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1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 WEDGEWOOD RESORT, BOARD ROOM
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 December 18, 2025
12
13
14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16 Jack Reakoff, Chair
17 Pollock Simon, Sr.
18 Donald Honea, Jr.
19 Robert Walker
20 Timothy Gervais
21 Jenny Pelkola
22 Tommy Kriska

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26 Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 12/18/2025)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're going to bring the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. We had joint meeting with EIRAC yesterday, so this is our own breakout meeting. And so, it's December 18th, 2025, and I got ten after nine. So, we can start an invocation. Would you like to give us an invocation, Jenny? You're a real good prayer, so I appreciate that.

MS. PELKOLA: Okay, Heavenly Father, we thank you again for this day, and we ask, Lord that you go before us and just prepare us for the things that we have to deal with. Father God, we pray for our families, and we just ask that you have a -- we have a good meeting. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, roll call. Call to order. We're calling -- oh, I call to order. Too soon. Roll call, establish the quorum. So, do you have a roster?

MS. PILCHER: Yep. This is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. Hold on one second. Okay, looks like we got one mic on at a time, we're in a very small room for those that are calling in. So once again, Nissa Pilcher, for the record. Don Honea, Jr.

MR. HONOA: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Pollock Simon, Sr. is in route. Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Robert Walker.

MR. WALKER: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Tim Gervais.

(No response)

1 MS. PILCHER: Tim was online. We'll see
2 what's going on, maybe he can't unmute. Darrell Vent,
3 Sr. has an excused absence. Jenny Pelkola.

4
5 MS. PELKOLA: Here.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Nissa, can you hear me now?

8
9 MS. PILCHER: Sure can, Tim, thanks. And
10 that was an affirmative by Jenny. And then, Tommy Kriska.

11
12 MR. KRISKA: Here.

13
14 MS. PILCHER: All right. With seven
15 members present, excuse me, with six members present of
16 eight, we do have quorum.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
19 And so, we -- Meeting Announcements. Nissa.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: All right. I'm going to try
22 to streamline them a bit because they were given
23 yesterday, but I know some of us were missing, so -- let
24 me get to the right set, though. So, good morning,
25 everyone, this is the Western Interior Subsistence
26 Regional Advisory Council meeting. It is day one of the
27 meeting of just the Western Interior Council. So, for
28 those joining us on the phone, you can find the agenda
29 and meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence
30 Program website. The internet address is
31 www.doi.gov/subsistence. And then, under the Regions
32 tab, choose Western Interior and then the Meeting
33 Materials tile. For all participants on the phone and
34 online, please remember to mute yourselves when you are
35 not speaking. If you do not have a mute button on your
36 phone, you can press star six and that will mute and
37 unmute your phone. If you'd like to speak, press star
38 five to raise your hand in our meeting -- digital meeting
39 room, or use the Raise Hand button on MS Teams. If a
40 line is not muted and creates a distraction, we will
41 mute your line. For folks helping moderate online,
42 please do not click the mute all button for this will
43 mute everyone, including us. So, this is a public
44 meeting, and it is being recorded and it will be
45 transcribed. For those attending our meeting in person,
46 please make sure you sign in at the front table,
47 otherwise known as the side table, with the sparkly
48 tablecloth, for each day of the meeting. This Council
49 is scheduled for only this one day. Once again, my name
50 is Nissa Pilcher, I am the Council Coordinator and the

1 Designated Federal Officer for this meeting.

2

3 So, throughout the meeting, there will
4 be opportunity for public comment. If you are in the
5 room, please fill out a green comment card located on
6 that public information table in the corner, and turn
7 it into an OSM staff member. If you're not in the room,
8 please utilize whichever raise hand function goes with
9 how you joined at the appropriate time. As a reminder,
10 if you're on the phone, that's star five to raise your
11 hand or use the raise hand button. Public testimony will
12 be taken for every applicable agenda item, and a call
13 for public testimony on non-agenda items will occur
14 later this morning, after the conclusion of the Council
15 member and Chair reports. When the Chair does call on
16 you to testify, please identify yourself for the record
17 by stating your first and last name and any affiliation
18 that you are representing, when it is your turn to
19 comment. You can also submit written comments, either
20 physically hand them to me or email them to the email
21 address: subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Please make sure to
22 include your name and affiliation you are representing
23 on any written comments.

24

25 And again, for all speaking, please
26 remember to state your name for the record to ensure the
27 transcripts are correct. Once again, we do have a company
28 called Talking Circle Media that's recording the
29 meeting, and then the transcribers aren't actually
30 listening to the meeting, so it's important to get our
31 names on the record, since they don't know us and don't
32 know our names, like the last company we used. So, if
33 any topic will be discussed during the meeting, or
34 Council members feel there's a conflict of interest,
35 please make a conflict of interest statement and excuse
36 yourself from voting on the issue. And that does conclude
37 my Meeting Announcements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Nissa.
40 And so, Welcome and Introductions. So, we're going to -
41 - let's get the people on the phone.

42

43 MS. PILCHER: All right. This is Nissa
44 again, we're going to start with those on the phone to
45 introduce themselves. I'm going to call out agencies or
46 non-agencies one at a time to try to streamline the
47 process, so if you're online representing a tribal
48 government or Native organization, if you could please
49 introduce yourself.

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1 (No response)

2

3 All right. And then if I do cut anybody
4 off or you don't get an opportunity to introduce
5 yourself, I'll -- please jump in when you can, because
6 I will probably move through these faster than I normally
7 would. How about anybody on from the Alaska Department
8 of Fish and Game?

9

10 (No response)

11

12 How about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service?

14

15 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this is Jill
16 Klein, the Regional Subsistence Coordinator. I'm based
17 in Anchorage with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
20 Jill.

21

22 MS. KLEIN: Good morning.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about the
25 National Park Service?

26

27 (No response)

28

29 How about how about BLM?

30

31 (No response)

32

33 How about the Office of Subsistence
34 Management?

35

36 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Nissa. Good
37 morning, Chairman Reakoff, and members of the Council.
38 This is Kevin Foley, Fisheries Biologist calling in from
39 Anchorage.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're really
42 weak, are you speaking into your mic or are you on
43 speakerphone?

44

45 MR. FOLEY: Can you hear me now Chairman
46 Reakoff?

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, I can hear you
49 loud and clear, say again.

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1 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Council
2 members, Chairman Reakoff. This is Kevin Foley,
3 Fisheries Biologist calling in from Anchorage.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.
6 Kevin. And.....

7
8 MS. PILCHER: I do see Craig Townsend has
9 his hand raised. Craig is here representing BLM, right
10 Craig?

11
12 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, ma'am, and I
13 apologize, I could not find my mute button when you
14 called on BLM. Happy to be here. Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Craig.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: I was skipping through it
19 pretty quick. Any others from OSM on?

20
21 MS. DAY: Yes, good morning, this is
22 Janel Day, a Cartographer with OSM.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
25 Janel.

26
27 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about any
28 members of the public or anybody that I skipped over
29 when I went down the list pretty quick? I do see a couple
30 folks from at least Fish and Wildlife Service on that
31 didn't -- weren't able to speak up.

32
33 MR. RANSBURY: This is Shane Ransbury,
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and here in Fairbanks,
35 I'm a Fisheries Biologist.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
38 Shane.

39
40 MS. VENT: Good morning. I'm not sure if
41 you did tribal just yet, but this is Jazmyn Vent with
42 the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission. And I'm on
43 the way too, I'll be there in person. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Your first name
46 again? Jasmyn?

47
48 MS. VENT: Jasmyn Vent.

49
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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. You're
2 wobbling a little bit there. Good morning, Jasmyn.

3
4 MS. VENT: Good morning.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Anybody else?

7
8 MS. TAYLOR: Good morning, this is Sara
9 Taylor from the Secretary's Office in Anchorage.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
12 Sara. Thanks for participating yesterday with us.

13
14 MR. ALEXIE: Good morning, this is
15 Christian Alexie, Jr., Refuge Information Technician
16 with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, United
17 States Fish and Wildlife Service. Good morning.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're pretty weak
20 and garbled. I would like you to speak into your mic,
21 better to get it on the record.

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Good morning. This is
24 Christian Alexie Jr., Refuge Information Technician with
25 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, United States
26 Fish and Wildlife Service.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
29 Christian. That was a lot better. So, anybody else?

30
31 MR. NICORI: My name is Emmitt Nicori,
32 Refuge Information Technician with the Yukon Delta
33 National Wildlife Refuge. Good morning.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
36 Emmitt. So, I think that maybe everybody. So, we'll go
37 around the room, introducing our audience first. Go
38 ahead, up to the mic.

39
40 MS. MORAN: Good morning, I'm Tina Moran
41 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Acting
42 Refuge Manager for Kanuti, Koyukuk, Nowitna and Innoko.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Tina.

45
46 MR. HAVENER: Good morning everyone.
47 Jeremy Havener, Refuge Subsistence Coordinator and the
48 Acting Deputy Refuge Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna,
49 Innoki and Kanuti.

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Jeremy.
2 Good to see you.

3
4 MR. STOUT: Good morning, Glenn Stout.
5 Galena Area Biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,
9 Glenn. Good to see you and -- morning, Pollock. You're
10 sitting over here, at Pollock. Go ahead, George.

11
12 MR. YASKA: Good morning, George Yaska,
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, George.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 MR. UBELAKER: Morning, Brian Ubelaker,
20 Wildlife Biologist, OSM.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Brian.

23
24 MS. MORROW: Good morning, this is
25 Kristen Morrow with the Anthropology Division of OSM.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Kristen.

28
29 DR. VICKERS: Good morning, Brent
30 Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor, OSM. Welcome,
31 everyone.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Brent.
34 And Chair recognizes that Pollock Simon has just come
35 and sat down here, Pollock Simon, Sr. And so, we --
36 that's the people in the room currently introduction,
37 Review and Adopt the Agenda. We want to modify the agenda
38 to include some of the things that we had from yesterday.
39 We had that joint meeting with EIRAC, and we basically
40 were -- wanted to adopt -- it was a joint comment to the
41 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. So, we need
42 a motion because we didn't have quorum yesterday, we
43 only had four members. We had Don, Jenny, myself, and
44 Tim on the phone. So, we have to adopt some of the things
45 that we worked out with EIRAC. So, TCC had come out with
46 a -- and I don't have the exact.....

47
48 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
49 record. When we get there, I can put the slide on the
50 screen that shows the different options.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we have that as a joint thing with EIRAC. Then we went over this program review with the Federal Subsistence Board request to evaluate the Federal Subsistence Board, and we had a long discussion about that with Sara Taylor. And then all the discussion about aspects of the Federal Subsistence Program and Regional Councils and Board -- Federal Subsistence Board makeup. So, we had agreement between the two Councils on that joint letter, and so Nissa will put that up on the screen when we get to it, but we need to have those -- those are two action items?

MS. PILCHER: So, it was the North Pacific Fisheries Council letter that was the Secretarial letter. And then there was the Board of Fish Comment.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: On the Board of Fish, yes. The endorsement of the of the Board of Fish proposals that TCC had submitted. It was a whole -- all the South Alaska Peninsula finfish proposals that will be visited by the Board of Fish in January. So, those are the -

MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, can I just make a motion and -- to put all three proposals.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes.

MR. HONEA:on the floor for discussion?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, we're going to -- where would you like to put those, Don? Should we put them high in our agenda, like right before action item 10, after public and tribal comments. So, it'd be like right below public and tribal comments, would that be a good spot for you?

MR. HONEA: That'd be great, at your discretion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion on the table. We have a second?

1 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Jenny.
4 Yeah, Jenny's an elder, so. So, a motion on the floor,
5 those in favor of adding those agenda items from the
6 joint meeting of the Eastern Interior Regional Council
7 and Western yesterday, signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim. And you're
12 real weak, Tim. Are you speaking at a distance or...? I
13 want to get a -- try it again.

14

15 (Inaudible response)

16

17 I want to get your -- I can't hardly
18 hear you, I'm -- we're getting -- our Court Recorder
19 Technician is adjusting some cables, so give me another
20 -- try it now.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: I'm voting affirmative on
23 the motion on the floor.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I can hear
26 you better.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: How about now?

29

30 I can hear you better. Not the best, but
31 -- okay, got that. I just want to make sure that you're
32 participating. So that's added to the agenda. Now
33 adopting the -- any other additions to the agenda?

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Yes, one more. You guys
36 would need -- if you would, to add the FRMP review for
37 the Kuskokwim River. The FRMP fisheries, oh, I forget
38 the acronym. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for
39 the Kuskokwim. We covered the Yukon yesterday, but we
40 shunted the Kuskokwim overview to today because Eastern
41 Interior doesn't have any nexus with the Kuskokwim. And
42 that's generally after you're, like, at the -- it's not
43 an action item, so it's normally done in a regular
44 meeting at that -- kind of towards the end of the
45 meeting.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, any other
48 additions to that agenda? Kusko FRMP. And it's a real
49 full agenda, so it's quite a bit.

50

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1 (Pause)

2
3 Pollock. That should be -- we got that
4 yesterday with BLM, so -- but we can get a BLM person
5 to give you a little snippet on that. So, did Pollock
6 get what our agenda was from yesterday? So, this is --
7 you'll get -- I'm going to have her give you the agenda,
8 what we went through yesterday, so you can see what we
9 did yesterday because we were with joint with EIRAC. So,
10 any other additions on the agenda?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 We have a motion to adopt the agenda as
15 modified.

16
17 MR. SIMON: Move.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.
20 Do we have a second?

21
22 MR. HONEA: Second.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Don.
25 Doesn't -- further discussion?

26
27 MR. KRISKA: Questions.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
30 Those in favor of the modified agenda, signify by saying
31 aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
36 Tim?

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Tim, on affirm -- Tim
39 Gervais, affirmative on that.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Alright. Good.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Does that sound
44 (distortion)?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you.
47 It's not the best, but we're hearing you a lot better.
48 Could hardly hear you before.

49
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, I'm doing, I'm
2 basically doing the same thing as yesterday, so maybe
3 turn the volume up.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, yeah, we're
6 hearing you. It could be the speakers, he's adjusting
7 some things, so no big deal. Continue talking, say a few
8 -- a couple more things. Five count.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: (Distortion) You want me
11 to get my Council member report to.....

12
13 (Simultaneous speech)

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No, no, we're
16 trying to get your -- the volume correct. We got it, so
17 we're good, we can hear you a lot better now. So it was
18 a loose wire in the back of a speaker. Okay, we're good.
19 We got your vote.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're good to go
24 and Review and approve the previous minutes from our last
25 meeting, which was in February of last year, February
26 24th or 25, something like that. And what tab is that
27 under Nissa?

28
29 MS. PILCHER: That is (distortion).

30
31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oops. Go ahead,
32 Nissa.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: That's page 7 in your
35 meeting book. That's the black comb bound one.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You have your
38 meeting book, Tim?

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim. I
41 have the meeting books from McGrath. I don't have
42 the.....

43
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's the meeting
47 book.....

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: I don't have the
50 updated.....

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOF:from McGrath.
Yeah, we're using the same one.

MR. GERVAIS: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, we're using
the same McGrath meeting book.

MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, this would be
the minutes from the Pike's Landing meeting, February
25 and 26, 2025, so.

(Pause)

Anybody found any corrections or
additions they would like to the minutes? So, that's on
page 7 in this book here, Pollock.

MS. PELKOLA: I'll move to adopt the
minutes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Move to adopt by
Jenny. Do we have a second?

MR. KRISKA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy.

(Pause)

MS. PELKOLA: Question.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Question called by
Jenny. Any further discussion?

(No response)

Questions called. Those in favor of
adopting the minutes from February 25,26 and Pike's
Landing of 2025, signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good. You're loud
and clear, Tim. So, Regional Council Reports. We can
start with -- let's start with Pollock Simon who is --
was at that first meeting in McGrath in 1993. So, go

1 ahead and give us your Council Member Report, how things
2 are going in Allakaket, how the fish are and all that.
3 Go ahead, Pollock. Pull the mic up close to you. Pull
4 it, you can pull it up real close.

5
6 MR. SIMON: I am Pollock Simon, Sr. I
7 live in Allakaket. I have some comments about my life
8 in Allakaket. There isn't any more salmon. Few years
9 ago, chum salmon population crashed and we settle
10 towards eating king salmon, but king salmon population
11 crashed too. Now we're eating whitefish and sheefish.
12 This is a concern I have that now, that the -- we are
13 not catching king salmon and chum salmon, now we kind
14 of depend on whitefish and sheefish, but we don't take
15 too much, we are careful because if we take too much,
16 the whitefish population would decline too. That's one
17 of my concerns. This year was kind of a difficult time.
18 We always put our whitefish net and sheefish net starting
19 later part in August but then the rain came down and
20 fish and water keep coming up and run over the bank and
21 a lot of sticks, debris thrown down, so we didn't set
22 fish net. The Shungnak Tribe told us to leave town, or
23 evacuate to Fairbanks. All the elders and kids, and me
24 and my wife was one of two that was evacuated too. So
25 what I' trying to say is we didn't fish in that critical
26 time when whitefish and sheefish was going upriver. Most
27 people who has fishnet set out their net and put some
28 whitefish and sheefish in the bottom of the freezer, but
29 that didn't happen. And during that time, weather still
30 good and most of the time, and we would try and
31 (indiscernible) those but that didn't happen, it was too
32 wet and was trying to get away from the water that kept
33 coming up.

34
35 So, it's going to be some difficult
36 times with not enough fish and not enough dry fish and
37 people going to get hungry, specially dogs too. There's
38 going to be a shortage of dry fish. Dogs usually eat
39 chum salmon, but -- not chum salmon, we didn't get the
40 whitefish and sheefish for them. But life in Allakaket
41 is great. The caribou hasn't returned in 50 years, and
42 the moose population is down a little bit. There's no
43 black bear at Koyukuk River. I talked with Peter
44 (indiscernible) down in Huslia. They don't see much
45 black bear. Our people eat black bear all the time. But
46 what happened was grizzly bear was -- a lot of them than
47 a few years ago and they eat moose caves and in fall
48 time they hunt black bear in their den, and that kind
49 of thinned them out. Traditional black bears.
50 (Indiscernible), and not much moose. Not much grizzly

1 bear sighting. The grizzly bear goes after moose
2 sometimes 'cus there's no fish now, no fish for the
3 grizzlies. And it's been cold spring last several years
4 and no blueberries the bear eat, fatten up on from
5 blueberries but the cold spring we don't get any
6 blueberry crop.

7
8 But now, the new government cut down
9 food stamps. There's no more food stamps, no more money,
10 handouts. No subsistence priority. Fish going to change
11 (indiscernible). Nonetheless I is still living in
12 Allakaket. I don't leave live in Allakaket because I
13 have no place else to go. But Allakaket is my home. A
14 way of life existed for me, and that very way of life
15 is being threatened today by road development. But some
16 of this we ought to think about and talk about progress.
17 We can't fight progress. The state and feds are going
18 to go through with the Ambler road. The new president
19 will push through regardless of what we say, so. I guess
20 I'll stop here and thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks for those
23 comments, Pollock. Anybody have any questions for
24 Pollock?

25
26 (No response)

27
28 So, thanks so much. Now we have really
29 super high water on the Koyukuk, really high.

30
31 (Distortion)

32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
34 Members of the Board, staff right here. I just want to
35 make a comment here too, this year, 2025, is that the
36 moose season really took off in our area because we
37 have one of the last strongholds in 21E, so we have
38 controlled use area in the federal and we have controlled
39 use area in the state. And I am seeing more hunters
40 coming in, landing on the airport in Anvik and
41 overnighting. And so, I hear from Grayling also, and the
42 Super Cubs are going out to the Andreafsky River and the
43 Chuilnuk River. And I asked this one hunter, why are you
44 coming through Anvik, why aren't you going through
45 Unalakleet? And he really didn't want to comment, and I
46 asked him again, he said, well, to be very truthful to
47 you, we -- you only have a wildlife trooper in Aniak and
48 we want to go through Aniak and, and they have a maybe
49 a wildlife trooper in Unalakleet. So, that kind of dawned
50 on me and I have a -- I have two radios, one I bought

1 myself when I worked for the state and the airport, and
2 the other one was when the state that was outdated, I
3 could. But 122.7 is Anvik, 122.8 is Holy Cross and
4 Shageluk and 122.9 is Grayling. And toward the end of
5 the season, somewhere around the 18, 19, 20, I could
6 hear, on these dark nights, you can hear pilots clicking
7 on radio on 122.8 and they're not talking. And if it's
8 going to be a Aeromed, they would have to say, this is
9 Aeromed landing, such and such a village. And that's
10 what they usually do, or if it's a wildlife -- or if
11 it's a state trooper, they usually would announce, but
12 these are not announced calls and clicking their lights
13 on the runway. And this -- I did an intervention because
14 I would like, ask, who is clicking the radio on in
15 Shageluk or Holy Cross, and they wouldn't answer because
16 -- and this toward the end of the 20, 22, 24, all the
17 way up, 25 was getting like three and four times a night.
18 So -- and who are these people doing this? That's a good
19 question. Nobody's not talking. Nobody wants to say
20 nothing, because the bottom line is dollars, that's what
21 it is. And our own people is [sic] finding a way to make
22 money because -- and these people are helping them, just
23 paying them a lump sum of cash. And that's my answer
24 that I got. So, this is a question where -- how do we
25 control that if we can control that? Because Shageluk
26 is pretty close to the controlled use area for the feds.
27 And the east side of the Yukon is the controlled use
28 area for the state. So, that's one of the things I want
29 to bring forward to the to our Board here so they can
30 pass that on to the state. I didn't want to talk directly
31 to the state because a lot of times then they ask you,
32 'What's your ID? Who are you? What is your title? What
33 is your affiliation with this? And it's just like an
34 ongoing question, like I'm doing it. And so, a lot of
35 people just don't want to talk to this Department of
36 Public Safety on this because it is implicating them.
37 And this is, you know -- it is kind of hard for tribal
38 people to jump up and do this because they're on
39 vacation, that's what's going to happen, so.

40
41 The other thing, they had a caribou
42 meeting down in Anchorage last week. I didn't partake
43 in it, but I went to listen. And this was the same thing
44 I heard before from tribal people from that area was
45 food. Not money, it's food. That's what they talked
46 about. I was just -- Darrell Vent was there and he
47 brought me over there, so I just could listen, and it's
48 the same thing: food. And the same thing goes back to
49 all our tribes on the Yukon and Kuskokwim and AYK region.
50 Fish, food, that's what it is. People are having to go

1 out and steal from the state to jar, to half dry for
2 winter. I don't, you know, this is kind of hard for me
3 too, because -- and everybody have to turn a blind eye
4 because the way we live. Price of beef and chicken and
5 stuff like that is so high in our stores, and people are
6 starting to look at rabbits and grouse. A lot of geese
7 last spring, I was surprised, too. People are jarring
8 them, using them in the summer. So, these are things
9 were -- how did the federal government forget about us?
10 I mean, it's -- the state don't really want to take care
11 of us, but the federal government should step up more,
12 because I think that our way of life is being forgotten
13 and we're being pushed aside, I think because -- I was
14 a tribal chief for 25 years, and I stepped down this
15 year because the time for the younger generation take
16 over. But I have to -- I'm not attacking the federal
17 government, but I'm just saying, you know, they're not
18 stepping up enough, stepping up to really to help all
19 these tribes in Alaska, whether Southeast, North,
20 Northeast. The caribou, the moose the are being
21 depleted, I know Innoko River is being shut out and
22 nothing is being done about it, and if you want to do
23 something in, the transporters will get on your case.
24 It's just a village life where we don't have a local
25 policeman, but we have contract with the Alaska State
26 Troopers and the Wildlife Division too, also, but nobody
27 wants to go to them and make a comment. It's just almost
28 like going back to 30 or 40 years ago when the troopers
29 did come in and really did take a heavy toll on crime
30 that was supposed to be and sometime was not supposed
31 to be. And there was a lady I did talk to, who was a
32 court clerk for 30 years in Bethel, and she said, a lot
33 of these people could have just pleaded not guilty and
34 they would have walked home, but the way they pushed
35 them with the D.A. and the state troopers that they made
36 them plea no contest. So, these are the things that
37 really implicate our area with hunting, if you're
38 caught, you poached a moose or something, then, you know,
39 you plead no contest, then you're still implicated into
40 the state law. And that's really bad, because all these
41 guys, if they went back and looked, if somebody went
42 back, looked at all these court things, she said, 75
43 people -- 75% of these people who had game violations
44 would be vindicated because of how they were treated and
45 how they were put before and told, you know, you have
46 two choices plead guilty or no contest. And there was
47 no such thing as you have to get a lawyer, so.

48
49 I find our way of life has changed very
50 dramatically. I see our next generation doesn't know how

1 to cut fish now. My grandchild was helping me, she cut
2 her hand twice with a butcher knife so, to be raised and
3 brought up now in our way of life has changed so
4 dramatically that we can never can go back. And that's
5 sad. And the question would be -- my final word is that
6 -- are they ever going to declare the chinook salmon or
7 other species endangered species? I would like to see
8 that, to see what would happen to the reaction of all
9 these fish canneries and all these high seas trawlers
10 and all these foreign government intervention into our
11 Alaska, Bering Sea, into the waters of the state of
12 Alaska. So, I mean, it's not going to hurt us. We talked
13 about this among our elders, too. So, you know, we always
14 have a way to survive. So -- and, Mr. Chairman, members
15 of the Board, I mean, I'm sound like I'm radical, but
16 I'm not, but you know what I mean. You already been
17 there somewhere or so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, I thought I
20 turned that on. Alright, we heard from McGrath, that
21 they're getting a lot of rotten meat coming over from
22 the Innoko, because they stay too late, they can't get
23 over the mountains to McGrath, and the meat rots on the
24 refuge -- over there in the refuge lands. So, that's an
25 issue with Innoko, is like, we're getting a lot of
26 comments out of McGrath about all the rotten meat and
27 the dump and all the bear problems they have. I talked
28 to a guy that was working over there for RideAir, he
29 says they went down to the dump, there's all kinds of
30 rotten meat down the dump and McGrath. So, I'm getting
31 -- we're getting confirmation of that problem. And it's
32 these air taxis, you know, it's Willow Air, Kavik Air,
33 all these various air taxis. They basically move into
34 the area, and they just dominate it until it's gone and
35 they move on. They're like a -- like spruce bark beetles.
36 They just kill everything and then keep going. So, I can
37 empathize with you. We're starting to get that up where
38 I'm at. Go ahead, Robert.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. -- thank you,
41 Mr. Chair. Last year, the GASH had a meeting. Grayling,
42 Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross AC Board. And they had a
43 proposal to the Board of Game to extend the limits from
44 21E up into 21D, and I did talk to Tom about that, and
45 I was opposed to it. And so, I did talk to some of the
46 GASH members for the AC Board. And when they came up the
47 meeting and they wanted a roll call vote, and I did talk
48 to Nissa before this happened, too. I cannot implicate
49 that and say that I am the Federal RAC Board, but I can
50 say, legally, that I am on the RAC Board and I don't

1 represent the RAC Board personally, but -- and that was
2 my comment so, and I asked the Board, AC Board not to
3 pass this , to put it before the Board of Game, to put
4 it into a proposal to be finalized and extend the 21E
5 borderline up into 21D, up to a place called Eagle
6 Island. So, I did talk to somebody -- but, yes, and the
7 Board from the AC Board voted it down accident, it was
8 tied 3-3. And I did talk to the Coordinator, I said,
9 according to Robert's Rules of Order, that the motion
10 dies, so the proposal dies. And he had to admit that on
11 the audio conference. So, that's what -- it kind of like
12 stepped into there with my two feet. Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you. I do
16 want to recognize we have more public members came in.
17 And so, you want to introduce yourself, Kristal, Olivia
18 and Erin on the record so we can get that on the record.

19
20 MS. IRWIN: Olivia Irwin, Yukon River
21 Drainage Fisheries Association. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

22
23 MS. LAPP: Kristal Lapp, Tananna's Chief
24 Conference Tribal Resource Stewardship. And, I'm going
25 to apologize, I have to bounce between both of our
26 regions today.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

29
30 MS. JULIANUS: And, good morning,
31 everybody. Erin Julianus, BLM Central Yukon Field
32 Office.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Erin.
35 So, we're continuing around the table and I'm going to
36 take up Tim last. But go ahead, Jenny.

37
38 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, I just want to thank
39 everyone for being here. Yesterday we had a, I thought,
40 a productive meeting with EIRAC. And it was very good
41 to meet with them, to see their point of views, and
42 their -- what they were doing. But this year we had high
43 water. I'm sure it was all over the Yukon and all over,
44 but that put a damper on some of the moose hunting for
45 some of the people. And then we also, along with the
46 high waters, there were some -- there was that high wind
47 that really hit some of the villages, I know on the
48 coast, but on our Yukon, too. Koyukuk and Nulato and
49 Huslia, Galena got a little bit of it, but not too much
50 damage, but we were in that also. It was good to see

1 you, Robert, and good to see Pollock, again. Like, we
2 haven't seen each other forever. But I have a suggestion,
3 I don't know, I know we -- yesterday, we didn't have a
4 quorum, and I felt like we were just -- I mean, they
5 recognized us and everything, but we couldn't vote on
6 anything. And a suggestion would be maybe, like for
7 Robert and whoever lives far away, to try to get them
8 here at least two days earlier, maybe that'll work. I
9 don't know, but there's, you know, we can't predict the
10 weather. And, you know, in Tommy's case, he had weather
11 issues. So, maybe even two days earlier to get the Board
12 members here to have a quorum. That's just a suggestion,
13 I don't know, you know, how the rest of the Board feels,
14 but that's my personal feeling about that.

15
16 I got some king salmon this year from
17 Washington. It was sad, but you know, I tasted it, and
18 it tasted a little bit like ours, but at least somebody
19 was kind enough to bring me a little piece. And it sad
20 that the way our whole area is going where lack of food,
21 and like Robert said, his grandkids don't know how to
22 cut fish. You -- I go to my fish camp and it's just an
23 empty shell. The feeling is not there, the excitement,
24 anymore, of fishing and getting ready for fishing, and
25 it's so sad. But I still go there, because it's our
26 family -- fish camp, and there's just a lot of memories,
27 and I just sit there and reminisce and think about the
28 past and look at our empty smokehouses and the empty
29 camp, you know. You don't see kids running around with
30 joy and, you know, kids working and carrying fish and
31 just, you know, camp was -- used to be just a, like a
32 bees buzzing around. Now it's just a -- sits there and
33 trees just waving at you, and so, it's very sad that we
34 have to suffer for this. And there's really no reason
35 for that except the mighty dollar. And I know we've been
36 fighting this issue for years and years, and people after
37 us will still be fighting, but before you know it,
38 there'll be -- they'll probably forget what fish looks
39 like or moose. And it's sad to hear that you have so
40 many hunters now, and downriver, around Robert's area
41 and the GASH area. It is a problem because you are --
42 you see that moose just going to waste in the dump. And
43 a lot of us elders, we like the bones, you know, because
44 you can boil them up and get this good liquid from it.
45 And you can, you know, put them in jars and use them
46 later on for making soup or whatever you want to make.
47 But -- and a lot of them don't understand, and so I
48 don't like going to the dump during the moose season
49 because you see all those leg bones and all those bones
50 there, what's -- where the taste of the meat is, the

1 moose. And it's sad to -- I don't even -- like I say, I
2 don't even like to go to the dump. But anyway that -- I
3 just want to say again that our meeting yesterday with
4 EIRAC was very productive, I thought, and I enjoyed it.
5 And I think we should have more meetings like that with
6 other RAC -- other RACs to see what they're doing. And
7 I know the money is pretty tight right now. And who is
8 suffering from that? Our RACs. But, you know, I just
9 want to thank you again for coming in, for the people
10 that are showed up for our meeting, thank you. This
11 seems like a strange setup because I don't see anybody
12 out here, I have to look both ways, but thank you for
13 whoever set up this room. And, okay. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
16 Jenny. Yeah, those bones are cook -- I cook all those
17 bones there. Lot -- one femur bone is two days food. You
18 get a lot of meat just cooking out those sinews and
19 stuff. And that marrow makes a really nice soup for two
20 days, and people just throw them away. It's like, it's
21 bones. It's like, no, that's all food. That's all food.
22 Don.

23
24 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we
25 can, can I -- can we go back? I mean, usually you ask,
26 do you have any questions or something? Can I ask Mr.
27 Walker a question?

28
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, go right ahead.

30 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
31 Honea, Western Interior. I had a -- I really had --
32 really been bothered by the pressure, and I was -- I'm
33 glad that that you brought up that. And so, my question
34 is, are the hunts down in the Innoko and stuff, are they
35 just general hunts? I mean, there's no lottery or
36 whatever those -- and anybody in the room can answer
37 this, but I just want to know about that because, like,
38 on the Novi, as Jeremy might testify later in the day
39 of the -- the hunting pressure was really great this
40 year. There was a lot of hunters on the Novi and not a
41 whole lot of moose, you know, because of the ratio came
42 out of there. But -- so, I had a question because, I'm
43 sitting at Big Eddy about 20 miles above Novi -- I mean
44 above Ruby in the fall time here, and we're seeing
45 hunters and I see this boat says, meat wagon and it's
46 going down. And a lot of them this year went to the
47 Innoko. So, I really wanted to know what the hunting
48 pressure -- I mean, what can we do? I mean, is there any
49 numbers and can we implement something where that would
50 lessen that pressure on there? Because I say -- a few

1 weeks later I saw the same boat -- hunting meat wagon
2 and it was maybe in Grayling or Anvik. It had four heads
3 on there, four racks. And there was no -- I'm wondering,
4 geez, does the meat go out to go over to McGrath and
5 then goes -- because that's going to take a while. So,
6 that was just my question, and maybe somebody in the
7 room could answer that. Mr. Chair, if you will. Thank
8 you.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You have a comment,
11 Robert? Go ahead.

12
13 MR. WALKER: Yeah, thank you for that
14 question here. We have one of the managers from the
15 Innoko River here, it's Jeremy. He could probably answer
16 most of those questions you asked me. Thank you, Mr.
17 Honea. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 MR. HAVENER: Through the Chair, thank
20 you guys. So, just off the top of my head, I didn't
21 really come prepared with anything, but I do know down
22 in Unit 21E and 21A, when we're talking the Innoko area
23 -- thank you, Nissa. The permits down there, and I'll
24 speak specifically on the Innoko Refuge so in 21A. What
25 is available and this is both for non-residents and
26 residents is a registration permit. Those permits are
27 available online I believe, over the counter,
28 essentially and what -- for residents, they can just go
29 get them, they have to have their hunting license. For
30 non-residents a new regulation was put into place. And
31 I think this is statewide. I know Glenn's in here, and
32 maybe he can correct me if I'm wrong on this, but non-
33 residents, so people from the Lower 48, they have to
34 take a [sic] online class that kind of, you know, shows
35 information on is a bull legal, so is it 50inches or
36 have four brow tines? Meat care, the area, kind of
37 knowing some information about that. And so, they have
38 to take an awareness kind of class and pass a test before
39 they can get that permit. And so, in 21A, that's kind
40 of the setup for permits there. You go down to 21E, and
41 I think there's a little more -- it's a little more
42 complex. I think there's a registration permit for
43 residents. But for non-residents, I think it's all a
44 draw in 21E, for most of that area, and I don't know
45 those off the top of my head, but that's kind of the,
46 the setup as I understand it.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Is that
49 answer your question there, Don. Go ahead, Tommy.

50

1 MR. KRISKA: I have questions for you.
2 So you're saying that they -- that people in the Lower
3 48, they have to take a class in order to hunt down
4 there, so technically, there's millions of people in,
5 down in Lower 48, so anybody could take this class and
6 it could be thousands. It could be just uncontrollable
7 hunters in that area. And then, who put on this class
8 and who -- why did -- why weren't the RACs or the ACs
9 or anybody notified about this hunt in this manner?

10
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeremy.
12

13 MR. HAVENER: Chairman, Kriska. Through
14 the Chair. Thank you for that question. And my
15 understanding on this is this came up through the Board
16 of Games, so there must have been a proposal put in. And
17 then that passed the Board, and they made a requirement
18 to have the online class essentially, kind of an
19 awareness class for non-residents coming up moose
20 hunting and I'm looking at Glenn, but it's for all non-
21 residents now, right, statewide? Okay.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, I have
24 Jenny here.

25
26 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, sorry. I have a
27 comment. Just listening to Jeremy, seems like the orders
28 are coming from the top down and seems like it should
29 be coming from the bottom up. That's just my little
30 spiel.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.
33 Robert.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Jeremy, you know, like a lot of these boats do come out
37 of Fairbanks and so forth. There, come down to Innoko
38 River and go through the shortcut there about Grayling.
39 But a lot of these boats are coming with like 500 gallons
40 of gas or ten drums, and they're not stopping anywhere.
41 And I think there's a Coast Guard regulation, correct
42 me if you know, if you have so many gallons or drums in
43 your boat, that's illegal, or do you have to have a
44 permit to do that? Correct me.

45
46 MR. HAVENER: Council member Walker,
47 through the Chair. I don't have that information off the
48 top of my head. I'm not certain what regulations they
49 have to follow on, you know, waters, it's probably a
50 state statute. There's maybe a regulation for it, I don't

1 know, so I apologize.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

6

7 MR. WALKER: Maybe we kind of like to
8 have to take a look into this, see what kind of
9 regulation that would be. If there is one, I mean, you
10 would have to take these guys to court because, if
11 they're violating laws, then, you know, that was created
12 to protect for a spill or a fire, etcetera. You know,
13 if we're going to -- have to have these people do what
14 they want and we can't do nothing because we have to run
15 home to get gas every time we run out. These guys are
16 running around with 5- to 600 gallons of gas in their
17 boat. So, thank you, Jeremy, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Nissa --
20 excuse me. Nissa gave me a note, she's going to look
21 into that. That -- what the maximum amount transporting
22 fuel thing is. So, we're going to continue with Don's
23 report. Go ahead, Don.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 didn't mean to get off the subject here, but I deem
27 these really important, and I -- like Jenny mentioned,
28 I mean, you know, fishing, I didn't -- we haven't
29 bothered fishing for 2 or 3 years now. I mean, I don't
30 even know what the, you know, the opportunities, the
31 windows are for, and we don't even mess around because
32 it's just pretty sad, pretty devastating. And, you know,
33 if you know where like (indiscernible) is, it's a pretty
34 wide area, pretty big area down there at Bishop Mountain,
35 and they have a huge camp there, a huge family camp. And
36 it's just like Big Eddy, above Ruby, 20 miles, everybody
37 pretty much knows where that is because it's a pretty
38 good size eddy, it's pretty good. It harvested years and
39 years of fish, but I just, you know, I just -- the moose
40 production here, this fall was -- I was gifted a moose,
41 actually, so -- and I was lucky to do that because I
42 haven't really harvested any for a couple of years, and
43 when you do get one, you take really good care of it.
44 And you know, you just -- even though it was, you know,
45 beyond what I could handle, a 60-inch moose. Yeah, 60-
46 inch rack. You know, the size of moose that that's
47 getting up there where -- that's a little rugged for me.
48 But anyway, I was thankful for that, and I was thankful
49 to meet with Eastern yesterday because, like I mentioned
50 at the closing there, we have -- we border there, Charlie

1 Wright, and I have some, you know, some mutual thoughts
2 on the Nowitna, and I'd like to see that again. And
3 other than that, I think the idea of bringing us in
4 earlier, you know if -- because I was fortunate to come
5 in a couple days ago. Where Tommy 50-miles away, I mean,
6 Galena was the borderline, I guess, so they went to
7 Ruby, they went to Galena, Huslia, back to Galena, and
8 from Galena on down there was no flights so, that was -
9 - I mean, there would only be a few of us so, you know,
10 maybe that would be something to consider in the future.
11 Other than that, I'm just glad that Robert and Pollock
12 and Tommy made it, and Tim online. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Any
15 questions?

16
17 (No response)

18
19 So, Tommy.

20
21 MR. KRISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
22 let me see here. I was right in writing my thing out.
23 Anyway, yeah, there's a lot of concerns, a lot of
24 different ways things happening this year. A lot, a lot
25 of bad things happened with me losing family members,
26 and it kind of shot me down for a little bit, but then
27 in this last month, I lost, you know, four of my family
28 and kind of was slow for me. And then it -- then, you
29 know, life goes on so I took up some of these things I
30 was looking at, I had this old -- things here that was
31 supposed to be done a while back, but we had canceled.
32 But, anyway like I said, life goes on, and there's a lot
33 of concerns, and I seem like for me, ever since I lost
34 my family, I started really thinking about a lot of
35 these issues that are missing with our lifestyle. And
36 it's seriously getting people upset, there are bad
37 attitudes you know, change of character, it [sic] really
38 changing the people, the character of the people where,
39 you know, they're doing things that they wouldn't
40 normally do. When they had their fish, everybody was
41 pretty much okay. They're getting into -- now they're -
42 - the fish are not there, they're getting into this
43 moose hunting, goes into our bear hunting. There's a lot
44 of issues that are happening that shouldn't be
45 happening. Regulations are being made through, I think,
46 the abundance of moose, abundance of bears and
47 everything like that, as well as the Area M and all the
48 trial -- trawlers out there, for the abundance for them.
49 which are taking our fish, is overlooked. There's just
50 a lot of things here. I just wrote some of these things,

1 I'll probably read through it and talk about some of it,
2 it's a lot of notes.

3
4 Fishing is not happening. Getting more
5 upset, changing, like I said, changing the character,
6 changing the attitudes of our people. You know, the --
7 in our area seems like, you know, there's a lot of
8 complaints about hunters in areas that we think they
9 shouldn't be, but they're there because their permits,
10 the state put permits in there because of the abundance
11 of moose, which I really think are not there. I mean,
12 we hunt these areas all the time with snow machine, and
13 I think it's just a number. I don't know, you know --
14 the budgets are being cut in every way. Not only to
15 assistance to our people, but through the Fish and Game,
16 there's a lot of cuts, and I don't know what's going on
17 there or if the state needs money, but seem like they
18 find areas where there's really -- they're really
19 hitting like, the from the Kaiyuh area all the way down,
20 going through the Innoko areas. You know, there's high
21 counts of moose there, and now there's an unlimited --
22 like the man that said that, and I asked him the question
23 that, you know, it could be thousands. I mean, right now
24 there's probably hundreds of hunters there now, but
25 that's going to go with everybody and all these big
26 stores and everything coming up around here. Our area
27 will -- and it's going to be hit by more hunters since
28 the Koyukuk River, they have no controlled use area. The
29 Kaiyuh area, from all down is free for all. I wrote a -
30 - free for all and there's no limit, and it's kind of
31 really concerns me. Our kids are not -- their character
32 of their kids right now are not learning anything about
33 fishing, hunting, all of this stuff is going out the
34 door. They're changing our lifestyle to better theirs.
35 They want roads through Alaska, this Ambler Road, all
36 of this stuff they want into Alaska. And if you really
37 think about it, you know, down in the States, they're -
38 - back in the day, you know, they got rid of the -- I
39 shouldn't say lot of the Native people, but they got rid
40 of the thing that was feeding them, the buffalo and all
41 of that. And you really thinking, looking at our
42 situation right now, the fish and the moose, the
43 everything else is getting hit. They're slowly moving
44 in these areas. It's like a cancer. It starts spreading
45 and it's not going to stop. These things really concerns
46 [sic] me, and it started bothering my heart, and I advise
47 you, you know, whoever's getting behind a lot of that
48 stuff and whoever's in charge of all these regulations
49 or whatever, you know, we're not no dummies. And I don't
50 know, I almost wish that you can run out of money before

1 they hit us too hard.

2

3 There's -- this a lot, the I -- you know,
4 the things that I see with the state, not pointing a
5 finger toward them, but, you know, they're find areas
6 like they -- for money that they can get that is not
7 benefiting us in any way, to sell more hunting license,
8 bear permits, this -- anything to get money. Selling us
9 out and, right now, down in this area, where we have no
10 control of. It's online for anybody to come here. I
11 thought that -- and for anybody to come into the state
12 to hunt, you needed a transporter or either a licensed
13 guide in order to hunt these areas, but now they're
14 handing them over. What the hell do they need a guide
15 for when you can take a class and come into these areas,
16 which is really killing our moose and everything else?
17 I'm sorry to be like this, but this is coming from my
18 heart, and this is the -- my attitude, this is what you
19 put me into. This is who I am now. So, a lot of this
20 stuff, you know, that -- I don't have no problems with
21 people, but like, there's Fish and Game, Board of Fish,
22 Board -- all these guys, you know, we taught them
23 everything that we know. Then all I think -- and what I
24 really look and see what comes out of all of this is you
25 know, we teach them stuff, and all it did was tighten
26 the noose around our necks. Tighten it for everything
27 that we talked about, even our elder people, all, the
28 whole thing, it just like, all they did was clam you,
29 clam you, until right now, you can't even move, but you
30 know. There's the -- like I said, there's just a lot of
31 things that's happening that shouldn't be happening, but
32 they are. I don't know, the ANILCA, all of that stuff
33 is overseen, overlooked, just not even -- there's.
34 coming up with new regulations, new things that's really
35 benefiting them, but not us. They're working their way
36 into our lands, which is -- don't, just don't keep going
37 out there. We're out there.

38

39 And there's a lot of wanton waste. I
40 really think about that, you know, I see some boats
41 traveling. They're coming upriver, up the Yukon and was
42 sitting there. I'm down to the beach a lot of the time,
43 watching some of these boats come up, they land for
44 fuel. There's a boat with six horns on there. Six guys
45 on there. The capacity of that boat probably couldn't
46 hold the weight of the meat. I mean, the horns and the
47 guys and their gear. So, if there's you know -- every
48 boat has a capacity, you know for the load and pounds
49 that should be in this boat, but there is no way they
50 got six moose on that boat. Six guys, six horns. They're

1 fueled, all their gear. I don't see that, I don't know
2 where the meat is, because that sure the hell is not in
3 that boat. And there's a lot of them, one after another,
4 one after another, all day. The wanton waste, I, you
5 know I hear things that a few gas stations that are
6 fueling up people when the water is dropping. Well, where
7 all this hind quarters and neck bones and all this stuff.
8 As the water drops, they're showing up on the beach,
9 they're not even looked at. Nobody then -- they're
10 brought to someone's attention, but it's still sitting
11 there. Nothing is done, you don't even hear about it.

12
13 I could talk all day on a lot of this
14 stuff. We had -- the weather really kind of goofed us
15 up for our hunting. The water was high. Moose was kind
16 of scarce, even for me, I did things that -- I brought
17 it up and had to tell my buddy Glenn there that -- what
18 I did. And you know, this unfortunate things happen, but
19 I got that kind of out of my way and dealt with it. High
20 water went into October. The trapping, a lot of the guys
21 don't even go trapping yet, the river and the Koyukuk
22 River just finally froze up. It's supposed to be out
23 there a month ago, this weather and this freeze ups are
24 getting later, getting more -- harder to travel. Can't
25 trust the lakes anymore. Like shouldn't be trusting
26 other things that happen toward us in our other ways, I
27 guess.

28
29 And, you know, this joint venture,
30 meetings with Eastern Interior, I think that should
31 possibly happen, like every two years, because we have
32 a lot in common. Our lifestyle. And, you know, we're all
33 individuals who have different ways to do things in
34 different areas, but we're still, after all, the same
35 thing, all the meaning, the fish and the moose and
36 everything like that. That's what we're here for, our
37 land. And travel, you know, it possibly be better for -
38 - to be a day early because there is -- like Don said
39 here, there, you know, there's a borderline, a weather
40 borderline right in between from the Kaltag area up
41 toward Koyukuk. It's a different weather on to the
42 mountains there, which will cause the wind or the snow.
43 And Nulato is right in there, behind that line. So in
44 Koyukuk is -- in Kaltag too. So, the weather could be
45 good on one side and Galena sunshine and everything, but
46 on -- just a few miles down the river it changed because
47 of the -- I think of the mountains.

48
49 But anyway, I can talk all day, I don't
50 want to -- I mean, I have a lot to talk about, and I

1 wish there was other people that would listen and can
2 do something about it. You know, there's one thing,
3 they're -- down there, you know this guy, he's a friend
4 of mine. He's a wildlife trooper. But, you know, the
5 pressure of the -- pressuring the folks, there's already
6 elements that are causing their lifestyle to change
7 their -- they don't have no fish, the water is high. But
8 then, you know, I think when you have some of these
9 issues that are happening already, why can't they have
10 a little bit of common sense and just lay off the people?
11 Go after other folks that's in this area as they camp
12 on where they shouldn't be camping and all this stuff,
13 but our people, I don't know, they get hardened, if you
14 slightly say something wrong, you're freaking
15 questioned, pushed, trying to get you to say something
16 to charge you with something, and it's not right, and I
17 see that happening, it happened to me and I don't like
18 it. And I wish this kind of stuff in the, you know, when
19 this -- when we're having these issues already, back
20 off. Stay off the people. They already have enough and
21 trying to make a living. So, I want to say that. I have
22 a lot to talk about. Think about a lot of this stuff,
23 and I just wish that you guys could take it in your
24 hearts because, you know, even at this meeting right
25 here, with some of the different folks that's in here
26 got their own titles and stuff, and I just, like I said
27 before, we talk so much and get the noose tightened
28 around our neck, and I wish that you'd see it in a better
29 way and have some common sense and help us out. Thank
30 you.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks for the --
33 thanks for all those excellent comments, Tommy. And I -
34 - we hear about this wanton waste thing, and I see it
35 on the road. I see people come down with a whole pile
36 of caribou horns in the back of the pickup, but that
37 truck sitting there level, and I know they don't have
38 meat in that truck. There's no way they got six caribou
39 in there. But there's -- I had a trooper driving through
40 my yard, I stopped him, I started talking to this state
41 trooper, I says, you're coming down from up north, a lot
42 of hunters? Yeah. I said, you got somebody coming up?
43 And he leans forward like this in his window, of his
44 truck, he goes, we only have three wildlife troopers in
45 the whole entire Fairbanks area. We gotta control the
46 Haul Road, the Steese hunts, all that -- they're cut to
47 the -- they're right on the edge. And it's the problem
48 of the State of Alaska not providing enough trooper
49 enforcement. And once these hunters find out that they
50 can do this, they know they can throw the meat off in

1 the brush and drive away, nobody's going to stop them.
2 There's no way to get there to do anything about it.
3 It's really super frustrating to see exactly what -- you
4 see a boat with six antlers on that, that thing would
5 be under the water, should only be drawn two inches or
6 something. So that's, you know, they're throwing it
7 away, but you can't do anything about it, I don't have
8 enforcement. So if I see it, I will turn it in. But if
9 you don -- you can't, you know. You can send rookies, I
10 told troopers a long time ago, you can send a rookie to
11 Coldfoot with a big pad full of tickets, and you could
12 sit there and all those guys love -- they have to fuel
13 up there. It's the bottleneck to get through the country.
14 They could just sit there and, okay, you guys got all
15 the -- you had your hamburger, bow we're going to go out
16 and check your meat. And just write tickets, seize their
17 equipment. You do that a few times, those guys will back
18 off. But they -- until they start taking their stuff
19 away from them and seizing it, the courts just slap them
20 on the wrist. Super frustrating. So, I'll shut up. Any
21 questions for Tommy? George? Got a mic somewhere? Yeah,
22 go ahead.

23

24 MR. YASKA: Thank you. George Yaska, U.S.
25 Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Chair, Tommy, thank you
26 for that, and offer my condolences again on your losses.
27 I have a question on the wanton waste regulations, and
28 anyone can answer. 20 years ago, when the regulations
29 were adopted. And I don't know if it's been changed
30 since then, but at that time, the regulations were that
31 the hunter just had to remove it from the kill site. And
32 when asked at the Board of Game, the trooper
33 representative said, once it's removed from the kill
34 site and in the example of the Koyukuk controlled use
35 area, then past the check station. As soon as you go
36 past the check station, you can dispose of the meat. We
37 asked them, what do you mean dispose of the meat? He
38 said, well, you can throw it out in the river or you --
39 you've satisfied the law. You've removed it from the
40 kill site. And so, my question is whether that rule has
41 been changed. I don't know.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The way I
44 understand the statute, it's a statute, legislative
45 statute that has to be removed from the from the field
46 and be in a preserved state for two weeks after it's
47 removed from the field. And that was in the statutory -
48 - the Board support sent me the statutes, state statutes
49 and that's the statute. But that's not being enforced.
50 Either it gets -- it -- what's happening on the road,

00031

1 they get to the first dumpster station at Farmers Loop
2 Road over there, they pull in there and throw it away,
3 and I've talked to hippies that got tons of meat out of
4 their -- rotten meat, they're not supposed to feed it
5 to their dogs, they fed it to their dogs and they saved
6 a lot of meat. Those guys just pull in and toss it.
7 They'll either just throw it in the ditch along the
8 roads here. That's not in a preserved state. They'll
9 leave it in the back of their -- out in their -- on
10 their trailers in the Costco parking lot with all these
11 dead bull caribou there, back in 20, rotting in the sun,
12 people were complaining about it. I like my meat rotten,
13 sure, right. You're going to throw it in the dumpster
14 at night. This happens all the time. So -- but the
15 statute is -- the problem is, we don't have enough
16 enforcement. There's only a few troopers and we got guys
17 out there chasing down bad game guides. We got -- they
18 only got one helicopter, they don't have hardly any
19 pilots. The State Trooper Wildlife and Protection is cut
20 to the minimum. And so -- and the word's out, that's the
21 problem. The word's out, and guys are getting away with
22 all kinds of stuff. It's super frustrating. So that's
23 something we can't do, we can't lobby any kind of -- we
24 can't get ahold of the Legislature, we can't do anything
25 like that, that's under the Hatch Act. But regular people
26 can. We gotta talk to our legislators. I'm of the opinion
27 that all non-resident hunters -- there's to be a trooper
28 in Coldfoot, he made 28 wanton waste cases one fall and
29 26 were non-residents. Wasting meat, not salvaging. You
30 know, Curt. So, there's a lot of wanton waste going on.
31 And if you got Wildlife Troopers that can enforce it,
32 that's one thing, but guides are responsible for the
33 meat. If they had to be guided, it would cut the number
34 of hunts down. And the Legislature's, it's incumbent on
35 the Legislature. The reason they were allowing all this
36 non-resident participation is because they're getting
37 \$850 -- \$800 for the moose tag, \$180 for the non-resident
38 license, and then, for every dollar they sell, they get
39 \$3 in Pittman-Robertson funds. That moose is worth a lot
40 of money to the Department of Fish and Game. So, the
41 problem is, the Legislatures got to bump that moose tag
42 up to another 800 bucks, make it 10,000 bucks. That'll
43 weed it right out. Oh, there's -- no, there's unlimited
44 demand, there's millions of people that got money will
45 pay \$10,000 for that tag. Then the state won't have to
46 have all that participation and give it -- make them
47 have to be guided also. These are legislative actions
48 that have to happen. We can't keep going. We're going
49 to wipe these moose populations out with what we're
50 doing. We can't just let non-residents run around.

1 Caribou populations are drying up. We got to cut that
2 off right now. Make their tags 5,000 bucks a piece, and
3 don't give them all this bag limit. We're running out
4 of caribou big time. We had a late spring up north. Our
5 caribou -- look, Western Arctic Caribou Herd fell off
6 by 20,000 caribou in two years, it's like, we're in
7 crisis. We can't just keep giving away this resource for
8 cheap. There's people will pay lots of money for it. But
9 it's -- the Native organizations should be pounding,
10 pounding on the Legislatures to get higher tag fees and
11 guided non-residents for caribou and moose. That's the
12 only way we can fix this. You can't keep having three
13 troopers chase all this stuff down. It's not going to
14 happen. I'll shut up now. Sorry about that. So, your
15 final comment there, George?

16
17 MR. YASKA: I do, and a follow up on Jenny
18 Pelkola's comment on the wind and the destruction of the
19 trees along the river. I had a question and follow up
20 question for Tommy, and what he's seen in the extent of
21 that further up the Kike River, behind Nulato, across
22 from Nulato. How extensive is that? Is that affecting
23 trails to trapping cabins and other hunting
24 opportunities?

25
26 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, that in those areas
27 along, the wind was extremely strong this year.
28 Something I never did ever seen in my life. And on the
29 speed of the wind at -- in Nulato upriver was at 67
30 miles an hour, and one side of the Yukon from Nulato up
31 toward Koyukuk about yeah, I don't know, 70-90% of the
32 spruce trees are all laying on the ground right now. And
33 it's like that all over the place. Up around my camp and
34 the creeks and all the way through the creek and the JR
35 Slough, are -- there's trees like someone just dropped
36 them in the river, all along the southern banks into the
37 river, there's -- I mean, just the 70-miles to my camp,
38 there's probably 3 or 400 trees into the slough that
39 fell into the slough. And on the side of the mountains,
40 Pilot Mountain, all those places, the trees are just
41 laid back right onto the ground. It -- it's all over the
42 place. They had a 12-mile trail to cut to Last Chance,
43 took them a month from Nulato to Last Chance, over the
44 hill, to get cleared a trail, and it's usually taken 2
45 or 3 days. And for six guys and for one month, a
46 clearing. But it's like that all over, some of the trails
47 that even my friend Gilbert, he said, I'm not cutting
48 some of those trails out. There's too many trees, and
49 I'm not going to cut it, just because, a lot of the
50 folks use it, but they won't help them. And after we get

1 back, we're supposed to be heading toward Huslia, and
2 that's probably going to be a chore. That's 100-miles
3 cross country. Anyway, yeah, there is -- it's a big
4 change. This whole weather and the -- this weather is
5 really something else right now. I mean, a lot of people
6 don't even have traps out. People just getting to cross
7 the rivers a month later so, anyway. A lot of different
8 things out there to see with the weather.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks, Tommy.
11 George.

12
13 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
14 you, Tommy.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks for those
17 questions, George. Appreciate that. Don.

18
19 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
20 Honea, Western Interior. I just wanted to kind of follow
21 up. I appreciate Tom's candor, frankness, I mean,
22 openness, we have to hear that. And I, you know, I saw
23 in Ruby wanton waste. I mean, I saw a picture of it,
24 maybe it was on Facebook or something, where they just
25 -- and this is, you know, just outright, just through
26 hindquarter or front arm in the river or something. So,
27 I'm hoping whether it's Ruby AC, Middle Yukon, the
28 Western Interior, somehow we can come to something --
29 like I mentioned yesterday, I hate to come to these
30 meetings, we talk about these problems, and yet we don't
31 come up with the resolve. I would like to -- maybe --
32 seems to me when these hunters are out here, just like
33 our corporation. So, we put up signs about 20 miles up,
34 20 miles down out the road, and people actually stayed
35 off of these, stayed off of them. So, that was cool. And
36 -- but the thing is, I mean, to still have that, I would
37 like to see a solution of maybe more check stations,
38 more checkpoints to tell the hunters that, hey, these
39 people will gladly take the meat and not just character
40 over from Galena, from up Melozi River that give us
41 meat that's rotten. And people know who I'm talking
42 about. But somehow I think that we have to get a handle
43 on this and, you know, to make these hunters aware that,
44 hey, if you're not going to mess with it, drop it off.
45 And it's, you know, it might sound simple or whatever,
46 but I think, Mr. Chair, I think that maybe, I don't
47 know, the RACs, the -- somebody -- I think we should
48 come up with some kind of solution. Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Now,
2 Tommy.

3
4 MR. KRISKA: I just -- I know there's --
5 I don't know if any more of us have comments, but anyway,
6 you said the presentation -- preservation for two weeks
7 after the -- they leave the hunting areas. You know, in
8 order to -- one of the ways to keep the meat on these
9 boats and maybe a lot of them go back to Nenana, a lot
10 of them go back to Tanana, a lot of them go back to the
11 bridge. That's where they live with their boats. Under
12 -- if there was a way that we could or the state or
13 anybody, the feds or anybody could put a regulation in
14 there that they have to show up to, you know, where they
15 actually put their boat in the water and return to that
16 spot with all their meat and everything that was required
17 to take out of the field, because the two weeks never,
18 passed it. So -- then a lot of them not going to be out
19 there for two weeks, they're probably ten days, but still
20 put it in writing or something like that, to make a
21 requirement for them to haul that meat back to the bridge
22 or back to wherever. Have the troopers or somebody there,
23 put the check stations there to where they can make sure
24 they have every last pound of meat that they were
25 supposed to have. And that probably will pressure them
26 into dropping meat off in the lower river with people
27 that possibly need it. And I mean, you know, win-win
28 situation in both ways, the people get their meat and
29 they get their, I guess, their horns, that's all they
30 want, but anyway, just something to -- I just -- I want
31 to throw that out there. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's a great
34 idea, but there's not enough troopers to enforce it.
35 That's the problem. The Governor's Office has cut that
36 -- cut their retirements, and they don't have enough
37 troopers, and there's just a whole bunch of problems,
38 but they should have to be a documented coming back in.
39 I would like -- I would love to see a checkpoint. We had
40 a checkpoint at the Yukon River bridge. I'd love to see
41 a checkpoint right outside of Fairbanks. You know, these
42 guys -- you've been hunting, you could be checking
43 hunters coming down that down the -- you're coming down
44 the Elliott Highway, coming into Fairbanks, you're going
45 to be coming -- all those hunters coming, and that's
46 right outside of Fairbanks. And they could just check
47 hunters like crazy for -- but, you know, a lot of them
48 pull at Manly to -- some of those guys go up there and
49 they'll pull at Manly, because it's kind of a long trip
50 from Manly up to in the shallows of the Tanana. So, we

1 got Tim Gervais on the phone. I gotta get Tim. Tim's
2 thing. Then I'm going to give a report. Go ahead, Tim.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim
5 Gervais. Appreciate all the Council member's reports, a
6 lot of difficult stories to hear. Like to encourage
7 everybody to stay strong and grounded. We have, of
8 course, as Tommy said, Jenny said, basically everybody's
9 experiencing it, this -- the salmon, the lack of salmon
10 on the Yukon and most likely the Kuskokwim is just been
11 devastating socioeconomically, culturally. Just really
12 destroying our communities. And I hope that these people
13 that have been around long enough, that have that -- do
14 know fish camp culture, hopefully they can have an
15 opportunity at some point to pass down the skills of
16 fishing and fish camp to these younger generations. My
17 first item is, I like to express my condolences to Tommy.
18 I lost my dad two years ago. And really tough to deal
19 with. I just kind of -- I still don't feel good about
20 it, but at least I can -- I try to use methods like
21 thinking about all the good that was done with having
22 that person in your life, and also realizing that
23 everybody has their time, everybody passes on, and you
24 just have to somehow figure out a way to reconcile with
25 that, that it's just like the leaves falling off the
26 trees in September, it's like, it's just a time when
27 everything returns to the ground. I like to express I
28 don't even know what the correct term is, gratitude or
29 condolence to the federal workers that were affected by
30 the shutdown. That's wholly inappropriate for people to
31 be laid off from their jobs and not receiving pay, not
32 have any clear guidance on how long a shutdown will last
33 or if their job will be terminated. So, I would certainly
34 understand if people were tired and decided to leave
35 their jobs with Office of Subsistence Management or
36 these other federal agencies but, from my perspective
37 and as RAC member, I want to say that what you folks do
38 to help us enforce and conduct the regulations that were
39 created with ANILCA, it has a lot of benefit to so many
40 people in rural Alaska that, we appreciate you for what
41 you do, and we appreciate trying to keep subsistence
42 economy viable. The next item I have is, I had a friend
43 I fished with quite a bit, he's from this village on the
44 north shore of Kuskokwim Bay, Kwigillingok, and his
45 village in Kipnuk got flooded really bad from the ocean
46 storm surge on November 16th, like between 2 and 4 in
47 the morning, the water between the storm surge and the
48 high tide. Water came in and flooded all the -- both
49 these villages are really low to the ocean level and his
50 house floated, started floating at 2:00 in the morning,

1 and he's got his three kids and four dogs and himself,
2 and they're sitting on a staircase. Their house is
3 floating around in the dark. The whole -- there's 3 feet
4 of water in the lower part of the house, is floating
5 around the village, getting hung up on power lines. Took
6 6 or 7 hours for the storm to subside and the tide to
7 go down a bit, and the house had moved to half mile over
8 the course of that time. And no, it's not in our area,
9 but I just want all the people to realize that well, we
10 are -- everybody's dealing with their own struggles,
11 personally and with their family. There's other
12 subsistence users in Alaska that really we're up against
13 it this fall. Most of these families are not in their
14 village, through -- in Anchorage, staying in hotels,
15 maybe with family. Town water supply for Kwigillingok
16 is destroyed, they used to get their drinking water from
17 a lake, but now that lake is brackish so, the -- there's
18 a lot of damage to the village and we just need to --
19 if you have any connection with these people, certain
20 they can use our moral support, our friendship, and of
21 course, any kind of whatever food or equipment
22 assistance. They really had a disruptive thing happen
23 in their life, and we should all remember, on any given
24 day we wake up to appreciate what things we have no
25 matter how humble our house is that, as long as our
26 family is safe and we have opportunity to feed and
27 provide for our family, keep them warm, that there's a
28 lot of -- there's more good than bad in our life.

29
30 Another item I have is just last week,
31 North Pacific Fishery Management Council published or
32 approved a 1.4 million metric ton quota for the Bering
33 Sea/Aleutian Island Trawl fleet. For Pollock. That
34 equates to over 3 trillion tons of fish that are being
35 taken out of the Bering Sea. And that is not a
36 sustainable level of harvest. The ocean -- oceans may
37 be vast, but they -- ocean productivity cannot keep up
38 with this rate of industrial fishing that's occurring
39 real close to our shores and in the Securing Act, I mean
40 that the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska,
41 that is all habitat for our salmon from the Kuskokwim,
42 Koyukuk and Yukon rivers. So, I'm -- just really feel
43 that the current management and regulatory structure has
44 failed miserably. NOAA has national standards on what
45 can happen with federal fisheries management. And in --
46 from my analysis, they're violating national standard
47 one: that management measures shall prevent over
48 fishing; national standard two: science -- scientific
49 information. We always hear Diane -- I'm sorry, I don't
50 know if it's Diane or Diana Stram with NOAA saying

1 they're using the best scientific information and
2 they're not. They're -- the best science tells us there's
3 not enough fish in our rivers. There's -- we're not
4 meeting escapement goals and we had a long talk
5 yesterday, really good presentation on a draft EIS with
6 the chum salmon conservation measures, and there was to
7 me -- there was a glaring error in that document, the
8 draft EIS where -- excuse me, North Pacific Management
9 Council saying they're not responsible for the
10 population levels of salmon that are getting into the
11 river system because they say they don't have
12 jurisdiction inside three miles. And I'm stating to this
13 Council, as part of my report is, it seems to me in the
14 tools we have in our toolbox to make change, that the
15 Solicitor should be made available to us, we should be
16 communicating with them, and we should find out what
17 actions can be taken with the Department of Commerce to
18 stop these regulatory violation of the National
19 Standards. So, I hope we can get that in our annual
20 report, and the OSM can get back to us on how the
21 Solicitor plays into getting some proper regulation. By
22 my assessment of this, you know, over 20 years this
23 problem has been going on is the trawl fleet and the
24 North Pacific Council don't really care about us, don't
25 care about our subsistence resource. They don't care
26 about the sustainability of the salmon. They only take
27 enough actions to show that they're doing something,
28 even though it won't correct the problem. I made the
29 statement in yesterday's meeting, and I thought about
30 it quite a bit. Right now, the between the pollock A
31 season and pollock B season, those trawlers are fishing,
32 on average, ten months out of the year, and they need
33 to be fishing no more than three months out of the year.
34 And it needs to be not in the summertime, needs to be
35 like January through March or February through April and
36 that's it. And I hope that we can get some kind of relief
37 on -- it's just, it's heinous to me that the commercial
38 fishing sector is able to harvest 3 trillion tons of
39 fish, not counting their bycatch, while there's no
40 subsistence harvest, we can't meet escapement goals, get
41 our fish on the spawning grounds, just -- I don't -- I
42 just can't even express how ridiculous the situation is
43 so, I mean, every time we talk to North Pacific
44 Management Council, they talk about rolling hot spots
45 as if like that's going to solve a problem. So, I hope
46 we can get some feedback from OSM on how the Solicitor
47 can help us overcome these great injustices that are
48 occurring with commercial fishing taking precedence over
49 sustainability and other subsistence activity. I guess
50 I got a little sidetracked.

1
2 The other -- so, we had National
3 Standard 1, Optimum Yield. Number 2, Scientific
4 Information. There's a National Standard Number 4
5 Allocations, which deals with fair and equitable
6 distribution of fishery resources to all fishermen.
7 That's being violated. Cost benefit analysis. There's a
8 bias in people thinking that cost benefit analysis only
9 involves dollar and cents and they're not evaluating the
10 value of subsistence economy, the value of the cultural
11 significance of families along these rivers harvesting,
12 preserving their catch and raising their families in in
13 in good and in good labor practices, in being able to
14 sustain their -- sustain and provide for their own
15 families. And then National Standard aids in violation
16 where communities are devastated, heard Tommy talk about
17 it, hear Robert talk about it, how the lack of fish is
18 having an adverse effect on the people of our region.
19 And then there's National Standard 9 on bycatch. So
20 that's that issue. We need to get that in the annual
21 report, and we need to move. We need to move on beyond
22 just talking about, we need to start getting action
23 going. I would -- I guess, if it's all right with you,
24 Mr. Chair, I just want to make a statement. They had a
25 problem with sustainability of salmon and not enough
26 salmon going around in Washington state. And the tribes
27 down there, they ended up suing the State of Washington,
28 saying that they're not -- they don't have access to as
29 much salmon as they historically did, enough salmon to
30 feed their communities, enough salmon to conduct their
31 cultural activities. And they ended up winning that
32 suit. It's called the Boldt Decision after the Judge,
33 Boldt. And what happened there was that that ruling said
34 that half of all the fish and shellfish in Alaska or,
35 excuse me, in Washington, belongs to the tribes. And
36 they got a whole set of regulations and distribution out
37 of that. And people that were non-tribal, that were
38 really upset about it, they said, oh, this is destroying
39 -- this is economically unjust, and this is going to
40 make me lose money, but it got upheld. And I feel it's
41 justified. We have a -- thousands and thousands a year
42 history, maybe 10,000 years of history of catching,
43 processing and eating salmon on this Yukon and
44 Kuskokwim, Koyukuk River drainages. And then we have
45 actual written evidence about Native fishermen around
46 Ruby catching 3- and 4-foot king salmon with nets out
47 of their canoes. We have written evidence that these
48 people that were putting in this telegraph line in the
49 1960s, this one guy that was a -- didn't have on that
50 unit, but they had a guy, he was a -- he's a [sic]

1 illustrator and he documented a lot of these findings,
2 and he said the villages from Russian Mission down to
3 the mouth of Yukon, they didn't even have a hunting
4 culture, their fishing was so dominant and so good that
5 every village from Russian Mission Down didn't even hunt
6 for moose or hardly anything else except for clothing.
7 And they got all their protein off of king salmon and
8 chum salmon. That shows the level of how prolific the
9 salmon stocks were at a time. That's 1860s, that's 100
10 -- 160 years ago. So, we could see how increasing
11 population and modern technology can destroy a natural
12 resource that fed so many with such high-quality
13 nutrition for so long.

14
15 Okay. My next item is Bill Twight or
16 Tweed, I'm sorry, I don't know the exact pronunciation
17 of his last name. He was a member of North Pacific
18 Management Council for many years. He was the
19 representative. He was the person that talked for the
20 State of Washington or the State of Washington seat on
21 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. He retired
22 and received war -- awards and accolades for his service.
23 He was in a meeting in Galena. I can't remember what
24 year it was, but I remember that meeting, and he was in
25 a meeting in Fairbanks with the Y-RAC -- and my -- I
26 mean, he was doing what he felt his job was, but his
27 influence from my perspective, was really deleterious
28 for salmon stocks of Alaska and for the subsistence
29 users, he felt that because the trawl fleets of
30 Washington had so much economic investment and caught
31 so much fish, that those fisheries had to continue on
32 and not give enough deference to the sustainability of
33 the salmon stocks and the rights, the economic right,
34 the existence of a subsistence economy, the existence
35 of the economic activity of all the villages on our
36 drainages. He always put the trawl fleet ahead of that.
37 And he was not interested in an equitable, fair and
38 equitable distribution of fisheries resources. So, we'll
39 see what the new person that replaces him will come up
40 with, but that's just -- it's an interesting perspective
41 where he was -- received these awards and accolades for
42 his service, when I feel like he it was very damaging
43 to the salmon and the subsistence users of Alaska.

44
45 The next item is the Ambler Road, is
46 coming back into play. BLM told us yesterday that
47 reissued a permit for Ambler Road. I would like our
48 Council and hopefully the help of the other neighboring
49 Councils to put up opposition to this road happening.
50 This proposed route of the road -- it's a roadless,

1 undeveloped track of Alaska from you know, Bettles in
2 the Ambler mining district. And we have caribou herds
3 there, and we have a lot of watersheds. There's not that
4 big of a population through there, but this -- having
5 this roadless undeveloped area, there's so few places
6 like that left in the world that I don't feel like Alaska
7 in general, the general population of Alaska understands
8 the significance and value of having a large area that
9 has no road, has no industrial development on it or very
10 small. So, we need to just get back and stay engaged
11 with Ambler Road and put up opposition to it, get word
12 out to the significance of that area, the quality and
13 importance of it being undeveloped for subsistence users
14 and for our fish and wildlife species in general.

15
16 And then, my final item is there's this
17 outfit down in Portland called Pacific States Marine
18 Fisheries Commission. And they had solicited people on
19 the Kuskokwim, Koyukuk, Yukon Rivers for a 2021 salmon
20 disaster. And now here it is, December of 25, four years
21 later, they're saying they're going to distribute money
22 to subsistence users by December 31st of this year. So,
23 they said that they're going to distribute it last year,
24 last fall and now they're saying that should be coming
25 in the next two weeks. So, I don't know if it'll happen,
26 but of course website they're saying the payments to
27 subsistence users will occur. They're trying to make it
28 occur before the end of the year. And that's all I have,
29 Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Tim.
32 Any questions for Tim on his presentation, his talking
33 points?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 I don't see any. It is just after 11.
38 We should take a 15-minute break and then come back.
39 And, Don, you have to leave at 5:00? Is that what I'm
40 getting now?

41
42 MR. HONEA: Preferably 4:30 or so. I have
43 something going on at five, so.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: On Mic. And so you
46 are suggesting a working lunch? Can that happen, Nissa?

47
48 MR. HONEA: That's if it's okay with
49 other members. I mean, this is -- that's just my comment.

50

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1 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it sure can, it would
2 just involve everybody throwing in for pizza or sandwich
3 or whatever. I would like to note that I know Jenny
4 likes to have a nice stand down at lunch, but ultimately
5 it is whatever you guys want to do, I think things will
6 start moving pretty -- the agenda isn't as long as it
7 looks.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We do have a lot
10 of agenda, so we should take a 10-15-minute break.

11
12 MR. HONEA: Well.....

13
14 (Simultaneous speech)

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:and maybe get
17 this.....

18
19 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I mean, that was
20 just my -- I want to know what everybody else -- that's
21 just my request, so.

22
23 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I don't mind
24 that we're working lunch.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Other members,
27 working lunch?

28
29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are
30 we really going to have lunch?

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: OSM will go out and
33 pick some stuff up, if we toss into a hat for those who
34 eat lunch, I don't eat lunch, so. So, yeah, this place
35 is hard to eat at, you gotta travel away from here to
36 eat, so.....

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MR. HONEA: That was just mine, if people
41 want to go for lunch, let's do it. I mean, that's, you
42 know, I.....

43
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's actually way
45 easier to have somebody go get the lunch, because it's
46 really hard to get away from this place, unless you got
47 a vehicle. So, I mean, Pollock and various people can't
48 go away, they're just going to be sitting here waiting
49 for lunch anyway. So, let's just do the working lunch
50 thing. And what do you suggest then? We're going to send

1 somebody away. Who's going to do this? Brent?

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Okay. I'll put Brent in
4 charge of it.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So -- but
7 let's take a 15-minute break and then we'll come back.
8 And then I got to give my report and then we're going
9 to move on into this agenda.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're going to
16 kind of come back to order again. So, Don -- and we're
17 going to come back to order again and let's see. And
18 Jenny, where's Jenny?

19

20 MS. PILCHER: She had -- she went to her
21 room.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Tim, are
24 you still there?

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: Yes I am, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, we
29 covered the main Council's reports, the Chair report.
30 You know, we did -- we missed our meeting in October,
31 and the Koyukuk River Advisory met in April, but I
32 couldn't attend that meeting, but I was on virtually on
33 that meeting, that was in Hughes. And I would like to
34 get an Advisory Committee meeting together on
35 teleconference to do the fisheries proposals for the
36 South Alaska Peninsula and Shumagin Islands proposals.
37 And a face-to-face meeting at some point -- because we're
38 coming to Board of Game proposals. And so, there's issues
39 that need to be addressed at the State Board of Game
40 level. So -- but then, I'm on the Gates of the Arctic
41 Subsistence Resource Commission, we had meetings. We --
42 our winter meeting in November was canceled because
43 we're on federal shutdown again. So, we're rescheduling
44 that for April. But as far as the -- what happened up
45 north, we ended up with a with a deep snow year of 52-
46 inches of snow and then a kind of a late spring, it
47 didn't melt off on time, the tundra didn't open up until
48 about two weeks behind normal schedule in the third week
49 in April, which is critical for caribou to get the cotton
50 grass tussock sedge calms, which are pollen and protein.

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1 And I killed a bull caribou on the 19th of May and the
2 marrow was red, it was just -- there was no fat in there,
3 and it was just the hemoglobin processes were showing
4 that the caribou was right on the edge of mortality. So,
5 the caribou had a really tough winter.

6
7 There was mortalities on Dall sheep, the
8 GPS collars that they have on sheep east and west of the
9 road, there's 30 ewes and 30 rams and 30 ewes and 30
10 rams. So, 120 sheep, there's about a 20% mortality on
11 those adults. So, those animals in the mountains had a
12 really hard time. We ended up going into a real hot
13 summer in July, in fact, it hit 90 degrees, the warmest
14 temperature I've ever seen personally in Wiseman, which
15 allows them to do caribou surveys. So that's -- so when
16 you get a caribou survey, it's like, woohoo! We got a
17 caribou survey, actually, that means the caribou are
18 having a really hard time, that's why they're in
19 aggregate like that, they're being harassed by insects
20 galore and -- they're almost like penguins, they go in
21 concentrics, and they're just super stressed out. They
22 can hardly eat and that's not real healthy for them. So,
23 going off of a hard winter into a late spring, then a
24 real hot July, that was really, really hard on the
25 caribou. So, it really draws them down.

26
27 So, then we had, starting in August,
28 started raining and raining. Of course, it always rains
29 for the fair down here in Fairbanks, but then it really
30 started raining and on the 25th and 6th of August it
31 rained 3.71 inches in one day, one night with a 55-60
32 knot wind, knocking down trees and it come -- flooded
33 everything out, and there was landslides all over the
34 place, and it scoured creek valleys right down into
35 boulders as big as these tables that I've never seen,
36 it cut that deep into the drainages before. And any
37 salmon that had spawned in the Brooks Range, all reds,
38 were completely blown out, Jim River, all. There's
39 hardly any stocks as there is, but you can bet there are
40 no salmon eggs that survive this -- these flood events
41 that happen in the Brooks Range. And that happened all
42 the way down in the Gisasa was really high in the Gisasa.
43 Tommy also?

44
45 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. So, all the
48 way down to Koyukuk, the whole south edge of the Brooks
49 Range, Alatna, everybody got beat up. Allakaket got beat
50 up. That was really bad for the salmon. So, I'm really

1 concerned about those salmon coming back to the system.
2 Salmon die, they leave nitrogen-15 which feeds the fresh
3 water stocks, so that grayling and whitefish and stuff
4 like that -- that doesn't give -- their number -- their
5 food availability is declining. And then you get
6 mortalities. You have huge mortalities when you have
7 these kind of floods, the grayling have to go back in
8 the woods to get out of the flood or the river drops and
9 it leaves them out there, they're stranded in the woods.
10 They also get crushed by rolling boulders. And I found
11 grayling -- black bear was flipping rocks over one time.
12 There was -- there were graylings smashed into the mud
13 where they've been caught underneath the boulders in
14 high water events. So, our freshwater stocks are getting
15 beat up, the salmon stocks are getting beat up, and we
16 got rusty water coming out of -- springing out of
17 everywhere. So, it's just kind of -- all of a sudden we
18 got orange water from 2017. Wiseman Creek ran gin clear
19 every summer, if it was not raining real hard. And on
20 the 7th of July of 2017, we had a storm, a rainstorm hit
21 the upper drainage and suddenly the creek come down just
22 like the -- see the pictures of orange water look like
23 Tang, look like that. So, it was like -- and more and
24 more, these creeks keep pumping out all this orange
25 water, this iron oxide, which is not -- acidic, it's not
26 real healthy for the fish. So, we're getting beat up,
27 these fish are getting really beat up in the Brooks
28 Range. So sheefish stocks and some of these whitefish
29 stocks that spawn, they're not -- they're going to have
30 some really hard time, because we had high water again
31 in October. We got a lot of rain in early October. And
32 the rivers come back up again. Up onto the bars again
33 in early October -- October is really late. So, we --
34 these -- made the valley full of mud, so all the moose
35 went way up on the mountains and I did -- the first year
36 I didn't kill a moose in 34 years. We hunted really
37 hard. Every day in our season goes to the 1st of October.
38 Well, we still didn't get a moose. Looking and looking.
39 Hey, there's not as many moose, we don't see nearly as
40 good recruitments, we've had these deep snow years, so
41 I'm really concerned about that issue.

42
43 So, I -- currently, after all the rain
44 and everything -- and it rained on the snow all the way
45 through the 12th of October, which is pretty late. We've
46 accumulated 11-inches of snow. We're starting -- we've
47 just started to see a few caribou just to the east --
48 just to the west of us, into the park. And so, there's
49 a few caribou around. And we didn't get a moose, but we
50 did hear about caribou up by Galbraith Lake, and we went

1 to the north and I got referred to as a paqniaq, the
2 large bull caribou, that five year old bulls that usually
3 would have really thick fat in the fall. After a hard
4 winter, the large bulls only had an inch and a half of
5 fat. They ate all that fat. So, that's like, that's not
6 that much fat. But, right now, the snow depths and the
7 winds and so forth, the caribou -- I was just talking
8 to Mark Nelson there -- caribou, a lot of them are
9 staying north. The winds have been really strong on the
10 Arctic Slope and in the passes, the caribou are kind of
11 spread out all over the place. I think they're doing --
12 after a really a bad time, they're finally getting a
13 little reprieve on this shallow snow, they can run really
14 fast, they can stay away from wolves a lot better, and
15 if it stays like this, we might stabilize our caribou
16 and sheep populations. So, that's my report of -- about
17 what's been going on. So, we're going to continue to
18 move through this agenda. We're going to move into public
19 and tribal comments. Do we have any -- oh, Pollock you
20 got a question or comment?

21
22 MR. SIMON: Okay. So, I got some
23 comments. You talk about the rusty water in river. You
24 know, some years back, the Alatna River use to be crystal
25 clear, clear and cold, and during early spring in June,
26 the water is clear, so go up on the river and get
27 drinking water. But things have changed now. Last few
28 years the water seems rusty. And all summer long, it
29 didn't never get clear. There's something wrong, maybe
30 banks is washing away or something.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I mean, it's
33 not only the rust, but there's also huge amounts of
34 glacial material that's thawing loose and plugging off
35 valleys. So, in the summer, the river used to get really,
36 super clear. I haven't seen clear water in the middle
37 fork of the Koyukuk, even on -- this summer, when it was
38 really hot, it was still just mud. And so, if you -- I
39 put a fike net, a funnel trap in the river, it just be
40 covered in mud all summer and never gets clear anymore.
41 So, the waters don't get clear, the side streams are
42 running rough rust. And so, I didn't even fish this
43 year, I didn't even attempt to fish because, it was
44 either high water or mud running down the river, so I
45 didn't even attempt it. The fish numbers are getting
46 low. So, any other questions on my -- okay. Pollock.

47
48 MR. SIMON: Yeah, Jack, you talk about
49 the sheep declining, is not just sheep, just moose
50 declining and caribou. I read in the newspapers across

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1 the country, like in Canada, there's caribou population
2 declining also. And fish, salmon. What's going on, Jack?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Climate change
5 with its ugliest face. That's what it is.

6

7 MR. SIMON: We need to get to the bottom
8 of this. Reverse the trend.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Pacific Ocean
11 is just way too warm, and it just keeps putting out more
12 and more thermal mass, which respirates with all this
13 water. Look at Oregon and Washington, they're getting
14 beat up. We had the -- we were in the fire hose all
15 fall. Now it's moved down to the States and it's beating
16 up the Washington coast, and their salmon runs are
17 getting beat up right this minute. Any of the fish that
18 they had spawn, they're gone, they're -- all their reds
19 are ripped out. It's -- the Pacific Ocean is super warm,
20 and my sister and brother-in-law were down in Hawaii and
21 the Pacific Ocean, which is super deep, it's like 38,000
22 feet from the side of the Big Island to the deep, deepest
23 part of the ocean, and it was four degrees warmer than
24 average. And the -- and all the swordfish went way to
25 the north, where it was colder. They had to get away
26 from the hot water. The Pacific Ocean is getting way too
27 warm, that's what the big problem is. And it affects the
28 food chain for the salmon on the North Pacific. And it
29 does -- it's doing all kinds of things, we're getting
30 hit on all sides and the country can't catch a break.
31 So, it's making everybody frustrated, like Tommy's
32 talking about. Super frustrated with this, and just to
33 see people killing a moose and throwing the meat away
34 and got the antlers. After all of what's been going on,
35 I don't want to see that. We need enforcement. We need
36 to have more control of this. And there's some
37 regulations that -- and there's things that can happen
38 at the legislative level of -- guided non-resident
39 hunters, are the responsibility of a guide, to take care
40 of that meat. Then they can -- those guide will lose
41 their license, they don't want to waste meat. For moose
42 and caribou, we don't have caribou galore. Our caribou
43 of the western herd's going over a cliff. Central Arctic
44 is down, Porcupine's down, everything's down. We don't
45 have an extra caribou to give, and so we can't just
46 keep giving them out for cheap. The Legislatures got to
47 change the tag fees. \$5,000 for a caribou tag, that
48 makes \$20,000 for the State, because they get \$3 in
49 Pittman-Robertson. \$5,000 for the tag, 3- to 15,000
50 match, State's going to be happy about that, Department

1 of Fish and Game, jumping up and down, clicking their
2 heels about that one. And 10,000 for a moose tag. Well,
3 there's plenty of people who will pay that. There's
4 unending supply of hunters that want that. So, that's a
5 \$40,000 moose to the State, and Glenn would be really
6 happy about that, wouldn't you, Glenn? So, if these
7 tribes want to do anything, you start beating AFN and
8 everybody beat the tar out of the Legislature to change
9 these tag fees and these guide requirements, that's how
10 we're going to control this wanton waste problem, and
11 that's how we're going to get the revenues back for the
12 resource, the dwindling resource that we don't have a
13 lot to give. But, I just want to say that. So, another
14 question, Pollock? Very good. Oh, good.

15
16 MR. SIMON: I got another comments about
17 the salmon. Old timers in Hughes and Allakaket talk about
18 they weren't always plenty of salmon, there was some
19 lean years, like 1940, there was no salmon. And it
20 improved by 1945. When I was a kid in Hughes, my mother
21 had a fish camp across village (indiscernible). 1950,
22 there was a lot of salmon at that time, there was king
23 salmon. Then there came the act, Statehood Act, 1959
24 when we became a state. And of course the state and the
25 feds took over management. And since then, the fish has
26 declined. The people before us, the elders told us to
27 preserve the fish and wildlife, told us just take what
28 we need, and that worked good. We go down the river and
29 in June, July, the fish come and we would just take what
30 we need. But then the state and the feds (indiscernible)
31 and there's no fish.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There's a lot of
34 things been happening since 1959. Hatchery programs
35 built 1.2-1.8 billion smolt dumped into the ocean,
36 competing with the wild fish. I saw -- is it YR DFA made
37 this video were Serena's in the video with the hatchery
38 problem? You gotta [sic] watch this video. The problem
39 is there's too much hatchery fish being dumped into the
40 ocean annually. If they put pink salmon in the ocean
41 every other year, that's what the natural pink -- but
42 they dump them in all the time so they outcompete the
43 salmon. So, the -- that's competition. Then we got the
44 Bering Sea trawl fishery that happens since 1959, and
45 they can't get back to the river of origin. They're
46 coming back as adults, coming out of the North Pacific
47 and out of the Aleutians. They get beat up in the trawl
48 fishery. And then we get beat up with weather in the
49 river. We're going to have extinct salmon. You asked --
50 Robert asked the question, when are they going to make

1 the salmon on the endangered species list? That's coming
2 right up, because the Board of Fish refuses to cut that
3 hatchery program back. And there's statewide proposals
4 to reduce the hatchery release and the Board of Fish,
5 where do they go to have the meeting? In Cordova where
6 they have the most hatcheries. So apparently, they don't
7 want to hear anything to the opposition. So, we're going
8 to keep -- we're going to lose these salmon on the Yukon
9 River. That's what's going to happen. You just can see
10 it. You don't have to be a rocket scientist just to see
11 what's going to happen. So that's your final question
12 there, Pollock? Okay, good. Thank you. So now we're going
13 to go to Public and Tribal Comments on Non-agenda Items,
14 and we have Olivia, come up here.

15

16 MS. IRWIN: Hi, Mr. Chair, we actually
17 are on your agenda for the Yukon River drainage, it's
18 later this afternoon. I was hoping to just give a short
19 update to you right now, if that's okay.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Sure.

22

23 MS. IRWIN: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

26

27 MS. IRWIN: Okay. For the record, my name
28 is Olivia Henaayee Irwin, I'm from Nenana, Alaska. I'm
29 the Community Liaison for the Yukon River Drainage
30 Fisheries Association, and our full report can be found
31 on page 236 of your big binder, but I recognize that you
32 have a lot to get through today, so I just want to give
33 a really short update for folks. So, this summer, YRDFA
34 traveled to multiple communities throughout the Yukon
35 River, hosting community meetings, a Bio Technician
36 Training Camp, Ruby Culture Camp, and continued our
37 surveys and community monitoring program, even launching
38 a new digital app for our surveyors.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Excuse me.

41

42 MS. IRWIN: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: 236 is our FRMP
45 projects. You must have the EIRAC book page number, which
46 is different.

47

48 MS. PILCHER: I'll find it.

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50 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, continue.

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MS. IRWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the clarification. Our travels this summer included S4t. Mary's, Huslia, Ruby, Beaver and Eagle. With the help of Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission, YRDFA was again able to offer the In-season Teleconference this past summer, keeping fishermen connected to each other. We will be actively seeking funding before next season to ensure we will be able to offer the teleconference again in 2026. YRDFA transitioned out of our summer season and is engaging in the Winter Meeting Season while developing plans for the implementation of 2026 summer programs with another Bio Technician Camp in St. Mary's and the Educational Exchange, where we will be hosting a group of Canadians. YRDFA is engaged at the North Pacific, paying attention to the chum bycatch issues that will be discussed in February. We are seeking funding to support travel to the Chum Bycatch EIS meeting in Anchorage, and continue to work with partner organizations and tribes.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Sorry to stop you for one second. For Council members to look on 239 for the YRDFA report, go ahead, continue.

MS. IRWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also, this spring, there will be the Area M Board of Fish Meeting, Yukon River Panel Statewide Board of Fish and the Yukon River Symposium. We'll continue to keep users informed about other important work being done on the Yukon River. We had a great summer season, and we look forward to continuing our good work through the winter. I'd like to leave you with the dates for YRDFA's pre-season meeting, which will be held in Anchorage April 21st and 22nd of 2026. And Mr. Chair, that concludes my official comments. I would just like to, on a personal note, let folks know that this spring I was appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and now I'm sitting in Stan Zuray seat. That comment deadline for Area M will be February 3rd. And additionally, an important thing to note about the Yukon River is our chinook and fall chum are now in a Stock of Management Concern that was decided in November. And March will be the opportunity for you to comment on the management plans that are coming out. Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. When is your
2 statewide meeting? That's in conjunction with the South
3 Alaska Peninsula?

4
5 MS. IRWIN: It is not Mr. Chair. The
6 South Alaska Peninsula meeting will be in February and
7 March 17th through the 20th will be the statewide meeting
8 in Anchorage.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, I wish -
11 - I would -- as we have the Board member here, I would
12 hope that you would be advocating for the reduction --
13 the 25% reduction is a minimal. But what Washington State
14 does is they release 200 million pink salmon smolt
15 biannually, and they stay in step with the pink salmon
16 runs themselves. So, they're releasing their large
17 releases simultaneously with -- on the even year, that's
18 when their smolts go out, is on the even year. And then
19 they stay in step. The hatcheries in Alaska have to get
20 back to science. There's really lots of reasons why
21 that's happening, and you're probably well aware of all
22 that. But I'm speaking it onto the record here that the
23 State of Alaska -- there's 600 some million dollars
24 involved in this hatchery cost recovery and all this
25 stuff. We're losing our salmon runs because we're out
26 of sync with reality on the ocean. So, we have to do
27 that, and I would hope that you would be able to speak
28 some common sense in the Board meeting. So, you're a
29 very articulate speaker and I have high hopes for you.

30
31 MS. IRWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any questions for
34 Olivia. Go ahead. Oh. That's Tim? Who is that?

35
36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Tim
37 Gervais. I had a few comments and questions for Olivia.
38 Olivia, thanks for your short presentation. And from our
39 whole RAC, we always appreciate all the advocacy work
40 that the YRDFA does, you guys are really huge and keeping
41 all our fishermen on the river aware of where the issues
42 and do a lot of work on consensus building. What -- I'm
43 interested in this film or YouTube video that Jack's
44 talking about with YRDFA. What is the link or the channel
45 that YRDFA uses to put out these videos?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Nissa.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: I was going to say, I know
50 I've seen it, Jack just said he sent it out. I'll find

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1 it again and put it on the top of your inbox.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I sent it to you
4 the other day. Somebody on our village is a YouTube
5 enthusiast.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, okay. I remember that
8 I didn't -- I've got it.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Click on it. It's
11 a really good video. And you should watch that video at
12 the Board of Fish meeting, that should be played on the
13 screen for those Board members to look at, because it's
14 black and white, it's being impartial, but there's real
15 science involved there. Daniel Schindler is a real
16 scientist. And where this oh, the hatcheries don't do
17 anything, yeah, they do, there's a lot of science and
18 there's a hatcher paper that I read, it's about that
19 thick, and it took me, on my phone, about two days to
20 read that thing and analyze it. It's graphic as to what
21 the hatcheries are doing to our fishery stocks. So, I
22 sent that out to this Council's members. I don't know
23 if you got that email, probably didn't see it, notice
24 it. Depends on your bandwidth. And people don't like to
25 click on stuff because it might have malware or
26 something. So, another -- other comments there, Tim? Or
27 you got a comment there, Nissa?

28

29 MS. PILCHER: I was just saying,
30 depending on when we end today, I can always put it on
31 the screen too.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Another
34 comment there, Tim? And then we got Robert and.....

35

36 (Simultaneous speech)

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I wanted -- if Olivia
39 could comment on what is YRDFA see is the resistance or
40 roadblocks to getting some kind of relief in Alaska on
41 our -- Jack saying it's 1.8. My impression, the hatchery
42 release for Alaska is 2.2 billion salmon, mostly pink
43 but chum also. But, Olivia what does YRDFA see as the
44 obstacles that need to come to -- the whatever Y-RAC or
45 YRDFA or subsistence users need to overcome to get this
46 hatchery release issue down to some more appropriate
47 level?

48

49 MS. IRWIN: Yeah, thank you, Tim, for
50 your question. Through the Chair, great question. So, I

1 want to preface this by acknowledging that the Alaska
2 Board of Fisheries actually has very limited
3 jurisdiction over hatcheries. It's mostly a legislative
4 issue because of the fiduciary responsibility or burden
5 that it would put on the individual business or owner.
6 And so, the authority of the Board of Fisheries is the
7 percentage of reduction that can take place. So, I
8 believe that there's a lot of need for -- if folks are
9 interested in that, to share with their legislators and
10 work with legislators on these issues because they
11 actually have the majority of the authority within the
12 State to make these changes. And then additionally, just
13 continuing to show up at Board of Fish meetings to share
14 your desires and your opinions. I would say that there's
15 new evidence coming out always and research on the
16 effects of hatcheries in the ocean and on individual
17 stocks. And I think that always bringing that kind of
18 data to the table is always important.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you for that
21 response. So, I'm going to go to Robert now.

22
23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
24 looking at the upcoming meetings in Anchorage, the Board
25 of Fish-Aleutian-Chignik Area-M in Anchorage. Is that
26 just for that organization or is it open to just about
27 everybody?

28
29 MS. IRWIN: Yeah, thank you for the
30 question. It is the -- that Board of Fish meeting is
31 open to the entire public. So, it's a public Board of
32 Fish meeting, just like any other one. Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

35
36 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
37 that -- if we were to put a proposal in from, let's just
38 say example TCC or somebody or the Western Interior RAC
39 how much time do we have to do this?

40
41 MS. IRWIN: Yeah, thank you for your
42 question, I'll go ahead and put my Board of Fish hat on,
43 so unfortunately, the period for proposals has already
44 passed. That was earlier this spring. And then the --
45 for agenda change request was also already passed. And
46 so, there's not going to be an opportunity for you to
47 submit an original proposal at this meeting. However, I
48 would encourage you to look at the existing proposals
49 and see if there's one that your tribe or your RAC or
50 your AC agrees with, and you always have the opportunity

1 to suggest amendments or write out substitute language.
2 And the Board is able to take up substitute language or
3 amendments to the existing proposal, if they see fit.
4 So, you'll have February 3rd is that comment deadline
5 for on-time public comments. And then, remember you can
6 always submit a record copy during the meeting and so
7 even, if you're in the meeting and it's day three and
8 you think, I think proposal 51 needs this type of a
9 shift, you can submit comments and they go straight to
10 the Board and we can consider it.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead
13 Robert.

14
15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Olivia
16 too, you know, like -- I think the RAC Board did put in
17 a proposal last year about the size of the seine net, I
18 mean, we know -- I've never -- our tribe never heard
19 whatever happened to that, was that...? The seine net
20 that -- what we put in the side, Jack. Remember that?

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, it was the
23 length and depth of the seine.

24
25 MR. WALKER: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOOF: And so, Tim, that
28 was.....

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 MR. WALKER: Whatever happened to it.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I don't -- that was
35 not adopted. How long have you been on the Board?

36
37 MS. IRWIN: I was appointed in April. I
38 served for two months now.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, yeah, she
41 wasn't on the Board when that happened.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can I comment on
44 that?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: That -- the proposal that
49 was generated by the Y-RAC is up for debate, is -- the
50 action will occur in this February 18 to 24 meeting

1 coming up. Look on page (distortion) 43. Board of Fish-
2 Aleutian-Chignik-Area M in Anchorage, February 18 to 24.
3 That's where Board of Fish will take action on that
4 proposal.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
7 record. And I'm pretty sure that the working group --
8 of the next agenda topic would be to go over the stuff
9 discussed yesterday, and one of those things were
10 comments to be submitted to those two Board of Game --
11 excuse me, Board of Fish meetings. And I'm fairly certain
12 that that working group did take up your guys' proposal,
13 and those are included in those comments.

14
15 MS. IRWIN: And I just looked at the
16 proposal booklet, your guys' proposal is 148.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: My mistake. I was
19 thinking about a different proposal. And so that was
20 your final comment? Okay. And so, Don.

21
22 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First
23 off, congratulations, Olivia. I think you're well up to
24 the task of what you just entered, and I know that we
25 have your back you know, the Western Interior, all of
26 us, we have -- I was just wondering about the upcoming
27 meetings because, I mean, looking at them like I don't
28 see a meeting in April or May or whatever for -- like
29 in Fairbanks because, you know, Yukon is pretty -- I
30 mean, all the tribes on there have a voice down there.
31 And, you know, we might differ in some areas and stuff.
32 So, I really don't know if, you know -- is there one
33 that is projected for this spring, so you know -- usually
34 they select Fairbanks and we'd have it in March or April.
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. IRWIN: Yeah, through the Chair.
38 Thank you, Don, for your question. So, we will be having
39 our annual spring pre-season meeting. It's going to be
40 an Anchorage this year, actually, though, YRDFA will
41 still provide support for tribes to travel. And those
42 dates will be April 21st and April 22nd. And we have not
43 decided on a meeting location, but we'll be sure to get
44 that information out.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, thank you, Don.
47 Any further questions for Olivia?

48
49 (No response)

50

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1 I don't see any. Thanks so much, Olivia.
2 Good luck at the Board level. So, we're going to move
3 on in our agenda. We have any other, any public or tribal
4 comments?

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Once again this is Nissa
7 Pilcher for the record, anyone on the phone that is star
8 five to raise your hand or use the raise hand button and
9 star six to mute and unmute. Thanks.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, do we have any
12 tribal or public comments for from people on the phone?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 And do we have anybody in the room that
17 from tribal members or public that want to comment on
18 any issue?

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 Apparently not. So, we're going to move
23 into our additive items here. We have three items with
24 the joint meeting from EIRAC. And then we also have the
25 Kuskokwim FRMP discussion which will be after that. So,
26 Nissa is going to put them up on the screen. We were
27 working with EIRAC yesterday. And we talked about the -
28 - North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is looking
29 at the environmental impact statement and the various
30 options.

31
32 (Pause)

33
34 So, this is the last.....

35
36 MS. PILCHER: This is the -- sorry.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, we can do
39 this. Well, we don't -- there doesn't have to be an
40 order.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so up on the screen
43 is the working -- these are the comments that the Tri-
44 RAC working group ended up with after a meeting between
45 -- oh, no, don't close that -- meeting between Eastern
46 and Western and Yukon Delta Councils. We did discuss
47 this yesterday and Eastern did approve it as written.
48 So -- and of course, Robert was our representative for
49 Western Interior, Tommy was busy. So, the idea is -- so
50 at the AK Peninsula-Aleutian Islands-Chignik proposals,

1 which is the Area M, the working group supported the
2 following proposals, which does include your proposal.
3 And it does go into detail on what these -- or the title
4 of these proposals are, and I do have this in hard copy,
5 if anyone would like to read it. There's also statewide
6 proposals 163, 164 and 165. And actually, let me go back
7 and read the summary for -- sorry about the scrolling.
8 So, the working group strongly supports proposals that
9 seek to implement chinook and chum salmon saving
10 measures in fisheries that are in intercept AYK bound
11 salmon. Escapement goals for chinook and for chum salmon
12 are not being met. The salmon needs to be protected
13 across their entire range and not just in-river, or we
14 will risk losing these stocks for every -- forever. Every
15 salmon counts in an effort to rebuild runs. Subsistence
16 fishers have been bearing the burden of conservation,
17 and the subsistence priority is not being upheld. And
18 all of these proposals deal with looking to implement
19 chinook and chum salmon savings measures in those AYK
20 intercept fisheries. Does anybody want me to go -- to
21 read each title?

22
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We have this white
24 paper yesterday when we're discussing this with Eastern
25 Interior Council and they adopted this, they had quorum,
26 so they adopted this paper. And so, we had our -- Robert
27 was our representative. And did you want to discuss how
28 that meeting, Robert, sort of, just briefly, how your
29 participation?

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim. Can I
32 interrupt for a minute?

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert, a chance to
35 go over what he experienced, and then we can continue
36 on with your question.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Well, my question just
39 about yesterday -- we had the video showing us the
40 documents for the online people. And we don't have that
41 today. Is there any way we can get included on that?

42
43 MS. PILCHER: I'll work on that. I am not
44 as tech savvy as Brooke, but I will work on that.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. I wasn't
47 seeing what you were seeing online. So, go ahead, Robert.

48
49 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did
50 sit down and do audio almost then to talk about this

1 proposal that we had up on the Board here. How important
2 it was to our way of life, actually. And the lady from
3 -- Tiffany Agayar, myself and Andy Bassett, we were just
4 -- they were just actually three of us on there because
5 the other parties couldn't make it. Donald Woodruff and
6 Evan, Dorothy Shockley couldn't partake for some other
7 reason at that. But we did have some supporting staff
8 that worked with us also, and, you know, ensured that
9 we used the right language and how to do this and support
10 proposals 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 136, 140
11 and 141, and 148. One of the things that was to discuss
12 -- Andy's up on the Canadian border, I'm kind of like
13 in the middle, and Tiffany was from the mouth of the
14 Yukon and Howard varies among our tribal ways of doing
15 things. So, this was pretty interesting, too. It was
16 done in different ways, but it came all the way back to
17 the same way how it is done in each tribe.

18
19 Each tribe, we have a different funeral
20 potlatches. Some are like, we, you know, if you go
21 further down the river, you move up through the Christian
22 Episcopal churches way of doing things and the tribes
23 way of doing things. It is quite interesting to see that
24 everything, basically, is the same, but it just done in
25 a different way. And so, we all tend to agree to this.
26 One of the things that we brought up was that, why did
27 we have to have a seven-year moratorium and, you know,
28 like -- and this is not -- and this is really indirectly
29 hurting our way of belief for our upbringing, so -- and
30 plus how our ancestors or our elders teach us how to
31 respect food, how to respect other tribal people, how
32 to other -- respect the way. And nothing was mentioned
33 about how the tribal people back then had somebody over
34 them, like the State, but the federal government was
35 there. Everybody knew that. But the State was later
36 factor into this way of doing things. But we all
37 tentatively agreed, Mr. Chair, on this here. I did report
38 back to Nissa on this also, so. I find that we had some
39 kind of agreement, but -- is there any questions at this
40 time?

41
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Anybody got
43 questions for Robert?

44
45 (No response)

46
47 I appreciate you putting in that time
48 with that work group, Robert. And developing a position
49 on these proposals.

50

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1 MR. WALKER: Yeah, okay.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: EIRAC and the
4 members that were present agreed with your findings.

5

6 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Man, did you have
9 a comment, Tim? On the phone?

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: No. My comment was about
12 getting the documents on the screen and we have that.
13 So, I appreciate that. That helps the online people.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, okay. So,
16 we, on the WIRAC would have voted with EIRAC yesterday
17 because they were there at quorum. So, we just need a
18 motion to adopt the position taken by the Tri-RAC work
19 group, and we'll call it the White Paper. And so, I --
20 we need a motion to adopt.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion.

23

24 MR. HONEA: Second.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Jenny, motion.
27 Don, second. Any further discussion on this -- on these
28 various State Board of Fish proposals for Area M and
29 statewide proposals? No other discussion?

30

31 (No response)

32

33 MR. HONEA: Question.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called
36 by Don. Those in favor of adoption of this Yukon River
37 Tri-RAC working group on Alaska Board of Fish proposal
38 meeting and known as our White Paper, signify by saying
39 aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Those opposed,
44 same sign. Thank you. Affirmative for Tim. So next issue
45 that we dealt with.....

46

47 MS. PILCHER: Okay. So, the next issue
48 that we dealt with -- I'll stick with fisheries -- is
49 the chum salmon DEIS options that the North Pacific
50 Fisheries Management Council has been talking about. If

1 this sounds familiar to folks, this is something that
2 you talked about at length at that evening session, the
3 last time that you guys met. Your Council last year or
4 last meeting supported -- this is very blurry, I'm sorry
5 -- supported alternative 5, which is a creation of a
6 migratory corridor. And then option 1 with a cap between
7 50 and 350, with dates. But that was before the actual
8 document had been released to the Federal Register, it
9 is now on the Federal Register, so they're actually
10 soliciting comments. So, you can change what you would
11 like, if you would like to. One thing that wasn't very
12 clear to us at that meeting was that you could select
13 multiple options, and that is what ended up happening
14 yesterday at the Eastern Interior meeting and what they
15 did was to -- cannot open it, hold on. They adopted the
16 same thing as TCC with -- in regards to the options. So,
17 alternative 2 -- sorry -- which is a Bering Sea wide cap
18 on chum salmon bycatch between 100- and 550,000 chum
19 salmon in place each year. So, that's what TCC
20 recommended, but with a fixed overall cap of 50- to
21 100,000. Then alternative 5, option 1 which is what I
22 just read earlier, which is what you guys supported last
23 time with the comment that this closes the most amount
24 of the areas. And then alternate 4, which is additional
25 regulatory requirements for the Pollock Industries
26 Contractual Avoidance Plans called Incentive Plan
27 Agreements. This is things like salmon trap -- not traps
28 -- but I forgot the -- doors that let salmon out but
29 keep pollock in, things like that. Things like that are
30 apparently currently happening in the industry but on a
31 voluntary basis. And this is seeking to put the things
32 that the industry is doing into law, so they have to do
33 these things. So, that is what TCC decided on, and like
34 I said, Eastern Interior also felt that unity is good
35 and that they also liked these selections with the
36 additional comments. So, it is up to you guys, you do
37 not have to sign on to that. But you're also more than
38 welcome too. It's your guys' call.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: When we were --
41 during the meeting yesterday, after a lot of discussion,
42 we had a lot of discussion about this -- it became
43 apparent that this was the best -- to maintain continuity
44 this was the best tactic, just to stay with TCC. Eastern
45 Interior adopted this and that the Bering Sea wide
46 overall cap of -- it's between the range in alternative
47 two is 50- to 550,000. I was afraid of the 550,000, but
48 they felt strongly at TCC that they're -- right now that
49 the industry is trying to stay under 200. And they felt
50 that they could get the North Pacific to go for 200,000

1 top cap. Option 1 is the closure areas down the center
2 of the Bering Sea. That's June 1 to September 1. That's
3 when most of the chums are going through there. And then
4 we -- then, Chris has sent us the age classes by email,
5 I sent that out to you this morning. And basically,
6 they're adult fish, almost all of them are adult fish,
7 except for one-year olds, all those are called jacks,
8 when they're chums, they're jacks. So, Robert.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
11 this, I want to go back to alternative 2 with the overall
12 cap of 50- to 100,000. You mentioned TCC proposed that?

13
14 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, the original
15 alternative 2 is a cap of 100- to 550,000. And if I'm
16 not mistaken, I think the average catch for the last 11
17 years of Chum salmon was around 150, so 150,000, so what
18 they felt was appropriate was the -- or the, the
19 alternative to number caps that the North Pacific
20 Fisheries Management Council suggested wasn't really a
21 conservation measure because it was already right around
22 where their average catch is. So, they requested that
23 that cap be lowered to 50- to 100,000. I mean, they did
24 say the -- what they would like is zero. But, in the
25 essence of attempting to work together, that is the
26 number they settled on.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

29
30 MR. WALKER: Yes. That's what I thought
31 that we did say. I was still a tribal chief at that
32 time, but I was thinking, you know, like I'd have to
33 talk to Charlie at this time, after we're having a
34 meeting to discuss this a little bit further with the
35 Yukon Intertribal Fish Commission, and we can, you know
36 -- I mean -- well, what are we going to propose on this,
37 or how are we going to take this from TCC?

38
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, one -- Jenny.
40 Go ahead, Jenny.

41
42 MS. PELKOLA: I just would like to add,
43 Robert, yesterday Chief Brian Bradley sat before us and
44 he presented this to us, and what he had in there sounded
45 -- it was -- this is what it was, and after he left, we
46 discussed that with Eastern Interior, and this is what
47 we came up with, you know, the best solution that we
48 thought would fit our area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

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MR. WALKER: Thank you for that, Jenny, that makes a little more sense to me now, because I know I wasn't here to be at that meeting, because I have or we have some -- in our part of the river, a little different point of view, but I think we can take that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Jenny.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we need to get these get these comments in. What's our deadline on this, the -- February 3rd or something.

MS. PILCHER: It was the beginning of February, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, this is the last chance for this Council to do any kind of action or -- we can't delay it to our next meeting. So, this is what EIRAC did, this is TCC's final proposal, and they thought a lot about it, and this would be the biggest bang for the buck. If they can talk the Board into a 50- to -- they're talking about 50- to 200,000. You know, they would -- but 100, they're asking 100, but it's like buying a car, you start low and work up, you know so, I felt comfortable with going with their tactic before the Board of Fish or North -- correction, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And -- so I'm personally -- I would like to vote for this, because this is what EIRAC's doing, this is what TCC is doing. And so, I would like to stay in line with -- so I've hope, you know -- unity on this whole issue. Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That being said, I'd like to entertain a motion exactly what Eastern did in TCC.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion to adopt.

MR. HONEA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion to adopt the alternatives presented on the board -- on the screen. And so, I will read those into the record. The alternative 2 with a fixed overall cap of 50- to 100,000. Including alternative 5, option 1 to close most of the areas, which is the closure areas with triggers. And then alternative 4, making voluntary savings which is, salmon excluders and other methods to keep trying to eliminate salmon bycatch as -- instead of optional as

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1 mandatory, as regulation. So, that's what alternate 4
2 request is doing. So, that's before u, that's the motion.
3 We have a second?

4

5 MR. KRISKA: Second.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy, second.
8 Further discussion?

9

10 MS.PELKOLA: Questions.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called
13 by Jenny. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying
14 aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Those opposed,
19 same sign.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 I think I heard Tim.

24

25 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, then
28 there is the.....

29

30 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so that motion will
31 carry. I', going to work with Brooke on making sure that
32 those comments and the Board of Fish comments get where
33 they're supposed to go, when they're supposed to go. So,
34 the last item that was taken up that we couldn't act on
35 was comments to the Department of Interior and Brent,
36 if I miss -- well, he's not here, I guess I get to say
37 whatever you want to say, okay. Hopefully I don't mess
38 this up.

39

40 So, currently there is a Secretarial
41 Review of OSM and the Federal Subsistence Management
42 Program. It is on specific items, not on the entire
43 program itself. And there was specific topic -- seven
44 specific topics they were seeking feedback on. And this
45 is a -- still a draft version of the discussion that
46 happened yesterday. Kristen did a fantastic job taking
47 notes and then cleaning them up so we can go over them.
48 But these are comments that Brooke and I will work
49 together to create a document that will be submitted.
50 Generally, letters that the Council asks to be drafted,

1 I would create, I'd run it by Jack and then we'd submit
2 it. This is a little different because there's a little
3 bit more moving parts, so if anybody else would like to
4 see the document before it's -- go -- before it gets
5 finalized, if you guys do adopt these same comments
6 because, it's going to change from this format and all
7 of this information into something else, I will gladly
8 do that. But the idea would be if you guys wanted to --
9 I think, in the words of Charlie yesterday, create a
10 unified front, these are the comments that we'd be
11 working with. If you -- there's other three options here.
12 After we go through these you can choose to align totally
13 with Eastern Interior and submit a -- one comment. You
14 can choose to create your own comment entirely, it can
15 get submitted separate from them. And you can also choose
16 to agree with Eastern Interior but then submit a -- if
17 anything changes significantly from here, we either have
18 to run it by Eastern Interior, that is meeting next door
19 or just submit something on our own. So, there's a couple
20 different options, if people don't necessarily agree or
21 want to see extra things on here, but if we do that,
22 we'll just need to be really clear about what exactly
23 those are and how they want it dealt with.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, yesterday when
26 we -- it was -- all of these things on this on the screen
27 are things that Western Interior Council members and
28 Eastern Interior Council members were saying about these
29 various issues. And so, that's what this is a -- is
30 compilation of all of those comments. My question is did
31 Eastern Interior look at this piece of paper -- at this
32 on the screen here? And did they were agreeable to that?
33 I want -- what we were talking about with Charlie, and
34 as Co-Chairing and myself and our Council -- two
35 Councils, that we wanted to submit one comment on the
36 Federal Subsistence Program from the two Councils,
37 because we met jointly, we're agreeing that these were
38 the issues and that's -- that was the direction and
39 that's -- and so we were -- so, why didn't -- we kind
40 of need to find out if EIRAC actually signed on to that,
41 I think we should stand down for five minutes and we'll
42 stand down for five minutes, and then we'll find out
43 what they did, and I'll walk over there. Yeah.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I came back, I'm
50 back at the table and we're going to -- Pollock's out

1 there in the hall bathroom. He came out of the bathroom,
2 I think he's going the wrong way.

3
4 Oh! So, I went down and talked to the
5 EIRAC's Coordinator, they haven't taken any additional
6 actions. They basically are adopting all of that
7 language that they didn't -- they're going to -- they
8 adopted the premise with this language for orally. We
9 have it written before us because Tommy and Robert
10 weren't there, so they heard all this, but they've
11 adopted it. And so they, they're -- they were adjoining
12 to us. The intention was that we're both going to send
13 the same letter, they're good with that, they haven't
14 taken any additional actions today, I just talked to
15 her. And so, for the record, for our members who weren't
16 here, can you read down through all that, Nissa?

17
18 MS. PILCHER: I sure can, and I'll try
19 to summarize where I can. So, the first topic is the --
20 last year's move of OSM out of Fish Wildlife Service
21 into DOI. The general consensus was that OSM should
22 remain there. The move is too recent for any meaningful
23 comments to be made, and the Council feels the current
24 position in the Office of the Secretary provides better
25 access to communicate with the Secretaries and reduces
26 some undue influence by one agency. So that's one.

27
28 The second topic was Regional Advisory
29 Council membership. This one is a little long, so I'll
30 try to sum it. So, recruitment is difficult because of
31 the time commitments and the minimal monetary
32 compensation that you guys get. So first off, providing
33 compensation would increase the incentives. The members
34 also feel that you should have to choose between
35 identifying as a subsistence user versus a sport
36 commercial user. Many people are multiple hats. If you
37 are a trapper, you're a commercial user, but many people
38 that live in rural Alaska do not feel comfortable
39 checking that sport or commercial box when they already
40 live a subsistence lifestyle. So, if you have a sport
41 fishing license that might -- that could qualify you to
42 sit in that seat. So, the Council felt there should also
43 be a greater emphasis on recruiting younger members and
44 then also maintaining elders because they did want to
45 recognize the important part that those elders do play
46 in the Councils, but also noting that younger members
47 are also needed too.

48
49 So they considered some options about
50 broadening the definition of residency, so right now

1 Western Interior is kind of limited because Fairbanks
2 is not in your region, which means that if somebody
3 lives in Huslia, but -- that has moved to Fairbanks to
4 live on a more permanent basis because that's where their
5 job is, but they still return to Huslia to participate
6 in subsistence activities because their primary
7 residence is Fairbanks, they are unable to apply to sit
8 on the Western Interior RAC, but it was also noted that
9 opening this up could be a very big can of worms because
10 it is really hard to put into regulation what those
11 exceptions should be like. So, I don't -- and so that
12 was one thing. And then the last thing was that the
13 interview and application process is a little too
14 thorough. It takes too long, and it can be really
15 redundant and cumbersome for Council members, especially
16 ones that have already been on.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's cumbersome
19 for the people who reapply. We went through this whole
20 thing. Reapply and you have to do the same thing over
21 and over and over. So that should be shortened up. That'd
22 be the clarification on that.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: And then -- if anybody has
25 any questions, gladly take them. If I'm talking too fast,
26 also let me know. So, membership of the Federal
27 Subsistence Board. So of course, the Federal Subsistence
28 Board has changed since it originally started back when
29 I was in middle school. So, it used to just be the agency
30 heads and a Chair, who was a public member that was
31 appointed by the Department of Interior, and it
32 broadened to two public members. And then last year it
33 broadened to three additional public members that were
34 tribally nominated, with the idea being that that way,
35 Subsistence users had a, you know -- just as much voice
36 at that table as those agency heads, especially since
37 those agency heads can drift in and out depending on the
38 administration or what's going on, so there's not a lot
39 of congruency there. The Council wanted to maintain the
40 current Board membership with those additional public
41 members. And they certainly don't want a reduced or no
42 public members on the Federal Subsistence Board. They
43 did emphasize that this representation by these -- by
44 the public members was critical to effective decision
45 making, it allows for the TEK to be incorporated into
46 decisions and it helps maintain the long-term
47 continuity. A lot of those public members will serve for
48 much longer than those agency heads.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: One thing that's
2 missing there that I commented extensively on was the
3 statutory 801 of ANILCA, that there be a regulatory
4 process that gives rural residents a meaningful role in
5 fish and wildlife management. That's in its statutory -
6 - and we can get it out of the ANILCA statute. But that's
7 -- the Federal Subsistence Board did not meet that
8 criteria originally because it was only one board member
9 against five agencies in the in the inception of the of
10 the Federal Subsistence Board process, and the -- an
11 administrative structure to be established for the
12 purpose of enabling rural residents who have a personal
13 knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have
14 a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife,
15 of subsistence uses -- and of subsistence -- what use
16 is on the federal -- on the public lands in Alaska, I'm
17 reading right out of the regulation statute. So, that
18 has to be part of that Federal Board membership because
19 it's five -- it's 801. Title VIII, Section 801-5. It's
20 specific as to why the Federal Board has to have public
21 members on the Board that actually have a meaningful
22 role in the in the Fish and Wildlife management and
23 other uses on public lands. It can't be just five agency
24 heads that know nothing about Alaska or anything else,
25 talk about getting as far away from the resources you
26 can get. Now, that agency people might, may or may not,
27 but in general, most of the agency heads don't know
28 anything, they have staff. And sometimes -- right now
29 they don't even have subsistence staff at the BLM, and
30 I'm real concerned about that one. I'm not kidding. You
31 know, Chris McKee, he's gone, they don't have anybody
32 to even help them out. There in the -- running in the
33 dark over there right this minute. So, I -- that's
34 important to add to this that this White Paper that
35 we're looking at needs to be changed on that specific
36 aspect, because that's -- it's instrumental, and that
37 was the premise that EIRAC understood. And they worked
38 off the oral -- what we spoke orally. They were
39 understanding exactly what I said about that. So, that's
40 our part of the joint record also. It's all going to be
41 in the transcript, it's not going to be lost or anything.
42 So, that's the addition to that one. Go ahead with the
43

44
45 (Simultaneous speech)

46
47 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:the four.

50

1 MS. PILCHER: Number four, Special
2 Actions, Regulations and Policies. So, this was about
3 how special actions and emergency special actions come
4 about the regulations that are involved with them. Are
5 we happy with -- are the Councils happy with them? Are
6 they -- do they want to see changes? And the Eastern
7 Interior and those on the Western Interior that were
8 there concurred that being able to implement these
9 special actions enclosures were really important and
10 should remain in place. The Councils noted that these
11 tools are often the primary mechanism to implement
12 conservation actions, since you guys have the two-year
13 regulation cycle, you can't affect immediate change if
14 something happens. So, that's why the special actions
15 process is in place. It allows the public, tribes and
16 entities the ability to make changes to the regulations
17 when things happen in real time. So, the Council was
18 happy with how currently the special actions and
19 emergency special actions are conducted.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 completely agree with the Eastern on the special
25 actions, because they have used it in the past few years
26 for their condition -- fishing conditions, and, you
27 know, we could -- we're in the same boat, so I think
28 that we should support that. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, these are what
31 we all talked about. This is not just them, this is us,
32 right, yesterday. So, the reasons for the special
33 actions is if you're -- if you got a problem that comes
34 up, you gotta -- you have to act on it immediately in
35 emergency, and then -- and special action regulations.
36 But also, it has to do with -- you might have a problem,
37 but you don't have the data to put before the Board
38 process. And the data finally comes through and then you
39 have to act on it. That's -- there's different reasons
40 why this special action -- because you're out of sync
41 with the normal cycle and the data might be -- become
42 available, then you can act. So when you go before the
43 Board, you have to have the scientific data in
44 conjunction with the customary knowledge of the
45 resources, issue, the problem, so that I wanted that to
46 be on the record.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

49
50

1 MR. HONEA: So, Mr. Chair, I'm just maybe
2 a little confused. We're just kind of rehashing these
3 things and then, well, I'm trying to see protocol, that
4 next step would go before some agency that approves
5 whatever?
6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No. We're -- this
8 is, yeah, this is going to go through a review process,
9 and that's going to happen really super soon. This is --
10 -- these are the -- these are what we talked about WIRAC
11 and EIRAC yesterday. And we're clarifying it for Robert
12 and Tommy, that's what we're doing right now, we're
13 clarifying it for Robert and Tommy so that way you're
14 making an informed decision, when we go to vote on this
15 joint letter to the to the Department of Interior about
16 the Federal Review of the Federal Assistance Program,
17 the DOI review of the Subsistence Program in Alaska.
18 Would you scroll back to the Regional Council
19 qualifications, where I was discussing the -- and the
20 Regional Council qualifications -- also, that statutory
21 that we have a -- oh there it is, right there,
22 traditional knowledge. And so -- but it's also should
23 state there, also that it's -- that the Regional Councils
24 are also have a meaningful role in the development of
25 fish and wildlife proposals or anything that affect our
26 -- authorities in 805. And it should be specific to the
27 805 language. So, this -- type that in there -- 805
28 language about the meaningful role of what these
29 Councils are actually doing. I don't want the DOI to get
30 confused. I don't know that DOI down in Washington, D.C.
31 understands this whole thing. And so, I want them to be
32 clear about that, so.
33

34 MS. PILCHER: All right. And so,
35 ultimately, to kind of sum up what Jack said, we're
36 going over this because you guys weren't able to take
37 action, and I don't want Tommy or Robert or Pollock to
38 have to vote on something that they've never heard
39 before. So, that's kind of what we're doing right now.
40 So, we were on.....
41

42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead
43 Robert.
44

45 MR. WALKER: My question would be to vote
46 on this, is that just for Eastern and the Western, or
47 is that for all the RACs?
48

49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All of the RACs are
50 formulating comments to the Department of Interior on

1 this Federal Subsistence Program. And they all have to
2 have this done by -- soon, within the -- it's like early
3 February. Because they published on the 15th of December
4 and it'll be done -- the final comments will be done
5 like around the middle of February. So, all the Regional
6 Councils are meeting again because the closure, they're
7 all meeting right now and they're all going to have
8 comments about this whole program. And these are the
9 comments that EIRAC and WIRAC worked out yesterday. And
10 so, we're in agreement on this one.

11
12 MR. WALKER: Okay, my other question
13 would be that, are we going to get a chance to look at
14 the other RACS, their proposals also on this? Or is this
15 going to be.....?

16
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Some RACs haven't
18 even met. Kodiak and some Regional Councils have met,
19 but I don't -- this is what, EIRAC is doing, and we
20 don't want to go too broad, we want to stay with EIRAC
21 on this one. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. WALKER: Yeah, thank you Mr. Chair.
24 But yes, that's what I was -- that's what my conclusion
25 was going to be. Are we going to be all on the same
26 page?

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The objective is to
29 stay on exactly the same page with the same letter, and
30 they're going to take all the transcripts from our
31 meeting and then the meeting that happened yesterday,
32 the joint meeting. We're going to write up this whole
33 thing, all of these comments. And then when we -- Charlie
34 and I look at it, we'll be good, we'll sign off on it.
35 So yes, this is to keep these two Regional Councils as
36 one comment, because we are meeting jointly. So, go ahead
37 and do the number five there. Did anybody find Pollock?
38 Do you know what happened to him?

39
40 MS. PILCHER: So, the next topic is
41 federal/state regulations duplication and
42 inconsistencies. So, what this means is there's -- you
43 guys have two different handy dandies that you deal with,
44 depending on where you're standing or what you're doing.
45 Some of those regs are duplicate -- the -- a lot of the
46 regulations in the State handy dandy are duplicated in
47 the Federal one, and there's also inconsistencies
48 because, of course, there's different regulations, in
49 there, between what you can do under the state hunting
50 and what you can do under federal hunting, be it seasons,

1 harvest limits, methods and means, take. So, yesterday
2 it was decided -- this is what was decided, that the
3 Council members expressed that the Federal Program
4 provides important Federal opportunities even when
5 harvest dates and limits are the same. Sometimes, even
6 when those are the same, you have different methods and
7 means options in the federal regs and the state regs.
8 The Council did note that one single regulation book
9 containing both federal and state regulations would be
10 beneficial to Subsistence users. But that -- it's not
11 in here, but that it, that seems like a big ask, but it
12 could be done, and that maybe tribal management could
13 help reduce issues of the duplication across the state
14 and federal regulations. Any questions on that?

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, any questions
17 on -- those are the -- that particular issue. We batted
18 that one around. There's reasons why there's two books,
19 there's reasons why there are two Boards. Until the state
20 adopts a rural preference, there always is going to be
21 a federal board, and I don't think the State wants to
22 pay for the federal rural priority aspect. The
23 Legislature has made it clear about that. So, we're going
24 to continue with two regulation books, unless they --
25 somebody wants to spend a whole bunch of paper and print
26 a bigger copy for both Boards simultaneously. So, that's
27 what that discussion is about, that's the comment back
28 about the duplication process. A couple more there. Any
29 further comments?

30
31 (Simultaneous speech)
32

33 MS. PILCHER: (Indiscernible). And then
34 the last two, is the role of the State of Alaska and
35 ADF&G in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. So,
36 the comments that were formulated yesterday -- the
37 Council expressed that the state currently has a large
38 role in the program and does not feel that this should
39 be expanded further. Council members clearly stated that
40 the State should not have deference in Federal
41 Subsistence Management, and has -- so the -- what was
42 discussed yesterday is ADF&G is involved in the last
43 step of formulating the analysis, which it's through
44 this process in the ISC, which is the Interagency Staff
45 Committee and the ADF&G has a seat at that table to
46 offer opinions. They have a seat at the table at Federal
47 Subsistence Board meetings, they don't have a vote, but
48 they have a liaison possibility or not possibility, they
49 have a liaison at the meeting doing that. And that,
50 likewise, while there is also a liaison at Board of Game

1 and Board of Fish meetings, that individual does not
2 have a vote at the table. So, they felt that ADF&G has
3 opportunity to be involved in the process, but doesn't
4 -- shouldn't be afforded deference at Federal
5 Subsistence Board meetings, meaning a vote at the table.
6 But they did note that the State has a very important
7 role in the program, especially when it comes to the
8 data collection and sharing, because that was highly
9 valued to the Council. And they did appreciate what Fish
10 and Game did in order to collect that data and share it.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I really
13 appreciate the State's participation at the Federal
14 Subsistence Board. I've been attending a lot of Federal
15 Subsistence Board meetings. They have -- they got data,
16 they got comments, some of the comments are pertinent
17 to clarifying issues. They have an important role, but
18 deference, that's basically a vote. And the state -- the
19 federal liaison at the Board of Fish and Board of Game
20 meeting, they're rarely asked the opinion of the
21 Councils, let alone have nearly the participation with
22 the state boards about what the federal programs doing.
23 The boards, the state boards are kind of real gray about
24 what's actually going on over there. They don't have
25 nearly the participation at the state board level. So,
26 these are two different Boards, and giving deference to
27 the State of Alaska to basically force the membership
28 of the Federal Subsistence Board -- deference means that
29 they have to go with the recommendation. Councils have
30 deference before the Federal Subsistence Board, if we
31 don't violate the Fish and Wildlife management
32 practices, we don't violate the needs of the Subsistence
33 users or detriment to the Subsistence resources that the
34 Board of -- Federal Subsistence Board has to go along
35 with the deference of the Councils. But that's what that
36 means. So, if you give the State deference, the Boards
37 would have to go along with whatever they say. That's
38 not the way this program works. So, that's why that
39 language is in there. And I'm talking a bunch into this
40 mic, because this is all transcribed too and this is
41 going to go into that letter. That's why I talk so much
42 -- is because we're -- everything that comes out of our
43 mouths is transcribed. You have a comment, Robert. Go
44 ahead.

45
46 MR. WALKER: Yes, I, you know, I think
47 we talked about this a few years back. And it was brought
48 up somewhere, I can't remember, but also when this was
49 brought up and the State was trying to like, say --,
50 well, I said, wait a minute here, you know, we are

1 federally recognized tribes. We're not just tribes on
2 the Yukon or AYK region or anywhere, but we are federally
3 recognized tribes, and where does the jurisdiction start
4 with the State, with us? Or does it start with us? Or
5 how do we work this to maintain our status quo with the
6 government? And how do we work with the Federal
7 Government? Because when we were made -- I think this
8 was back maybe 20 years ago, when we first brought this
9 up. I think it was, what's his name from Allakaket, was
10 the Chairman?

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Sam.

13
14 MR. WALKER: Ron Sam. Yes, and we.....

15
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And we don't mix
19 up Allakaket with Ahtna. Well, that's.....

20
21 MR. WALKER: What was the village across?
22 Anyway, yeah, we did talk about this. And how does the
23 State kind of take us as federally recognized Tribes and
24 make us follow. and when we have federally recognized
25 laws to maintain. So, there's a question there that we
26 had, and I think that's going to be the question today,
27 unless somebody could answer that for us. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chair.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I don't know
31 how to answer that question right now. So, I want to
32 clarify that some of the language in this is saying the
33 Council, it's Councils. I want to make sure that that's
34 clear in the -- in our letter.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Really quick type up of
37 notes. Sorry I didn't.....

38
39 (Simultaneous speech)

40
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I understand
42 that. So, like, go ahead Don.

43
44 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 really don't like the language either, I mean, the
46 deference part. Is that preference? I mean, so why don't
47 we just say, why don't they just say preference? It's
48 really kind of confusing to me.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're saying that
2 the State should not have deference or preference. They
3 have a seat at the table. They can talk and talk and
4 talk. Well, we're saying no, the proposal is to have
5 deference and we're saying no. That's what we're saying
6 specifically. So, Nissa.

7
8 MS. PILCHER: To clarify what the topic
9 is, it doesn't actually say deference to ADF&G, what it
10 does is ask for comments about the role of the State and
11 ADF&G with the program, so it's not -- it's a pretty
12 broad topic, so it's not insinuating that if you guys
13 don't say you don't want them to have deference, that
14 they automatically will, it's just saying, what do you
15 feel about the role of the State and Fish and Game in
16 the program as it exists right now? Can you see any ways
17 to fix it or change it or make it better? But I will
18 move on to number seven.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I want to clarify
21 something for the Council. The reason.....

22
23 (Simultaneous speech)

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The reason we're
28 talking about deference is that it was well understood
29 by EIRAC and the WIRAC that the whole program review is
30 caused by Safari Club asking for specific points and one
31 was to give the State deference. That's why we started
32 talking about that deference issue, because we're
33 addressing the Safari Club letter, that's just -- the
34 vagueness of number seven, or was -- or correction six,
35 was that, if you answered incorrectly, you didn't
36 realize what was going on, the Safari Club's letter would
37 hold. So, we're addressing -- we're speaking right to
38 the horse's mouth. I mean, we're talking to the issue,
39 that's what the issue is, the Safari Club letter. And
40 let the record be clear, that's where this came from,
41 and that's why these Councils, all ten Councils are
42 addressing this, is because of that letter. So that's
43 why we're talking -- that's why we're speaking to the
44 letter. Because we got -- it got out, it's everywhere,
45 it's all over the internet. So, number seven.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: Number seven.....

50

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Jack. Okay, so this
6 is -- that word is really important, deference. You said
7 yesterday, deference means voting rights. I never knew
8 that that's what that meant. I just googled deference.
9 It doesn't talk about voting. Should we change the
10 language of that second sentence to say Council members
11 very clearly stated that the State did not have voting
12 rights or as is my understanding or Google not
13 understanding that there's actual legal definition that
14 deference means voting rights?

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Deference in the
17 Federal Subsistence Program, at least, the deference to
18 the Councils allows the -- constrains the Board that if
19 the Councils don't violate subsistence uses, violate the
20 healthy populations of fish and wildlife and is
21 detrimental to the subsistence users, the State -- the
22 Federal Subsistence Board has to go along with the
23 Councils with deference. That's what that's meaning in
24 the Federal Program. That's -- and if you give deference
25 to the State under the same criteria, they would
26 basically -- the Board -- even five members would be
27 constrained to go along with what the deference of the
28 -- whatever the State wants to do. So, that's why it's
29 a big issue is to clarify that -- I didn't you know,
30 it's kind of like a vote, but it's not a vote, it's
31 basically -- it's even more stronger than a vote. It's
32 like having a lot of weight before the Board. That's
33 what that deference would mean in the Federal Program.

34

35 (Simultaneous speech)

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: My position yesterday --
38 and what I thought this sentence meant was -- I
39 appreciate what the State and ADF&G does in an advisory
40 role, helping us with information, understand the
41 issues, but the State should not be able to have a voting
42 presence within the Federal Subsistence Program and one
43 of the main issues with that, or one of the main
44 considerations around that was -- is State Constitution
45 does not allow for -- apparently does not allow for
46 subsistence preference, and that's in direct
47 contradiction or direct conflict with rural subsistence
48 preference as granted in Title VII of ANILCA.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're exactly
2 right. It's an -- both Boards are allocatory [sic], they
3 allocate resources and the State cannot allocate for a
4 rural reference and the Federal Subsistence so,
5 therefore, there's a Federal Subsistence Board that
6 deals with allocation for rural preference. So you're
7 exactly right, I thank you for clarifying that on the
8 record, Tim. So, Nissa.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: And I will say there was
11 multiple people taking notes. So, all of this -- like,
12 the things that were missing or that may be worded in
13 one way here, maybe, will most likely -- like I have
14 that in my notes, but this will all come out in the wash
15 and that's why I suggested, if anybody is interested in
16 seeing the draft of this letter before it goes -- starts
17 into the Chair approval process, please let me know,
18 I'll gladly include you, because this is a little
19 different than how we normally do letters. But, I will
20 go on to number seven, if that works.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That'd be great.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: And that is the Board.....

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I've been reminded
29 by Jenny that the pizza is getting cold.

30
31 MS. PILCHER: Yes it is. I'm going to
32 go through really fast. So, Board Policies and
33 Procedures for Rural and Non-rural Determinations. So,
34 the Council should have deference on Non-rural
35 Determinations. Currently you guys do not because -- you
36 should have deference because those decisions affect
37 subsistence. The increased flexibility and the Non-rural
38 Determination Policy that has recently shifted may mean
39 more communities are able to be designated as rural, so
40 Ketchikan was recently designated as rural, it's always
41 been non-rural before. Which -- this will have
42 implications for section 804 closures as resources
43 continue to decline, which is already kind of happening
44 in Southeast. I would like to note there are no current
45 non-rural determination areas in Western Interior.
46 Fairbanks, North Slope Borough is the closest one. It
47 covers the whole borough and not federally qualified.

48
49 But -- and then other topics, I'm just
50 going to go right through, that will also be included:

1 Importance of Co-management and Tribal Management, the
2 relationship between the solicitor and the Councils as
3 it pertains to addressing concerns about -- in this
4 specific instance, commercial fishing managed by NOAA.
5 Tim did mention that earlier in his report. And the
6 siloing of the regulatory bodies that are in charge of
7 the salmon, because right now there's multiple
8 regulatory bodies that manage the salmon that returned
9 to the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. And the good need for
10 greater interagency collaboration. And then the burden
11 Subsistence users face to attend these various meetings,
12 you guys all wear numerous hats and you all have to do
13 numerous things. And then the overall importance to the
14 Federal Subsistence Management Program to sustaining
15 rural subsistence lifestyles. And that is the very rough
16 draft of what the letter will contain or the comments.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That was to clarify
19 for Pollock, Robert and Tommy. But we did and this --
20 these are going to be -- these two transcripts are going
21 to meld together into a written-out letter that's going
22 to say all that same stuff. So now the Chair will
23 entertain a motion to adopt that premise, and it's
24 strictly in a premise at this time, as a joint letter
25 that's going to be sent from Western Interior and Eastern
26 Interior to the Department of Interior regarding the
27 Federal Subsistence Program Board process. So, the Chair
28 will entertain that motion. Moved by Pollock.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
33 Further discussion?

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
38 Those in favor of the joint letter to be promulgated and
39 or written up and approved by the Chairs of the Eastern
40 and Western Council, signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MR. GERVAIS: Aye, this is Tim.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, we do
47 have pizza that's arrived and so we're having a working
48 lunch. What should we do, Nissa.

49
50

1 MS. PILCHER: I think it'd be a good idea
2 to stand down for like 15 minutes and get resettled, if
3 that works.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Stand down for 15
6 to dish up and whatnot, so. A little after one. So just
7 a little -- 1:17ish.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, we're
14 going to bring the meeting back to order. And you're
15 there, Tim, on the phone. So, we got Tommy, Don, Jenny,
16 myself, and Robert and Pollock went -- he's got to
17 stretch his legs for a second. So, we're -- where are
18 we going to start here? Are we going to do this Kusko
19 FRMP or...?

20
21 MS. PILCHER: That's normally after all
22 the Action Items. So.....

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Okay.

27
28 MS. PILCHER:my thought was to have
29 Brian start with the Wildlife Proposals.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. That's
32 what I needed now. Okay. Go ahead, Brian.

33
34 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Okay. For the record, Brian Ubelaker. I'm a Wildlife
36 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
37 right now, I will be presenting a summary of Wildlife
38 Proposal WP26-01, which is regarding delegation of
39 authority letters statewide. And you can find this
40 analysis starting on page 23 of your meeting book. And
41 Nissa, was there an addendum with the specific Western
42 Interior Region language?

43
44 MS. PILCHER: There should have been. Let
45 me look at a different.....

46
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48
49 MR. UBELAKER: Page 34 maybe. Page 23 of
50 your meeting book for the main analysis.

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(Pause)

34 in the addendum or...? Okay. All right. Everybody ready?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: This is addendum marked WP26-01f?

MR. UBELAKER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

MR. UBELAKER: And that is all the -- any delegation of authority letter in the Western Interior Region, that's the language transferred into regulations and what it would look like if this proposal was adopted.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

MR. UBELAKER: Okay. So, the issue. This proposal which was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, seeks to move authority for managing federal hunts out of delegation of authority letters, or DALs, and into unit specific regulations. If adopted, the 61 DALs currently in use across Alaska would be rescinded. DALs were originally meant to provide management flexibility, but over time they've created inefficiencies. Any action taken under a DAL counts as a Special Action just like if it was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. And this triggers requirements for public hearings, tribal consultations and Regional Advisory Council recommendations. These processes are important for unusual or emergency situations, but they add unnecessary burden when applied to routine in-season management actions like closing a hunt when a quota is met. As a result, federal in-season managers and OSM staff spend significant time on procedural requirements for decisions that are already expected every year. High staff turnover also makes consistency difficult. On top of that, OSM must maintain 61 DALs, some of which overlap, conflict or contain outdated guidance.

By moving these authorities into regulation, in-season management actions would no longer trigger the Special Action process. Approximately four pages of boilerplate DAL requirements would be replaced with one clear paragraph in regulation. Public transparency would improve, since changes to delegated

1 authority would go through the standard regulatory
2 proposal process and oversight would become simpler with
3 clearer responsibilities and reduced administrative
4 workload. Importantly, the Board retains authority over
5 emergency closures and broader decisions, but in-season
6 managers would still be able to act quickly within the
7 parameters set by the Board. This proposal is not
8 expected to affect wildlife populations or subsistence
9 opportunity. It's primarily administrative,
10 streamlining how reoccurring decisions are made. It
11 increases efficiency, strengthens coordination with the
12 state and local users, and makes a process more
13 transparent for the public. One alternative that was
14 considered is replacing the phrase "coordination with"
15 in regulation to "seeking input and considering feedback
16 from". This clarification is expected -- this clarifies
17 the expectation for in-season managers to communicate
18 their actions and consider feedback, without adding the
19 confusion that has developed around the word coordinate.
20

21 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to adopt
22 WP26-01 with modification. To replace the term
23 "coordination with" with "seeking input and considering
24 feedback from" and to modify WP26-01a and 26-01b with
25 region specific regulations. Adopting these changes
26 would reduce administrative burden, resolve
27 inconsistencies, and improve efficiency while
28 maintaining transparency and accountability in federal
29 subsistence management. And with that, I'm happy to try
30 and answer any questions anyone may have.
31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Brian.
33

34 MR. UBELAKER: Oh, pardon. Excuse me, Mr.
35 Chair. I also have the part f of 26-01, which has the
36 Western Interior specific regulations. We can dig into
37 that, and you can see what the changes would be, what
38 they would look like. And if you have any questions on
39 that, we can talk about it as well.
40

41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, you were just
42 reading the one from -- not the f portion. You should
43 do the f portion also.
44

45 MR. UBELAKER: I don't really have
46 talking points for the f portion. I can definitely -- I
47 mean, if everybody has those pages open, you can see
48 what regulations would look like after they're
49 transferred out of.....
50

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1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I see.

4

5 MR. UBELAKER:Delegation Authority
6 Letters. Yeah. We didn't go through the process because
7 it's going to be different for every Council meeting.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah.

10

11 MR. UBELAKER: We didn't know how
12 confusing it would be. As I did author this, mostly, I
13 should be able to answer any questions that you would
14 have, though.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I can see how
17 this inadvertently caused a lot of additional workload
18 for the OSM, with this delegated authority. Sometimes -
19 - there's specific times where -- wouldn't it this
20 delegated authority like for the Yukon River in-season
21 manager or correction, the Kuskokwim River in season
22 manager, federal manager, how would that affect that
23 aspect?

24

25 MR. UBELAKER: This is only wildlife
26 Delegated.....

27

28 (Simultaneous speech)

29

30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Strictly wildlife.

31

32 MR. UBELAKER:Authority Letters.
33 Yep. Fisheries are on their own.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, yes.
36 Okay. I wanted to make sure about that one. So, I'm
37 personally supportive of this. I think it's going to
38 make it a lot easier for OSM. Less workload. Just go
39 through the public process before the Federal
40 Subsistence Board, which we had -- we did have
41 regulations that were specific, but then they went to
42 this delegated authority method, and then we got stuck
43 in that rut. Now we're going back to the direction where
44 we used to be. So, any questions on the presentation of
45 this? This is basically to have the Federal Subsistence
46 Board take actions and then the managers can stay within
47 those actions. And if there's a true emergency there can
48 be emergency petitions. But this -- we don't want to
49 stay in emergency status forever. So, any questions from
50 the Council members? Tim, are you there? I just want to

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1 make sure you're on the on the line and (distortion).

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: I'm in agreement with the
4 proposal. I don't have any.....

5

6 (Simultaneous speech)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, this.....

9

10 MR. GERVAIS:opposition.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So the modified
13 language would be on page 23 of our meeting book, and
14 it would be to support with modification to replace the
15 term "coordination with the -- with" with "seeking input
16 and considering feedback". And then it has, OSM
17 recommends modifications WP26-01a for Southeast, W26-
18 01b for Southcentral, 26-01a and b, Analysis for
19 Specific Region Modifications. So that's in the book.
20 That's all there. So, Chair will entertain a motion to
21 adopt this proposal. Oh, wait, I'm supposed to be on my
22 card. Wait a minute. Hold it. I'm not -- I'm out in
23 front of myself. So, the card, present presentation. Oh,
24 we're supposed to have Tribal and ANCSA Corporation
25 consultations. Was there any consultations?

26

27 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. This is Nissa, for
28 the record. There were consultations held. There were
29 no comments received on this one for this region.

30

31 MR. UBELAKER: Not for Tribal. There were
32 written public comments from AITRC.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're on Tribal and
35 ANSCA Consultation Report. Orville -- I see no --
36 nothing. Well, I don't see anything here. So then, agency
37 tribal Comments, ADF&G. Does ADF&G have a position on
38 this? Glenn says no, shakes his head no. Federal
39 agencies? Any other federal agency got a heartburn about
40 this one? U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 No? You're good? And BLM? You got a
45 heartburn but not about that.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 Tribal and ANSCA Corporations? Do we
50 have any tribal or ANCSA? We don't have anybody here,

1 or we do have tribal members on our Council, but that's
2 a different thing.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 So, other RACs and I see that no other
7 RAC comments are here. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
8 -- Councils.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 Advisory Council, we are doing that.

13
14 Subsistence Research Commissions? We
15 haven't visited this issue. Other written public
16 comments? Are there written public comments?

17
18 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, so I do believe
19 I messed up. Number one, presentation of the analysis,
20 was supposed to be followed immediately by presentation
21 of received public -- received written public comments
22 on the proposal period, the open proposal period. And
23 then, the number six that you're on right now would be
24 written comments that were -- during the meeting. Is
25 that correct, Nissa?

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, I'm on five,
28 written -- other written public comments.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: I may have two versions of
31 the same or two -- yeah.

32
33 MR. UBELAKER: Oh.

34
35 MS. PILCHER: Because we changed it.
36 Because we always changed it.

37
38 MR. UBELAKER: So regardless, there was
39 one submitted public comment received on the proposal
40 itself, and that came from Ahtna Intertribal Resource
41 Commission. They -- their comments were submitted in
42 support of WP26-01, but only with conditions. They
43 stated that delegating authority to local managers makes
44 sense for timely decisions, but it must include
45 mandatory tribal consultation. Local knowledge is
46 critical when actions affect subsistence species, timing
47 or access. They also urge transparency, consistency
48 across units, and limits on delegated scope. Most
49 importantly, regulations for Units 11 and 12 must
50 explicitly require consultation with AITRC, as was

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1 recognized in WP25-01. With these conditions, 26-01 will
2 improve both responsiveness and cultural appropriateness
3 in wildlife management.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, those are
6 valid points. But this is -- that would basically be for
7 special action and emergency consultations. Is that --
8 they're not referring to that?

9

10 MR. UBELAKER: No, Mr. Chair, they are.
11 So in Unit 13, AITRC had a very good relationship with
12 the BLM Field Office there, and when they submitted
13 proposal WP25-01 last cycle, they -- AITRC was listed
14 as an agency to consult in regulation. So, you look at
15 Unit 13, it says BLM will make this decision after
16 talking to Fish and Game Park Service and along with the
17 Chairs of affected Councils.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Those are
20 valid comments. I do appreciate Ahtna's comments.

21

22 MS. PILCHER: I do have Kodiak/Aleutians
23 and North Slope's.....

24

25 (Simultaneous speech)

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.....

28

29 MS. PILCHER:comments if you'd
30 like.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, you did get
33 those?

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, those were the two
36 that met prior to the furlough. So this -- who is this?
37 This is -- Kodiak/Aleutians supported WP26-01. The
38 Council stated the proposal would streamline the
39 process, reduce unnecessary red tape, and make
40 regulations clearer and more transparent by placing all
41 relevant information directly in regulation, rather than
42 in a Delegation of Authority Letter. They felt this would
43 make it easier for public to find and understand the
44 rules, and noted that if concerns arise later, the
45 regulation can always be amended. There were concerns
46 that the change could reduce opportunities for public
47 comment and tribal consultation, which they view as
48 essential to the program. They emphasized the importance
49 of maintaining strong public involvement and felt that
50 -- there's some question over the -- these are draft

1 comments, by the way. These are not finalized. And felt
2 that any internal efficiency issues should be addressed
3 within the program rather than by altering established
4 public processes. So that was Kodiak/Aleutians.

5
6 North Slope also supported reducing
7 administrative burden on federal land managers and the
8 Council shared the change will not have any impact on
9 subsistence users. And that's the only two that have met
10 so far, because three are meeting today.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. So, we can
13 get into the discussion, but we can -- we're at public
14 testimony. Do we have any public testimony here? So.....

15
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17
18 MS. PILCHER: Just as a reminder, star
19 five to raise your hand and star six to mute and unmute.
20 And this is Nissa Pilcher.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Do we have anybody
23 on the phone with public testimony?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 Hearing none. So, Council motion. We're
28 at the motion. So, the Chair will entertain a motion to
29 support the proposal WP26-01, with the modification to
30 support the modification set out by OSM.

31
32 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

35
36 MR. HONEA: Second.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.
39 So, we're in discussion. Council members want to discuss
40 this or make comments, we need the comments. That's good
41 to have comments for the Federal Subsistence Board in
42 the deliberation process. Anybody want to make comments?
43 Don.

44
45 MR. HONEA: All right. Thank you, Mr.
46 Chair. I guess, I mean, I don't really know, but you
47 know, with Ahtna, you know, they have a different --
48 entire different system in their region than we do, like,
49 in Western Interior, but so I don't know if, you know,

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1 we take those considerations or just go with the OSM
2 conclusions, but I support that. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Any
5 other comments from Council members?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 Have any comments, Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
12 is Tim Gervais. I think this.....

13

14 (Simultaneous speech)

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS:proposal will reduce
19 the bureaucratic workload and make the management of the
20 Federal Subsistence Program more efficient.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you. I
23 appreciate that. I also agree that this will reduce the
24 workload of OSM. And we're typically short staffed at
25 OSM. We don't need any additional busy work for OSM to
26 do. They're not like bored out of their mind or anything.
27 So we -- I feel that this will lighten the workload.
28 Also make it clearer and it'll be apparent in the Board
29 process and in the regulation book for the public. And
30 so I think it's beneficial to the subsistence users
31 because it'll be in regulation. So that'd be my comment.
32 Any further comments?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 We need a question.

37

38 MR. HONEA: Question.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Question is called
41 by Don. Those in favor of the proposal as modified,
42 WP26-01, signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Aye, this is Tim.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Got that. So
49 on to the next proposals. Brian. 26-50. And that is on
50 39 in our book.

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MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. Once again, Brian Ubelaker. This will be a summary of Wildlife Proposal WP26-50 regarding the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area in Unit 19. And as Mr. Chair stated, this is on page 39 of your meeting book. This proposal submitted by this Council requests reducing the size of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area under federal regulations so that it matches the smaller area already defined under state regulations. The CUA was originally established under state regulations in 1981 to reduce competition between local and non-local moose hunters by prohibiting the use of aircraft. At the start of the Federal Subsistence Program in 1992, it was adopted in federal regulations. Under state regulations between 2001 and 2008, the CUA grew and shrank through several modifications to the boundary. At the point when the CUA was at its largest in 2006, federal regulations were adopted to align federal and state boundaries. Since then, state regulations have reduced the size of the CUA, while federal regulations have remained unchanged, meaning under federal regulations the CUA is much larger and more restrictive than under state law. The federal version includes about 11% federal lands, while the state version only includes a fraction of that, just 0.01% of federal public lands. In practice, this means state -- excuse me, this means federal rules place extra restrictions on local subsistence users without providing any conservation benefits.

Several alternatives were considered for this proposal. First, aligning the dates of the federal CUA with the state's dates. The state CUA is only in effect during the state's moose hunting season. The federal CUA, however, extends through the entire federal moose season, including late September and the winter hunt. If the federal regulations match the state's, federally qualified subsistence users could use aircraft for the end of September and again during the winter season.

Second, eliminating the federal CUA entirely. Because the state version already regulates aircraft use in this area, and because the federal CUA contains almost no federal public lands, the federal CUA is essentially meaningless. It only adds an extra layer of restriction that applies solely to local subsistence users. Removing it would simplify regulations, reduce confusion, and eliminate unnecessary complexity,

1

2 Third was a housekeeping changes to hunt
3 area descriptors. Several units in 19D moose hunt areas
4 are defined by the boundaries of the Upper Kuskokwim
5 CUA. If this CUA is reduced or eliminated, these hunt
6 areas would need to be updated so that seasons and
7 harvest limits are not unintentionally changed. One
8 specific case is the North Fork Hunt area, which does
9 not actually contain any federal lands open to
10 subsistence hunting. Eliminating the North Fork
11 designation and combining it with the Upper Kuskokwim
12 remainder would simplify regulations without reducing
13 opportunity.

14

15 If adopted, this proposal would align
16 federal and state regulations, reduce confusion, and
17 slightly increase opportunity for local users during the
18 late and winter seasons. Importantly, no impacts are
19 expected to moose populations or to federal opportunity.
20 It's only local residents who have C&T for moose in the
21 area. Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary conclusion to
22 support WP26-50 with modification to eliminate the Upper
23 Kuskokwim CUA entirely and changing the Unit 19D moose
24 hunt area descriptors. With that, I'm happy to answer
25 any questions.

26

27

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Brian.
28 Any questions for Brian's presentation? And this is a
29 proposal that the Western Interior Council is
30 entertaining because the State Board of Game has changed
31 the Controlled Use Area and -- oh, who is telling -- who
32 is talking to us on the phone? Some, oh, again -- anyway,
33 there, basically, there's a lot of this area, is not --
34 you can't really land out there. It's kind of brushy and
35 rough and everything. So, we're going to go -- any
36 comments, questions from the Council?

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

41 So, the main option that OSM is
42 considered as presented is that on the map on page 41
43 it shows the blue areas, now the state Controlled Use
44 Area basically on both sides of the river, it's a
45 corridor. And eliminating the federal area would be the
46 cleanest cut. Just get rid of the federal area. There's
47 hardly any federal lands there and they're out in the
48 sticks anyways and nobody can go there. And so it's not
49 an issue. So that's the thing on the table right now.
50 That's the preferred alternative that OSM has presented.
So, we need to present -- we got the presentation, Tribal

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1 and ANSCA Corporation Consultation Report. Was there any
2 comments on that one?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 None. So, Agency and Tribal comments,
7 ADF&G? You got any comments on that one, Glenn?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 And federal agencies, BLM. That's BLM
12 land there. Probably not. So, Tribes and ANSCA
13 Corporations. Was there any comments of any kind?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 Other regional Councils. This is within
18 our region. Fish and Game Advisory Committees? The
19 McGrath Advisory Committee probably commented
20 extensively on this in the deliberation process with the
21 State Board of Game, most likely. And that should be
22 (distortion) the Board's deliberation process. But I
23 think that this was a -- McGrath AC, if I remember right.
24 That was a McGrath AC proposal, if I'm correct. But I
25 do think that the Advisory Committees, McGrath AC has
26 talked about this.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
29 record. More than likely I can try to find that stuff.
30 I was probably the Coordinator at the time.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So -- but we do
33 look to the advisory committees. And I think this was
34 promulgated by the -- if I'm correct. I'm 98% sure.
35 Subsistence Resource Commission in Denali have talked
36 about this one at all, as they -- have they met?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 And other written public comments. Were
41 there written any written -- no written comments. Public
42 testimony. Is anybody on the phone or in the room that
43 would like to comment on this proposal?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 So I don't hear anybody. So the -- where
48 is the OSM's position here? Where? Where is it? Oh, it's
49 on this paper. So, under WP26-50 OSM's preliminary
50 conclusion is to support with modification to eliminate

1 the Upper Kuskokwim Control Use Area and modify the hunt
2 area descriptors for moose in Unit 19D, including
3 eliminating the North Fork hunt area. So, I'm -- I think
4 that's the direction that we should go. I think that's
5 the cleanest cut. But the Council members can make a
6 motion. The preferred motion would be to support
7 proposal WP26-50 with modification by OSM. Do we have a
8 motion? Somebody want to make a motion?

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny. We
13 have a second? Seconded by Pollock. Discussion. Don. Go
14 ahead, Don.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I find
17 it really kind of odd that we're sometimes, you know, I
18 would like to know who submitted it and the reason why.
19 And a lot of times when it comes presented to us, we
20 don't know the history, but we don't know who's actually
21 doing it. I fully support the idea. I mean, if it was
22 initiated by McGrath AC.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Not -- we submitted
25 the proposal. This is a Western Interior Regional
26 Advisory Council proposal because we took testimony. You
27 may not have been at that meeting. We took testimony
28 that this was -- this is now not -- the state has now
29 changed the Controlled Use Area. And the proposal was
30 to -- or the idea was, do we want to align to make it
31 easier for the public.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Okay, Mr. Chair. I guess I
34 did miss the meeting. Maybe I wasn't even on the RAC at
35 the time. Yeah, it just that, you know, when certain ACs
36 or an individual support, I mean, propose something, I
37 mean, we didn't -- you as Chairperson or a person on the
38 RAC did not just come up with this idea. I'm sure it
39 came from maybe McGrath AC or something. So, it makes
40 it hard when the person that makes these proposals are
41 not online. But if they did, I fully support them.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, the McGrath
44 AC submitted the proposal, the Board of Game deliberated
45 the proposal and then adopted that, I think in
46 conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game. So,
47 what's his name? Jason. Over there. McGrath. Josh. Josh.
48 Right. And so I -- so we have -- so we got Jenny, and
49 you seconded. Okay, so -- Pollock seconded. Yeah, I want
50 to make sure about that. So, Jenny motion. Seconded. And

1 so any further discussion? Did you have any comments,
2 Tim?

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim
5 Gervais. I'm in support of the proposal, and I also
6 wanted to note that in the literature cited, there's a
7 paper by Ray Collins, 2004, on The History of People on
8 the Upper Kuskokwim who live in Nikolai and Telide. So,
9 I just want to say, rest in peace, Ray, and appreciate
10 his interaction with the communities in that area when
11 he was a resident there.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, I'll second
14 that. Ray was at one point was Chairman of the Western
15 Interior Council back in, I think it was the first year
16 in '93 and so, I'm fully supportive of the proposal. I
17 think this will -- eliminating the federal Controlled
18 Use Area will clean it up. There'll be one state and
19 aligning the regulatory languages -- in OSM's conclusion
20 or preliminary conclusion is cleans up the language for
21 the federal subsistence regulations. So.....

22

23 (Simultaneous speech)

24

25 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. Can I ask a
26 quick clarification question? Was the motion by Jenny
27 to support as written or to support with OSM's
28 modification?

29

30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I stated it with
31 modification.....

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Yes. You're right. You did.
36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:motion. So
39 further discussion.

40

41 MR. KRISKA Question.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
44 Those in favor of supporting WP26-50 as modified with
45 the modifications to eliminate the Upper Kukokwim
46 Controlled Use Area and modify the hunt area descriptors
47 for moose in Unit 19D, including the eliminating the
48 North Fork hunt area, signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I think Robert's abstaining. Okay. Motion passed. Did you vote, Robert? Okay. I looked over and your eyes were closed, I wasn't sure. So, go ahead, Brian.

MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

MR. UBELAKER: Once again, for the record, Brian Ubelaker. And I will now be presenting a summary of Wildlife Proposal WP26-51 regarding muskoxen in Units 21 and 24. This analysis can be found on page 53 of your meeting materials. And this was another proposal submitted by this Council, and it's requesting to establish a federal draw permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D and 24D. The proposed federal season would mirror the state hunt, one bull by drawing permit, February 1st through March 15th. Currently, there is no federal hunt for muskoxen in either unit. State regulations allow residents to hunt one bull by drawing permit in these same units. Federally qualified subsistence users must compete with all Alaska residents for a state permit. In March of 2020, the Alaska Board of Game amended and adopted Proposal 74, which created a resident drawing permit hunt in Units 21D and 24D. This hunt allows for one bull with the season from February 1st through March 15th, and up to five permits issued each year. The Board chose a drawing system instead of registration to reduce the risk of overharvest and set the late winter season dates to avoid impacts during calving. At the same time, the Board established a negative customary and traditional use finding for muskox in both units.

Muskoxen were reintroduced into the Seward Peninsula in 1970 and have since expanded into Units 21D and 24D. The population peaked in 2010 at nearly 3,000 animals and then declined but has since stabilized at around 1,900 animals. Surveys show healthy bull to calf ratios and stable recruitment, suggesting that there is a harvestable surplus. Since the state draw hunts opened in 2021, only three permits have been issued annually, with harvest averaging less than one muskox per year. One alternative considered was to delegate authority to a federal in-season manager to set permit numbers annually in coordination the Alaska

1 Department of Fish and Game and other agencies. This
2 would ensure harvest levels are responsive to current
3 population status and prevent overharvest.

4
5 Adopting this proposal would provide a
6 new opportunity for federally qualified subsistence
7 users. Local communities that should benefit most
8 include Koyukuk, Galena, Nulato, Kaltag, Ruby, and
9 Huslia. But as no customary and traditional use
10 determination has been made for muskox in either unit,
11 all rural residents of Alaska would be eligible for this
12 permit. Adoption of this proposal would also increase
13 alignment between federal and state regulations, and aid
14 in conservation of the population through a limited draw
15 system. Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary conclusion
16 to support proposal WP26-51 with modification to
17 delegate authority to a Federal Land Manager. That
18 manager, after coordination with the Alaska Department
19 of Fish and Game, OSM, and the Council Chair, would
20 determine the number of permits and method of allocation
21 between state and federal hunts each year. This action
22 would increase access for rural residents, keep harvest
23 sustainable, and better align state and federal
24 regulations while maintaining safeguards for muskox
25 populations. And with that, I'm happy to answer
26 questions.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Does anybody got
29 questions for Brian on the -- on this proposal?
30 Basically, to align with the state hunt with a provision
31 for draw permit with the modified language would
32 delegate authority from the Federal Subsistence Board
33 to the Land Manager. That would be Koyukuk/Nowitna.
34 That'd be Tina?

35
36 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, that was not
37 determined as of just yet. There's been discussion where
38 the muskox reside mostly, on whose land? And then the
39 whole issue of not having a C&T determination. It's
40 expected there would be a lot of interest in these
41 permits, and any federally qualified subsistence users
42 statewide could apply for one of the permits. So, it was
43 brought to our attention that it could be an overwhelming
44 task, and we have not made a decision on who to delegate
45 the authority to.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, when is -- how
48 would we request a customary and traditional use
49 determination since we're -- we have people who are --
50 live local to this hunt area. So -- and we have people

1 from Koyukuk, Nulato, Galena, Huslia, and Hughes that
2 roam around in there all the time. So, I'm going to be
3 wanting to talk to Glenn about this one too. So -- but
4 we're -- so that was the presentation. Any questions on
5 the presentation? Oh, go ahead.

6
7 MR. UBELAKER: In response to your
8 question about C&T, that would require another proposal
9 to determine C&T for muskox in said unit and then
10 typically establish a hunt. And it was probably my
11 oversight when I presented this a year ago as a proposal,
12 that you could submit, that there should have been an
13 accompanying C&T to go along with it.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. Go
16 ahead.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: So one option, process wise
19 you guys could do if you wanted to still proceed with
20 this, but you did want to do it, the intent behind the
21 proposal was -- which was to benefit the local
22 communities is to -- if you do support it to support it,
23 but request that the -- and help me out if I get the
24 language wrong, request that it not be implemented until
25 a C&T proposal is submitted and acted on by the Federal
26 Subsistence Board.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Or it's now
29 the property of the Board, right? The proposal. We don't
30 want to throw it out. We just want to make sure we have
31 the C&T before we implement the hunt. Brent.

32
33 DR. VICKERS: Thank you. This is Brent
34 Vickers, OSM on the Anthropology Division Supervisor.
35 So, since there hasn't been any determination made, that
36 means that currently all -- if this hunt was opened, all
37 rural residents would be eligible. So essentially and
38 not until a C&T proposal is submitted would that shrink.
39 But practically, since we're talking rural subsistence
40 users only, that would mean only those rural subsistence
41 users who would be able to get to this hunt, to hunt,
42 would, you know, be interested in doing it. So it
43 wouldn't -- it's not like it's open to all Alaskans.
44 It's only open to those rural Alaskans. And you know,
45 just think about before you delay opening up the hunt
46 that, you know, who would actually be even interested
47 in applying for the draw. You know, I'm not saying that
48 no one outside of the local area would, but I'm sure
49 that that pool of people that would be interested would
50 be fairly reduced. That's all.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, you know, the State Hunt Act reflects on the interest in this hunt, also. There's, you know the state participation has been low. So that's something to think about also. So that's the presentation of the proposal. So, we're going to Tribal and ANSCA Corporation comments. Did we have anything about that? No.

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11

MR. UBELAKER: Yes, there is.

12
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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, there is. Okay.

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MR. UBELAKER: Give me just a moment, please. Oh, I've got it right here. So at the Tribal Consultations held August 21st, 2025, a representee from Natural -- I'm just going to read this verbatim from the summary that was given to me. A representee from Natural Resource Policy Analyst for TCC and a tribal member of Loudon Tribal Council to present -- to provide testimony for tribal members who couldn't make it to the meeting. So, this is a comment that somebody gave on behalf of somebody else regarding WP26-51. The original comment was from Jennie Bryant with the Loudon Tribal Council. Her comment was she is strongly opposed to this proposal. With only three state draw permits issued annually and only two muskox harvested since 2021, this proposal is being promoted as a match to the state hunt, even though there is no biological or local subsistence justification for expanding the harvest. If it passes, it will create more management layers (distortion) without any additional harvest, which makes little sense. And it feels like a trophy hunt and not a true subsistence hunt. There's no customary traditional use finding that has been made, and they feel that TCC or the effective tribes have not been meaningfully consulted in this additional hunt opportunity.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, we have a member sitting right there that goes all over this place all the time. So, there's people at this table that actually travel all over this place all the time. So, we're going to get to that part after a while. But I like her comments and I want to hear what TCC is going to say too, also. So, we're at ADF&G. Do you want to speak to this, Glenn? So yeah, I guess you can do that.

48
49
50

MR. STOUT: Sorry. Glenn Stout with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, although this hunt would occur in Units 21D and 24D, which is managed

1 out of the Galena office, muskox are managed by Region
2 5. And so, Sara Henslee is on the phone. She's out of
3 Nome, and she could speak to any of the biology that you
4 want to ask. I can tell you, just as it says in the
5 overview, that harvest has been very low, participation
6 has been very low. We've had it just four years and
7 there's been two muskox harvested in those four years.
8 So, it is a challenging hunt to get to. That's been kind
9 of a limiting factor on that whole thing. People like
10 to apply for it, but once they figure out the logistics
11 of getting there, they realize it's a bit more than
12 maybe they could handle. So, Sara's online. She can
13 answer any specific biology questions.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Sara, would you
16 like to make comments on the biological parameters of
17 this subpopulation of muskox? And there's approximately
18 -- how many would be in 21D and 24D? Sort of,
19 approximately.

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 MS. HENSLEE: Hi there, Mr. Chair. Oh,
24 sure. So, this -- for the record, this is Sara Henslee.
25 I'm the Nome area Biologist, and our current population
26 estimate for that area is -- it's 354 for the sample
27 area. So that's including 21 Delta, 24 Delta, and 22 A.
28 So, yeah, 350 individuals between the three areas. So I
29 guess I'll just stop with that. And if you have any
30 follow ups, please let me know.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the majority
33 would be towards the coastal area and then more diffuse
34 into the Koyukuk watershed? Would that -- since they're
35 expanding from west to east, there's more of them in the
36 western portion of your survey area compared to the
37 eastern portion of your survey area?

38
39 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So, they
40 -- the muskox from our population have been moving east.
41 I don't know if I could specifically say by watershed,
42 how many there are. There's a lot of questions about
43 movement between those three areas, which is why we
44 consider it one population estimate for the three
45 subunits. So, does that kind of help clarify there?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, it does. And
48 so again, 300, around 350 would be sort of a mean level?
49
50

1 MS. HENSLEE: Yes, that's correct, Mr.
2 Chair.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, thank you
5 very much. And, Glenn.

6
7 MR. STOUT: Yeah. And just to make sure
8 the Council understands, most of those muskox stay right
9 on the divide of the game management units up in the
10 Nulato hills, in the treeless portion of it.
11 Occasionally we've had them come down into the valleys
12 in the Koyukuk-Middle Yukon area, but those are pretty
13 rare occurrences. Really, what's happening is they're
14 staying on the hills. And so, access from the Galena
15 side would be something like the Iditarod Trail, going
16 up the Iditarod Trail to get onto them, or the Kateel
17 River getting way up there to get up onto those upper
18 hills.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, okay. Do you
21 have any questions for Glenn? Go ahead. Don.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Glenn,
24 you mentioned only two in the last -- I guess it begs
25 me to ask where they -- where are they actually located?
26 I mean, in all the years I think there was one taken in
27 Ruby maybe ten years ago or something. Out, maybe 20
28 miles out toward south of Ruby there. And so where were
29 the other two you mentioned? Maybe there was two more
30 taken, because it's a rarity to see these.

31
32 MR. STOUT: Yeah, through the Chair. So,
33 the one -- the muskox that you were referring to that
34 was killed in Ruby, there was actually a total since
35 I've been the Area Biologist, there's been a total of
36 five muskox in the last 27 years that have been
37 harvested. All of those were essentially either a DLP
38 or an illegal harvest. When I said there was two taken
39 that's two that were legally taken under this new hunt
40 that was established in 2021. So those are the two legal
41 harvests under this current state drawing permit.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, any other
44 questions for Glenn? Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim
47 Gervais.

48
49 (Simultaneous speech)

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: So, Glenn or Sara, is this
4 population increasing or just stable at 350? Like, I'm
5 wondering, like in 5 or 10 years, is there going to be
6 a population of 1,000 or 2,000?

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You want to answer
9 that, Sara?

10

11 MS. HENSLEE: Sure. Through the Chair
12 again, this is Sara. So, I don't know that I would say
13 the population itself is increasing. It's more of just
14 a range expansion is what we're seeing. So, the Seward
15 Peninsula muskox population has been stable now for ten
16 years, but what we have seen is they've been moving east
17 into this expanded area. So, I don't know, it could be
18 that we see more than 350. I can't give you a specific
19 number of what that might look like next time we sample,
20 but they are moving eastward, it seems like, with time.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Sara.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: I have one more
25 question.....

26

27 (Simultaneous speech)

28

29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Sara -- Tim?

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: The herd, do they just
32 almost always stay in open tundra unless they're like
33 an adolescent or a small bull?

34

35 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
36 So, you're asking if the bulls are moving into like the
37 forested areas in 21D and eastward? Just to clarify.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Well, when there were some
40 illegally harvested ones in Ruby and Galena, I thought
41 I had heard on the radio that the reason that these
42 muskox were here or were in the eastern portion was
43 because their immature or non-breeding bulls, and they
44 just wandered away to try to find a different herd where
45 they could potentially be like the dominant bull or
46 something. And then when Glenn's talking about they're
47 living on the -- in the Nulato hills, then I'm wondering
48 if like, maybe they'll never be much of a presence in
49 21D or 24D because they don't like to live in the forest.

50

1 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
2 This is Sara again. It's a really interesting question.
3 So, we generally, you know, Seward Peninsula Unit 22 is
4 tundra habitat, and we have always thought muskox like
5 those really windblown areas, whether it's the tundra
6 up on hilltops. So, you look at the Nulato Hills, it's
7 just it seems like it'd be perfectly acceptable muskox
8 habitat and that you wouldn't expect them to keep moving
9 east into that forest, like you're saying. But I mean,
10 yeah, they are continuing to explore. It is, like you
11 said, generally younger bulls like to wander around and
12 find harems, and we are -- we've been running a GPS
13 collaring study as well and trying to kind of answer
14 that question of movement. And yeah, we find the cows
15 are moving a lot too, and we're just still learning
16 about the movement and why. So yeah.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I live in the
19 Brooks Range and since 1982, bull muskox, big ones,
20 typically three years old and older, they show up
21 typically coming out of the west, and they move into our
22 area, and they live in the Dietrich River valley. They
23 love to live in the Dietrich River valley around Sukakpak
24 Mountain. They love to select a place in this forested
25 country. They select places where there's a lot of
26 outwash and gravel, and it grows back with grasses and
27 little willows. And they love to eat these grasses, and
28 they love to eat the tips off those willows. So, I've
29 seen muskox live right in the woods. They just -- and
30 then once they get to summer, they don't grow anywhere.
31 You shouldn't even see them there for months. In the
32 summer they go somewhere else. There's some in the Atigun
33 Valley. They stay there for a winter, then poof, they
34 disappear. But there are always bulls and they go off
35 to find cows. And one was seeing this fall again. They
36 come into our valley, they hang around in there and then
37 they move on. They go somewhere else. So, I keep hoping
38 that they go out and find cows and come back and colonize
39 where they've been. That's what they -- that's what those
40 large bulls will typically do. But they haven't done
41 that yet. But so that -- so some of those muskox that
42 are in Nulato Hills, there's going to be dispersed bulls
43 that would colonize other areas along those same kind
44 of habitats. You know, it's like -- it's not swamp. They
45 don't -- I don't know that they like swamp. Although one
46 showed up right at the Yukon River Bridge and Yukon
47 River Camp. It came down across the Ray Mountains and
48 came right across the mouth of the Ray River North. And
49 why did they come right around the people? Because nobody
50 shoots them. And the wolves don't bother and the bears

1 don't bother. So they hang around and eat minerals off
2 the dirt and around those truck stops, and one did that
3 in Coldfoot, stayed there for two days and people were
4 like, why is it here? I says, because no bears are
5 chasing. And it took off and went east. And the miners
6 told me it was 18 miles east two days later. So, they
7 know they do go into the woods, but I don't know of any
8 populations that are building in the forest.

9
10 So, you know, you're losing some of your
11 muskox and we probably are seeing some of that is where
12 they would be coming from. They could come from there,
13 the Noatak or the Cape Krusenstern. There's no telling.
14 We get muskox come out of the west. We know that they
15 come from the west because they don't know where to go
16 to go get cows that are straight north of us, up there
17 by in the Sagavanirktok Valley. There's muskox up there.
18 They don't know where to go to, go get those. So, they're
19 an interesting animal and they're excellent eating
20 whenever I've eaten one. I've never met a muskox I
21 haven't enjoyed eating. It's like half good moose meat
22 and half good sheep meat. It's really nice meat. So,
23 we've covered that state comment, state information.
24 Thank you very much. Appreciate that. And federal
25 agencies, BLM or Fish and Wildlife got any position or
26 discussion on this proposal? No?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 Tribes and ANSCA Corps. Do we have
31 tribes? Are you -- Krystal? Yeah.

32
33 MS. LAPP: Yeah. For the record, this is
34 Krystal Lapp, Tanana Chiefs Conference. I'm the Natural
35 Resource Policy Analyst that you just spoke about. Super
36 weird to have that happen, by the way. So again, I have
37 been talking about the muskox hunt and kind of what's
38 been going on in the area. There's a lot going on in
39 that area as far as fish and wildlife goes. And so, when
40 this proposal came up, I've had quite a few tribal
41 members between Nulato, Koyukuk, and Galena that already
42 have a massive amount of hunting pressure going on for
43 moose and, and everything else. There was some concerns
44 that they would like the Western Interior RAC to
45 consider. So, of the two muskox that were taken, they
46 were taken by aerial hunts. There is local concern --
47 Oh, hold on. Lost my place. Local concern that aerial
48 hunters like these can begin a guide business in the
49 area with already heavy guide use. The state hunt was
50 adopted with the harvestable surplus fully allocated.

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1 So, it might be good to ask if OSM expects the state to
2 close the hunt so they can allocate all harvestable
3 surplus on federal only. It is small numbers, but the
4 management principle regarding the limited harvestable
5 surplus is an important consideration. The other concern
6 is who will implement this hunt? It's assumed that the
7 BLM would implement it. It's a good question to BLM
8 whether they have the capability to do so. There are
9 guides permitted by BLM in the area, and they have to
10 self-report because BLM cannot patrol and they have no
11 ability to patrol or manage a hunt. How will they manage
12 an additional muskox hunt? So, these are just not my
13 words. I'm just on behalf of multiple concerned tribal
14 members of the area that they would like you guys to
15 consider those questions.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,
18 Krystal. Appreciate those comments. So other Regional
19 Councils? Seward Pen hasn't met yet on that. And Middle
20 Yukon AC? Did you talk about that, Tommy? This proposal?
21 Oh, you haven't had a meeting yet. So, Koyukuk hasn't
22 met yet on that at all. Subsistence Resource
23 Commissions. It's Park, I don't know that Kobuk there
24 or other SRCs have met on and on that one. Other written
25 comments? Were there written comments and public
26 testimony? Other public testimony by anybody?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 So, Council motion. So we can make a
31 motion to support, and discussion and vote it up or down
32 from there. So during our discussions.

33
34 MR. HONEA: I'll make that motion.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion by Don to
37 support proposal with modifications. Is that with
38 modification? To delegate the authority. And it may be
39 modified further with discussion. So, let's start there
40 with Don's. You support with modification?

41
42 MR. HONEA: I support, I don't know what
43 the modification is.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: This is on page 53,
46 this modified language. It's -- this modified language
47 is to delegate authority to the federal land manager,
48 to be determined by the Federal Subsistence Board at
49 their 2026 meeting. Delegated authority includes
50 determining the number of permits to be issued and the

1 method of permit allocation between state and federal
2 permits for muskox and Units 21D and 24D. So, that
3 modified language is actually addressing Krystal's
4 concern to consult about the state hunt also. That's
5 what that modified language would be doing, but.....

6

7

(Simultaneous speech)

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15

(Simultaneous speech)

16

17

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I got a.....

18

19

MR. HONEA:I fully support it.

20

21

22

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:motion to support. And do we have a second?

23

24

MS. PELKOLA: I second.

25

26

27

28

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30

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny. So discussion. So the local concern is that it's going to attract aircraft use. What would be the possibility of modifying the proposal to eliminate use of aircraft as a method of means during this hunt? Brian.

31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. UBELAKER: I am uncertain if we can -- I don't think we can restrict methods and means such as aircraft. I believe it's Controlled Use Areas or something similar that would be implemented to keep air traffic or keep airplanes from being used.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It is a draw permit. It's not like there's thousands of people and this is a subsistence permit. This is not like a, you know, your comments referred to guided hunts. There's not going to be guides. This is not going to have guides at all. The state hunt might have guides, but this hunt is not going to have guides. My -- I envision this hunt as, you know, like Tommy or Daryl, people on our Council. This is part of their area. They go up to the hot springs all the time. How many times have you been -- have you seen those muskox up there, Tommy? Tommy, they get there. They encounter these muskox. I knew you would. So, there's -- they're there. So, I don't see any reason why

1 people can't put in for a permit and then have the
2 ability to take one of these muskox. And it's not --
3 it's really only going to be a few permits, the delegated
4 authority will be just a few permits. So, I think Boomer
5 misunderstood what the proposal was actually saying.
6 This is not going to be like guided hunters and other -
7 - it's a -- might encourage people with aircraft unless
8 we make a subsequent proposal for Controlled Use Area
9 or something, which I don't think we're going to have
10 to do that. It's a draw permit. It's not going to be
11 very many people and the like, it's -- they're going to
12 be randomly drawn by people who live in -- and so we
13 should consider the customary and traditional use of
14 this population. People utilize that area for caribou
15 hunting. They have customary and traditional use in the
16 Unit 23 and then 22. They go over there kind of a lot.
17 And so, we might put this proposal on hold until we get
18 a customary and traditional use. So, we don't have every
19 Alaskan, rural residents, and Yakutat or wherever,
20 coming to hunt muskox. So, that's what I'm unclear about.
21 Can we add the request for a customary and traditional
22 use determination, which is a long process? I don't think
23 so. This is a -- this is not the same kind of proposal.
24 We can -- what would be the -- what would you think
25 about, Brian, as a person who has to deal with it,
26 tabling this proposal, putting it on hold until we can
27 request a customary and traditional use and delineate
28 communities that would have customary and traditional
29 use. That would basically be everybody that lives within
30 these Subunits of 21D, 24D, and portions of 22 --
31 probably 22A, as a customary and traditional use area.
32 Muskox actually used to be there. They were extirpated
33 in the gold rush and in the whaling industries. So,
34 muskox -- they used to live in this -- the last muskox
35 that I know of being killed was at Chandalar Lake, 50
36 miles from where I live. Muskox used to live extensively
37 and they were a resource that people used. So what --
38 bouncing that one off of you, if we table this proposal,
39 what concerns about customary and traditional use?
40 What's the proposal for customary and traditional use
41 determination by the Federal Subsistence Board? What
42 would that -- what is that open for -- call for proposal?

43
44 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, I would -- I
45 like where you're heading with that. I would not table
46 this one, but as Nissa suggested earlier, you know, make
47 whatever decision you're going to make now, any
48 modifications you want to make to it. And then have that
49 not take effect until a C&T determination has been made,
50 which the next open call for wildlife proposals in 2028

1 would be the time to submit a C&T proposal and have it
2 analyzed and then presented.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

5

6 MR. UBELAKER: Just as you would here.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So yeah, we could
9 -- and so the modification. So, we'd have to retract the
10 motion and make a modification that this hunt would not
11 be implemented until a customary and traditional use
12 determination was made for residents of unit -- and I'm
13 going to -- let's define it. Let's let the Board know
14 what we intend to do. Residents of GMU 21D, 21 -- or
15 24D, and 22A, and so the hunt will not be implemented
16 until that -- at that time. As -- so you want to retract
17 your motion so we can make a new motion, Don? And we'll
18 add the additional modified language into it.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And we have a
23 friendly, we have a -- Jenny, friendly agreement, okay.
24 So that motion is off the table. The new modification
25 language will be WP26-51 with modification to delete --
26 delegate authority to the federal in-season managers,
27 etc., etc. And with the understanding that there -- this
28 hunt will not be implemented until a customary and
29 traditional use determination is submitted to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board to delineate the customary and
31 traditional use of residents of Game Management Units
32 21D, 24D, and 22A. That's the modified language. Do we
33 have a motion to that effect? Don, do you want to...?

34

35 MR. HONEA: I move with the.....

36

37 (Simultaneous speech)

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: With the
40 modified.....

41

42 MR. GERVAIS:with the
43 modifications.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
48 Did you have a comment, Tim?

49

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim
2 Gervais. Yeah, I want or I'm suggesting in your modified
3 proposal that Ruby is in that C&T analysis because we're
4 right on the border of 21D, we have had muskox on the
5 Ruby Road, so Ruby itself is technically in 21B, but
6 we're right on the boundary of 21D.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh. And well you
9 can modify -- you can modify, you can add a community.
10 They do that with C&T sometimes that are extra --
11 exterior to the unit. Including Ruby, is that okay with
12 the Council in the modified language? So, thank you for
13 that clarification. Since Don -- as he lives in 21B, he
14 wants to be able to participate. So that's on the table
15 now. So, I think we've talked about this proposal quite
16 a bit. I think the population can easily support with
17 the -- the land manager working with the state on this
18 delegated authority aspect. And this population is more
19 than likely, if we ever get any better weather, we'll
20 continue to grow and move further and further to the
21 east. That's what it wants to do. So, any further
22 discussion on the on the proposal on the table, the
23 motion?

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
28 Those in favor of support of WP.....

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: I have a.....

33
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Did you have a
35 further comment?

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Can -- Mr. Chair, this
38 is Tim Gervais. Yeah. Can ADF&G state how many
39 applications, drawing applications there are annually
40 for the state hunt?

41
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.
43 Supplementary. Sara, Tim's asking, how many applicants?
44 How many draw permit applications did you receive for
45 this particular hunt? If you know offhand. Or Glenn, do
46 you know that?

47
48 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair,
49 this is Sara. 700 applicants.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: 700. Oh.

2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Who's.....

4
5 (Simultaneous speech)

6
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's about.....

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: Never heard of a drawing
10 permit for a subsistence hunt. Who's going to pay for
11 this drawing? That's got to be a lot.....

12
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: OSM does that. OSM
14 does draw permits for certain things. Yeah. OSM has other
15 draw permits. That's how they're allocating under 804,
16 which I don't always agree with. I feel that there should
17 be more or less like a Tier II sometimes. There should
18 be a Tier II process for allocation under 804. That's
19 where tier two comes from, is from the Board of Game,
20 delineating what 804 was when they managed under -- for
21 federal priority. But that's a different issue. So, that
22 answers your question? This is going to be a -- and this
23 is going to be -- necked this down for Customary and
24 Traditional use. The populations of all the communities
25 combined can't be over 1,000 people. Well, maybe it could
26 be, maybe 1,500 in unit 21A or 22A. Unalakleet. Yeah,
27 there's some good-sized communities. That's a long ways
28 away. They got muskox a lot closer. So anyway, are we
29 good for a vote now, Tim? You called question.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Ready for vote.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Those in
34 favor of proposal WP26-51 with OSM's modified language,
35 with the additional modified language by the Western
36 Interior Council, that it will not be implemented if
37 passed by the Federal Subsistence Board -- adopted, that
38 it will not be implemented until the Council has an
39 ability to submit a customary and traditional use
40 determination for Units 21D and 24D for customary and
41 traditional use determination of residents of Unit 21D,
42 24D, and 21A. Correction 22A, correction. Thank you. And
43 Ruby. So that's the language. Those in favor of that
44 modified proposal, proposal and modifications, signify
45 by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert, did I hear
2 you? Okay. Robert has an affirmative. So, let's see. Now
3 we're moving into Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. These proposals
4 for WP26-41 and -42, I'm a little concerned because we
5 have residents that are real close to this 18 boundary.
6 So, you want to give us the overview for that proposal,
7 Brian?

8
9 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
10 the record, Brian Ubelaker once again. And this is a
11 brief summary of Wildlife Proposals WP26-41/42 regarding
12 caribou and moose take in Unit 18. This analysis can be
13 found on page 83 of your meeting book. Proposal WP26-
14 41, submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife
15 Refuge, requests eliminating the unit specific provision
16 allowing the take of caribou from a boat moving under
17 power in Unit 18. Wildlife Proposal 26-42, submitted by
18 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, requests the
19 same but for moose. The proponent states these
20 regulations are not applicable due to many animals being
21 harvested on navigable waterways which fall under state
22 jurisdiction. While not explicit in their submitted
23 proposal, the proponent has also expressed concerns
24 about the enforcement issues that have arisen due to
25 conflicting state and federal regulations regarding this
26 issue.

27
28 Since the start of the Federal
29 Subsistence Management Program, the Federal Subsistence
30 Board has considered numerous proposals to allow the
31 take of wildlife from boats moving under power. Across
32 these actions, the Board has generally supported such
33 methods when they reflected established subsistence
34 practices, improved hunter safety and strong river
35 currents, and when sufficient federal lands were present
36 to support the request. The Board has rejected proposals
37 when those conditions were not met, particularly when -
38 - where limited federal lands created jurisdictional
39 complications. In 1996, the Board modified the general
40 prohibition on shooting for moving motorized vehicles
41 to incorporate specific exceptions, acknowledging these
42 practical and safety considerations. Over time, Regional
43 Advisory Councils have consistently supported the
44 approach as a customary, efficient, and safe subsistence
45 practice, while ADF&G has repeatedly opposed similar
46 proposals due to jurisdictional and enforcement
47 concerns, and the State Board of Game has cited safety
48 and wounding loss issues in its opposition.

49
50

1 If adopted, these proposals would
2 prohibit the take of caribou and moose from a boat moving
3 under power in Unit 18, reducing subsistence opportunity
4 for federally qualified users. No significant impacts
5 to wildlife populations are expected. While the
6 proposals would reduce regulatory complexity for users
7 hunting moose or caribou for motor driven boats in
8 navigable waters of Unit 18, users could still choose
9 to hunt under state regulations, which allow take only
10 when the boat's motor is completely shut off and all
11 forward progress from the motor has ceased. State and
12 federal regulations regarding the take of wildlife from
13 a boat would continue to differ statewide. State
14 regulations require the motor to be turned off, whereas
15 federal regulations require only that the boat's
16 progress under power has stopped, even if the motor
17 remains running. Therefore, it is OSM's preliminary
18 conclusion to support both of these proposals. While
19 adopting these proposals would reduce subsistence
20 opportunity. The existing provisions pose a heightened
21 risk of citations for federally qualified subsistence
22 users and may cause significant confusion, as users
23 complying with federal regulations could still be
24 subjected to enforcement under state law.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's what I
27 wanted to hear, the analysis on this and the reasoning
28 behind it. And so, I -- this is Unit 18. We do have
29 people from Aniak that go down into Unit 18 and down
30 from, you know, below Paimiut, Holy Cross. They go down
31 into those -- that unit. I would like the Council to
32 discuss this issue. We supported a proposal, the State
33 Board of Game proposal to be able to shoot from a boat
34 that was -- the power was off, but it was just at idle.
35 Remember that one, Tommy?

36
37 MR. KRISKA: Yep.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And that failed.
40 It's my impression that a lot of hunters don't shut the
41 motor off and go -- completely stop the boat. And the
42 moose is moving. You're going to get out of range and
43 stuff. You're going to float backwards. I don't think
44 that actually, in reality, most subsistence hunters will
45 come down to an idle for -- until the boat's not rocking
46 and take the shot. That's what I -- that's what my dad
47 did when I was a kid in the boat. And I don't hunt in a
48 boat right now because I live in the mountains again.
49 But I think that the Board of Game process didn't
50 understand how -- what -- and I don't think that it's

1 actually increases wounding loss because when the boat
2 is stabilized, I'm going to go right off power and be
3 on the wake. That's not going to happen. But I do want
4 the Council to talk about this issue, whether it gets
5 voted up or down, because there will be a record of our
6 discussions. So, I do feel that this is an important
7 proposal for the Council to weigh in on, because it
8 affects subsistence throughout. It affects the whole
9 management overall. So, this was -- the Council like to
10 make a motion to adopt proposals WP26-41 and -42 for
11 just -- for discussion purposes and possible adoption?
12

13 MR. GERVAIS: So moved. This is Tim.

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Tim.

15 MR. HONEA: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.
17 So, is there Tribal Consultations on this one? Did
18 anybody talk about this one?

19 (No comments)

20 Agency and Tribal Comments? That'd be
21 anybody in the room. Oh, Krystal left. ADF&G. ADF&G got
22 comments on this, Glenn?

23 (No comments)

24 Federal agencies?

25 (No comments)

26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife is probably in
27 support. It's their proposal. And BLM?

28 (No comments)

29 I don't see -- Erin left. No, he just
30 stepped out. Tribes and ANSCA Corps.

31 (No comments)

32 I don't see anybody. RACs? Did -- has
33 any Regional Council addressed this one?

34 (No comments)

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1 Yukon Delta doesn't -- hasn't met yet.
2 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Is there any record
3 of that?

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 And there are no parks down there. Other
8 written comments?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 Public testimony?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 No public testimony. And so the
17 Council's got the motion on the table. I put that on the
18 table just to even see if we wanted to go there. So,
19 Council discussion. I would like to go around the room
20 and talk -- have the subsistence users in this at the
21 table here talk about it. So, Pollock? So, what -- you
22 know, the proposal is, you know, currently people can
23 use the boat under power to shoot a moose or something,
24 in Unit 18, which is down below Aniak, and the proposal
25 is to stop that. What do you think about shooting from
26 a moving boat if -- when the power shut off? Turn your
27 mic on. Yep.

28
29 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Folks
30 from Allakaket was hunting in boat. We shoot moose from
31 the boat. The motor is still going. The boat is moving.
32 We have to shoot moose. We can't stop and land to get
33 off the boat to shoot.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right.

36
37 MR. SIMON: Yeah. (Indiscernible) we
38 shoot from the boat.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The proposal is to
41 eliminate -- you have to turn the motor off and the boat
42 has to stop. Well, that could take quite a while for it
43 to stop and you got limited time. You've been looking
44 for this moose for a long time, and you don't have a
45 heck of a lot of time. That's kind of the problem. So
46 usually, you would shut off your motor, but you still
47 might be drifting a little bit, right? Yeah. So, Robert.

48
49 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
50 would support it because there's no logistics to it,

000110

1 because it's going to happen anyway. Because who's going
2 to stop your boat? Tom ain't. I ain't. You know, I mean,
3 and it just -- it's going to be something on the books
4 that.....

5
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No, it's to
9 eliminate it.

10
11 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It eliminates the
14 use of drifting at all.

15
16 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You'd have to
19 completely stop the boat.

20
21 MR. WALKER: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: State regulation
24 is you have to shut off the motor.....

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 MR. WALKER: Yes. State regulations.

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED: Stop under power.....

31
32 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED:but it's still
35 drifting.

36
37 MR. WALKER: Yep. We know that. We've
38 been.....

39
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh.

41
42 MR. WALKER: We've been well versed by
43 wildlife troopers.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moving under
46 power.

47
48 MR. WALKER: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, okay. I'm.....

000111

1

2 MR. WALKER: We've been versed so many
3 times in our area about.....

4

5

(Simultaneous speech)

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. You kick it
8 out of gear and you're just drifting.

9

10

11 MR. WALKER: Well, why do you shut your
12 motor off? You still have a momentum.

12

13

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right.

14

15

16 MR. WALKER: And where is the end of pop,
17 motor or the boat? That's a question that we give to the
18 state when they tell us, okay, we're in dead water.
19 We're not in the current, but if you're in a current,
20 you're going to keep moving anyway. How do you justify
21 that? You can't.

21

22

23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I can support
24 the proposal.

24

25

MR. WALKER: Yeah. I mean.

26

27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's why I wanted
29 to talk about it.

29

30

31 MR. WALKER: We can support it, but it
32 don't make no difference.

32

33

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right.

34

35

MR. WALKER: I mean, anyway.

36

37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You want to
39 comment, Jenny?

39

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I guess we'll just
42 have to take an anchor and throw it overboard. But yeah,
43 I'll support this too.

43

44

(Distortion / simultaneous speech)

45

46

47 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
48 going -- there's somebody -- for going around taking
49 comments on this because whether we're it's on state
50 land -- federal lands, I see it all the time. You know,
I mean, we never think of it at the time there. And I,

1 you know, I was thinking about, you know, on the Alaska
2 Migratory Bird Committee, which I sit on for TCC, it's
3 the same thing. I mean, these -- the Yukon Delta National
4 Wildlife Refuge and it was for wildlife, for geese and
5 stuff. And I thought, this is crazy. I mean, how are you
6 supposed to do that? And so, you know, I mean, it's --
7 I don't know where this came up -- came from, but I was
8 just wondering the history of it. Why is it been 2025
9 that we're, you know, maybe 10, 15, 20 years ago, wasn't
10 this brought up before? And I'd like to -- you know,
11 it's -- to me it's something that we do anyway. And not
12 just as Native people or people out in rural areas,
13 hunters in Fairbanks. I mean, on the Novi, you know,
14 it's just something you do. So, I fully support that.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy.

17

18 MR. KRISKA: Oh, I've been on all the
19 time. Anyway. Yeah. You know, we have to eat like
20 everyone else. So, you run into a lot of different
21 situations. The current, the wind, the bent and the
22 slough, unless they're back there and they got the moose
23 tied up, I'll definitely stop. The way I grew up and
24 every one of us Natives grew up in, in back at home, we
25 were trained to shoot from a moving boat. Every damn
26 shot you shoot you're from a moving boat. So, I don't
27 know where they came up with this. Like Don said, 20-25
28 years ago, where were they when all this regulations
29 were being put in place? And now putting stuff in place
30 like this is -- I got to retrain myself, I guess. But
31 you know, we got to eat, and I'm not going to -- I had
32 a hard fall, and I'm not going to put that on anyone
33 else. There's a lot of older people that need to, you
34 know, from a moving boat is more stable than a boat that
35 you're trying to stop. So, you got a better chance of
36 shooting stuff while you're moving, or either you're
37 going to put your boat dead in the water. By that time,
38 the animal was kind of almost out of sight. And you're
39 going to take that shot. It's more of a chance for that
40 animal to be wounded and to get away. Just shoot him
41 right where you want to shoot him. I don't know. Yeah,
42 I support that.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Glenn is saying
45 that you got to kick the boat out of gear and just shut
46 the engine off. But you can still be drifting forward.

47

48 MR. KRISKA: Well it.....

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It can't drift
2 forward. Oh, drift with the current. Oh, well, that's a
3 different story.

4
5 MR. KRISKA: Well, now I'm going to have
6 troopers all over my butt for saying that, but that's
7 okay.

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: I can't - Mr. Chair, I
10 can't hear what Glenn is saying.

11
12 MR. KRISKA: I don't know what to say on
13 that.....

14
15 (Simultaneous speech)

16
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Standby. Standby a
18 second. Tim, you can't hear us?

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: I cannot hear Glenn.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Step up to the mic
23 there. Tim really wants to hear that one.

24
25 MR. STOUT: Yeah, for the record, Glenn
26 Stout, Fish and Game. Tim, what I was explaining was
27 that you can drift with the current, the effect of the
28 current moving the boat, you just can't drift or move
29 and be shooting from the effect of the motor, the motion
30 caused by the motor. So, for instance, you could be
31 static in the water with a motor going just as fast.
32 That would not be allowed either. You know, it's not
33 about being motionless. It's moving by the effect of the
34 motor.

35
36 MR. KRISKA: So, I have a question for
37 you. So, what about paddling?

38
39 MR. STOUT: That's fine because it's not
40 using a motor.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, this proposal
43 is actually aligning with that definition. That's what
44 this proposal is doing as to basically go to the state
45 definition. You got to shut the motor off. You have to
46 the boat has to come to a complete drift stop then can
47 be drifting in the in the current. That's what this
48 proposal is saying. But I wanted the record to reflect
49 what customary and traditional practices are. That they
50 -- my dad wasn't screaming towards a moose. He just

1 kicked it straight, idle it down, and the boat's just
2 barely moving forward. Just that idle, just barely going
3 forward. That's what most -- my impression is, that's
4 the way most people are shooting, right? And that's what
5 we commented to the State Board of Game on.
6

7 MR. KRISKA: Yep. I think -- I don't
8 know. I wish they'd do something about that. Stopping
9 the motor and doing all this kind of goofy stuff because,
10 I mean, you slow a boat down to 1 or 2 miles an hour.
11 What you don't want is the backwash, the wave from the
12 behind to mess up your shot. And that's one of the
13 reasons you do that and then the, the moose or whatever,
14 you spend, I mean, it's \$8 a gallon of fuel out there.
15 You stop and how many chances are you going to get doing
16 this? But then it's just, I don't know, common sense,
17 you know.
18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I think we've
20 spent a lot of time on this. I do think it's a really
21 good issue to bring before the Federal Subsistence
22 Board. I intend to vote this proposal down myself,
23 because I don't think it actually reflects customary and
24 traditional practice of, like, kicking the boat out of
25 gear and just drifting forward. You know, that's -- what
26 the Board of Game did is -- they seem to think that
27 there's, you know, your backwash is not there. But if
28 you kick the boat out of gear and you're drifting, your
29 boat is real stable for how many seconds? Five? Ten?
30 It's real stable for just a few seconds there. It's not
31 like on step or anything. Just drifting, moving forward.
32 That's actually legal right now. Yukon Delta is
33 concerned about overlapping with state. Well, what if
34 you're off in some slough? You're not in navigable waters
35 in the side sloughs, are you? That's not considered
36 navigable, side sloughs of the main stem. So navigable
37 rivers aren't like meanders, as far as I know.
38

39 I think this needs to be talked about
40 before the Federal Subsistence Board. I think it's a
41 good -- it's -- they're the ones who brought it up. I
42 think that this Council needs to be put on the record
43 at the Federal Subsistence Board that that actually is,
44 you know, kicking the gear, kicking it out of gear or
45 having it at idle moving forward. That's customary and
46 traditional. It's no different than tracking wolves or
47 doing anything else that people do. That's what happens.
48 George
49

000115

1 MR. YASKA: Mr. Chair. George Yaska, Fish
2 and Wildlife Service. Does the proposal come from a
3 sporting ethic to...?

4
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: This proposal is
6 from the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. What's his name?

7
8 MR. YASKA: I mean, rather, does it --
9 from that refuge manager? Is it -- reflect a belief or
10 a sporting ethic that you're not disturbing the wildlife
11 or what is it?

12
13 (Simultaneous speech)

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I think that
16 there's state enforcement down there on the Kuskokwim
17 River, and there's people that are under power, shoot a
18 moose, and they're going to get us ticket. This would
19 violate state regulations. And if you're in the main
20 stem of the Kuskokwim River, you're on state navigable
21 waters. So, they get a violation. So he's trying -- the
22 intention is to make it foolproof, so nobody gets a
23 ticket. That's what the intention of the proposal is.
24 But that's not what's reflecting by the -- you've hunted
25 for.

26
27 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
28 then perhaps we'll ask the state where the original
29 proposal comes from again. If Mr. Stout would answer
30 from Fish and Game. Does it stem from a sporting ethic?

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh. Glenn was
33 probably well involved in that process. Is -- I, you
34 know, he's at that Board. He was at that Board meeting
35 and that was in Fairbanks, wasn't it? Glenn. Go ahead.

36
37 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Glenn Stout, Fish and
38 Game. So, there was a proposal to eliminate the existing
39 regulation to basically adopt what is currently
40 happening down in Unit 18 that they want to repeal. So,
41 it was the opposite of this. It's the mirror image of
42 what they're trying to pass here. To answer George's
43 question most specifically, when that proposal was
44 implemented many years ago, it had to do with hunting
45 ethic. It had to do with public safety, the concerns
46 about any moving vehicle and having a stable platform
47 to shoot in. That is a common discussion where public
48 safety shooting from -- often it's discussed about it's
49 illegal to shoot from a moving vehicle on roads because
50 of the concern about people along the roads as well, and

1 being able to make sure that you have a safe target
2 instantaneously. It's hard enough when you're
3 stationary, but to make that assessment is difficult
4 when you're in motion. So, safety and hunting ethic are
5 both part of that long history. It's in our hunter safety
6 manual. It talks about not shooting from moving vehicles
7 from a hunter safety perspective often.

8

9

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Nissa.

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MS. PILCHER: I did want to add I was the
Coordinator at that time, and I do remember some of the
justifications the Board did say is that since it was
at the Board of Game that would have applied to all
hunters and not just rural residents. And while they did
understand that maybe hunting practices might be
different, they were concerned with having all people
that were hunting in that Game Management Unit have the
ability to hunt from a moving boat because there's --
you can't shut it down.

22

23

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25

MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

26

27

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

28

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MR. GERVAIS: So, the existing regulation
in place, if a hunter's in the Y-K Delta Wildlife Refuge,
and he's on a slough, not on the Kuskokwim River, is he
subject to the state regulation that Glenn's talking
about, or is that or does that not -- does the state
regulation not count when you're on federal land?

35

36

37

38

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: If he's at the --
it would apply on the river itself. But if they're in
off -- go ahead, Tommy, you got a question? Comment?

39

40

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44

MR. KRISKA: Oh, yeah. Anyway, I was just
going to say if this regulation is already in, you know,
throughout, it's supposed to be throughout the whole
state, just leave as is and do what you got to do
hunting.

45

46

47

48

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, this is unit
specific for 18, and do you want to clarify that that's
18 has specific.....

49

50

(Simultaneous speech)

1 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.....

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:for these --
4 for a moving boat, Brian? That's why the regulation is
5 there, must have been passed by the Federal Subsistence
6 Board at some point.

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 So yeah, 51.26 and 18(iii) (3) (c) is you may take caribou
10 from a boat moving under power in Unit 18.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the Federal
13 Subsistence Board has adopted this proposal at some
14 point, except on the main stem of the river. The
15 modification that we -- that should happen is that they
16 should -- it should clarify that this -- outside of the
17 main stem of the river there, they could use this method.
18 But the troopers are writing the tickets. That's what
19 the issue is. So, Yukon Delta is trying to clarify that.
20 And Tim, are you trying to comment?

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. So, I'm looking at
23 the justification on page 91. So, says second half of
24 the -- subsistence users have a high risk of confusing
25 fairly qualified -- excuse me. Start again. A high risk
26 of confusing federally qualified subsistence users who
27 may not understand the compliance with federal
28 regulation may nonetheless subject them to state law
29 enforcement action. So, I don't -- at this point in the
30 discussion, I don't understand the subject them to state
31 law enforcement actions. Are you saying the subsistence
32 users are only subject to state law enforcement if
33 they're on the main stem of the Kuskokwim? And as long
34 as they're on a side creek or slough, they're allowed
35 to legally hunt under power regardless of the state
36 regulation? The state regulation does not apply on
37 federal land?

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There's a --
40 there's definitions of navigability. Those are like a
41 moving target, though. They constantly keep changing,
42 trying to change the navigable waters issue. So, I --
43 this proposal is to basically protect the local people
44 who keep getting tickets, and they're going to continue
45 to get tickets from the state if they're shooting on the
46 river. And the state's going to say, well, even the side
47 sloughs, that probably at this point they're probably
48 into the side sloughs by now.

49

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Right. Are they getting
2 ticketed in the sloughs and side creeks?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I don't know where
5 all they're getting tickets in, but there's been a big
6 push recently to make navigable waters even -- I mean,
7 you can't even -- you can walk across in your tennis
8 shoes and it's navigable. It's gotten -- the state's
9 definition of navigability has been really, really
10 reduced into the headwaters of the Dietrich River that
11 I can easily walk across. That's navigable up to a
12 certain point. So at least that was the proposal. Robert.

13
14 MR. WALKER: I am a little overwhelmed
15 with this here because it's over 15 minutes we've been
16 discussing this issue, and I think we beat it to death.
17 What's going to happen back in rural Alaska? I don't
18 know about urban, but we don't -- a lot of people don't
19 even read the regulation. Only regulations part they
20 read is like when it opens and when it's closed and so
21 forth. And just a few times the troopers come by and
22 give us a little heads up on what to do, and that's it.
23 And that's one person in 97,000 square miles. So, you
24 know, we're beating this to death, Jack. I think we
25 should just move on.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Do you want to --
28 you'd prefer to table this or defer to Region 18?

29
30 MR. WALKER: I would move to motion to -
31 I'd just say we go ahead and do it because it's on the
32 books. And that's a change from one regulation to
33 another. So, I'd say go for it.

34
35 MR. HONEA: I agree.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, that's -- okay.
38 We'll call for questions. Somebody can call.....

39
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41
42 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
45 Those in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I oppose because I
50 want the Board, and I want to be able to explain to the

1 Board while I -- why I oppose because I feel that the
2 progress of the boat, you shut the motor off, 90% of the
3 -- of our people in our region are drifting forward on
4 the current to shoot. I want the Board to know that. It
5 might not be legal, but the Board has to know that this
6 is a customary practice. So, the proposal is adopted.
7 So, we got two oppositions, and we have five members in
8 support. The proposal passes. Let the record reflect
9 that. So that's the only -- the Yukon Delta region
10 proposal that I wanted to talk about. Any Council members
11 think that we should discuss any of these other
12 proposals? I don't -- so, the rest of these proposals -
13 - oh, go ahead, Brian.

14
15 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
16 we get a clarification on your justification for
17 supporting the proposal?

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Do you want to give
20 your justification support, Robert? Yes.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Justification for what it
23 is. I would just say it's on the books. And to have
24 something like this to be changed or deleted or
25 something, you know, it'd be another whole total effort.
26 So, it was just easy to go ahead and pass it because I
27 think it'll, you know, somehow this next generation
28 that's coming up, we're the older generation, we've
29 already been there, but I think it's something maybe the
30 younger generation is going to have to see, or if it
31 ever happened to them or happened to one of their
32 friends. So, this would be for me anyway. That's my
33 thought. Is that good enough?

34
35 DR. VICKERS: I am sorry.....

36
37 (Simultaneous speech)

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: I just want to comment on
40 the vote.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Now Brent's going
43 to give a clarification. Go ahead, Brent -- or request.

44
45 DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Sorry. Sorry, Tim.
46 I'd like to hear your comment. Let me just say I just -
47 - I'm sorry. I'm a little confused. This is Brent
48 Vickers, OSM. The proposal is to change the regulations,
49 and it sounded like to me you were stating to your
50 supporting to not make changes to the regulations.

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MR. WALKER: No, I didn't say that. I'm supporting this from the very beginning, because I think this is a good change for the next generation coming up. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And then you had a comment, Tim, for justification?

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'm justifying my no vote because in the whole discussion nobody could tell me whether it's legal to hunt moose or caribou in the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge, on a side channel or slough under power without being in violation of state regulation. I never heard anybody state what the -- where the state regulation, whether it has jurisdiction off of the main stem or not. And so, I don't want to pull away a hunting right of a subsistence user when the Council doesn't have sufficient information, even understand what the -- whether the current state of affairs is legal or not.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. That's a good point. So, the record will reflect that at the Federal Subsistence Board. Thanks for that comment, Tim. Justification comment. So, the rest of these proposals, 18 proposals, I don't have heartburn about them. I don't really want to go into them. I appreciate you'll be dealing with Yukon Delta with all those, not you, but OSM will be the analysis. So, we've -- we're down to annual report, federal. And so do you want to go, Nissa?

MS. PILCHER: Yeah, I sure can. This is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. So, this is just a recap of your 2024 Annual Report. So, this is the one that was already written and already received a response back. So that's this -- the reply, the response back starts on page 50 of your supplemental materials book. That's the one with the metal circular bit on the top which.....

(Pause)

Sorry about that. We're paper shuffling. Actually, Tommy, do you have that one, too? It's got that metal ring on it. Okay. Yep. You've got it. Okay. This is also found on the website by navigating to the Supplemental Materials tab on the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council Meeting Materials. On that website I gave earlier -- 50. So, your Council had seven topics, which -- which a recommendation was requested

1 from your Council. So, you requested feedback or some
2 sort of action by the Federal Subsistence Board, and
3 those topics are, subsistence users continue to bear the
4 brunt of salmon conservation in the Yukon and Kuskokwim
5 drainages. Continued concern with the lack of data on
6 regional non salmon populations. Sorry, I'll say the
7 numbers.

8
9 So, this is number three, creation of a
10 Yukon and Kuskokwim Fish Commission. Number four,
11 creation of a memorandum of understanding between the
12 Department of Commerce, the DOI, and the Department of
13 Agriculture concerning commercial fishing. Number five,
14 western bound salmon genetic information collection and
15 availability. Number six, concern with transporter
16 operating in the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. And number
17 seven, the continued efforts to finalize the Council's
18 sheep management strategy guidelines. And then there was
19 one topic that was informational to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board, and that was the liberalization --
21 your concern over the liberalization of Central Arctic
22 caribou harvest limit implications to federally
23 qualified subsistence users.

24
25 So, I won't go into detail on these
26 responses because it is in front of you, and it was
27 included in your supplemental material. But the Board
28 does appreciate your effort to communicate through your
29 annual report to the Board issues outside of the
30 regulatory process that affects subsistence users in
31 your region. This is not an action item, but it is
32 followed by you guys formulating your FY25 Annual
33 Report. So, we just wanted to refresh what was in last
34 year's and draw your attention to that report. Thank
35 you, Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Nissa.
38 So, we're -- let's see.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: So, if anybody has any
41 questions about the report -- the reply, let me know.
42 Otherwise, we can move to the -- formulating the next
43 one.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: One of the annual
46 report topics was to tell the Federal Subsistence Board
47 under number seven that we're continuing to finalize the
48 Council's sheep management strategy. The only -- we
49 talked about this at the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
50 Resource Commission, the only modification and this

1 Council should adopt that modification is when doing
2 composition work on Dall sheep that the agencies count
3 half, three-quarter, and full curl to get age
4 composition. So, I would like to entertain a motion to
5 modify our sheep management strategy to include that
6 criteria for our sheep management strategy and then at
7 that point finalize it and submit it to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board and the OSM staff as the final
9 document. Does that make sense, Nissa?

10
11 So, we have a sheep management strategy,
12 which we've looked at several times, and it's been out
13 for public for comments. The Park Service went through
14 -- there was too many delineations in the -- to come up
15 with age class. So, the only modification is when doing
16 surveys that the agency shall take half, three-quarter,
17 and full curl as their age classes to delineate. And
18 then you can parse those out as to those who are like
19 three and four, five and six, seven and eight years old.
20 That helps the agencies do that. And then it will
21 finalize the sheep management strategy. And then we
22 submit that to the Federal Subsistence Board. So, this
23 -- the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt that
24 additional language into the sheep management strategy.
25 And then we will submit that right now because this is
26 -- this was one of our past annual report topics. And
27 we need to move forward with that. Nissa.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Yep. So, I think what the
30 process for that would be is when we start formulating
31 the FY -- so this current annual report, which is the
32 next agenda topic which Brent will lead you through,
33 that was when we should do that. But I'll take a note
34 on that because that.....

35
36 (Simultaneous speech)

37
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we'll submit it
39 as an annual report.

40
41 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Yeah. You'll submit
42 it as an annual report topic and then we'll include the
43 finalized version in the annual report.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, we'll go
46 that way. All right. So, I think -- any other discussions
47 about our past annual report and the responses? Tim or
48 anyone? Any of the Council members? Yeah. The annual
49 report, which was on page 50, and there was a bunch of
50 responses to that.

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MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim. I don't have any comments at this time.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Council members discussion on the responses. We're going to move into our new annual report for new topics. So, we could take a 15-minute break before we move into the next.....

MS. PILCHER: It could be a lengthy discussion.

MS. PELKOLA: Ten minutes is enough.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Ten? Ten-minute break. And we're going to come back, and we're going to start enumerating new annual report topics. Ten.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, coming back to order after our ten-minute break. So, we're on Annual Report Topics. And so, Tim, you're on the phone?

MR. GERVAIS: Roger. Yes. I'm on -- this is Tim. I'm on the phone.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I just wanted to know if you're on the phone. Robert's not present here. So we're on annual report topics. So got any annual -- we're going to go around the room. Tommy. Annual report topics? Oh, Brent. Okay. Go ahead.

DR. VICKERS: Yeah. I want to start this process if you don't mind. It's Brent Vickers, OSM. So, I just want to give a little introduction before we start thinking about the annual report topics and what we want to do with some of these topics that you guys' are going to be discussing. So, OSM or someone at OSM has spoken with you before about the annual reports and our programmatic replies. We've spoken about how they provide information to the Board and are an opportunity for us to share information with you. Continuing that conversation, I'd like to highlight some of the following considerations as you develop this year's report. So, the point of the annual reports is to inform the Board about subsistence matters in your region, so that the Board members can make the best decisions

1 possible on regulatory matters and on land management
2 issues. What is happening to subsistence users on the
3 ground level when it comes to harvesting and using
4 subsistence resources, particularly fish and wildlife,
5 in your region. Has it been harder to access some
6 resources? Are there opportunities to harvest -- are
7 there opportunities to harvest additional resources?
8 Which changes on federal lands could help you harvesting
9 resources? The Council should use the annual report to
10 help shape the Board's decision making on issues of take
11 on fish and wildlife in the federal public lands in your
12 region. In turn, it is the Board's responsibility to use
13 your annual reports to help them to make informed
14 decisions on regulatory proposals, on special action
15 requests, and land management actions that will affect
16 your region's resources, and for the capacity for
17 federally qualified subsistence users to access the
18 resources. It's also very helpful when the Board can
19 read through the annual report, and then better
20 understand how their decisions on issues of take can
21 make impact on subsistence users.

22
23 It's also important to remember that
24 Board members, particularly federal agency Board
25 members, can only act within their specified roles. When
26 an annual report contains requests for the Board to act
27 outside of their roles, it's less likely that the Board
28 can make this requested action. For example, it is not
29 likely that the Board will be able to act on Council's
30 request that the Board make requests or recommendations
31 to other -- another organization, even if it's another
32 federal agency on managing its resources. In other
33 words, ANILCA requires the Board to operate within its
34 regulatory authority, and is unlikely that the Board
35 will be able to act outside that authority. Some other
36 things to consider, if you're requesting a response or
37 action from the Board, please state that the Councils
38 ask on the record. This will make the communication with
39 the Board more effective. So, if you're just asking or
40 you want a request from the Board, response from the
41 Board, please state the ask that you want.

42
43 As a Council, decide on what is the more
44 effective way to convey an issue to the Board, either
45 on this annual report or in the form of a letter. All
46 topics you identified now are Fiscal Year 25, Year 2025
47 issues. No additional topics can be added during the
48 winter '26 meetings that are coming up in a few months.
49 When you're -- that's when your Council will review and
50 approve this annual report that you're making right now.

1 We will do our best to be responsive and answer questions
2 and at your -- on your request as you develop your
3 report, we will create opportunity for responses either
4 immediately during this meeting or through annual report
5 replies and face to face during the summer work session.
6 The Board's summer work session is scheduled on August
7 4th and 5th, 2026 at Anchorage. We are really hoping to
8 see the Chair, other representatives at the work
9 session. It creates great dialogue on annual report
10 issues between the Council and the Board. Council Chair
11 representatives are invited to attend and communicate
12 their annual report topics of regional issues directly
13 to the Board. The program will cover travel costs for
14 one chosen Council representative. Council
15 representative in attendance will report back to the
16 Council at their next meeting. That's all I have right
17 now. If you guys have any questions or just want to go
18 ahead and start listing your -- discussing your topics.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Robert.

21

22 DR. VICKERS: Yes, Council member Walker.

23

24 MR. WALKER: What's going to happen in
25 January if the Congress doesn't get approval for monies,
26 what's going to happen then?

27

28 DR. VICKERS: Thank you, Council member
29 Walker, are you asking if there's not a bill and a
30 potential shutdown again?

31

32 MR. WALKER: Yes.

33

34 DR. VICKERS: I can't anticipate what
35 would happen. Even if there is a shutdown, I would have
36 no idea if that would last for a day or another month.
37 We just have to move forward. We're trying to move
38 forward, both planning that the shutdown is not going
39 to disrupt things, but also at the same time trying to
40 make maybe move ahead on some -- take care of some of
41 our internal issues before that happens. But as far as
42 the annual report replies and things like that, or the
43 Board meeting, we really can't make those guesses right
44 now because we have no idea if there would be a shutdown.
45 And we're really hoping that they're not going to be
46 one.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Only reason I ask is because
49 all the work that we're doing with all the RACs, you
50 know, they come to us still, all these proposals, all

1 this, everything that has to be done.

2

3 DR. VICKERS: Thank you again. Those are
4 excellent questions. I mean, so if there's a shutdown,
5 nothing happens. I'm not working. No one's working. And
6 if that means we have to adapt and make some decisions
7 with -- our priority is to have these regulations, this
8 cycle happen. So, if we have to be flexible and make
9 changes, we'll do that. We were able to put together
10 this Council in very short notice. I have faith that
11 we'd be able to do something again for the regulatory
12 meeting that's coming up with a Board meeting or anything
13 else that needed to happen. But at this point, we're
14 just moving forward as status quo.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I was
19 understanding you would like our annual reports to be
20 more informative to the Board. Are we meeting our
21 subsistence needs? We had lots of lots of discussion
22 about why we're not getting enough fish. Really hard to
23 get moose, and caribou populations are going down,
24 they're harder to come up with. I mean, the sheep
25 population is in the toilet. We've said these in
26 different ways to the Federal Board. Could we just make
27 sort of a score sheet. We're not getting enough fishery
28 resource. We're concerned about the freshwater stocks
29 with salmon returns. We're not getting -- moose hunting
30 is getting really hard. Climate change is making it
31 really hard. High water is putting moose back in the
32 hills. It's getting really hard to come up with a moose.
33 Populations are getting beat up with deep snow, stuff
34 like that. Do you want to see like one portion of the
35 annual report, basically, we're not making our needs
36 because of these various issues. Was that what you kind
37 of were thinking about?

38

39 DR. VICKERS: Excellent question, Mr.
40 Chair. That sounds excellent to me. I think when trying
41 to read what in ANILCA about the annual reports, one --
42 my interpretation is, this is the opportunity for you
43 to inform those federal agency Board members that you
44 yourself are talking about. It's a revolving door. They
45 don't know the regions. The little bit that they will
46 hear are coming through the proposals, but these annual
47 reports really give you the opportunity to speak on your
48 region as a whole and inform, make suggestions, requests
49 and things like that. I know it can be difficult to not
50 hear back on some of the issues that, you know, you want

1 the Board to talk to NOAA, talk to the Secretary of
2 Commerce. I think one thing we're just trying to put out
3 there is that we completely understand that these
4 issues, like, you know, it's a fish and it's your life
5 and it's crossing boundaries and it's subsistence and
6 it's meaningful. But when -- and it means a lot to us
7 at OSM, we write these letters and sometimes we don't
8 hear back. And we don't know why. And one part of me
9 saying what I said is, you know, the Board can only --
10 is really supposed to only act on these matters on their
11 federal lands. And even though we hope that they can
12 take actions outside of their jurisdiction, but we can't
13 really make any promises when you're making these annual
14 review -- annual report requests.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh. Yeah. Well,
17 that was that was good. You know, we've been -- we were
18 asked to come up with an annual report in 1993. We had
19 no idea. So, we just, like, looked at the statute. What
20 do you want? And we started coming up with topics. That's
21 where this topic thing was born in McGrath. And it seems
22 to have held because that's where it came from. It was
23 in the McGrath meeting. They came up with topics that
24 were of concern to the to the Councils. It didn't
25 actually was in the proposal usually, but it was sort
26 of a status of what's going on. I do like the idea of
27 giving us kind of a scorecard. We're not meeting our
28 fishery salmon needs. We're not meeting our freshwater
29 needs. Waters are high. It's destroying habitat for
30 fish. And it's also -- the same precipitation is killing
31 off a lot of the big ungulates, you know, deep snow and
32 rain and snow and all that bad stuff is happening. So,
33 I think that we can actually add those, you know, we've
34 talked enough at this meeting about it, could extract
35 it right out of our Council comments, one to the next.
36 Nissa can easily do that in our Council comments. What
37 the issues are with meeting our subsistence needs?

38
39 It's -- the other aspect is, that should
40 be added on to that, is that the young people are not
41 learning how to hunt or do anything. There's not -- not
42 a cut of fish or anything. There's no fish to cut. If
43 they don't learn to cut it right away, once they're 13,
44 they're going to be wanting to run around, chase girls
45 or something else, they're not going to want to do what
46 they're supposed to be learning. So, when I was a kid,
47 I spent a lot of time with an Athabascan Elder, Old
48 Benny Albert, and he taught me a lot of stuff about
49 cutting fish. I was ten, and he taught me all kinds of
50 stuff. He was a real -- one of the real elders. He lived

1 to be 107, and he was 65 when I was a kid, so that's not
2 happening anymore. There's no resource to demonstrate
3 on. So, I think that, you know, for our winter meeting,
4 you could come up with all these various things we're
5 not getting, you know, people are talking about. We're
6 not moose hunting. We had like, you know, deep snow,
7 caribou are skinnier or whatever. It's, you know, it
8 kind of gives the Board a sort of an overview of what
9 the country is doing, what -- how much problems. It's
10 just increasing problems for people to meet their
11 subsistence needs.

12
13 So that is a good annual report topic.
14 And I think that it could be extracted from our Council
15 comments. We already did that. Another issue that we
16 need to talk about, and I was -- I didn't get to squeeze
17 it in or it wasn't the right -- yesterday with the EIRAC
18 is a wildlife resource monitoring priorities. There's
19 all kinds of biological needs that wildlife, just like
20 fisheries, there's needs for fisheries monitoring.
21 There's a lot of wildlife and if the Councils could
22 identify specific issues for wildlife, there's data
23 lacks that are absolutely necessary that we don't have,
24 like we don't have Dall sheep composition because we
25 don't do comp work on Dall sheep. That's a prior --
26 wildlife priority resource, priority need that should
27 be happening. So anyway, one of our annual report topics
28 should be Wildlife WRMP. They call it Fisheries Resource
29 Monitoring, FRMP. This is Wildlife Resource Monitoring,
30 FRM -- WRMP. And so that's a topic that the Board needs
31 to be aware of, that we need to have wildlife monitoring
32 projects and can develop a program like the fisheries,
33 develop a program for wildlife. The fisheries thing came
34 out when we started dealing with fisheries management a
35 long time ago, in 1999, but we failed to have developed
36 this wildlife resource planning.

37
38 The other category that I would like to
39 see is, finalize our sheep strategy and adding in --
40 it's in the document, is the classification of -- there
41 was too many classifications. The Gates of the Arctic
42 Subsistence Resource Commission working with their
43 biological staff, has now defined the classification as
44 modified, the age classifications to half curl, which
45 are 3 and 4 year old sheep, three-quarter curl, which
46 are 5 and 6 year old sheep, and full curl sheep, which
47 are 7 to 12 on average. That would be the age classes
48 of those curls. They can easily see that from the air.
49 You easily can tell if you got 3 or 4 year old sheep
50 coming into the population, and you also can tell if you

1 got mid-age sheep. They do that with moose, they do that
2 with caribou. They need to do that with Dall sheep. And
3 so, for the sheep management strategy, this is one of
4 the most important aspects is to know if you're actually
5 recruiting. And so, that's an annual report topic. And
6 so, any discussion on those two topics that I was talking
7 about? The wildlife resource monitoring priorities?

8

9 (No response)

10

11 No? That's -- those topics are good? The
12 sheep management strategy? Are you there, Tim?

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. I'm here, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: No. No more -- nothing to
19 add to those two topics.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So and then
22 we had the sort of the scorecard topic that we just
23 identified from our Council comments on the ability to
24 meet subsistence needs. And then, so then there -- so,
25 I'll open the floor up to other topics. Do you have
26 other topics, Tommy, that you would like to have in the
27 annual report?

28

29 MR. KRISKA: No, not really. I don't
30 know. It's just, the annual report says that, you know,
31 like, it seems like we did everything we could. And for
32 every year's annual report for the last, I don't know,
33 35 years I've been sitting here. I don't know. Just
34 seemed like we've been talking for years, and nothing
35 ever been done. I don't know what we're coming up with
36 this annual report for when, you know, we tell you the
37 same thing every year, and now that almost, like,
38 demanded the information in a correct way that, you know,
39 our fish not -- fish never been met or moose, all of
40 this stuff, the bears. There's just a lot, of lot of
41 things. I don't know, I don't really have a lot to say
42 on those parts.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: When each Council
45 member spoke, we talked about our abilities to meet these
46 needs. The annual report is actually in the ANILCA law.
47 That's one of our jobs, is to provide the Board with an
48 annual report. That's where that comes from. So, you
49 made a lot of valid points about how hard it was and
50 stuff, and that's actually Brent's thing of like wanting

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1 a sort of a -- the Board to be informed about. We already
2 said that. Nissa can just get it out of the -- and that
3 would be a very important aspect for the Board.

4

5 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. So, yeah. I think that
6 in our comments right off the start and then at closing
7 comments, I think you should take those very seriously
8 and put that in the report.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And the closing
11 comments.

12

13 MR. KRISKA: And closing comments. Yep.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, no other -- no
16 other topics, Jenny?

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know if this could
19 be on there, but combining RAC meetings, is that --
20 would that -- because we do talk about the same issues
21 concerning our subsistence way of life. I don't know,
22 you know. And then another one I have, but this might
23 be just a comment, Council comment. The escapement, I
24 always think about that escapement that we have, that
25 treaty we have with Canada, and seems like it always
26 falls on the subsistence users. It seems like it doesn't
27 affect the Area M or the state. It seems like the state
28 is not even -- I don't know. All they do is close us,
29 close us, close us. And I think that's their job. But
30 is there a way that they could revisit that treaty
31 because -- or attempt to start, you know, to go through
32 that, because seems like it's getting harder to meet.
33 You got to always let the fish go by. And if we don't -
34 - and if it's only the subsistence users that are being
35 affected by this, why couldn't we pass that on to the
36 trawlers in Area M?

37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I may speak
39 to that, Jenny. The agreement between the State of Alaska
40 and this Canadian Yukon Territory government. Federal
41 fisheries, FOB, or whatever their acronym is for that.
42 That's out of the purview of the Federal Subsistence
43 Board. That was already like -- that was something that
44 they didn't even tell the Federal Subsistence Board they
45 were going to make a seven-year moratorium until we heard
46 about it later. Even the Advisory Committees didn't even
47 hear that. So that's not easily changed. We're speaking,
48 the Federal -- we're trying to get the Federal
49 Subsistence Board to at least send the -- they have a
50 representative Advisory Fish and Wildlife to the North

1 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And that person
2 was not attending, but when we had that meeting in
3 Anchorage, we told U.S Fish and Wildlife, they better
4 send somebody down there because they're meeting right
5 then, and they did. They made -- Sarah Boario made them
6 go down there and actually get their butt in gear and
7 get down there and represent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife,
8 which is actually, was -- hears all this stuff from the
9 Regional Councils. That's about as far as the Federal
10 Subsistence Board can actually go because the Fish and
11 Wildlife has a kind of a seat at the table at the North
12 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. But the problem
13 is there's way too many billions of dollars involved.
14 And that's really hard to get that Council to do
15 anything. It's really hard. So, we did get our comments
16 sent them. Any other annual report topics? I fully agree
17 we should be able to -- the Board should be able to --
18 we should say something to the Board. The Board should
19 be able to get the Secretaries to do something about it,
20 but that doesn't really happen that much. So, Nissa.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: We can put it in as an
23 informational topic. Your last one did have an
24 informational topic directed at the state, so we could
25 have an informational topic saying that there's concerns
26 with how that came about. And while you realize that the
27 Federal Subsistence Board can't take any action on it,
28 you just wanted to let them know.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You want to do
31 that? Yeah, we could do that. Now, that sounds great.
32 So, we'll go to Tim Gervais. Don? I'm not sure where Don
33 went. Tim, are you there?

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 This is Tim Gervais. Som one up, one topic I'd like to
37 have is, we need to request more public safety
38 enforcement on this wanton waste with the transporters
39 and guides. So, some of that enforcement responsibility
40 is with the Alaska State Troopers. But then another part
41 of it could be through Fish and Wildlife Enforcement
42 Officers, and they need to -- Federal Subsistence Board
43 should look at ways that they can increase enforcement
44 at these. We know where it needs to happen. At the
45 bridge, at Nenana, maybe at the whatever they call that
46 road that comes out across the river from Tanana is.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Nome Road.

49
50 MR. GERVAIS: Down -- The Dome Road? Okay.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Nome.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. GERVAIS:down.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:N-O-M-E. That was the start of the Nome Road.

MR. GERVAIS:(indiscernible). Okay. And in that GASH area where Robert was talking earlier, where there seems to be illegal transporting going on. And then a second item, which is also related to guides and transporters is, there needs to be some kind of evaluation or maybe we could do a report on it ourselves, is this Pittman-Robertson distribution on the wildlife funding of the states. That's causing subsistence resources to be commoditized. And so, if the State of Alaska is operating in a manner that's focusing on maximizing the amount of transporter hunts for non-residents and guided hunts for non-residents, then that puts pressure on the finite resources with sheep and moose. And so, we could in our report or on the Federal Subsistence Board level look at ways on how that funding could be restructured so that it doesn't create a lot of pressure for the State of Alaska to be maximizing the amount of transport and guided hunts for non-resident hunters into the subsistence areas.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. We put the - - Tim, we put the Pittman-Robertson funds in the annual report in 2023 April meeting, and the response was, that's not under the purview of the Federal Subsistence Board. We're not going to deal with it. They're not going to do -- deal with it. That issue is an issue for tribal organizations. AFN, that should be a -- AFN should work on -- this Pittman-Robertson funds is the driving force of the State of Alaska having to have a lot of non-resident participation. I feel the state should be able to get their money just given to them instead of having a match grant, a dollar license to \$3 in Pittman-Robertson funds. Let's just give the states their money. It's an 11% tax we paid on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. Let's just give the state their 50 million bucks. Here you go. Direct deposit. You don't even have to get a check. Here you go. You put it right in the bank. We paid, we all paid 11% for those very expensive .30-06 shells, 11%. We should not -- the State of Alaska should not be shooting the last caribou, the

1 last moose (indiscernible) non-resident hunters to get
2 a 3 to 1 grant, is what they're doing. It's a match
3 grant. That's 25% contribution, but that has to be done
4 with by Congress. That's a congressional act. And how
5 that's allocated has to be changed. That's political
6 pressure that has -- we are not, we can't go there.
7 That's Hatch Act stuff. But Native organizations like
8 AFN, they could drive that forward to get that change
9 to where they just give the states their money or change
10 the allocation ratio to 20 to 1. Here you go. You sell
11 a dollar in license, they get 20 bucks. You'll eat up
12 that -- it's a pool of money. It's a giant pool per
13 state. You just eat that right up. So, we're going
14 nowhere with the Federal Subsistence Board. They're not
15 going to deal with it. We did -- we sent that in. I
16 thought that was a good idea. They didn't even want to
17 think about it. It's a political issue and it has to be
18 done by AFN and native organizations. TCC and AVCPM
19 [sic]. Tommy.

20

21 MR. KRISKA: Okay. I do have something,
22 I guess. I want to go back to part of the meeting with
23 today, for what Glenn had to say and the character,
24 there. About this online class that allows -- I don't
25 know. I don't understand it. Could you explain that
26 again? Because I am having a tough time with that one
27 that's been bothering me all day.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.

30

31 MR. STOUT: Yeah. For the record, Glenn
32 Stout, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That proposal
33 was implemented to make sure non-resident hunters coming
34 into the state were hunting and being able to select for
35 legal moose because non-residents like in our area are
36 all required to shoot a bull with 50-inch antlers or
37 four or more brow tines. So, it was an educational video
38 that they were required to watch. It also told them how
39 to take care of moose meat. If they get a moose down,
40 how to care for that. So, it didn't have any effect on
41 the number of people who could apply. It just said all
42 non-residents must now watch this video in order to be
43 able to get their moose harvest ticket.

44

45 MR. KRISKA: So, I have questions on
46 that. So, once they get this moose harvest ticket, they
47 could come up themselves and hunt without a guide or a
48 transporter?

49

50

1 MR. STOUT: So, unless there's a specific
2 hunt, like in the Koyukuk, we have a couple hunts that
3 require guided hunters for moose. For most of the other
4 moose hunting in the state, there are already -- is no
5 guided hunt requirements. The only thing we have guided
6 hunt requirements are sheep and grizzly bears, and I
7 think goats.

8
9 MR. KRISKA: So now all our moose in the
10 state is just kind of free for all?

11
12 MR. STOUT: So that's the way it's always
13 been. It's always been, but it's not a free for all in
14 the sense that this didn't improve anything for them.
15 They just have an additional burden that they have to
16 comply with regulatorily in order to be able to hunt
17 moose. Now it's an additional burden on them.

18
19 MR. KRISKA: How long was this -- and
20 just like a court system, but how long was this in
21 effect? Because I just finally found out about this
22 recently.

23
24 MR. STOUT: I think it went into effect
25 in 2024 statewide meeting.

26
27 MR. KRISKA: So now that all the lower
28 Yukon and all -- I know Koyukuk is a Controlled Use
29 Area. So, this has opened up all the -- from Galena, the
30 south bank, all the way down to the coast, wherever.
31 That opened all that up for instead of a hundred of
32 hunters that they're now did that open up maybe for
33 thousands of hunters?

34
35 MR. STOUT: No, it didn't change or make
36 it more accessible. It made it less accessible because
37 a hunter now has to go through this educational thing
38 to get the permit that they wanted to go hunting. And
39 those permits for the different hunt, like the Koyukuk
40 where we have four non-resident permits right now, that
41 number didn't change. It's still just four on the
42 Koyukuk, but now they have to watch a video too.

43
44 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I understand that
45 Koyukuk part, but I'm concerned about the southern bank
46 from Galena, down the south bank where there's no
47 Controlled Use Area at all. That's the area I'm concerned
48 about. And you know, these people out of state finding
49 out about this stuff is going to get hit hard. That's
50 what I think.

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MR. STOUT: No, it didn't affect that either. The number of hunters being non-resident hunters did not change. It didn't open it up, make it more accessible. It just added an additional requirement for them to do all the other hunting activities they were already allowed to do.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the other aspect of the education was there's the salvage requirement and instilling in these Cheechako hunters that they're going to have a large animal on the ground and how to handle that. Is there any kind of a salvage requirement? Education?

MR. STOUT: Yes, that was definitely part of that whole program informing hunters how to take care of their meat.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Um-hmm. It's -- I encounter these non-resident hunters, and they're like astounded at the size of the animal that they just killed. They're like, they think they're going to dress up moose and pack it and throw it over their shoulder, drag it out like some whitetail or something. You guys are nuts. Five guys in my yard, they had day packs. They had Boy Scout knives that big. I says what? Both of them thought they were going to kill a 60-inch moose. It's like they're getting blown out. I said don't even think about going too far from your swampy lake. You're not going to pack that thing on tundra and in a day pack. These people have no clue. Now they would have to have education. They should know that they're going to have to have a real pack frame and all kinds of various other tools. Tommy.

MR. KRISKA: One more thing. That other topic I was talking about this morning about wanton waste. Is there a way that we can put that on one of the topics that, you know, for the wanton waste to possibly -- I don't know how that's going to work, but, you know, you have a two week deal for, you know, preservation of the moose, the meat, and how to get that, make sure it gets back up to, like, the bridge or wherever. I know they're hauling it upriver. And I saw some guys after they left 50-mile, they didn't know I was down below there goofing around, but I saw a lot of meat being chucked overboard right on the Koyukuk River. This two-week thing will force them to, you know, to get that meat back up river. Maybe less hunters on the boat, I

1 don't understand. I mean, I don't know how to go about
2 it, but I really think that the preservation thing
3 should, wherever they put their boat in, if they did it
4 on the bridge or on Tanana or on Nenana, they need to
5 get all their meat back, which they went out for, with
6 the whole thing, the whole nine yards, whatever they
7 went to the field to get to bring it all back to where
8 they put their boat in the water and have somebody -- I
9 don't know how we're going to do that, but I know TCC
10 and them, they have enforcements not only the state does.
11 So, there's other ways to do this and make sure that
12 this is happening. And so, if they don't want to bring
13 this meat back to possibly be handed off and to the
14 folks down river instead of throwing it overboard and
15 get rid of it, you know, like I said, it's a win-win
16 situation, but that's another topic I wouldn't mind
17 getting on.

18
19 MS. PELKOLA: Another thing maybe to add
20 on to that, Tommy, is that if they do give their meat
21 away to somebody, they need to have something in writing,
22 you know, from -- a signature from.....

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. And every one of these
27 books, there's sheets like that. There's sheets that you
28 can fill out and even make copies of. So, I think, you
29 know, they want to go out there and get what, you know,
30 their moose never -- like every one of us and get their
31 satisfaction out of it and whatever -- whether it's horns
32 or meat or moose or whatever it is. Yeah. Just things
33 like that. I want them, you know, to man up to what
34 they're doing.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We were actually in
37 the middle of Tim Gervais giving some annual report
38 topics. Go ahead, Tim. You have anything else?

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Jack. I had one more
41 item, so I'm not agreeing with the opening statement
42 that the Federal Subsistence Board and the agency
43 managers only need to deal with stuff that's within their
44 jurisdictional boundary. The issue with chinook salmon
45 and chum salmon bycatch, that's violation of ANILCA
46 Title VIII. And if the stocks are being caught up as
47 bycatch and not allowed to meet biological escapement
48 goals, we can't maintain the quality of our runs, let
49 alone feed our subsistence population, provide
50 reasonable harvest opportunity for rural users, then the

1 Secretary of the Interior needs to move beyond the
2 Interior region, and he needs to engage with the
3 Secretary of Commerce. It's not okay for OSM to tell us
4 RACs or the subsistence users that even though your
5 resources are moving into endangered species, the trend
6 is towards extinction and there hasn't been any
7 reasonable subsistence opportunity in years. It's
8 unacceptable for the Secretary of the Interior to say,
9 well, that's -- I can't do anything about it. It's
10 absolutely ridiculous to say that that shouldn't be an
11 annual report topic and absolutely ridiculous to say
12 that there's nothing that can be done. It's real simple.
13 I mean, just what -- I mean. I'm not saying I'm like a
14 god of fishery management, but I could definitely say
15 that if they switch from the current management of BSAI
16 fishing to fishing from ten months a year to three months
17 a year, that has a high likelihood of reconstructing our
18 runs for both chum and king salmon. So, I'm rejecting
19 that initial premise that we can't have stuff in our
20 annual topic that doesn't fit neatly into the
21 jurisdiction of the individual agency managers. So, I
22 want that on the -- I'm suggesting that goes on the
23 annual report, and I'm suggesting that the language that
24 we put it in there with it says the Secretary of Interior
25 does need to engage with Secretary of Commerce and deal
26 with something right now, if not sooner. I shouldn't be
27 expected.....

28

29 (Simultaneous speech)

30

31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I am going to.....

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Let me just one more
34 sentence. I shouldn't be expected to personally sue
35 Howard Lutnick because there's no salmon in the Yukon.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I think that
38 we don't have to belabor the point that the salmon are
39 in crisis in Alaska. Our annual report topic should say
40 the Federal Subsistence Board needs to immediately
41 elevate the salmon issue to the Secretary of Interior
42 and the Secretary of Agriculture. Both are involved with
43 federal Board problems. So those two Secretaries need
44 to go right next door to the Secretary of Commerce to
45 deal with the salmon issue. And I wanted to -- Don's
46 trying to leave, and I want to find out if he's got any
47 annual report topics before he takes off. You got any?

48

49 MR. HONEA: No, I don't, and I believe
50 that the subjects that we, you know, brought up in the

1 past are still to be worked on and, you know, and so,
2 you know, just in meeting here, I mean, you know, the
3 subjects that we brought in, that were on there and I
4 completely agree with the Eastern Interior on there, you
5 know, and it's frustrating when we come in and we have
6 to meet some of these, because like everyone mentions,
7 we're kind of sacrificing ourselves, so to speak. I mean,
8 it's, I'm not doing this for myself or anything, but as
9 a comment -- Glenn is still here. I just had one question
10 for you. You know, when you said that we had to -- that
11 they had to take the class, and I think that should be
12 a kind of a -- I agree with you that it's probably a
13 detriment to -- a sort of, you know, the hunt numbers,
14 whether it's drying or whatever, it's not going to
15 change, I don't believe. Correct? And so that little
16 thing, is that mandatory for them to attend that to see
17 the video?

18
19 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Through the Chair. That
20 has become a new regulation and it's mandatory for all
21 non-resident moose hunters now.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Okay. I appreciate that
24 answer. And Mr. Chair, I have to go, but I appreciate,
25 you know, the members that are here and for the work
26 that you guys are doing and for your leadership, Jack.
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks so much for
30 attending the meeting, Don. Really appreciate you being
31 here and we highly value your input into this meeting.
32 I know you got your appointment, so you got an excuse.
33 So are you -- I do feel that you're right. We need the
34 federal subsistence -- we're not going to belabor the
35 salmon issue. They know the salmon issue. We do want
36 them not to respond. We can't do anything. They can talk
37 to their boss. Their boss is the Secretary of Interior
38 and the Secretary of Agriculture. And they need to tell
39 their bosses, you need to get a hold of the Secretary
40 of Commerce to get control of this salmon issue. Direct
41 the Secretary of Commerce to deal with this salmon issue.
42 It's the ramifications of the pollock fishery is
43 directly on the plate of the Secretary of Commerce. So
44 that -- I feel that that's valid. You know, we've asked
45 the Board to do other things. We've not tried to make
46 them do both. Commissioners are both -- not
47 Commissioners, both Secretary of Interior and
48 Agriculture to do -- say the same thing. So that's your
49 final annual report topic, Tim?
50

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1 MR. GERVAIS: That's correct.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say again. Okay.

4 That's correct.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert? Okay, I got
9 it. Robert? Annual report topic, Pollock? You're good?
10 Robert? I don't want to miss him. Robert, annual report
11 topics?

12

13 MR. WALKER: Right.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any annual report
16 topics? I don't want to skip you.

17

18 MR. WALKER: No. I am good. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're good. So
21 that kind of covers. And Nissa?

22

23 MS. PILCHER: I did want to bring up what
24 Tommy was speaking to earlier about the wanton waste.
25 You guys did put a lot on the record about that, and I
26 can make a note to when you guys were talking about
27 having the scorecard of lack of moose, lack of caribou,
28 bad weather. I can include that in that, if that works
29 for you? Okay.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I think we've
32 got our annual report topics covered. And let's see. Oh,
33 here. Future meeting dates.....

34

35 (Simultaneous speech)

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, I forgot. I got one
38 item. Jack.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: They need to -- the
43 hatchery release issue needs to be on the annual report.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All right. The
46 hatchery release by the State of Alaska is the largest
47 in the Pacific Ocean, and it needs to be addressed by
48 the Federal Subsistence Board, needs to be in
49 conference, but the state wants to talk at the table.
50 Let's talk face to face with the state about this issue.

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1 They need to have science involved in this hatchery
2 release, looking at alternate year release for pink
3 salmon, and looking at what Washington State and other
4 -- and what is within the sustainability of the marine
5 system. This sitting in a state of denial, not doing
6 anything because we're making \$680 million a year, I
7 don't want to hear that out of the state. They need to
8 -- the Federal Subsistence Board needs to talk to the
9 state because it's highly affecting the inshore returns
10 to the federal waters on -- in federal jurisdictions.
11 So, that's a very important issue. It's the hatchery
12 release by the various aquaculture associations and the
13 State of Alaska. The State of Alaska has its own hatchery
14 programs, and I have nothing against raising chinook
15 salmon and coho salmon and letting them go in the harbor
16 of Juneau or Seward or somewhere, so Alaskans can catch
17 those. I'm talking about pink salmon and chum salmon,
18 which are almost unsaleable at this point, and we're
19 destroying our wild stocks over a fisheries revenue
20 recovery system that's destroying our wild stocks. And
21 they have to -- the Federal Subsistence Board has to
22 talk to the state about at least trying to get realistic
23 with some scientific information. And the Federal Board
24 needs to direct OSM to develop a portfolio of all of
25 that hatchery impact to North Pacific fisheries that's
26 already in paper form or actually documentation. And the
27 OSM fishery staff needs to present that to the Federal
28 Subsistence Board so that they can work with the state
29 in an informed manner. Is that what you're talking about,
30 Tim?

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: That's correct.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Got that,
35 Nissa? Okay. Now we're going back to confirmation of
36 winter. That's on -- oh, those are action -- oh, the
37 annual report. Okay. We need a motion to adopt all the
38 topics that we discussed in the last hour and a half or
39 so hour, whatever it was, I'm losing track. We have --
40 the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt those annual
41 report topics that Nissa will compile, and we will review
42 at our winter meeting, which is in February 19th or
43 something like that.

44

45 MS. PILCHER: Currently, yeah, currently
46 the 24th through the 25th.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: 24th through the
49 25th. So, we'll review those topics. But we're -- we got
50 to adopt them right now. So, the Chair will entertain a

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1 motion to adopt those topics to be compiled up for our
2 annual report and to be reviewed at our spring meeting.
3 Do we have a motion?

4

5 MR. SIMON: Motion moved.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
12 Any further discussion?

13

14 (No response)

15

16 We have a question?

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
21 All those in favor of adoption of the annual report
22 topics, signify by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim? Tim? Did you
27 vote? I wonder, is he online? Did he drop? Anyway, that
28 was an action item. We have our FRMP stuff also, but we
29 do need to do this as an action item, this confirmation
30 of our winter 2026 meeting date and location. That's
31 page 185. Go ahead, Nissa.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
34 record. So currently your next meeting is scheduled for
35 February 24th and 25th in Fairbanks. While that call for
36 agenda items has already gone out, member Burke and also
37 Krystal Lapp did want me to point out that the North
38 Pacific Fisheries Management Council meets February --
39 I have the 2nd through the 11th in here, which -- okay,
40 which might cause some friction with travel for those
41 Western Interior members that will try to attend both,
42 and also the Board of Fish Alaska Peninsula meeting is
43 February 18th through the 24th as well. That one doesn't
44 necessarily affect this Council directly, but it could
45 attend who is available to attend, especially from YR DFA
46 and other organizations.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So. Let's see.

49

50 (Pause)

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So, how does the Council feel about these dates and the overlap with the Board of Fish meeting? It's -- the Board of Fish is meeting down in Anchorage, right?

MS. PILCHER: Pretty sure.

MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can I interrupt for a minute? I couldn't find my -- I got on a different screen on this app. I voted in affirmative on the.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. I was trying to get your vote.....

MR. GERVAIS:annual report topic. Sorry about that.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:and I thought you dropped off, so. So, you're on page 185 on our next meeting?

MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And Krystal, you have a comment?

MS. LAPP: Yes. Thank you. Through the Chair. This is Krystal Lapp, Tanana Chiefs Conference. Yeah. So, the North Pacific Trend Bycatch Final Action is scheduled for February 2nd through the 11th. That'll be in Anchorage. And then Area M is scheduled for February 18th through the 24th. We do anticipate a pretty high amount of advocates to come out to that. Those advocates that were there with us three years ago during proposal 140, they actually had to extend the testimony time. That is anticipated again. So, what I would say is, if I could give a suggestion, because I'll be living in Anchorage the whole month, and I definitely want to be here for your guys' meeting, either squeeze it between the North Pacific, like, through the 12th through the 17th or, I don't know -- remember what the rules are, but possibly the first week of March, which I know would also overlap with EIRAC. But it's looking like a pretty busy meeting season.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The State Board of Fish is meeting in Anchorage. We're going to have a one

1 day overlap. What would be the possibility of changing
2 our meeting location to Anchorage on the same dates, the
3 24, 25? Would that be...?

4
5 MS. PILCHER: I mean, it's an ask that I
6 can make and there is justification with the overlapping
7 meetings, but it tends to be a pretty high bar to move
8 it. I say move it out of region as you guys are moving
9 out of region, but Fairbanks is an exception for you
10 guys. I can certainly ask.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: If not, we can stay
13 with this meeting here. You know. I don't -- you know,
14 getting into the first part of February, January, where
15 I live, it can be 60 below zero. I don't really like
16 leaving my wife there right now at 40. I don't really
17 like doing meetings that that early and that's the
18 coldest time of the year. Last year it was 52 below zero
19 on the 3rd of February.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: And I think at the last
22 Board of Fish meeting that Krystal referenced, I'm
23 fairly certain that Tommy was in attendance and Robert
24 was in attendance. I'm not sure if Don was or not, and
25 Jenny might have been as well. So, if we do meet, then
26 Council members might have to choose between the
27 meetings. And we might not make quorum.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All right. We can
30 designate a person over to speak for the Council. I
31 mean, the Councils have a seat at the Board of Fish and
32 the Board of Game. They have a position.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: I believe they were giving
35 tribal testimony or personal testimony.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: But if we go to
38 Anchorage and we get there on the Monday, we might put
39 one of our members, if we have quorum, put one of our
40 members to comment to the Board of Fish on specific
41 proposals, but it would be very cost effective to do
42 that. And it would be nice to have this Council talk to
43 the State Board of Fish.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: Yes. And one thing to keep
46 in mind too, is if you did want to send a member to a
47 Board of Fish meeting, that would also be an action
48 item. That's certainly within your realm to request, but
49 it would need to be an action item.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So. Well, let's
2 just make that an action right now so we know where
3 we're at. The Chair will entertain a motion to send a
4 representative from the Western Interior Regional
5 Advisory Council to the State Board of Fish meeting to
6 comment on specific proposals for the Area M. Do we have
7 a motion? Motion by Robert.

8
9 MR. KRISKA: Second.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
12 Discussion.

13
14 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.
17 Those in favor of sending a representative from the West
18 Interior Council to the State Board of Fish to address
19 these Area M issues, signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So then.
26 Making the request to travel to Anchorage for our spring
27 meeting. I call it spring meeting. Winter meeting with
28 the same dates. We can ask OSM to do that. If they --
29 if we can't, I would prefer to come here to Fairbanks
30 if they won't let us go, I prefer to come to Fairbanks
31 myself. I'm just talking. And Krystal?

32
33 MS. LAPP: Through the Chair. Thank you.
34 This is Krystal Lapp. I just want to make you aware that
35 if you are going to have the meeting in Anchorage on the
36 24th and 25th, you will miss the testimony sign-up
37 deadline. So, you would need to make sure that you have
38 myself or some other person to be able to sign the
39 advocate from here. I also want to note that either on
40 the 16th or 17th, most likely the 17th, right before
41 Area M, we and across regional partners like Kawerak and
42 ACVP will be putting on kind of like a tribal caucus
43 style training, and we always want the RACs and the ACs
44 there. But that will also go over Area M proposals and
45 statewide that's coming up in in March. So, just wanted
46 to point that out to you guys.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you. So, what
49 is the Council's wishes? Would you want to meet in
50 Anchorage during that dates? We've had Anchorage

1 meetings before. Not that we haven't met out of region.
2 We did that in 2023 by default because we couldn't go
3 into Aniak. So, what's the Council's wishes? So, I mean,
4 it's a matter of.....

5
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7
8 MS. PELKOLA: It doesn't matter with me.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's not for us.
11 We just come down, get on the jet down there in
12 Anchorage, 50 minutes. So, it's not like a big travel.
13 It's way harder for Robert to get back to Anvik. It's a
14 lot harder to get back to Anvik. So -- and you're okay
15 with going over to Anchorage, Robert?

16
17 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And Pollock?
20 Right. Pollock, you're okay going to Anchorage?

21
22 (Off record response)

23
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Pollock and
25 I went down there for an SRC Chair meeting, and we got
26 there late. We went to McDonald's across Seward Highway
27 with rush hour traffic, and we got cold hamburgers at
28 McDonald's. So, I know Pollock's been to Anchorage
29 before, right? So, I think that we'll request that,
30 Nissa, from OSM. And that's the same dates, the February
31 24 and 25, which is like just overlapping the last part
32 of the Board of Fish meeting, but if their comments
33 continue to extend, it'll be actually overlapping. And
34 we can get a time certain for our person to be around,
35 a time certain. I don't think it'll -- the person will
36 not be able to -- and we should really should select
37 that member who's going to attend the Board of Fish
38 meeting. We need a motion to do that.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: It might be the best if you
41 do establish an individual to attend. And unless things
42 have changed at the Board of Fish, if you do attend as
43 RAC a member, you can sign up to testify for two
44 different organizations so you can do it for yourself
45 or a different organization and the Council.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, do we have any
48 volunteers to go to the Board of Fish meeting? Robert?

49
50 MR. WALKER: Okay.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Robert's volunteering. Do we have any other volunteers? Tim?

MR. GERVAIS: I would do it, but I'm standing down and nominating myself to open it up for any of the other -- all the.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So how about.....

MR. GERVAIS:all the RAC members are qualified to address the Board of Fish on that topic.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: How about if Robert's the primary and if he can't go for some reason, you can step in as an alternate.

MR. GERVAIS: All right. I'm good with that.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We should do it that way in case you get weathered out or something. Okay. Right. So, most likely not what happen, but we should still have an alternate. Right. So, is that okay with the Council? Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Can we incorporate a North Pacific Council testimony in the same motion, or do you want to do it separately?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Separate motion. So, the motion on the floor -- is there a motion? I just made that.

MS. PILCHER: Yes. There is a motion made by Robert, seconded by Tommy.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, motion on the floor to Robert, primary, Tim, as an alternate to the State Board of Fish in Anchorage. Those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And then you're making a motion to send a delegate to the North Pacific

1 Fisheries Management Council meeting. On what date?

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Standby. Let me look at it
4 here.

5

6 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
7 record. The meeting itself is February 2nd through the
8 11th. Oh, I think Krystal might have the ability to go.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Krystal.

11

12 MS. LAPP: Thank you. Through the Chair.
13 I'm Krystal Lapp. I just wanted to clarify. So, the
14 schedule just came out and we're looking at testifiers
15 most likely starting Saturday, February 7th. So, a lot
16 of the meeting when it starts on the 2nd is just going
17 to be a lot of deliberations. The scientists, the
18 advisory panel, the Council will not start meeting until
19 the 5th. You can testify virtually to that one as well.
20 But you cannot testify virtually at Board of Fish. So,
21 most of our advocates and tribal leaders will probably
22 start coming in Friday the 6th, and we'll stay until
23 either the 10th or the 11th. It is kind of first come,
24 first serve with them. They generally do not offer time
25 certain commenting.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, February
28 7th would be the most likely. Yes. So, and that's -- you
29 understand that, Tim? Krystal's.....

30

31 (Simultaneous speech)

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've done
34 the North Pacific Council before. It's problematic
35 because the meetings are like ten days long.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, are you
38 volunteering for that also or what?

39

40 MR. GERVAIS: I'm available to do that,
41 but once again, if.....

42

43 (Simultaneous speech)

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So.....

46

47 MR. GERVAIS:another member wants
48 to do it, I'll stand down.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, anybody
2 else volunteering for that North Pacific Fisheries
3 Management Council representative for the Western
4 Interior Regional Advisory Council? Tommy. So, you want
5 to go down there? That's February 7th. Okay. Yeah. We
6 can put three up. We'll put Tommy as a primary, Don and
7 Tim as alternates. How's that? That's not good? You okay
8 with that, Tim?

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: That's good with me. This
11 is Tim.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so. We need
14 a motion to that effect.

15
16 MR. WALKER: Moved.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Robert.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
23 Those in favor of Tom Kriska attending the North Pacific
24 Fisheries Management Council approximately the 7th of
25 February in Anchorage, with Tim Gervais and Don Honea,
26 Jr. as alternates signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so then we're
33 going to go to the fall meeting on page 186. And what
34 are -- we're down here for Aniak, on October 6 and 7 in
35 Aniak. Is the Council member still good with that? Those
36 dates and location? We haven't met in Aniak in a long
37 time. We're really hoping that they have -- could you
38 locate a building that was not the gym, that was better
39 location?

40
41 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
42 record. That was questionable. I was told both yes and
43 no when I was -- I was told it was a different building
44 when I originally proceeded and then I was told it was
45 the same building by somebody else later. So, it's a
46 50/50 shot.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh. Their gym was
49 like, you couldn't understand somebody from me to
50 Robert. Robert and his cousin Jimmy. We couldn't hear.

1 There's people testifying right there in front of us,
2 we couldn't hear. It echoes off the walls in that gym.
3 If that's it, then we're not going. We can't. We cannot
4 have a meeting. The court recorder couldn't hear
5 anything. Nobody could hear anything. That place is
6 like, it's okay for basketball, but it's not a good
7 place for a meeting. So, we're still good with the Aniak
8 and contingent on the location. So, you got a comment,
9 Nissa?

10

11 MS. PILCHER: I was wondering if you guys
12 would wanted to ask for a three-day meeting. It takes
13 more time. It's a whole another day out of your guys'
14 lives away from your families. But I know I've heard
15 other -- I've heard comments over the last couple of
16 meetings that a three-day meeting would be advantageous.
17 And that one, that's the fall meeting where you'll be
18 going over fisheries proposals. It tends to be longer
19 than these. But also, if you're in Aniak, that'll
20 probably limit agency reports, so.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: If they have an
23 evening flight or afternoon flight, we maybe could
24 depart like two and a half day meeting, something like
25 that.

26

27 MS. PILCHER: See if something works out
28 like that. Yeah.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Because the Aniak
31 -- you're going to have to go to Anchorage, and then
32 you're going to fly to Aniak, and you're going to get
33 there. And we could start, like, I'm not sure about the
34 flights, like it's -- yeah, we might be overlapping over
35 three different days. Is that okay with the Council?
36 Three-day meeting down in Aniak? Might get a hold of
37 Morgan to come over and have a chat with us. He used to
38 be on the Council for a long time. Give us his opinions
39 about stuff. And when we were down in Aniak, we get a
40 lot of people come out for comments. So, I think we
41 hopefully would still to get that. So, I'm good with
42 those dates. So -- and now. Those are the action items.
43 Well, we have a lot of stuff here.

44

45 MS. PILCHER: Sorry, this is Nissa. So,
46 most of that is just either reference or -- so, the
47 material that was already submitted prior to the fall
48 meeting and then the furlough. So, a lot of that's just
49 on there for educational information or referencing why
50 you guys have all this paperwork in front of you. But

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1 we're not expecting any of those agencies with the
2 exception of maybe Erin. If she wants to and you guys
3 want to hear from her to give any agency reports, they
4 all said that they would gladly go in at your next
5 meeting.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And we have Glenn
8 here. So did -- so we have Glenn come up.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: Oh. Hold on. Sorry. Sorry,
11 Glenn. So the meeting dates and locations is an action
12 item. And we did take action on the Board of Fish
13 and.....

14

15 (Simultaneous speech)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, okay, that's an
18 action.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. We're going
23 to -- so those dates that we discussed for our meeting
24 possibly in Anchorage, the February 24 and 25. And that
25 was -- we agreed on that. Then the Aniak meeting, three-
26 day meeting covering October 6, 7, and 8. That's okay.
27 So, we need a motion to adopt those meeting dates and
28 places, locations. Do we have a motion?

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Move by Jenny.

33

34 MR. SIMON: Second.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by
37 Pollock.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: I just have a little
40 comment.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

43

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: No. We're making a motion
46 to where we're having this. Didn't we make a motion last
47 time to have it here, or does it matter?

48

49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We did, but then
50 when we got in -- that's why we had to confirm this. We

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1 can reconfirm. We're reconfirming.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, any other
6 discussion?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Do I have a question?

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Question on the
15 motion for a meeting place and location and dates signify
16 by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Those opposed same
21 sign.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I take your as
26 affirmative, Tim. So.....

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Affirmative.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And then, so we got
31 Glenn Stout's going to give us an agency report. Go
32 ahead, Glenn.

33

34 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Real
35 quick, I think it was mentioned earlier, but I'll just
36 repeat it. Board of Game proposals for the Interior will
37 begin in January. The call for proposals with the
38 deadline of May 1st. So, some of the things that you
39 were talking about that's coming up and people want to
40 start thinking about writing proposals and certainly
41 input to the Advisory Committees.

42

43 Real quick, as far as what's going on
44 in the Galena area, I wanted to talk a little bit about
45 the harvest that went on this fall, surveys that we got
46 done, and some other work that's going on in the area.
47 I've talked about before and you've seen some
48 presentations on the sheep telemetry study. There's part
49 of that study is going on up in the Brooks Range, part
50 of it down in the Alaska Range. Brad Wendling is the

1 Principal Investigator on that project. We had a field
2 season. I was able to participate in that, go up -- we
3 worked out of the helicopter. We had survey teams
4 surveying sheep groups, classifying them from the air
5 like we typically do. And then they're dropping off
6 groups of us and then doing ground classification on
7 those same groups to improve our ability and look at
8 what kind of error we have, particularly on the small
9 rams that look like ewes. That's always been one of our
10 classification errors. And so, looking at ways to
11 improve that classification effort. So, I had an
12 opportunity to land places in the park, classify sheep,
13 and then over on the east side, clearing to 25. So that
14 was a pretty valuable effort.

15
16 The other project that's going on,
17 Graham Frye, is on our research staff. He's the Principal
18 Investigator on the bull moose telemetry study. And
19 we've got in the Galena area, I think we started off,
20 we had 53-some bulls collared. I think the last I saw,
21 we had six bulls were harvested. But we're getting a lot
22 of information on location of bull moose from where they
23 are during the rut when the thing is going on and then
24 where they are when I count them later on in November.
25 There's some other aspects to that study that we started
26 looking at. Originally it was just mature bulls. But
27 we've broadened that out to include yearling bulls. So
28 that gives us an idea of the origins. Some start looking
29 at some of those other questions we had about -- we've
30 talked about many times. People felt like in the Koyukuk
31 Controlled Use Area, there was kind of a refugia area
32 that provided a source population of moose that were
33 harvested along the river. So that's part of the effort
34 there. That actually has three different study sites as
35 well, I guess four now. But here in Fairbanks area, it
36 first started out in Manley area. The other site was
37 down in McGrath and then Galena, and then more recently
38 they've expanded it out into 20A, so.

39
40 As far as fall hunting, started off,
41 looked pretty typical. We started getting all that rain.
42 All the flood water certainly hit down there. Water
43 started coming up from all that flooding that was going
44 on and up down in -- or up in Allakaket there. It hit
45 us within about 4 or 5 days that we were there at the
46 check station and stayed high the whole season. It
47 definitely affected hunting effort success. By the time
48 we finished the check station, we figured we were about
49 20 to 30% below normal on our harvest there. We started
50 receiving calls close to the end of the season that

1 there was poor success going on. It seemed like the
2 biggest areas it was affecting was up the Koyukuk; talked
3 to people in Hughes about that. Our early results that
4 I would get from our license vendor there, LCVend, it
5 looked like it was 35% below normal harvest rates up
6 there. It was the same as I went down towards the (In
7 Native), Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk. They were looking at
8 about 20 to 25%. As I went to Ruby, they were also saying
9 that they had poor success. But as you talked about
10 earlier, the Nowitna harvest was actually better on the
11 Nowitna. It seems to be that there's a bit of a changing
12 dynamic, and I wish Don was here to talk about that. But
13 fewer and fewer people out of Ruby are actually hunting
14 by boat. And we knew all along people hunted off the
15 Poor Man Road. Were going south there. But it seems like
16 maybe proportionally more people are hunting down the
17 Poor Man Road. Cost of fuel to get down there. There's
18 actually, you know, a pretty long-term habitat effect
19 from all the tailing piles along from all the gold mining
20 areas have produced a lot of browse. And so that still
21 seems to have a lag effect of pockets of moose up on
22 that ridge. So, we had a season -- we had several
23 requests for season extension and we increased -- we
24 added seven days on the Koyukuk and five days on the
25 Middle Yukon. Got a lot of positive feedback. People
26 were able to go out, take advantage of that. It had
27 stopped raining finally towards the end of the season.
28 And so right away people were able to get out in late
29 September, first couple days of October, and take
30 advantage of that opportunity.

31
32 As far as survey results, working with
33 the Koyukuk Refuge, thank you very much for all that
34 effort. Once again, they're always very helpful. Boomer
35 and I both got out. It was touch and go, whether or not
36 Boomer was going to be able to go. As you know, the
37 federal closure affected them, and they actually figured
38 out a way, amazingly, to get pilots lined out. And even
39 though the closure got lifted, it was only like a day
40 or two before they were scheduled to have planes there.
41 So, it was pretty amazing what they were able to do. We
42 had a fallback plan that the state would be able to go
43 ahead and cover those. And I'm just thankful because it
44 would have been a shortage of pilots because we're very
45 short on private pilots for -- when we do our surveys.

46
47 We did get all the trend count areas
48 done in the Galena portion of it that we typically do.
49 And then we also did what we call our GSPE survey, which
50 is a population estimation survey in the -- what we call

1 the Western Galena subarea that basically runs from
2 Dulbi River all the way down to Koyukuk mouth. The survey
3 results are preliminary at this point. I don't see
4 anything really changing on that. And I think it's
5 something like 20% below what the numbers were in 2018.
6 We've talked about this many times. We've been seeing
7 the trend in decline up there, particularly in our trend
8 count areas. So, it projected that -- see a population
9 decline in that area. My sense of the whole thing, and
10 we've talked about this many times, we're seeing habitat
11 succession changing in that area. And it says these
12 riparian areas that weren't -- were once full of willows,
13 all those grass meadows that were full of willows, they
14 are all aging successional. They're full now. When I
15 started in the area, some of those meadows up in Three
16 Days Slough were full of willows and full of hundreds
17 of moose, literally. Now they're full of black spruce.
18 So, we really need fire to get into those riparian areas.
19 We've seen the response of fire from the 2000 fires down
20 on the (In Native) flats area. That area, that portion
21 of 21D doubled the number of moose on there. And it's a
22 long-lasting effect. It burned in 2005. Here we are still
23 in 2025, and we've got twice as many moose there. So,
24 my sense -- my recommendation is that we need more fires
25 to burn in these areas to improve moose densities.
26 Really, throughout the Galena Management Area, we see
27 pockets of moose clear up on the Kanuti. That area around
28 that Kanuti (In Native) area. We had pockets of moose,
29 and when we did predator control, we had moose increase
30 throughout the area. They came up to the level where
31 those pockets of moose were. And then when things
32 declined, we still have pockets of moose where the burns
33 were. So even though we can do predator control, and of
34 course, I told you, I've already explained how that it
35 lasted like three years and wolves were back up to where
36 they were. But moose stayed highest still in those burned
37 areas well after the fires -- and I think some of that
38 study was actually what Erin worked on her Master's right
39 in that burn area. So, fires for me is the important
40 thing. We need to get the word out to people, to
41 encourage them to allow fires to burn in these areas.
42 So, I think that's pretty much it. I hope to make it
43 short and sweet. That's what I had.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
46 that. Did you do -- when you're doing sheep comp, you
47 were doing ewes only, ewe groups or ram groups too or...?

48
49 MR. STOUT: Yeah. So, we primarily did
50 large lamb groups with large ewes and lambs. When we saw

1 a group of rams that were mature rams, we don't really
2 have too much problem classifying rams as rams. You know,
3 the full, three-quarter thing, that's another thing. You
4 know, maybe there's errors there, but it's those ewe
5 likes that is the real classification error.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right.

8

9

10 MR. STOUT: I forgot one other thing that
11 I wanted to talk about too. We do have that project
12 that's still going on that we're working cooperatively
13 with the BLM, and it's those satellite collars we have
14 on the Ray and Hodzana caribou herd. And we got more
15 collars out in those herds last year. And we're working
16 on refining the location information for critical
17 calving areas. And that was all money that I think
18 originally came through the Ambler Road EIS issues. And
19 so, we've been able to do that and what it's done, what
20 we've been working on the last three years with that
21 information is we have to truth the data. In other words,
22 we can see from satellite telemetry data, daily
23 distribution, daily movements of caribou. But we need
24 to go out and truth that a certain movement pattern
25 associated itself with a calving event. And in order to
26 truth that we have to actually go out the first several
27 years and physically be able to look and see that a cow
28 has calved, and then we associate with that immediate
29 movement data. And it's a DeMars' method in the
30 literature, if you're interested. And so we've been
31 working on doing that. There's a lot of different uses
32 for identifying calving events. You can look at calving
33 rates. Our specific purpose was using that calving
34 information to identify calving areas because the
35 potential impacts of development. So that was the other
36 thing that I wanted to mention.

36

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks. Tim
38 had a question. Tim.

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MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim
Gervais. Thanks for your presentation, Glenn. We
appreciate your flexibility on the management this fall
with the seven- and five-days extension. That's really
critical for providing some very, very important
subsistence opportunity on the moose harvest. For the
record, I would say historically as far as importance
of subsistence resource for Ruby, king salmon and moose
were equally important as the one and two resource, and
then chum salmon was the third most important one. And
now where we have -- not being able to harvest salmon,

1 moose is really increased even in more importance. So,
2 that's really helpful to allow these households to be
3 able to -- for the management plan to allow extended
4 hunting opportunity in situations where we had bad
5 weather that made for a low harvest. And then another
6 question, Glenn. I think it was around 2020, you had
7 talked about a project of doing a controlled burn in the
8 north of Big Eddy area around Wolf Mountain to see if -
9 - to get rid of shrubs, get rid of willow and see if
10 that could help with the -- that Wolf Mountain caribou
11 herd. And then the pandemic happened and I think that's
12 the last I heard of the project, and I was wondering
13 what was the status of that project with that controlled
14 burn?

15
16 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Through the Chair. Tim,
17 so we did -- there was a proposal submitted to the Board
18 of Game, and they did not adopt that proposal. One of
19 the things too, that's important to know that when that
20 proposal was taken to the Ruby Advisory Committee, the
21 Ruby Advisory Committee did not support that proposal
22 either. I think there's a lot of different reasons. Ruby
23 Advisory Committee was not in favor of the individual
24 that submitted the proposal. That may have affected part
25 of that. But I think there's also a lingering effect
26 where some communities are very nervous about the
27 effects of fire. One of the things I know we heard is
28 you get a fire in there, they're worried about trees
29 falling down on trapline trails and dealing with that
30 effect. This case in particular, it was mostly going to
31 be on BLM and state land, but there was a pretty
32 substantial portion of it on the Yukon River side of
33 that divide that we were talking about that would have
34 included TCC or Doyon lands. Not TCC, but Doyon, or
35 corporation, other corporation lands. And so that was
36 going to be another part that we were going to have to
37 communicate with people and get a substantial buy-in
38 from all the land managers, owners in that area. So, I'm
39 still in favor of it. I still try and encourage people
40 that that's a need up there. I think the issue is still
41 very real in terms of that forested area has progressed
42 up that ridgelines, and the Galena Mountain herds down
43 to probably less than a hundred animals. And so, it's a
44 very real concern I think about all the time, and Erin
45 and I had talked about, we had fire people come out and
46 look at it. I think it was even last year. I went out
47 with him again and looking at that. But it's a pretty
48 expensive proposition and it can be somewhat
49 controversial.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
2 Any other.....

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: Thanks. Thank you very
7 much. And I just got a -- I'll just say it now. Thanks
8 for decades of really super competent, big game
9 management in Unit 21. It's just been a huge benefit to
10 all the users and communities in that area.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I'll second that.
13 So, any other questions? Oh, Pollock.

14
15 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Some
16 questions for Glenn. I used to go to the caribou workshop
17 meeting, and the local residents from Kotzebue come over
18 and talk about large wolf packs eating caribous. And
19 while they're hunting, they talk about the grizzlies
20 coming to their camp. Grizzlies are still eating
21 caribous (indiscernible). Sometimes I mentioned that we
22 had put down some of those predators, but the different
23 agencies elected to go ahead and shoot towards bears to
24 save caribou. My question is, is there still wolves or
25 grizzlies around that area?

26
27 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Through the Chair.
28 Thank you, Pollock. So, you remember the -- we had the
29 24B Intensive Management program. That actually
30 originated out of the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working
31 Group, which I know both you and Jack worked on. When
32 we first proposed that to the Koyukuk River Advisory
33 Committee, the predator control program up in 24B, there
34 was concern, particularly Allakaket and Alatna, that
35 people were comfortable with wolf control, but they
36 weren't so comfortable at the time, us doing bear
37 removal. And so, we presented the information that we
38 felt like we could get a modest response in the moose
39 population by just doing wolf removal, but because of
40 some of those concerns that were voiced by the Committee
41 about cultural issues dealing with bears, we didn't
42 include bears in the program at the time. It's not
43 necessarily, you know, if we identified bears as one of
44 the primary limiting factors in that population that the
45 department would oppose that if this committee, this
46 Council or one of our Advisory Committees wanted to
47 revisit that and include that. I think another predator
48 control program, because it was such a modest response,
49 I think that's the only way we would ever even consider
50 it is if it included bears.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Is that all your questions, Pollock? Okay. Any other questions?

(No response)

Thanks so much, Glenn. Appreciate all you're doing. Hope to have a Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting later on this spring for game proposal formation. So, Erin, do you want to give us a quick update?

MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. Erin Julianus, Wildlife Biologist for BLM here in Fairbanks. And, yeah, I wasn't planning on giving a report, but it did -- our report did make it in, I think, for the first time ever into the meeting book. So, yeah, it's on page 265. I think our main updates Kent Slaughter covered yesterday at the end of the day. The PLO 51-50, you know, revocation and the Central Yukon RMP that was rescinded earlier this month, and then updates on the Ambler Road. So, some of the information in the report is actually outdated now because of that. But if there's, yeah, I guess, any questions on that that I can take back to our management you know, please let me know, but sounds like you guys covered it yesterday, so.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I think we covered quite a few of the BLM issues yesterday. So, any other questions from people who weren't at the meeting yesterday about BLM?

MS. JULIANUS: We will have -- we don't have the post-use report information for our hunting guides in this report, but all that information will be in the winter report.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, yeah, we look forward to.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. JULIANUS: Aside from that, it won't be much different.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. We look forward to seeing that at our meeting in February. You may be virtual on that one or.....

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1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Or absent. Yeah.

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF:absent.....

7

8 (Simultaneous speech)

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, I have a
11 question.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Thanks for your report, Erin. So, now that Ambler Road
17 is back in play, can you give us a timeline on, like --
18 the EIS is all have to be redone and the scoping. So,
19 my question is, are we going to start at ground zero or
20 start at the beginning again with the permitting or can
21 they -- are they going to use the old scoping and the
22 old EIS? And what are the timelines on those procedures?

23

24 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Through the Chair.
25 Tim, they, the -- all of the, you know, environmental
26 review has been done and completed, and BLM did issue a
27 right of way to AIDEA for the road itself. So yeah, the
28 right of way is valid, and I think the next step -- I
29 don't know if Kent covered this yesterday, but they need
30 a notice to proceed which they're waiting on from the
31 BLM. And then they can start preliminary work. So, yeah,
32 in terms of going back and doing additional analyses or
33 things like that, we're not doing any of that. They have
34 an authorization. So, yep.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So.....

37

38 (Simultaneous speech)

39

40 MR. GERVAIS: The notice to proceed,
41 what's the timing on that, or is there any public input
42 on that?

43

44 MS. JULIANUS: No, not on the notice to
45 proceed. I don't know the timing. We've been, you know,
46 kind of directed to direct folks to AIDEA itself for
47 those sorts of questions, so.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: From the President
50 pushed this project forward. It's a done deal. There's

1 no going back. There's no going around it. It's a done
2 deal. That's -- it's all over but the crying, so to
3 speak. So, any other questions, Tim?

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Well, regarding done deal,
6 it's like, I imagine they don't have the funding approved
7 for it, so that's the issue.....

8

9 (Simultaneous speech)

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's a done deal
12 to continue their planning process and their \$100
13 million into their planning process. And they haven't
14 got a plan even close to being completed. You're right.
15 It's a long ways out, and somebody's got to fund this
16 road, and it's not going to be a cheap road. It costs
17 \$3 million per mile to rebuild the Haul Road. That's an
18 in-place road. That is the building cross country and
19 the kind of habitat and terrain that they're going
20 across, it's going to be \$10 million a mile, which comes
21 out to \$1.66 billion, up to as much as \$2.5 billion.
22 There's rivers, culverts, geotextiles, and there's a lot
23 of gravel that's going to be on mud and it's basically
24 swamp lands, a lot of it. So yeah, but they have approval
25 and there's no stopping them from doing anything right
26 now. Congress and the President have spoken. This is
27 America and that's the democratic process. And that's
28 the way it went. We can't do anything about it. So, ADA
29 is going to spend a whole bunch more money. They're
30 going to probably spend another at least \$75 million to
31 try and come up with some kind of a plan. It's going to
32 be rough because they basically goof off. They just fly.
33 I live at Wiseman. I go down to Coldfoot. They're just
34 down there in the bar, drinking, goofing around, flying
35 around in a helicopter, looking for arrowheads. This --
36 they don't -- they're wasting money. Their contractors
37 are wasting tons of money. So.....

38

39 (Simultaneous speech)

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: So, based on your comments,
42 is there -- you're saying the process is done and there's
43 no need to add Ambler Road issues onto our annual report
44 because it's already moved beyond the agency level?

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's -- yeah. It's
47 just an update to the Federal Subsistence Board. It's
48 going to have a significant impact on subsistence
49 resources in and within our region and Unit 24. And so,
50 it's going to have a significant impact on the resources.

1 And so, the Federal Board should be aware that we're
2 concerned about that, among our other concerns about not
3 meeting amounts necessary for subsistence.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: But did we get Ambler Road
6 into our motion for the annual?

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I don't think
9 we.....

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Do we need to have another
12 motion to add that?

13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It could be within
15 our other abilities to, or anticipated abilities to meet
16 subsistence needs category, I think. So, yeah, we'll add
17 that. So, thanks, Erin. Appreciate it. Happy deliveries.
18 And so where are we at now, Nissa? Do we have to do the
19 FRMP thing? So, Kusko FRMP and Kristen is going to come
20 up and do that for us.

21

22 MS. MORROW: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 We are going to the same process we did yesterday for
24 the Yukon proposed projects. For those of you who were
25 not here when we did that, just as a reminder, these are
26 projects that have been submitted to OSM requesting
27 funding, but they have not been funded yet. They're
28 projects that the ones that are selected for funding
29 would ideally begin in spring of 2026. But we are
30 awaiting a budget from Congress, so we are not currently
31 aware of exactly what the funding amount will allow for.
32 And we're at the point in the process where we are
33 seeking Council comments on the projects that are
34 proposed. And Council comments are included in the
35 decision-making process as these projects are evaluated.
36 So, for the Kuskokwim region, there were eight projects
37 that were submitted.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Excuse me, what
40 page are we on?

41

42 MS. MORROW: I was just about to say
43 those projects that were submitted for the Kuskokwim
44 region are listed on page 217 of your meeting book.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Continue.

47

48 MS. MORROW: So, we could do the same
49 thing we did yesterday where I give a brief proposal and
50 then pause for Council comments, if that works.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That would be
3 great.

4
5 MS. MORROW: Okay, great. I don't think
6 I stated earlier. Sorry. For the record, this is Kristen
7 Morrow. The first Kuskokwim project is 26-300. The
8 Goodnews River Salmon Escapement Monitoring. This
9 project aims to count chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon
10 escapement into the Middle Fork of the Goodnews River
11 using a resistance board weir. There are more details
12 about this project beginning on page 217 of your meeting
13 book.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any Council
18 comments on -- these are the various projects we're
19 looking at on page 217 for the Kuskokwim River, which
20 Goodnews River is not exactly on the Kuskokwim, but.....

21
22 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
23 Kristen Morrow. So, it's proposals submitted for the
24 Kuskokwim Fisheries Management Region which can include
25 systems that are not necessarily the Kuskokwim River
26 itself.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, all these
31 projects -- some look very innovative about this AI.

32
33 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
34 Kristen Morrow. If it would be helpful. I can read the
35 descriptions for all eight projects. There's about one
36 sentence per project. If that would be helpful.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That would be good.
39 Go right ahead.

40
41 MS. MORROW: Okay, so we just did Project
42 26-300, the Goodnews River Salmon Escapement Monitoring.

43
44 The next project is 26-301, Kuskokwim
45 Coho Salmon and Whitefish Abundance Estimation Using
46 Sonar and Apportionment Fishing. This project proposes
47 to use sonar and drift gillnets, apportionment methods
48 to estimate daily abundances of coho salmon and
49 whitefish species migrating in the Kuskokwim River
50 during August. There are more details about this project

1 on page 219 of your meeting book.

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The next project is 26-302, Salmon River of the Pitka Fork Chinook Salmon Escapement Monitoring, and this project proposes to index the daily and total chinook salmon escapement into the salmon or the Pitka Fork River through operation of a fixed picket fence weir. And there are more details about this project beginning on page 222 of your meeting book.

The next project is 26-303, Implementing Artificial Intelligence for Rural Alaskan Salmon Counts. This project proposes to use drone technology, local knowledge, and AI software to derive counts of chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon within the tributaries of the -- I'm sorry I may mispronounce this, the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers, and there are more details about that beginning on page 223 of your meeting book.

The next project, 26-304, the George River Salmon Weir, proposes to index chinook and chum and coho salmon escapement to the middle portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage through the operation of a weir on the George River. And there are more details about that project beginning on page 225 of your book.

The next project is 26-350, the Bethel Assistance Harvest Surveys. This project proposes to provide state and federal managers and stakeholders with relevant subsistence harvest, effort, catch, and composition information collected from a representative subset of families who harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in the Bethel area. Details about this project are on page 227 of your meeting book.

Project 26-351, the Kuskokwim Management Area Postseason Subsistence Salmon Harvest Survey, proposes to administer harvest surveys and analyze salmon harvest data to support management, regulation, and conservation efforts in the Kuskokwim region. And there are details about this project on page 230 of your book.

And finally, Project 263-52, Local and Traditional Knowledge of Non-Salmon Fisheries, Including Whitefishes, Sheefish, and Northern Pike, and a Changing Climate in the Kuskokwim River, Alaska. This project proposes to increase understanding of the impacts of changes in climate on the subsistence, harvest, and use of non-salmon fish in selected regions of the Kuskokwim

1 Management Area through work in three representative
2 communities and details about that project are on page
3 232 of your book.

4

5 So, that concludes a brief overview of
6 the eight projects. And we welcome any comments. And of
7 course, we could get more in depth on specific projects
8 if the Council has questions they'd like to address.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Council
11 comments on the various projects?

12

13 (No response)

14

15 I'm looking at this AI project, which
16 is using artificial intelligence to identify, you know,
17 species, which is a kind of a problem. And anytime you're
18 looking at lots and lots of photos and identification
19 of what -- training the computer to identify things.
20 They did these camera traps and looking at different
21 species about -- Erin was involved with that one. And
22 trying to identify, it would -- AI, this could really,
23 really increase the efficiency. And it's an expensive
24 project, but I think it's going to be a real big tool
25 in this kind of work, whether it's a whole bunch of SD
26 card photos or salmon going by on with the sonar objects,
27 enumerating those species and identifying like reams of
28 data, that's going to be a big deal. I think that's
29 going to be a real big one. This is not on the projects,
30 but I do feel that there's a need to monitor the size
31 growth rates of freshwater stocks with the salmon
32 decline, the nutrient level that's trophic level of
33 decline is -- got to be affecting the productivity of
34 salmon because they spawn in similar habitats and they
35 have -- they're benefiting there. The fry and the smolt
36 of the freshwater stocks are benefiting from the salmon.
37 And so I would expect them to be starting to grow slower
38 over time, which is going to be a big deal as coming to
39 maturity later. And there's going to be some aspects of
40 that. And so that's a project that our fisheries staff
41 should think about that aspect, and possibly in the
42 future coming up with a product, you know, release that
43 as a project.

44

45 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
46 Kristen Morrow. Thank you for those comments. Related
47 to that last comment you just made, the Council may want
48 to consider adding that as a priority information need
49 the next time we go through that process of identifying
50 those needs, because that list is what sort of helped

1 shape the projects that are submitted for research.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we -- you know,
4 that's going to come up in the future, and I'm thinking
5 about it right now. I want to write it down somewhere.
6 Make a note of that.

7

8 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
9 Kristen Morrow. I do have a note of it, and it will be
10 in the transcripts as well. I just wanted to state that
11 that would be good to come up in the future for a
12 priority information need.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I appreciate
15 that. So, any other comments? Do any of these elevate
16 in Council members' minds? You know, if the funding comes
17 in short, we have to have like, projects that are going
18 to like -- or are more important needs, you know,
19 informational needs. Oh, Tim. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, I had my hand up by
22 mistake, I think. I can't prioritize one project over
23 the other. Looks like a good mixture of research, though.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: They're all worthy
26 projects, and I would have a hard time, other than the
27 AI project I think could be highly beneficial for
28 multiple agencies. In fact, other agencies should
29 actually chip in on this one. It's what I feel, but
30 probably they don't want to do that. So, this is an
31 action item, we have to motion to adopt these projects
32 or just informational?

33

34 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
35 Kristen Morrow. This is not an action item, just any
36 Council comments that you would like to have on the
37 record.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Do you have
40 any comments on these various Kuskokwim projects?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 Robert, no? So, thank you so much,
45 Kristen. Appreciate that. And where are we at on our
46 agenda now?

47

48 MS. PILCHER: I have two updates for the
49 Council, which will be very brief once I find my -- what
50 I'm going to talk about. So, the 805(c) Report. Mr.

1 Chair and members of the Council, for the record this
2 is Nissa Pilcher. I wanted to bring your attention to
3 the 805(c) Report. The Board took action in line with
4 your Council's recommendations for all proposals and
5 closure reviews affecting your region. Therefore, no
6 805(c) Report was needed, to refer to the cover letter
7 and an accompanying table of what actions you guys took
8 last time and what the Board did, you can find that in
9 the meeting book, which is the black bound one on page
10 271. This is not an action item. And if you like, I'll
11 jump to the next topic.....

12

13 (Simultaneous speech)

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Jump to the next.

16

17 MS. PILCHER:which is a
18 correspondence update. So, in that same book, starting
19 on page 277, there's the correspondence that has been
20 drafted and sent from your last meeting. Again, this is
21 also not an action item. So, this is just a documentation
22 so you can have all of the finalized letters in one
23 spot. You should have been emailed or mailed them, but
24 this way they're in the meeting book. And then our
25 archived with your meeting materials. So, one thing to
26 note is you did have a letter get mailed to SeaShare,
27 and almost immediately after transmittal the director
28 of SeaShare did reach out to me and would really like
29 to engage with the Council. It didn't work for this
30 meeting, in part due to the furlough and the date
31 changing. But we'll continue to have conversations and
32 hopefully Hannah can come before you guys. One letter
33 that you did request to be sent was that North Pacific
34 Fisheries Management Council letter. There was no open
35 period to do so. And now with the action you guys took
36 today, it will be drafted and it will be sent very
37 shortly.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, that
40 covers our correspondence and so forth. So, we're coming
41 down to the end of the meeting here. Closing Comments.
42 So, we're going to start with Tommy. We started with
43 Pollock on that side. Tommy, go ahead. Closing comment.

44

45 MR. KRISKA: Well. I just thank all of
46 you for being here and sorry that I missed yesterday. A
47 lot of good information today. Just got to keep on going
48 and hopefully -- oops. Phone is ringing. Just got to
49 continue working together, and I did write things down
50 that I'd like to see the Western Interior and Eastern

1 Interior have more meetings. And I said possibly every
2 two years, I don't know, just maybe with more Regional
3 Councils. You know, the shutdown that happened and that
4 was happening, I really see some of our people really
5 got concerned. A lot of them are single ladies, and they
6 have kids. And then you know, the shutdown for -- I
7 forget how long it was, 30 days or something. They were
8 40 some days, they were really concerned because they
9 went to the stores, they didn't have their assistance.
10 The stores couldn't get them anything. And it really
11 opened their eyes because of, you know, they had --
12 they're now having to fend for themselves. And I, you
13 know, I just hope that with the regulations and, you
14 know, that the big thing that we're mentioning and at
15 the time was we don't have our meat, we don't have our
16 fish, they could fall back on that they don't have. And
17 it was a real big concern to a lot of us folks that do
18 help them out.

19
20 I just hope there's some way that, you
21 know, about our fish and Northern Pacific, the Board of
22 Game, Board of Fish and government and whoever can help
23 out more and kind of realized that what's going on and,
24 you know, the with the trawlers and the Area M, and all
25 that is a real big concern to the people. And they can't
26 really do anything for themselves. They do have young
27 ones coming up. And it's really sad that they don't
28 really have their own resources, what they had back in
29 the day to fall back on was that for that -- this global
30 warming, I, you know, it was a big, big windstorm. The
31 water was blown over the river like a snowstorm. It was
32 about 20-30 ft high at this water, consistent all the
33 way from far as you can see down the river, all the way
34 up north. It was blown at 67 miles an hour. It got at
35 the highest. But this water was, like, 30-feet up above
36 the Yukon. The waves were ten-foot waves out there, and
37 you couldn't go out there. It was really bad. There's a
38 lot of trees. We got a power outage for ten days. A lot
39 of people lost their --they couldn't come in there with
40 planes. A lot of people lost their meat or whatever they
41 got for the winter. It was a sad thing. I mean, the
42 previous year before that, it got windy, but not as bad.
43 There was a lot of concerns. A lot of trees did fall
44 down, but this year it was really bad. The banks are cut
45 straight up and down, in a lot of the places. It was
46 just a bad storm that was -- we never knew that it was
47 coming until it came. Anyway, I had under notes here.

48
49 They has been talking about all the
50 great work that they do with the, you know, with the

1 fires and, you know, me and the boys and a lot of the
2 guys in Interior, the Galena area, Ruby, Nulato, Huslia,
3 a lot of us are out there. We talk to each other every
4 day, every other day, controlling our wolves or bears,
5 stuff that -- what's the use of reporting it? I guess I
6 could just get myself in trouble. But, you know, we do
7 a lot of predator control in our own way since, you
8 know, if we don't do this, everything else will slip
9 right out from underneath us.

10

11 I just hope and wish that -- and pray
12 that something will be done about our fish, as well
13 about all the regulations that's going through with our
14 moose. It's really getting tougher out there, even for
15 a guy like me. I'm a pretty physical guy, but still, you
16 know, it doesn't -- I mean, I used up a lot of my meat
17 and all the deaths that happened in my family, and I had
18 a tough time to fall, but still help all the rest of the
19 folks out around in our villages, which is no concern
20 to the feds or the state, I guess. I don't know. They
21 continue to run us over on our lands. Put more permits
22 out there. Regulate things that, like we're tightening
23 up the noose right now around our necks. It's getting
24 tighter every day in every way. I don't like to see
25 that, but you look back and try to figure out who's
26 responsible for all this. You look back up the chain.
27 The chain, I don't know where it goes and where it ends,
28 but somebody is really making the money. They do it for
29 their own greed, I guess. I don't know. I don't like to
30 talk like that. But it's just what I've been seeing over
31 this last -- I've been sober for 41 years this year and
32 been into this meeting ever since 1990, and really put
33 a lot of time into this, trying to get some answers but
34 still never come up with anything. Not one good thing
35 yet. But anyway, I don't want to sound like I'm crying
36 over the same stuff. But this where we're at with our
37 people. It's pretty sad that, you know, a lot of people
38 that come to these meetings, they're Board of Game, Board
39 of Fish, you know, Western, you know, they got jobs,
40 they have their bread and butter on their tables where
41 we're running out of it. And it seems like it's just an
42 ongoing thing that I don't know if anything will ever
43 be done. I just hope that you have it in your heart to
44 do something rather than, you know, taking care of your
45 own. And along that river, all over that river, they're
46 having a tough time. So, anyway, I could talk all day,
47 but I better just leave it at that. And I just hope that
48 -- you know, I ran out of people to talk to, and there's
49 nothing. Nothing. Board of Fish, Board of Game, Northern
50 Pacific, go back to the government. So, I find myself

1 praying more to the Lord. Really praying a lot more to
2 Him. Trying to figure it out. Try to help us in some
3 way. Can't get no other help from no other place. So,
4 thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We enjoy your
7 talking to us, Tommy. We want to hear every last word
8 that comes out of your mouth. And you got a lot of
9 knowledge, and you got a lot of perspective that we need
10 transcribed into these meeting minutes. And so we --
11 they're a real resource. In the future, they'll be mining
12 those back out with AI or something. They'll be mining
13 your words back out again. And sure enough, Tommy was
14 right. Sure enough, these people who lived out in the
15 woods were right. So, I appreciate all your comments.

16
17 MR. KRISKA: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And, Jenny.

20
21 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I feel Tom's grief
22 also, since his relatives are my relatives. It was a
23 tough time and it's going to continue to be tough for a
24 while. I see our people suffering. You try to help as
25 much as you can. Like Tommy said, it's bad. Some of you
26 should come to the villages, especially with Koyukuk.
27 Now, they don't have a store there and it's really sad
28 to go there. You know, when I look at my house, I have
29 this and I have that and you go down there, they don't
30 have a store, but they rely on their subsistence, but
31 there's a lot of stuff they can't get. It's getting hard
32 and I've been on this Board since 2006, I was going to
33 say 1906 before, but that was too early. But anyway, and
34 right from the start I could, you know, hear the Board
35 members talking about stuff, and we're still talking
36 about the same stuff to date. I think we're going to do
37 it forever. Keep talking and talking and talking and we
38 don't know what's going to get done, but we just have
39 to move forward. Even though it's we look defeated,
40 there's hope somewhere. There's always hope. That's my
41 philosophy. There's always hope. They may wipe us out.
42 We may be wiped out, but there'll always be -- we'll
43 always be around. And they think they're going to wipe
44 us out. But we'll always be around.

45
46 My saddest part is seeing our
47 grandchildren and our youth forgetting or not even
48 knowing about our tradition. And not seeing it. I grew
49 up seeing everything you know, seeing Tommy when he was
50 just a little brat running around camp. Actually, he

1 wasn't. They were playing. They were working, but it was
2 like play because there were so many of them, the younger
3 kids down there, and they were all working, carrying
4 fish, carrying water, feeding the dogs. They're just
5 busy. And to them it was like play because -- and it was
6 work and they were learning. Now you don't see that. You
7 see these kids grab their phone and they're on there.
8 You could be sitting next door to them and trying to
9 talk to them, but they're looking at -- myself included
10 sometimes, but I have a picture here of Koyukuk before
11 -- after the windstorm, and if you want to look at it.
12 But I was told that this is looking at Koyukuk, (In
13 Native) under the mountain, that's where Koyukuk is. But
14 they never could see that mountain before from this
15 house. And that was taken on this house, and now they
16 could see it, and they said, boy, they didn't know that
17 it went down like that and went this way. But that's
18 where the wind took out all those trees. And Koyukuk was
19 really devastated. Trees down all over the place. It's
20 very sad to see, you know, and with no store and they're
21 in bad shape.

22
23 On a brighter note, I just want to thank
24 all the staff for being here and hanging in there with
25 us. I know our meeting was only a day. Two and a half
26 days is about right. And my spiel again would be to get
27 -- trying to get Board members in, especially those who
28 are -- have farther way to travel. Get them here earlier
29 because we can't predict the weather. And I just enjoyed
30 our meeting with the WIRAC -- I mean Eastern Interior
31 yesterday. Like I stated before, they have the same
32 issues that we do, and we just need to work together.
33 And I like the idea of having a full Board meeting every
34 so often. I think it's every five years, a full RAC
35 meeting, all the RACs. I thought that was good. And also
36 with NOAA last year when people went down to testify and
37 I thought that was a good meeting. But I just, I mean,
38 still learning. I'm not -- I don't really volunteer to
39 testify and stuff because seems like, I mean, I could
40 do it, but it seems like to myself, I don't have the
41 confidence yet, and I don't know when I'll ever get it,
42 but you know, and I would like to watch, be there just
43 to watch, see how these guys do it. And, you know, like
44 I said, I'm still learning, even though I'm pretty old.
45 I think I'm pretty old, but I don't feel old. I just
46 want to thank the Board members for being here and wish
47 we had another day because we haven't really talked --
48 visited yet. You know, and I think it's good to get
49 together and just talk about some of the issues that we
50 talked about during the meeting. So, thank you and hope

1 to see you in Anchorage or wherever.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
4 Jenny. You have a lot of good comments, and I've
5 appreciated you being on the Council this long, and I
6 hope to have many more meetings with you and whether in
7 Anchorage or Fairbanks, I'm looking forward to our next
8 meeting. We've got a lot of stuff to do. So I got Tim
9 on the phone, I think still. You want to give your
10 closing comments, Tim?

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
13 is Tim Gervais. I'd like to thank the Council members
14 for traveling into Fairbanks and participating in the
15 meetings. I'm always impressed with your subsistence
16 knowledge, and in addition to that, your knowledge of
17 ANILCA and the regulatory process. It's like another
18 level beyond subsistence, is understanding the agency
19 interactions, and the process to go through as
20 conducting ourselves as a Western Interior Regional
21 Advisory Committee. So, it's really -- it's real special
22 to be able to hear everybody's experiences in their own
23 part of the area. I'd like to thank the community of
24 Fairbanks for sponsoring the -- or hosting the meeting.
25 I'd like to thank the federal and state staff, people
26 that came and helped us out with answering questions and
27 providing information and making everything happen. I
28 appreciate the Office of Subsistence Management for
29 being able to pull together this meeting on short notice.
30 Especially when it was hard to find space in December
31 to conduct the meeting. I'm glad we got it done and they
32 just didn't decide to not have the meeting at all. And
33 all the public comment was really wonderful, this
34 meeting too, a lot of good perspectives and good
35 knowledge. And just overall, it's really positive to
36 hear so many people, so many organizations, from Tanana
37 Chiefs to YRDFA to the RACs that are all, they're all
38 trying to have the conservation in place so we can get
39 our fish back, have good game resources. And I'd like
40 to thank Jack for doing a really great job on being our
41 Chair and pulling in all the different personalities and
42 viewpoints and being able to get it into a cohesive
43 record. It's really, really valuable skill that he's
44 developed for decades and decades.

45

46 This -- to the RAC members especially,
47 I want to encourage them to keep participating even
48 though it feels like nothing's happening. I feel like
49 something should be happening. It seems real obvious
50 that we're in a three-decade long extinction event for

1 the chinook salmon, and about a 18 to 15 year-long
2 extinction event on the chum salmon. And I feel like
3 there's a way to fix these problems. They definitely
4 don't seem insurmountable, doesn't feel like there's --
5 we don't know what the problems are. We just haven't
6 quite figured out what the mechanism is to stop
7 commercial fishing when we have extinction event going
8 on. At some point, I mean, the overall trend, not just
9 with subsistence users, but Alaskans in general is, we
10 want to get our salmon back. And we all know that's more
11 important than imitation crab meat and Filet-O-Fish
12 sandwiches. So, I just want the members to stay engaged,
13 not give up hope, and realize that all you are like a
14 walking legacy of a lifelong of subsistence experience
15 and Board experience, and really valuable to our process
16 of trying to get these resources back to a level that
17 they should be. That you remember that they were when
18 you were youth. Alright, have a safe trip home and thanks
19 for listening to my comments throughout the meeting.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks so much for
22 your participation, Tim. I know it's hard to be on the
23 phone, but I commend you for being there and appreciate
24 all your comments and continue on. Fight the good fight.
25 Don't lose heart. You just got to keep -- it's like you
26 got snow in your shoe and you got to -- it's a long ways
27 to the cabin. You just got to keep going. You're not
28 going to just lay down and freeze. You got to keep going.
29 So, Robert.

30
31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
32 want to go back to, like June of this year. I got off
33 the Tribal Council. I didn't re-run for Tribal Council,
34 so I stepped down, and I'm making way for the younger
35 generation to take over, and June, the new chief called
36 up and asked me if I could come to the meeting, and I
37 said what kind of meeting we're going to have? He said
38 DOT is going to be here, and they want to propose a road
39 from the Kuskokwim to the Yukon. Okay, I'll be down. So,
40 I did go down, and I did talk to Nissa about that, again
41 like I did before. I, you know, I'm on the RAC Board,
42 but I'm not working for RAC at this meeting, so. But I
43 could use the title but now that was as far as I could
44 go with it. But anyway, they got -- the lead guys came
45 out and said they got \$150 million to build a road from
46 the Kuskokwim to the Yukon, and I never said a word. The
47 other guys, you know, I just asked him, ask him who they
48 got money from, and they got 75 million from the state,
49 75 million from the federal government. And just prior
50 to that, on the news, they were talking in Anchorage and

1 in our school district we didn't have enough money to
2 fund for our schools, but somehow they got 75 million
3 from the state to do that. And he talked to the tribes
4 and the tribal people there and told them what they were
5 going to do and how they were going to do it, where they
6 were going to -- the road was going to come out right
7 below Shageluk, about 40 miles below Shageluk the road
8 would come out and they had a map and then finally he
9 says, introduce yourselves, if you could, to our so we
10 can write your name down of who was at the meeting. And
11 so, everybody introduced themselves and he's gone. And
12 what's your name? And I said, my name is Robert Walker.
13 And he stopped right there. And he says, you're Robert
14 Walker from the Western Interior RAC? I said, yes, I am.
15 I said, is there a problem? They said, yeah, we have a
16 problem. And he stated that you're going to object to
17 the road that's coming over from the Kuskokwim. Yes, I
18 will. I said, in fact, we shut the other road down ten
19 years ago when they were putting it from the Kuskokwim
20 to the Yukon. So, he got his crew and he said, well,
21 let's pack up and let's leave.

22
23 So, his crew packed up and left, and
24 before he left, I asked him, we didn't finish the
25 meeting. He said, well, road's not going to go through.
26 And when your name came up, it was a big sh-sh-sh. So,
27 I kind of felt good about that. You know, all of a sudden
28 that -- as hard as we fought the other Kusko Native
29 Association about the road, they found that -- they
30 thought they were going to sneak it in. They thought
31 maybe I was dead or something. I don't know, but it was
32 kind of neat. Everybody got a big kick out of that. Just
33 one name could throw a whole \$150 million road down the
34 drain. So, I'm not bragging about that. But that's what
35 happened when you work hard for your tribes. You know,
36 I mean, I, James, Carl Morgan, we worked really hard on
37 this, and we put every effort into shutting down that
38 road, the airport they had planned on -- everything they
39 had planned. The Kusko Native Association, they even
40 hired Joy Huntington as their accountant. And Joy came
41 to me and asked me, what am I going to do? I said, just
42 take your money. Don't worry about it. You know. So
43 anyway, I don't know what happened after that. They never
44 came back. They never advertised it anymore. So that's
45 the second road that we put a stop too. And our crew is
46 pretty happy about it. Our tribes are pretty happy about
47 it because this would really put a burden onto our what
48 little fish we have left. The freshwater fish on the
49 Innoko and also the freshwater fish on the Yukon. And
50 also, they would have put a hunting pressure onto our

1 moose hunting. So, it's just something that we had to
2 do. And I'm just glad we got that done, so. You know,
3 and I didn't take credit for that. I let the tribe take
4 credit for that. I said that you guys did the work. I
5 just went there to help you out. So that's what I wanted
6 to report. And I did get points from Nissa on how to
7 handle the situation. You know, like, not to say I am
8 working for the RAC Board, and I could use my name, and
9 I could use references if I needed from our staff. And
10 that was it. So, that's what I'm going to report. Kind
11 of interesting. I want to see the final EIS from that,
12 from their team leader. He never sent it to me yet, so.
13 So that's my -- what I'm going to report, so.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. That's an
16 interesting story. I hadn't heard about the road being
17 -- attempting to be built across there.

18
19 MR. WALKER: I asked the team leader if
20 they advertised it in the Kuskokwim Courier and if they
21 advertised it in Anchorage, he said no, we didn't
22 advertise it yet because we were going to keep it as a
23 low profile, I think, so.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: A lot of that going
26 around. So, thanks so much. Good to have you at the
27 meeting again. Tell your brother or your cousin, cousin
28 Jimmy, hi from us. Pleased to have the Walker twins.
29 They're almost like twins harassing our Coordinators all
30 the time. I just had tons of fun with Vince. So, Pollock.

31
32 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
33 wanted to make a few comments too. I've been sitting on
34 the Fish and Game Board for many years. It was in 1972,
35 I was sitting in my log cabin in Hughes, I mean,
36 Allakaket. And then somebody from (indiscernible) came
37 in, asked me, there's a committee forming to try and ask
38 if you want to be on that committee. I said okay. And
39 he said you (indiscernible). So, you guys are just
40 (indiscernible). What kind of? -- what committee,
41 talking about what? And he said, you'll be talking about
42 fish and game. I said okay. For how long? He said three
43 years. You're elected for three years. And at that time
44 I didn't realize 50 years later I still be talking fish
45 and game. But I guess I want to preserve the fish and
46 game for next generation. That's why I keep coming back
47 to these meetings and sit down with all of you guys. I
48 had dogs all on my life, I still have many dogs. Me and
49 my wife, we fish for sheefish and whitefish. Couldn't
50 get (indiscernible). It was (indiscernible) during that

1 time in later part of August. The water kept coming up
2 and (indiscernible) one foot on the floor. But it went
3 back down again. But experts claim this shall be one for
4 every hundred years. But something is wrong. There's
5 been (indiscernible) floods in Allakaket in the last 50
6 years. So, guess again. But there's some houses that has
7 to be rebuilt in Allakaket.

8
9 Talking about hatcheries. I'm not too
10 worried about hatcheries. They produce a strong, healthy
11 fish. And they (indiscernible) put a hatchery in the
12 Yukon River and releasing million fish, million salmon,
13 have fish up to our ears, but that we aren't sure either.
14 The more I talk with (indiscernible) back home, they
15 want to rebuild the wild stock. And (indiscernible) and
16 Tanana Chiefs (indiscernible) fish (indiscernible)
17 sometime. (Indiscernible), rat the fish that were pulled
18 from our river, that's what we were accustomed to. In
19 1974, they start pushing (indiscernible) with the oil
20 pipeline route. That was the last time we saw caribou
21 come to Allakaket. Prior to that, it was caribou few
22 miles to the north and back. There was caribou running
23 all the time to the south (indiscernible) mountains.
24 (Indiscernible) caribou have that well-timbered area and
25 they travel that far and they come out in February,
26 March, with a lot of fat on them, but they don't come
27 around anymore. Our elders tell us to -- our elders tell
28 us to preserve the fish and game. They tell us to take
29 only what we need. And that worked good for us. We --
30 the salmon coming up in June. It is June, (indiscernible)
31 the first person that gets king salmon, cuts it up,
32 share it with other villagers. That worked good for us.
33 I'm saying just take what we need.

34
35 These oil pipelines roads is -- we
36 (indiscernible) at that time. A lot of people were
37 against the Haul Road, but this proved to be having good
38 jobs. I worked on the pipeline. I'm retired heavy
39 equipment operator, so I worked like five years.
40 (Indiscernible). But some of my younger (indiscernible)
41 are not quite as fortunate. They worked nine weeks on
42 the road and come back shivering, and spent two weeks
43 and spent all their money again and go back to work.
44 It's still happening today. (Indiscernible) wanted
45 Ambler Road (indiscernible) so that young people could
46 make money. But I see at the working village
47 (indiscernible) get paid and (indiscernible) to
48 Fairbanks come back and work again. Do the same thing.
49 So, that's what it is.

50

1 Well, anyway, there's no more
2 subsistence priority, no more food stamps, no more free
3 money. But still, I still live in Allakaket. Still eat
4 fish and meat. (Indiscernible) in Allakaket, some
5 younger people are going to Fairbanks to go to school
6 and find a job. But I'm glad I was here (indiscernible)
7 for a couple of years for a while. But I'm doing better
8 now. I'd like to thank Jack and Jenny, Robert
9 (indiscernible) for coming to this table and give good
10 advice. Thank you for running the meetings, Jack. Thank
11 you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,
14 Pollock. I'm glad to see you at this meeting. They said
15 you weren't coming and I'm really happy you made it.
16 Always good to be at a meeting with Pollock. I'll tell
17 the story on you, Pollock. You see, you told us at a
18 closing comment, he says, I get up in the morning, I
19 shave, I put on a new shirt so that when I speak, maybe
20 somebody will listen to me. And I was like, oh, we always
21 listen. It doesn't matter what you're wearing, so you
22 don't have to shave or anything, just show up. So, we'll
23 see you at the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
24 Commission. Oh, actually we're having a meeting and down
25 here in Anchorage or somewhere. Yeah, we'll see you
26 before then. So, we had a great meeting. We had a great
27 meeting with that Eastern Interior Council. They had --
28 they work real well with us. We were just like, worked
29 really good with that Council. We're right, we're in,
30 you know, unity was our main thing was happening with
31 them. So, we had -- this was a good meeting, a long
32 meeting. But we had a lot of good comments on the record.
33 We got a lot of good things done this -- we've made a
34 lot of comments on the Federal Subsistence Board Program
35 Review, North Pacific, all these various issues, all
36 super important, all the information. It all has to be
37 on the record. And I think we're -- we made a lot of
38 progress at this meeting. And if we hadn't made this
39 meeting for -- made those comments, subsistence could
40 actually go away, if Safari Club gets what they want.
41 They want to dissolve the Federal Subsistence Board, is
42 what they would like to do. And so, I think we made a
43 lot of valid comments. We pointed out the statutory
44 requirements. And so, I think we did good. So, I hope
45 everybody has a great trips home, has a good Christmas
46 holiday and look forward to seeing you at the next
47 meeting. The Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Second.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.

6 Those in favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Aye. This is Tim.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Got you, Tim.

13 Safe travels, Tim. All right. Thanks so much, everyone.

14 Oh, I forgot to mention I really appreciate this -- the

15 OSM staff and all of the agency people and all of our -

16 - Gabe, our recorder here chasing down all the problems.

17 And so, we -- Kristen is our new Anthropologist. Thanks.

18 Thanks so much. And Krystal, she's put a lot into our

19 meeting also, appreciate that. So, all right happy

20 trails.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 END OF PROCEEDINGS

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 177 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 18th 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 12th day of February 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager