.
3 Hind wasn't still there to see what we see on the river.
4 Of course, my word is never taken for it, but we know
5 what we've seen, and my granddaughter and my nephew -
6 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, they were there,
7 but they -- I don't know if they -- how much they seen,
8 they were busy getting ready to go up a river to do
9 their testing with their minnow traps on the run of
10 salmon. But that was so nice, and it's just -- it's
11 painful every year, it's harder for me to keep going up
12 and you hear a loud one bucket, and on my boat I do ten
13 knots on my tender, which is expensive to take up there,
14 and it's a 20-hour round trip to get, you know, one
15 bucket for our household. Shoot, I smoke more than that.
16 But the run has been really good. I got up there too
17 late on the moose hunting this -- I like checking on the
18 king salmon at every turning into Kingsbury at the start
19 of Lake Creek. So, we didn't get to see that, I got up
20 there, end of the moose hunting season, and there was
21 already hunters that were ahead of us, had good luck.
22 They -- I know five that was taken at -- one boat from
23 Petersburg was up there. I had to tow them out to their
24 boat, they broke down and so there might have been 1 or
25 2 more that were taken. And that's a lot for the Unuk,
26 and -but it's -- regulates itself, it's small river and
27 heavy timber, so. But it was good to get up there, it
28 was hard.

29
30 The cohos never returned into our bay
31 or the hatchery, and usually we'll get a nice run of
32 coho on the wild salmon, and they just never showed up.
33 The humpies didn't show up. It was very poor here. The
34 only thing that showed up was the summer chum. And the
35 guys were able to catch those and did good on that. But
36 -- when we -- my son and I, we'd fish, go out when we
37 wanted to get a first king during the winter, we'd go
38 out and fish. And then come spring, last two years, we
39 haven't seen the salmon fry. There's been none and then
40 the whales haven't showed up, and they're always there,
41 if the salmon fry shows up. So, it's very concerning for
42 not seeing the salmon fry and herring have just showed
43 up on the island within the last few days here that.
44 Immediately there's one huge humpback whale right up
45 there, and in that bay where they kind of come in
46 protected in there for the winter, and the sea lanes
47 weren't even in there yet, I was surprised that the
48 whale beat them, but they're probably there now. And so,
49 it's good to see the herring trying to come back. It's
50 been fished out hard, and it's -- without them, there's

1 no king salmon coming at all, so. We caught, my son and
2 I, we caught a few kings during the winter, and that's,
3 that was the least that we caught, and we didn't have
4 any luck come spring. Things are changing, and not for
5 the better. We just - have always just watched
6 everything, we don't go out and just fish, we watch to
7 see what is out there and what's going to bring the
8 salmon back into us and the halibut. And it's just, it's
9 been an interesting life. It's just, you're learning --
10 its like, going to go up to the river and wait for the
11 hooligan and you see the different signs of if they're
12 there or if they're on their way, all the different
13 wildlife is pretty amazing. It's quite a learning
14 experience. You have to spend time up there. We've spent
15 two, three weeks up there and we've missed [sic] few
16 years, quite a few years, because either the weather
17 stopped us from getting up to the river, because there's
18 no harbor there, it's not a safe place for people to be.
19 And it really regulates who comes to that river, so. You
20 learn a lot over the years. But hopefully we'll get some
21 salmon returning. The deer population has been doing
22 really well, but we have at least 4 or 5 guys that will
23 go out and they'll get the wolves and you can't wipe
24 them out, I mean, what is that? One female has like
25 eight, ten pups at a time and they're always right there,
26 getting the fawns in the spring, so. It's really nice
27 to be able to keep some control on them. It's good to
28 see the deer back. When I grew up there, but, other than
29 that, hopefully we have more salmon show up next. It's
30 hard to figure out, but it's scary when you don't see
31 the salmon fry, in the spring, when you're out sport
32 fishing. And that's what my son and I were doing. It was
33 all sport fishing and a lot of fun. But other than that,
34 it's good to see the snow. We haven't had snow so it's
35 very important for the salmon streams and our water
36 reservoirs. But other than that. Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Oh, thank
39 you, Louie. Sorry, I was just talking with the
40 coordinator here. Next, I have -- do you want to go
41 next, Larry? Thank you.

42
43 MR. BEMIS: My name is Larry Bemis. I'm
44 a resident of Yakutat. Mother was born there; I was born
45 in Sitka. I've been there 60, almost 70 years. I'm a
46 commercial fisherman from the very youngest age that I
47 can start from 12. And I've done that and did some
48 charter fishing, and I'm still commercial fishing. The
49 changes I'm seeing in Yakutat are kind of alarming. These
50 tour ships that keep coming seem to be multiplying at

1 such a rate, that's unbelievable. And, you know, it
2 doesn't seem like anybody has an accountability for
3 them. And it's concerning that they're coming in at such
4 a rate, you're getting too many boats up there, and
5 there's going to be something happening there, as far
6 as having too many boats in a small area up there. It'd
7 be nice to have some accountability on how many boats
8 could be in there. And the waste that they're disposing
9 in the Bay will eventually wind up on our beaches if
10 we're not careful. We've got a monitoring system through
11 the Yakutat Tlingit tribes keeping an eye on things, but
12 probably not enough. The other thing we have is, we've
13 got an increase in outside influence sport fishing, and
14 it's coming and getting greater and greater. The people
15 that are coming in are buying up the houses, making
16 summer homes. I'm sure that most communities somewhere
17 along the line experienced what we are going through
18 now, and I'm very concerned about it because you really
19 can't stop anything happening. People want to come in.
20 They want to enjoy Yakutat. It's one of the few places
21 left in Southeast Alaska that has most of all its
22 resources. And it looks to me like if we don't maintain
23 a better control over our area, that we're going to wind
24 up a statistic like some of the communities here in
25 Southeast Alaska that are unfortunate.

26
27 And our commercial fishing and our sport
28 fishing have been pretty much increasing. The fish catch
29 was good this year on most of the sockeye and the silver.
30 We had a low abundance of king salmon in the Situk River,
31 which keeps any extensions or anything for the sockeye.
32 The sockeye seem to be over escaping for the last five
33 years now, because of the king salmon concern. It's not
34 really a king salmon river, but it is treated like it
35 is. I think we made our low-end return goal this year,
36 but most of the time, when they open the river up for
37 extra days to harvest the over escapement of sockeyes,
38 it's usually too late. The hooligan seemed to be running
39 on the low side, there was nothing like last year, we
40 had a really good last year. The herring came in, they
41 were kind of short. We were able to harvest some herring
42 and get some herring eggs, but nothing like the year
43 before. The halibut -- the sport -- the subsistence
44 fishing is getting harder and harder for the amount of
45 outside influence, catching the halibut and mostly
46 salmon close by, makes it harder on the subsistence user
47 to go out and get -- typically the same thing that
48 happens everywhere when you have non-guided boats
49 available to go out and harvest our local area. It just,
50 it's kind of sad to see that you have such a beautiful

1 place and a resource that is slowly getting depleted
2 just to the amount of people using it.

3
4 One thing, too, about our crab fishery.
5 In 2000 it was shut down commercially. It had several
6 studies done in it, but nothing concluded that it could
7 ever come back commercially. We haven't had any tests
8 to see whether we could even have a good sport or
9 commercial -- I mean, sport or subsistence use on the
10 crab. We've offered to do a small fisheries [sic] and
11 with limited parts just to see what's available
12 commercially, a test fishery, so to speak. And it's been
13 brought up to the Board several times, and somehow it
14 never makes any motion to be able to do that.

15
16 Living in Yakutat is getting more
17 expensive, you know, look at the price of fuel and
18 everything, it's come down, it's tremendously down in
19 the lower 48. Alaska never really gets to feel that. In
20 Yakutat, we're still paying six dollars and something a
21 gallon for gas. We're paying almost \$10 for a half a
22 gallon of milk, \$8 for eggs. So, I bought a head of
23 lettuce the other day. The wife said, 'Make sure you get
24 that lettuce, the light one, and -- because they're
25 better. And I bought it and took it up to the front
26 counter -- probably the lightest one that I could find
27 there. It was over \$8.50 for one head of lettuce. And,
28 you know, you really gotta work hard for the whole season
29 to be able to live in Yakutat so, our subsistence is
30 very important for what we do. And we're -- it's one of
31 the most important things we have that keeps us viable
32 in Yakutat -- is our subsistence use.

33
34 We don't have a ferry system so
35 transportation costs to bring the materials in for a
36 vehicle or transportation to get a cheaper way out is
37 nonexistent. With the high fuel costs, there goes up our
38 electricity, there goes up for everything you do. I mean,
39 it just -- it's, you're trapped in paradise at a very
40 high cost. And if you want to do something, you've got
41 to plan it out. I'm very concerned about this last go
42 here -- we just -- this last moose hunting season.
43 Southeast has had a good moose hunting season, and
44 Yakutat has harvest their moose. And I think the east
45 side dangerous rivers -- first time we've -- and I don't
46 know how long that we managed to get the quota of 30
47 moose. The west side of the local hunt was kind of a
48 little slow going. We finally finished, but the east
49 side, which normally finishes later, actually finished
50 a day early of the local subsistence hunt. What we're

1 finding is, we're getting more outside influence coming
2 in to hunt, our resident hunters and non-resident. With
3 a new air taxi in town, it makes all the accessibility
4 for all the forest service area camps and other places
5 outside of Yakutat to have access to hunt and -- so that
6 increase on the east side of Dangerous has made it more
7 accessible for anybody to get out there. And most of the
8 locals can't afford to pay for that plane to go out and
9 hunt, and usually, all the local hunters and subsistence
10 users use the days, and the subsistence date set aside
11 for us to hunt. We're also getting more pressure on
12 hunters in our subsistence area because of not being
13 able to have access to go other places. We've got an
14 early hunt on the west side of Yakutat Bay, and we've
15 got early hunt on the east side of the Dangerous. These
16 areas here are important to us, and they're weather
17 related and conditions. So, my concern as we go down the
18 road here, if it's just going to be more accessibility
19 and it's just like the laws we have on the non-guided
20 vessels. I totally agree that they should be under the
21 same rules as the guided charter fisherman. A non-
22 resident in a boat gets to take any size fish, the same
23 catch, and they can go out day after day, and there's --
24 -- except for a limit on the king salmon or something
25 like that, but salmon is available for how many the bag
26 limit is the halibut. And it seems we've got quite a few
27 boats now, and then there's another lodge type thing
28 that's wanting to come in and add ten boats to it so,
29 most of the lodges have rental boats that they do from
30 all sizes, from small to large. And this is putting up
31 a pretty good burden on the fisheries as a whole. I see
32 changes in the community that are drastically moving
33 along. We just had a land sale of 27 lots, ranging from
34 an acre to two acres by Mental Health Trust. And we've
35 got quite a few of those lots sold. And, you know, I'm
36 also -- sit on the City Council, and they were having a
37 discussion about trying to get power out to this, these
38 properties so, all these people that are working there
39 and are owners, showed up to the meeting, and I was
40 amazed how many outside people that I never even seen
41 in town, say, at the store or at the hardware store or
42 even in passing, that were sitting in the audience and
43 I was -- and they were in there, concerned about getting
44 their electricity and it's a pretty expensive endure.
45 And we're trying to sort it out, how we're going to get
46 the funding to, you know -- and it was kind of sad that
47 we didn't get a communication with Mental Health Trust
48 through the city government. Being a private land sale,
49 they didn't have to come and say, 'Hey, we're going to
50 let this loose. We're not going to have water, sewer or

1 power and -- or roads'. You know, 'we're just selling
2 this, that's going to be up to individual'. And so,
3 there's only, again, outside influence that is able to
4 come in and afford to do that. And I'm sitting here just
5 hoping that I don't see what has happened in the past
6 to other communities where you start losing your
7 resource and start losing your way of life because the
8 population and change and -- our fisheries, this year,
9 we had a dry season, all the way up until the fall, and
10 then when it rained and stormed, it never stopped. The
11 rivers rose. It was hard to fish, but, overall, the
12 birds came through late, but there was plenty of them.
13 And I'm -- right now, we're sitting with very little bit
14 of snow and very, very long cold spell here, and I was
15 looking at the weather, it might even last another week.
16 And [sic] chill factor getting right down below at zero
17 or if not below.

18
19 I am glad to be here. And again, I'm -
20 like Cal, I'd like to honor Bert Adams Sr. He's a
21 relative of mine. You know, he was a leader in our
22 community. He did inspire me to come be a part of this,
23 along with Raymond Sensmeier, that also passed. That
24 when he -- I think he resigned, I came and took this
25 position, and they're the ones that gave me the interest
26 to be here. And I'm very glad for that. Bert Adams was
27 a very unique person, I've known him all my life. And
28 the one thing that I stand out the most is what a
29 pleasant person he was, and the books he wrote and the
30 art, his art, I have some of his artwork -- and, just a
31 very unique person for living there, and he'll be missed,
32 and so will Raymond. And that's all I have right now.
33 Thank you.

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
35 Larry. We just had some members come in off the jet. I
36 guess I'll go to the members that just came in. I'll
37 start on this side, with Lewis. If you want to introduce
38 yourself, give a quick community report? And it's Mike
39 and James, that's how I think I will proceed from here,
40 and then I'll do my report, and then we'll hopefully
41 take a quick break in time to have a testimony from a
42 non-agenda item before noon. That person has a -- needs
43 to give us our testimony -- her testimony before noon.
44 So, if we can get that done, that'd be great. So, Lewis,
45 go ahead.

46
47 MR. HIATT: Let me reteach myself here.
48 That work. Good morning again. Lewis Hiatt from Hollis.
49 We have winter, just like Wrangell. Let's see, in our
50 communities --I've been -- this is only my second RAC

1 meeting, first one was in Sitka. I'm looking forward to
2 it, I'm still learning lots. We hope there's no more
3 government shutdowns and we can continue on, so. On the
4 sports side, this year, we were happy they started in-
5 season management of king salmon, but they got to the
6 middle of the year and closed it because they felt they
7 had reached the quota, but somehow they discovered more
8 fish and reopened it so, we're not quite sure what
9 happened there, yet. On the commercial side, the port
10 trawlers lost more fish and continue to lose fish every
11 year, king salmon, to sport fishing. Our sockeye
12 subsistence season was actually pretty good this year.
13 It was a little spotty, but it was good. As far as Prince
14 of Wales as a whole, we're starting to see our first
15 cruise ships. They come into Klawock, and next year, I
16 believe they have almost 60 slated to come in. So, we're
17 not sure of the impact there. It's -- that's a lot of
18 people, and we don't even have a dock, so they lighter
19 them all in, and it's an interesting situation, but.....
20 Our wolf season, our short wolf season was even shorter
21 with this inclement weather. We're given 30 days and we
22 ended up getting like three weeks because we had to
23 quit. We just -- everything was frozen, and so, I'm not
24 sure and I'll be interested to see what numbers were
25 taken. Other than that, thanks. I'm glad to be here.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
28 Lewis. Michael?
29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: Hi, Mike Douville from
31 Craig. We do have some concerns. The renewed old growth
32 logging is happening. So Steinway can make their pianos.
33 But anyway, the comment period for these sales are --
34 is two weeks, you know, and how can you even know or
35 respond in that amount of time? But that's a major
36 concern because we think we've lost all the old growth
37 that we can, then still have a viable wildlife
38 population. We've seen a long deer decline. I think there
39 was a small uptick last year, but there was also more
40 hunters. So, we're about half what we had in the 90s for
41 deer population. Wolf population is being managed at a
42 -- I know this body recommended 150 to 200. But in
43 reality, it's being managed from 200 to 300. But we
44 still have a really low deer population. So, it was our
45 recommendation -- I clearly remember supporting 100 to
46 150 in the -- this group decided that 150 to 200 was
47 more realistic, but it's being managed at a higher
48 number. So, we don't have the opportunity to -- it takes
49 away from a subsistence opportunity, is what it does.
50 So, it could close it in 30 days by emergency order and

1 the tribe and several others, concerned people are
2 trying to figure out how to get around and extend the
3 season a little longer, either for hunting or trapping
4 or both, a little longer, so we can manage this
5 population, as we recommended, from 150 to 200, instead
6 of the higher number. Anyway, as Lew said, sockeye was
7 okay in some places, and it wasn't in others but you
8 know, it seemed to be -- some abundance and some of the
9 streams and not so much in a couple of others that are
10 usually good producers but, having said that, that's all
11 I have for now. Thank you.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thanks,
14 Mike. Jim.

15
16 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
17 is Jim Slater from Pelican. I've had to travel quite a
18 bit so, I'm going to give some of my information from
19 just secondhand reports that I've picked up in just
20 interacting with community members. So far from what I
21 get is deer hunting has been productive so far. It seems
22 like people are doing well. And there seems to be maybe
23 some effect from the uniform deer regulations that were
24 put in place and maybe this reduced a little bit of
25 pressure. I'm not sure of that, but it may seem like it.
26 One other thing is that it seems there's been a -- not
27 a lot of bear sightings, at least out in the southern --
28 -- south side of Pelican. We're not sure what that is
29 from or what that means, or if it's just a coincidence.
30 The concern over impact of tourism on the fisheries is
31 still there. There's a self-guided lodge and some very
32 big industrial strength lodges, and one in particular
33 there, that continues to cause concern among the
34 community. And there's rumors of some consolidation of
35 Big Lodge taking over a new -- the new self-guided lodge
36 and so on. So, even bigger lodges. I don't know if that
37 will pan out that way. And in talking to the processing
38 plant in town, the coho season was good. And so, things
39 went well that way, but -- so that's about all I have
40 for this trip. Thanks.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
43 Jim. Well, that brings it to me. I'll give a -- try to
44 give a quick report here. First thing here that I have
45 is Subsistence Division of Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game. They're basically close to finishing up their Icy
47 Straits Household Surveys. It was Tenakee Springs,
48 Gustavus and Pelican. Saw some early results, some --
49 saw an early presentation of the data in regards to deer
50 at least, and a Unit 4 Deer Working Group that I

1 participate in. In fact, we had a teleconference a couple
2 of weeks ago and it was really good. I really enjoyed
3 the presentation, and hopefully we'll get that next
4 meeting from Subsistence Division. They were supposed
5 to give it to us back in October, but since the shutdown
6 happened, we -- they're not available for this meeting.
7 But anyway, I've been participating in that Unit 4 Deer
8 Working Group. I learned -- the last meeting I learned
9 a lot. At least for the Hoonah Road System, the Forest
10 Service provided some law enforcement people to look --
11 to be there during that ten-day closure and interact
12 with the public and ensure that there were no non-
13 federally qualified users hunting during that time.
14 Sounded like it was a really good -- real good effort,
15 and made some really good contacts with folks, educated
16 some folks. And I really compliment the Forest Service
17 for providing that law enforcement support for that ten-
18 day closure on the Hoonah Road System.

19
20 As far as resources go, I, you know, I
21 heard, you know, around the table and on the phone that,
22 you know, halibut was okay. They were small. I -- that's
23 kind of -- that was my experience. A lot of small ones
24 early on, but some bigger ones started showing up later
25 in the season. I didn't have any problems getting
26 halibut, but apparent -- you know, there are -- there
27 were some folks in town who did have a problem. I did a
28 lot of sharing, I'll get to that here in a minute.
29 Sockeye fishing, my normal sockeye spot that I like to
30 go get sockeyes, this year, the company that owns the
31 fish processing facility there, decided not to put in
32 the dock for small boats this year. And so, it became a
33 real issue for me and some other folks in the
34 communities. I know I heard it from Hoonah, too, that
35 it was tough to fish in federal waters because the dock
36 was pulled out, and there's really -- no really good
37 anchorages there -- if you want a shoreline, that sort
38 of thing. So, I didn't even go get sockeyes this year
39 because of that. I know there's some folks that were
40 tying up at the floatplane dock, but there's a big sign
41 that says you can't moor boats there, so I respected the
42 regulations there, and I didn't do that. I know some
43 people did.

44
45 Coho fishing was for me, there was a lot
46 of cohos early in the sea and around, and I basically
47 got all the cohos I needed to replace the sockeyes I
48 didn't get. Plus, again, some more sharing that I did.
49 So, I -- basically one weekend I got all the cohos I
50 needed, trawling, and had some awesome days in the fog,

1 not seeing anything around me and just boiling cohos
2 around me. I only got one deer hunting trip in, this
3 year, early in October. It was excellent hunting, saw
4 lots of young deer, lots of one and a half year old and
5 two-year-old deer. They were everywhere. The browse was
6 heavy. Even the skunk cabbage was eaten down to the
7 veins, the big vein in the middle. Lots of deer around,
8 I had no problems. I got two deer on that trip, and I
9 should have had two more, but just my -- just had some
10 issues with those other two. Moose hunting this year in
11 the Gustavus area was good. Got the guideline harvest
12 levels -- was harvested within a couple of weeks. Again,
13 it didn't last the whole month. It got closed once the
14 guideline harvest level was reached. I think it was 13
15 bulls this year. On the -- for hooligans, I -- the first
16 time in many years I was able to get hooligans, but I
17 didn't get them myself. My son-in-law gave me some from
18 Twenty Mile River, near Anchorage. So, my subsistence
19 needs for hooligan was met by my son-in-law from
20 Anchorage, so. As far as sharing, because I think it had
21 a lot to do with this government shutdown, and the SNAP
22 problems. I did a lot more sharing this year than I
23 normally do. Much of the -- well, one of the -- half of
24 the deer that I shot got shared. Like I said, halibut,
25 I gave a lot of halibut away this year for folks who
26 weren't catching, did a lot of coho sharing as well
27 because of my good luck with coho fishing. So there's -
28 - I did a lot more sharing this year with different
29 folks in town than I usually do. With that, I'm going
30 to end my report. I guess we'll be talking about other
31 things here as we go. What I'd like to do right now is
32 -- there's a young lady who would like to give us a
33 testimony on a non-agenda item. If I can get Ava
34 (indiscernible), I hope I pronounced that right to give
35 her testimony non-agenda item.

36
37 UNIDENTIFIED: Hello? Can you hear me?

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes, we can
40 hear you. Go ahead please.

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED: My name is Ava
43 (indiscernible), and I want to thank you for your time
44 spent listening to my testimony. I greatly appreciate
45 this accommodation so I can take my finals later. I've
46 been waiting to come to this meeting for a while. I've
47 spoken at the Pacific salmon Treaty meeting, and I've
48 attended the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
49 meeting during this time I've spent waiting. I'm here
50 to represent myself and my community, as I was supposed

1 to be at this meeting earlier this year as a part of my
2 federal subsistence policy class. Since we weren't able
3 to attend that, we had a public workshop in Sitka about
4 these policies, and I was able to get real community
5 feedback.

6

7

(Distortion)

8

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Excuse me,
11 Ava. There's somebody online who hasn't muted their
12 phone. Please use star six to mute your phone, please.
13 Go ahead, Ava.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED: We practice writing
16 testimony and presented it and some of the topics that
17 were brought up were how otter populations are
18 negatively impacting our shellfish and increased
19 competition with charter fisheries, harmful impacts of
20 invasive species and an overall concern for the future,
21 the long-term effects of our decisions are crucial at
22 this moment. A general concern for the future was my
23 takeaway from this workshop, as many locals could see
24 negative impacts on the environment and our resources.
25 I'm concerned about the future of the oceans as our
26 climate changes, and I know the locals here are too.
27 Changes are happening faster than ever before, and this
28 raises many questions. And what is the future of our
29 resources, and how can we possibly try to secure these
30 things? I very much worry for the future. Changing
31 aspects will continue to happen, but I feel it's
32 important to remember how local and traditional
33 knowledge is key and keeping that a part of this system
34 is how we keep this system functioning. So, I guess my
35 main thing is just listen to the locals and always
36 remember that local voices are some of the most
37 important, and they're crucial. Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
40 you, Ava. Council, do we have any questions? For Ava?

41

42

(No response)

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

(Pause)

1 Okay. We're just trying to coordinate
2 schedules here. I think what we're going to do next is
3 -- we have some length of service awards for some -- for
4 many -- for a few of our members here, and I would like
5 -- who's going to do that?

6
7 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, thank you.
8 Actually, we have a visitor with us. It's Ms. Kara
9 Moriarity. She is with the Office of the Secretary of
10 Interior. She's the Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs,
11 and we're lucky to have her for a few minutes before she
12 has to pivot, but she will be back a little bit later.
13 But she so kindly offered to hand out the awards, and
14 I've got a couple of bios to read as well, as we
15 recognize those members that are here with us.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Let's
18 proceed.

19
20 MS. PERRY: All right, the first member
21 that we'd like to honor is Mike Douville. Mike actually
22 celebrated 20 years on the Southeast Subsistence
23 Regional Advisory Council back in 2020. Actually, let
24 me change gears. If you'll bear with me for just a
25 second.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 Thank you all for your patience. We
30 celebrate having Mike on our Council now for 25 years.
31 Mike has lived on the west coast of Prince of Wales
32 Island his entire life. His close proximity to the ocean
33 has afforded him many opportunities to hunt, fish and
34 trap using traditional methods. Mike has shared his
35 extensive local and traditional ecological knowledge
36 over the years, not only with the Council, but he's also
37 provided this information to the Alaska Board of Game
38 on numerous occasions. Most recently, Mike participated
39 in a spatial planning workshop for NOAA's Aquaculture
40 Opportunity Area Identification Process, relaying
41 insight regarding critical subsistence areas within
42 those areas that were being considered. Mike is very
43 involved with his local tribe, Craig Tribal Association,
44 and he has served as a Craig City Council member for 20
45 plus years. As a longtime member and Vice Chair of the
46 local State Advisory Committee as well, and Mike is known
47 widely for his traditional yellow cedar and U halibut
48 hooks, and if any of you have seen them, they are a work
49 of art. And I'm going to brag on you a little bit, Mike.
50 You -- some of you may have also seen him featured on

1 some social media posts and on the show Meat Eater. So,
2 we're happy and very proud to have such a celebrity on
3 our Council. Mike, thank you very much for your 25 years
4 of service.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MS. MORIARITY: It goes without saying
9 it -- these jobs can sometimes be thankless. But your
10 input and your knowledge and your background helps make
11 everyone make better decisions. So again, thank you very
12 much and [sic] appreciate all the time and sacrifice
13 you've made to this Board and to other community
14 organizations. So, congrats.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you for the
17 recognition.

18

19 (Applause)

20

21 MS. MORIARITY: Yes. (Indiscernible)
22 want a picture. And it looks like you're in the boat
23 there, you got the fish, you got the moose, all is well.

24

25 MR. DOUVILLE: I got everything.

26

27 MS. MORIARTY: All is well. So, thank you
28 very much.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: It is not easy
33 representing the most controversial Unit in the state
34 of Alaska. It's got a lot of problems still, and
35 hopefully we can give it the protection and -- that it
36 needs to be continually viable for Fish and Game. It's
37 always -- unfortunately it seems to perpetuate a lot of
38 problems, I mean, with the game, the fishing,
39 competition. It is really important to the people that
40 live there. So, the resources need to be carefully
41 utilized. And it's not always easy to serve, you know,
42 travel, I mean, takes your time, but I truly am very
43 protective and -- of the resources we have in Alaska.
44 And I think that this program does a very good job of -
45 - the real priority. And also, the continued viability
46 of the wildlife. So, I hope it continues down the road.
47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. PERRY: And through the Chair, we
50 have one more Council member who is present with us to

1 accept their award. And that would be Larry Bemis. Larry
2 celebrates a cumulative five years with the Southeast
3 Council. He has lived a subsistence lifestyle his entire
4 life as well. He's been a commercial fisherman and has
5 served as a sport fish guide in Yakutat for 20 years.
6 Larry, like many of our Council members, regularly
7 networks with various groups throughout his local
8 fishing and hunting community. He is a Council member
9 of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and Assembly member of the
10 City and Borough of Yakutat and is also engaged with the
11 Yakutat Advisory Committee as well as the Alaska
12 Trawlers Association. In the past, Larry has served as
13 an alternate on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
14 Resource Commission, representing southeast users. He
15 often shares information from various organizations such
16 as the Marine Mammal Commission, Tribal or Corporation
17 Resource User Groups, Coastal Resource Service areas,
18 and Waterfowl Conservation committees. Larry enjoys
19 sharing his traditional knowledge with others and says
20 he is extremely honored to serve on this Council. And
21 Larry, we are honored to have you on our Council. So,
22 if we could have Kara also provide you with your five-
23 year service award.

24
25 MS. MORIARITY: As -- well, we only have
26 20 more years to get a fancy painting like Mike's so,
27 over here. But thank you again as well for your service.
28 I forgot to mention, I've had the opportunity to visit
29 both Craig and Yakutat. I'm a 28-year resident of Alaska,
30 so I'm not coming from D.C. So ,I am an Alaskan and have
31 enjoyed fishing myself, outside of Yakutat and Craig
32 actually. But again, appreciate your service. And
33 really, for all of you. You know, as I mentioned you
34 know, representing your local community, I think is
35 probably the hardest public service ever. Because these
36 issues are not easy and it's very meaningful for everyone
37 in your community, and everyone has an opinion, and they
38 see you in the grocery store, they see you in the post
39 office, they see you out at the dock. And so, you are
40 frontliners, I call it, when you have this type of public
41 service. So again, on behalf of the Secretary and
42 everyone at the Office of Subsistence Management, thank
43 you for your service.

44
45 MR. BEMIS: Thank you.

46
47 (Distortion)

48
49 It's been a pleasure serving on this
50 Board. I feel when I was pointed in this direction, it

1 came from past members that have been on this Board. And
2 I felt that, living in the community I'm at, the reason
3 why I'm on all these different Boards and -- it all
4 works together to try to get something through to
5 preserve, protect and at least maintain our subsistence
6 way of life. I live subsistence, I haven't known any
7 other way. So, this is very dear to me, and I know that
8 this Board works very hard to maintain the balance
9 between subsistence and non-subsistence users, and I'm
10 very glad to be a part of it and hope to continue. Thank
11 you.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you
14 Larry. Next on the agenda, before we break for lunch, I
15 think I want to -- Oh, sorry. Go ahead, DeAnna.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
18 wanted to note that we did have two other members who
19 were celebrating milestones of service. We will present
20 their lovely awards in Juneau at the March meeting. But
21 I did want to make note that Patty Phillips, she has
22 served our Council faithfully for 30 years. She
23 represents the Pelican community; and Frank Wright, he
24 has been on the Southeast Council for 20 years,
25 representing the community of Hoonah. I know Patty is
26 with us virtually, so, Patty congratulations, and we
27 will give you your award in March. And Frank could not
28 be with us, but we will make sure he gets his award in
29 March also. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
32 DeAnna. So, before we break for lunch, we have some
33 testimony on non-agenda items. This is a normal thing
34 we do, usually at the beginning of every day. But we
35 invite public and tribal comment on non-agenda items,
36 and I have. Who do I have? Kara? No?

37
38 (Whispered conversation)

39
40 Oh, okay. Okay. Is there anybody in the
41 audience here that wishes to provide non-agenda -- okay,
42 thank you. Please come forward and introduce yourself
43 for the record. Thank you.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 MS. BURNS: (In Native), Gloria (In
48 Native). My name is Gloria Burns, I'm the president of
49 Ketchikan Indian Community, and I am here to give comment
50 on the Federal Subsistence Board and my concern about

1 any changes. And so, Ketchikan Indian Community has
2 provided a letter, and I would just like to state for
3 the record, our support of the Board and some of the key
4 concerns that we have about any changes. And one of
5 those -- and first I want to say, I am a user of
6 traditional and customary food practices. I have been
7 my entire life. 90% of the food in our home comes from
8 food that is hunted or fished. With the exceptions, of
9 course, being bacon, celery, onions, garlic, the things
10 that you can add to those items to make them delicious.
11 And the Haida people, we have a spiritual belief that
12 is, that if you wish for a food item and you do not
13 receive it, that your (In native) will fall out and your
14 (In Native) lives in the back of your throat, kind of -
15 - kind of in between your throat area and your heart.
16 And when it falls out, you'll be incomplete, and you
17 won't go to heaven. Where -- you won't go where the rest
18 of the Haidas are. And so, my grandmother is 96 years
19 old, when she wishes for smoked bearded seal intestines,
20 then it is our job to find her smoked seal braided
21 intestines for dinner, and that is just how we live,
22 because that's the only way we know how to live. And I
23 was born and raised in Ketchikan or Ketchikan. I wanted
24 to say that a couple of my talking points are that the
25 Office of Subsistence Management was moved from Fish and
26 Game Wildlife Services in 2024, based on strong support
27 from tribes, Alaska Native corporations and rural
28 subsistence users. The move was also authorized by the
29 Senate. Ketchikan Indian Community believes that the OSM
30 should stay where it currently resides. in the Office
31 of Policy, Management and Budget, where its subsistence
32 focus is not overwhelmed by broader goals. Another move
33 to the office would be costly and we believe it would
34 be disruptive, disruptive to the Federal Subsistence
35 Management. We also want to say that we strongly support
36 the current RAC membership, including being residents
37 of Alaska, having knowledge of subsistence uses in the
38 region, especially knowledge of local subsistence
39 practices, traditional ecological knowledge and
40 community needs, and being able to advise on subsistence
41 issues and fully participate in the process. We also
42 believe that the Federal Subsistence Board membership
43 is well balanced and should remain as it is. We
44 especially support the addition of the three tribal
45 nominated public and the nominated public members added
46 in 2024. The current FSM membership represents an
47 important and balanced perspective that is necessary for
48 effective federal subsistence management for all
49 federally qualified users.
50

1 We want to say particularly that we
2 really feel that special actions are important in the
3 toolbox. Ketchikan Indian Community went down the path
4 of, for the third time, of making the plea to be
5 federally qualified users because we want to use the
6 land in our area. We want our people -- we know that
7 they just don't have the money to -- for gas to go other
8 places, and they need to be utilizing our space. And we
9 know that this particular tool is incredibly important,
10 because during Covid, we had people who were
11 experiencing severe access to food. And so, the ability
12 -- we believe the ability to feed yourself from your own
13 land is a human right, and that the Federal Subsistence
14 Board, when the state doesn't act. and isn't there in
15 our best interest, as it has never been for tribes, at
16 least for the tribe of Ketchikan Indian Community, that
17 we need to be able to rely on the feds who we have a
18 trust and treaty responsibility to stand up in the
19 Federal Subsistence Board is an incredible part of what
20 that looks like. I do want to say that it's only recently
21 the state has recognized tribes -- the state of Alaska
22 has recognized tribes. They are continuously attempting
23 to sue and remove any ability for people to access their
24 traditional hunting and fishing grounds in a way that
25 was intended prior to ANILCA and ANSCA, and so as a
26 result, the Federal Subsistence Board is really that way
27 in which we are able to communicate in a better way. And
28 so, we just want to say that we absolutely object to the
29 idea that there should be a state person on this Board.
30 The idea for us is ludicrous and quite frankly, crazy
31 pants. We don't have a federal person on their Board.
32 They're not giving that right to vote. And so, it makes
33 absolutely no sense to the Ketchikan Indian Community
34 that idea would happen. We believe the federal -- that
35 the RACS and the Federal Subsistence Board, they already
36 utilize the knowledge of the state. They're there in a
37 capacity. But the idea for them to be able to vote is
38 just really simply -- it doesn't make any sense to us.
39 When we're looking at, you know, how to even out and --
40 duplication of regulation, we always believe that local
41 control is the best. The closer we are, the better it
42 is. But in all cases, when Ketchikan Indian Community
43 has interacted with the state on issues such as this,
44 we find that the federal protections have absolutely
45 been imperative to our people, whether or not they
46 continue to live in the Ketchikan Indian Community
47 jurisdiction or move and are living with their clans and
48 families in other places of Southeast Alaska.
49
50

1 One of the things we most wanted to put
2 on the record, though, is this idea of a 60-day scoping
3 period. It really provides incredible difficulty for
4 tribes, and we feel that it's a violation of trust and
5 treaty obligations, this idea that we would put them in
6 60 days during the Christmas period, in which tribes
7 have no ability to travel. Last week, I traveled with
8 my grandmother to Anchorage. We overheard, we stayed
9 the night in an airport, and then when I came back, we
10 overheard and we couldn't get into Wrangell or
11 Petersburg. And so, when we're looking at the abilities
12 for tribes to get places, that doesn't exist. But then
13 the ability to use the technology that other people feel
14 is just easy to get, such as internet and being able to
15 call, is very problematic. And so, limiting this to 30
16 days is really, really - just, we feel, not a good idea.
17 And we would encourage with -- we would encourage, not
18 just encourage, but demand that it moves from 60 days
19 to at least 90 days. And then finally, we would say that
20 in all RAC meetings should and must be scheduled in
21 advance of any action taken by the departments to change
22 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. So, that is
23 what we are here to put on the record today, and we will
24 submit a letter likewise to just to express our concern
25 of any of those changes. Thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
28 I have to apologize. On the subject of this review, we
29 were planning on having a presentation and all to the
30 Council, and I was going to take public testimony on
31 that at that time. But I thank you for providing it now.
32 I hope you stay around and participate when we do get
33 to this agenda item. I know we have a copy of your letter
34 here, hopefully get this distributed before we actually
35 have the presentation from the Secretary's office. But
36 I do appreciate your comments. Thank you very much for
37 coming forward. Like I said, I hope you stay around.

38
39 MS. BURNS: Oh, yeah. Can't go anywhere.
40 I'm from Ketchikan. And you see what it looks like out
41 there. Here for the day.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well, thank
44 you. Any other members of the public wish to testify on
45 anything that's not on our agenda, this is for non-
46 agenda items. Anybody in the room?

47
48 (No response)

49
50

1 Okay. Anybody on the phone who wish to
2 provide testimony on non-agenda items? Again, this
3 particular topic I hope to get to after lunch. And we'll
4 take -- I'm planning on taking public testimony on that
5 after our presentation from the Secretary's office.
6

7 MS. PERRY And, Mr. Chair, if I could
8 just throw in a quick reminder, for those on the phone
9 who may wish to provide a comment, you will need to
10 press star five. Star five will show us, on our system,
11 that you wish to speak. And then once you are recognized
12 by the Chair, we'll have you hit star six to unmute
13 yourself. So, if you've called in or are participating
14 by Teams, on Teams you can use the raise hand feature.
15 If you're on the phone, press star five to indicate
16 you'd like to speak, and we'll give that for -- just a
17 moment, Mr. Chair, thank you.
18

19 (Pause)
20

21 Mr. Chair, we do have a hand raised on
22 Teams. The last four numbers of the phone number is
23 1592. So, Mr. Chair, with permission, we could allow
24 that caller to unmute themselves so that we can hear
25 their comment. Thank you.
26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes,
28 please, if that individual will unmute themselves and
29 introduce themselves for the record and give your
30 testimony. Thank you.
31

32 MR. JACKSON: Yes, this is Joel Jackson.
33 I'm from Kake. Also, the president of the tribe. And,
34 sorry, I didn't -- I got on late, so I wasn't too sure
35 if we had signed up to testify. You know, we have so
36 many issues going on here. Like Angoon in the springtime,
37 where the king salmon fisheries is shut down for two
38 months. And, like Angoon, I appreciate Fish and Games,
39 what do you call it? Confidence in our ability to catch
40 king salmon at that time. I know we don't provide any
41 significant impact on king salmon that are going by us
42 at that time, mainly because, like I stated earlier, the
43 amount of the gas -- the gas prices we have here is, you
44 know -- greatly restricts people from going out and also
45 the weather. So, you know, that's, you know, as far as
46 I know, the Angoon and Kake are the only ones that are
47 affected by that shutdown. And in the springtime, we're
48 looking forward, of course, to fresh, you know, spring
49 salmon. Also, I heard testimony about the size of the
50 fish that are coming back. Not only salmon, but halibut.

1 You see, the size of all the salmon that are coming back
2 -- you hardly ever see any king salmon that are over 30
3 pounds, if you, you know, that's the big one. Also, the
4 sockeye, coho, you know, dog salmon, humpies. They're
5 all -- have -- became smaller over the years. We had a
6 good run of chum salmon here, but that was hatchery
7 fish. The wild chum, we have certain streams that used
8 to produce a -- really good runs of wild chum salmon,
9 and now that's hardly -- there's hardly anything in them.
10 There's a lot of -- well, this year, the pink salmon
11 came back late, and I had to really look at them. I
12 didn't catch any of them, but I had to really look at
13 them, and they were really small. Majority [sic] of them
14 were hardly any bigger than a Dolly Varden trout. So,
15 you know, there's something going on and that kind of
16 worries me because it's -- you know, of course, all our
17 rural communities depend on all these salmon that was
18 abundant at one time. And now it seems to be getting
19 less and less. And also, the -- I heard it -- heard talk
20 about the deer population. Ever since logging has
21 stopped for a number of years, we start seeing more deer
22 on our island, thankfully. And also, moose. But you know,
23 with people advertising that, we're getting more outside
24 hunters and that's, you know, that's going to impact us
25 later on, I'm sure, as more and more people become aware,
26 you know, there's plenty of moose and deer on our island,
27 and we're seeing an increase in that. And there was
28 quite a few moose taken off our island, something like
29 147. So, it's very concerning that you know where we're
30 going to be like other places. You know, there'll be
31 more outside hunters. So, the food prices and everything
32 else: gas, heating fuel, propane, everything is very
33 high. So, we're having to lean more on our subsistence
34 way of life. It's becoming more and more important to
35 us that we -- our people, start living off the land
36 again because of the food prices. We got like 80%
37 unemployment here. So that -- everything that's
38 happening in the government now, the SNAP program and
39 other, you know, other programs that will help our people
40 are becoming less and less, too, so. You know, with this
41 thing that you guys are talking about, you know, with
42 the rural preference and, you know, just a complete
43 different makeup of the Board, you know, that's very
44 concerning to us as a community because we heavily depend
45 on our subsistence or like, I call it, our way of life,
46 our ability to be able to continue to live in Kake.
47 Without being pushed out by the lack of food, the lack
48 of salmon, lack of deer, like a moose. You know, so it's
49 very -- food security is very important to our community
50 right now and probably into the future. So, thank you

1 for letting me speak at this time.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
4 Mr. Jackson, if you can hold on for just a second here.
5 Is there any questions for Mr. Jackson from the Council?
6 I see Ted, with a question. Go ahead, Ted.

7

8 MR. SANDHOFER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Hey, Mike, Ted Sandhofer, good to hear your voice. I was
10 curious, do you know the numbers of moose that were
11 taken in your traditional areas out the road along Rocky
12 Pass by local individuals in Kake and how many were
13 taken by outside individuals? I'm just kind of curious
14 if you have an idea of that number. Percentage wise
15 or.....

16

17 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, I think probably just
18 my guess. And my brother Mike gave us the numbers
19 earlier, but like, I can't remember the exact amount.
20 I'd probably say about, percentage wise, probably about
21 60, 60/ 0, something like that.

22

23 MR. SANDHOFER: Okay. Hey, appreciate it,
24 Mike, thanks.

25

26 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, is this Ted
27 Sandhofer?

28

29 MR. SANDHOFER: That's me. Hey Mike, how
30 you doing?

31

32 MR. JACKSON: Oh, this is Joels. This is
33 Joel Jackson.

34

35 MR.SANDHOFER: I'm sorry, Joel. I'm
36 sorry, I'm sorry, Joel. I meant Joel in my mind all the
37 way, I was just saying, Mike. Yeah. Hey, Joel.

38

39 MR. JACKSON: Alrighty.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT Okay, any
42 other questions from Council?

43

44 (No response)

45

46 Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Jackson.
47 Really good, testimony and hope to hear you again on the
48 phone. I think with that, we're going to --.

49

50 (Whispered conversation)

1
2 Oh, I'm sorry. Albert, you had a
3 question for Mr. Jackson? Go ahead.
4

5 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It
6 was more of a comment that I was going to expand on Mr.
7 Jackson's comment that Angoon and Kake king salmon
8 fishermen are so good, they close us both down for a
9 while. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
12 Mr. Howard. With that, I think we're going to take a
13 break for lunch. After that, we will go directly into
14 the Office of the Secretary of Interior for her
15 presentation. And we will be taking -- we'll take public
16 testimony after that on the issue, and then we will take
17 up take up the -- this rulemaking on our -- for us to
18 discuss and develop recommendations. So, with that,
19 let's break for lunch. We're going to come back at,
20 let's say 1:00 and we'll start from there. Thank you.
21

22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: All right.
27 Well, thank you, everybody. I'm calling this meeting
28 back to order. Like DeAnna said, our next item on the
29 agenda is the Secretary Review of -- that we're going
30 to be discussing here. But before we start, I wanted to
31 mention that our Coordinator, DeAnna, sent around the
32 actual Federal Register Notice, that's at your table.
33 Also, she also distributed the hard copy that was
34 submitted by Ketchikan Indian Community, this morning.
35 We heard testimony. So, with that and that call to your
36 attention, we're going to just move right into the topic.
37 And I'd like to ask Ms. Moriarity to come forward and
38 begin her briefing. Thank you.
39

40 (Pause)

41
42 MS. MORIARITY: Good afternoon. Okay. No
43 more screeching? Okay, awesome. Again, thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman and other members of the Regional Advisory
45 Committee. As I said, my name is Kara Moriarity, and I
46 am the Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs for the Office
47 of the Secretary. This is a role that I've had for just
48 under eight months. I was sworn in the end of May and
49 just for a little bit of background, since this is my
50 first time in front of you all, I'm a 28, 29-year Alaska

1 resident somewhere in there. I came to Alaska from
2 Western South Dakota right out of college as a
3 schoolteacher, and I taught school on the North Slope
4 of Alaska in a small village about 50 miles south of
5 Barrow. So, my introduction to subsistence was when the
6 janitor at the school delivered a caribou on my front
7 (In Native). Not harvest. I mean, all he had done was
8 skinned it. And so, I grew up hunting, and with my
9 family, small deer. So -- but needless to say, I had
10 never processed my own, so I needed a little help from
11 the school janitor. But that was my introduction to
12 subsistence because he was sharing with me, and it was
13 something I'll never forget.

14
15 So, I'm here today to talk a little bit
16 about the Subsistence Review that has been officially
17 kicked off. And because we're just at the beginning of
18 this, I don't have a big formal presentation. We're
19 really in a listening and gathering mode about the
20 Program. You know, as everyone in this room especially
21 knows that under Title VIII of ANILCA, the Secretaries
22 of Interior, who I work for, and the Secretary of
23 Agriculture, jointly implement the Federal Subsistence
24 Management Program. And you, as an Advisory Committee,
25 gives counsel to that Board. On the first day of Office,
26 President Trump signed Executive Order 14153, entitled
27 Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential.
28 And in that section, I think -- or in that Executive
29 Order, I think it's Section 22 or 23, and I'm just going
30 to read what it says for the record. But that section
31 says it directs all Bureaus of the Department of the
32 Interior to, quote, consider the Alaskan cultural
33 significance of hunting and fishing and the statutory
34 priority of subsistence management required by ANILCA
35 to conduct meaningful consultation with the State Fish
36 and Wildlife Management Agencies prior to enacting land
37 management plans or other regulations that affect the
38 ability of Alaskans to hunt and fish on public lands,
39 and to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that
40 hunting and fishing opportunities on federal lands are
41 consistent with similar opportunities on state lands,
42 unquote. So, this subsistence review that we are
43 undertaking is in direct response to that Executive
44 Order as directed by the Administration. It's also to
45 evaluate changes that have been made by prior
46 Administrations and for -- to try to understand and get
47 a better sense of all the public requests for action,
48 or in some cases, inaction. We've received a lot of
49 comments similar to the President from KIC that
50 testified earlier that don't want this Administration

1 to make any changes to the Federal Subsistence Program.
2 But we've heard a lot of diverging opinions in a very
3 short amount of time. And so, this this review is
4 intended to be just that. It's a review. It is not a
5 rule making. If there were to be recommendations that
6 come forward from this review, and if the two Secretaries
7 decide to make any changes, that would kick off an
8 official rulemaking process. And we don't have a set
9 timeline per se, but we do want to make sure that the
10 review is done thoroughly. And we are seeking broad input
11 so, I really appreciated the person who already
12 testified earlier because we want to ensure that the
13 Program is functioning effectively, meeting subsistence
14 needs, and following the law. So, I guess I'll just stop
15 there, and I'm happy to entertain any questions. We are
16 in the very early stages and in response to the comment
17 about -- over the Christmas Holidays we had originally
18 had hoped to get this Subsistence Review kicked off by
19 the end of September, but then the shutdown, of course,
20 hit, and this was an activity that we could not work on
21 during the shutdown. So, with that Mr. Chairman, I'm
22 happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability.
23 I will be here in Wrangell until plane time tomorrow
24 afternoon, so happy to meet with folks individually
25 during breaks. Tomorrow I'll need to leave here,
26 probably about three, I would guess, but my plan is to
27 be here throughout your meeting today to learn and to
28 have the opportunity to visit with you and other members
29 of the public that are here today and tomorrow.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
32 Ms. Moriarity. Count -- just for the record and for the
33 audience here, this is kind of a hybrid thing that I'm
34 trying to pull together here. What I'd like to do is ask
35 the Council if they have any clarifying questions for
36 Ms. Moriarity. We will get those questions on the record,
37 hopefully have an answer to those questions or that
38 Council members may have. And then I would like to,
39 after that I would like to open for public testimony for
40 folks in the room or on the phone that wish to provide
41 their comments to us. And at that point we'll bring it
42 back to the table for the Council to discuss how we want
43 to handle this request for information. So, with that,
44 I would like to ask Council members here at the table
45 first if they have any other questions or concerns --
46 or questions that they would like to ask Ms. Moriarity.

47
48 (Whispered conversation)
49
50

1 MS. MORIARITY: And, Mr. Chairman, I
2 should have added the Council Coordinator did a great
3 job of putting on the screen the areas that are included
4 for this targeted review. These are the items that we've
5 received the most comment about whether to keep it the
6 same or to make changes or, you know, for example, the
7 first one. We've heard testimony both ways or received
8 correspondence both ways, to keep the Office of
9 Subsistence Management where it currently resides in the
10 Office of the Secretary, in Policy, Management, and
11 Budget. And we've also heard folks in Alaska who would
12 like us to move back to Fish and Wildlife or other
13 options, even. So, again because we want to make sure
14 that we are fully complying with the President's Order
15 specific to Alaska as well as the order, I don't remember
16 the number, but there's another Executive Order that we
17 have a responsibility to review all regulatory process
18 and programs. So, that's another reason why we're taking
19 a look, but we're specifically targeting these following
20 topics at this time.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. I have
23 a request from Don Hernandez. He has his hand up. He's
24 on the phone. I just - I -- just if they have any
25 questions. I - James? Yeah.

26
27 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
28 a quick question to make sure I understood it correctly.
29 Is it possible to, if we have it in writing or if it
30 could be restated, the impetus behind this, which is in
31 the Executive Order was to?

32
33 MS. MORIARITY: Yes. So, if -- I think
34 it's Section 22 of Alaska Executive Order 14153, which
35 is called Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource
36 Potential. It was an Executive Order that the President
37 signed on the first day of Office in January of 2025,
38 outlining a whole host of direction -- directives
39 related to Alaska specific issues. And this section says
40 that it directs all Bureaus of the Department, as I
41 mentioned, to consider the Alaska cultural significance
42 of hunting and fishing and the statutory priority of
43 subsistence management required by ANILCA to conduct
44 meaningful consultation with the state Fish and Wildlife
45 management agencies prior to enacting land management
46 plans or other regulations that affect the ability of
47 Alaskans to hunt and fish on public lands, and to ensure,
48 to the greatest extent possible, that hunting and
49 fishing opportunities on federal lands are consistent
50 with similar opportunities on state lands. So, it's a

1 broad section of this Executive Order, and so again, we
2 thought it was best to hear from Alaskans during this
3 scoping process about what they think that might mean,
4 as well as we've received requests to make changes to
5 the Program. We've also received correspondence to make
6 no changes to the Program, and so we felt it best to
7 just do a targeted review to give the Secretaries any
8 potential recommendations summarizing Alaskans view
9 about the program.

10
11 MR. SLATER: Okay. But it doesn't call
12 into question anything with the ANILCA Act, which
13 requires a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans on
14 federal lands in Alaska, as it states in the Federal
15 Register. So, it's still keeping that as the main.....

16
17 (Simultaneous speech)

18
19 MS. MORIARITY: Oh, of course. Yeah.

20
21 MR. SLATER:priority. Yes.

22
23 MS. MORIARITY: I mean, yeah, and I said,
24 yes. I mean, under Title VIII of ANILCA. Very -- yes.
25 It very much clearly states that. Yeah.

26
27 MR. SLATER: Oh, Okay. Thank you.

28
29 MS. MORIARITY: Yeah. That -- we're not
30 looking to make changes to ANILCA as far as I know. That
31 would be new information to me if we were, and not our
32 responsibility. I mean, if changes were to be made to
33 ANILCA, that would be a legislative priority. It would
34 have to be something Congress does. We could not do
35 that.

36
37 (Whispered conversation)

38
39 Oh. Yep. Okay. Thank you. Thank you very
40 much. It is Section 22. My notes were right. So, yeah,
41 thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
44 you. Any other questions for clarification from the
45 Council at the table here? Okay. Oh. Go ahead.

46
47 MR. BEMIS: Larry Bemis, here. I feel
48 like this review doesn't -- to make a comment on it or
49 questions. Just getting it and being able to sit here
50 and just look at it and then turn around and start asking

1 you questions is kind of a little difficult. So, you
2 know, I would like to have some time to review it and
3 also hear from everybody, instead of piecemealing it
4 together, kind of just get a broader view and feel it
5 out as far as the scope of what you're asking on the
6 review. And that will help me come up with a better
7 question and answering thing. If you wouldn't mind.
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. MORIARITY: No. Understood. That's
11 why I do plan to try to stay as long as I can here in
12 Wrangell before I have to go home to Anchorage. And I
13 guess that's another important point. While I work for
14 the Office of the Secretary, I am based in Anchorage,
15 and I go back and forth to D.C. I'm in D.C. about 7 to
16 10 days a month, and then otherwise, I'm based in
17 Anchorage.

18
19 MR. BEMIS: Okay. Thank you.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Don
22 Hernandez, you had something to ask. Go ahead, Don.

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Cal.
25 Yes. I'd just kind of like to get into the meat of this
26 a little more, if I could. So right now, we're initially
27 talking about, I guess, the purpose and need of this
28 review, that kind of language we're used to from you
29 know, environmental impact statements, but it kind of
30 relates to what we're doing here. And your statement
31 here says the Secretaries are undertaking a limited
32 review of this Program to ensure it meets the needs of
33 subsistence users. So, when I read that, and then
34 knowing, you know, other information that I'm aware of
35 such as, you know, the state of Alaska put out their
36 position paper regards to subsistence, and they have a
37 number of wish list items that they would like the
38 Administration to review and subsistence. And Council
39 members are also aware that there's a petition out there
40 from the Safari Club International that asks for a whole
41 bunch of topics to be reviewed and issues with Title
42 VIII of ANILCA. So, when I read this statement, you know
43 it says that to meet the needs of the subsistence users,
44 and it really seems to me that this review is kind of
45 more meant to meet the needs of other users, that the
46 state is more -- state and Safari Club International are
47 more concerned with. So, I guess my -- that's my
48 statement. My question would be, did you actually hear
49 from, you know, interested parties and subsistence
50 community tribes or anybody else, Councils, that kind

1 of requested this review to take place? That's my
2 question.

3
4 MS. MORIARITY: Well, Don, thank you for
5 the question. And in response, yes, we have heard from
6 Alaska Federation of Natives, other tribal entities
7 across the state asking us not to make any changes. But
8 we felt we had a responsibility to review the Program.
9 And again, the review does not guarantee any changes.
10 You know, I -- we have received the petition for rule
11 making from Safari Club, and we have received the
12 information from the state. But at this time, we're not
13 making those changes. We want to take a thorough
14 examination of the Program because we're hearing such
15 divergent views from a variety of users, and so we felt
16 it was our responsibility to do this review. But again,
17 I want to emphasize that it does not guarantee that
18 there'll be any changes, and we do want to make sure
19 that we are fully appreciative and understanding of how
20 the Program is working and there could or may -- there
21 may or may not be changes later on after this review
22 process. And the scoping review is discretionary. We're
23 not required to do this, but we could have gone straight
24 to a rulemaking process or not. But again, we felt it
25 was the responsibility, as we're reviewing all types of
26 programs across the federal government as directed by
27 the President and the Federal Subsistence Program is no
28 different. And so, this is the opportunity for folks
29 like you, Don, and others to tell us what you think
30 about how the Program is working.

31
32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I
33 appreciate the answer.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Ted,
36 do you want to -- yeah. Go ahead, Ted.

37
38 MR. SANDHOFER: Thanks. Thanks,
39 Chairman. I was just curious. You said you've gotten
40 comments from many organizations, individuals. Have you
41 got any comments from current subsistence users that
42 support a review of the Program?

43
44 MS. MORIARITY: I -- Ted, I don't recall
45 all of the comments off the top of my head right now. I
46 mean, there's a whole host of them. I do know that we
47 received a lot of comments and there's a lot of feelings
48 about this. But it is our job and obligation to review
49 the Program, whether we had gotten comments or not,
50 honestly, because that is part of the President's

1 directive. We're reviewing all sorts of programs across
2 all the different Bureaus, whether it's the Office of
3 Subsistence Management or other federal agencies within
4 the Department of the Interior or other departments. So,
5 we were tasked with taking a look at the Program, and
6 we felt it was important to open this up to have Alaskans
7 tell us what they think before any potential changes are
8 made.

9
10 MR. SANDHOFER: Thank you. Just a follow
11 up. You know, just -- you know, the reason I asked that
12 question, you know, I think of programmatic review is
13 good, but I think that this review was maybe driven by
14 some outside influences. I think those outside
15 influences have goals that may diminish the ability of
16 this group, the Federal Subsistence Board, to protect
17 the rights of the subsistence users. And I guess that's
18 the feeling I'm getting from reading some articles and
19 you know, that was the reason for my question, so,
20 thanks.

21 MS. MORIARITY: Sure.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. I have
24 Patricia Phillips -- would like to ask a question. Go
25 ahead. Go ahead, Patricia.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
28 Casipit. Thank you, Kara Moriarity, for being in person
29 at the meeting. I wish I could be there with you. And
30 thank you to the Secretaries for the scoping review. The
31 Federal Register Notice for the Secretarial Programmatic
32 Review scoping period, I reviewed the Federal Register
33 on the -- that our Council Coordinator provided us in
34 an email, and in that document, it referenced
35 supplementary information for public scoping process
36 regarding the open house and the opportunity to submit
37 comments. So, I went to the -- you know, they said --
38 the notice says public comments. You may submit comments
39 by one of the following methods and then electronically,
40 and it gives you the website and it tells you to enter
41 DOI 2025-0170, which is the docket number for the
42 rulemaking. So, I went to, you know, www.regulations.gov
43 and entered the DOI-2025-0170 in the search bar and there
44 were no results for the docket number. So, I emailed
45 this information to Ms. Perry, and she provided the --
46 you know, the web address for the proposed rule. However,
47 the ID number is not the number provided in the notice,
48 and the site states that the proposed rule is closed for
49 comments. So, to ensure transparency for inclusive
50 decision making, please repost with the correct www.

1 regulations.gov docket number. And then further on the
2 procedural history, it talks about the petition and, you
3 know, it sounds, you know, because I'm an activist for
4 subsistence, I'm familiar with petition, but there's
5 going to be, if you want really a lot of public comment
6 or any public comment to be based on, you know, everybody
7 having the same information. Where's the petition?
8 What's the petition about? We didn't get the petition
9 in our Council packet. I mean, it was shared with me
10 because I am an advocate for subsistence, but there's
11 going to be members of the public that have no idea what
12 the petition is. And then if you look at the date on the
13 petition, it's May 5th, 2025. So, you know, there's been
14 a sector of people who've had access to this petition
15 and been able to formulate a well, you know, well-
16 thought-out comments. And as you heard our -- from our
17 Council member from Yakutat, he just got it. He wants
18 to hear what it's about so he can, you know, submit a,
19 you know, give a formal, you know, well thought out
20 opinion. He doesn't want to just come off the cuff. So,
21 you know, it's just -- thank you for bringing this to
22 our attention and being, you know, being willing to take
23 these questions. But it doesn't seem like that the
24 scoping period, which you don't have to do, and we're
25 very appreciative that you are, but you know, you might
26 have to restart the calendar once you get the new and
27 corrected information in it. So, thank you, Ms.
28 Moriarity.

29
30 MS. MORIARITY: Well, thank you for that
31 and I was made aware today that -- of the technical
32 challenges right now, and we are in the process as we
33 speak of trying to figure out why that's not working at
34 the Federal Register right now. So, and with the time
35 change back in D.C. that it may not be fixed until
36 tomorrow, but I do think there are -- so we're working
37 on that. I was not aware of that until I got here in
38 Wrangell, that it was not working properly. So, we're
39 working to fix that specific link on regulations.gov. I
40 know that we are getting comments by email as well.
41 That's also in the Federal Register Notice the
42 subsistence@ios.doi.gov email, until we can get the
43 whatever the -- that's a federal register thing that's
44 going on. That's not necessarily anything I control. So,
45 we're -- we've -- we're trying to expedite that as best
46 we can.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

49
50 MS. MORIARITY: Hm-hmh.

1
2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
3 you, Patty. Don, you had your hand raised, and then
4 apparently you lowered it. I just want to make sure that
5 you're okay and that you don't have anything to add?
6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, not at this time,
8 Cal. I just got to get used to unraising my hand after
9 I ask a question. We'll figure this out. Thanks.
10

11 (Simultaneous speech)
12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Okay.
14 Thanks, Don. Albert Howard, I have you next. You go --
15 go ahead.
16

17 (Pause)
18

19 Albert, you're still muted. If you can
20 hit star six and begin.
21

22 (Distortion)
23

24 MR. HOWARD: Can you hear me now, Mr.
25 Chair? I was talking to myself for a second.
26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: We can hear
28 you now, Albert. Go ahead.
29

30 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
31 wondering if I heard that right, Mr. Chairman, that they
32 had to consult with the state on their thoughts with
33 subsistence. Now, if that's the case, I don't agree with
34 that, because watching the state and their stance with
35 subsistence and now wanting to take over the management
36 of subsistence, that I don't agree with because,
37 difficult as it is they haven't been a part of this
38 process. I don't recall the last meeting I was at if
39 Fish and Game was even at the meeting. I have concerns
40 with that, and I believe they should -- part of this
41 process should be going back to the local tribes, because
42 we all know that everyone has different issues, and
43 resource management, and different concerns in regards
44 to how those resources are being utilized, either
45 through the state process or just the way the state puts
46 information out there that affects the resource. As an
47 example, telling people there's a lot of deer in Chatham,
48 and then you have more hunters from urban communities
49 here. I also -- reading the document on the Executive
50 Order has me concerned that trying to find a way to

1 access -- well, as an example, I read part of it was oil
2 and gas now. I don't know if that means easier access
3 and trying to affect the subsistence user by allowing
4 the access without consideration of the impact it's
5 going to have on subsistence users. I suppose we're going
6 to have this conversation later, and I'll read more into
7 that document tonight. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
10 you, Albert. Any other clarification questions from the
11 Council, either on the phone or on the table here --
12 what I'd -- how I'd like to proceed from here -- I don't
13 think we want to put a work group together to work on
14 this. I think I would like to have the whole Council at
15 this time go through each of these bullet points and
16 discuss each of these bullet points. You can see them
17 up there and also on that sheet of paper that DeAnna
18 handed out to us. But that's how I'd like to proceed. I
19 think there's -- I think it'd be problematic. I know
20 there's some folks on the phone that I know would want
21 to be in on a work group, and I would like to have them
22 on a work group, but just because the -- what's going
23 on right now, I think we definitely need to do this on
24 the record while being transcribed. But -- and we will
25 do that. We will take it to the table and put it before
26 the Council. But before I do that, I want to make sure
27 that the public has a chance to comment on this. We
28 received comment from KIC this morning from Gloria, and
29 we have her written -- her written comments here before
30 us as well. But anybody else in the audience here or on
31 the phone who wishes to provide testimony to the Council
32 before we take up these bullet points, I would welcome
33 that now. If you want to speak, raise your hand, come
34 forward, introduce yourself, and go from there.

35
36 MS. BURNS: Hello and thank you so much.
37 I appreciate the opportunity to give a few final
38 comments. Good to meet you in person. I've heard a lot
39 of really great things about you from your coworkers so
40 it's nice to see that you're going through this process.
41 I've heard some great compliments about you and so I'm
42 glad you're the person that is undergoing this within
43 the Department. I just wanted to point out a couple of
44 things that KIC also finds concerning, and the safari
45 letter was mentioned, and I just want to bring up how
46 concerning it is to me that essentially the points up
47 here are literally the same points in almost the same
48 order as the letter dated May 5th, 2025. If none of you
49 -- if you all don't have that, I have it and would be
50 glad to email it to all of you. But I really am have a

1 - I'm having a really hard time particularly and I
2 understand that we have to go from the Executive Order,
3 but this idea of consultation with the state, leaving
4 out the authority of tribal governments, and then I
5 wanted to say, I'm not quite sure how this is even
6 legally possible. This idea -- the state could be in
7 charge. The state is, by constitution, required to not
8 give a preference. We all have an equal standing under
9 the law. We know that that has been problematic. It's
10 problematic for tribal communities. I think rural
11 communities or Alaskans in general, right, know that
12 they are subsisting and taking care of their non-human
13 relatives and living off them. Right? So that's
14 problematic. And so, my question would be - is, how is
15 the state going to be subservient to the law, the federal
16 law of ANILCA? If the state constitution says you can't
17 do that and ANILCA says you absolutely have to do that,
18 how do we reconcile these two things? Especially in light
19 of the state continuously pushing lawsuits that kind of
20 are trying to erode that. And I just want to say that
21 it really is concerning that as you go through the bullet
22 points, and even in the language where it says pursuant
23 to Executive Order, blah blah, blah, blah, blah. It's
24 like almost exactly the same language, and so how is
25 that about protecting people's traditional and customary
26 access to their foods? How is that about protecting our
27 lifeways and our resources when everybody else goes and
28 is gone from this place, when we've unleashed Alaska's
29 whatever resources, and there are no trees and the water
30 is polluted. There's nowhere for the tribal citizens of
31 Ketchikan Indian Community to go. We're not leaving.
32 We're staying there. We stayed there despite a low, you
33 know, a high poverty rate and, you know, some extreme
34 circumstances. And we're not going anywhere. And so I
35 did just want to point out that we -- it was one of the
36 things that was most alarming to Ketchikan Indian
37 Community, was to see that this scoping period felt like
38 it was almost word for word from Safari International,
39 who is always going after those things that Indigenous
40 people really hold dear. And so, I was really
41 appreciative to the Council member who really brought
42 up, who are the subsistence people who said that was an
43 issue? Because I want to say that, you know, in
44 Ketchikan, I go down to the ferry and the ferry is
45 completely full of people in really expensive camo gear
46 with huge -- with ATVs and rented vehicles going across
47 and, you know, hunters and fishermen, sports fisher
48 people from out of town. I want to go on the record to
49 also say something that President Williams said
50 yesterday when we were meeting with the Forest Service.

1 He said that the fish traps of today tend to be the
2 sports fisher people. And I know I shouldn't say that
3 because I have family members who sports fish. But
4 there's a real issue right now. And this is, this is
5 incredibly problematic that we're taking Safari
6 Internationals and then turning around and putting
7 people who have done great work, who continue to protect
8 their communities and advocate on behalf of us. And so,
9 I did want to say that, please, if you don't have the
10 letter, I have the letter that I can share.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
13 you, Gloria. Anyone else in the audience that wishes to
14 provide testimony on this? Please, come forward,
15 identify yourself, and begin your testimony. Thank you.

16
17 MS. CAVANAUGH: Hi, Melinda, with the
18 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Council member. I just want to
19 shadow what Gloria had shared. This is something that
20 was new to our tribe and our Council, and we would also
21 like information on this. We can't really make comment
22 on it unless we have all the data and facts. But I'd
23 like to thank Gloria for being able to share this, and
24 I hope that other tribes also speak. Subsistence is
25 something that is not just a given to us. It's not --
26 it's something that we're -- something that we survive
27 on. This is not a support -- like a sports fishing or
28 sports hunting. And I think this is something that we
29 need to remember, that this is a priority for our
30 villages in our rural areas, not just us, but our
31 families and our future. Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I'd like to
34 get public testimony and get that on the record before,
35 as a Council, we take this up and go through these bullet
36 points. I know I have a lot to say on all of these and,
37 anyway, I have a lot to say. But I want to wait till
38 it's on the table for the Council. So, I want to get
39 through this public comment before we get there. So, I
40 have William Micklin online here who wishes to speak on
41 this. Please, please proceed. Identify yourself and
42 proceed with your testimony. Thank you.

43
44 MR. MICKLIN: (In Native) Yaan Yaan Eesh
45 (In Native). In English, my name is Will Micklin. My
46 Tlingit name is Yaan Yaan Eesh. I'm a Vice President on
47 the Executive Council for the Central Council of Tlingit
48 and Haida Tribes of Alaska. Richard J. Peterson is our
49 present President. I'm speaking in his place, and I thank
50 you for the opportunity to speak today. I thank Kara

1 Moriarity for listening, and I just want to place a few
2 items on the record. We are speaking in unity with the
3 other tribes in Southeast Alaska. We are the regional
4 tribe in Southeast Alaska, and we are working in concert
5 with the other tribes, including Ketchikan Indian
6 Community, who's already spoken and my other colleagues.
7 We are concerned, of course that the EO issued at the
8 outset of this administration should be viewed as not
9 countermanding or displacing the other executive orders
10 in place that require meaningful consultation with
11 tribes before federal action is taken that may have
12 significant and adverse impact on tribal communities.
13 No more important in any region is our subsistence, which
14 we call our traditional hunting and fishing and
15 gathering rights, which are embedded and integral to our
16 way of life, our culture, and have existed since we have
17 existed through tens, if not hundreds of thousands of
18 years within our Aboriginal lands. Subsistence is
19 necessary for our survival and our way of life. It's not
20 recreational. It's not symbolic. It's how we feed our
21 families, how we care for our elders and fulfill the
22 duties of our culture. Our subsistence practices predate
23 the state of Alaska, predate the federal government, and
24 have occurred as we have harvested according to our own
25 systems of stewardship and law systems that continue to
26 sustain us today and, frankly, were more successful in
27 safeguarding our environment, which I call our
28 indigenous ecology than the present and past regimes.
29 Modern regulatory systems now govern subsistence and
30 often criminalize our indigenous ways of life. We do our
31 best, and we do comply with these complex systems despite
32 their inefficiencies and misapprehension of the
33 environment and how it works. That is more vertical in
34 perspective than horizontal, as we are inclusive of all
35 our resources and spirits and beings and interaction of
36 the lands and waters. We understand impacts and we do
37 our best to collaborate, to identify, to propose, and
38 to repurpose these regulatory regimes for -- to enhance
39 community well-being and we hope that collaboration is
40 acknowledged and respected. Subsistence to us is food
41 security and health security. With extreme retail food
42 costs, ongoing failures in SNAP administration that
43 meets the needs of our neediest citizens, subsistence
44 is ever more important as a lifeline for many of our
45 communities. Title VIII of ANILCA, which was previously
46 discussed, imposes a clear legal obligation on our
47 federal partners, and which the State of Alaska needs
48 to respect and observe and comply with. Subsistence uses
49 must be prioritized over all other consumptive uses.
50 This is not discretionary and does not require balancing

1 against recreational or trophy hunting interests.
2 Subsistence governance must remain grounded in our lived
3 experience. People who live subsistence bring expertise,
4 bring knowledge through experience. That is not a bias.
5 It's a meaningful subsistence user representation that
6 is essential to lawful and just decision making. We add
7 that to the equation and remind our friends that this
8 current discussion must live within the boundaries of
9 ANILCA, within the boundaries of the government, the
10 government relationship between our trustee, our federal
11 partners, and the trust beneficiary which are tribes and
12 I look forward to continued discussion prior to federal
13 action, as is incumbent upon our federal partners and
14 for our state friends to observe and conform to. I thank
15 you for the opportunity and look forward to ongoing
16 relationship in this discussion. Gunalchéesh (In
17 Native).

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
20 you very much, Mr. Micklin. Next on the list, I --
21 Albert, I had you on the list next, but I'm wondering
22 if you can hold your comments until we actually get this
23 on the table for our discussion. I'm trying to take
24 public testimony right now. Albert, did you -- is that
25 okay or...?

26
27 MR. HOWARD: That's fine, Mr. Chair. I
28 took my hand down, so that means I wasn't -- I just
29 decided to wait. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
32 you, Mr. Howard. I appreciate that. Next on the list for
33 public testimony that I have is a phone number ending
34 in 1592. If that individual would unmute their phone,
35 introduce themselves, and begin their testimony, that
36 would be great. Thank you very much.

37
38 MR. JACKSON: Hi. Yes, this is Joel
39 Jackson. I'm the President of the Organized Village of
40 Kake. I got a lot of concerns. Number one is the state
41 wanting to take over the subsistence. The state has never
42 -- I think I heard somebody say never been involved in
43 it, and they shouldn't be. And you know, we've repeated
44 ourselves time and time again. You've heard testimony
45 from all the others that our way of life isn't for fun.
46 It isn't for sport fishing, sport hunting. It's our way
47 of life. That's the way we were able to live in our
48 communities. It's so important to our communities. It's
49 food security. It's like when you go to Walmart or
50 somewhere else. When we go hunting, fishing, that's our

1 Walmart. It's so important that this subsistence issue,
2 as you call it, is not changed, because as I see it, the
3 United States government has a trust responsibility to
4 our people to protect our way of life. Why? Because they
5 took our land. We have stewarded our lands and waters
6 for over 10,000 years. And we've never made an impact
7 on it. And here comes Safari International demanding
8 these things be changed. And who does the government
9 listen to? The people with money. These people hunt for
10 their pleasure, for their trophies. They don't hunt it
11 because they need to hunt for their meals or fish to put
12 food on their tables, unlike my people, our people. That
13 is our grocery store whenever we go hunting or fishing
14 or gathering. Because it's our way of life. I can't say
15 that enough. And you know, for as long as I can remember,
16 our people have come to the -- to these meetings time
17 and time again, not only these agencies, but all the
18 different agencies we have to deal with, to defend our
19 way of life. We shouldn't have to do that. You know, for
20 them to suggest to change the makeup of the Board is not
21 right. Are you guys going to cave to that? Is the agency
22 going to cave to that demand? And why are you there if
23 you're going to cave to special interest groups? I don't
24 care if there's an Executive Order. Executive Order, in
25 my understanding, is the wish of the President. It's not
26 law. You can correct me if I'm wrong but, you know, it's
27 just so hard to find words to express how I feel about
28 this whole process. We shouldn't have to be here fighting
29 for scraps. You know, you look at that pie chart, I
30 always remember it burned in my mind, of all the
31 resources in the state of Alaska less than 1% is set
32 aside for subsistence. And it's still that way. Our
33 people are overregulated by Fish and Game and other
34 agencies about how we can fish, how many fish we can
35 take, how many deer, how many moose. The list goes on.
36 And it's so sad that they treat us like children when
37 we have taken care of our homelands and have never,
38 never, overharvested, overfished. Nothing like that. We
39 took care of it. Can the state of Alaska or the federal
40 government say the same thing? No. The only time they
41 pay attention is when something is going to go extinct,
42 they know they overfished it, they know they overhunted.
43 Whatever the case may be. Over logged. You know, that's
44 -- and I hope the Board will consider all the testimony
45 today, because it is coming from our heart. We're not
46 speaking from a piece of paper. We know what we have out
47 here. We are the ones on the land. We are the ones on
48 the water. We know what's there. Yet there's people that
49 make regulations that never set foot on our land or on
50 our waters. And making regulations, making us outlaws.

1 Making us criminals in some cases. Because there are
2 limits that they put on us. When we're only trying to
3 put food on our table, to provide for our communities,
4 for those that can't. I was given a script, but I decided
5 not to go with it. Open. The words I say to you will
6 make a difference. And I stated earlier today how much
7 it costs to live in Kake. Our gas prices are high,
8 electricity is high, food is high. Everything is high
9 here. But this is our home. This is where our people,
10 for thousands of years, have lived. They walk -- we walk
11 the same ground and fish the same rivers and waters as
12 they did. This is our home. Have you ever come here?
13 Have you ever seen what we have? Probably not. We protect
14 our homelands and we will continue. So, thank you again
15 for allowing me to speak, and I hope you take the words
16 from all the different people that have testified today.
17

18 MS. MORIARITY: Mr. Chairman, if I may,
19 just as a comment. Mr. Jackson, I really appreciate your
20 sincere testimony and taking the time to speak from the
21 heart. I have been to Kake. Probably some of my
22 colleagues back in D.C. have not, but I have been to
23 your beautiful community, and I just wanted to
24 acknowledge the sincerity of your testimony today. Thank
25 you.
26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
28 you, Mr. Jackson. I see that Mr. Micklin has his hand
29 back up. Mr. Micklin, do you have something to add?
30

31 MR. MICKLIN: I just took it down. Thank
32 you.
33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
35 you, Mr. Micklin. Any other public testimony on this
36 issue, either from the audience or on the phone, before
37 the Council takes this to the table?
38

39 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, DeAnna Perry,
40 Council Coordinator, for the record. We did receive a
41 written comment by email, Mr. Chair, from the Central
42 Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. I
43 could read that into the record if it would please the
44 Council. I am trying to get hard copies made of that as
45 well. But that might take a little bit of time.
46

47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes,
48 DeAnna, let's read that into the record. Make sure that
49 it's before us. And if we can get a hard copy here soon,
50 that would be great.

1
2 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
3 written comment received today via Subsistence email is
4 dated December 17th. The title is Written Comments of
5 the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian
6 Tribes of Alaska, submitted to the Southeast Alaska
7 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, December 2025
8 Meeting, Wrangell, Alaska. Gunalchéesh and Háw'aa, Chair
9 and members of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
10 Advisory Council, on behalf of the Central Council of
11 the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Tlingit
12 and Haida, thank you for the opportunity to provide
13 written comments in support of subsistence access and
14 the critical role of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
15 Regional Advisory Council and the Federal Subsistence
16 Board in protecting that access. Tlingit and Haida is
17 a federally and state recognized regional tribal
18 government representing more than 38,000 Tlingit and
19 Haida citizens throughout Southeast Alaska and beyond.
20 For our people, subsistence is not optional,
21 recreational or symbolic. It is necessary to our ways
22 of life and essential to our survival.

23
24 The next heading is, Subsistence Access
25 is Necessary to Our Ways of Life. For thousands of years,
26 our people have harvested from our lands and waters
27 according to our own systems of stewardship, law, and
28 responsibility to community. These practices long
29 predate the existence of the state of Alaska and the
30 federal government. They sustained our people
31 physically, culturally, and spiritually, and they
32 continue to do so today. Today, our people must navigate
33 and comply with state and federal regulatory systems
34 that govern hunting, fishing, and gathering. While we
35 do so, it must be clearly acknowledged that these systems
36 regulate and at times criminalize indigenous ways of
37 life that existed long before these governments. The
38 impacts of this criminalization are profound and
39 ongoing. When our people, particularly our men, are
40 prevented from providing food for their families and
41 communities in the ways they have done for generations,
42 it contributes directly to social harm, loss of
43 identity, erosion of purpose, and deep community trauma.
44 Our people do not harvest for sport. We harvest to
45 survive, to feed our families, to care for our elders,
46 to teach our children, and to fulfill our
47 responsibilities to one another.

48
49 The next heading is titled; Subsistence
50 Access as a Matter of Food Security and Health.

1 Subsistence access is imperative given today's economic
2 realities in rural Alaska. The cost of living has grown
3 astronomically. In many Southeast Alaska communities, a
4 gallon of milk costs \$15, and a dozen eggs cost nearly
5 \$12. These prices are not occasional, they are routine.
6 At the same time, the state of Alaska has failed for
7 years to adequately administer the Supplemental
8 Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, resulting in
9 persistent backlogs that have left many families,
10 particularly children, without reliable access to food.
11 In this context, subsistence is not simply cultural, it
12 is a lifeline. Foods harvested from our lands and waters
13 are the healthiest foods in the world for our people.
14 They are nutritionally rich, culturally grounded, and
15 harvested through relationships of respect and
16 responsibility. Restricting access to these foods
17 worsens hunger, undermines health, and deepens
18 inequities already faced by rural and indigenous
19 communities.

20
21 The next section is titled; Subsistence
22 Access is a Legal Obligation under Title VIII of ANILCA.
23 Congress enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National
24 Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, to protect and
25 prioritize subsistence uses on federal public lands in
26 Alaska. The statute is explicit. Subsistence uses by
27 rural Alaska residents are to be accorded a priority
28 over all other consumptive uses, whenever it is
29 necessary to restrict harvest, to ensure the continued
30 viability of fish and wildlife populations, or to
31 continue subsistence uses. This is not discretionary
32 policy. It is a statutory mandate. Title VIII imposes
33 an affirmative legal obligation on the federal
34 government to protect subsistence ways of life. It does
35 not require the Federal Subsistence Board, the Regional
36 Advisory Councils or federal land management agencies
37 to balance subsistence against recreational opportunity,
38 trophy hunting interests, and non-local preferences.
39 There is no statutory requirement under ANILCA to cater
40 to special interest groups whose relationship to the
41 land is recreational or commercial, rather than
42 subsistence based.

43
44 The next section is entitled; Decision
45 Making Must Include People Who Live Subsistence. Because
46 subsistence is lived, not theoretical, the most informed
47 and responsible decisions are made when people who live
48 this way of life are meaningfully represented at
49 decision making levels. Tlingit and Haida strongly
50 supports the Southeast Regional Advisory Council and the

1 Federal Subsistence Board, precisely because they are
2 intended to ensure that people with direct, place-based
3 subsistence knowledge play a central role in decision
4 making. There are increasing efforts to reframe
5 subsistence governance as a matter of balancing
6 competing recreational, commercial, or non-local
7 interests. This framing fundamentally misunderstands
8 subsistence. Subsistence is not sport hunting. It is not
9 discretionary. It is survival. While recreational and
10 commercial uses exist, they are not equivalent to
11 subsistence uses protected under Title VIII of ANILCA.
12 Elevating sport or non-local hunting interests to the
13 same level as subsistence erodes the very purpose of the
14 Federal Subsistence Program and undermines Congress's
15 intent to protect rural ways of life. People who live
16 subsistence understand seasonal realities, safety
17 constraints, changing environmental conditions,
18 interrelated harvest patterns, and the real-world
19 consequences of closures, restrictions, and regulatory
20 decisions. Lived subsistence experience is not bias, it
21 is expertise. Subsistence governance may -- pardon me.
22 Subsistence governance must remain grounded in that
23 expertise.

24
25 And next, Conclusion. For Tlingit and
26 Haida, access to subsistence resources is necessary to
27 our ways of life, our health, our cultures, and our
28 ability to care for one another. Efforts to diminish
29 subsistence representation on Regional Advisory Councils
30 weaken subsistence user participation on the Federal
31 Subsistence Board, or redefine subsistence as merely one
32 interest among many, threaten the well-being of our
33 communities, and run counter to the intent of ANILCA.
34 The continued strength of the Southeast Alaska
35 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Federal
36 Subsistence Board, and the meaningful inclusion of
37 people who live subsistence on them, is essential to
38 ensuring that decisions affecting subsistence are
39 informed, just, and grounded in lived reality. We
40 respectfully urge the Council and the Federal
41 Subsistence Board to continue protecting subsistence
42 access, upholding the priorities established in Title
43 VIII of ANILCA, honoring indigenous ways of life, and
44 rejecting efforts that would erode subsistence
45 protections under the guise of administrative efficiency
46 or user balance. Gunałchéesh and Háw'aa for the
47 opportunity to provide these comments and for your
48 continued service. Respectfully submitted. This is
49 signed by Richard J. Peterson, President of the Central
50 Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

1 Mr. Chair, that concludes the written comment from
2 Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes
3 of Alaska. Thank you.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
6 DeAnna. Okay. Is there any other people in the room or
7 online who wish to provide additional public comment?

8
9 (Whispered conversation)

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Joel. Mr.
12 Jackson, you have your hand up again. Do you wish to add
13 something?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Mr.
18 Jackson, I believe your line is muted.

19
20 (No response)

21
22 Mr. Jackson, if you're there, if you
23 want to unmute your line, if you have something
24 additional you would like to put on the record?

25
26 (No response)

27
28 Mr. Chair, I am not seeing any more
29 activity from that line.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well, I'd
32 like to take this to the Council table, and I suggest
33 maybe we go through this bullet point by bullet point
34 and give our input as a Council by each bullet and go
35 around the table and the phone for Council members on
36 each of these bullet points. But before I start that, I
37 wanted to mention a few things. More of the 60,000-foot
38 level view of this. First of all, I don't think anybody
39 could go wrong by just implementing ANILCA as it's
40 written. If, you know, if you read ANILCA, there's only
41 basically two management bodies that are mentioned, the
42 Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, and these
43 Regional Advisory Councils. Both -- I mean, that is the
44 basis of the Program. All the regulations, everything
45 should come from the Councils and go up. There's also
46 deference standards for the Council on matters of Kake
47 and the deference that, by law, needs to be granted to
48 these Councils. There is no requirement in ANILCA to
49 provide deference to the state on any matter. There's
50 nothing in ANILCA that says there's deference that we

1 have to grant to the Safari Club. ANILCA needs to be
2 implemented, and you could just implement ANILCA and we
3 would be just fine. The stuff about it, it's -- anyway,
4 that's enough. I'm not going to say any more on that.
5 Over the history of this Program, since the beginning,
6 Safari Club has always petitioned this group. They've
7 got changes to how our Councils are -- a membership on
8 these Councils have done [sic]. They won that 70/30
9 argument where, you know, 30% of the seats go to sport
10 and commercial. That was from the Safari Club. They've
11 already got that. And now they're pushing harder for
12 something more. And like was mentioned before by others,
13 Safari Club are not subsistence users. The furthest
14 thing from it. Anyway, that's just kind of my -- and when
15 you read these bullet points and you -- and I do have a
16 copy of that Safari Club letter. I got it soon after it
17 was sent out through my own contacts and that letter, I
18 mean, it almost translates directly to these bullet
19 points. So, we'll go and talk about these bullet points
20 now. So, let's start with the first one here, movement
21 of the OSM group. I'll start with the Council at the
22 table here. Does anybody have any input on movement of
23 OSM?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 Also, Council members on the line as
28 well. The first bullet -- and I'll just read it for the
29 record. The 2024 move of the Office of Subsistence
30 Management from within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 Service of the Department of Interior to the Office of
32 the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and
33 Budget of the Department of the Interior.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 I'm getting a -- one of my members is
38 signaling me for a break. So, I guess we'll take a --
39 we'll take until 2:30 here for a break. Come back ready
40 to really dig into this and let's push through it. I
41 want to get this done. Go ahead.

42
43 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, can I ask a
44 clarifying question to Ms. Moriarity? I've heard about
45 the Safari Club International petition. I'm just
46 curious. Have you seen the petition?

47
48 MS. MORIARITY: Yes, sir.

49
50

1 MR. SLATER: In your estimation, is it
2 consistent with establishing and maintaining a priority
3 for subsistence users, under ANILCA, that's mandated
4 under ANILCA or does it reduce current preference that
5 is -- that is currently in place?
6

7 MS. MORIARITY: Mr. Slater, I haven't
8 read the letter in a while, to be candid. It's been a
9 while since I've read it. So, I can't speak to whether
10 it does or doesn't. But at the bottom line, what's
11 mandated for the rural preference in ANILCA, that's the
12 law. And we're not looking to do anything that deviates
13 from the law. So, it -- to be candid, even if the Safari
14 Club letter was suggesting that, and I'm not saying it
15 does or doesn't. because I have not read that letter in
16 several months, but even if it did, we have an obligation
17 to uphold the law, and that's the law.
18

19 MR. SLATER: So, you have no thoughts on
20 which direction that would push the preference?
21

22 MS. MORIARITY: I'm not going to
23 speculate on somebody else's intent of any type of
24 letter, whether it's Safari Club or, you know, the other
25 letters that we received. I'm not going to question what
26 the intent is or isn't. I just have to take what it says
27 on face value. And I don't believe it said anything in
28 there to change ANILCA, but again, I have not read that
29 letter.....
30

31 (Simultaneous speech)
32

33 MR. SLATER: No, I don't think -- I'm not
34 sure. I haven't read the whole thing. I don't think it's
35 asking for a change in ANILCA. That would be pointless
36 that -- we have said that's law. But the net effect is
37 what I'm interested in. Does it improve or diminish the
38 priority that we currently have, as stated under ANILCA?
39 That's my.....
40

41 MS. MORIARITY: Yeah. We just -- we have
42 to take the letter and that's -- to me, that's probably
43 a question best answered by Safari Club and I don't
44 represent SCI.
45

46 MR. SLATER: Okay. All right. Thank you.
47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay.
49 Before we go to break, I needed to let Patricia Phillips
50 say something. She needed to say something. So go ahead,

1 Patricia.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, I was going to address
4 that first bullet point. But if you'd rather I wait, I
5 will. Thank you, Chairman Casipit.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah. Thank
8 you, Patty. I think that's what we're going to do. We're
9 going to take about a 15-minute break here and then come
10 back, and the Council is going to start with bullet
11 number one. Or the 20th of -- Office -- OSM bullet.
12 Let's take a 15-minute break, and we'll come back at
13 2:30 and dig into this.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
20 you, Council, for being prompt and coming back. I think
21 we have still to come to us, I believe, is going to be
22 a copy of the Safari Club letter that was discussed so
23 that everybody has a copy of that. They're working on
24 it right now. But let's go ahead and start with that
25 first bullet point. Any input from Council on that first
26 bullet point? I believe, Patty, you had something to say
27 on that first bullet point.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes. Thank you, Chairman
30 Casipit. The Office of Subsistence Management is vital
31 to the regional advisory process, given that the RAC is
32 part of an administrative structure established for the
33 purpose of enabling rural residents with personal
34 knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have
35 a meaningful role. ANILCA requires that an
36 administrative structure be put in place, and if we're
37 in the Office of the Secretary in Washington, D.C., then
38 more and more likely to be, you know a reminder to them
39 that they need to pay attention to us. And we're part
40 of the -- they are and we are part of the same
41 administrative structure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
44 you, Ms. Phillips. Any other Council members on the first
45 one? Looks like Donald -- Don Hernandez, you have a
46 comment on the first bullet.

47

48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Cal. So,
49 I've heard some support for this move of the OSM to the
50 Washington office under the Secretary of the Interior.

1 And I would just like to make the comment that I think
2 people need to keep in mind that all -- the way a program
3 such as this functions, Subsistence Program, is subject
4 to political influences. And I know that, you know, the
5 laws can be stated very clearly, as you pointed out
6 earlier, Cal. You know, just as an example. Yes. Title
7 VIII refers to the Council's making recommendations to
8 the Secretaries, you know, and there's no mention of a
9 Board. But yet, you know, these programs are run through
10 rulemaking processes. And so that's how -- that's, you
11 know, why we have a Board. The Secretaries have delegated
12 that responsibility to a Board, and they created the
13 Board, and they decide who is on the Board. And you
14 know, that's just the way the system works. And, you
15 know, all those types of rule making decisions, you know,
16 are ultimately somewhat influenced by politics and
17 who's, you know, in the administration at the time, who
18 the Secretaries are, and what their wishes are. And, you
19 know, this process we're going right through now, this
20 review, I mean, it's not in a rulemaking phase, but, you
21 know, it could move to rulemaking and that could change
22 things. So, I just want to point out that, you know,
23 despite what people think about the law being so clear,
24 there are political influences. And I think it's worth
25 considering that moving the Office of Subsistence
26 Management to a higher level at the Secretary's Office
27 could be a very positive thing. You know, for a lot of
28 the reasons stated, but it could also make it possibly
29 more influenced by the politics of, you know, an
30 administration. And it's -- so the question in my mind
31 is, you know, if the program were moved back to U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service, would that insulate the
33 Program somewhat from political influences? I'm a
34 little, you know, unsure of that. Perhaps it could. You
35 have to keep in mind that, you know, the directors of
36 the federal agencies, you know, are appointed
37 politically. They change. They're at -- they serve at
38 the will of the administration. So, there's some, you
39 know, political influence involved there. I do like the
40 fact that, you know, moving further away from the
41 Secretary's Office with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife --
42 I've kind of over the years seen that a lot of the people
43 that we're dealing with as, you know, directors of the
44 agencies, they've moved up the chain, you know, they've
45 started as Biologists and Wildlife Land Managers, and
46 they work their way up. Some of them spent, you know, a
47 fair amount of time working in Alaska. They know the
48 issues. I take that as a positive. So, I'm a little
49 unsure of a recommendation on this, but I think at this
50 point I would have to say that I would agree with, you

1 know, some of the other testimony that we're probably -
2 - you should probably keep the Office of Subsistence
3 Management in the Secretary's Office. I think to make
4 any changes at this point would be somewhat disruptive.
5 We don't really need that right now. So, I'm kind of in
6 a -- a little bit of a wait and see kind of an attitude,
7 but I do think that those, you know, points are, you
8 know, kind of worth considering. So yes, that would be
9 my -- my comment is I think we're probably better off
10 now with the OSM being in the Secretary's Office. So,
11 thanks. Appreciate it.
12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
14 Don. Any other Council members online who want to say
15 something about the OSM bullet? Okay. Albert, I'll have
16 you next. Go ahead.
17

18 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
19 Albert, not Albert, with an A on the end. So, Mr.
20 Chairman, there's -- one of my favorite quotes is that
21 government closest to the people is government best for
22 the people. Along those same lines, the Tlingits have a
23 saying, if it's not your house, it's not your business.
24 My dad also had a saying, if it's not broken, don't fix
25 it. The only reason I could see them wanting to move it
26 from the Secretary to -- the Secretary for Policy,
27 Management, and Budget is to control what we do. We've
28 seen instances, or I have, where -- well, for another
29 way to say it, Mr. Chairman, as an example, I was told
30 that the fishermen have boat payments. Those types of
31 things would influence how this new Office would look
32 at what we were supposed to do, and the intent of Title
33 VIII. And I think it would be difficult to keep the
34 original intention. As an example, we now have what I
35 still don't agree with, and I still stick with the
36 original intent of rural preference. Now what's going
37 to change, if they move the Office, I think it's in --
38 the new Office wouldn't have the same understanding as
39 the Office we're dealing with now. I think staying with
40 the Secretary is something we should maintain because
41 they have a real understanding of it. Now, I heard
42 Hernandez mentioned we're with the Fish and Wildlife,
43 aren't we currently, Mr. Chair?
44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I think what
46 this question is whether or not OSM should be under Fish
47 and Wildlife Service or under the Office of Secretary
48 for Policy, Management, and Budget in the Department of
49 the Interior. So, I think it's -- that's what the
50 question was. Currently we're under -- the OSM is under

1 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy,
2 Management, and Budget.

3
4 MR. HOWARD: Okay. There must be a reason
5 for it. Why did I read that backwards then? The way it's
6 worded, Subsistence Management from within the U.S. Fish
7 and Wildlife Department of Interior to the Office of
8 Assistant Secretary.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I believe
11 what that bullet refers to is that in 2024, it was moved
12 from -- OSM was moved from Fish and Wildlife Service to
13 under the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Management
14 and Budget. So, I assume they're asking whether it should
15 be moved back, I assume.

16
17 MR. HOWARD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Go ahead, go
20 ahead.

21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. Thanks, Cal.
23 Hey, you know. I'd like to hear from maybe some of the
24 staff that used the program and see how that's affecting
25 them, because, you know, I haven't seen a big change yet
26 from the move. Thanks.

27
28 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. Thanks for
29 the question. I would say that, you know, this move took
30 place July 15th of 2024, and it was a big deal for the
31 Program in that effectively, we continued carrying on
32 with all of the normal activities that we do. I believe
33 the portion of the regulations that were passed related
34 to this bill said that we would be doing our work
35 uninterrupted. So, we effectively did this move in the
36 background out of one office and into another. And, the
37 move itself was frankly, quite challenging. Just in that
38 its hard to take one program that's down within an agency
39 and just kind of pick it up and stick it in a new spot.
40 Just related to all the connections that you had to do.
41 We had to find a new group to work with for our HR, for
42 instance, because we were no longer within an agency.
43 And that's just one of many different things that we had
44 to effectively disconnect in one place and reconnect in
45 another. And even now, you know, a year and a half later,
46 we're still working on kind of ironing out some kinks.
47 So just from a personal perspective, not related to
48 whether or not we should be in this place or in another
49 place, but just related to moving, certainly it would
50 be another substantial challenge if we were moved again.

1
2 I would say that there have been some
3 aspects that have been positive for the program in that
4 there are administrative layers that we had to work
5 through previously in order to move, say,
6 correspondence, for instance, from our office through
7 the Regional Directorate for the Fish and Wildlife
8 Service, through the National Directorate, through the
9 Fish and Wildlife Service, and then up to DOI, whereas
10 now we go directly to our counterparts at DOI within the
11 Secretary's Office to move things. So we're cutting out
12 layers on that front for moving things like letters from
13 the Councils to the Secretary's forward and things of
14 that nature and that goes for a number of other things.
15 There are aspects of being within an agency that were
16 quite nice, though, and there's a camaraderie of being
17 part of a much larger organization that we don't have
18 in the same way at this point in time. But we're also
19 working now with many other groups that are in these
20 smaller Secretary Office locations. So, we're kind of
21 making different connections in different places. So, I
22 would say personally on the whole, that this was a good
23 move for OSM, and I think it's good for the Program.
24 Yeah. If there's other questions, though, pertaining to
25 specifics, I'd be happy to answer any.

26
27 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, I appreciate that.
28 Just wanted to get some insight.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
31 Any other questions for Scott while we have him?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 Okay. Thank you. Don, you have your hand
36 up. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you. Cal, I
39 just didn't hear -- I guess you said that was Scott. I
40 didn't hear him identify himself. I didn't know who was
41 talking.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Oh, I
44 apologize, Don. That was Scott Ayers with OSM.

45
46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Council,
49 any other thoughts on this one? Oh, I saw John's hands
50 first, so we'll go with John and then the next would be

1 Jim Slater. Thanks.

2

3 MR. SMITH: And just to share a little
4 bit, I'm part of the -- you know, just like many of us,
5 we wear different hats and I'm part of the Tlingit &
6 Haida Community Council. So, hearing the response from
7 the President today was really awesome. I'm also (In
8 Native) of the Eagle Nest Kaagwaantaan People, from the
9 southeast area, all the way from the North River to the
10 Copper River, Mount Saint Elias. And so, I represent a
11 really big family. And so just to get to the point (In
12 Native), you know, listening to my relatives from Kake,
13 you know, in Tlingit that would be saying our food is
14 our way of life. And so, on the other hand, is kind of
15 what Ted was saying here about, you know, how's it going,
16 you know, and things have been, you know, he hasn't seen
17 any changes. So that's a positive thing. But you imagine,
18 you know, one thing that encourages is partnerships
19 working together (In Native). Imagine all these entities
20 in the same house, in the same room, working together
21 for the same -- it's going to be powerful. So just
22 putting that on the table. Gunalchéesh (In Native). We
23 will work together.

24

25 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
26 trying to evaluate this, it's hard to do so because we
27 don't really have data on how well it performs and how
28 that's evaluated in each location. So, without that type
29 of information, it's very hard to come up with a
30 recommendation. But what is obvious from just common
31 sense, and also from the testimony of Mr. Ayers, was
32 that it is disruptive to move. So, I'm wondering if we
33 just move, if the -- the agency, but the Program moved
34 from one group to another, why we'd want to go through
35 and move it again and disrupt it? And so, if the goal
36 is to maintain smooth operation, then keeping it in the
37 same place would be the right thing to do. If we wanted
38 to modify the Program somehow and disrupt it, then moving
39 it might be the right thing to do. So, it really -- it's
40 about motivations. And I try to look at that and I think
41 without those motivations, you can't answer the question
42 appropriately. I tried to answer it in those conclusions
43 there, but we need to understand what's behind the
44 question. That's all.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
47 Jim. Any other comments on this one from the Council?

48

49 MR. HOWARD: Sorry. Go ahead, Larry.

50

1 MR. BEMIS: Yes. I'm not too familiar
2 with -- and in fact, the matter I wasn't aware of the
3 71524 movement. What it looks like to me here is we've
4 got a Federal Subsistence Program that has been working
5 since 2009, and we have accomplished a lot with
6 everything that we've done up to this point. And my
7 thinking is if we keep moving things around and changing
8 it, we're losing the sight of the original purpose of
9 having this agreement with the Subsistence OMS, that we
10 are here to go by the Native Land Claims Act and what
11 was proceeded as the way we're going to protect our
12 subsistence rights. And it's been going along fine and
13 all of a sudden, this thing has got an outside entity
14 that doesn't like the control we have. And it looks like
15 this growing entity is a very strong and powerful thing.
16 And right now, the administration is listening to
17 different people and we're going along fine and all of
18 a sudden, we're getting a change in our direction. And
19 it's erupting our policy and the procedure is one
20 administration is going to start something that the
21 other one is going to change. We should stay within the
22 boundaries we were committed to and stop being asked to
23 agree to a change we really don't want to agree to. And
24 it just seems like it's getting to where we're not sure
25 if we do, we're not sure if we don't because we don't
26 know what we see that's coming forward. We're here to
27 preserve, protect, and direct for both the rural and
28 non-rural individual and make it fair as we can to do
29 what we do. And if we have outside entities coming to
30 gain a little better foothold on things, that's getting
31 away from the intent that we really came here and what
32 we agreed upon in -- when this federal subsistence
33 management program was set up. And it seems like there's
34 a slight tear in the veil that they're trying to come
35 in and change, and I'm not happy with that. Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
38 you, Larry. Any other comments from the Council on this
39 first bullet before I launch? Okay, well, this one.
40 Again, I'm going back to when I -- before I was retired
41 -- before I retired. And back in the beginning, when I
42 first came to the Subsistence Program as the Staff
43 Biologist for the Forest Service, Subsistence Staff
44 Biologist for the Forest Service way back when -- I
45 think moving OSM from Fish and Wildlife Service to the
46 offices -- the Office of the Secretary was a good move.
47 I think it put the emphasis for a subsistence priority
48 where it should be in the Secretary's Office, because
49 that's who is responsible for implementing Title VIII
50 in the state, the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary

1 of Agriculture. So, I think that move was a good deal,
2 was the right move. However, beyond that, I think what
3 could improve things even better for this Program is to
4 actually adequately fund this program. I don't think
5 this Program ever got adequate funding to do what we
6 need to do in terms of fisheries information, especially
7 wildlife information. I don't think -- we just rely on
8 the state to give us their information for wildlife. And
9 it's -- and that is problematic because we aren't even
10 getting the level of information that we need to make
11 decisions. You know, one of the things I heard lead up
12 to this meeting is that folks was having -- some of the
13 federal staff was having problems getting information
14 from the state at the community level for deer harvest.
15 And it's like they were getting an answer back saying,
16 oh, we can't do that, we don't have the information to
17 do that. Well, you know what? Every time I apply for my
18 deer harvest tickets, it asks for my community of
19 residents. So why can't that be shared with -- in their
20 data requests, in their data that's provided to us? That
21 to me, that's ridiculous. So, in my opinion, if we really
22 want to do something about improving our operations and
23 how we do our business, giving us adequate funding would
24 be the best thing that I could think of to improve our
25 operations. And I guess for that one, I guess that's
26 where I'll leave it. I just -- it's beyond me to think
27 that somehow by shifting around the deck chairs on the
28 Titanic, that that's going to help. No, what's going to
29 help is actually providing some funding. Not where
30 somebody sits or who somebody reports to. Adequate
31 funding is what we need. And I'll just leave it at that
32 for that one. Okay. Any other -- before we go on to the
33 next topic, any other input on this one? Go ahead, Mike.

34
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 agree with what you're saying that we don't have enough
37 biology in the fisheries or game departments. We don't
38 have any most of the time. And the last couple of few
39 years I've stated that, that we do not have our own
40 information, which we (indiscernible). I know funding
41 is always an issue with our program, but I think it's
42 critical that we get the funding for those two programs
43 because we are dependent on the state, and we've had
44 some real ups and downs in Unit 2 with state biology,
45 which should be looked at from a different angle by a
46 different entity. And we don't have that. And I think
47 it's important for what we do. The other thing I have
48 is -- to the greatest extent possible that hunting and
49 fishing opportunities on federal lands are consistent
50 with similar opportunities on state lands. I can't get

1 my head around that. I can't figure out how that's
2 supposed to work, because we have a real priority on
3 federal land. I just can't seem to understand what that
4 means, and as one of our public testified that just
5 glancing at the petition for revisions of a Safari Club,
6 this is mirrored in what I'm reading here in the Federal
7 Register proposals, but -- so maybe somebody could help
8 me understand what that sentence means.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Please, if
11 you would answer Mr. Douville's question.

12
13 MS. MORIARITY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
14 the record, Karen Moriarity, Office of the Secretary.
15 So, if -- to make sure I -- can you repeat your question
16 to make sure I understand it? What you were asking about
17 -- what the sentence means in the subsistence review,
18 is that what you're asking?

19
20 MR. DOUVILLE: Sorry. I was wanting an
21 explanation to the -- of this sentence. To the greatest
22 extent possible on that hunting and fishing
23 opportunities on federal lands are consistent with
24 similar opportunities on state land.

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 MS. MORIARITY: Oh.

29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: We are under Title VIII
31 of ANILCA, which offers a real priority. I don't see how
32 they could be consistent or similar in a lot of cases.
33 Having sat on this Council for many years, we do try to
34 work with the state. We always have to bring similar
35 rules together, which we have done, but in some cases
36 it's just not because of the real priority. So, I don't
37 understand what that means exactly.

38
39 MS. MORIARITY: To answer your question
40 - okay -- so I wanted to make sure I understood what you
41 were -- so that is straight from the Executive Order
42 14153, and, you know, we are in the process of taking
43 the Executive Order and all of the components, some of
44 which are, if you look at other components of the
45 Executive Order, they're very prescriptive. And I'll
46 just mention the King Cove Road as an example, that is
47 another section where it says -- I don't remember exactly
48 how it says, but a very, very direct lift to get it --
49 to enter a new land exchange with the King Cove
50 Corporation. So, it's very prescriptive. This is more

1 subjective. I agree, and that's what part of this review
2 is for, is to get what Alaskans believe to ensure the
3 greatest extent possible that hunting and fishing
4 opportunities on federal lands are consistent with
5 similar opportunities on state lands. And so, to the
6 greatest extent possible, again, back to Mr. Slater's
7 comment, this does not say we're changing ANILCA or the
8 rule preference and it's very clear. And so that's not
9 saying that we're going to undermine that, but we are
10 wanting, you know -- I didn't write this Executive Order.
11 So, we are in the process of trying to determine what
12 is that greatest extent possible. And it may not be any
13 changes whatsoever. Maybe we are already doing that, but
14 that's the purpose of the review.

15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, it's been my
17 experience, and I've said this, that to the greatest
18 extent possible, we have worked with the state the best
19 that ANILCA would allow us to. And that's been consistent
20 in my experience on this Council.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
23 Mike. Okay, let's -- if there's no other comments on
24 this first bullet, let's move on to criteria for Regional
25 Advisory Council membership. I think we probably, as
26 Council members, we probably have a lot to say on that.
27 So, I'll -- I guess I'll open it first for folks on the
28 phone. Council members on the phone, chime in here first.
29 Is there anybody? Can I see anybody? Not yet. Oh, sorry.
30 Patty Phillips just raised her hand, so go ahead, Ms.
31 Phillips.

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
34 Casipit. I'm going to -- like I have some comments, and
35 they kind of cross some of these bullet points, and so
36 I'll be -- that's what this comment will be. So ANILCA
37 8015 is the continuation of the opportunity for a
38 subsistence way of life by residents of rural Alaska
39 require that an administrative structure be established
40 for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have
41 personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements,
42 to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and
43 wildlife, and of subsistence uses on the public land of
44 Alaska. The Regional Advisory Council Authority is
45 established in ANILCA Section 805. And then my comment
46 is, rural residents with Traditional Ecological
47 Knowledge, TEK, have made step by step advances in
48 implementing and recognizing the legal intent of ANILCA
49 to prioritize subsistence, as described in ANILCA. TEK
50 is based on observations and experience and sharing over

1 time. So, I want to take that -- the words step by step
2 advances. I mean, we've been in this process for 30
3 years, and some of our initiatives have taken like three
4 years to get through, maybe even longer. I mean, so with
5 this move to the Office of Subsistence Management, I
6 mean, there will come -- something will come up where
7 we will say, well, you need to change that and it'll go
8 through, you know, probably a multiple meeting process
9 to say, this is what you need to change and why. I will
10 -- about the correspondence that, you know, Mr. Myers
11 referenced, you know, we have had correspondence filter
12 up through OSM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service structure
13 just to have it go nowhere because it wasn't advanced
14 at -- to the Secretary. And you know, given that extra
15 attention that it needed for, you know, like the trans-
16 boundary mining, we had to bring that up again and
17 rewrite another letter because it was not, you know,
18 paid attention to. I don't -- I'm not saying that get -
19 - paid attention to going directly, you know, to the
20 Office of Subsistence Management at the, you know,
21 Department of the Interior, Office to the Assistant
22 Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget. But, you
23 know, if we can remove some of those layers that, you
24 know, that step by step process kind of also requires
25 us to be on the watch out and advocate for what works
26 better for subsistence. So also, I wish to quote ANILCA
27 Section 804. And you know me, I like to bring part of
28 the legislative history to the table, to the floor
29 because it's like the, you know, Council member from
30 Yakutat said, I mean, this was, you know, subsistence
31 is in place because of ANCSA. And then ANILCA was brought
32 on to -- because subsistence was left out of ANCSA. But
33 why was ANCSA put in place? It was because they wanted
34 to get to Prudhoe Bay, and so there had to be some sort
35 of, you know, we got to get this negotiated out. So, I
36 mean, this was part of a negotiation that, we get
37 subsistence, you got your oil. So anyway, the ANILCA
38 Section 804 preferences for subsistence uses. Senate
39 Report No. 96-413, 96th Congress, First Session, Report
40 of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
41 United States Senate, together with additional views to
42 accompany H.R. 39, November 4th, 1979, on page 269 reads,
43 and I'm only going to read quotes from that section.
44 This section envisions that governmental action
45 affecting subsistence resources and uses shall be
46 undertaken in a manner which adequately provides for the
47 preference on an ongoing basis, and not only when
48 critical allocation decisions may be necessary. And then
49 the other quote is, if subsistence uses must be further
50 restricted to protect the continued viability of the

1 population, or to ensure the satisfaction of rural
2 subsistence needs, the state rulemaking authority, in
3 conjunction with the recommendations of the Regional
4 Council, must limit such uses to local residents of the
5 affected area or, if necessary, only those local
6 residents with the most customary and direct dependence
7 on the population as a mainstay of livelihood and with
8 the least access to alternative food supplies. I believe
9 we are in this era of where we're actually advocating
10 for this, because subsistence needs aren't being met and
11 the resources aren't enough for everybody. And so, you
12 know, we've, step by step, put in place you know, rules
13 or, you know, rules that say, non-residents, you cannot
14 harvest. You're not being given the opportunity to
15 harvest because we need it for the local residents of
16 this -- that utilize this resource because they have
17 limited resources to meet their subsistence needs. So
18 anyway, that's my comment in a nutshell. It kind of
19 crosses multiple of the bullet form points there. So,
20 thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you.
23 Thank you, Patricia Phillips. That was Patricia Phillips
24 if folks didn't catch. Next, I have on the list Don. Don
25 Hernandez, you had something on this one.

26
27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Cal. I'd
28 kind of like to focus the attention on what seems to be
29 maybe one of the main asks of this bullet point is like
30 whether or not the Council is living up to its mandate
31 to have 30% of its members represent commercial and
32 sports interests within a region. I guess I've always
33 had a problem with that, and that term represents, I
34 guess that's pretty unclear to me. And our Council
35 responsibilities -- in other places it's stated that we
36 should have a knowledge of the region's sport,
37 commercial, and other uses. I don't see how, you know,
38 having a knowledge of other uses necessarily translates
39 to representing those interests. To me, representing
40 means kind of speaking for or being an advocate for
41 those interests, and that just is not what the Regional
42 Councils are mandated to do. We are to speak for and
43 advocate for subsistence uses. So, our Councils, I mean,
44 I'm -- you know, of course, most familiar with the
45 southeast Council, we have always had members and
46 probably always will have members who are knowledgeable
47 of region, sport, and commercial and other uses because
48 you know, the subsistence practices, customary and
49 traditional harvesting, and like commercial fishing,
50 harvesting has always been so integral in the rural

1 communities in Southeast Alaska. There -- it's just an
2 integral part of living in rural Southeast Alaska, is
3 being involved with commercial fishing and subsistence
4 harvest. And that's become true also of essentially what
5 we might call sport interests as well. Be it fishing,
6 you know, we hear testimony today about people that have
7 doing a lot of sport fishing to essentially supplement
8 their subsistence fishing. And now more and more rural
9 users are actually involved in, you know, guiding
10 activities for both sport or both fishing and hunting.
11 And our members have always -- we've had members that
12 have been actively involved in all of those activities.
13 So, they're obviously very knowledgeable about those
14 activities. And they bring that to the table when they're
15 deliberating on making recommendations. So, I just don't
16 think that it needs to be stated that 30% of the members
17 would represent sport and commercial interests, that is
18 just not appropriate. Just what we -- what is already
19 part of the qualifications for a Council member to be
20 knowledgeable is perfectly adequate, in my view, for
21 that that bullet point. That's what I have on that.
22 Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
25 Don. Any other Council members? Oh, there I go. There I
26 see it. Go ahead, Albert.

27
28 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
29 have to agree with Mr. Hernandez's comment. And to take
30 it a little -- put it in perspective to understand a
31 little better. The state of Alaska doesn't recognize
32 subsistence users. They say we actually fall into the
33 sportfish category, which means we're -- we get the same
34 bag limits as sport fishermen do. It also -- it's also
35 the same when it comes to hunting. The hunters that are
36 not in rural areas are allocated the same number of deer
37 per season as I am here in Angoon. So, I'd have to agree
38 with Mr. Hernandez's comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON. CASIPIT: Thank you,
41 Albert. Any other Council members at the table here who
42 wish to provide some input on this one? Council
43 composition. Okay, Larry.

44
45 MR. BEMIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I feel
46 that what we do as a Board and what we do to qualify for
47 the Board is a very important decision that comes from
48 the community, as well as your clearance to come be part
49 of this Board, the background check, all the things that
50 criteria's asking for, of a person. It's not an easy

1 task to become a member and be responsible for what this
2 Council does and represents. This Board is very unique
3 and helpful and represents each community, each area,
4 the fish and the game and our lifestyles, that dependson
5 it. This Board was put together, so it was equally
6 distributed from one, Northern Southeast to the lowest
7 part of Southeast. I feel that what we do is, we help
8 delegate what was agreed upon by our subsistence rights
9 and the management of the lands. So, changing that or
10 adding to it is -- all of a sudden we've been going
11 along in a very long time, like I'm saying, and then all
12 of a sudden it's almost like they're questioning what
13 we're doing. And it just doesn't really have the
14 definition for change, but it kind of feel like that's
15 where we're heading. And I'd like to say, I've enjoyed
16 being a part of this and doing this, and this one's kind
17 of caught me off guard, and I questioned it. Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN CASIPIT: I see you
20 there, Mr. Sandhofer. Go ahead.

21
22 MR. SANDHOFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 You know, so this question about membership, a Regional
24 Advisory Council, is this just something that the
25 Department said, 'Hey, we're going to look at it, see
26 how we're selected, see you don't refine it'. I think
27 I'd be okay with it. But if you take a little bit further
28 and then look at the SCI letter, if in fact that, you
29 know, if this review was kind of driven by SCI and it
30 appears that way, and I'm not saying it is, but it just,
31 you know, it is. You look at the statements in the SCI
32 letter -- you know one of the statements is RACS do not
33 fairly represent their local regions. I mean, that's
34 ridiculous statement. I mean, we represent our
35 communities well, I think. We also represent subsistence
36 users, that's our jobs. So, I mean, if we were just
37 going to review the program, just review it, you know,
38 I mean, I think that's good. I think a programmatic
39 review is good sometimes. But if we're -- if this
40 happened because of some outside influences, and you
41 read this number two in that letter and all the
42 statements that they put in, how, you know -- then I
43 have a problem, you know, that there should be, you
44 know, they stayed in here, that we should be selected,
45 just like advisory committees are selected. Those are -
46 - that's a pretty much -- if you show up to advisory
47 committee you're usually on because you can't get enough
48 people. So, you're just in the audience and everybody
49 that's there votes and say, 'Hey, you want to be a
50 membership? Sure'. And usually that's how it works. I

1 mean, I'm on the AC and Petersburg, and I think the
2 process of selecting these members is pretty, pretty
3 good and thorough. And I, I'd hate to see a change to
4 something that doesn't reflect the wishes of subsistence
5 users in the region. I think that'd be bad. So that's
6 my only statement. Thanks Cal.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. John.

9
10 MR. SMITH: Just to kind of reflect on,
11 you know, what we're saying, you know, the background
12 check and the knowledge that you have, you know, even
13 when I applied for this as my second term here and been
14 on other committees, to where it's you file for, just
15 like any other job, that there's an application, they
16 want to see your background. You got letters of
17 recommendation from the community. You know, what's your
18 experience? You know, even as more experience that you
19 have, like, you see, many of us here, we've all
20 commercial fish. Well, we're crabbers or ground
21 fishermen, halibut fishermen, black cod fishermen, you
22 know, and also, we're also subsistence fishers, where
23 we go out and harvest for our community not just for
24 ourselves. But when we go out, we go out and get as many
25 permits as we can and bring back home. Just two of us
26 would go out and come back home with enough fish to
27 plenish the community. And then also, even myself, is
28 like, you go out and you set your 13-hook skate, you
29 know, you're still subsistence fishing. But then, all
30 of a sudden, you're out there later on, and you're
31 jigging fish. So, you're, you know, you're doing sports
32 fisherman. You're out in the river casting with your,
33 you know -- understanding every pros -- direction of all
34 the fish, different fisheries, you know, builds your
35 knowledge of -- having the knowledge to be sitting up
36 here at this -- and also at the point to where, the
37 community, like you're saying, you know, the community
38 is backing you up. You're respectful, you're
39 responsible. You know, you're safe, you're kind in your
40 words. And you're soft with them, not hurting anybody,
41 but also being equal. You know, we're looking at our
42 rule and our non-rule and, you know, making it equal as
43 we possibly can, and truthfully that's really hard thing
44 to do sometimes, especially when we're trying to take
45 care of the local people. And I'm not just talking about
46 the Alaska people, the people that were born and raised,
47 live here and have their families here, you know. And,
48 you know, I think all of above, you know, makes a -- and
49 when I applied for this position it was -- seemed like
50 it was almost a year and a half before I got a response.

1 It was a -- I had two interviews, you know, so it's very
2 -- I think the way they select people to sit up here,
3 it's very -- they're, they're really trying to select
4 the right people.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Any
7 other Council members need to add more to what we've
8 got? I'm trying to keep us so that we don't repeat
9 ourselves and try to be efficient. Because I really would
10 like to get through this today. So, anyway, any other
11 comments? Mike? Go ahead. No, I'm.....

12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, I'll make it quick.
14 The screening process that's used, I've watched it for
15 -- and applied myself for several years. And it does --
16 the process seems to promote those that are -- have TEK,
17 which have a wide variety of uses. So, I've been a
18 commercial fisherman, I'm a sport fisherman, I hunt, I
19 trap, I do everything and I think many others that sit
20 at this Council do the same thing. But it can't be
21 compared to the popularity contest of being on an AC or
22 the state system, because we have a set of rules called
23 Title VIII of ANILCA that we have to adhere to. The
24 state doesn't have that. Whatever's -- might is right.
25 Whoever makes the most noise internally get their way,
26 whether it's Board of Game or Board of Fish. So, this
27 has a specific set of rules and the screening process
28 that's worked for a long time. And it takes the politics
29 out of it. So, we can't use politics here. We have rules
30 and regulations that we have to adhere to, and we do.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
33 Mike. Any other comment? Okay. We're [sic]gonna hear
34 from the Chair now. I'm reading through this, this number
35 two of the Safari Club International's petition and the
36 first paragraph there: The FSB has stacked the
37 membership of the Councils, with those who rubber stamp
38 federal overreach instead of true representatives of
39 local subsistence interests. I can't be more offended,
40 reading that. That personally offends me, because I know
41 that the people who sit around this table are truly
42 concerned about local subsistence interests and
43 protecting subsistence for rural people in this region,
44 and I know it's the same in other regions of the state
45 as well. That personally offends me. I've -- as far as
46 the criteria and the way the -- where members are
47 selected, I don't have a problem with that at all. I've
48 been on both sides of that selection. I've been the
49 person who interviews people and the references for
50 members. I've been on the state, the staff side, who's

1 done those interviews and done all the background checks
2 and done all the work to -- for appointments. And yeah,
3 it does take a year and a half. And the reason it takes
4 a year and a half is because we're so thorough about it.
5 And we check, we make sure that the people who sit on
6 this Council are truly, truly qualified to sit here and
7 have the knowledge to work this program. And I'll just
8 say one more thing. The 70/30 split. The reason it's in
9 there and the way -- and the reason we're doing it is
10 because of Safari Club litigation, years ago, and the
11 Board did it. The Board said, okay, we're doing this
12 70/30 thing to satisfy the Safari Club. And now again,
13 I'm personally offended, they're going back and
14 personally -- and offending. It's offensive what they're
15 doing here with this. Anyway, and just one last thing.
16 If the Safari Club wanted representation on these
17 Councils, they can do it. They can have one of their
18 local members here in Alaska in one of these regions
19 apply go through the same screening process that all of
20 us at this table go through. And they can be appointed
21 to, but they don't choose to do that. They choose to do
22 this and it's offensive. Thank you.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 We're going to go on to the next one:
27 Membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. I see.
28 Patricia Phillips, your -- I see your hand up. Please
29 begin.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes. Thank you, Chairman
32 Casipit. I raised my hand for the last bullet point and
33 the -- The 70/30 rule, I mean, it's like, you know, the
34 Council member from Juneau said, we all wear many hats
35 and Council member from Prince of Wales Island.
36 Commercial fishing is my livelihood. It's, you know,
37 multiple generations, commercial fishing. Subsistence
38 harvester, been taught from my very youth. And that's
39 multiple generations of subsistence harvesting, sharing
40 it with my children. My children are commercial
41 fishermen. I mean, so that it's hard to say, are you
42 only subsistence? No. Are you only commercial fishing?
43 No. But I get approached -- we are to be a forum, whether
44 it's in this Regional Advisory Council forum or as a
45 voice, as an ear for someone to talk to about their
46 concerns, of, you know, of their fishing needs. I mean,
47 I get approached by a lot of fishermen, commercial
48 fishermen let me know, you know, what's wrong with
49 commercial fishing? And then I get, you know, others who
50 come to me from subsistence about, you know, what their

1 needs are. So, you know, it's our representation is broad
2 based. I even get sportfish, charter lodge operators,
3 you know, texting me, calling me, you know, telling me
4 what their concerns are. And, you know, I try to be a
5 listening ear for them and to remember what they said
6 when I'm in forums such as this or the Board of Fish or
7 the Board of Game or, you know, North Pacific Fisheries
8 Management Council or the International Pacific Halibut
9 Commission. You know, there's a lot of forums that I
10 filter through and so, to put us into a 70/30 split is
11 kind of, you know, that's not the way I think. I mean,
12 the way I think is I try to represent those who come to
13 me and with their concerns. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 ACTING COUNCILPERSON CASIPIT: Thanks,
16 Patty. Anyone else on this Council composition.

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Okay. Next bullet. Let's keep moving
21 here. Membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. Any
22 comments from Council there? I'll go to the phone first.
23 Okay, Don, go ahead.

24
25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal. Don
26 Hernandez, again. I just like to speak in favor of the
27 present makeup of the Board. I think it's been a very
28 important in - adjustment, improvement, if you will, to
29 the Subsistence Board. Having more local knowledge on
30 the Board is definitely a good thing. And I would like
31 to speak a little bit to, you know, kind of what my
32 experience has been over the years with the boards. I
33 can recall, you know, going back before the boards, when
34 it was just agency heads and one Subsistence member on
35 the Board. And we had a harder time as Councils getting
36 our recommendations approved through that system. And I
37 think one of the problems -might be a strong word- but
38 one of the -- maybe one of the issues that I think
39 contributed to that was just the fact that our Council
40 recommendations -- well, let me backtrack here. The
41 Board is supposed to give deference to the Council on
42 issues relating to take of Fish and Wildlife. The Board
43 can disagree with the Council on their deference if they,
44 you know, see certain criteria. One of the criteria being
45 a recommendation that's not based on substantial
46 evidence. And in the past, I think we had a harder time
47 convincing the Board that we were acting on substantial
48 evidence, if that evidence came from traditional
49 ecological knowledge. It just seemed to be a reluctance
50 from Board members who are, you know, just come from a

1 background where -- you know, land managers and
2 fisheries' biologists and wildlife biologists, they
3 needed hard data to back up decisions. And then they
4 just seemed to be a little reluctant to listen to local
5 knowledge. And maybe that's changed somewhat or -- in
6 recent years, I think -- I would have to say that you
7 know, Board members that I've been before, in more recent
8 years, have been more open to accepting traditional
9 ecological knowledge, but it's still kind of a kind of
10 a bias. And having people from the subsistence community
11 with, you know, all the background and knowledge and --
12 they know what the importance of traditional ecological
13 knowledge is. And they're just they're just more willing
14 to listen to that. And like I say, when it comes to this
15 issue of deference and substantial evidence, that's
16 important. So, I would just -- I just thought I'd like
17 to point that out. And I definitely think that you should
18 make present -- makeup of the Board, should remain. So,
19 thank you.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, Don,
22 your hand is still raised, did you have more or...?

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, sorry, I'm - this
25 hasn't.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay,
28 thanks.

29
30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Clicking on it now.
31 Sorry.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thanks. Any
34 other members on the phone who wished to chime in on
35 this bullet point?

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 Okay, Patty Phillips, go ahead.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
42 Casipit. So, ANILCA --- let's see. That would be 805D
43 or DB, as in 805DB: 'The Secretary shall assign adequate
44 qualified staff to the Regional Advisory Councils',
45 which they've done. And at times we've had to remind
46 them and, and, you know, make timely distribution of all
47 available relevant technical scientific support data.
48 But part of that is that, you know, whoever's at the top
49 needs to make sure that we have that qualified staff,
50 and you can't make that recommendation if you don't know

1 what's going on with the program. So, it's - it -- to
2 me, it's important that, you know, that those Directors
3 are very familiar with how things work in Alaska. And
4 in fact, they've had to take ANILCA classes to become
5 familiar with it at times, you know. I mean to support
6 -- we were bringing -- this is what ANILCA says, and
7 then all of a sudden, they were getting training on what
8 ANILCA is. So yeah, it's -- we can't, you know, we can't
9 have somebody in -- on the Federal Board who doesn't
10 know what ANILCA is, yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay,
13 thank you, Patty. Any other folks, any other Council
14 members online who wish to provide comment on this one?

15
16 (No response)

17
18 Okay. Any Council members at the table
19 was to provide input on this one? Go ahead, Jim.

20
21 MR. SLATER: It's going to feed back.
22 Yeah, I like the current composition of the Board. From
23 the standpoint that if it's just how it used to be with
24 the Head of the five agencies and one chair, it's pretty
25 much controlled by presidential appointees at each
26 administration. So, it can result in changes and
27 inconsistent positions, administration to
28 administration. They may not really align with true
29 subsistence needs. If we can balance that by having
30 people who have local subsistence knowledge, we get a
31 much more stable composition of the Board, and things
32 won't oscillate back and forth from administration to
33 administration. That's my point. Thanks.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Go ahead,
36 Mike Douville.

37
38 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
39 agreeable with the present composition. However, I've
40 never been totally confident that the voting members
41 that are appointed for these departments are fully --
42 fully understand what village life and subsistence is
43 in those villages -- fully understand what that's like.
44 As far as additional members, the only thing that I
45 would have liked to have seen is a representative from
46 Southeast, which we do not have. And that would have
47 been a plus to have one in this area, to better
48 understand what Southeast is like, because I don't think
49 most of them do.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
2 Mike. Any other Council on this one?

3
4 (No response)

5 I can't argue with anything up there and
6 I'm not going to add anything to it So, I'm okay with
7 that one. Okay, next one: Federal Regulations and State
8 Regulations for Duplication and Inconsistency. I guess
9 I'll go to the phone first. Anybody -- any Council
10 members on the phone who wish to talk about this one?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 Not seeing anyone on the Board, on --
15 at the table, here in person, have anything to say on
16 this one?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Okay, I do. Oh, did I see a hand come
21 up? No, okay. You know, there's difference between
22 Federal regulations and state regulations, and there's
23 a darn good reason for it. It's because we're trying to
24 provide a priority for really rural people, federally
25 qualified -- federal subsistence users, both native and
26 non-native. So, there's a reason for that difference.
27 And it's because the state refuses to recognize a rural
28 priority, period. So, you know, I could read what was
29 written in the petition from the Safari Club that I
30 would just get me all worked up again, so I'm not even
31 going to do that. So anyway, that's my thought on it.
32 There's a reason for that inconsistency. And it's
33 because the state won't implement a rural priority for
34 subsistence. Mike?

35
36 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, I've
37 said this before, is that we operate under Title VIII
38 of ANILCA, and we have rules that we have to abide by
39 when making our decisions or recommendations or
40 proposals. State doesn't operate that way. I sit on the
41 Craig AC, and it is political. And when it gets to the
42 next step, it's political as well. And they don't have
43 a set of rules like Title VIII provides to govern what
44 they do. So, they kind of change the rules, mid-stride,
45 they do virtually almost everything or anything they
46 want, as long as it doesn't cost the state any money.
47 And it's a lot different, you can't -- it's like
48 comparing apples and oranges. It's a totally different
49 system. Okay, I'll stop there, thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Go ahead,
2 Mr. Smith.

3
4 MR. SMITH: Just to share, I'm probably
5 the youngest one here, and the newest one on the table.
6 And I remember the first couple of years just seeing the
7 teamwork with the people in the building right now, and
8 the partnerships and the all the proposals and us taking
9 time to write documents to, you know, support our
10 communities and just find that, you know -- echoing what
11 you folks are saying about the state process. Complete
12 -- two complete different entities. How can we get them
13 to, you know -- a matter of fact -- you know, be here
14 with us right now and be working together like we are
15 and actually be following the Treaty or the agreements
16 and the, the procedures, you know, and that's from the
17 new guy -- it's what I see.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Patricia
20 Phillips, you're next.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
23 Casipit. So, it's -- we have a -- ANILCA 805, you know,
24 we have a Regional Advisory Council authority. It
25 specifically states, you know, we have the following
26 authority that we have to follow, you know, section three
27 items A, B, and C. So, it's -- and I also want to say
28 that, at times, we do have a good working relationship
29 with the Department, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
30 and so -- but their Board process is very different than
31 the Subsistence Advisory Council process. And they don't
32 -- like Mike was saying, they don't have these
33 authoritative [sic] requirements that the Subsistence
34 Councils do so I just don't, you know -- for duplication
35 and inconsistency, we as the RAC have said, okay, this
36 the state has -- let's see, they're more liberal in
37 their bag limits or methods and means, and so we'll --
38 we submit a proposal that, you know, equals or is
39 different, you know so, what -- we try, we consider
40 what's going on at the state level and where we can if,
41 you know, we -- I wouldn't say duplicate, I would say
42 that take into consideration what's going on at the Board
43 level and try to make things less confusing for the, you
44 know -- whoever's, you know, using the resources. So --
45 and --there's times when we are -- in providing our
46 subsistence priority, our regulations are focused on the
47 authority provided us in 805 and that often, you know,
48 raises the hackles of the state system that doesn't agree
49 with what's been happening. Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
2 you, Ms. Phillips. Next, I see here -- I have something
3 from Albert Howard. Go ahead, Albert.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'd
6 like to talk about the inconsistencies as an example,
7 when there isn't a fishery to fish on, the commercial
8 guys seem to get a, no other way to say it, a handout
9 from the state that says, here you go, go make your boat
10 payment and your insurance payment. Whereas, if we don't
11 have any fish showing up for the subsistence users, we
12 can't go to Costco or Walmart. We're stuck. We don't get
13 any type of handouts to say, there you go, we realize
14 that your needs weren't met, and we want to help you.
15 The other inconsistency is, the king salmon is a good
16 example, they've always go to the table with the Treaty
17 and have a nice conversation with British Columbia and
18 leave out an allocation to the subsistence users, which
19 I appreciate. This Council always tries to find a
20 solution to. So, I think those, for sure, are two
21 inconsistencies. And they put a -- the state puts us in
22 with the sport fish users, which in in my mind, we need
23 more fish here than a sport fisherman needs in Juneau.
24 Because you're giving them the same amount of fish
25 through the Personal Use Permit process. You're also
26 giving them the same bag limit, when I go up with my rod
27 and reel as a non-resident of Alaska, for that matter.
28 So, if they want to be consistent then they need to
29 recognize subsistence as a priority, that's the only way
30 that's going to change, but you don't want the state to
31 also take over subsistence, that's just -- that would
32 be an example of ow they're managing the current
33 resources around Southeast. And I could go down the list,
34 but those are just a couple examples, Mr. Chair, of the
35 inconsistency between the federal and the state process.
36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Great,
39 thank you, Mr. Howard. Any other comments from the
40 Council on this bullet point?

41
42 MR. BEMIS: The difference in
43 inconsistency that I see is when I sit on this Council,
44 I am bound on the rule of the law that's set forth for
45 the subsistence rights, okay. If I sit on an AC Board,
46 I might have people coming and going, and if there's
47 somebody that needs to get something passed or they
48 disagree, they can walk right in, sit down and protest
49 and they can even join to get their point across. We
50 work as a group and we got a time, and if we want to

1 stay here, we gotta [sic] prove that we want to stay
2 here. If you're sitting on a state Board, you can come
3 and go as you please. And if you got a beef, you can get
4 in there and vote whatever way you want to. The state
5 regulations are driven by however somebody feels. And
6 if it was state regulations for everybody as a whole,
7 it would be a good working agreement. But, I think the
8 intention that the state has to work with the commercial
9 entity, I mean -- the Subsistence Board like us, is that
10 a lot of good is there, but on the other side, there's
11 somebody constantly wanting change and somebody wanting
12 to do other things than what the state wants to do. So,
13 we never have a full working agreement because of the
14 inconsistency they have. And I just hope that things get
15 better and we work together better. That's all I have.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERON CASIPIT: Thank you,
18 Larry. Are we done on this one now? Any other comments
19 from Council on that bullet point, Inconsistency?

20
21 (No response)

22
23 Okay, let's move on to the next one,
24 Regulations Applicable to Special Actions. Anybody
25 online who wishes to speak to this bullet point.
26 Regulations Applicable to Special Actions? Patricia
27 Phillips, go ahead.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
30 Casipit. I would say that we, the RAC, have been given
31 clear instructions and guidelines on how to handle
32 special actions. And, you know, on our agenda, it's a -
33 -- special actions need to be addressed, it's on the
34 agenda, and we're often given training on what that
35 special action is, we'll have the, you know -- what the
36 regional biologists, you know -- explain you know, the
37 -- we usually handle them all at within one agenda item,
38 you know, multiple special actions. And they explained
39 to us exactly what that special action is and what is
40 required of us as a RAC on how to address it, which the
41 Council does take up and give its recommendations. So,
42 we're not, you know, just doing whatever we want. We're
43 following the process that's in place through the, you
44 know, regulatory rules that are in regulation, so, thank
45 you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
48 you, Patty. Any other comment from online, from the
49 Council?

50

1 (No comment)

2

3 Okay, Council members at the table, any
4 other comments on this one?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 You know, I think the way we've been
9 handling special actions is fine. I, you know -- there
10 are [sic] some room for improvements, I think, of how
11 we might be able to, you know, improve how we handle
12 special actions, but I don't think I want to get into
13 that right now. It's more of a day-to-day thing that we
14 can work with staff on, hopefully work on improving how
15 that works. But reading what it says on that Safari Club
16 petition, I don't know. I prefer to handle this just to
17 how we've always handled things, is working with the
18 staff and trying to improve things over, you know --
19 just working together. Anyway. Okay, let's move -- keep
20 moving here, trying to - there's an hour left, maybe.
21 Role of the State of Alaska and Department of Fish and
22 Game and Federal Subsistence Management Program. I'm
23 sure folks have something to say about this. Looking at
24 Council members online, who might want to say something
25 here.

26

27 (No response)

28

29 I don't see anybody right now. Possibly
30 folks will chime in here later. Anybody around the table
31 wish to talk about this one, we kind of talked around
32 the edges already about this a little bit in previous
33 ones, but anything else need to be handled -- need to
34 be added here. Mr. Slater, please.

35

36 MR. SLATER: Yeah, I think we discussed
37 this almost fully when we talked about the difference
38 between the charters, that we live under ANILCA rules
39 and the state lives under its own constitution rules.
40 So, if those rules aren't aligned, then how can one play
41 a regulatory process with the other without dominating
42 it according to its own charter? So, the inconsistencies
43 of the Constitution versus ANILCA, State Constitution
44 versus ANILCA I think preclude that they can't play a
45 regulatory role if you want to maintain the integrity
46 of ANILCA itself.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
49 Mr. Slater. Any other comments from the Council?

50

1 (No response)

2
3 Okay, I touched on this on a previous
4 note as well, but I'm going to say it again. You know,
5 when we first implemented back in -- well, Wildlife in
6 86 and Fisheries and, in 1999-2000. Back in 2000, when
7 we implemented the Katie John Rule you know, the State
8 was at our meetings, we there was a liaison team and all
9 that stuff, and I believe at the time we were giving the
10 State of Alaska \$1 million a year to do that. To come
11 to our meetings and give us input and I'll just say it,
12 we were paying the State \$1 million a year to say no to
13 us. And I'm being honest about that, and you may sound
14 -- it may sound that I'm being harsh to folks, but it's
15 true. We're paying them \$1 million to tell us no. And
16 now, you know, we don't get hardly any state involvement
17 in these meetings except for Subsistence Division.
18 Subsistence Division seems to come here and help us make
19 decisions and work through issues and find us
20 information and all. But as far as the other divisions,
21 I haven't seen -- It's been a couple, two or 3 or 4
22 meetings since I've seen representatives, representation
23 from the State other than the Subsistence Division. You
24 know, so if the Safari Club wants the State of Alaska
25 to have more of a role in the -- in this program, then
26 they ought to start showing up to our meetings. That's
27 all I have to say. Go ahead, John.

28
29 MR. SMITH: Just to add to what you're
30 saying, in the Western world, you guys have the
31 parliamentary procedures, which is a majority votes. You
32 know, in our culture, when we made decisions about our
33 community, it was consensus. We would adjust it until
34 everybody felt that it was equal and it made sense.
35 Instead of the 70/30 or the 80/20. Just wanted to say
36 those words, thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
39 you. I see Albert Howard has his hand up. Go ahead,
40 Albert.

41
42 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, the State
43 Constitution states that resources belong to all Alaskan
44 residents equally. But when they allocate those
45 resources, the Subsistence User gets 1%. Everyone else
46 gets what they want, because we're never at the table
47 when they decide to divvy up the resources. So, the
48 State of Alaska can argue that point, but when they
49 allocate the resources, the Subsistence Users get 1%.
50 So, I guess another way to look at it, they're violating

1 their own constitution by not allowing us our fair share
2 of it, as a good example, the king salmon, when they
3 close it, so. That's one way to look at the State and
4 Federal Subsistence Management programs. Mr. Chair,
5 thank you.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
8 Mr. Howard. Any more comments online or at the table for
9 this one? Okay.....

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman. This is
12 Patty.

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Oh, go ahead
15 Patty.

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, the way this is,
18 like coming, our having to address these bullets,
19 especially this bullet, it's like they're wanting us to,
20 you know, put down the State, which I refuse to do
21 because they've actually, you know, have worked with us
22 and at times. so maybe that's, you know, the intent is,
23 you know, to try to put division rather than work
24 together, sort of an attitude. But I will say that, you
25 know, the Governor of the State of Alaska has far
26 reaching authority that he's using because he can -- he
27 appoints all the members of the Board of Fish, all the
28 members of the Board of Game. He appoints the, you know,
29 Commissioner, and that Commissioner has to toe the line
30 with what the governor wants. And if the governor wants
31 one thing, and this Subsistence Program is not
32 permitting that, then it seems to me there's more of a
33 effort to be divisive rather than accept that this is
34 congressional legislation in place, a statute, a
35 mandate. And let's, you know -- they're trying to form
36 it to, you know -- you see it in that Safari letter.
37 They're rewriting what the definition is of ANILCA in
38 some of the -- and not being, not liberally interpreting
39 it as it should. As I stated earlier, ANILCA is -- okay,
40 there was ANCSA, ANCSA was in place, but it didn't
41 address subsistence. ANILCA addressed that, I mean, it
42 was particularly, you know ANILCA says, Alaska Natives
43 and rural residents. So, you know, many of the villages
44 in Alaska are rural, and many of them are Alaska Native.
45 So that's -- that was the intent of Congress, to meet
46 the needs of the rural and Alaska Native people, so
47 therefore, it is partially Indian legislation and must
48 be viewed liberally. So, which -- very liberally means
49 this is what it's saying and so how do we meet that?
50 That's what we're doing. So -- as a RAC, and that's all

1 I'll say. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
4 Patty. I see Don has your hand -- Don, you have your
5 hand up, go ahead please.

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you, Cal. I
8 just thought I should chime in a little bit here and say
9 that, in my years on the Council, there's been a lot of
10 times when we've had some really good working
11 relationships with our local Fish and Game managers on
12 issues. Of course, there's been some times when we've
13 disagreed, but, you know, it just comes to the management
14 and conservation of Fish and Wildlife, I think we have
15 a good relationship. I guess I want to put in a good
16 word there. I think we also have an excellent
17 relationship with the Subsistence Division. I mean, they
18 do a lot of good research work, and we hear from them
19 often, and we appreciate that. So, I want to acknowledge
20 that. I think I'd also like to acknowledge that, even
21 though it's been pointed out by some of our Council
22 members that, yes, there's -- can be a political, let's
23 not put a political, let's say, a special interest
24 component to the local Fish and Game Advisory
25 Committees, I think you also have to acknowledge that
26 there is a tremendous amount of local knowledge and
27 expertise on those local committees that can be valuable
28 input to our process. I think where things get maybe a
29 little more contentious is when you move up to the Board
30 level and you kind of have a higher -- hierarchy from
31 Fish and Game Department sitting at the table. And yes,
32 I think that does get a lot more political, as pointed
33 out. But, you know, I don't want to jeopardize the, you
34 know, the working relationships that we have at our local
35 level. I think they can be pretty positive, so, thank
36 you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Ted.

39

40 MR. SANDHOFER: Thank you, Cal. You know,
41 I appreciate what Don and Patty were saying about the
42 State, you know, we have good relationships with the
43 State at times, most of the time. You know, I'm a
44 subsistence user, resident of a rural community, but I'm
45 also Alaskan, I was born and raised here. You know --
46 this whole thing feels to me like it's pitting Alaskans
47 against Alaskans. You know, there's just this conflict
48 that -- and I'm not sure that it's a real conflict. And,
49 you know, it's a -- I'm struggling with it, and I just
50 wanted to get that out, thanks.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank you, Ted. Any other comments on this one? Oh, go ahead.

MR. BEMIS: I'd just like to say I agree with the other Board members that were on --- not here along with this table. The comments, we just can't keep going over the same, and they pretty much filled in the definition of what was asked. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, we're ready to move on to the next one. This is the last one. Getting close. What Policies and Procedures for Determinations, any comment on this one? Albert, I see online you have your hand up, go ahead.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to say something during the Federal Board part of this. My concern was they didn't want to talk to me about Southeast Regional Advisory Councils' ideas on allowing a urban to be determined rural. And in my mind, they didn't go by Title VIII in determining whether or not to allow them to be considered rural. That -- we all agreed that that was going to impact real rural residents. Mr. Chairman, to me, rural is struggling when the federal government shuts down. And people in Angoon with 80% unemployment, some of them depend on TANAF and the SNAP program to feed their children. When the federal government shut down, we had no mechanism to do that. We had no -- there was no ability to help them other than the resource that was around here. I did take some of the dads out and we fished halibut to help them through that time. Now, the way we do things in the village, we can't always just go out when the weather's nice because the kids are hungry, now. If that would have happened in the rural community, you just go get a second job. You can't do that here. And a lot of the funds that come to this community are through federal programs and allow parents to work and take care of their families. I still have heartburn with the way the one community sold their rural status to become rural. That was -- in my mind, it wasn't based on law, it wasn't based on facts and now it affects where this program goes, I believe, because we don't truly represent the intent of -- the original intent of ANILCA when determining urban and rural. I gotta stop there, this I -- it bothers me to the point I see on the streets of Angoon people struggling. Because they're trying to take care of their families, with the cost of living on the

1 rise and the same resources the State gives [sic] us
2 when the cost of living was a lot lower. Thank you,
3 Mister Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
6 Albert. I see Don Hernandez. You have your hand up,
7 please proceed.

8

9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you again,
10 Cal. Yeah, there's a lot to be said about this topic.
11 You know, we went through a Rural Determination Process
12 here in Southeast, it was extremely contentious, you
13 know, a lot of people were really upset with the outcome.
14 I think, you know, there's some things, procedures, that
15 could be changed that would, you know -- if we made
16 those changes, it would be less contentious and maybe
17 people would be a little happier with the outcomes. One
18 factor that I think needs to be considered is, you know
19 -- in this rural determination process, I think you have
20 to look at -- go back, and as Patty Phillips keeps
21 pointing out, you know, you have to look at what was the
22 -- a lot of other people as well -- what was the intent
23 of ANILCA, you know, on the Congressional Record and it
24 is definitely Alaska Native legislation. It's -- it was
25 enacted, you know, as a means to essentially compensate
26 Natives for what they had given up under ANCSA. So, in
27 this Rural Determination Process, I think the makeup of
28 a community in regards to what is the tribal membership
29 of that community, should definitely be a factor
30 considered in a Rural Determination. So, that's one
31 point. That's not necessarily procedural, but there are
32 procedural things that I think would make a big
33 difference. In this determination that we went through,
34 you know, the Council made its recommendation to the
35 Board, and the Board reversed that recommendation, they
36 did not follow that recommendation. And, you know,
37 unfortunately, through all of our extensive public
38 testimony and actions at our Council -- local Council
39 meetings, I think people were under the impression that
40 if they could convince the Council one way or another,
41 that that would essentially sway the Board in their
42 decision. And, you know, the Council advised against a
43 Rural Determination and the Board reversed that. And the
44 folks that, you know, testified against the Rural
45 Determination thought they had made their case and they
46 were not at the Board meeting. And, you know, Ketchikan
47 showed up and I commend them for that, they followed
48 through, and showing up is really important at a Board
49 meeting, but it really did not work all that well or
50 opposed because they weren't there. And it made a big

1 difference. And I think that's a -- I think that's a
2 fundamental flaw. You know, maybe you can maybe make an
3 extreme recommendation, which I think I'd be hesitant
4 to do, and I don't think it would ever be enacted just
5 to say that the Board has to give deference to the
6 Council on their recommendations on Rural Determination.
7 But I don't think that would pass legal muster, I think
8 it's, you know, pretty clear in ANILCA that the Board
9 should give deference and, you know, taking of -- Fish
10 and Wildlife and Rural Determinations are not
11 necessarily taking, although some people could make the
12 argument that it does involve taking, but I don't think
13 it would pass the legal muster, so if you don't have
14 deference, I think there's another way to go about it.
15 And so right now we have a Request for Reconsideration
16 filed from local tribes on Prince of Wales Island to
17 recon -- have that decision reconsidered. So, that's
18 part of the process. But I think maybe, you could, maybe
19 take that a step further and essentially, move that
20 Request for Reconsideration back a step, and say that,
21 if the Board does not agree with the Council's
22 recommendation, they should point out to the Council,
23 the issues that they feel were not properly addressed
24 in their recommendation, and ask the Councils to
25 reconsider their action. You know, with some clear
26 guidelines saying that, you know, we believe that this
27 was not properly addressed, and, you know, it would
28 lengthen the process, but it would -- I think it would
29 make for a far better process, I think people would be
30 a lot more satisfied, there'd be a lot less contention,
31 if you gave more decision making ability to the Councils,
32 who everybody would acknowledge, are best suited to make
33 that determination. That's pretty clear. I don't think
34 the Board should reverse that without some opportunity
35 for the Councils to take another look at it, essentially,
36 go through some more public process. Yes, it would
37 lengthen the whole process. But, you know, in this
38 previous determination, it was years. Years in the
39 process. So, I don't think a little more -- essentially
40 another cycle of Council meetings would be uncalled for.
41 So, if there was any changes to the Rural Determination
42 Process, that would be my recommendation. Thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
45 you, Don. Any more comment from the Council on this
46 bullet point? John go, ahead.

47
48 MR. SMITH: Just basically a question.
49 During the non-rule and rule determination, were we ever
50 given a definition of that? I know we asked about that,

1 but was that ever put on the table for us?

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: That's a
4 good question, John. And, you know, in the past -- there
5 were in the past, way past, there were, you know,
6 criteria for Rural Determinations that the Board had and
7 regulation and all or policies and all. But through time,
8 through evolution, I think what happened is that the
9 Board was -- because of some previous Rural
10 Determinations, the Board was -- and again, I'm speaking
11 from memory, trying to remember all the stuff, but the
12 Board decided that, to have a more holistic, open
13 approach without definitions and regulations or policy,
14 would be a more appropriate way to deal with Rural
15 Determinations, especially when they felt that sometimes
16 that criteria was used unfairly, maybe, I'm not sure.
17 So, that was the result. I mean, after this review,
18 programmatic review, the last time they decided to be a
19 little more open and try to be a little more holistic
20 about those determinations, and some of those
21 definitions kind of went away. So, yeah, the definition
22 of rural is up to the Council, and what we define as
23 rural in our own lived experiences, so, you might have
24 not gotten a satisfying answer, but -- that, I mean, if
25 I'm wrong, there's federal staff there to correct me.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Yeah, so I do believe in what
28 I heard about, you know, the number of Alaskan Native
29 cultural families that that might be in a village, but
30 also looking at the, you know, being equal that the
31 Western family that, you know, was possibly born there,
32 that they would be recognized as local. And then you
33 have the folks, the charter fishermen or the sport
34 fishermen who have a house there, that they're only there
35 3 to 4 months out of the year, should be excluded from
36 being a local person from that community. So, even
37 understanding more of the number of people that live
38 there, you know, just some of the thoughts that I'm
39 having, you know? Yeah.

40

41 MS. PERRY: I'm gonna get close to
42 wrapping this up and any other...? Go ahead, Mike.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: First of all, thank you,
45 Mr. Chairman. I would concur with Chairman Hernandez on
46 his views. We spent three days listening to testimony
47 to make our recommendation, which we did. And it was
48 pointed out that the Federal Board did not have to give
49 us deference. And the tribes were very upset with -- the
50 four tribes on Prince of Wales, with this decision. So,

1 they gave their testimony in Saxman and thought they had
2 done their job and did not go to the Federal Board
3 meeting to further testify. In the past, Chairman
4 Littlefield put the brakes on doing an end around and
5 going around the RAC with state testimony, if you will.
6 They would not testify at our meetings, but they'd go
7 to the Federal Subsistence Board and offer testimony
8 that we didn't get to hear. And he said, that is not
9 okay. It all has to go through us, if you don't give
10 your testimony here, you will be barred from giving it
11 at the Federal Subsistence Board level. So, for me, not
12 giving us deference, does that change things? That if
13 there was testimony that was given by KIC that was not
14 included in our RAC meeting, would that also be out of
15 line? So to me, it was kind of an end around and the
16 four tribes were not aware that they could go up there
17 and, you know, and KIC was convinced Federal Subsistence
18 Board to give him rural status, but nobody else was
19 there to give further testimony, the tribes certainly
20 would have, had they known that this would take place.
21 And yes, there is some flaws in Rural Determinations,
22 and I think it needs to be reviewed.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
25 Mike. Any other comments? Oh, sorry Albert, I see you
26 online. Oh, Albert, and then Patty.

27
28 MR. HOWARD: Patty can go first, Mr.
29 Chair, I just had a point to make.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, I, you know -- Mike
32 kind of triggered my thought is that Tribal Consultation
33 is a, you know, is a must in the Federal Subsistence
34 Program. And there should have been outreach to the
35 tribes to make sure they knew that there was that
36 opportunity for public testimony at the Federal Board
37 level. I mean, I knew about it, but, you know, I've --
38 I'm active in Subsistence, you know, but to hear that
39 the tribes didn't know is really -- that's a flaw in the
40 federal program that needs to be corrected by, you know,
41 that outreach and consultation with those tribes. So
42 yeah, that is a fix that needs to be fixed. Thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
45 Ms. Phillips. Now I'll go to Albert Howard.

46
47 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
48 was in Anchorage when the Federal Board met on the Rural
49 Determination, and I communicated with DeAnna and trying
50 to figure out if I should testify or not. I was there

1 with my mother at the hospital. My sister thought it was
2 important enough that I attend in person, so she came
3 up to Anchorage and walked -- sat with my mom while I
4 went to the meeting. I think we need to put something
5 in place as a Regional Advisory Council that allows a
6 testimony from a Council member when the Chairman is
7 unable to attend because of weather. Chairman Hernandez
8 did a great job over the phone, but I think he would
9 have done a better job if he would have made it there
10 because he could have had a one-on-one conversation with
11 each of the Federal Subsistence Board members. They
12 didn't even want to talk to me one-on-one; it seemed to
13 me they were predetermined on what the outcome was and
14 really didn't want to say anything to me. So, I think
15 in the future we need to put something in place, if our
16 Chairman can't make it to a meeting and RAC member is
17 there, we might want to consider allowing them to do
18 that, if that's what the Chairperson thinks should
19 happen. I believe when we discussed what the guidelines
20 were to determine Rural, I think it was population based.
21 Either -- I have two numbers in my head. It was 18,000
22 or 13,000, so. I don't think it was Native population,
23 and I -- when I talked to the elders, they say that
24 Native/non- Native was put in there to keep any conflict
25 from happening. And I believe it was lessons learned in
26 Washington, where you have Native rights different than
27 Non-Native, so they kept them the same, but they also
28 said they had families that were Native -- wives that
29 had Non-Native husbands, so it was easier to include
30 Native and Non-Native so the gentleman could support the
31 family. And, in my mind that seems to be consistent with
32 the State Constitution so, thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
35 Albert. Any other Council comment on this bullet point?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 Okay, what I would like is a motion to
40 take all these notes and prepare a letter to be sent in
41 that summarizes all these comments. I think DeAnna has
42 been doing a great job keeping notes. I think other
43 staff have been, I noticed, have been keeping notes over
44 there. So, a motion for staff to take our notes, prepare
45 a letter and submit that to us tomorrow for official
46 approval, and we'll take a vote on it, on it all and do
47 the final necessary changes that's needed, and get this
48 letter in -- out in time for the public comment period.

49
50

1 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, I move that we
2 have staff take notes and develop a letter or draft a
3 letter for pending approval tomorrow.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I second.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN CASIPIT: Patty, I
8 noticed your hand came up. Do you have anything?

9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
11 Casipit. Yes, I'd like to add in that if opportunity and
12 funding is available, that you know, the Chair, Co-Chair
13 or Vice Chair would attend the public hearing that
14 they're having, that's posted in Anchorage with our --
15 with the points we bring up in our letter.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: So, the
18 motion is to prepare the notes in a letter and have it
19 ready for our review tomorrow. And on top of that,
20 appoint a person to attend the public hearing, to bring
21 that information to the Secretary's Office for that
22 public hearing that's scheduled in Anchorage at some
23 point. So, I don't -- what's the wish of the Council?
24 Do we want to split that into two motions or approve
25 asking staff to create the letter first, and then we can
26 deal with appointing a person to go tomorrow? I almost
27 would rather prefer to handle the motion as far as
28 attendance at the public hearing, after we see the
29 letter, but I'm open either way. Albert, I saw your hand
30 come up.

31
32 MR. HOWARD: Mister Chair, if it's in
33 order to make a friendly amendment to the main motion
34 to add the two attendees.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Albert has
37 asked to amend. I need a second from -- to -- of Albert's
38 motion to include sending representatives to the public
39 hearing.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

42
43 MR. HERNANDEZ: I second. Sorry.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Excuse me,
46 now we have amendment to send two representatives to the
47 public hearing. Can I get a -- do we need to do a voice
48 vote on that, or can we ask for -- oh, do we want to
49 have a roll, or do we want to just have a voice vote on
50 that?

1
2 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, first you'll vote
3 on whether to amend the motion, and then you'll vote on
4 the motion as amended. And you can do a voice vote or a
5 roll call vote for both.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, we
8 will do a voice vote on the amendment that Albert just
9 talked about. You can kind of see it up there on the
10 screen, amend -- an amendment. So, can we get a voice
11 vote on that amendment? All in favor, say aye. Aye.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: Mister Chair. Mister Chair,
14 call for the question on the amendment to the main
15 motion.

16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay,
18 question has been called. I'm sorry. Getting out of --
19 forgetting my Robert's Rules. Has been questioned. The
20 -- ask for the question. So, again I'll ask. So, the
21 amendment is to send two representatives to the public
22 hearing. Again, a voice vote. Yay! Yes.

23
24 IN UNISON: Yes.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Any
27 opposed?

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah, we did
32 get one opposition. Okay, we're going to do a roll call.
33 In A roll call vote on the amendment to send two
34 representatives to the public hearing. We'll do a roll
35 call vote on that.

36
37 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, there
38 just seems to be a delay, and I want to make sure that
39 the record is clear. Again, this is on the motion to
40 amend, so your vote will indicate that you do agree to
41 amend the main motion. Larry Bemis.

42
43 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.

46
47 (No response)

48
49 MS. PERRY: Michael Douville.

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1 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
2
3 MS. PERRY: Jim Slater.
4
5 MR. SLATER: Yes.
6
7 MS. PERRY: Ted Sandhofer.
8
9 MR. SANDHOFER: Yes.
10
11 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.
12
13 MR. HOWARD: Yes.
14
15 MS. PERRY: Donald Hernandez.
16
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
18
19 MS. PERRY: Patricia Phillips.
20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
22
23 MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner.
24
25 MR. WAGNER: Yes.
26
27 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.
28
29 (No response)
30
31 Harvey, do you vote on this?
32
33 MR. KITKA: (Indiscernible). I'll
34 abstain at this time.
35
36 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Kitka abstains.
37 John Smith.
38
39 MR. SMITH: Yes.
40
41 MS. PERRY: Lewis Hiatt.
42
43 MR. HIATT: Yes.
44
45 MS. PERRY: And Cal Casipit.
46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes.
48
49 MS. PERRY: Chairman Casipit, it was a
50 unanimous vote to amend the main motion. Thank you.

1
2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: We're back
3 to the main motion, as amended. I'll reread and it's
4 already been moved and seconded, correct? Okay. So, we
5 have a main motion to -- for staff to repair -- prepare
6 a letter based on our notes, submit a draft letter for
7 our official approval tomorrow, and in addition to send
8 two representatives to the public hearing outlined in
9 the proposed rule. Mr. Smith called for the question.
10 We will do a roll call vote on this too, Ms. Perry. So,
11 if you would be so kind.
12
13 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Larry
14 Bemis.
15 (No response)
16
17 MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.
18
19 (No response)
20
21 MS. PERRY: Michael Douville.
22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
24
25 MS. PERRY: Lewis Hiatt.
26
27 MR. HIATT: Yes.
28
29 MS. PERRY: John Smith.
30
31 MR SMITH: Yes.
32
33 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.
34
35 MR. KITKA: I'll abstain, again.
36
37 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Kitka. Louie
38 Wagner.
39
40 MR. WAGNER: Yes.
41
42 MS. PERRY: Patricia Phillips.
43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
45
46 MS. PERRY: Donald Hernandez.
47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
49
50 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

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MR. HOWARD: Yeah.

MS. PERRY: Ted Sandhofer.

MR. SANDHOFER: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Jim Slater.

MR. SLATER: Yes.

MS. PERRY: And Cal Casipit.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, we have 11 for, and one abstention. And I'd like to correct the record on the last vote to amend. That was the same count: 11 for and one abstention. I erroneously said it was unanimous, so I'd like to correct the record. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you, DeAnna. We have 15 more minutes. Before, I think I want to adjourn for the day and this regard -- and I'm kind of going out of order on this, I asked for the staff and public to bear with me a bit, but on our agenda is Alaska Board of Game proposals. I'm pretty sure that the Council would like to provide written comments to the Board of Game on the current set of proposals before them. I think the comment for due date is January 9th, I believe. So, this is our time to officially act on those Board Game proposals so, in the interest of time, I'd like to appoint a working group to work with staff on those comments. I know I have looked at the entire book of State proposals, and I do think that it'd be -- it's going to be necessary for us to provide some comments. So, I'll -- what I want to do here first is probably let Rob just start off this little section and then after he's done, maybe we can get some volunteers to work on that work group so, go ahead, Rob.

MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, my name is Robert Cross with the Forest Service, and I just wanted to point out, so we have 69 Board of Game proposals that could potentially be commented on. Commented on by the Regional Advisory Council. And we have three staff members available, so I don't -- it's up to the Chair how you would like to split this up, but we could do as many as three different working groups.

1 And if I have my tallies correct, we have -- for the
2 Southeast region in general we have 18 proposals, for
3 Petersburg Wrangell area we have 13 proposals, Ketchikan
4 and POW would be 20 proposals and then Juneau, Haines,
5 Skagway and Yakutat would be 11 proposals. And so, I
6 don't know how you would like to split that up, but I
7 just would offer that we have three staff members to
8 work on that.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, how
11 would the rest of the Council like to handle this? I
12 also want to provide an opportunity for Council members
13 that are on the phone to be able to participate as well.
14 So, we'll have to figure that out at some point. So, how
15 does the Council wish to proceed on this? And we will
16 need a motion to form the work group, so, we'll have to
17 vote on that. Do we want to have three, as Rob suggests,
18 or do we want to just have some folks just buckle down
19 and do it all in one night? That seems -- it's going to
20 be a heavy lift if it's going to be 30-some proposals.
21 Go ahead, Mike.

22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh yeah, heavy lift is
24 putting it lightly. There's a lot of proposals and, you
25 know, essentially only familiar with some of those that
26 affected Unit 2, more or less. So, I think maybe most
27 of us are in the same boat, but I'm not sure what the
28 Chair expects whether to pick and choose or go through
29 every one of them, or what is your suggestion?

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well, I
32 whether we do one, 2 or 3 work groups it would be that
33 that responsibility of the, of the work group to identify
34 the proposals that they want to work on, So, if we're
35 going to go with a Unit 2 work group you know, the --
36 that work group would choose the proposals of Unit 2 to
37 comment on and, I don't know. I don't know if we have
38 time to go through the whole book right now and pick out
39 each and every proposal that we want to comment on, but
40 I'm open to suggestions, so. John, go ahead.

41
42 MR. SMITH: I'm just shooting from the
43 hip, but if we all stayed together and just work through
44 everyone that we could think of, you know, would be all
45 our minds, all together. That would be my thoughts, but
46 that's just my thoughts.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Patty, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, I believe we
5 can't have a quorum of the Council on committee.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well, yeah,
8 that's the decision we'll have to make, if we want to -
9 - if we're going to have the whole Council work on these
10 proposals and work like John suggests, we will have to
11 do that while we are in session tomorrow morning, would
12 -- the first time we could start, or we would have to
13 have an evening session with all of us together, and I'm
14 not sure if folks want to give up their dinner and then
15 some, to do that. But we certainly could to -- start
16 tomorrow morning and go through the proposals one by one
17 if we choose to. I see, Don, you have your hand up. Go
18 ahead, Don.

19
20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe, just a suggestion,
21 could possibly think about -- I know this could get
22 pretty complicated, but might simplify things, if you
23 put together a working group with a representative from,
24 you know, Units 1, one from Unit 2, 3, 4 and 5. So, that
25 would be five member working group. And if they were
26 just to identify the most important proposals, that they
27 think the Council needs to address, and then the Council
28 could focus -- the whole Council could maybe focus on
29 those as a Council, possibly that could work.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
32 you, Don. Albert, I see your hand up, please, let's hear
33 from you, thank you.

34
35 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 agree with Don, I think you break it up by Units. And,
37 as an example, everything that's important that's
38 happening to the Unit I'm in, I would be willing to be
39 on that committee, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Those are
42 really good suggestions, Don and Albert. I see your hand
43 up, go ahead, Patty.

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman Casipit. I did submit notes on the proposals.
47 I didn't comment on all the proposals because, you know,
48 I'm just not familiar with the areas, but I did email
49 my list to DeAnna, just so you all know, thank you.

1 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, maybe it's
2 something to expand on what Patty just said. What if we
3 all looked at them and came up with our top 5 or 10
4 tonight and brought it to tomorrow, and we entered them
5 in and approached it that way.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
8 thank you. Okay. Thanks, Jim and Don and Albert, and
9 Patty and I've been listening to DeAnna here speaking
10 also. Unfortunately, we only have two days at this
11 meeting, I think if we had three days, that might work,
12 but it's just staff time, if we were to do it tomorrow
13 during a regular session, they'd have to keep notes. And
14 at some point, we'd have to have a letter that was all
15 done and us all agreeable, and we'd have to vote on it.
16 And I don't know -- we've got full a day tomorrow, of
17 stuff. I guess I'm -- didn't do a very good job time
18 management today, I'm not sure, I don't -- we ran out
19 of time all of a sudden, but yeah, that's kind of where
20 we're sitting, having staff available that would be able
21 to turn a letter around for us to prove, by the time we
22 adjourn tomorrow afternoon. I guess we can try it, if I
23 put some really strict time limits tomorrow morning to
24 start this, and I'd probably be a little testy with
25 people about going off topic and talking about things
26 that aren't really Germane to each proposal. So, if folks
27 are willing to do that and, and allow me to be a little,
28 a little forceful on timing and what's going on, that
29 might work, but I'm really concerned about getting
30 through all these action items tomorrow. What is the
31 wish of the Council?

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman, is there --
34 are there people willing to serve on a committee tonight?

35
36 MR. HOWARD: I am Mr. Chair.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, I see
39 Don has your hand up too. Don, you want to chime in here
40 before we get too far?

41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I hear you in your
43 concerns there, Cal. I guess I have a question. In
44 forming these work groups, if you have, say, three
45 different work groups, does that -- and I think somebody
46 brought up the concerns with a quorum. Do three different
47 work groups, does that constitute like, would they all
48 be considered as essentially one work group and it
49 couldn't be a quorum? Or is, you know -- could
50 essentially the whole Council be divided into different

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1 work groups and that's okay? I'm a little unclear on
2 that.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: DeAnna is
5 nodding her head next to me, so that is -- I assume
6 you're nodding that that's doable, that we can have three
7 separate work groups and not violate quorum rules? Okay.
8 Yes, that's possible, Don.

9
10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, so, maybe what we
11 do need to do is you know, try and see if we can get
12 volunteers for three different work groups, and like I
13 say, once again, break it down into different Units.
14 We'd have to combine some Units, but I guess it kind of
15 depends on how many people are willing to devote some
16 time tonight. And actually, try and put together some
17 recommendations to bring back to the Council. So, other
18 Councils thoughts on that, I guess.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Well, if we
21 want to go with work groups, I would entertain a motion
22 to do that. Mike.

23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a question. Are
25 these -- we're going to do both of these Board of Fish,
26 Board of Game, when we consider these?

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Board the Game.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: At this
31 point I was only talking about Board of Game, and the
32 Board of Fish statewide one completely went by me. We
33 only have three staff members, so if we're going to
34 include the Board of Fish proposals, that means we'd
35 have one work group for Board of Fish statewide and two
36 work groups for the southeast proposals. So, if that's
37 what the Council wants to do, we can do that. I'm just
38 concerned about staff time and how many staff we have
39 to help us through this.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 I'm not seeing anybody willing to
44 support a motion to form the work group. Go ahead, Ted.

45
46 MR. SANDHOFER: Yeah, thanks, Mr.
47 Chairman. Yeah, I'm wondering if it's doable. You know,
48 that's my question, is it doable, can we do it, can we
49 pull it off? Can the staff get these ready and a letter
50 for us to approve tomorrow or not? Is it a possibility?

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1 Another option is just like Patty suggested or gave. I
2 mean, we could give individual comments to the Board
3 outside of our roles as this Committee, as this Council
4 and still maybe achieved the same thing.

5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is Patty.

7
8 MR. SANDHOFER: And I'm not saying I'm
9 going to represent the Council when I do these comments,
10 but they could kind of be, they'd be individual comment.
11 But, with this in the background, I don't know, I'm just
12 wondering if it's possible, Cal, is it -- can we do it?

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Sorry,
15 Patty, I see your hand up. You want to go ahead and.....

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, so we have done it
18 before, we did it in Juneau. We broke up into three
19 groups, but we were all there. So, and now, you know,
20 some of us aren't there, but I would be willing to try
21 it if we could. We broke up into three groups, and then
22 each group worked on a set of, you know, proposals. And
23 then staff put together our suggestions. And then we
24 brought them to the full Council the next day, so we
25 have proven we can do it, but it's that commitment. Are
26 you guys willing to commit to do it tonight? And I'm not
27 hearing support for that, and I think we would submit -
28 - we would have a stronger voice if we submitted our
29 comments as the RAC. And if there is a willingness to
30 do committees, then I'd like to serve on the that has
31 the Wrangell Proposals on them. Thank you. Oops.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
34 you, Patty. I see Katya there at the table. Please.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Katya
37 Wessels. I just have a proposal for the Councils. Like,
38 if you don't agree to have these working groups tonight,
39 you can discuss it on the record tomorrow and just vote
40 that the comments are put along the lines of your
41 discussion, and then DeAnna can prepare the comments for
42 the Chair's approval, and it also can be run by the
43 Council members before they are submitted. Because you
44 will have the essence of your discussion on the record,
45 and that's what you will be voting on, instead of you,
46 you know, having to meet in groups tonight, if people
47 don't want to do that. Because also remember you voted
48 earlier that we are to put the letter together with
49 comments to the Secretary's on the review, for your vote
50 tomorrow, so that's one more task for the staff to do

1 tonight. And I think it's impossible to do both. Comments
2 on the State proposals and the letter with comments to
3 the secretary's, thank you.

4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: It's back to
8 the suggestion that we just take it up in the morning
9 as a full Council. And I wanted to warn the Council that
10 if that occurs, I'm going to be really, really focused
11 on getting this done, and miscellaneous comments about
12 things that aren't germane to the proposal is going to
13 -- I'm going to be a hard ass. I hate to swear, but
14 that's what's going to happen.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I heard
19 Larry first. Go ahead, Larry.

20
21 MR. BEMIS: I was just saying, if it gets
22 out of hand, you just call point of order and we move
23 on. I know we've got a lot of personal feelings, and we
24 usually get to hand that out and deliberate, because,
25 if it has something to do with the main motion and what
26 the intention of the proposal is, we all want to share
27 our heartfelt ideas. And I think this is one time where
28 we're squeezed down to making a definite -- my suggestion
29 is we go home and if we want to do our homework, we go
30 over every one of those proposals in the book and write
31 something down that you have in your head that is short
32 and to the point. And when we come in, we can just more
33 or less go right to it, there's your homework. Fill out
34 all the proposals and what you think about it for either
35 for the -- for it or against it. And when we come in
36 here, we don't have to kind of determine where our point
37 is on each proposal. That way we get in here, we bring
38 it up, we can see how everybody feels about it. Get --
39 say whatever we're going to say and make our motion on
40 it. Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, I saw
43 some hands come up on this end, too. I want to make sure
44 -- go ahead.

45
46 MR. SMITH: I make a motion that we adopt
47 these proposals in the morning.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Yeah, we
50 don't really need a motion for that. I saw some hands

1 come up on the screen over here, and I want to make sure
2 I've got all the -- okay, Albert, and then, Patty, I see
3 you -- both hands up. Albert, first.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I like the
6 committee idea, and I'm available tonight to work on
7 anything concerning the Unit I'm in, and the reason I
8 say that is, is nobody's a hard ass in a committee. And
9 committees seem to get straight to the point, because
10 everybody in the committee wants to pay attention to
11 detail, make sure we get our comments correct, and we
12 represent the true feelings of the Council, so, whereas
13 I think tomorrow we're going to be, like you said,
14 pressed for time. The other thought was starting early,
15 but the young man that wants to speak, who said he's the
16 youngest one in the room, may not wake up as early as
17 some of us old guys, at four in the morning, so I'd be
18 available tonight. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay. Thank
21 you, Albert.

22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, Mr. Chair?

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Go ahead,
26 Patty.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Thank you, Katya Wessels, for your recommendation. So,
30 as Albert alluded to, can we start at eight, maybe,
31 instead of nine? Or do we have to go with the nine?

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, I see
34 Katya nodding her head yes, so, that is possible. I want
35 to have Don chime in here, because he just put up his
36 hand so, before we proceed, let's listen, let's hear
37 from Don.

38
39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Cal. I
40 guess I would be in favor of, you know, forming work
41 groups tonight. I'm a little hesitant to initiate that
42 with, you know, making a motion, because I kind of want
43 to hear some buy in from the folks in the room, because
44 I think they're really going to have to carry the ball.
45 I think it's possible for Albert and Patty and I to
46 participate, but, you know, it might be a little
47 difficult over the phone, I don't know what kind of
48 setup we're going to have to be able to accomplish this
49 so, I just wanted to say that, you know, I'm willing to
50 serve on a working group. I think it's a good idea, but

1 I'm kind of waiting to hear a little more buyback from
2 the folks that are actually going to have to figure out
3 when and where to get together and how all this is going
4 to work so, I'll be standing by.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Okay, thank
7 you, Don. Go ahead, Rob.

8
9 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would
10 say if there's not going to be at least a working group
11 tonight to determine what proposals are going to be taken
12 up tomorrow, that just in terms of staff's physical
13 capability of doing this, I would implore the Council
14 members to at least review the proposals that are up for
15 the Board of Game and, you know, draft comments that
16 they would like to Regional Advisory Council to review
17 and approve or object to. You know, as far as going
18 through a list of 69 proposals and trying to come up
19 with, you know, the RAC's comment on that and then be
20 able to present that back to the RAC to approve is
21 probably not within our capabilities. So again, I would
22 just say that, at the very least, it would be helpful
23 if we could reduce the list to the proposals that you
24 guys would like to comment on. Our staff can then, at
25 least, kind of focus down on those proposals and write
26 some general draft language for them and -- for the
27 Council to review tomorrow. But yeah, as far as going
28 through 70 proposals tomorrow, I don't think we have
29 time, and I don't think we have the ability.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I don't
32 think we would go through 70 proposals. I think what
33 Katya was saying earlier and I -- correct me if I'm
34 wrong, is that we could identify comments on all these
35 proposals. You guys could take that -- work up letters
36 and then those letters would just have to be approved
37 by the Chair. And it wouldn't have to come back to this
38 Council tomorrow for approval. Am I correct in saying
39 that Katya?

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
42 you're correct. And as I said earlier, as long as
43 discussion is on the record, then staff can prepare those
44 letters later. You know, the Council can vote at the end
45 of the discussion, all the proposals, to put all these
46 thoughts into the comments that staff prepares. And then
47 after the meeting, when staff prepares the comment
48 letter, then it can go to you and Chair Hernandez and
49 also to the rest of the Council, in case there's some
50 little mementos and not caught correctly, then they can

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1 be corrected then. But the general intent will be on the
2 record, like you supporting this proposal, or you want
3 something to be changed in this proposal or the opposite,
4 you're not supporting this proposal. As long as this
5 intent on the record, that's what -- all we're looking
6 for, not like minute language.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Sorry, but
9 I see heads nodding to that. You know, I -- we can try
10 this tomorrow. I know we're probably going to want to
11 have some motions at the end, especially as far as
12 providing representation at that Board of Game meeting
13 coming up next month. So, we'll have to deal with that,
14 keep that and make sure I don't forget that DeAnna. But
15 I think at this point we're pretty much winding down,
16 and I think the energy level from members are -- I have
17 to vote, we have to vote for that?

18
19 MS. PERRY: Yeah.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: I just can't
22 say it?

23 MS. PERRY: No.
24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: You mean I
26 am limited in my power? Okay, I need to -- oh, go ahead,
27 Albert.

28
29 MR. HOWARD: Oh, I thought you were
30 ending, Mr. Chair, so I had a question for tomorrow.
31 There's someone wanting to do testimony on non-agenda
32 items. Is that going to be available tomorrow?

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: Thank you,
35 Albert. Yeah, we will be taking public testimony on non-
36 agenda items tomorrow. I'm not sure what time, but we
37 will definitely be taking comment on non-agenda items.
38 Probably after we've done this little exercise of Board
39 of Game proposals. I was passed a note by DeAnna that I
40 don't have the authority just to say we can start our
41 meeting at eight. I'm going to need a motion and a second
42 and a -- to actually start our meeting at eight tomorrow.

43
44 MR. HOWARD: I'll make that motion, Mr.
45 Chair.

46
47 MR. SANDHOFER: I second.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CASIPIT: It's been
50 moved by Albert, seconded by Ted. And a question was

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1 called by John to start the meeting at 8:00 tomorrow
2 morning. All those in favor say aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 Opposed?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Okay, motion passes, motion carries. We
11 stand adjourned for tonight. We will meet back in this
12 room at 8:00 tomorrow, and we're going to dig in and get
13 this done. So, I would ask Council member -- sorry,
14 sorry, sorry. I would ask Council members to make sure
15 to go home tonight and review those -- that Board book,
16 the Board of Fish -- Board of Game book and make sure
17 you come in with comments ready to give on the record
18 on the proposals that you want to talk about. Thank you.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

21

22 (Off record)

23

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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 116 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 17th day of December;

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 9th day of January 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager