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1 BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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6  
7 VOLUME I

8  
9 DOLLY HALL  
10 Naknek, Alaska  
11 March 9, 2026  
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16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17 Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair  
18 John Christensen, Jr.  
19 Richard Wilson  
20 Walter Kanulie  
21 John Rhyshek  
22 Kenneth Nukwak, Sr.  
23 Dan Dunaway  
24 Robert Hill

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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 3/09/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, good Monday morning to everybody and welcome to our Bristol Bay RAC meeting. Looking forward to hear -- hearing what everybody has to bring to the table at this meeting. It's maybe not as in depth as some of our meetings have been in the past, but that's because we just had a meeting in January, too. So, we're not so information heavy as before. I'd like to start us with a word of prayer, though. Richard, if you wouldn't mind, could you give us an invocation?

MR. WILSON: Come before you it's such a pleasure to recognize you as our sovereign Lord and that you're the overseer of all that we do. Thank you for the resources you put in front of us. And thank you especially for Billy Trefon, Lord, who is -- who has joined your family there now and just pray that you would bless their family and their needs, Lord, with the loss of Billy there. And just thank you for the opportunity to bring him before you and family. And we do thank you for all the people that have come before us and on these duties, Lord, to help maintain and help to provide for subsistence and use for our people. And just thank you for the resources you give us and pray that you would bless this time in our discussions and that we would honor you and all we do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you very much for that, Richard, and I appreciate the acknowledgement of Billy Trefon. He was a very, very valuable member of this Board and will be incredibly missed, so. With that, I would like to call the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and I'll hand the pullover to the -- to Leigh, and she can do our roll call for us.

MS. HONIG: Good morning. Leigh Honig for the record, Council Coordinator for the Bristol Bay Council. We'll start off with Walter Kanulie.

MR. KANULIE: Here.

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1 MS. HONIG: Robert Hill. I just sent him  
2 the call in number, so he should be joining us shortly.  
3 So, I'll circle back around. John Christensen.

4  
5 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Here.

6  
7 MS. HONIG: Richard Wilson

8  
9 MR. WILSON: Pretty much here.

10  
11 MS. HONIG: John Rhyshek.

12  
13 MR. RHYSHEK: Here.

14  
15 MS. HONIG: Kenneth Nukwak.

16  
17 MR. NUKWAK: Here.

18  
19 MS. HONIG: Dan Dunaway

20  
21 MR. Dunaway: Here.

22  
23 MS. HONIG: And Nanci Morris Lyon.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Here.

26  
27 MS. HONIG: All right, we have a quorum.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That's awesome. I  
30 sure appreciate everybody showing up and being on time.  
31 And we'll -- yeah, we'll look forward to having Robby  
32 join us as soon as he's available. How are we going to  
33 know that? Is somebody going to -- do you have it on  
34 your screen? Okay, great. Thanks, because I just want  
35 to make sure we get that on the minutes when it happens.  
36 Okay. And I'm also going to leave it in your hands as  
37 you've got the Election of Officers to deal with too.

38  
39 MS. HONIG: Okay. Leigh Honig, for the  
40 record. So, in accordance with the Council Charter,  
41 Council Members elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary  
42 for a 1-year term. The term usually starts at the  
43 beginning of each calendar year. And now I'd like to  
44 open the floor for nominations for Council's Chair. The  
45 nominations do not need to be seconded.

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47 MR. WILSON: I nominate Nanci Lyon.

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49 MS. HONIG: Ms. Morris Lyon was nominated  
50 to serve as the Council's Chair. All in favor, say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

MS. HONIG: Those opposed say nay.

(No response)

All right. Congratulations. Now, I'll hand it back over to you to wrap it back up.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, thank you, I appreciate it, guys. I am happy to step down anytime somebody else is ready for this seat as well, it feels like I've been here for a while. Let's open it up for nominations for our Vice Chair.

MR. WILSON: I'll nominate Dan Dunaway.

UNIDENTIFIED: I second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we've got a nomination second. Any other nominations for the seat of Vice Chair?

(No response)

Hearing none, I'll call for the question. All in favor of Dan Dunaway as our Vice Chair, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: All opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Okay, very good. Congratulations, Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. But after Chairing a meeting. I'm glad I'm not Chairman all the time. Thank you. Thank you for your confidence, everybody.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And I need a nomination for Secretary now. And that will fulfill our spots.

MR. DUNAWAY: I'd like to nominate Richard Wilson.

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UNIDENTIFIED: I second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other nominations for the seat of Secretary?

(No response)

MR. WILSON: Oh, come on, don't be shy, somebody.

MR. DUNAWAY: You've done very well, Richard, when called upon. So, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And hearing none, we'll call for the vote. All in favor of Richard as our Secretary, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Motion carries. Congratulations, Richard, Dan. Appreciate you guys. Okay. Go ahead.

MS. HONIG: Yeah. And I believe Robert Hill just called in. Did you make it on Robert?

MR. HILL: Yep. I just made it.

MS. HONIG: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes. Thank you so much for joining us, Robert, this is Nanci. Just appreciate you being there. We just finished -- we're on the agenda and we just finished our Election of Officers. I'm your Chair for another season and Dan Dunaway is our Vice Chair and Richard is our Secretary. So, we're going to hand it over to Leigh right now so she can share the Meeting Announcements with us.

MS. HONIG: Thanks, Leigh Honig for the record, again. So welcome, everybody, to the Winter Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. And thank you all for joining us here in the room and online. I do have a few housekeeping announcements and reminders. For those attending in -- our meeting in person, please make sure you sign in at the front counter over there, for each day that you attend the meeting. And if you would like to address the Council, we have blue little testifier cards that you

1 can hand out -- or fill out and hand to any OSM staff  
2 and we'll make sure you are heard. For those joining by  
3 phone or by Teams who would like to provide comments,  
4 you can press star 5 to raise your hand and we will call  
5 on you. And if you're on the Teams platform, you can  
6 just use the raise your hand function. Written comments  
7 can also be accepted and sent to our email address that's  
8 at subsistence@ios.doi.gov. There are copies of the most  
9 recent agenda on the table, and for those -- council  
10 members, we have a blue supplemental packet for you and  
11 that also has the most recent agenda. You can also find  
12 all of the meeting materials online by going to  
13 doi.gov/subsistence. You can go to the Regions tab and  
14 select Bristol Bay and then select the Meeting Materials  
15 tile.

16  
17 And for folks online, if you could,  
18 please remember to mute your phone when you are not  
19 addressing the Council. To do that, you can press star  
20 6 and that'll mute and unmute your phone. As a reminder  
21 about conduct and ethics during the meeting. If you feel  
22 you have any conflicts of interest on anything, you can  
23 excuse yourself from a vote or discussion. And also, we  
24 ask that everyone remain respectful throughout the  
25 meeting. I'd also like to remind folks that the meeting  
26 is being recorded and transcribed. So, when you go to  
27 speak, if you wouldn't mind saying your name to begin  
28 with, that will help with the transcription service.  
29 Okay, that is all I have. Thank you so much.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you very much  
32 Leigh. Go ahead, come on in, guys. We're just getting  
33 started. So, I would like to welcome everybody here. I  
34 did get to thinking on the drive down here that it's --  
35 it is -- this probably was not our best choice of dates.  
36 Because this -- we're not going to have much community  
37 participation or young -- youth participation because  
38 it is -- yeah, everybody's out on spring break and gone,  
39 you know, on trips to Anchorage and whatnot. So that's  
40 on us. But it's been rather an odd winter with all the  
41 government shutdowns and everything else that we've had  
42 to deal with. So that is kind of a bummer. But not seeing  
43 a whole lot of new faces here. But in the interest of  
44 making sure we have everybody on record, I would  
45 appreciate it -- first, we'll start online, and have  
46 everybody introduce yourselves and tell them who you're  
47 with online. And then I'd like it if everybody in the  
48 audience would introduce themselves as well and tell us  
49 where you're from and the same way with our Council  
50 members. So, everybody kind of knows whose representation

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1 they have. Thank you.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: Hi, Madam Chair. George  
4 Anderson, Chignik Intertribal Coalition. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, George.  
7 Thanks for calling in.

8

9 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hi, it's John  
10 Christensen from Port Heiden.

11

12 MR. NUKWAK: Hi, Kenneth Nukwak, Sr.,  
13 from Manokotak.

14

15 MR. HILL: Hey, good morning. Robert  
16 Hill, Kokhanok.

17

18 MS. HONIG: Kristen or Hannah, would you  
19 like to introduce yourselves?

20

21 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
22 Hannah Voorhees. I'm an Anthropologist with OSM.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MS. HONIG: Kristen, can you go ahead and  
27 introduce yourself?

28

29 MS. MORROW: Thanks, Leigh. Sorry about  
30 that. I think there's a disconnect with my audio for a  
31 minute. Good morning, this is Kristen Morrow with the  
32 Anthropology Division at OSM.

33

34 MS. RUPP: Morning, Madam Chair and  
35 Council, this is Liza Rupp, Lake Clark National Park and  
36 Preserve, Subsistence Coordinator.

37

38 MS. SKORA: Good morning. My name is  
39 Leslie Skora, Wildlife Biologist at Katmai National  
40 Park.

41

42 MR. GERKEN: Good morning, Jon Gerken  
43 Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Federal In-Season  
44 Fisheries Manager.

45

46 MR. WEHAUSEN: Good morning, Madam Chair  
47 and Council, Brian Wehausen. I'm the Refuge Manager for  
48 Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

49

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1 MS. SANDERS: Good morning. I am Suzanne  
2 Sanders, Natural Resource Program Manager for Katmai  
3 National Park and Preserve.

4  
5 MS. HILL: Hi, I'm B.J. Hill, a  
6 subsistence user since 1967.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you so much  
9 for coming, B.J.

10  
11 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning, Madam Chair,  
12 members of the Council. My name is Cory Graham and I'm  
13 a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Cory.

16  
17 MS. TIBBETTS: My name is Mary Tibbetts  
18 and I'm a subsistence fisherman, as well as commercial  
19 and I've fished for over 50 years.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you so much  
22 for showing up, Mary.

23  
24 MR. TIBBETTS: My name is George  
25 Tibbetts. I'm a resident and we harvest everything.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. George,  
28 thanks for coming today.

29  
30 MR. TIBBETTS: Whatever we can catch, you  
31 know.

32  
33 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just wondering how many  
34 flights I rode with you, George, over the years. It's  
35 always a pleasure.

36  
37 MS. HOLMAN: Kendra Holman, Wildlife  
38 Biologist with OSM.

39  
40 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. Katya  
41 Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor with  
42 OSM. Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Katya.

45  
46 MR. STURM: And good morning, everyone.  
47 Mark Sturm, Superintendent Katmai National Park and  
48 Preserve in Aniakchak.

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks, Mark,  
2 thanks for coming. Okay, with that, I appreciate  
3 everybody's involvement here. And please, especially to  
4 our elders, I -- we really appreciate you guys being  
5 here and would welcome any comments that you guys have  
6 to make throughout the meeting. Please do not hesitate  
7 to let us know. Just raise your hand and I will recognize  
8 you and we will be happy to hear anything you have to  
9 add, okay? Has everybody had a chance to take a look at  
10 the agenda?

11  
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. The one thing I  
13 wasn't sure if we had it in the action item, but we do  
14 have it included. That we want to approve the letter to  
15 Billy Trefon heirs and to sign it and I didn't see it  
16 in the agenda. So, I'm not sure where to put it.

17  
18 MS. HONIG: So, I was going to do a brief  
19 announcement or discussion about it during the  
20 Correspondence Update, under Miscellaneous Business. And  
21 then I do have a printed copy available that I was going  
22 to put out for Council Members to sign and send on to  
23 Crystal.

24  
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, if we could  
26 note that under Correspondence, make sure we get that  
27 done and I'd appreciate it.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We can certainly  
30 entertain a motion adding that to it if you like.

31  
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Move to adopt the  
33 agenda with that change to address Billy Trefon -- letter  
34 to Billy's daughter directly and heirs and friends.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Under  
37 correspondence, correct?

38  
39 MR. WILSON: Second the motion.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Richard,  
42 we have a motion and a second. Is there any more  
43 discussion on the agenda?

44  
45 (No response)

46  
47 Okay. Hearing none, I'll call for the  
48 question. All in favor of approving the agenda with the  
49 addition of the Billy Trefon correspondence, please  
50 signify by saying aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you very much. With that then let's go on to our Regional Subsistence Reports, Council Member Reports. John, would you like to start us off this time? Just give us an idea of what you -- actually, let me start with those online because that can be more of a challenge. So, since I said, John Christensen, would you like to give us your report first, please?

MR. CHRISTENSEN: We've been freezing and blizzarding here. We haven't had a plane since Thursday, so I haven't really been out too often. There has been caribou nearby, but not in town. Still a large amount of ptarmigan in the area. And with the bay freezing up out there, I would -- I expect to see sea otters trying to cross over soon. So, we could harvest those. And that's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great. Thanks, John. You got a question from Member Dunaway.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thanks, John. As we drove down, we were talking about sea otters in Port Heiden, and I was wondering how they were faring. When you say they're cross over where do they go out into the bay proper or how on that? Over.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: When the bay here freezes up, they like to try cross over to the Pacific side to reach water as a last attempt to survive, I guess. And they usually don't make it, but they try. But yeah, they'll start running across the ice trying to reach open water.

MR. DUNAWAY: Wow. Thanks, John. That's amazing. That'd be quite a hike for a sea going animal. So, thank you very much.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes, it was, I think one winter there was like over 40 harvested, just because they would be lying next to the road dead and dying, and people just put them out of their misery.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Somebody had some nice hats and gloves from that. That's too bad though. Thank you for that report, John. Robert, would you share, please?

1

2 MR. HILL: Yeah, Nanci. We're same, same  
3 [sic]. You know, it's cold. We've had some snow. Just  
4 around Kokhanok itself it's been tough travel [sic]. The  
5 ice has been great. So, traveling on the lake has been  
6 good, but getting back up into the mountains as far as  
7 trying to access that caribou herd up there, which kind  
8 of -- everybody's kind of keeping an eye on. We haven't  
9 had a lot of success doing that until recently. We've  
10 got some snow cover again, but it's all been really  
11 windblown. So, trying to get any kind of a snowmachine  
12 up the mountain has been a challenge. We've seen a good  
13 number of ptarmigan and the rabbit population seems to  
14 be holding steady still. Which is kind of both -- a  
15 surprise to me [sic]. And I don't know, we saw late fish  
16 coming in into the pools up there. Right until things  
17 started freezing up, so. I don't know, it's been a  
18 different -- I think maybe more of a traditional winter  
19 for us up here. So, it's been good.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great. Thank you.  
22 Any questions?

23

24 (No response)

25

26 Okay. Seeing none. Kenneth, would you  
27 care to give your report, please?

28

29 MR. NUKWAK: Hi, good morning. It's kind  
30 of a same but actually, a little different this year. I  
31 was expecting a bit of a different winter this year. I  
32 mean, probably not different. I was expecting the  
33 winter, like last year, horrible winter. And from that,  
34 I forgot to completely check the bearings on my  
35 driveshaft on my snow machines, and they're both down.  
36 Waiting for a new one -- new snowmachine to come in.  
37 Other than that, I have not been out hunting this year,  
38 but my son-in-law has been out there. And hardly any  
39 snow. There is snow, but not a lot. Not enough to cover  
40 the red brushes where the moose are usually at and the  
41 ptarmigans. And it seems like when I look at the pictures  
42 of the Dillingham people that go hunting out there, in  
43 the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd seems like they're  
44 further into the (In Native) Mountains. So, I'm thinking  
45 the caribou are further northwest -- north and  
46 northwest, kind of somewhere around there.

47

48 The moose. I haven't been out and about,  
49 like I said, without snowmachine. And the ptarmigan --  
50 but I've been seeing ptarmigan here and there close to

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1 the community. I'm expecting them to start coming in if  
2 a blizzard ever comes in. But according to the forecast,  
3 I don't see any blizzard coming. Other than that, there's  
4 finally enough snow for people to start moving around  
5 between villages. Dillingham, Manokotak, Dillingham,  
6 Togiak, Twin Hills, and so on. Especially with this  
7 freezing and thawing freeze up, starting early in the -  
8 - end of February. That's about it on my report.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you very much,  
11 Kenneth. Any questions?

12  
13 (No response)

14  
15 Okay. Seeing none. Then, John Rhyshek,  
16 I'll ask you again.

17  
18 MR. RHYSHEK: John Rhyshek, King Salmon.  
19 So, now that I'm in my older years. I'm becoming more  
20 selective on my moose harvest. Not by the quality of the  
21 animal, but more by the location. So, it took me until  
22 the 23rd of this year to find one right next to the  
23 river. And so, we were fortunate enough to kill a really  
24 nice bull on the 23rd. Had several opportunities before  
25 that but they were just going to be too much of a pack  
26 job. I did see half a dozen caribou on Pike's [sic] Lake  
27 last week. I thought that was kind of an anomaly. I  
28 rarely have seen them on this side of the river.

29  
30 I've -- I have seen about a normal  
31 population of ptarmigan. I've seen more some years, I've  
32 seen less, a lot of years. But this year, you know, you  
33 see them here and there. So, I think it's kind of like  
34 middle of the road. Snowshoe hare I think are on the  
35 decline. I'm not seeing as many in the mornings on my  
36 way to work. But that might have the effect of, you  
37 know, this winter. I see a lynx on the way to work  
38 probably at least every 10 to 12 days, I'm seeing a  
39 Lynx. It could be the same cat or not. I don't know, but  
40 I've seen the same cat probably about 12 or 14 times  
41 throughout the winter.

42  
43 Got a big cow moose and some calves  
44 hanging around the house on the south side of Pike's  
45 Ridge there. They've been there in and out throughout  
46 the winter. And kind of an anomaly. I've only -- I only  
47 threw a subsistence net 3 times this past summer and on  
48 all 3 times I caught it -- I caught a jumbo king salmon.  
49 Even the last week of July catching a jumbo king salmon,  
50 and it's kind of sad to see that, but I guess I'll take

1 what I can get. So, hopefully that is maybe an indication  
2 that the numbers into the river of the king salmon are  
3 hopefully maybe on a somewhat of an incline. That's about  
4 it really. Other than dealing with really, really cold  
5 temperatures and not a lot of snow, ground coverage at  
6 work, we're dealing with, you know, a lot of frost lines  
7 showing up a lot deeper than what we normally see on  
8 typical years. And that just makes a chaos for frozen  
9 pipes and water wells and stuff like that. So, that's  
10 my report.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, John. Any  
13 questions?

14  
15 (No response)

16  
17 Okay. Seeing none. Richard.

18  
19 MR. WILSON: Yeah, good morning. Yeah.  
20 Kind of echoing what has already been said. You know,  
21 we -- the wife and I, actually had an opportunity to --  
22 with the good snow coverage, to go to the North Peninsula  
23 herd there and a couple permits and we end up scoring,  
24 which is good. Last year was rather difficult, of course,  
25 lack of snow, but this year, we've been pretty fortunate  
26 around here to have some very nice conditions. It came  
27 down to, you know, a little later after a good freeze  
28 up, and snow fell and it didn't blow sideways, so it  
29 laid flat and froze up and then another layer. So here  
30 we are, you know, we got a real good conditions here at  
31 this point. And of course, we -- opportunity persists  
32 [sic] we go to the river, and the auger didn't quite  
33 make it through yesterday. I had to use the ice pick to  
34 finish it up. So, it's about 3 and a half, 4 feet or  
35 better. It was kind of interesting. And we ended up with  
36 2 smelt. One of them, she threw on the ice. And I go,  
37 where is it? She goes, it's right there. I couldn't see  
38 it. It was so small. But yeah, good opportunities. Real  
39 happy for, you know, the winter that we've, you know,  
40 more of a normal kind of winter here.

41  
42 And I did see a lynx the other day and  
43 walked right by the house. And our young pup went out  
44 and barking at it, and lynx didn't seem to care, just  
45 kind of kept going on about his business. I guess that's  
46 what they do. So, that was that was kind of cool. My  
47 aunt Rose had indicated here last week she saw an arctic  
48 hare in her yard, and she generally does. Yes, the bigger  
49 ones. Yeah. So, there's been a couple cited throughout  
50 there and that lynx has been hanging out around this end

1 of town. So, I don't know, it might be a -- it might be  
2 a few that hadn't got snared yet. I seen [sic] a report  
3 on one of our young trappers. It looked like it did  
4 pretty well this year. You know, and some of those guys  
5 that are active out there got some, you know, got some  
6 pretty good fur and which was good to see. I didn't see  
7 a whole lot of like land otter those kind of things in  
8 his catch, but most of them were, you know, land-based  
9 animals. And so that's good to see. The guys are still  
10 getting out and being able to utilize that.

11  
12 This December there was -- I have only  
13 -- I only saw one individual coming back with a set of  
14 moose horns in the winter moose hunt. So, I'm not quite  
15 sure, you know, how that -- I'm sure we'll hear numbers,  
16 but I haven't -- other than that, that's about all I  
17 seen there. And I'm happy that Kokhanok is -- and Igiugig  
18 is getting opportunities. I know Igiugig had an  
19 opportunity here. I think last week or week before and  
20 they went out and got, you know, I don't know how many  
21 they got out of their allowed amount. But they were,  
22 they made it up into the hills there. And you can see  
23 that the snow is up in that area, is kind of wind  
24 blowing, and so, it's pretty challenging up in that area.  
25 But they're making it work and it's good to see. Good  
26 to see people out getting that resource. And it's about  
27 all I got for now. Thanks.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Richard.  
30 Any questions?

31  
32 (No response)

33  
34 Okay. Walter, would you care to give  
35 your report?

36  
37 MR. KANULIE: I haven't really gotten  
38 anywhere lately. I know one of my friends said they went  
39 to west of the -- southwest of the village, and said it  
40 was still pretty bumpy, you know, because it's like flat  
41 around that area. And if the snow isn't wind-blown, like  
42 east wind-blown, it'll be rough. So, but -- I -- he said  
43 they finally got one, after going out how many times?  
44 And it's because of that -- the snow conditions. So, --  
45 and I haven't really been paying attention to how many  
46 moose have been caught, but I don't think that -- it  
47 hasn't been that much because of the conditions that  
48 we've had so far. My late aunt, how many years ago, said  
49 that we anymore -- we get winter, like around this time  
50 of year, late February, March, so. The bay has been

1 frozen, it didn't go out -- it didn't break up this  
2 year. So, it -- and there's quite a bit of snow up in  
3 the mountains. So that, as far as commercial fishing  
4 goes, it gives you kind of a good hope that there'll be  
5 lots. The bay frozen and snow up in the mountains, so.  
6 And then, of course, there's smelting. I know some people  
7 ventured up to the river probably trout fish, but I  
8 haven't gone. But that's.....

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Walter  
11 Anybody have any questions? Dan.

12  
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Just to clarify, Walter.  
14 When you said somebody finally got one, you're speaking  
15 of moose. Okay. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. And Dan,  
18 would you care to give your report, please?

19  
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah. Let's see.  
21 We've had, it seems like plenty of snow. Quite a bit of  
22 snow. It's never melted off. Travel conditions right  
23 close to Dillingham are pretty good, but my sno-go still  
24 isn't right, so I haven't got out. Some people are  
25 getting out and looking for Nushagak caribou. Some  
26 people say it's -- it -- well, some of them gone all the  
27 way to the end of the Cape, so maybe they just didn't  
28 mind it was rough. But I've heard it's rough. But like  
29 other -- Kenneth said, it sounds like the caribou are  
30 tending to go northwest, just like what was a concern  
31 in the last Board of Game meeting. I had some friends I  
32 was going to go with, but my sno-go wasn't right and I  
33 wasn't feeling confident. They took off in a fog that I  
34 never would have left in, but they got turned around.  
35 Finally, it cleared up, but they got into heavy snow  
36 near Foothills and never saw caribou. They said they saw  
37 lots of ptarmigan and other people are saying they're  
38 seeing lots of ptarmigan. There's a few in town when we  
39 get a real hard northwest blow, you know. And there's  
40 ptarmigan out towards the hospital or around town.  
41 That's encouraging. I've been trying to stop by the Fish  
42 and Game, I believe, Evelyn Lichwa, who was the Assistant  
43 Wildlife Biologist. I believe she's been promoted to  
44 full Area Biologist, but I can't confirm it yet. To  
45 replace our -- the loss of John Landsiedel. So, I haven't  
46 been able to talk to her much. I see that she extended  
47 the 17A moose hunt because only about 20 moose were  
48 caught, and there's a lot of people pretty interested.  
49 Travel conditions are decent. So, between that and  
50 trying to get some caribou, we might be seeing some meat

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1 coming to Dillingham. And I think trapping access was  
2 tough for quite a while, but our main trapper has been  
3 out. I think he's pulled most of his traps the other day  
4 and I haven't really heard how he's done. So, that's  
5 about all. I have a little bit of smelting going on.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks, Dan.  
8 Any questions?

9

10 (No response)

11

12 Okay. Good enough. Well, and yeah, I'm,  
13 I'm would be pretty much just echoing everybody's words  
14 here too. Other than, you know, my observations that  
15 kind of you know, back up what everybody has said. I'm  
16 planning on going moose hunting with John because I like  
17 the ones that are right next to the creek now. I think  
18 that is a fabulous idea. I'm of the age that that's --  
19 those tastes better than the rest of them. And -- but I  
20 do want to say too, we were talking about the  
21 opportunities for caribou in Kokhanok and Igiugig and I  
22 have followed those quite closely. And what I'm also  
23 really encouraged by is, they are using those  
24 opportunities to get youth in the village out to assist  
25 in those hunts or even be the takers in those hunts. And  
26 I think that is huge and that is great. And they're  
27 bringing them back and letting the village all enjoy it.  
28 And I just applaud the opportunity to be there. And what  
29 they've done with their opportunity is even expand on  
30 what I had hoped would happen with it. So, I just wanted  
31 to say that I just really recognize them having done  
32 that really well.

33

34 And as far as the king salmon go, John,  
35 I -- you're right. You know, through our lodge  
36 participation we have seen for the last 2 years now  
37 better kings, better king numbers in the river. It's  
38 really unfortunate because nobody enumerates them. So,  
39 we have nothing to prove what we're actually seeing in  
40 our nets and on the end of our lines. I'm not saying it  
41 has a big comeback. It's still far, far, far from where  
42 it was back in the 80s. There's just not even a  
43 comparison, but it is something and you don't hear  
44 positive things about king salmon very often. But this  
45 river out here, the Naknek is the one in particular I'm  
46 talking about. The Nushagak has been -- we also keep a  
47 camp over there, and it has not -- I cannot say the same  
48 for it, and it definitely has not shown improvement for  
49 several years now. And we'll see if the Board of Fish  
50 actions that were taken this winter make any better

00017

1 progress than the ones we were trying to make. So,  
2 anyway.

3  
4 And lastly. Speaking of ptarmigan, I had  
5 to laugh at myself. So, I spent a good portion of the  
6 winter in town helping my daughter out, who gave me  
7 another grandchild, which was a very fun thing to do.  
8 But when I got back out here, I went out to check -- one  
9 of my pilots has a house out in Pike Lake, so I went to  
10 go check on it for him, and I was driving out and I  
11 thought to myself, wow, look at who in the world dropped  
12 a bunch of their garbage and left all them plastic bags  
13 in these bushes. You could tell I've been in Palmer for  
14 too long because I took another look and I'm like, oh,  
15 those are ptarmigan. They were all fluffed up. You know  
16 how they get in the cold. Anyway, so, that was my laugh  
17 at myself because I thought to myself, I've been in town  
18 way too long.

19  
20 So anyway, I thank everybody for their  
21 reports. I thank everybody for that information. Very  
22 valuable and it's great to share that knowledge. And I  
23 appreciate your time that you took to do that for us. I  
24 don't believe we have any comments available right now  
25 on Non-Agenda Items, but I, again, I do encourage anybody  
26 in our audience and or online, if you have anything that  
27 you'd like to add or bring to the table. I run a fairly  
28 open meeting and I'm always happy to hear from you. So,  
29 action items, the Call for Federal Fisheries Proposals,  
30 who's going to present? Okay, great. Thanks, Cory. Go  
31 ahead, George, I just -- I was just notified that you  
32 might have something for us.

33  
34 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, okay. Thank you. Madam  
35 Chair are we on Public and Tribal Comment.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You are.

38  
39 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you. I'll just  
40 have a brief written testimony here. And then 2nd part  
41 of my comments on the Safari Club Petition. At the end,  
42 can I break them up into 2?

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, that would  
45 actually be preferable. Thank you, George.

46  
47 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, okay. Great. Okay  
48 well, thank you, everybody. I -- I'm George Anderson,  
49 president of the Chignik Intertribal Coalition. Since  
50 its formation, the Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

1 Representing the tribes of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon,  
2 Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville, has hosted  
3 numerous workshops to assess the needs and define the  
4 vision of our members. Our efforts in recent years have  
5 particularly concentrated on food security research  
6 initiatives and fisheries policy on both state and  
7 federal lands and waters. Our recent 4-year Fisheries  
8 research -- Resource Monitoring program, FRMP grant  
9 successfully addressed 3 significant concerns for our  
10 Chignik region.

11  
12                   Extending the rear operations. We were  
13 able to extend the operation of the state run Chignik  
14 Weir by an additional 2 weeks for each season out of the  
15 last 4 years. Improved chinook enumeration. We've  
16 compared traditional 10-minute hourly counts of chinook  
17 escapement with 24-hour video surveillance for more  
18 accurate estimate. And finally, in-season subsistence  
19 reporting. We implemented surveys to provide real time  
20 information on subsistence harvests. This project holds  
21 immense value for our communities, reflecting our deep-  
22 seated interest in the health of our salmon runs and the  
23 accuracy of our escapement counts. Historically, we have  
24 questioned the standard practice of extrapolating a 10-  
25 minute count to represent an entire hour's escapement.  
26 To address this, the FRMP grant enabled a collaborative  
27 effort between ADF&G and federal agencies to record  
28 escapement 24/7, using the camera footage at both gates  
29 of our weir. The data analyses is a highly labor  
30 intensive as ADF&G reviews 48 hours of footage per day  
31 because 24 hours on 2 cameras is 48 hours of footage.  
32 So, it's really highly labor-intensive work. While the  
33 delayed grant approval meant we lacked data for 2022,  
34 the information from 2023 and 2024 confirms our local  
35 knowledge. The actual 24/7 camera counts are  
36 approximately -- and this is estimated because it's  
37 early, 8% higher than the traditional 10-minute  
38 extrapolated estimates. This 8% difference, although it  
39 sounds small, is pretty significant as our commercial  
40 sockeye access is directly tied to our chinook  
41 escapement, with a lower bound goal of 1,300 chinook.  
42 This 8% represents an additional 100 fish, so we are  
43 currently limited to 48 hours of commercial sockeye  
44 access per week. While awaiting this chinook escapement.  
45 So, you can see that 100 fish can mean whether we fish  
46 or not on our sockeye.

47  
48                   I mentioned earlier extending our weirs  
49 operation by 2 weeks provides a valuable information on  
50 escapement and the apportionment of our various stocks.

1 Further, our program improved on the state's previous  
2 subsistence surveys, which heavily relied on historical  
3 harvests. By filling in crucial information gaps, this  
4 created local employment for a Chignik Lake resident and  
5 fostered better information sharing and networking with  
6 our surrounding communities. It also provided a more  
7 detailed understanding of the distinct cultural uses we  
8 have for our early run and our late run sockeye. Also,  
9 tracking our highly sought after redbfish harvest in late  
10 fall and into early winter. Expanding our food network  
11 sharing time well into the end of the year towards the  
12 -- into December. The project also allowed us to closely  
13 examine how harvest sharing patterns have changed since  
14 the Covid 19 pandemic and following our disaster years  
15 of '18, '20, '21 and '22, when our locals voluntary --  
16 voluntarily reduced subsistence fishing to allow for  
17 greater sockeye and chinook escapements.

18  
19 Our current stocks of concern status for  
20 early run sockeye and chinook is a major worry for our  
21 communities. As we work toward rebuilding these stocks  
22 to historical levels. We're encouraged in the recent  
23 review and update on the state side for our Stocks of  
24 Concern action plans that just occurred last month,  
25 which would allow for a midpoint escapement goal among  
26 the delisting criteria instead of the bare minimum of  
27 the lower bound escapement. And I can get into that if  
28 you need to. So, I just in closing, I really appreciate  
29 this FRMP project and look forward to continuing this  
30 work and expanding on it in the future. So, thank you  
31 for your time to share.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I'd like to  
34 open it up for questions. Any questions from anybody?  
35 Dan.

36  
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Not so much a question, but  
38 (indiscernible) could really come to appreciate George's  
39 presence at our meetings and his added information. It's  
40 really, really helpful. And that's sounds really  
41 encouraging what they're doing. So, keep up the good  
42 work, George. Thank you.

43  
44 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Thanks, Dan. Through  
45 the Chair. Yeah, it's a very collaborative effort  
46 without ADF&G and of course I see Frank Harris on here,  
47 Jon Gerken, everybody, you know, is making this  
48 possible. Is -- it really appreciated. Thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Dan.

1

2

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. And then I was -- got behind on my notes. Could you -- the last couple comments you made about changing escapement goals or regarding escapement goals? Could you run that by me again, please?

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MR. ANDERSON: Sure. Yeah. Recently, at the state Board of Fish here last month, both of our delisting criteria for our stocks of concern were up for review. So, at any rate, the state Board of Fish, instead of having delisting of 3 to 5 years or 4 out of 6, depending on which qualifier you use, the bar was set low and reaching your minimum escapement goal for either stock, either early or on sock eye or chinook. To wear 1 of those 3 years or 1 of those 4 of 6, you had to reach a midpoint escapement goal, thus raising the bar. If that makes sense, Dan. To where you're not just meeting your minimum escapement goal for the threshold years. That you actually have to show improvement or a rebuilding, which I think is a definition of entering into a stock concern is to show rebuilding. So, the State's Board, I feel did a good job in raising that bar just a little higher than just reaching for the, the lower end escapement goal, which in my opinion doesn't really show rebuilding process. Did that answer your question?

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Very well. Yeah, that's -- that does sound good. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. George, I would like to echo Dan's comments about appreciation for, you know, your reports, and presence at the meetings. I have been following this Chignik salmon issue for many years and have flown down there a couple times even for meetings. And I'm thrilled to hear, you know, that we're finally getting some of the research and information that we need on that. I was curious to know, can you tell us just very briefly how that in-season subsistence reporting is being managed? What does that look like on the ground?

MR. ANDERSON: Well, we have a local Chignik Lake resident that had been reaching out, you know we had built a survey to be done. And to avoid survey fatigue, we -- every other week she reaches out to different folks. So, you're not being bothered all the time. So, she reaches out and sees what -- what's being caught where, who it's being shared with. Just you know, real time information, like I said. And this goes

1 on until, you know, October and this is really good. I  
2 do admit we, we had a comprehensive state survey finally  
3 last spring, which is good, but those are so far and few  
4 between, you know, in my lifetime, there may be half a  
5 dozen done and I'm no young person anymore. So, I really  
6 like this real time surveys being done. It's more  
7 informative for us.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Thank you,  
10 George. Yeah. I see a huge value in the in-season and,  
11 you know, more immediacy rather than waiting a year or  
12 2 even sometimes, you know, to have information  
13 available. That's that is huge. Thank you very much. Any  
14 other questions?

15  
16 (No response)

17  
18 Okay. I don't see any others. Do you  
19 want to go ahead and go on with your next report?

20  
21 MR. ANDERSON: Sure, yeah. This one's not  
22 as formal, but I will have a written one in for that.  
23 And this is regarding that petition put in by the Safari  
24 Club. You know, just listening to the regional reports  
25 previous to this topic you know, it's so informative  
26 listening to folks talk about, you know, what's going  
27 on around their communities, their engagement with, you  
28 know, everything going on. Now, I think about the Federal  
29 Subsistence Board and them wanting to remove seats like  
30 that. It would be so detrimental, I think to the process.  
31 Not having this expertise that's even found -- this  
32 morning, listening to it. Every time I tune into these,  
33 I learn a little bit about each community and not having  
34 that access. I believe those seats on the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board, this Council State Board of Fisheries  
36 need -- those seats need to be filled with folks who  
37 occupy and engage with the wildlife, you know, fish on  
38 our federal lands and state waters too. I think it would  
39 be detrimental if those seats were not filled by the  
40 folks that can recognize when there's a scarcity or  
41 abundance in access to our resources. So, I'll just close  
42 it there. That's just my initial thoughts on that. And  
43 I promise to have a written letter in by the end of the  
44 -- I think it's a March 30 deadline now. Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, George, I will  
47 confirm that March 30 deadline. That was my memory and  
48 I'm getting head shakes here from our folks that are in  
49 the know more than me. That will be super appreciated,  
50 very much so. Any questions from anybody for George? Go

1 ahead, Richard.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Oh, just a thought. This  
4 discussion are we having later on in our agenda, we'll  
5 be able to discuss more about this issue. Correct? Thank  
6 you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. Thank  
9 you again for your time. Anything else that you would  
10 like to give us before we move on?

11

12 MR. ANDERSON: No, just appreciate the  
13 space to share. And I'm going to stay on stand as long  
14 as I can today. And thank you for letting me get through  
15 the testimony here, and I will send a written one to the  
16 address there, Ms. Honig provided us with. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, that would be  
19 very much appreciated. I'm sure. So, thank you for taking  
20 the time to do that as well. Okay. With that, then we'll  
21 go ahead and move on. Yep. Cory. I'll give you the floor.

22

23 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
24 Members of the Council again, my name is Cory Graham and  
25 I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM. I'm here to announce  
26 our Call for Federal Fisheries Proposals. The Federal  
27 Subsistence Board is currently accepting proposals to  
28 change federal subsistence fisheries regulations for the  
29 2027 through 2029 regulatory cycle. The Board will  
30 accept proposals through April 3rd. The Board will  
31 consider proposals to change seasons, harvest limits,  
32 methods and means, and customary and traditional use  
33 determinations for federal fisheries. The Board will  
34 also accept role determination proposals. If the Council  
35 wishes to submit a proposal, you'll need to do so at  
36 this meeting. The public may also submit proposals to  
37 change federal fisheries regulations. The public can  
38 find information on how to submit proposals on our  
39 website at [doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries](http://doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries). And if the  
40 public has any problems finding that, they can always  
41 reach out to OSM, and we'd be happy to help you get a  
42 proposal in. The proposals will be analyzed by OSM staff  
43 and presented to the Councils during your fall meetings  
44 for council recommendations. Proposal analysis and  
45 council recommendations will be presented to the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board for its action during the February  
47 2027 Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. And with that, does  
48 the Council have any proposals you would like to put  
49 forward? Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, but I'm going  
2 to -- this part always confuses me. I work a little  
3 differently in my own realm and businesses, so. But I  
4 know that we've had an extensive list of projects that  
5 we have put forward. Several have been approved, most  
6 of them have not been funded, and I get that. But can  
7 we -- in addition to asking for new proposals, can we  
8 review that old list so we don't have to reinvent the  
9 wheel and decide if we want to remove any of those or  
10 if we want to keep some of them on there? Is that a  
11 possibility? It just now occurred to me. Go ahead.  
12

13 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair. And just to be  
14 clear, are you talking about are we talking about Federal  
15 Fisheries Proposals change regulations? Are you talking  
16 about the FRMP projects?  
17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You know, I'm  
19 talking about the projects and we're talking about regs  
20 here, right? Okay. So, I'm mixing oil and vinegar. Okay,  
21 so let's not do that then. Does anybody have any  
22 proposals that they'd like to see for the next go round  
23 at the moment? Leigh.  
24

25 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, I'm sorry to  
26 interrupt. I just wanted to -- Hannah Voorhees was going  
27 to speak to the Rural Determination Proposals too. Cory  
28 spoke to it briefly, but I think Hannah had just a little  
29 bit more to share on that. So, if we could circle back  
30 around, and then we can jump into the Fisheries Proposals  
31 or Role Determination Proposals as well.  
32

33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, absolutely.  
34 Hannah. Go ahead. You have the floor.  
35

36 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
37 This is Hannah Voorhees. I'm an Anthropologist at OSM.  
38 I don't usually attend your meetings, but I'm happy to  
39 be able to sit in today. And as Cory mentioned, we are  
40 also accepting proposals for non-rural determinations  
41 at this time. And I'm here to provide you with a brief  
42 overview of that process. And you can find, as Cory  
43 probably mentioned, you can find the call for proposals  
44 on page 7 of your meeting materials. Non-rural  
45 determination is a process for formally changing and  
46 federal regulations a community status from non-rural  
47 to rural or from rural to non-rural. Any valid non-rural  
48 determination proposals submitted this year will be  
49 acted on by the Board in 2029. The call for non-rural  
50 determination proposals occurs every 4 years, concurrent

1 with every other fisheries regulatory cycle. So, the  
2 next call for proposals for non-rural determinations  
3 will be in 2030. And this call for proposals opened in  
4 February and closes on April 3rd. And there is a flyer  
5 on our website and how to submit proposals to change  
6 non-rural determinations. The flyer includes information  
7 on where to submit a proposal and list items a proposal  
8 must contain to be accepted for consideration by the  
9 Board. And the web address for this flyer is  
10 [www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs). The flyer can be found  
11 near the bottom of the frequently asked questions page  
12 if you navigate there. And additional information may  
13 be found in the 2027 to 2029 subsistence fish and  
14 shellfish proposed rule. This is an action item. If you  
15 wish to submit any proposals today as a Council. Thank  
16 you very much for your attention and I'll try to answer  
17 any questions.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you for that,  
20 Hannah, clarification [sic]. It seems like that for  
21 years went by fast. Does anybody have any questions or  
22 comments for Hannah or any desire for submitting  
23 determinations on -- Richard.

24  
25 MR. WILSON: Oh, I just thought here, you  
26 know. This meeting is usually earlier in the year and  
27 usually there's a timeline, you know, a little greater  
28 timeline before the, you know, the April deadline. So,  
29 but fortunately, at least myself, I don't have anything  
30 that's really you know, pressing. Just for the -- we got  
31 a month left to, you know, submit something. So just a  
32 comment. Basically. I know we're kind of the -- timeline  
33 is kind of squinched a little bit this year, but I think  
34 we'll get through it. Thanks.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Right. And we're  
37 also lucky because we're all -- our determinations are  
38 pretty set as rural out here. So, we don't have on that  
39 end of it, considerations, unless we want to jump into  
40 somebody else's territory. Yeah, exactly. So, okay.  
41 Walter.

42  
43 MR. KANULIE: We, you know, there's that  
44 herd in the peninsula, that Nushagak peninsula, and then  
45 and then back home we would prefer go down to Newnham  
46 area for the caribou down there. I know they're --  
47 they've been there for a while. When they -- there are  
48 some reindeer left from that herd they had in  
49 Hagemeister. And then they had them fenced in and then  
50 they took off somewhere. So, I think that -- I think

1 they went down that way. And then some of that Mulchatna  
2 I herd, I think maybe was still down there. But we still  
3 -- I wonder if we could ever get like an opening down  
4 there. I mean I, you know, I know, ADF&G and they watch  
5 herd numbers. So, my cousin is on the tribal council  
6 back home and he's been asking about that, so.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: This is for  
9 fisheries proposals. They'll do -- we'll do the  
10 hunting.....

11  
12 (Simultaneous speech)

13  
14 MR. KANULIE: Oh.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, it's okay. You  
17 should keep it in mind because -- and the agency should  
18 be on notice now to know that, you know, come the call  
19 for hunting proposals this fall, we'll -- that'll be one  
20 that we can construct. And maybe we can have somebody  
21 contact Walter in his group. Okay. Before then, so that  
22 maybe we can have something that we can take a look at  
23 the fall meeting. Okay, but fisheries proposals, does  
24 anybody have any fisheries proposals that they'd like?  
25 Go ahead, Walter.

26  
27 MR. KANULIE: One of the people that (In  
28 Native), and I think they brought it up in that Fish and  
29 Game one in that they had recently in Anchorage. That  
30 they wanted to go from like Monday through -- the same  
31 Monday through Friday, like they do in Togiak. The --  
32 Tim Sands -- what's the term that they use over there?  
33 Bycatch or what do they call that? You know when they  
34 have too much up at the lake. Yeah. And then, and I  
35 think that'll -- I mean, if they -- I mean, because the  
36 fish go through there, I mean, the reds, they don't go  
37 up that (In Native). They just go to the Togiak and  
38 probably on up north to Goodnews maybe. But I know, when  
39 I was younger, they used to have this open the same as  
40 Togiak, I mean, in the bay, Togiak Bay. And then there  
41 were some people that because they close at Wednesday  
42 over there, it's like a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. And  
43 then the people at (In Native) over there, and drift,  
44 they wanted open longer, so.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Is that, on  
47 federal waters? Is that something, I mean, that's what  
48 this is.....

49  
50 (Simultaneous speech)

1

2 MR. KANULIE: Well, it's -- I guess it's  
3 for like ADF&G. You know, I don't know if the feds can  
4 do anything.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Yeah. This  
7 will have to be for federal waters.

8

9 MR. KANULIE: Oh, okay.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Do -- you've got the  
12 map in front of you, Dan?

13

14 MR. KANULIE: I don't think it is, you  
15 know.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm not so sure. And  
18 I was trying to remember. I was there at the Board  
19 meeting too. I thought they gave him another day or  
20 something, but I've left my phone. I think it's at the  
21 lodge. So, I was trying to get the updated memo on what  
22 was final action. And I don't have access to it. But  
23 considering we're talking about subsistence, if there's  
24 a -- insufficient opportunity for subsistence in  
25 Kulukak, I don't know if there is or isn't. I think  
26 we're talking subsistence or commercial opportunity.  
27 Because I know it was the commercial opportunity was  
28 discussed quite a bit, but we certainly should be  
29 interested if there's not enough opportunity under  
30 federal rules, we could bring it up to the Togiak Refuge  
31 and Fish and Game and Dillingham. But I honestly, I just  
32 don't know enough about it myself.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Right. And that's  
35 what I was thinking too. I was thinking -- oh, there you  
36 go. Is we need to find out because if any of that happens  
37 on federal land, then we can certainly see about, you  
38 know, getting an extension on that. You're probably not  
39 familiar enough with the area, Cory.

40

41 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry, Madam Chair. I'm not.  
42 But there may be somebody else in the room, managers or  
43 -- that know the waters better than I do.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We may have a  
46 volunteer. Thank you.

47

48 MR. GERKEN: Through the Chair, Fish and  
49 Wildlife, Jon Gerken. I think probably the best way would  
50 just be to, maybe you and I could just work on a map and

1 see exactly what you're talking about. And then we can  
2 kind of overlay the federal lands to see if there's any  
3 opportunity there. But on the general map, most of Togiak  
4 is within the refuge. So, that is federal land but going  
5 down smaller than that even I'm at a little bit of a  
6 loss there. So, thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Jon.  
9 Yeah. No, that's why I figured it -- this could be  
10 something we should be looking at if you've got people,  
11 you know, wanting better opportunity and it's on federal  
12 land and I know over there, you guys have a lot more  
13 than we do over here. So maybe at one of the breaks, you  
14 guys can put your heads together, and I'm happy to  
15 revisit this. We don't have a ton of pressing things at  
16 this meeting and if we can pull something together for  
17 submission, that would be awesome. Richard.

18  
19 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
20 Yeah, just trying to remember some of the stuff that  
21 went on with the state -- at the state level here just  
22 recently, you know, and the discussions I remember most  
23 of it was for lengthening fishing opportunities. And  
24 because of weather conditions over there, it just, you  
25 know, the -- they weren't allowed so many days of fishing  
26 and they wanted to extend those dates or those times.  
27 So, they have better opportunity in Kulukak area. So,  
28 that's kind of what I remember. Some of that.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. Anybody  
31 else have any other ideas they'd like for Federal  
32 Fisheries Proposals?

33  
34 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. Kenneth  
35 Nukwak.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Kenneth.  
38 You have the floor.

39  
40 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Looking at the map that  
41 I have on federal lands. I understand that part, but  
42 waters is where it's stating federal waters, and that's  
43 what confuses me. I think -- I don't know if any other  
44 Natives on the Boards or in the same shoes as I am at  
45 but that's my question. Every time I look at the map is  
46 the water part that I need more understanding on because  
47 there are state proposals and also federal proposals and  
48 who they are -- what am I trying to say here? Refer to,  
49 I think.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, where the state  
2 stops and the federal begins. Is that what you're  
3 questioning when it comes to the water?

4  
5 MR. NUKWAK: Yes.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Yeah. Let's -  
8 - can anybody give us a better window of knowledge on  
9 how that works?

10  
11 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, so can, I  
12 guess, get clarification? Are you talking about, like  
13 marine water or just the waters in general? So.....

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, it's  
16 confusing for us because those fish go from marine waters  
17 to fresh waters. So, when does it become a federal issue  
18 and when is it a state issue, and when is it a you know,  
19 marine water issue.

20  
21 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, thank you for  
22 the question. I think it from state. So, it is confusing,  
23 right? It takes a while for all of us to think through.  
24 So, I think state goes to 3 waters -- 3 miles in the  
25 marine. And then if there are federal public lands, I  
26 believe it would go to mean high tide. And Jon can  
27 correct me if I'm wrong on that. So, it would be again,  
28 do you have marine waters 3 miles offshore, state and  
29 then if it goes into federal public lands, it would  
30 start at mean high tide, I believe. And again, anyone  
31 can jump in and correct me if I'm wrong.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, so we're  
34 getting lots of nods on that, Kenneth. So basically, it  
35 sounds like it means if that water touches federal land,  
36 then it can become a federal proposal as long as it's  
37 within that range when it hits land in the mean high  
38 tide point. So, if the fishery is taking place in that  
39 area, then a federal proposal would be appropriate. Dan,  
40 go ahead.

41  
42 MR. NUKWAK: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

43  
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Dan here. I was  
45 looking at this rate book on the table in Kulukak Bay  
46 itself, I see it's got crosshatch, which I think is  
47 interpreted to be close to subsistence. We'd have to,  
48 you know, Tim Sands with the Fish and Game in Dillingham  
49 would be our best reference. And I think he's out of  
50 town at the moment. I'm not sure why, but yeah, he's my

1 next-door neighbor, so kind of keep an eye on his house,  
2 but yeah. Clarifying, you know, they typically, I would  
3 think, would want to do subsistence fishing in the bay  
4 and near the intertidal area. Probably that's a pretty  
5 small stream. They probably wouldn't want to get up very  
6 far in it. But I really have very -- other than flying  
7 over it, I have very limited experience, but you know,  
8 outside of that bay, there's probably points that would  
9 be allowed. And yeah, I think the suggestion that sitting  
10 down and figuring out what's where could be nice. But  
11 yeah, it's pretty open country and you got to be really  
12 careful out there, and Walter knows that way better than  
13 I do. So anyway, try to help there a little bit.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Kenneth. Jon  
16 also has something to add, so I'll let him speak and  
17 then call on you.

18  
19 MR. GERKEN: Yeah. Thank you, Madam  
20 Chair. Jon Gerken, Fish and Wildlife Service. Typically,  
21 with maybe just the exception of the bays around Kodiak,  
22 most of the salt water was -- is in state -- under state  
23 regulations. So anytime I hear the bay, that usually  
24 means it's going to be within state regulations. Way,  
25 way back when, a lot of these used to be under federal  
26 fishing regulations, but the majority of the bays were  
27 cut out from federal regulations and then are managed  
28 under the state. So, if you're in the saltwater, it's -  
29 - you're 99.9% going to be under state waters. So, Kodiak  
30 Bay being the exception off the top of my head. So,  
31 thanks.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you.  
34 Kenneth, does that help answer your question?

35  
36 (No response)

37  
38 Kenneth, you may be on mute.

39  
40 (No response)

41  
42 MS. HONIG: Kenneth. You can also push  
43 star 6 to mute and unmute yourself.

44  
45 MR. NUKWAK: Sorry, I was away from my  
46 phone getting ready to head down to the office. What was  
47 the question?

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I just wanted to know  
50 if that information was able to answer your question.

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MR. NUKWAK: Yes. But also, I'd like to add on probably on the water part, including the agendas that are sent out probably include the explanations between the state and federal, where it becomes legal and where we're not allowed. If I may say that and that's about it.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. I'm looking to the table here to see if people with way more qualifications than myself can help that one.

MR. GERKEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jon Gerken, Fish and Wildlife Service. Most of the boundaries are defined with latitude and longitude, you know GPS points. So, some of that stuff is there. I guess I would also agree with everyone probably at the table that the maps are probably not the best just in the federal regs. And sometimes maybe getting in closer is a is better. So, probably the best thing would be to either contact Cory or myself and we could look at an exact point on a map and then, you know, indeed give you one way or the other on state or salt. But yeah, I empathize with everybody here on the maps are pretty big. And we're talking pretty small. So, thank you.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Through the Chair, Kenneth.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MR. NUKWAK: I'm sorry. Thank you, through the Chair. Yeah, I think that's where people get confused between the state and federal waters. When it comes to our proposal time I think. I'll just add that on, and that's about it.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Well, there's a couple resources here if -- when in question that you can pick up the phone and call and they'll be able to probably clarify it for you. Appreciate that. Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: I'm trying to make a note to myself here. Try to get ahold of Tom Fish [sic] and Dillingham when I get home and see if I can help out a little bit sorting it out. And you know, if we see a problem, maybe work with Walter and Kenneth and submit a proposal. These days they don't allow placeholders. But maybe we could clarify with Tim and also Stan, the refuge manager. So, I'll try to commit to that, and I

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1 wouldn't mind a reminder, Leigh. So, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That's awesome,  
4 Dan, thank you very much. And, and I'll just remind  
5 everybody too, these proposals do not have to be put in  
6 by the board, if they're not done at this board meeting,  
7 we can still show our support for them when we review  
8 proposals in the fall. Would that be in the fall? Okay.  
9 So, anybody else with a potential proposal that they  
10 have in mind or they're thinking of, and if not, we'll  
11 move on and encourage you to get one written up if it  
12 pops in your head after this meeting.

13

14 (No response)

15

16 Okay. Seeing none, then we'll go on to  
17 -- actually, I suppose everybody wants a break. I know  
18 everybody always is like, I forget those. So, we'll go  
19 ahead and take a 10-minute break. That'll put us just a  
20 little bit past 10 and everybody can stretch their legs.  
21 Get something to drink.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 Okay. Thank you everyone. We'll pick up  
28 where we left off here on our Action Items. And I'll  
29 turn the floor over to Leigh to Review and Approve the  
30 Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report.

31

32 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madam Chair. So,  
33 your Annual Report can be found in your supplemental  
34 materials on Tab 2. We do have extra copies at the back  
35 table as well. So, this report was generated at the fall  
36 -- on tab 2 on this little blue book under your fishing  
37 regs right there. Yep. So, this is an opportunity for  
38 the Council to make any edits to the annual report.  
39 Unfortunately, we're not able to add any other topics  
40 at this time. But if there's any edits, or if anything  
41 needs to be amended or expanded upon, we can definitely  
42 do that. And this is an Action Item. Thank you, Madam  
43 Chair.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, you need an  
46 approval of what's here or...?

47

48 MS. HONIG: Correct.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. I'll give  
2 everybody a chance to review it a little bit again, and  
3 I'll open the floor up for a motion.

4  
5 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm going to move to adopt.  
6 Just get that out of the way.

7  
8 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll second.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Good. We have a  
11 motion and a second. Then I'll open it up for discussion  
12 and I'll still give you a second to review it.

13  
14 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Did anybody  
17 have any questions, clarifications, edits that they  
18 would like to see?

19  
20 MR. DUNAWAY: I honestly did a fairly  
21 fast skim. It seems like I kind of read some of this  
22 already. I'm not sure where, but it does seem to capture  
23 the concerns that we discussed earlier, like the small  
24 communities and some of the language issues. The concern  
25 for staffing for these OSM board members who aren't  
26 agency connected. So, it looks pretty complete to me.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Yeah, I  
29 had you review it since I wasn't Chairing the last  
30 meeting. So that's why you've seen it.

31  
32 (Simultaneous speech)

33  
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, that's where I've seen  
35 it. Where did I read this before?

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other comments?  
38 Additions, questions. Richard.

39  
40 MR. WILSON: I don't know if this is the  
41 moment -- I'm -- I was -- as I was reviewing -- I'm not  
42 sure where -- I got a note here in my book here to talk  
43 about when the about the bycatch out there in the Bering.  
44 And in noting that I had a note here that, you know, we  
45 talk a lot about the chinook and it's population and the  
46 challenges that the fisheries have with that. And I just  
47 wanted to note that there is also a, you know, we got  
48 halibut that come into our Bristol Bay waters and just  
49 wanted to make people realize that, you know, the, you  
50 know, as we look at I mean, some of the report was --

1 some of our discussion was on chinook salmon  
2 populations, you know, and the reasons why they're  
3 declining and different things. And I just wanted to  
4 comment that, you know, there is there is a harvestable  
5 surplus of halibut that comes into the bay, but the, you  
6 know, it's been pretty well noted that the bycatch, if  
7 they, you know, if they're in the right place at the  
8 right time, they could pretty much annihilate their  
9 halibut population because it's such a small part. It's  
10 only 3% or -- or one, excuse me, 1% of the Bristol Bay  
11 -- all of Bristol Bay halibut quota. But you know, it's  
12 a very small piece and it's pretty easy to, you know,  
13 to kill off that population. And we've noticed it, you  
14 know, the decline here in the last several years, there's  
15 not very much participation at all out there on halibut  
16 now because that's also a -- you know, it's being caught  
17 and those are federal waters, a lot of that. So, I just  
18 wanted to note that as one of my concerns on that.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think that is --  
21 that is an incredibly important one too. I would suggest  
22 as well -- oh. I would suggest as well -- I think that's  
23 incredibly important, Richard. Thank you for bringing  
24 it up. And I would also suggest we have that added to  
25 the list for next fall for our report. We should have  
26 had it on this one too, probably a couple of years ago,  
27 because I think your point is very well taken, but let's  
28 not let it go by again. So, you keep a list, don't you,  
29 Leigh? And let's make sure that that's on our annual  
30 report of concerns. As soon as we can get it there,  
31 which will be next fall.

32  
33 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair, thank you.  
34 Yeah. Because we've, you know, throughout the winter and  
35 some of the meetings, there's, you know, been  
36 discussion, you know, on a Togiak side, even, you know,  
37 about where the boundary is, you know, and the trawlers  
38 that are coming out there and feeding off of the  
39 yellowfin and, and things. And it's such close proximity  
40 to our fishery and the amount of bycatch they're taking,  
41 it's just unruly. So yeah, good conversations, I think.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

44  
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Missing that point. Yeah.  
46 Because in some of our commercial guys added Dillingham.  
47 It's actually just threatens their gear sometimes with  
48 those yellowfin. But yeah, there's a little bit of a  
49 subsistence activity goes on out there indicate the  
50 cape -- in the end of Nushagak peninsula. So, I regret no

1 oversight on not including that in this report.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard, go ahead.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
6 Yeah. Just to add to that, you know, and I was kind of  
7 speaking of our residents here too, that, you know, go  
8 out, you know, in the bay here. And it's been very  
9 noticeable that we've had declines in in halibut  
10 populations here. It's pretty hard to catch one nowadays  
11 out here, reasonably.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Totally agree with  
14 that for the past several years. That's why I feel bad  
15 that we've been remiss on getting that in front of the  
16 attention of folks. But yes, that'll be on the report.  
17 Anybody else have any comments or edits or questions  
18 about this annual report? We still have the motion on  
19 the table.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 Okay, I'll call for the question. All  
24 in favor of approving the annual report as presented,  
25 please signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you.  
30 Motion passes. Okay. Now we're looking at Future Meeting  
31 dates and that's going to be -- I have mine right beside  
32 me on the table. For fall and winter. Let's start with  
33 fall because that comes first. And I think we've already  
34 got dates for the fall, don't we?

35

36 MS. HONIG: Yes, Madam Chair. So, the  
37 fall -- let me get my years right, 2026 is going to be  
38 found in your main meeting book on page 9. And so, we'll  
39 need to confirm those dates and location. And for the  
40 Bristol Bay, we have them listed as October 28th and  
41 29th in Dillingham. And then a few Councils have met  
42 before this meeting. So, the calendars have updated and  
43 I have handouts next to you for the winter 2027 and fall  
44 2027.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we'll start  
47 with fall 2026. Will those dates, October 28th and 29th  
48 work for anybody? Does anybody know of a conflict that  
49 they're going to have during those dates? John.

50

1 MR. RHYSHEK: As long as we don't have  
2 another government shutdown.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We had that  
5 discussion. That's a valid point. And we have that  
6 discussion. The problem we have is that it butts up  
7 against so many of our hunting seasons in order to avoid  
8 that, so I doubt we can make it happen. It'd have to be  
9 in August, I believe, is what we have the discussion  
10 about in order to avoid that potential shutdown.

11  
12 MS. HONIG: Generally funding is through  
13 September 30th, so.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, it would have  
16 to be a September time frame, which is when everybody  
17 is in the field. So, if you -- if I'm wrong, correct me,  
18 but I'm afraid we have to roll the dice, make the gamble.  
19 And unless those dates are going to conflict with  
20 anybody. Richard.

21  
22 MR. WILSON: They work for me.

23  
24 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah, I was just being  
25 facetious.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: But it's a point  
28 well taken, John. Okay, good. Then let's go ahead and  
29 stay with those dates for -- then let's move on to our  
30 winter meeting for winter 2027, window opens February  
31 15th and closes March 31st. Anybody have a suggestion  
32 on dates? And, Leigh, I know that you guys don't want  
33 them too early. So, what would be your preference for a  
34 window to be able to get everything put together?

35  
36 MS. HONIG: Yeah. So, the window opens  
37 February 16th, so it is a little early, but that is the  
38 open window. So, OSM will meet those deadlines. I'd also  
39 like to put this out there too. If you guys wanted to  
40 try a different location, you know, we can -- I can try  
41 to get approval on other location too. Just to throw  
42 that out there for more options.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And I think that the  
45 main reason we haven't, if memory serves me correctly,  
46 is just because there's -- most of the other locations  
47 don't have facilities to be able to house and feed our  
48 group and get them in and out. So, that's why we've kind  
49 of stuck with Dillingham and Naknek, but okay. So,  
50 I'll throw out maybe what March 2nd and 3rd because that

1 should avoid the spring break. Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was looking at  
4 dates right there and I wanted to apologize. We had this  
5 meeting on Monday. And I had some apprehensions when we  
6 did it in Anchorage. But I got the impression that there  
7 might have been a conflict with other meetings if we  
8 tried to move it. But putting it on a Monday makes  
9 logistics a lot tougher and more expensive for the  
10 government. You know, I came over here on Saturday. I  
11 enjoyed myself, but -- so yeah, the midweeks I think  
12 generally work better for flight schedules and so on.  
13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. So, for the  
16 last 2 years just FYI, Alaska Air has offered a service  
17 Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. So that's why I  
18 kind of came up with the second, 3rd of March as well.  
19 If they continue to do that next year. It should allow  
20 everybody traveling from Anchorage as well. Plus, we'll  
21 be able to get everybody in on Grant, because Grant  
22 doesn't fly on Sunday. We can get everybody in on Monday.  
23 Richard.

24

25 MR. WILSON: So, we're looking at perhaps  
26 on a Wednesday. I mean to -- be Thursday, be Thursday  
27 and Friday. And then if they need to exit Friday, that'd  
28 be.....

29

30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. This well,  
31 this suggestions the 2nd and 3rd of March, which is  
32 Tuesday and Wednesday. So, they would have one day  
33 holdover. But everybody all the Council members could  
34 get home on Grant still on Thursday. It's going to be  
35 hard no matter what because we need the 2 days. So, in  
36 order to get staff out timely, it's going to be almost  
37 impossible because you need those 2 days and then it  
38 butts up against one of the flight days, no matter what  
39 you do during the week.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Madam Chair.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I believe -- I don't pay  
46 attention much, but I believe we get everyday Alaska  
47 Airlines into Dillingham. They don't skip a day that I  
48 know of. So that makes it a little easier in Dillingham.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Yeah, I'm  
2 talking the winter meeting, though. That'll be here.  
3 Yeah.

4  
5 MR. RHYSHEK: Madam Chair, make a motion  
6 to set the winter 2027 meeting to March 2nd. March 3rd,  
7 2027.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Does  
10 everybody find that acceptable? Richard.

11  
12 MR. WILSON: Did you say March?

13  
14 MR. RHYSHEK: March 2nd, March 3rd, 2027.

15  
16 MR. WILSON: Isn't those dates that are,  
17 like we're having a problem now with the spring break  
18 or...?

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, that that was  
21 my point is, I thought those dates would work because  
22 that's a Tuesday and Wednesday versus a Monday and a  
23 Tuesday.

24  
25 MR. WILSON: I guess I'm just wondering  
26 if, you know, these dates work for -- if we're trying  
27 to get youth involved.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: It's before the  
30 spring break, that was also why I thought would work.  
31 It might work.

32  
33 MR. WILSON: Okay. When is our spring  
34 break start?

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Usually their  
37 spring break, in past years is either the 2nd or 3rd  
38 week in March. That's why it's never been before then.

39  
40 MR. WILSON: Okay. I'm good. Thanks.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other  
43 comments or can we find that acceptable?

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 Okay. And Robert and John Christensen  
48 those dates work for you. March 2nd and third next  
49 spring.

50

1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah. They should, I  
2 don't see no conflicts on my calendar right now.

3  
4 MR. HILL: Yeah. Likewise, Nanci, I think  
5 that would probably work better. Early March or real  
6 late February for me. So, looks good.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. Thank you,  
9 guys. Appreciate that very much. Then we'll take a look  
10 at fall 2027. And I'm assuming typically our meeting is  
11 the last week of October. The 1st week of November in  
12 Dillingham. Anybody have a preference on those dates?

13  
14 MR. WILSON: Does the 28th-29th work?  
15 That'd be my suggestion then.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm seeing lots of  
18 heads nod here. Anybody on the phone have a conflict  
19 with the October 28th and 29th for 2027 fall meeting  
20 minute -- fall meeting times.

21  
22 (No response)

23  
24 Okay, hearing none. Then let's go ahead  
25 and set those for now. And I guess if we have to change  
26 those, we can because that's a long ways into our future.  
27 Okay. And then we'll move on to Fisheries Resource  
28 Monitoring Program Update and who is going to -- Cory.  
29 Okay. Great Cory. I'll go ahead and have you start on  
30 that.

31  
32 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, members of the  
33 Council, again, this is Cory Graham, Fisheries Biologist  
34 with OSM. So, I'll now provide a brief update on the  
35 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The mission of  
36 the monitoring program is to identify and provide  
37 information needed to sustain federal subsistence  
38 fisheries. The monitoring program also supports  
39 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska  
40 Native and rural organizations, and promotes  
41 collaboration among federal, state, Alaska Native, and  
42 local organizations. OSM is currently in the final phase  
43 of the 2026 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The  
44 Federal Subsistence Board met in early February and  
45 approved the final monitoring program funding plan. With  
46 this cycle coming to the end, it's time for the Councils  
47 to begin developing priority information needs for the  
48 2028 monitoring Program funding cycle, or for the call  
49 for proposals. Priority information needs or, as we  
50 often refer to them as PINs, are an important component

1 of the monitoring program. They outline knowledge gaps  
2 and local concerns related to subsistence fisheries and  
3 guide what projects are submitted for consideration. So,  
4 we're asking for volunteers from your Council and any  
5 other Council in your region. So, you'll meet with  
6 Kodiak/Aleutian council members to meet by telephone  
7 sometime this summer. Whatever works for your schedules  
8 to identify knowledge gaps and again, come up with some  
9 new PINs. The draft list of priority information needs  
10 will be -- that is developed. Excuse me. By the  
11 volunteers, will be presented to the councils for your  
12 final approval during your fall meetings. This is not  
13 an action item. But again, we're looking for a couple  
14 of volunteers that would like to help develop PINs for  
15 the next cycle. So, if anyone would like to join with  
16 that, just yeah.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Dan.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: I've typically volunteered  
21 and coordinated with Pat Holmes on a KA AC. The one  
22 thing is I always feel a little sheepish that they've  
23 got a bunch of ideas and we haven't really come up with  
24 a lot. I can try to coordinate with BBNA and Togiak see  
25 if they have some ideas and what they're eager to do and  
26 so on. I don't know if Gayla or Cody are listening in  
27 on this meeting or not. So anyway, yeah, I'm willing to  
28 volunteer again. I usually have the time.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I would definitely  
31 put halibut on that list. I think this is a great  
32 opportunity for us to potentially come up with some type  
33 of study for both sides of the bay on the halibut issue.  
34 I have also participated in those. I know you're not  
35 calling for that, but I'm hoping that that meant that  
36 Dan was volunteering again. I always ask Leigh just to  
37 let -- notify me when the meeting is going to be and if  
38 I have a chance, I participate as well, which I have  
39 probably the last 2 out of 3 years. But is anybody else  
40 willing to volunteer their time? Richard.

41

42 MR. WILSON: I'm not willing to  
43 volunteer, but I do appreciate Dan and you being able  
44 to step up that time of year to, you know, to be able  
45 to help coordinate things there. And, and yeah, the  
46 halibut issue would be a great one to add to that. And,  
47 and just kind of as we gather information, it's always  
48 what we thrive on. We need that -- need that info from  
49 other areas too. So, appreciate it.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Dan

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: So, you mentioned halibut.  
4 I'm trying to envision what kind of a project that might  
5 be. Would that be a real directed survey? A little bit  
6 like what Chignik is doing now but directed towards  
7 Halibut activity. Something like that. This is a not as  
8 common as the inshore fisheries. Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Richard.

11

12 MR. WILSON: I guess my thinking there  
13 is just to find out what numbers are being bycaught  
14 [sic]. I mean, you know, just because those numbers are  
15 already out there. I guess just knowing -- just seeing  
16 what it looks like. See what's happening. And also, you  
17 know, being able to, you know, hit the subsistence world  
18 and say, you know, everybody that's been active in that,  
19 how's it going? I mean, just kind of touch base here.  
20 So, we get some numbers too, you know, and to start  
21 from, would it be my suggestion.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, that was my  
24 exact thought, Dan. So, I think it's kind of a  
25 combination between gathering numbers and gathering  
26 information would be my thought. That's where we can  
27 start. Walter, did you have something? Go ahead.

28

29 MR. KANULIE: I know back home some  
30 people still go out to the bay close by and jig for  
31 halibut. We used to have a market, but we don't anymore.  
32 But I know some people still go out there and jig for  
33 halibut, but then I don't know, I don't think it's being  
34 monitored by anybody. So, -- but I know they do that  
35 like in late May and early part June when there's some  
36 herring still left, so. And then there's I know they  
37 tell us to watch for what are those other smelt called?

38

39 (Talking)

40

41 Yeah, they tell us to watch out for  
42 those when we're out there.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: This is great. Go  
45 ahead, Richard.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Just one final thought  
48 there. You know, as you look on online and try to figure  
49 out what halibut are actually doing in their habitat and  
50 stuff, and most of the information you see is in Prince

1 William Sound. You know, they've got very little  
2 information on over here on the Bering Sea side, you  
3 know, about what actually, you know, what the halibut  
4 cycles look for look like or something. I don't know if  
5 that's something you want to think about in the future,  
6 but it's just, you know, as far as information goes,  
7 it'd be nice to know what you know, that looks like.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think, yeah, just  
10 even there should be some type of history also of the  
11 catch at some place, I would think probably Fish and  
12 Game has it. But anyway, I agree gathering that  
13 information to put it on 1 page or 2 pages to be able  
14 to look at it, I think would be very helpful to see  
15 where we've been, where we are now, and make a plan for  
16 the future. Walter.

17  
18 MR. KANULIE: This is from -- what I  
19 heard from like Goodnews. And one of the guys, he says  
20 he goes out there until there's no -- you can't see land  
21 and (cough) halibut out there. So, I mean, that's like  
22 way the heck out there. I mean, if you can't see land  
23 anymore. But that's what I've heard. But then we have  
24 them, like, I mean, I've got halibut during salmon  
25 season, you know, and it's like shallow water, but.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I've had that same  
28 experience to all areas. But it's -- it is, something  
29 that we use. And now that it's starting to be limited,  
30 we're missing it more. And it's all of a sudden we're  
31 saying, whoa, wait a minute, why can't we have this  
32 anymore? So, I think it's worth potentially trying to  
33 get a study on and get started somewhere. I know that's  
34 what -- wasn't all you were asking for, Cory, but thank  
35 you for putting up with that. Yeah, Dan.

36  
37 MR. DUNAWAY: I've made kind of a list  
38 of communities and then, you know, go to halibut  
39 commissioned and yeah, I think maybe working with BBNA  
40 could cobble up kind of a rough outline of a project  
41 that they could do, and we have enough lead time. I  
42 think when's this have to be submitted for this [sic]?

43  
44 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair again,  
45 this is Cory. So, you'll meet this summer come up with  
46 the PINs and then they'll come back to your Council in  
47 the fall and you'll finalize them. And then we'll put  
48 those together and we'll have a call for proposals  
49 sometime late winter, early spring. That's when they  
50 would submit proposals.

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MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, great. I'm trying to get this down. I'll probably try to get a hold of BBNA real soon, so thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Cory.

MR. GRAHAM: Again, this is Cory through the Chair. So, I'm not as familiar with this region as my colleague Jarred is. Halibut isn't typically managed under the federal subsistence management program. So, when thinking about projects like I don't want to be like, can't happen, right. We might have to get creative and think about it. I just want to put that out there because we really kind of focus on like in-river subsistence fisheries most of the time. But I know that, in the Yukon has had concerns about bycatch and we've kind of got creative to come up with ways that we may be able to support the funding. But I just want to put that out there. I want to let you all talk it on the record. It's really important. It needs to people need to hear about it. Maybe the funding can come from somewhere else and just kind of get the thoughts going. But I just wanted to preface it with that, but I'll talk to Jarred and kind of try and figure something out.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I mean, my comment to that just is that maybe it's good that we're giving you a head start on it too, so that your creativity juices can really flow. So, when the time comes, we can get there. Richard.

MR. WILSON: Yeah. Thank you. I just, you know, in my mind, it's, you know, the bycatch issue, you know, the things that are going up at the YK, you know, in our system here, you know, if you can put another species on that list that's being targeted. You know, maybe, it'll come up -- our message will come a little stronger than just one species if you had other species. Hey, okay, we're going to take a better look at this. So, it's a good thing to add, I think.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think that's a great point as well. Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Dan, just an anecdote like what Walter said I've been it's been a while since I've been in Quinhagak, but I know they were going way out way. And then my son was up in Alakanuk this fall and they went way out. And they depended on new electronics,

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1 but they were fishing way off the Yukon River and getting  
2 some halibut in October. I would have probably had the  
3 willies and get that far out in that shallow water. And  
4 anyway, so yeah, it's pretty coastal wide is in interest.  
5 So, thank you.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Walter.

8

9 MR. KANULIE: I -- when we had our  
10 advisory meeting one time, I brought this up with Tim  
11 Sands from Dillingham. And those are drones, the drones.  
12 And I was wondering if those could be used for like  
13 monitoring. I mean, they're pretty -- I think they're  
14 pretty sophisticated now that -- I don't know about water  
15 glare and all that stuff, but.

16

17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That has been in  
19 part of the discussion that I've had with him as well.  
20 And I'm sure -- we don't really get to dictate how these  
21 studies are persecuted, but we get a request for studies.  
22 But I agree with you, I don't -- I'm not sure that I see  
23 how they'd work for halibut, but for a lot of these  
24 other studies, they have real accounts and stuff. Yep.  
25 Anything else we can give you, Cory, to make your life  
26 easier?

26

27

28 MR. GRAHAM: I think this is -- this is  
29 Cory again for the record. I think this is great. Jarred  
30 will go back through the transcripts and kind of collate  
31 your thoughts and have them ready for the PIN development  
32 meeting. So, if anything ever comes up, just shoot it  
33 our way. I mean, the volunteer meeting is in the fall,  
34 but we can take ideas from y'all whenever, so.

34

35

36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. And then I  
37 would just encourage anybody to -- including online,  
38 John, especially if, man, if you could, if you could  
39 participate in this PIN process this summer for, for  
40 your area down there, I think it could be really  
41 valuable. We always have the least amount of influence  
42 from that area. And we struggle because we know that you  
43 guys have runs down there that are really needing some  
44 help. And we struggle to be able to get you what you  
45 need. So, if you decide you can find the time to do it,  
46 you would certainly be more than welcome to join that.

46

47

MR. RHYSHEK: Roger.

48

49

50 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you.  
Good. Well, thank you very much, Cory. Anything else?

1 Go ahead.

2

3

4 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, this is Cory.  
5 So, we also have a Partners Program update. If I could  
6 give that now, please. Thank you again. For the record,  
7 my name is Cory Graham. I'm a Fish Biologist with OSM.  
8 I'll now provide a quick update on our partners for  
9 Fisheries Monitoring program, also known as the Partners  
10 Program. OSM posted a notice of funding opportunity for  
11 the Partners Program during spring of 2025. This is a  
12 competitive grant intended to strengthen Alaska Native  
13 and rural involvement in federal subsistence management  
14 by providing salary funds to organizations, so they can  
15 hire professional biologists, social scientists or  
16 educators. The grant also provides funds for science and  
17 culture camps and paid student internships. This funding  
18 lasts for up to 4 years. The Partners Program Review  
19 Panel, made up of subject matter experts across various  
20 DOI agencies, reviewed the proposals and OSM -- the OSM  
21 Regional Advisory Director, has approved funding for 3  
22 new partners. This includes the Bristol Bay Native  
23 Association, Native Village of Eyak and the Ahtna  
24 Intertribal Resource Commission. The next notice of  
25 funding will be sometime in the spring of 2027 to begin  
26 in 2028. If you'd like to learn more about this program,  
27 contact Jarred Stone or Liz Williams. They are Partners  
28 contacts in our program. Their contact information can  
29 be found at the partners web page or if anyone here is  
30 interested, I can provide you with that information.  
31 Yeah. So, thank you again, Madam Chair, members of the  
32 Council. That concludes my update and I'm here to answer  
33 any questions if you have them.

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CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Cory.  
Does anybody have any questions for Cory? That's that  
is a tremendously valuable program that we've seen a lot  
of difference made from out here in this area. So, we  
appreciate that. Richard.

MR. WILSON: Just curious, Cory. Thank  
you, Madam Chair. On when you solicit for partners or  
is it very well known in our region or is it -- you guys  
-- I'm just wondering if there's other resources that  
we haven't tapped into yet that's available to partner  
with, I guess is my is my thinking. I always like to  
think, pull my hat up a little bit and wonder what's  
what else is out there to kind of broaden our resource  
capability.

1 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, through the  
2 Chair. This is Cory, so I can only really speak to  
3 Partners. I can't really speak to the other  
4 opportunities that wouldn't be through our office. But  
5 we, you know, publish the notice of funding, but we make  
6 sure that we also really highlight it at the RAC meetings  
7 to try and get the word out there. I'm sure there's  
8 other outreach that occurs, but those are our main ways  
9 of getting information out to the partners.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Dan.

12  
13 MR. DUNAWAY: I try to answer. I'm  
14 getting rusty on it but -- Richard, but there was a time  
15 where we had a lot of Partners Programs going on. It's,  
16 I think diminished a little bit, but I think there,  
17 again, natural resources folks at BBNA are, you know,  
18 really on try to stay on top of that and have promoted  
19 a number of programs over the years. I don't know what  
20 they got going right now. Thanks.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

23  
24 MR. WILSON: He just brings a thought.  
25 You know, there's a -- the partners do they have to have  
26 the biology background too? Or can they be just a  
27 financial partner to help other entities that have lost  
28 their funding to help in the program? I know that's some  
29 of the struggles we have on the state and federal is  
30 that, you know, these programs are lacking because of  
31 funding, but there are people there that you know, in  
32 these -- in their walk in life that are able to help,  
33 but just lack of funding. So is it strictly I guess  
34 that's what I'm asking. Is it?

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, I think that's  
37 a great question, Cory, can you answer it?

38  
39 MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair, so my  
40 understanding is there would need to be biologist,  
41 social scientists or educators, rather than like  
42 administrative staff. That doesn't mean that they  
43 couldn't help out in that also. But I think their main  
44 duties roles would be, again, biologists, social  
45 science, scientists or educators.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

48  
49 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Thank you. I just I'm  
50 still thinking about, you know, there's other

1 corporations around even, you know, that, you know, if  
2 they were to put a, a new line item on their agenda  
3 saying, okay, we can, you know, we're going to budget  
4 for this amount for that program this year, you know,  
5 or something like that. Just to kind of extend the pool  
6 of monies to people that are already or lacking the  
7 funds to do the research is kind of where I was going  
8 with it.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, that's what I  
11 was hearing you say too. And I think that is a very  
12 valuable question. And I don't know though, because it's  
13 the federal government, there's probably all kinds of  
14 gates and hoops that a person has to jump through. And  
15 I don't know. It's too bad though, that we couldn't do  
16 something like that. Okay. Any other comments? Partners  
17 Program. Whoops.

18  
19 (No response)

20  
21 Okay. Seeing none. Thank you very much  
22 Cory, appreciate your time. And we will move on to  
23 Reports. Leigh, do you know what we have for reports?

24  
25 MS. HONIG: Yeah. So, I think moving on  
26 down the list, we could start with Brian Wehausen, with  
27 Deputy Refuge Manager for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof  
28 National Wildlife Refuge.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks. I didn't  
31 know if we had any tribal. Yeah. No, no, no. That's  
32 perfect. That's.....

33  
34 MR. WEHAUSEN: Good morning again, Madam  
35 Chair and Council members. I just wanted to take a brief  
36 opportunity to introduce myself, Brian Wehausen, U.S.  
37 Fish and Wildlife Service. Leigh listed me as Deputy  
38 Refuge Manager but through some changes I am now the  
39 Refuge Manager. So, I wanted to make that announcement  
40 formally to the Council. So, if you have questions about  
41 Becharof or Alaska Peninsula, please let me know. Lots  
42 of changes to our staff. We've -- we're quite small now,  
43 which is which is okay. We did lose our maintenance guy,  
44 Marion, retired after many, many years with us. So, we're  
45 trying to work to get somebody because -- but this winter  
46 have we struggled a little bit with boilers and other  
47 things, but through some help with some good partners,  
48 we were able to get through that. But that's really all  
49 I wanted was just to introduce myself. I mean, it just  
50 seems like we had this meeting in January where we

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1 introduced some information, so I wanted to keep it  
2 brief. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, welcome,  
5 Brian. I've enjoyed working with you over this past  
6 season, and congratulations on your appointment as a  
7 director and anybody else have any questions?

8

9 MR. WEHAUSEN: It might be a downgrade.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I would feel the  
12 same. John.

13

14 MR. RHYSHEK: Did Susan retire or did she  
15 move?

16

17 MR. WEHAUSEN: Susan did retire.

18

19 MR. RHYSHEK: Right on.

20

21 MR. WEHAUSEN: And she did move out of  
22 the -- I think she moved back east.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Could I just get the  
27 spelling of your last name? So, -- I couldn't even guess.

28

29 MR. WEHAUSEN: Absolutely. It's W-E-H-A-  
30 U-S-E-N.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: I didn't guess at all. So,  
33 thank you. Well, welcome. And yeah, I think I'm hearing  
34 like I was a biologist and Sand Point, but I got to lay  
35 under the building and fix pipes and lay under the cars  
36 and fix cars. And what happened to my biology degree?  
37 So, I wonder if you're having a little of the same, but  
38 glad you're here. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great.  
41 Thanks, Brian. Okay, Jon, you want to give the Southern  
42 Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office update, please?

43

44 MR. GERKEN: All right. Thank you, Madam  
45 Chair. For the record, Jon Gerken, Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service. So, I am hoping just to give an update of what  
47 we do in our fisheries group. So, someone asked the  
48 other day, what do you guys do in your fisheries group?  
49 So, I'm taking the opportunity here to kind of reframe  
50 and let you know what we do. So, I'm based out of

1 Anchorage. I'm the federal in-season manager for Bristol  
2 Bay, Aleutians and the Alaska Peninsula. We have 2  
3 biologists located in Anchorage and we have 3 other  
4 biologists located in Soldotna. So, we're a group of 5.  
5 You're probably thinking, why is this dude from  
6 Anchorage have federal delegated authority for this  
7 area? In 2006, our fisheries office used to be located  
8 just here with the refuge. It was moved in 2006 back to  
9 Anchorage and hence the delegated authority went with  
10 us for the -- for this region. Since then, we've also  
11 combined with our Soldotna office. And so, within our  
12 office, the 5 biologists, we also have delegated  
13 authority for Upper Cook Inlet. So, primarily the Kenai  
14 River and the Kasilof River are where we spend most of  
15 our time in that area. So, we also do a few other things  
16 beyond just in-season management. We've got some  
17 responsibilities and also doing population assessments.  
18 I'll talk a little bit about the one that George Anderson  
19 from Chignik mentioned that we were a collaborator on  
20 the Chignik inner -- the Chignik subsistence surveys and  
21 a proposal that also extended the weir and did the  
22 enumeration for chinook salmon.

23  
24 We also conduct habitat assessments. We  
25 work in the aquatic invasive world, not too big of a  
26 deal here, but northern pike on the peninsula and the  
27 Mat-Su. We also do some work with the Department of  
28 Defense under the Sikes Act. So, we have done some things  
29 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. And most of the time  
30 we -- when we accomplish this work, it's usually through  
31 hiring a number of temporary staff, but we're really  
32 beholden mostly to our relationships with refuges tribal  
33 entities, NGOs, really with ADF&G and some other federal  
34 agencies. So specific to the refuges we work with the  
35 Kenai Refuge, Maritime, Kodiak, AK Peninsula, Izembek,  
36 Togiak, and then we do also do some stuff out of  
37 Koyukuk/Nowitna refuges on the Kuskokwim and Upper  
38 Kuskokwim. So, we do kind of all over the place. So, we  
39 have a, you know, a large broad swath of technical  
40 expertise. So, if you have questions or ideas specific  
41 to some of the PINs or other fisheries projects, then  
42 certainly come and talk to me.

43  
44 Looping back to some of the preseason  
45 management stuff that we do, we do sit on the technical  
46 review committee. So, one of our staff does provide input  
47 to the TRC with respect to proposals that are put in  
48 through the FRMP, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
49 Program, trying not to talk in complete acronyms. And  
50 then we attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting

1 in February. All of the Board of Fish meetings in  
2 January, February and March. This RAC. I was in Kodiak  
3 last week with Leigh. For the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC, we'll  
4 attend the Southcentral RAC that's coming up later this  
5 month. We conduct a number of city meetings on the  
6 peninsula where we issue 500 to 600 permits as part of  
7 our delegated authority there. And we attend the Chignik  
8 Regional Aquaculture Association meeting in March. And  
9 we also do a fair amount with the CIC, as well as  
10 attending stakeholder meetings on South Peninsula and  
11 Chignik. And less so North Peninsula, just because the  
12 federal land and the intercept with subsistence  
13 fisheries is pretty small on the North Peninsula.

14  
15 We typically do not receive requests for  
16 subsistence permits anywhere except for in Chignik.  
17 Excluding the Kenai Peninsula. So, when we start talking  
18 about, you know, different federal versus state I guess  
19 interactions and subsistence fisheries, we just don't  
20 get a lot of requests, primarily because there's just a  
21 lot of fish in your guys' area. So, usually subsistence  
22 is being met.

23  
24 And I'll roll into some of the preseason  
25 forecasts. I'm not going to go over all the details, but  
26 you know, Bristol Bay for '26 you guys' preseason  
27 forecast from the department is 45 million fish. So,  
28 it's going to be a strong year again this year. The  
29 Alaska Peninsula is also going to be average to strong.  
30 George alluded to a bunch of different Board of Fish  
31 regulations that may change how things are done in the  
32 South Penn. North Penn, for the most part stayed the  
33 same. There's really no escapement projects on the  
34 Aleutians. McLees does get funded every once in a while,  
35 but it hasn't been a -- it hasn't been funded  
36 consistently throughout the years. That's probably  
37 something you will talk to the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC  
38 about, McLees, I assume. And then Chignik is -- got a  
39 number of stock of concerns. We -- the escapement goal  
40 for chinook was met for the first time in 10 years last  
41 year by about 100 fish. To do that, there was a fair  
42 amount of changes, both in the freshwater as well as the  
43 lagoon and the outer saltwater to make sure those chinook  
44 get back to the spawning grounds.

45  
46 Let's see here. So, just moving over to  
47 assessment projects. This year, our office was going to  
48 operate 2 weirs. One is out of a Platinum. So, we operate  
49 a weir on the Salmon River in collaboration with the  
50 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. The idea there is to

1 understand how many fish are using the Salmon River in  
2 and around the mine tailings that are in the Platinum  
3 mine there. BLM is a big -- or a big partner with that  
4 as well. And then most recently, Trout Unlimited has had  
5 some interest. So, they're assisting us with a local  
6 hire. We employ a local hire out of the village of  
7 Platinum.

8  
9 We operate a weir on the Funny River on  
10 the Kenai Peninsula. I think we're in, just going to  
11 guess here, but 28 years, I think we've operated that  
12 directly. It's the only escapement project on the Kenai  
13 specifically for chinook salmon. We also operate a real  
14 time water temperature sensor network. And I can give  
15 you the website later, but it's about 20 different sites  
16 that you can log on and see what the real time water  
17 temperature is. It was primarily geared towards sport  
18 fishing opportunity on the Matsu and the Kenai Peninsula  
19 but that's been maintained, I think since 2023 I think  
20 was the first year. We've heard about the Chignik River  
21 in-season subsistence surveys. Those are pretty  
22 important for us as in-season management. Usually when  
23 we're making changes and special actions, we'd like to  
24 know where people are at in their harvest. So, if things  
25 are occurring, you know, toward the midpoint or later  
26 in the season, subsistence users aren't getting  
27 opportunity to harvest their fish than those subsistence  
28 counts in season are pretty, pretty important. So, if  
29 people are at hypothetically 20%, then that's going to,  
30 you know, raise our eyes and perk our ears up that we  
31 might need to do something with our federal delegated  
32 authority.

33  
34 And then on the books for this year in  
35 your neck of the woods. And one of your priority  
36 information needs is we're going to try to get Big Creek  
37 weir back in starting this season. I don't think it'll  
38 be fully operational this year, but the intent would be  
39 to run it for a 5-year stretch, so. We're hoping to get  
40 stuff on the ground this year. And I would expect that  
41 we would be putting in a proposal through the FRMP cycle,  
42 probably the next -- 2027 to fund that out. So, Brian  
43 AK Peninsula-Becharof collaborative. We've also been  
44 talking with Cody Larson quite a bit at BBNA to get some  
45 extra help, but I think we'll probably have some  
46 conversations here. Also to -- just make you guys aware  
47 that that's going to be going in. So that's all that  
48 I've got on my summary. I'm happy to take questions.

49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I'm sure  
2 everybody over here is happy to hear about that weir.  
3 Richard, go ahead.

4  
5 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Jon. Thanks for your  
6 in -- all your good input there. Just curious on your  
7 job title and being in, you know, you're quite spread  
8 out here. I mean, there's a lot going on with just 5  
9 staff. But do you get a chance to sit on any of the  
10 other meetings? Like I'm always thinking about the  
11 bycatch that's happening in the trawl fishery and other  
12 fisheries out there. Do you ever get a chance to sit in  
13 on any of those meetings to either give information or  
14 to take information from what's happening out in our  
15 federal waters? That'd be the first question.

16  
17 MR. GERKEN: Yeah. Through the Chair,  
18 thanks for the question. The answer is yes. Although the  
19 process for how we interact is a little bit different.  
20 So, back when I was younger and didn't have gray hair,  
21 before that, I actually sat on North Pacific Fisheries  
22 Management Council as part of the Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service. So now, I have gray hair and also other things.  
24 But yeah, we do have a someone who sits on the Council  
25 and so there's an internal calls that for Fish and  
26 Wildlife Service folks to bring issues to the Council.  
27 So, we don't -- I guess that interaction for Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service is all done through that one seat on  
29 the Council as opposed to, you know, doing public  
30 testimony or anything at the Council. Unless we're asked  
31 to do something very specific about a project or some  
32 sort of in-season management decision, we have typically  
33 not done public testimony at the Council. But we do  
34 attend all the Board of Fish and many of the RAC  
35 meetings. And for me, it's always been a nice opportunity  
36 to see folks coming in from the villages that I would  
37 not normally see. And some there's a lot of face to face  
38 contact with folks that way at all these different  
39 meetings. So, it's a good opportunity. One nice thing  
40 about being at Anchorage is typically everybody has to  
41 come there sooner or later, so.

42  
43 MR. WILSON: Thanks Jon. Through the  
44 Chair. Yeah, appreciate that. It's great to, you know,  
45 have somebody like you sitting here, you know, and  
46 helping, helping us to visualize what's going on out  
47 there. And in the future, it'd be nice to have, possibly,  
48 some numbers if you do have a seat there to, you know,  
49 for somebody to kind of give an overview of what's, you  
50 know, because we're always concerned about, you know,

1 our stocks here, you know, in our, in our region. And  
2 to get information -- it seems like we get very little  
3 information once in a while, we get somebody to talk  
4 about what those numbers look like out there, what's  
5 actually happening before it gets into our system. So,  
6 it'd be kind of fun to hear some of the numbers, what's  
7 going on and to kind of update us, I guess. That was my  
8 thought there. And then the programs that you're  
9 monitoring here in the Big Creek. I'm always a hands up  
10 too on Alagnak. I always think that, you know, sometimes  
11 our Alagnak, which calls Branch River over here is a lot  
12 of times is left out of the system when there's still a  
13 lot of chinook that that go up in that system there. So,  
14 I just -- I always like keeping that fire lit. You know,  
15 as far as monitoring or some information that goes up  
16 there too, because it's a major player here in the bay.  
17 Thanks.

18  
19 MR. GERKEN: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
20 Member Wilson, what numbers would you be like  
21 specifically interested in -- from the Council? I can  
22 certainly provide those numbers. I guess in future  
23 stuff, it's typically a little bit out of our arena, but  
24 we could point you in the right direction, or we could  
25 have conversations offline too, on all that kind of  
26 different stuff. Usually that falls within NOAA. NMFS  
27 is the one that's managing under the Council. And then  
28 from short a line to 3 miles out is the department. So,  
29 but we can also let me know afterwards. We can definitely  
30 have another conversation on what you're looking for.  
31 Thanks.

32  
33 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks.  
34 Yeah. No, just basically, you know, just kind of update  
35 on, you know, some of the, you know, some of the stocks  
36 that come into our system that are caught out there in  
37 the bycatch, you know. That kind of, I mean, we get to  
38 see it every once in a while, and I'm sure we can  
39 probably look it up online if you had it [sic], but I'm  
40 not too good at looking things up that way. But just to  
41 hear it verbally and to, you know, to hear what's going  
42 on out there, it kind of helps us in region here to kind  
43 of get a visual on what's happening. So, thanks.

44  
45 MR. GERKEN: Sounds good. Thanks. Sounds  
46 like we need to go ice fishing. Yep.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Got to get through  
49 the ice first. Dan, did you have something?

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I was thinking the timing  
2 could be excellent here to get this Big Creek weir in  
3 again. Having hints of maybe an improvement. So, be  
4 really nice to have some hard data. So, I was kind of  
5 really thrilled to hear that happening. I've run up and  
6 down Big Creek a bunch back when I was working for Fish  
7 and Game. And then as far as bycatch and stuff, we've  
8 had the North Pacific Council give us presentations. The  
9 one thing is sometimes it was an awful glossy, speedy  
10 and I was like, listen to it, interesting. And I go, now  
11 what did they tell me? But I'm going to be really curious  
12 that we've got this new corridor system out there in the  
13 Bering Sea, which I have not educated myself on. I've  
14 seen some maps and charts and stuff, but it'll be really  
15 curious to see. I don't know when that actually is --  
16 goes into effect but see what we get out of that. So  
17 yeah, I'm -- you do a lot, like Richard said, spread all  
18 over the place. A lot of it sounds pretty interesting.  
19 And so, keep up the good work. And like, like we've  
20 been, I've been interested in the Platinum area back  
21 when I was a biologist, Mark (indiscernible) flew over  
22 and miners were muddying the river something fierce. And  
23 I have friends from Goodnews and Platinum, and so it's  
24 a big concern there too. So anyway, thanks for -- I have  
25 a lot better appreciation for what all you do and, and  
26 your rest of your crew. Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Do you know when  
29 those corridors are going to go into effect? Have you  
30 heard?

31  
32 MR. GERKEN: Through the Chair that final  
33 action was in January? I suspect it would probably be  
34 next year, but I guess I'm not too sure about that  
35 either.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That's okay. I was  
38 just curious as well. Any other questions or comments?

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 Okay, great. Thank you so much, Jon. I  
43 appreciate your time. We've also had -- go ahead. Oh,  
44 okay. I hope. Yeah. Okay. Then let's go ahead to National  
45 Park Service. Liza, you want to give us your Lake Clark  
46 National Park and Preserve update.

47  
48 (Pause)

49  
50

1 MS. RUPP: Madam Chair and Council. For  
2 the record, Liza Rupp Subsistence Coordinator for Lake  
3 Clark National Park and Preserve. And I think it's on  
4 page 13 of your packet. There's our little sort of what  
5 we plan on doing in 2026. So, I was just going to go  
6 over a few of those items that might be of interest. We  
7 -- the SRC did hold a special meeting in February to  
8 discuss the Secretarial Review and submitted a letter.  
9 And thanks to Leigh and OSM for sharing the RAC --  
10 various RAC letters, it was really helpful to -- for  
11 them to see what other folks had talked about. And our  
12 next SRC meeting will be in April in Nondalton. So,  
13 otherwise for our natural resources, we're going to be  
14 doing many of the same monitoring projects that we've  
15 done for a number of years. Coastal bear accounts. I  
16 think my colleagues are hoping to get out do some moose  
17 surveys this week or next, which would be great. And  
18 then I gave you the handout on the Dall sheep survey.  
19 Last summer, they were able to get out and do a  
20 comprehensive survey of the entire park. Well, the  
21 entire Dall sheep area in the park. And noted a  
22 significant decline in the 6 years since the last survey  
23 was done. So, we're hoping we've got a little extra  
24 money to go out and do -- I'm not sure they're going to  
25 be able to do the whole area, but they're going to try  
26 and do some targeted surveys again this summer to confirm  
27 -- make sure that that what they saw last year was or  
28 was not the trend. So, that will be interesting. For a  
29 while Lake Clark had not suffered the same demise, I  
30 guess, or decrease in numbers that a lot of the other  
31 parts of the state had, but it seems like the last few  
32 winters maybe weren't so great for the sheep. So, we'll  
33 try and get confirmation of that this summer.

34  
35 And then our county tower and our weir  
36 will be going back as usual. One interesting project  
37 that we started in '24 was this -- what they're calling  
38 the thermal refugia project. So, doing a bunch of aerial  
39 surveys with an infrared camera to try and map water  
40 temperature in various lakes and rivers looking to see  
41 where it might be cold. These cold wells, where fish can  
42 hide out in those super-hot summers. So that work's going  
43 to be ongoing this summer, again. And they've been  
44 putting temperature loggers in certain of these cold  
45 areas to really try and get information about how cold  
46 that water really is. And then 2 other projects that  
47 aren't on this -- on the handout, we -- last year signed  
48 2 cooperative agreements, one with Igiugig Village  
49 Council And that was to -- their going to with our input,  
50 install a (indiscernible) at the south-end of Lake

1 Iliamna. We have several in Lake Clark and Kijik Lake  
2 and Talkeetna Lake within our park, but no one -- we --  
3 there's no good temperature data for Iliamna, so we're  
4 going to partner with them to do that, which is great  
5 to add to our knowledge base.

6  
7 And then the other project is we have a  
8 cooperative agreement with Kijik Corporation, which is  
9 the Village Corporation for Nondalton. And in '24, the  
10 Park Service and Kijik Corp signed a conservation  
11 easement on Kijik Corp lands along the Chulitna River  
12 and the lower (In Native) Lake. And that's about 14,500  
13 acres. And so as part of that, we have to do two baseline  
14 documentation reports. And so, we're working with them  
15 to do eDNA work on the Chulitna, subsistence interviews,  
16 wildlife -- birds, primarily waterfowl surveys. That --  
17 that's what Kijik is working on. We'll be -- we're doing  
18 sound monitoring and then we'll have a cultural  
19 resources survey of the area this summer. So that's --  
20 those are two great partner projects. And I think --  
21 otherwise our Southwest Alaska Network, which is our  
22 inventory and monitoring network, they're also doing a  
23 lot of their same surveys that they do and monitoring  
24 that they do for us. So that's about it.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any questions other  
27 than do we have any replacements for Bill yet? Does  
28 anybody?

29  
30 MS. RUPP: No. Dan and I were discussing  
31 that. It is difficult. I was saying that the 3 RAC  
32 appointees are difficult for us. We only have one AC or  
33 the RAC to draw from. And a lot -- I was sort of whining  
34 at Dan a little bit. The AC are very fluid --- or the  
35 Iliamna -- Lake Iliamna AC is very fluid, and so by the  
36 time I find someone, they've lost their (indiscernible),  
37 they don't get reappointed and then I can't use them  
38 again. I'm hoping that we will -- Dan's going to do some  
39 work on my behalf and see if we can find some  
40 replacements. There -- well, we'll see when the new  
41 council members get appointed. I think they're -- if it  
42 goes well, there might be one from our region. So maybe  
43 we could tap that person, if they end up making the RAC.  
44 So, but it's not easy, so. Not yet, short answer.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Liza. Dan, Go ahead.

48  
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was going to bring  
50 up we had that discussion, but I also thought I'd mention

1 it to the wider Council here. If any of you have friends  
2 or connections you think might be, you know, folks that  
3 could serve on the RAC that are from up there in that  
4 corner because, you know, often Billy would help us  
5 understand that it's different than here, you know. So,  
6 like, I'm thinking like, Robert there, you and Kokhanok.  
7 I don't know if you have connections up there, Iliamna,  
8 Port Alsworth, Nondalton. You know, if we know somebody  
9 that could apply, there's we've got a month still to  
10 apply and it's not hard. So, it would be nice to have  
11 that chair filled. So, thanks.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

14

15 MR. WILSON: You better work on Warren.

16

17 MS. RUPP: Well, he is our Chair of the  
18 SRC. So, this is the next step, I would say.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Richard.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just  
23 out of curiosity, in the Dall sheep. How far south have  
24 you ever recorded Dall sheep going into -- along the  
25 chain there to Iliamna Lake and beyond at it all?

26

27 MS. RUPP: Through the Chair, Liza Rupp.  
28 I have to admit, I am an archaeologist, not a biologist,  
29 so I don't know. I think we have only -- if you look at  
30 the little fuzzy map, they do go all the way down Lake  
31 Clark. I think it goes sort of towards Nondalton, but I  
32 could -- I can ask the question of our biologist. I  
33 can't answer it though.

34

35 MR. WILSON: Thank you. It was just more  
36 curiosity because there was one taken years ago on the  
37 east side of Lake Iliamna. I was just curious if there  
38 was ever any other sightings, you know. Thanks.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: News travels fast.

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED: I think they do their  
43 surveys from the Otter Lake portion of Lake Clark Pass  
44 north.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks. Any  
47 other questions for Liza, then?

48

49 (No response)

50

1 MS. RUPP: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Mallory, are you  
4 going to present for Katmai? Thank you.

5

6 MS. ZHAROFF: Good morning, Madam Chair,  
7 Members of the Council. This is Katmai National Park  
8 Preserve Tribal Liaison Subsistence Coordinator Mallory  
9 Zaroff. Nice to see all of you. So, some updates for the  
10 SRC. We held a Aniakchak SRC January 29th. Reviewing the  
11 Secretarial Programmatic Review of the Federal  
12 Subsistence Program. And that did not meet quorum. So  
13 that was an informational session. We currently have 6  
14 seats open for our Aniakchak SRC. And we are needing  
15 applicants in from the 3: Chignik, Port Heiden and  
16 Perryville. And then so, I'll just go over the Kokhanok  
17 and Igiugig hunt and Katmai Preserve Unit 9C. The  
18 Superintendent of Katmai National Park and Preserve has  
19 issued a limited subsistence caribou hunt for the  
20 residents of Kokhanok and Igiugig. 8 caribou per  
21 community may be harvested in the 2025 regulatory year  
22 for a total of 16 caribou. An emergency special action  
23 opened the 2025 caribou subsistence hunt in Katmai  
24 National Preserve from September 14th to September 30th.  
25 That resulted in 1 harvest report from Kokhanok. The  
26 caribou hunt is extended with a temporary special action  
27 from January 1st to March 31st, 2026. The in-season  
28 manager will continue to monitor and assess population  
29 trends over time, using minimum counts to make informed  
30 decisions on any future caribou subsistence hunts. So,  
31 we had 4 harvest reports from January 1st to March 31st,  
32 and all of them have been bull caribou. And as you know  
33 this hunt is open to female and male caribou. That's all  
34 I have. Thanks.

35

36 MR. RHYSHEK: From what communities?

37

38 MS. ZHAROFF: From -- the 4 caribou?  
39 That's from Igiugig.

40

41 MR. RHYSHEK: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other question?  
44 Dan.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Not a question, but just  
47 really pleases me to see that that hunt has happened. I  
48 thought it could -- it was going to get delayed forever,  
49 and I'm friends with some of the Igiugig and like Nanci  
50 was saying, they have the youth hunt. I think some have

00058

1 been trying lately, so I'm really tickled that that's  
2 happening and seems to be working. So, thank you.

3

4 MS. ZHAROFF: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

7

8 MR. WILSON: Just a little observation.  
9 I know that the bulls and the cows are separate this  
10 time of year. And so, we're there -- where were they  
11 connecting there, you know, they're just on the, on the  
12 bull population. They're, the cows are separated up  
13 somewhere along that area, which is always interesting.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Makes it perfect.  
16 Any other questions? Mark, did you have something for  
17 us?

18

19 MR. STURM: Yes, Madam Chair. I'm Mark  
20 Sturm from Katmai National Park and preserve. We have a  
21 few other updates, if you would -- wouldn't mind. And I  
22 guess I would just say with regard to the existing hunt  
23 and it's ongoing structure, it's been a team effort.  
24 There's been a lot of folks that have been involved in  
25 pulling this together, be it trying to monitor and  
26 understand what the population status is and how that  
27 may be evolving, is -- has been a focus of the park with  
28 our partners. There's a -- there's an update coming  
29 Leslie from the park about an upcoming collaring  
30 project. And in addition we are talking with both the  
31 state of Alaska and the communities of Igiugig and  
32 Kokhanok. Trying to work collaboratively to develop a  
33 monitoring program that has feedback from the benefiting  
34 communities and also is structured in such a way that  
35 everyone has an opportunity to provide input. And so,  
36 with that, I will just thank OSM in particular, because  
37 we aren't experts at managing a hunt. It's a little bit  
38 of a complicated thing. And we needed some guidance and  
39 expertise and we found it there and they've helped us  
40 get to where we're at. And with that, I'll pass it over  
41 to Leslie to share some things.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

44

45 MS. SKORA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
46 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Leslie  
47 Skora, Wildlife Biologist at Katmai. And I will keep the  
48 topic now -- continuing on caribou and just talk about  
49 some of the survey efforts that we've had this past year  
50 and then move on from there. So, we were able to conduct

1 an aerial survey minimum count of caribou last spring,  
2 kind of around this time of year in the mid to late  
3 March, and we counted at minimum 100 -- or 821 caribou  
4 in that Kukaklek Lake shelf area. And that helped inform  
5 our management on management. Moving forward, as Mark  
6 had mentioned, we are planning a collaring effort. And  
7 as of right now, we are planning working in coordination  
8 with local state of Alaska biologists to deploy those  
9 collars this coming spring. And later in March and early  
10 April, there will be 20 collars deployed on adult female  
11 caribou. And that will help us look at some of the  
12 habitat use to be able to conduct these abundance  
13 estimates more efficiently, as well as to get better  
14 estimates of bull, cow and calf cow ratios, and  
15 potentially look at some survival moving forward and  
16 into the future. And then I guess I can pause there for  
17 any questions on caribou and then otherwise I can let  
18 people know on some of the bear and moose survey efforts  
19 that we were able to complete.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. No, I  
22 appreciate the pause. I think -- any questions on what  
23 their future plans are and what they have found with  
24 what they've done so far?

25  
26 (No response)

27  
28 Okay, good. Go ahead then.

29  
30 MS. SKORA: Excellent. Otherwise, yes, we  
31 were able to also conduct surveys on brown bears this  
32 past year. And we found that most of the counts along  
33 salmon spawning streams and sedge meadows were close to  
34 and around the 20-year average that we have for those  
35 surveys. And then for moose surveys, we typically, in  
36 coordination with refuge and state of Alaska biologists  
37 conduct surveys that look at composition and just an  
38 index of counts per -- in the fall. We were able to  
39 complete surveys in the Branch River trend area as well  
40 as the (indiscernible), southern part of Katmai just  
41 right after the shutdown drew to a close. So, we were  
42 able -- glad we were able to get out. Those counts were  
43 also close to the 10-year average that we have from  
44 there the counts of branch were a little bit above the,  
45 the average but then in the (indiscernible) area, we did  
46 have calf-cow ratios that were a little bit lower. And  
47 then typically the state of Alaska biologists will  
48 conduct all this -- or collect all of the survey efforts  
49 and report out on just kind of the general trends for  
50 that area. So, I don't have the bigger picture. But from

1 what we were able to survey, the counts were looking  
2 good. And we'll keep those monitoring efforts going.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any questions  
5 on that? Richard.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Just more of an observation,  
8 I guess. Along the Alagnak there, you know, there's been  
9 a lot of effort. Moose hunters up along there. And this  
10 last season, I think there was a lot of bear sighted  
11 that that was noticeable. More bear than usual -- than  
12 moose take. So, there was probably not as many moose  
13 take out of there because of the bear population along  
14 the rivers is kind of what was noticed there in the --  
15 I'm assuming that the increase in bear population in  
16 that -- in the park area is probably taking a little bit  
17 of hurt to on the caribou population up there, you would  
18 think. So, it'd be interesting to see what you guys come  
19 up with when you get them collared and, and see how many  
20 -- what the survival rate looks like and, and stuff. So,  
21 it's going to thank you for putting that out there.

22

23 MS. SKORA: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Richard.  
26 Anybody else? Mark, please go ahead.

27

28 MR. STURM: Madam Chair, just a comment.  
29 Following up on Mr. Wilson's comment so far, our surveys  
30 have shown good calf-cow ratios, I believe -- do you  
31 remember what the exact number was for from last year's  
32 effort? For -- well, for caribou. He was mentioning  
33 caribou up in the preserve. But I believe it was high  
34 30s, 39-40, something like that. A pretty good number.  
35 Just thought I'd share.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks for sharing  
38 that. Go ahead, Leslie.

39

40 MS. SKORA: Oh, I can just kind of speak  
41 to that. Yeah. Right now we've been relying a little bit  
42 more on the state's efforts. They still have a couple -  
43 - I believe it's around 2 caribou that are collared in  
44 that area. And so they've been able to conduct a little  
45 bit more thorough search. But yeah, the calf-cow ratios  
46 for that group of caribou have been looking good, and  
47 numbers from our survey efforts over the years have been  
48 increasing. So, we're really encouraged by that.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Anything  
2 else?

3  
4 MR. STURM: Just a few more updates, if  
5 you'll indulge me, Madam Chair. Mark Sturm again from  
6 Katmai. One topic of interest that I guess I wanted to  
7 ask the Council about is there's a recent Master's thesis  
8 that was completed looking into the source of mercury  
9 in area lakes that has been documented and presented  
10 here at previous meetings. And it -- I guess presents  
11 some intriguing information. Indeed there is a volcanic  
12 origin of mercury in the environment, which is probably  
13 not necessarily surprising, but how it cycles through  
14 the lake systems is thought provoking. And I guess I  
15 would just wonder if the Council might be interested in  
16 asking the student to come to a future meeting and  
17 present some of the preliminary findings of his  
18 research?

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Comments council  
21 members? Go ahead, Richard.

22  
23 MR. WILSON: I sure would entertain that.  
24 I mean, you know, you look at, you know, the importance  
25 of, you know, the waters up there and it's always noticed  
26 that, you know, this river system goes out before any  
27 other in the area. Because there's, you know, it's got  
28 to be warmer waters up in there, you know, and you go  
29 30 miles, you know, south of us, (In Native) it's froze  
30 a lot longer than, you know, then we are here, north of  
31 me in the Naknek, you know, even though we -- so you  
32 often wonder what the, you know, the makeup of, you  
33 know, is of the waters and how healthy are, you know,  
34 our salmon and, you know, other species are doing, you  
35 know, so that's all. Anything we can -- any information  
36 we can gain for that is always helpful, I would believe.  
37 In how to manage this stuff and, and what the survival  
38 rates are. So appreciate it.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. No,  
41 absolutely. I think that, you know, we all, between the  
42 birds and the fish that use that water. I think it would  
43 be very helpful to gain some additional knowledge. It  
44 would be great.

45  
46 MR. STURM: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
47 will take that feedback and endeavor to work with Leigh  
48 to set something up. Two other announcements related to  
49 the ongoing caribou hunt up in the preserve. There's an  
50 access -- a Katmai National Preserve access planning

1 project that we have gotten some funding for. We are  
2 authorized to permit and consider a hunt in the preserve  
3 during the summer months when snowmobile access isn't  
4 necessarily an option. We are considering how to best  
5 and appropriately access the preserve during that time  
6 of year. And it's going to take us a while to work  
7 through it, but we're trying to engage in a conversation  
8 with the communities of Kokhanok and Igiugig to talk  
9 about what that might look like and what access they  
10 might want and need. And you should expect to see at  
11 some point over the course of the next year, year and a  
12 half to, to see a plan that, that proposes how to manage  
13 access during those months in support of subsistence --  
14 access to subsistence resources in the preserve. I'll  
15 stop there.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, because I have  
18 a question. I guess my biggest concern, I think that  
19 that's great because I can understand how that would be  
20 an issue knowing what the park's regulations are. But I  
21 would also caution that -- to not make it seasonal, even  
22 though that's what's prompting the conversation. Because  
23 if we have more winters like we have, you know, for the  
24 last 2 or 3 years, not like this year, was it 2 years  
25 ago, you know, where there was hardly any snow cover,  
26 then those same methods and means could be used during  
27 this time of year as well. Just a thought. Anybody else  
28 with any comments or -- Dan.

29  
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I certainly  
31 appreciate your interest in being cautious because 4  
32 wheelers are getting used a whole lot more around  
33 Dillingham and they're tearing the crap out of some of  
34 the tundra. It's -- they're wonderful machine but man  
35 they can be destructive. And I see some videos of  
36 interior Alaska where people love finding a big muskeg  
37 bog and turning it to oatmeal. And I've made some  
38 comments on that, and I get these nasty comments back.  
39 I don't see myself as an ultra-preservation greenie, but  
40 -- and I use some of these trails around Dillingham now  
41 that make some of my walking easier. But I also fell up  
42 nearly to my waist in one and was really worried about  
43 getting out in a pitch dark and have -- the pack was  
44 nearly drowning me into the mud. So yeah, caution  
45 certainly is warranted and in some way of accommodating  
46 without wrecking things would be nice.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

49  
50

1 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks,  
2 Mark, for that info. I just -- I'm curious if when you  
3 guys try to decide the access issue, of you've also  
4 considered the people since memorial, I guess you might  
5 say have gone up into those mountain ranges to not only,  
6 you know, for big game, but also small game and different  
7 times of the year. You know, like in the spring, there's,  
8 I -- there's many stories of families going up into  
9 those mountain ranges to pick the whistlers out of there,  
10 you know, the bigger squirrels, you know, back used to  
11 harvest them. And then you get up into the -- and I've  
12 been up on those mountains and you, there's these real  
13 -- all the blueberries and cranberries and blackberries  
14 that are up in there. They're real desirable. And people  
15 go up there, you know, at that time of year or, you  
16 know, early fall to harvest those. So, I just -- other  
17 things to consider. It's not just the caribou take that  
18 people are after. It's actually, you know, use that  
19 they're used to. I know, you know, vehicles have come  
20 into play, you know, which creates a problem for the  
21 park. You know, but yeah, just something else to consider  
22 as you, as you make up these new rules that we have to  
23 abide by, that there's other resources that they're  
24 after. And we used to go into the mouth of Moraine in  
25 there for the grayling and stuff. And you know, just on  
26 and on. There's just different things that happen up  
27 there different times of the year. So, it's a beautiful  
28 area. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Anybody else?  
31 Walter.

32  
33 MR. KANULIE: Thank you. You know when  
34 we were having our meeting over there in Togiak, it was  
35 brought up for like caribou hunting in that area. I know  
36 we have access to the Nushagak Peninsula. And then, you  
37 know, hopefully they'll start migrating towards our way.  
38 But one of the things that was brought up when we asked  
39 about that Newnham area, and they said I mean, if you  
40 open it for one group and then, I mean, and then they'll  
41 ask, why are you opening it for that group? You know,  
42 and you know, that was one of the things that we  
43 discussed. But I know a long time ago my older brother  
44 and my uncle, they used to come over here somewhere. (In  
45 Native) or somewhere for the caribou herd they used to  
46 charter a Yute Air. I don't know if it's -- it's probably  
47 not like that anymore, maybe. So, but that was, you  
48 know, I was -- just I figured I'd chime in. Because that  
49 was one of the things that I mean, if you opened it for  
50 that certain area, what -- why can't you do it for over

1 there? You know, and that was one of the things that,  
2 that we that one of the people brought up I think Andy  
3 and the others over there for wildlife refuge.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Walter.  
6 Your voice is always appreciated. Thank you for bringing  
7 that up. Anybody else? Mark.

8  
9 MR. STURM: Through the Chair, Mark Sturm  
10 again from Katmai. I appreciate the Council's feedback  
11 and comments and we will indeed be talking through use  
12 of the trail, not necessarily solely limited to access  
13 for caribou but for other subsistence resources as well.  
14 And the comments that Walter brings up are certainly  
15 germane to what we have going on in Katmai Preserve. And  
16 it's an ongoing conversation about striking a balance  
17 between what the actual resource can support and what  
18 the traditional and customary practices of the peoples  
19 affiliated with the preserve are, and we will continue  
20 to engage in that dialogue.

21  
22 The last update that I have is related  
23 to Katmai National Parks management of the Brooks Camp  
24 Developed Area. I think it might be of interest to  
25 Council members to know that we're initiating yet  
26 another plan to talk through the future of Brooks Camp.  
27 We have been working over the recent decades to move a  
28 number of our assets -- Park service assets to the south  
29 side of the Brooks River. And we have endeavored to  
30 improve the efficiency with which the area is managed.  
31 We've established as of last year, a microgrid system  
32 that is updated, that provides solar and battery power  
33 and diesel generation power to help run the campus that  
34 is the Brooks Camp facilities. And we're trying to be  
35 as green as we possibly can establishing opportunities  
36 for renewal and recharging and ultimately limiting the  
37 need to transfer -- transport fuel across the Naknek  
38 Lake and bring it out, which is a big job. I'm sure you  
39 all can well imagine. But associated with all that is  
40 the infrastructure that supports visitation. It was  
41 built decades ago for a level of visitation that's far  
42 lower than what we currently experience. And so, we need  
43 to talk about what we need to do to manage the area  
44 going forward. And we're initiating that process  
45 internally at the moment. But in the not too distant  
46 future we will be seeking feedback from community  
47 members that have an interest in the area. And I thought  
48 I would at least mention that this is coming to the  
49 Council. And that's it.

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1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, I appreciate  
2 you including the Council in the discussion, so thank  
3 you for bringing that to our attention. Anybody else?

4  
5 (No response)

6  
7 Okay. Thank you very much, guys. We  
8 really appreciate that.

9  
10 MR. STURM: Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And I'm going to  
13 entertain taking a lunch break now. I was going to give  
14 us an hour and a half knowing that if most everybody's  
15 probably headed over to D&D's, it takes them a while to  
16 serve up people. So, we'll -- let's -- we'll reconvene  
17 at 1. And looks like we'll probably finish up. So, I  
18 know we've got one other report. Oh, so council members,  
19 Amy Vandervoort with ADF&G is going to come down and  
20 give a report too, this afternoon, which is another  
21 reason that I just as -- soon break. And maybe we'll  
22 start with her report before we go on to these other  
23 things while we're kind of in the report mode. And if  
24 anybody else has anything that comes across their desk  
25 or they want to bring forward in report form this  
26 afternoon, please do so. That's what we're here for is  
27 information gathering too. So, thank you guys. And I'll  
28 see everybody at 1.

29  
30 (Off record)

31  
32 (On record)

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, I'm going to  
35 call our meeting back to order here again at 1:03. I --  
36 we're still missing one of our members online that may  
37 be calling in or he may be showing up here, actually,  
38 but we haven't heard one way or the other.

39  
40 MS. PERRY: Robert Hill is online.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Oh, awesome. Okay.  
43 Robert, you were, you were the one that I was hoping to  
44 see in person but totally understand if you chose to  
45 stay home today. So, we'll go ahead and call this meeting  
46 back to order again. And I'm going to start with our  
47 last -- what I believe is our last report for this  
48 afternoon. And that's going to be a Fish and Game --  
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Amy, you want to go  
50 ahead?

1  
2 MS. VANDERVOORT: Yes, Madam Chair, to  
3 the Board. My name is Amy Vandervoort. I'm the Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist. This  
5 should be pretty quick. We did have a [sic] open bear  
6 season this last fall for Unit 9. We had 204 bears  
7 reported harvested, which is similar to the previous  
8 fall season, from two years ago. So, we'll see what  
9 happens in the spring. For moose for Unit 9 we had 203  
10 reported harvested. And these -- this is a preliminary  
11 data. We're still working through multiple failure to  
12 reports and reports that are incorrect. We're trying to  
13 figure some of those out still. We did do trend count  
14 areas along with the National Park Service and the  
15 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. In total, we counted  
16 1,481 moose. We had a calf-to-cow ratio of 26 calves per  
17 100 cows and 64 bulls per 100 cows. All these numbers  
18 are in line with what we've seen in previous years for  
19 Unit 9 so nothing alarming or anything there. We have  
20 put in more effort over the past couple of years to  
21 survey more areas so the total numbers have gone up. We  
22 haven't -- it's not an increase in population, it's just  
23 an increase in survey effort that we're getting the,  
24 more numbers.

25  
26 For caribou. I'll start with the  
27 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd south of King Salmon. So,  
28 South Naknek River down to Port Moller. We did  
29 composition surveys in October. We surveyed 1,708  
30 caribou. We had 31 calves per 100 cows and 36 bulls per  
31 100 cows. The bull ratio is right where we want it to  
32 be, we have a management objective of 35 bulls per 100  
33 cows. And with the 31 calves, that indicates an  
34 increasing population, which the population model does  
35 show. If we get above 20 to 25 calves per 100 cows, it's  
36 usually a good indicator for the population. For the  
37 caribou around Kukaklek and (In Native) Lakes, we  
38 consider them part of the Northern Alaska Peninsula  
39 Herd. We've put out some radio collars a few years ago  
40 that were GPS just to track movements and see if there  
41 was any movement into the East Mulchatna Herd, or south  
42 towards the rest of the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd.  
43 We haven't seen any movement outside the area, they  
44 pretty much stay localized, pretty much from Reindeer  
45 Lake eastward up into the mountains, depending on the  
46 time of the year. So, we did survey them this fall as  
47 well, to get a bull-to-cow and calf-to-cow ratios. We  
48 surveyed 1,106 total caribou, which is up from previous  
49 years. We had 38 calves per 100 cows and 45 bulls per  
50 100 cows. Not to make any promises, but we are working

1 on trying to open up a more broad scale hunt than what  
2 the Park Service is doing. We're still ironing out some  
3 details and stuff for that. That would be a state hunt.  
4 Hopefully, we can get something off the ground for next  
5 winter, but we're still working out some of the details  
6 for that. So far, the reported harvest for the TC505  
7 permit, which is the permit for caribou south of the  
8 Naknek River, we're sitting at 41 caribou harvested.  
9 Obviously, that hunt is still going until the end of  
10 April for Unit 9E, so I would expect more Caribou to be  
11 reported, especially with the winter we've had good  
12 travel conditions. So, we should see an increase in  
13 harvest this year. And that is all I've got. If there's  
14 questions.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yep. I'll open up  
17 for questions. Who'd like to, Richard? Go ahead, Dan.

18  
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Just for a number to start  
20 with. The Kukaklek (indiscernible), how many animals did  
21 you count?

22  
23 MS. VANDEVOORT: So, this fall, we  
24 counted 1,106.

25  
26 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks,  
27 Amy. Years ago, when the NAP Herd was down in -- way  
28 down. We put together a program to where there was a  
29 threshold, a certain threshold, we got above that, that  
30 we're able to take animals off of that herd. And we  
31 reach that here a few years ago. And that first threshold  
32 was to be for resident hunters only, once it got above  
33 a certain point where we could hunt on them. And then,  
34 above that, there was another number where they opened  
35 it up to the statewide. Do you remember what those  
36 numbers were? Or do you know of those numbers?

37  
38 MS. VANDEVOORT: I don't recall those off  
39 the top of my head, what they are. So, for the NAP south  
40 of the King Salmon River, we're still in that Tier II,  
41 resident-only hunt structure. For the Kukaklek herd  
42 we're looking at -- it's most likely won't be a Tier II  
43 hunt, but it'll be a resident-only hunt. And then, we're  
44 looking at some other stipulations where it'd be a  
45 winter-only hunt and then, the federal lands  
46 restrictions would still be in place, which would limit  
47 people outside the area from being able to hunt the  
48 federal lands. If that gets to any part of your question,  
49 hopefully, because I don't know the numbers off the top  
50 of my head.

1

2 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Okay, so now I'm  
3 curious why we're under a Tier II program now on state  
4 lands. And if you were to open it up to Kukaklek, there's  
5 caribou on state lands and that's the one you're probably  
6 speaking of, or some of them. Why would you -- with this  
7 herd being minimal size -- I'm looking for that number  
8 for the upper level, where it would get the whole state  
9 involved as opposed to just resident. Why would why would  
10 the department -- what was your thinking on? Why would  
11 it be opened up resident, statewide?

12

13 MS. VANDEVOORT: It has more to do with  
14 -- because we're outside of Board of Game cycle, and in  
15 order to open another -- it's kind of -- we're limited  
16 in what we can do by emergency order, with what permits  
17 we have out there right now, that may be on the books,  
18 but might not be utilized. So, it's more of a legal  
19 standpoint to try to get around a whole Board of Game  
20 process until we can get to a Board of Game. And I can,  
21 if you have questions later, I can maybe try to explain  
22 a little bit better.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Yes, thank you. Because  
25 there's going to be quite a conversation there. Thanks.

26

27 MS. VANDEVOORT: And I'm not making any  
28 promises that there's going to be a hunt. We're still  
29 trying to figure it out. So, it's just, we're trying to  
30 determine what we can do.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I just, I would really  
33 hope that there's a lot of research going into that  
34 before you, you know, push the button on that because  
35 there's just now, you know, we're just finding out the  
36 numbers on the Kukaklek herd and trying to see what  
37 that, the sustainability level is. And a lot of questions  
38 going on. And for the state to come over and want feed  
39 off of that, right now, it just doesn't seem quite  
40 appropriate, I guess. This is so, you know, I'd love to  
41 have a conversation if somebody is willing to hear.

42

43 MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair, yeah.  
44 So, I mean, they're like, right now, what's on the books,  
45 the only people that can hunt it are Igiugig and Kokhanok  
46 on federal lands. What we were looking at doing is --  
47 the federal lands restrictions would still stay in place  
48 because, we're not changing anything through the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board. So, the people would still only be -  
50 - could still only hunt federal lands would be Igiugig

1 and Kokhanok. From what we see from radio collar data,  
2 the majority of the caribou are on federal lands, pretty  
3 much the majority of the time. They might go off onto  
4 state lands occasionally, but not that often and not in  
5 that large of groups. So, if anyone were to come out  
6 from another area and be able to hunt, they would have  
7 to stay on the state lands, they'd have to be there when  
8 the caribou around the state lands. And there are  
9 conversations going on within the state on how to try  
10 to -- try keep this diplomatic, keep the locals being  
11 able to hunt it before, you know, before other people  
12 that might not be from Unit 9 or wherever that are  
13 considered, you know, local people for the unit. That's  
14 where we're looking at a winter hunt instead of a fall  
15 hunt, because in the fall you get a lot of people coming  
16 from Anchorage and elsewhere that would probably take  
17 advantage of it. If we don't do it in the fall, we  
18 wouldn't be worried about those people coming in and  
19 hunting it with the moose hunt or their bear hunt or  
20 whatever they're coming out here for. Winter really  
21 limits the amount of participation from outside the  
22 region so. You know, we're looking at it, we're not  
23 making any promises, but, you know, we're looking at  
24 those details of how best to manage it where we don't  
25 overharvest, you know, we'd set limits on a quota for  
26 the amount of caribou that could be harvested. And not  
27 just going out there and having it be a free for all.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, it sounds to  
30 me too, like I see the flip side of this though, also,  
31 just to throw it out there. That it would be a safety  
32 margin as well for our villagers that are hunting in  
33 case the animals ended up on state land, because right  
34 now they can't do that, so. If it was done properly, I  
35 can see where Amy's going with it. It could also help  
36 the people who are allowed to hunt it but, go ahead.

37  
38 MR. WILSON: I guess my original thought  
39 was just going back to the numbers. I mean, you know,  
40 realizing now that that herd is like 1,100. We're  
41 considered part of the -- it's considered part of the  
42 NAP herd. There was, you know, like I said, years ago,  
43 there was this process put into place where there was a  
44 certain number -- above a certain number you were able  
45 to harvest some of it, locally. And then, it got above  
46 that, and there was another number, where they felt like  
47 statewide, it was -- the state was able to take some of  
48 that game. So, I'd just be interested to know what that  
49 number is and, and why, all of a sudden, they've decided  
50 to open this herd up that way or, potentially, open it up.

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1 It just, it'd be a good question, in my mind.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Which brings  
4 a question up in my mind too, is there any reasoning or  
5 effort on the state's part where we could separate it  
6 out from the NAP herd? Because I think that that could  
7 solve the problem, right there, if we just take that  
8 count out of the NAP herd count.

9

10 MS. VANDEVOORT: So, right now, like we  
11 are considering it part of NAP herd, just because,  
12 historically, the NAP used to migrate up there. And once  
13 the NAP receded, they just kind of stayed isolated up  
14 there. Kind of what we were trying to do with this hunt  
15 is we are separating it out basically from the rest of  
16 the NAP. Otherwise, you would, potentially, have that  
17 Tier II permit be valid up there. And with it being such  
18 a small herd, we want to -- we don't want too much  
19 harvest up there. We don't want, like, everyone with a  
20 Tier II permit to be able to go up there and hunt.  
21 Because we, you know, we're issuing -- we could issue  
22 up to 600 Tier II permits and we wouldn't want, you  
23 know, all of them to go up there all of a sudden. So,  
24 that's why we have -- we're considering part of the NAP  
25 just because of historic data, but we are considering  
26 these numbers separate for managing the hunt.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Just another thought.  
29 Sitting on this Council here, I can probably go back  
30 several years where we've had ADF&G game biologist talk  
31 about the Mulchatna Herd and we've talked about the NAP  
32 herd. And, years ago, I believe it was the other way  
33 around. I think the Mulchatna Herd that, up until just  
34 two years ago, that was considered part of the Mulchatna  
35 Herd. Now we got Fish and Game for the State of Alaska,  
36 identifying them as a south North Peninsula Herd. And,  
37 I don't see how, I mean, there's some talking that got  
38 to go on here. I mean, like what's the, you know, what  
39 created this switch and why? You know, there's -- yeah.

40

41 MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair. So.  
42 yeah, there's a -- so, prior to my arrival here, that -  
43 - so, historically, that Kukaklek area was considered  
44 part of the Northern Peninsula Herd. And then, for  
45 whatever reason, we were not entirely sure, there's,  
46 there was some people coming and going over that were  
47 in charge of the Mulchatna. But somehow in some report,  
48 they got lumped in as Mulchatna Caribou, in like 2020,  
49 2021. No one -- whoever wrote that, is no longer here  
50 so, we don't know why. But that came to light and then

1 yeah, so like, this last year, we're like, we're going  
2 to switch them back to the Northern Peninsula Herd,  
3 that's what they were considered, historically. So,  
4 we're kind of trying to forget those 4 or 5 years where  
5 they were lumped in with a Mulchatna Herd, kind of as  
6 an oversight, I guess, on whoever was doing some of the  
7 reporting and stuff. But those numbers, we -- the state  
8 hadn't surveyed these Kukaklek caribou starting until a  
9 couple of years ago. So, there weren't any survey numbers  
10 being added to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd during that  
11 time when they were considered part of them. So, it  
12 didn't affect anything as far as the Mulchatna Caribou  
13 population estimates or anything like that, because  
14 there was no data being collected on them, until we  
15 radio collared a handful of them three years ago. And  
16 then we've been keeping those numbers separate since.

17  
18 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks,  
19 Amy. You know, I would really hope that any decision  
20 making that you guys opened us up, if not to resident  
21 conversation. You know, something to -- there's got to  
22 be some correspondence between the state and the locals  
23 to help develop some sort of a season. You know, if you  
24 were to open it up, I mean, it seems a little unruly for  
25 that, if they were just to do it in-house. You know, try  
26 to create a hunt, because we haven't even heard it on  
27 our AC level, so. I just -- I'd like to see that, I  
28 suppose. You know, some -- at some point before the  
29 decision -- to help in the decision making part of that,  
30 I know we're out of cycle and that's the other thing why  
31 is it out of cycle all of a sudden it's coming up, so.  
32 But I'd love to be a part of it.

33  
34 MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair. So,  
35 yeah, we -- it is out of cycle. And part of that is  
36 because the radio collars we put out three years ago  
37 were, we were trying to wait for it to get a full three  
38 years worth of data before we made any sudden decisions  
39 as far as the Board of Game route. And then, as far as  
40 getting local input, we have been talking with Katmai  
41 and we've -- whenever they are meeting with the Igiugig  
42 and Kokhanok, we have plans for, either I to call in or  
43 to go with them on the meetings to speak locally with  
44 them about it.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. Thank  
47 you, Amy. Any other questions? Dan.

48  
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. That's interesting.  
50 Yeah. I'm still -- I thought for a long time we heard

1 it was Mulchatna Herd, and then, suddenly, it's North  
2 Peninsula. So, but I know there's quite a bit of turnover  
3 in Dillingham and somewhat over here, too. I can see if  
4 it's sufficiently Northern Alaska Peninsula would be --  
5 might be easier to have any kind of a hunt. So, but  
6 yeah, I encourage you sticking close with the Advisory  
7 Committees. And then I want to kind of switch from that  
8 to, is there, you know we lost our biologist in  
9 Dillingham, is there anything you can share with us or  
10 the public on status of biologists? I've been trying to  
11 drop into the office there in Dillingham and I keep  
12 missing Evelyn so I haven't got any info. Thanks.

13  
14 MS. VANDEVOORT: Yes, through the Chair.  
15 So, for staffing over there, John's position has not  
16 been filled yet. It's been posted several times. We  
17 haven't been able to get a large enough applicant pool  
18 to do interviews. And then, yeah, the end of April,  
19 Evelyn will be leaving as well.

20  
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Then you're it for  
22 everywhere, huh? Okay. Wow.

23  
24 MS. VANDEVOORT: I have a sharp learning  
25 curve for Mulchatna.

26  
27 MR. DUNAWAY: They're in trouble. Just  
28 keep it closed for a while, I think. So, well, thanks  
29 for that information, because, yeah, I've been wanting  
30 to just visit, chat with -- wow, end of April, she's  
31 leaving too, huh? Because I thought, with the extension  
32 of the 17A moose, they officially, said that Evelyn,  
33 area biologist and I -- so.

34  
35 MR. WISON: Through the Chair. Thanks.

36  
37 MR. NUKWAK: Through.....

38  
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Just one more thought on  
40 the moose population survey that you guys did. You  
41 mentioned you guys were doing it along with some of the  
42 federal agencies. How much did this -- how many numbers  
43 were inside the state water -- or state lands and federal  
44 lands, you know, or did you have that separated out?

45  
46 MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair. I  
47 don't have that separated out right now. I usually  
48 combine it all. Partly because the state picks up some  
49 of the other areas that might be inside the preserve and  
50 refuge, as well, depending on staffing and availability

1 that they can fly. I mean, we could -- I could get the  
2 numbers and get that to you, but I don't have that broken  
3 down right now.

4  
5 MR. WILSON: It'd just be, I guess in a  
6 way, it'd be good to know what -- because there's  
7 different rules for different places, and it'd be nice  
8 to know what, you know how much is on state properties,  
9 state lands as opposed to federal. But, yeah, not that  
10 important. It was just a thought there. Thanks.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Kenneth, I think I  
13 recognized your voice online. Did you have a question?

14  
15 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. Through the  
16 Chair. I just joined about 20 minutes ago, and on this  
17 conversation and deliberation on this one, I'm very much  
18 interested. I'm kind of, like compare it to the Nushagak,  
19 Peninsula Caribou Herd out there. I'll be paying  
20 attention to the minutes on this item. Very interesting.  
21 That's my two cents.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Sorry, my mic wasn't  
24 on. Thank you. Anybody else? Dan.

25  
26 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to thank you  
27 for coming and sharing everything. It's very helpful to  
28 have the department join us. You've been really good  
29 about that in the past too, so thanks.

30  
31 MR. WILSON: She's pretty good at crib  
32 too. She beat me the other day in the tournament.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect.

35  
36 MR. DUNAWAY: I won't even try.

37  
38 MR. HILL: Can you hear me, Nanci?

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Sorry, my mic wasn't  
41 on again. Yes, I can, please go ahead.

42  
43 MR. HILL: Oh. I -- this is Robert Hill  
44 here. I just wanted to say, if there is further  
45 discussion about possible hunt on state land, I'd like  
46 to be involved in that, I wouldn't want to try to derail  
47 this any further than it went, but. And I was also  
48 wondering, I didn't catch that bear population number.  
49 Can I hear that number again?

50

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1                   CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: 201? 204 was the  
2 number taken from Unit 9.

3  
4                   MR. HILL: And do they have an estimate  
5 on the bear population in Unit 9.

6  
7                   CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We did not get that  
8 number. But she's coming back up with a comment.

9  
10                  MS. VANDEVOORT: All right. Through the  
11 Chair, Amy Vandervoort. So, the past couple of years,  
12 we've started brown bear transects to get density  
13 estimates in Unit 9. We started with 9D, two years ago.  
14 We're still working on analyzing the data. It's not an  
15 easy plug and play type data analysis. We surveyed 9A  
16 and 9B last year with Lake Clark National Park, and they  
17 are working on analyzing that data. And this year we're  
18 hoping to do from Port Mueller to Port Heiden, in 9E.  
19 But yeah, so we're working on it, but we don't have  
20 anything ready to be published or cited or anything yet,  
21 so.

22  
23                  CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Does that answer  
24 your question, Robert?

25  
26                  MR. HILL: I guess that's why I didn't  
27 hear the number. Yeah, it does answer my question.  
28 Thanks.

29  
30  
31                  CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No worries. Thank  
32 you. Anybody else?

33  
34                  MR. NUKWAK: Madam Chair.

35  
36                  CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

37  
38                  MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Is that part of the --  
39 their control program, Amy?

40  
41                  CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Negative. It's only  
42 for this side of the area.

43  
44                  MR. NUKWAK: Oh, okay. Because I heard  
45 that 204 were taken down. Or did I misunderstand? That  
46 was -- is my question.

47  
48                  MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair. So,  
49 the 204 that were taken were all of Unit 9, just for the  
50 fall hunt that's open every other year.

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MR. NUKWAK: So, through the Chair. That would be a separate IGMP, then. All right.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. It's a separate count from over on your side. Yes.

MR. NUKWAK: Okay. Understood. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody with anything else?

(No response)

Okay. Katya, you want to come up and give OSM report?

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madam Chair, Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Katya Wessels, and I'm Council Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM. So, very little time passed since your previous meeting, but we still have a lot of ongoing things at OSM. And first of all, you know, all of the Councils that had to be rescheduled from, you know, having the full meetings during the regular time frame, were able to have their meetings. Yours was one of them, and we really appreciate all of your dedication and commitment to the work on the Council to make that happen, that you were able to hold your full meeting, and, very quickly after that, now we're having our winter meetings. So, we also held the second set of tribal consultations with tribes and ANCSA corporations on the proposals and closure reviews. These happened February 17th and 18th. And any information that, you know, if you would like to getting information about those, you can address Orville Lind, Native Liaison with OSM. Also, just a reminder to any tribes and corporations that, if they want to have any additional consultations, they can always reach out to Orville. So, the Board will discuss the proposals and closure reviews and Councils recommendations during their regular meeting, regulatory meeting in April, April 20th, 24th. That will be held in Anchorage at Egan Center. And the, another opportunity for tribal consultations will be right prior to that Board meeting, in the morning, on April 20th. That's Monday. So, if any tribes didn't have a chance to consult with the Board, they will get a chance to do it then.

1                   So, the next update is on the  
2 Secretarial Review. The open comments period on the  
3 Secretarial Review -- target Secretarial Reviews of this  
4 program, of Federal Subsistence Management program,  
5 opened in December, December 15th. And on February 3rd  
6 the Secretaries Office held a listening session in  
7 Anchorage. I don't know if any of you -- you didn't  
8 attend in person, but maybe some of you called in on the  
9 phone, but we had a very huge outcome of people. There  
10 were more than 100 people in the room, and 76 people  
11 provided a testimony in person. And then, more people -  
12 - also over 100 people were online. And, you know, quite  
13 a few of them provided the testimony. So, then by -- the  
14 written public comment period got extended. It's -- now  
15 ends March 30th. So, if anyone would like, you know, to  
16 submit comments, they can do so, you know, via mail,  
17 email or through the portal, before March 30th. And there  
18 will be a set of statewide tribal and ANCSA corporation  
19 consultations, specifically for the review, on March  
20 10th and March 17th. But, in addition to that, any tribe  
21 can request a separate consultation on the topic of the  
22 Secretarial Review. So, Kara Moriarty, the Senior  
23 Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaskan  
24 Affairs, said that all of the comments that are received  
25 during this comment period, written or oral, will be  
26 analyzed, reviewed, and, at this point, no decision has  
27 been made. That's an official statement.

28  
29                   So, the other thing, what happened was  
30 on February 5th, the Federal Subsistence Board had their  
31 winter work session. The main purpose of this work  
32 session is discussing FRMP plan and monitoring plan, and  
33 the Board accepted the monitoring plan as presented.  
34 Besides that, the Board discussed the elevation of the  
35 Councils letters of concern to the Secretary. These  
36 letters were addressed to the Board, and the Board  
37 decided to forward a whole slew of letters and the topics  
38 of these letters were, one was ANCSA (d)(1) land  
39 protection, the other one was Cross-jurisdictional and  
40 conservation related fisheries concern. And the third  
41 topic was the council member compensation for serving  
42 on the Councils. The Board also received an update for  
43 requests for reconsideration, RFR25-01, regarding the  
44 designation of Ketchikan as being rural, and the Board  
45 will make a final decision on that request during their  
46 April regulatory meeting. That's when they will decide  
47 if this request meets the threshold for full  
48 reconsideration, and then, there will be a long process  
49 after that, if they decide that it meets the threshold.  
50

1                   The Board also received an update on the  
2 federal subsistence permitting database during that  
3 February 5th meeting. That's being developed, it's not  
4 finished, the development of database had not been  
5 finished. And the Board also received an update from the  
6 Senior Advisor, Kara Moriarty, on the ongoing  
7 Secretarial Review. So, the -- as you heard, of course,  
8 the fisheries proposed rule have been published on  
9 February 12th. And the call for fisheries proposals --  
10 federal fisheries proposal, is open now. If so, if you  
11 can spread the word, anyone can submit fisheries  
12 proposal, it doesn't need to be just a Council. It can  
13 be any organization or an individual. And they can work,  
14 also, with OSM staff, if somebody has, you know,  
15 questions on how to submit proposals or develop them,  
16 they can call OSM and OSM staff will help these  
17 individuals or organizations. The call for proposals is  
18 closing on April 3rd. And after all of the proposals are  
19 received, they will be published online for public  
20 inspection and comment. And the comment period this year  
21 will be open for a longer period of time. I do not have  
22 the closing date in front of me, but it will be way into  
23 summer so this will get people more opportunities to  
24 comment on the proposals. And then, these proposals will  
25 come in front of your Council during your fall meetings  
26 and you will make the recommendations if there are any  
27 proposals for your region or across regional or  
28 statewide.

29  
30                   Okay, so, the next topic is Council  
31 Appointments. We -- this year it's been delayed,  
32 unfortunately, due to the lapse in government  
33 appropriations and other circumstances. It's in final  
34 stages now in the Secretary's Office. The appointments  
35 are being reviewed. We're hoping to get the final  
36 appointment, decision and letters by the end of this  
37 month. So, but, saying that, the new call for council  
38 applications and nominations and, also, the young  
39 leaders letters of interest is open right now. It is  
40 open till April 2nd. And you know, any incumbents on  
41 this Council whose term expired in December of this year,  
42 we encourage you to reapply and continue serving on this  
43 Council. Also, I am requesting that the council members  
44 talk with people in your communities, you know people  
45 who would be good serving on the Councils and encourage  
46 them to apply or organizations to nominate them. And,  
47 if you know any youth, it's, when I say youth, it's,  
48 basically, ages between ages 18 and 25. But it would be  
49 great if this Council will get a young leader that lives  
50 in the region and [sic] interested in subsistence, well

1 versed in subsistence and can learn from you so, then,  
2 they potentially, can become a new Council member in the  
3 future because the young leader position is a non-voting  
4 position. But it's a good learning -- it's a  
5 developmental opportunity. So, and it's, you know, it's  
6 good to have more applications in the region in any  
7 case, because, even if we have more applications than  
8 seats, if we have alternates, then we have them sitting  
9 in the wings. And if somebody, you know, moves out of  
10 the region, resigns or passes away, we can fill that  
11 seat out of cycle. So, that's why it's good to have an  
12 alternate. And that language is in your charter so, we're  
13 good with that.

14  
15 So, and the -- okay, and one other  
16 thing, that during this summer session, that will be  
17 August 4th and 5th in Anchorage, we are trying to get  
18 the Chairs or Council representatives to attend in  
19 person, because one of the main purposes of that summer  
20 work session is for the Board to discuss the annual  
21 reports. And we think it would be a better dialogue  
22 between the Councils and the Board if the Council Chair  
23 or representative comes in person and discusses these  
24 issues with the Board in person. Besides just OSM staff,  
25 summarizing your reports and presenting it to the Board.  
26 Have a live dialogue is much better for, you know,  
27 finding out the solutions for the issues. And Dan  
28 attended last year. So, that was great, you know, but I  
29 think this year it will be even more, kind of a engaged  
30 discussion on all of these topics. So, Nanci, I don't  
31 know if you're available during that time or you want  
32 to send somebody else, so. But, it's not like, you don't  
33 need to vote on record. Basically, a Council  
34 representative is invited to the August meeting.

35  
36 So, the last thing is the budget and I  
37 will read that portion of the report. So, the Office of  
38 Subsistence Management Fiscal Year 2026 budget of 9.4  
39 million will allow the program to continue delivering  
40 essential services that protect and support rural  
41 subsistence opportunities across 222 million acres of  
42 federal lands and waters in Alaska. While this amount  
43 is modestly lower than the last year, OSM will prioritize  
44 core functions that keep fish and wildlife resources  
45 healthy and available for rural residents, including  
46 processing regulatory proposals, supporting the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Councils,  
48 conducting public meetings and consultations,  
49 maintaining critical permitting and regulatory  
50 publications. OSM will also preserve capacity for

1 essential fisheries research and community partnerships,  
2 ensuring that local, tribal and state collaborators  
3 remain engaged in shaping sustainable subsistence  
4 management. Through strategic planning, efficiency  
5 improvement and focused investments, OSM will continue  
6 to uphold ANILCA Title VII and support food security for  
7 rural Alaskans. So, that's the update on this year's OSM  
8 budget. And I will be happy to answer any questions if  
9 I have an answer.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Katya.  
12 Questions council members?

13  
14 (No response)

15  
16 Must have been plenty thorough enough.  
17 Thank you, Katya.

18  
19 MS. WESSELS: You're welcome.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. And with that,  
22 then we will move to Other Business. And I'm going to  
23 hand that over to you, then Leigh, and we can talk about  
24 Billy and we'll talk about maybe a map request as well.

25  
26 MS. HONIG: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.  
27 Leigh Honig, for the record. So, I just have a brief  
28 update on the correspondence the Council had from its  
29 last meeting. And I included copies of all the letters,  
30 and it begins on page 19 in your main meeting booklet.  
31 And I just realized that I did not include the Council's  
32 comment letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Marine  
33 Council on the chum salmon bycatch. I do have it on our  
34 website, but I will email that out to everybody. And I  
35 would also like to point out that, in your supplemental  
36 meeting materials booklet, the little blue one, we did  
37 get an information sheet from NPFMC after their meeting,  
38 detailing the results of that meeting so I wanted to  
39 point that out. They weren't available to meet with the  
40 Council to discuss that with you in person but wanted  
41 to point that out.

42  
43 So, going back to the correspondence,  
44 I've included the Council's letter on the program  
45 review. I've also included the other Councils comments  
46 letters: Yukon-Kuskokwim and Southcentral were not  
47 included in this book, but they have been published and  
48 available on our website, and I can definitely send those  
49 to anybody who would like to read those. But yeah,  
50 sometimes it's helpful to hear what other Councils are

1 saying. And as Katya had mentioned, the scoping process  
2 for that program review has been extended until March  
3 30th. Let's see here. So, on page 51, we have the letter  
4 that Dan so graciously put together to send to Billy  
5 Trefon's daughter. I do have a hard copy of the letter  
6 here, and I'd love to capture everybody's signature to  
7 then send that on to Krystal so we can do that at the  
8 conclusion. But that is all I have for the correspondence  
9 update. And we can kind of just -- since I briefly spoke  
10 to it, we can kind of roll into the -- this program  
11 review and.....

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: The other thing too  
14 is I -- we were talking about maps earlier and how we  
15 would like better maps. And I thought that could be a  
16 note of correspondence, for now. And, and we can add it  
17 to our comments to the Board in the fall, as well, but,  
18 you know, to let people know, put them on notice that,  
19 you know, we're, as Dan said, I mean, we could use better  
20 quality maps that would give us higher definition and  
21 clearer ideas about who's lands begin where and stop  
22 where and all that sort of thing. Anybody -- it was your  
23 guys' idea. So, pipe up anytime you like and add to it.  
24 Go ahead, Dan.

25  
26 MR. DUNAWAY: So, we're asking for maps  
27 specifically to help with knowing where jurisdictions  
28 are. And we're wrestling with (indiscernible) and the  
29 waters there right now. It could be a complicated map,  
30 but I just want to make sure that's our main focus.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Correct. That's  
33 what I was looking for. But yeah, a lot of those areas,  
34 I don't know if -- I guess my mind thinks that if we had  
35 one map to kind of show general areas and then probably  
36 a set of maps that were more defining of each area, more  
37 detailed, might be the better answer for that that we  
38 could turn to. It seems to me like even if a book of  
39 maps could be made for each area, it would be extremely  
40 helpful, and they could just be brought to every meeting.  
41 It's not like it would have to be reproduced every single  
42 time, but to be able to have something to walk -- work,  
43 excuse me, walk up -- work off of that would allow us a  
44 clearer picture might be very helpful. Anybody else have  
45 any other ideas or comments on that? Richard.

46  
47 MR. WILSON: Ms. Leigh had started off  
48 with the Billy Trefon letter and we doing [sic] this  
49 correspondence one first or are we going to do the --  
50 Billy's letter?

1

2

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, we -- yeah, we have Billy's letter. I think -- and I'm sorry. I think maybe I rushed past that without intending to, but I believe Leigh is going to pass it to each of us so she can have personal signatures on it. And that was the idea. Did you have any other comments or questions or additions that you wanted to that? I don't think I made that clear though, so I apologize.

10

11

MR. WILSON: No. No problem. I just waiting to hear about the letter there and thanking Dan for putting, you know, get together. Really appreciate it. We all miss his presence here, you know, and his knowledge that he brought to this Council. You know, and to the audience, because he was a whole world of living evidence of what went on and what goes on up in that area. No. I do appreciate it. And yeah, that was the only comment I had on that one.

20

21

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I agree. And I think too, I didn't ever say, but you know, he -- what a historian he was. How many times did he tell us, you know, how many generations back that, you know, he remembers his relatives and what happened there. And I know he did a way better job of it than I'll ever do. And it's just, yeah, a big miss, a big miss for sure. Go ahead, Kendra.

29

30

MS. HOLMAN: So, for the record, this is Kendra Holman, a Wildlife Biologist with OSM. If you'd like to do -- I don't want to fully discourage the letter to the Board. OSM, for the last, currently, I think 2 or 3 years now, at this point, has a cartographer and she's been working very diligently on updating all of our maps. So, if there's things like that that you need, that's something that we can address within OSM. Like I said, you can still -- I'm not saying you cannot send that to the Board. But that is something that we can have a conversation, we can put together a list for, and we can take it back to our cartographer and actually start making these things and looking at different options. So, the maps that you have out on your tables are things that she has been able to implement and get printed for you guys. The maps in the back of your book, things like that. So, there are some things that -- like that, that we can address within OSM. And if there's ways that we can help or take notes on what exactly you're looking for, we should you've had a great discussion on that right now. But I just wanted to put

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1 that on the record and let you know that that is  
2 something that we can internally address, as well, if  
3 you would like.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, thanks. I feel  
6 like we're at a hopscotch game, though. We keep going  
7 from one to the other. Yeah, no, absolutely. I personally  
8 had no idea that you had a cartographer available to  
9 you. No reason for me to ask that question, no reason  
10 for you to have told me that earlier than now but,  
11 absolutely, I guess I'm just as happy to do that as to  
12 make more work for Leigh. And then back to the letter  
13 again, do you want to go ahead -- will you -- you want  
14 to circulate that now or do you want to circulate it  
15 later? What's -- what would you prefer to do?

16  
17 MS. HONIG: You know, I'd prefer to do  
18 it after the meeting, if that's easier.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Absolutely, that's  
21 fine. John and Richard probably should be your first  
22 targets because they're -- they will be dispersing,  
23 since you'll be bringing people back to the -- my office,  
24 we should all be there, so. Okay. Any other comments on  
25 either one of these subjects since we've been hopping  
26 back and forth? Richard.

27  
28 MR. WILSON: Are we on the correspondence  
29 portion of it? Just the maps, right now. Okay.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Correct.

32  
33 (Pause)

34  
35 Then that's -- we've got the letter to  
36 Billy covered. Leigh's going to make sure that she sees  
37 each of you, to get a personal signature for it, before  
38 she sends it off. And the maps. We've got the  
39 cartographer. Yeah. Their ear and we'll see what they  
40 can potentially come up with that will help us out with  
41 this very large region, be very good help. Then let's  
42 move on to the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
43 scoping period extension. Is that you, Leigh?

44  
45 MS. HONIG: Sure, I can speak to that  
46 really briefly. As you've mentioned before, the comment  
47 period has been extended to March 30th on the Federal  
48 Subsistence Management Program Review. I've included the  
49 Federal Register Notice in your blue handy dandy that  
50 has lots of verbiage on there, but essentially, it's

1 extended to March 30th. So, the Council has already  
2 submitted their comments. But this is an opportunity,  
3 if you feel that you need to address anything more. We  
4 can definitely write another letter on behalf of the  
5 Council and get that submitted on time.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. Thank you.  
8 So, that's just what Katya just went over too. Correct?  
9 Okay. Any questions or comments on that, anybody? Dan.

10  
11 MR. DUNAWAY: I can't think of anything  
12 new to add. I thought it was really interesting to be  
13 able to look at the other Councils. And some of them,  
14 it looks like, did they put a lawyer on this? It's  
15 pretty, you know, pretty detailed. It's interesting.  
16 There's, seems like overall a general consensus on some  
17 of the items, like makeup of the Board, makeup of the  
18 RACs, criteria for selecting them. So, I'm fairly  
19 satisfied with what we've already offered. I am  
20 impressed by the high level of detail some of the other  
21 ones went to on it. And I guess I'll throw it in,  
22 reminding of being in that meeting last summer. I  
23 thought, right away, it was very helpful to have people  
24 like Frank Woods. I can't remember the name of the guy  
25 from Barrow, Utqiaġvik. Maybe.....

26  
27 (Talking)

28  
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Was Charlie Brown in there?  
30 I can't remember where the other guy was from.

31  
32 (Talking)

33  
34 MR. DUNAWAY: That's okay. Bottom line -  
35 - the bottom line is I thought I -- there were -- several  
36 times they were able to bring their personal knowledge  
37 to the -- directly to the Federal Subsistence Board .I  
38 felt like I was seeing there was immediate reward so,  
39 there's people or there's -- I get the sense that there  
40 may be some groups that are balking at that addition,  
41 but I think it was a good thing. So, thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

44  
45 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I kind of went through  
46 what we had here in the booklet, too, the different RACs  
47 that have chimed in on what the system looks like and  
48 how it was developed and where it should go. And I just  
49 had -- I had a comment that, you know, when they sit  
50 these people on these Boards -- there was an experience

1 that I had here a couple of months ago on the State of  
2 Alaska Fish -- when we went to the Fish Board. There was  
3 a member there that, literally, did not know one end of  
4 a boat from the other. I mean, they're seated on that  
5 Board, you know, or whatever Board they decide to get  
6 seated on, and we're discussing that and going, well,  
7 how strange for somebody to be seated and not really  
8 know what's going on. Doesn't have any idea what they're  
9 looking at. And it makes us, you know, the system really,  
10 makes it a bad system. And I -- the suggestions that I  
11 had was, and we discussed this too, as a group was, you  
12 know, they ought to have a staff supporting them. So,  
13 when you get to the table, with all these different  
14 issues, and same with the Federal Board, they should  
15 have a staff behind them that has, you know, that can  
16 help them, you know, it's like a teamwork thing, instead  
17 of an individual sitting there wondering what's going  
18 on and publicly asking these questions, you know, that,  
19 it just makes you -- it makes us cringe, like, okay,  
20 what are they doing? Is this who we have representing  
21 the State of Alaska? It's like, come on, you know. So,  
22 there's that going on. That really needs to be addressed  
23 once they, you know, it needs to be recognized and  
24 knowing that there's, you know, that we're watching, you  
25 know, and people see these things and, you know, and  
26 having the agencies here at our meetings, filling us in  
27 with the proper information that it takes to run any  
28 kind of program, I think is detrimental to the system.  
29 And we need to make sure that they feel that and hear  
30 that and want to be part of it. And, you know, it's sad  
31 that we have others coming and going. And you know, I'd  
32 like to see them stay a little longer and, you know, a  
33 lot longer, but they just -- the turnover is so great,  
34 but we need that representation and we need it. So,  
35 thanks.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think that's  
38 valuable wisdom, Richard. Yes. I too, when I read through  
39 the reports, was very taken by the uniformity in the  
40 messages, whether they were, you know, seven paragraphs  
41 or one paragraph long. And -- but it rang very true that  
42 the Councils are pretty much, you know, in collusion  
43 with believing that, of what we need, which in my  
44 opinion, made me feel like, we'll have more strength  
45 because our voice is going to be louder with all of us  
46 requesting and, or applauding the same points in the  
47 program. So, those were great. But I would encourage any  
48 Council member who wishes to write in personal comments,  
49 as well. I'm sure that any kind of support that can be  
50 gleaned in the field, during this process, is going to

1 be looked at, heard and read. And I just, you know, I  
2 feel like -- I've been telling Leigh this, and I feel  
3 like, you know, I've got nothing against the Safari Club  
4 International, but they are a special interest group and  
5 I'm just surprised at how much power one special interest  
6 group has had to create -- I mean, this is a huge thing,  
7 this whole scoping process thing is a huge thing. And  
8 it's a burden on the government. And it's kind of a  
9 surprise that that can be brought forward, so. We need  
10 to be on our toes and watching it. Certainly not over  
11 yet. This is just the beginning of it. But we do need  
12 to be aware. And if you're so inclined to get a letter  
13 written, I would encourage you to do so. Now, do I hand  
14 it over to you for the Native corporation lands and  
15 allotments on federal maps? Or do we need our  
16 cartographer expert back up here?

17  
18 MS. HONIG: This will definitely include  
19 her later on, depending on the outcome. I have, let me  
20 just, I should have handed these out later. They're just  
21 an example of what the Eastern Interior Council is  
22 requesting. So, they, in their annual report last year,  
23 they -- which I included in your meeting book, it's page  
24 57. But they had a request that they'd like to  
25 incorporate Native corporation lands and allotments on  
26 the maps that are used in the federal regulation books  
27 to help reduce trespass issues. At the moment, these  
28 maps reference federal land ownership. And through the  
29 report, the Council stated that trespassing, primarily  
30 by hunters, is a big issue in their region and that  
31 they've been actively working to address through  
32 increased outreach and hunter ethics initiatives. And  
33 the Council also stated that these efforts will not be  
34 successful if the public cannot easily reference land  
35 status on regulatory maps and therefore requested the  
36 Board to also display Corporation lands in Native  
37 allotments. So, the Board had read their annual report  
38 and requested feedback from other Councils on whether  
39 this is something they would like to see in the handy  
40 dandy, as well. So, yeah, in front of you is a -- an  
41 example of what that would look like. It also shows  
42 state lands as well on this one, just an FYI. So, not  
43 an action item, we're just here to collect feedback to  
44 bring back to the Eastern Interior and the Board. Thank  
45 you.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

48  
49 MR. WILSON: My first thought was, how  
50 do you line up a GPS line on if we were to zoom in on

1 it? I only say that because I was out hunting once and  
2 -- with moose, and it was on a selected BLM land and  
3 state land, and there was a boundary line that the  
4 officer thought was a boundary line. And I go, hey, you  
5 know, where's the map to show me that? And he goes,  
6 well, this is, you know, this is the (indiscernible).  
7 And he says, well, I didn't see that. I mean, I don't  
8 know that. But he was like, okay. So, this is some of  
9 the struggles that we have. You know, when you go up the  
10 creek here, you know, there's a sign there that says  
11 this is federal lands, so we know where that's at. But  
12 when you're trying to drop a whole map like this of the  
13 whole region. Boy, what a, I mean, that'd be -- I know  
14 it's our responsibility as hunters and collectors to  
15 know where you're at, but boy, that'd be a challenge.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan, go ahead.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Couple questions. I look  
20 at Jon, he might know or somebody in the audience. I've  
21 been thinking about getting this onX. I had a [sic] onX  
22 for my old GPS, which sometimes told me Togiak Refuge  
23 boundary looked like it was nearly to my yard, and I  
24 didn't think so, but does anybody know how detailed the  
25 latest of that is? Because that can be helpful if you  
26 have the electronics.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Actually, yeah. My  
29 kids use it all the time and it's extremely detailed and  
30 very helpful out in the field. They trust it. I don't  
31 know, I'm not savvy enough with it to know if it's been  
32 put to the test or not yet, but they -- my pilots use  
33 it. All of them have it. I, as the owner of the business,  
34 I don't support it so they have to buy it on their own  
35 but, yeah, they all use it a lot and really like the  
36 details that it gives so, that's all I can tell you  
37 about it.

38

39 MS. VOGT: Hey. Good afternoon, my name  
40 is Officer Melissa Vogt with Togiak National Wildlife  
41 Refuge. And I regularly utilize onX. I use other apps  
42 as well for cross-reference, but I've had no issue at  
43 all with accuracy in terms of patrolling. And it even  
44 shows us where those, where certain allotments are and  
45 whatnot so, we're better able to conduct appropriate  
46 enforcement in those areas. So, I -- we're encouraged  
47 to utilize it as well throughout the region as a resource  
48 due to its accuracy.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. Thank you  
2 so much for that. Dan.

3  
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks for that.  
5 Yeah. Because now there's newer, more stringent rules  
6 that Curyung and some of the associated tribes have over  
7 there, which have carved out new chunks of land that,  
8 if you're not a member of the tribe or a member of BBNA  
9 or BBNC, I mean, you can't use them for some things. So,  
10 well, I guess I'll have to fork over the dough. But  
11 that's good to know because I think a little bit like  
12 what Richard is saying is, there's a lot of detail, at  
13 some point it might not be fair to demand one of these  
14 books go to the detail. Like, I know there's like, I  
15 think single sections of BLM land floating around over  
16 there and along the Nushagak and a single section in  
17 hundreds of thousands of square miles -- though I know  
18 now Frank Woods at one point was going out and GPS in  
19 those to put on some of the tribal information. So,  
20 yeah, added detail would be nice, but we got to be  
21 realistic, too. So, thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Go ahead,  
24 Richard.

25  
26 MR. WILSON: Yeah, it's kind of sad, in  
27 a way, to think that that we -- in order to utilize our  
28 own resource, if we don't carry an updated map version  
29 -- and mine expired like my ex hunt, different things  
30 expired so, it doesn't show you the accuracy anymore,  
31 you can't get it. But what about, you know, the family  
32 member or teenager or somebody that can't afford these  
33 things, you know, and out there and want to do their  
34 hunt? And, you know, I'm glad that, you know, enforcement  
35 isn't real strict or most of them aren't, you know, as  
36 far as, okay, this tree is a boundary line, not that  
37 one, you know, kind of attitude, where you get a little  
38 bit of leeway so, you know, just general area. Used to  
39 be, you know, this river system south of it is this way,  
40 north of it is that way. That was easy. But now you got,  
41 you know, allotments and personal properties laying  
42 across the whole thing. So, quite the challenge.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: It is. However, I  
45 think we've walked off the pathway of the map and  
46 deciding whether we wanted one for our areas or if we  
47 felt that it would be helpful to us, to have. For us to  
48 use. Dan.

49  
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I think for some of what  
2 we're doing here, like we were wrestling with  
3 jurisdictions, it could be pretty darn nice. How much  
4 of that gets into a book for general publication, you  
5 just have to -- some decisions have to be made. Money  
6 will probably have a lot to do with it. And I don't want  
7 to be hauling around a Sears catalog to -- either. So,  
8 anyway. Oh, and maybe getting into these jurisdictional  
9 issues, where the state is being contentious on some,  
10 but at this level here, it would be helpful. Thanks.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks. Richard.

13  
14 MR. WILSON: I think for my purpose,  
15 sitting here, like, if there was an issue, say up King  
16 Salmon Creek, you know, and there was a piece of ground  
17 there or something that was under contention. If we knew  
18 it ahead of time, it was in a book, saying, we're going  
19 to be talking about this area that, you know, is possible  
20 they could zero in on just a specific area, for that  
21 specific topic, instead of doing the whole region here.  
22 That way it would be simplified and we'd be able to,  
23 virtually, see, there's a hill there, you know, there's,  
24 you know, you can get the terrain in and you know, be more  
25 efficient that way. Maybe that's what we're looking for.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Walter.

28  
29 MR. KANULIE: You know, we really don't  
30 -- when we're going around out in the boonies, we really  
31 don't -- I mean, we have an idea of who's allotment this  
32 is and then we have, like, Twin Hills corp. And then  
33 ours is close by. But I hope it doesn't come to where  
34 it restricts us as, you know, people that like to wander  
35 around, you know so, that I -- that's -- thought I'd  
36 bring that up.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Absolutely. No,  
39 that's a good point, too. But I -- yeah, I think  
40 Richard's idea is a very good one, you know, that they  
41 could totally and wonderfully be put to use. You know,  
42 especially, on proposals that are targeted so that we  
43 could make better use of them. I still like the idea,  
44 also, of having just a book at every seat that has more  
45 detailed and better maps that they wouldn't have to be,  
46 you know, as detailed as we're talking per proposal, but  
47 to be able to zone in on areas that we're talking about  
48 and be able to look at them and have people understand  
49 them with more knowledge. You know, if you had a  
50 basically a book of maps for your region. Anybody else?

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MR. HILL: Can I, Chairman Nanci?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, please.

MR. HILL: Oh, yeah. I just would like to reiterate, I think detailed maps of the different areas that we are looking at and the different federal lands and stuff would be really helpful.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Awesome. Thank you for that. Kenneth or John.

MR. NUKWAK: Listening in, just going to.....

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, awesome. Just wanted to see if you guys had any comments on the maps as well so, appreciate that.

MS. VOGT: May I make one more comment?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Please.

MS. VOGT: Regarding maps. One thing that I address in the field often is a lot of people not carrying maps around even whether -- even if they are available it just, you know, phones freeze up, paper maps get wet. You know. So on and so forth. So, I wonder if it would be possible, in addition to creating these maps, maybe having some kind of, not necessarily a full narrative, but a descriptor of what those, you know, what those boundaries are, whether it's a river or it's a mountain or something along those lines that can be spoken. Because many people, especially out -- you know, especially out here along or within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and some of these other rural communities, they're, you know, they're just up -- they're conducting activities in their own backyards. They've, you know, don't need a map. They just use landmarks. And I think a great way to communicate boundaries would -- outside of just saying, hey, look at this map or, you know, look at one of these dozens of maps in this book, maybe having some kind of description that outlines what those landmarks are. And I think that we would enable a larger group of people to be where they're supposed to be.

MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. Madam Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, go ahead.

MR. NUKWAK: Looking at the maps, where it goes around the maps item, I'm looking at the onX hunt map and kind of have an idea of putting in the lines to the Garmin maps and Magellan maps, but that would include a lot of money, you know. Because on the onX map, if you guys have the onX hunt map, the boundary lines are in there throughout the United States. And then if this same item was to be put in place to the GPS, I think that would be very helpful because some people carry a GPS, handheld maps when they go out hunting. And they got to know which part of the line they're at, either inside or outside of the line. I hope that's helpful.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That's very helpful too, Kenneth. Thank you. Leigh's copious notes on these so, we'll see what she comes up with when she has to put her typing to order here, her (indiscernible) to order. Okay. If there's nothing else on the maps issue, then we're on to member closing comments. Does anybody have any comments they'd like to make before closing this meeting?

(No answer)

Sure, you all go silent on me now. Well, I would just like to.....

MR. NUKWAK: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. NUKWAK: This is Kenneth. Is this the end of the meeting?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, Kenneth, it is.

MR. NUKWAK: Oh, wonderful. Other than that, I have nothing to say, then.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, we all agree with you. It is. And I just thank everybody, and I don't know, did you have a plan for our members that aren't here today to sign on to Billy's letter or did you have anything that you'd like to say to them about that?

1 MS. HONIG: I had not thought that far  
2 ahead, but I'm sure I can get a digital signature and  
3 add it to the letter. So, I'll reach out to yeah,  
4 Kenneth, Robert and John to get your signatures and get  
5 that affixed to the letter.

6  
7 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. Kenneth

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Kenneth.

10  
11 MR. NUKWAK: I keep hearing a letter for  
12 Billy Trefon's daughter. Have you also considered a  
13 plaque? I thought I'd just put that out there.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Leigh.

16  
17 MS. HONIG: We had not discussed that,  
18 but I'd be more than happy to look into that and procure  
19 something. And I can share that with the Council as I  
20 look into it. And we can maybe get images or something  
21 along those lines.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think, yeah, funny  
24 you should mention that, Kenneth. I guess I assumed it  
25 would include that so, I'm glad we said something. But  
26 yeah, I would love to see, like, the time, whatever his  
27 dates were on the Subsistence Board, I know that he was  
28 here for a number of years. Obviously, something about  
29 deep appreciation and a picture or something. Anything  
30 else anybody can think of that they'd like to see on a  
31 plaque? Go ahead, Richard.

32  
33 MR. WILSON: Orville Lind has some great  
34 paintings. And he could give him a little scene there  
35 of Billy's -- one of Billy's favorite scenes and, you  
36 know, and painted up. Just saying, yeah. One more  
37 comment. You know, and I mentioned this before, but just,  
38 I'm very thankful for the -- all the agencies that come  
39 to the meeting, that commit themselves to this process  
40 because it's so important. I mean, here we're a few  
41 here, but we represent a lot of the area here. And they  
42 do, too. It's all a group effort. It's not just us  
43 sitting here. You know, it's all the agencies and  
44 everybody that contributes their time and energy and,  
45 you know, to put all this together. It's -- to me, it's  
46 well noted. I mean, I, you know, I couldn't do without  
47 you. So, I really appreciate you guys doing that. Thanks.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Absolutely. Walter.

50

1 MR. KANULIE: I like to thank people that  
2 come around. I appreciate that you guys have been around  
3 for so long. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, we appreciate  
6 you being here, as well. And I certainly echo Richard's  
7 comments. I was going to thank everybody, but I think  
8 he did it much better and more eloquently than I would.  
9 So, I appreciate it, as well. Anybody else have comments?

10  
11 MR. HILL: Hi Nanci, this is Rob Hill.  
12 Hey, I realized that there's a lot of effort that goes  
13 into putting the meeting on, and there is a lot of value  
14 to being there in person. I did make a considerable  
15 effort to try to get down there today for the meeting,  
16 but things just didn't work out for me and I apologize  
17 for that.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You are excused and  
20 we appreciate your attendance online. We know -- I know  
21 what a pain it is to have to do the meetings online so,  
22 I appreciate, I think it's way harder online than it is  
23 in person. But we appreciate all three of you holding  
24 out for it and it's appreciated. Dan.

25  
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you, Robert.  
27 It's been real helpful when you're on, whether you're  
28 here in person or on the phone. But I was thinking of  
29 what Richard's comments about Orville and, often this  
30 time of year, Billy start taking pictures out he's -- I  
31 used to tell him his million dollar view window from his  
32 house, looking out over Six Mile and in the mountains  
33 and stuff. And I don't know how you'd put that one in a  
34 painting, but I was always like, man, you live in a --  
35 fortunate to have such a view. So, it's been good  
36 meeting. I'm glad we got her done quickly. And look  
37 forward to the next one. Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other  
40 comments?

41  
42 (No response)

43  
44 Hearing none. Then we'll go ahead and  
45 close this meeting of the Bristol Bay Subsistence  
46 Regional Advisory Council. Thank you, everybody, for  
47 your time and efforts.

48  
49 UNIDENTIFIED: Motion to adjourn.

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MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We have a motion to adjourn. Do we have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We have a motion, a second.

UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Motion carries.

(Off record)

(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 93 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 9th day of March;

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 30th day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager