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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

BP ENRGY CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 17, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Encelewski, Chair
Edward Holsten
Dennis Zadra
Kirk Wilson
Faye Ewan
Andrew McLaughlin
Edward GreyBear
Judith Caminer
Angela Totemoff
Michael Opheim

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/17/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right. Greetings, folks. Happy day of the Irish. I hope we don't get too crazy. You see, I got some green grog here, so in case things get rough. But anyway, welcome. I'm Greg Encelewski currently the Chair. So, I'm calling the meeting to order and then we'll go through our process here. So, welcome everyone. Nissa, you want to give them the public comment story here?

MS. PILCHER: I sure can. So, welcome everyone. Good morning. My name is Nissa Pilcher. I am the Council Coordinator for this Council, the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I'm also the designated federal officer for this meeting. So just to give everybody a heads up, for those that are attending in person, meeting materials and sign in sheets are located on that back table. Coffee is down this hallway here all the way at the very end on the left. Sorry for those listening. I cannot give you coffee at home. So, if you are participating virtually, once again, you can find the meeting materials at www.doi.gov/subsistence. Then choose the Regional Advisory Council tab Southcentral and then Meeting Materials tile. So, to mute and unmute your phone for those participating virtually you can either use Teams the mute button if you're on Teams, but if you've called in star-six will both mute and unmute you. But that is all for current meeting announcements at this time.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you. Do you have someone lined up for the invocation? Who would like to do the invocation this morning? Faye, would you?

MS. EWAN: Good morning. (In Native). Thank you for this day creator that you give us to make things right for the animals and fish that can't speak for themselves. And we're here to stand up for them and protect them as a land steward. And we're here today to do our best for our people all over, that food security and make sure that we are provided for and taken care of all our people out there. (In Native). Thank you, (In

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1 Native) for everything. (In Native). In my language (In
2 Native) Creator, thank you for everything you bless us
3 with and what you do for us every day. (In Native).
4 Blessings come down like rain. Thank you. Amen.

5

6

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Roll call.

7

8

MS. PILCHER: All right, this is Nissa
9 Pilcher again, for the record. So, Ed Holsten.

10

11

MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. Here.

12

13

MS. PILCHER: Next is Michael Opheim. He
14 is stuck in a weather hold, so he is currently absent
15 unless he is online.

16

17

(No response)

18

19

Greg Encelewski.

20

21

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here

22

23

MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff, I believe,
24 is currently absent unless she is online.

25

26

(No response)

27

28

Dennis Zadra.

29

30

MR. ZADRA: I'm here.

31

32

MS. PILCHER: Kirk Wilson.

33

34

MR. WILSON: Here.

35

36

MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Kirk. Angela
37 Totemoff.

38

39

MS. TOTEMOFF: Good morning. Here.

40

41

MS. PILCHER: Faye Ewan.

42

43

MS. EWAN: Here.

44

45

MS. PILCHER: Andrew McLaughlin

46

47

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.

48

49

MS. PILCHER: Edward GreyBear.

50

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1 MR. GREYBEAR: Here.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Hope Roberts.

4

5 (No response)

6

7 And Heath Kocan are either one of you
8 online?

9

10 (No response)

11

12 And then Judy Caminer.

13

14 MS. CAMINER: Here.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: All right. With 9 out of
17 13 members, we have established quorum and can continue.
18 Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
21 Nissa. Okay. We're going to go ahead and get into
22 Elections of Officer. We established a quorum. So,
23 you're pretty particular. Okay. Thank you. Good. Now you
24 can hear me just right. Right? Alright. Very good. Thank
25 you. Election of Officers. So, I'm going to turn the
26 chair over to the Coordinator, because the first job is
27 to elect a Chair.

28

29 MS. PILCHER: All right. Again, this is
30 Nissa Pilcher, for the record. I'd like to open the
31 floor for nominations for Chairman. Just as a reminder,
32 nominations do not need to be seconded.

33

34 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. I'd like
35 to nominate Greg.

36

37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second. It doesn't need
38 second.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Angela and Andrew.
41 Are there any other nominations for Chair?

42

43 MS. CAMINER: I move that nominations be
44 closed.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: All right. Since there were
47 no additional nominations, we do not need to have a
48 vote. So, Greg will retain Chairman unless he'd like to
49 vote.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd like
2 to vote, but no. Yeah, I got kind of railroaded anyway.
3 My term is expired, so I'm on borrowed time here. I
4 don't know when they'll ever get us appointed. There's
5 two, three of us that are in the wind here. But under
6 the new rules, we stand on the Council until we're
7 replaced, so. So, I am the Chair again. I agreed to take
8 it. One more shot and that's it. Anyway, let's move on
9 to the election of a Vice Chair now.

10
11 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. I'd like
12 to nominate Judy.

13
14 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll move to close the
17 nominations.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nominations
20 close, hearing no other nominations. Judy, you're the
21 Vice Chair. Okay. All right. Now we're going to do
22 Secretary.

23
24 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
25 nominate Angela Totemoff.

26
27 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll move to close
30 nominations.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Angela,
33 you got railroaded, too, so. There's no other further
34 nominations, so. Okay. I don't know if it's
35 congratulations, but. Thank you for serving. Yeah. Okay.
36 Alrighty. Now we have some announcements and stuff. I'm
37 going to turn it over to Nissa. She's going to go through
38 the announcements. But before she does that, I just want
39 to make a comment. I don't want to jinx this, but I've
40 been on here about 25 years. I've never seen such a
41 light agenda in my life. Very good. So, we're going to
42 have plenty of time to discuss things, I believe. Go
43 ahead, Nissa.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: I did it just for you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, good.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: I figured everybody needed
50 a break after having just met about two months ago. So

1 again, this is Nissa Pilcher. So, a quick current
2 membership update. Of course, Greg did touch on we're
3 still waiting for the current terms that expired, those
4 names to get brought down current. So hopefully that
5 will be announced soon, and I can contact everybody and
6 let you know what's going on. There is currently -- you
7 guys don't have any current vacancies, which is awesome.
8 And there is currently an application period ongoing for
9 the next round. So those that expire the end of this
10 year. I have been in touch with those folks and any
11 applications I haven't received from those currently on
12 the Council, I'll be touching base with you at this
13 meeting to give you guys applications, but if anyone is
14 listening that is interested or knows somebody that they
15 believe would be a good individual to sit on the Council,
16 the membership application period is currently open. You
17 can find applications online, but you can also reach out
18 to me or anyone at OSM and we will gladly direct you to
19 where you can get an application or get you an
20 application, so. But anyone listening, please feel free
21 to hand out my contact information and I'll gladly
22 contact folks that have questions about applying.

23
24 So, for anyone wishing to supply
25 comments to the Council. So, comments on non-agenda
26 topics, there'll be a time in the morning of each day
27 of the meeting. Of course, assuming we go into the second
28 day, before we get going with the agenda for anyone to
29 speak to non-agenda items. And then for agenda items,
30 if you'd like to speak to that there'll be opportunities
31 for that as well. Please fill out -- if you're in the
32 room, please fill out a blue card, which will be on the
33 back table here shortly and turn it in to either myself
34 or anyone on the back table with OSM and they'll make
35 sure it gets where it needs to go. For those that are
36 listening, you can press star-five to raise your hand
37 and that'll let us know that you wish to speak. We will
38 address -- we will call on you to speak when it is time.
39 But once again, that is star-five in order to do that.
40 Please do wait to be recognized before speaking and then
41 once that happens, please identify yourself. Inform us
42 if you're representing any affiliation and then give
43 your testimony. You can also give written comments in
44 addition or instead of oral comments, and you can turn
45 those into any OSM staff in the room or email them to
46 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Also, be sure to include your
47 name and any affiliation that you're representing on
48 those written comments. So as a quick reminder about
49 conduct and ethics -- so as a reminder to all, we are
50 conducting this meeting according to Robert's Rules or

1 at least as close as we can get to it. This does help
2 provide structure and maintain order throughout the
3 meeting. So, all participants are expected to be
4 courteous and respectful in interactions as a matter of
5 meeting etiquette. Subsistence tends to be a very
6 passionate subject, and we're all in here to listen and
7 to provide a conduit for making sure that actions are
8 taken and people are heard so let's just try to remember
9 that and be courteous to everyone. Also, as a reminder
10 the Council does fall under the Hatch Act, so let's be
11 cautious of political statements or things along those
12 lines as well. So, thank you for allowing me the time
13 to share this information, Mr. Chair. I'll turn it back
14 over to you. Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
17 you. Yeah. Political comments, we -- none of us have any
18 of those. So anyway. I probably get in trouble already,
19 huh? Okay. Anyway. Thank you, thank you Nissa. We're
20 going to go ahead and I'm going to do welcome. I said
21 welcome before, but I want to do introduction. So, let's
22 go ahead and start with Ed over here. We're going to
23 introduce Council, and then Kirk will get to you on the
24 phone too. So don't let me forget you. But yeah.

25
26 MR. HOLSTEN: Ed Holsten representing
27 Cooper Landing.

28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy McLaughlin
30 representing Chenega Bay and Prince William Sound
31 subsistence.

32
33 MS. EWAN: Faye Ewan. Copper River,
34 Ahtna, Native Village of Kluti Kaah, Alaska.

35
36 MS. TOTEMOFF: Angela Totemoff from
37 Tatitlek. Representing Tatitlek subsistence.

38
39 MS. CAMINER: Judy Caminer from
40 Anchorage.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Greg Encelewski
43 from Ninilchik, subsistence.

44
45 MR. ZADRA: Dennis Zadra from Cordova.

46
47 MR. GREYBEAR: Edward GreyBear, Native
48 Village of Kluti Kaah.

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0008

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk, do you
2 want to announce yourself?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Kirk, I got notice you're on the phone.
7 We're just doing introductions. It was a short -- star-
8 six.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: If -- we can't hear you,
11 Kirk. So, if you want to try to press star-six.

12
13 MR. WILSON: How about now?

14
15 MS. PILCHER: We can hear you.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Can you hear me now? Oh,
18 good. Sorry. Yeah. My name is Kirk Wilson. I'm from
19 Tolsona.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's
22 Council. That's -- we'll see if Michael makes it. He'll
23 show up. I've already kind of did a welcome to everyone.
24 Now let's go ahead and go in the audience. Where do we
25 want to start? Let's start over here, I guess. Go ahead,
26 do introductions.

27
28 MS. PILCHER: We've all got to come up
29 to the mic, unfortunately.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. This is a
32 morning exercise.

33
34 MR. LESMEISTER: My name is Jason
35 Lesmeister. I live in Cooper Landing. I came here just
36 to check this stuff out and see if I wanted to try to
37 get on the Board here. So, thanks for letting me come.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good.

40
41 MS. COHEN: Good morning to the Council.
42 My name is Amber Cohen. I'm a Cultural Anthropologist
43 and Subsistence Program Lead at Wrangell-St. Elias
44 National Park and Preserve. Good to see everybody.

45
46 MS. KOSBRUK: Good morning. My name is
47 Deanna Kosbruk. I work for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
48 Commission as the Regulation Specialist. Thank you.

49
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0009

1 MR. SPILINEK: Good morning, everyone.
2 Sterling Spilinek, Wildlife Biologist. Ahtna Inter-
3 Tribal Resource Commission.

4
5 MS. LAKE: Hello, my name is Laura Lake.
6 I work with Fish and Game as a Subsistence Resource
7 Specialist 1.

8
9 MS. KEATING: Good morning. Jackie
10 Keating, Division of subsistence at Fish and Game.

11
12 MR. MERIZON: Good morning, Rick Merizon,
13 Tribal Wildlife Biologist with the Chugach Regional
14 Resources Commission.

15
16 MR. PICHE: Good morning, Matt Piche,
17 Native Village of Eyak Fish Biologist.

18
19 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning. Craig
20 Townsend, Wildlife Biologist with the Bureau of Land
21 Management Anchorage Field Office and detailed into the
22 Subsistence Coordinator role. Thanks for having me.

23
24 MR. KETRON: Good morning. I'm Caroline
25 Ketron. I'm the Anthropologist and Subsistence
26 Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management,
27 Glennallen field office.

28
29 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. I'm Victoria
30 Florey with National Park Service.

31
32 DR. VICKERS: Good morning. Brent
33 Vickers. I'm typically with OSM but kind of starting
34 today I'll be with BLM as a Subsistence Resource
35 Coordinator and ISC member. So, happy to be here. Thank
36 you.

37
38 MS. LINNELL: Karen Linnell, Ahtna Inter-
39 Tribal Resource Commission. Good morning. Good to see
40 you all.

41
42 MS. LA VINE: Good morning, everyone. I'm
43 Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM.
44 And it's really lovely to be here as well.

45
46 MS. SENEAL: Very good morning. I'm Anna
47 Senecal. I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
48 Subsistence Management. I'm happy to be here also.

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1 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. Brian
2 Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist, OSM.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
5 Welcome, everyone. Thank you. I think we did an
6 introduction. So, if we're ready to go on

7
8 MS. PILCHER: Phone introductions.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do we have
11 everyone on the phone -- I'm not sure how we're going
12 to coordinate listening to you, but we need to do your
13 introductions, please.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa for the
16 record, so I'll just run down a list. And if what I call
17 out is what you're affiliated with, if you could
18 introduce yourself. So first any tribal governments or
19 Native organizations, if you could please introduce
20 yourself.

21
22 MR. GORZE: Hello, this is Dan Gorze. I'm
23 Fish Biologist with Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
24 Commission. I wish I could be there today, but it just
25 wasn't in the cards.

26
27 MS PITKA: Linda Pitka, (In Native)
28 Village.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks. How
31 about any non-government agencies, or members of the
32 public?

33
34 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is Dave
35 Sarafin retired Fisheries Biologist calling in as a
36 resident of Tazlina.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: All right. Good morning,
39 Dave. How about anyone from Alaska Department of Fish
40 and Game?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 How about Fish and Wildlife Service?

45
46 MR. ESKELIN: Morning, Todd Eskelin.
47 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks for the online
48 opportunity. Sorry I couldn't be there. I'm giving
49 another talk at 5:00 for Friends of Alaska National
50 Wildlife Refuges. So, I couldn't be two places at once.

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MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Todd. How about anyone from National Park Service?

MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone. This is Eva Patton, Subsistence Program Manager with the National Park Service. Good morning.

MS. PILCHER: Good morning. How about anybody from BLM?

MR. VIALPANDO: Yes. Good morning. This is Jake Vialpando. I'm the Anchorage BLM Field Manager.

MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks, Jake. How about Forest Service?

MS. SANDERS: Howdy. I'm Andrew Sanders. I'm the Subsistence Program Manager for the Chugach National Forest. And I'm sorry I'm not able to be there in person.

MR. MORSE: Good morning, Andy Morse, U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement. Cordova Ranger District. I work with Andrew and I'm representing (indiscernible) if you have any questions.

MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks. How about BIA?

(No response)

How about OSM?

DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.

MS. PILCHER: Okay, third time's a charm. And just to let everybody know, Christine DeWeese with the tribal fish and wildlife -- she's a tribal fish and wildlife coordinator with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission is also online. And for some reason, her phone's not unmuting, so just wanted to put that on the record. If -- did I miss anyone that needs to be introduced? Please speak up now.

(No response)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Well, once again, welcome everyone. Introductions are complete

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1 at this time. We have a good group, so let's press on.
2 The next item on the agenda. We are going to review and
3 adopt the agenda itself. So, if someone wants to
4 entertain that, I'll listen.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: I do have two additions.
7 They -- one for sure won't take very long at all.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: The one that won't take
12 very long at all is Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
13 Council wanted all the Council's to weigh in on if they'd
14 like to see tribal and corporation lands on the maps
15 found in the federal handy dandy. I was thinking we
16 could put that at the very -- well near the end of the
17 meeting under Other Business, which is number 12 on the
18 agenda you guys had on your chairs, if that's fine with
19 you guys.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm the Chair
22 and it's fine with me.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: And then the next item is
25 that very, very recently, the National Park Service
26 released a proposed rule about changing regulations
27 involving hunting on park service lands. I have the news
28 release, but that is about all the information I have
29 to share with you guys. There is a current open comment
30 period. If you guys would like to take a look at the
31 news release and see if you want to weigh in on it,
32 that's fine, but I don't believe there's anyone -- I
33 know there's no one in this room that can speak to it,
34 so.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It sounds a
37 little premature, but that's up to you if you want to
38 talk. It's just a news release. I don't want to.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: It's just a news release.
41 You guys don't have to take action. So, you guys can
42 look at it.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And any other
45 additions or to the agenda that anyone would like to
46 make.

47
48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Motion to approve with
49 those additions.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got a motion
2 from Andy to approve with the additions in number 12 and
3 a couple news releases.

4
5 MS. TOTEMOFF: Angela. Second.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Angela
8 seconded. Any discussion?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 It's -- so carries. Thank you. We got
21 an agenda. We'll follow it as best we can. Now we're
22 going to move on to -- we got the agenda. We're going
23 to go flip over to number 8 here, and that will tell you
24 that each Council member gets to give their report now.
25 So, I'm going to start with Edward over here because
26 he's on that side of the table.

27
28 MR. GREYBEAR: For the record, this is
29 Edward GreyBear with Native Village of Kluti Kaah. I
30 don't really have too much to report from last time. We
31 all seen each other. I've been at school, still studying.
32 So that's all I have for my report.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
35 Edward.

36
37 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Dennis Zadra from
38 Cordova. And it's only been about two months since we
39 last met, so not a lot to report from Cordova. Just a
40 cold winter like everywhere else. Lots of ice and not
41 much snow that we're normally used to, but and the only
42 thing is, the fur is really good. The guys I know that
43 are trapped and all that cold winters really produces
44 some nice fur. So that's all I got.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
47 Dennis. Judy. Go ahead, go ahead.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: This is Judy Caminer from
50 Anchorage. I'm sure everybody's going to say it's been

1 a cold winter and seems to be continuing. I went to the
2 public meeting, as did Michael and probably some others
3 here on the Council when the department was looking for
4 comments on potential changes to the Federal Subsistence
5 Program, and I didn't know what to expect, maybe there
6 would be a small crowd. Maybe there would be a few people
7 there. Well, I was kind of stunned, but the big
8 conference room at Fish and Wildlife Service was not
9 only full but overflowing. And people came from all over
10 the state to testify or called in and testified from all
11 over the state. And the meeting, which I think was
12 supposed to end, let's say at 5:30 or 6, went to 9 or
13 9:30, from what I understand. I didn't stay the whole-
14 time credit Michael, who did listen in the whole time,
15 but it was quite impressive. And I suppose not
16 surprisingly to us, most people supported the program,
17 the way it is and didn't support any changes as suggested
18 by Safari Club International. So, they were going to
19 take more comments. They extended the deadline and I'm
20 not sure when any decisions will be made. Excuse me

21

22 MS. TOTEMOFF: March 30th.

23

24 MS. CAMINER: Until March 30th. Thanks,
25 Angela. And so, I don't know when any decisions will be
26 made. The other thing I wanted to bring up, and I think
27 I sent it to council members, there was a program on
28 public radio here, and Karen was part of it, and it was
29 a discussion again about the Federal Subsistence
30 Program. John Sturgeon was on it, Deputy Commissioner
31 for Fish and Game was on it. Ben Malott represented
32 subsistence interests and Karen also was on the program.
33 You should talk to her more about the details, but I was
34 a little surprised that there were a lot of assertions
35 that only the state biologists knew what was going on
36 the ground. And Karen tried to bring it up, but I think
37 others could have as well, that there's plenty of federal
38 biologists who do know what's going on the ground as
39 well. So, it was a good public information program if
40 you have time to listen to it. It's probably worthwhile
41 then. Thanks. I guess the other thing I wanted to
42 mention, there have been quite a few wolf hearing and
43 some sightings up in the Chugach Mountains here. And I
44 guess it's always been known there's some packs, but I
45 don't think it's been observed as frequently that
46 there's wolves nearby. And there have also been plenty
47 of moose all over town. Thanks.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,

50 Judy. Angela.

1

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MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Yeah. So, in terms of subsistence activity, of course it's been a very cold winter in Prince William Sound. And, like, we've gotten snow that actually stuck this year. So that's likely going to be good. But again, I want to echo some of Judy's comments that I was able to attend the public comment meeting that was held, I believe, on February 10th or February 3rd or one of those dates. And they -- people showed up in droves. They showed up from all over the state. Southeast showed up. Karen was there. She had a good team over there. And I just want you guys to know that there's a lot of people that really support this process, support this structure and the Federal Subsistence Board as a whole. And that was really encouraging to see that what we have set up here, the boots on the ground input from rural communities is being heard. So that was really, really encouraging to see that this process that we're working through is, is appreciated and it is working.

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The other thing that I want to mention to you today is that the Native community has shown up in droves. And when you think of rural communities out there that know what's going on, they are the stewards of the land, and they have -- and it's represented here, at this level as well as on the Federal Subsistence Board. And so, when we talk about removing those three tribal seats, it could be incredibly devastating because how are they going to gather that input from those areas, those rural areas? And also, I just want to mention too, that some of these -- it wasn't only the Safari Club. The state did petition the review of the program as well. And so, I do have feelings about that. There was an issue calling for a review of the special action items, which has already been won in court. So, I feel like we've been having to rehash the same conversation over and over again, but I do feel very encouraged by the amount of support that we've seen from the community. So, we have been extended to receive public comment until March 30th. So please, please, please, if you're part of a rural community, submit your comments in support of that. Any tribes out there submit your request for a tribal consultation.

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At the public meeting, Robbin was running some sort of the administrative part of it. That was a lot. You did fantastic and it did go for a long time. So, thank you for your effort as well as everybody else that was working there. But just you haven't gone

1 unnoticed. It was a tough job. I was lucky in that we
2 showed up an hour early and were able to be comments one
3 and two. So, from then on, we were able to chime in from
4 the phone. But in any case, we've been spending a ton
5 of time figuring out how we could further get the word
6 out to our communities to share their -- so they can
7 share their comments. And I do have a ton of resources
8 for anybody in the room that would like some more input
9 on how they could do some outreach in their communities
10 or how they can submit the comments themselves. But other
11 than that, we have Board of Fish right around the corner
12 and another statewide tribal consultation that's going
13 to be held at the Fish and Wildlife Building this
14 afternoon, I believe 1:00 is the time. I don't know how
15 long we're going today, but if you have -- if you're a
16 tribal member, I encourage you -- or if you're a tribal
17 member or a part of a tribe, I encourage you to go over
18 there today to have that dialogue with Kara. She seems
19 to be pretty open to our comments and open to having a
20 discussion, but yeah, lots of meetings this week. Yeah.
21 It's insane.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
24 Angela. Just down there. Faye.

25
26 MS. EWAN: Good morning. (In Native). I
27 come from a Ahtna region, and I was just looking around
28 at the land, coming back to Anchorage. The state of
29 Alaska has given away a lot of our hunting grounds in
30 Copper River. I live right below Silver Springs. Silver
31 Springs is always known to us as a floodplain, and the
32 effects that going on in that area where they built all
33 the state of Alaska land. When you cut down all the
34 cotton trees and all the things that helped to develop
35 to the eggs to form and 60 below weather is good for it.
36 But I don't see as the management don't come to our
37 elders and ask us about what is happening. They just go
38 by the scientific people, biologists and them. What I
39 see is happening today in Copper River region, in five
40 years, mark my words, you won't have no salmon. I see
41 it coming. The impact on salmon is going to be
42 devastating to us. That's our DNA. And it's very hard
43 to see our young people are not going to be able to live
44 the way I did, the way I grew up, the way I see the
45 federal land and the state of Alaska trying to give away
46 our hunting fishing grounds, which we were promised by
47 the Constitution of Alaska. By the ANILCA. That we were
48 promised to hunt and fish in time of shortage. I don't
49 know how to define shortage, but I do know that the word
50 conglomerate corporations are raping our land and wiping

1 out our way of life big time. As fast as you blink your
2 eyes, there's another house coming up. In Eureka where
3 the caribou come the springtime. They come there from
4 the other side of the mountain, which is over by Paxson
5 way, no caribou. The devastating part is that we get to
6 eat caribou by roadkill, and I don't think that's good
7 management.

8
9 And also, the birds are not coming back
10 like they used to. I see the migratory birds. I watch
11 for them. I watch for the cotton tree budding. I noticed
12 that already. That cotton tree is already budding and
13 past Palmer by Glacier. That means the salmon is already
14 coming back, and our traditional way, we know our way
15 of life. There's nothing that goes by that we don't
16 notice. And we don't say nothing because we don't share
17 this information. Because we don't want it to be used
18 as a tool for other companies and other agencies to use
19 our way of life for their benefit. But if you look at
20 Copper River, it's backed up. The ice backed up. You
21 know what's underneath that river? Is fish. And when it
22 backs up like that, it disturbs the -- where the spawning
23 is and all the different tributaries in Copper River has
24 [sic] different salmon in it. And Klutina is going to
25 be wiped out. They should have never opened up Klutina
26 River like Tazlina River's got silverfish in it. Only
27 part it goes is to Tazlina River unless it's a spawning
28 it'll fish shall go past it. But the wild salmon, silver
29 salmon goes only to Tazlina. Have you biologists from
30 Tazlina know that? Glennallen, BLM? This is what we see
31 when the weather is opening right now. This is March
32 17th. That river shouldn't be opening till around middle
33 of May. Were two months ahead in environmental. And this
34 is going to be very strong impact because the snow is
35 really high. And we're going to see a lot of flood this
36 year. I see it coming, and I know we're going to be
37 devastated by erosion because when the river floods out
38 like that, the erosion comes and there goes the salmon
39 that's supposed to be spawning in five years. It comes
40 back. Those five years aren't coming back like I expect
41 it to be. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
44 Faye. Go ahead, Andy.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
47 Chair. (Distortion) for southwest Prince William Sound
48 area, a decrease in clams I think it's a inversely
49 proportional to the amount of sea otters that there are.
50 Our sea otter hunters have not been around. Moved out

1 of the village. And the beaches -- I've put a little
2 more effort into climbing this year, and the beaches are
3 -- look like they've been carpet-bombed. Like you go out
4 there at low tide and it's just like a million little
5 pock marks where otters have been, a lot harder to find
6 clams right now. Tanner crab season is still in just for
7 the rest of the month, not for long. But seems
8 interesting, the female ratio, if you took an average,
9 I would say you get, like, 125 females that you let go
10 to, like 25 sublegal males that you let go to about 8
11 keeper males. That's the ratio we're working with. So,
12 something has happened in the male female ratio. It's
13 not a 50/50. Trawling maybe, likely. Anyhow, but I don't
14 know why that would be gender selective. But the state
15 jurisdiction of the all the marine waters of Prince
16 William Sound has the shrimping kind of like an emergency
17 closure this year, but they really shortened the season.
18 It's approximately one month or something coming up here
19 for the shrimpers. The personal use shrimpers closed the
20 commercial season. A few years ago, I called to warn,
21 hey, this commercial thing is going to not do good things
22 for the -- I mean, I saw that happen a long time ago,
23 in the late 80s, early 90s. Commercial fishing nuked
24 them and so now they're shutting down the other uses of
25 that shrimp.

26
27 Let's see, mild winter in general snow
28 wise where I'm at though, like everybody else, highly,
29 unusually long period of low temperatures. When you look
30 way up high, you see alders growing out of the tops
31 where there used to be snow cornices of 10ft or 20ft of
32 snow. That's going to be interesting for the -- if
33 summertime, you know, happens and it's a dry summer,
34 there's going to be like no runoff. Anyhow, hopefully
35 this less snow out there will be good for the deer
36 population. It's definitely not up to its 20-year
37 average numbers. I think the same thing with the black
38 bear population. A lot lower than the 20-year average
39 for population wise. Don't see the large ones like we
40 used to. Every once in a while, you'd see quite large
41 ones, but I think that's a function of the Whittier
42 Tunnel and the sport hunters coming from the state to
43 come out and selecting the larger males. So, there's
44 probably a function of a skewed male female ratio.

45
46 Let's see. What happens on these years
47 when the snow is really shallow up high this time of
48 year, is that snow melts off fast early in the spring,
49 and then the berries up there ripen early. That makes
50 the lower elevation berries and the upper elevation

1 berries kind of all coincide. It doesn't spread out
2 usually like the bears would move up and eat the berries
3 as the green ones up top get ripe after the ones down
4 low are already gone. That's probably what's going to
5 happen this year again.

6
7 There's been no kings trolled, several
8 boats tried. Nobody getting any salmon. Used to be you
9 could get 1 or 2 if not like 5 or 6 on a trip. That
10 brings about this increased concern that everybody has
11 in Prince William Sound about the -- it's not just the
12 Prince William Sound trawling, but the Gulf of Alaska
13 trawling and even the Bering Sea trawling. These fish
14 are (indiscernible) they go out to the ocean and way out
15 there is an ecosystem that they -- part of their life
16 cycle lives off of that. They don't just live in Prince
17 William Sound for their whole life they go out there.
18 And if that trawling out there statewide is being, you
19 know, managed in a way where bycatch and overharvest is
20 happening of certain things, species, those things are
21 all intertwined in the food web, and it affects the
22 populations of the animals in the ecosystem that live
23 in Prince William Sound. Speaking to that, there's 15
24 trawl vessels in Prince William Sound. They're managed
25 under that state jurisdiction. It's the Alaska Pollock
26 trawl fishery. But it's not limited to Alaska residents.
27 It's -- a lot of that -- I have the numbers here. I
28 think 57% or something. It's like Oregon, Washington,
29 places like that. Anyhow, there's wanton waste thing. I
30 mean, I'm supposed to say bycatch. It's called bycatch,
31 where you know, users or subsistence users, sport users,
32 whatever, they got to release their stuff alive on --
33 if it's a rockfish and you got to put it way back down
34 you know, if you catch one over your limit. But these
35 guys are getting like metric tons of bycatch and that
36 stuff is not species specific.

37
38 It -- Prince William Sound got shut
39 down. They met -- just like -- they didn't last a few
40 weeks on the trawl fishery. You could look on a map and
41 see where all of them were concentrating mostly
42 Hinchinbrook Entrance, but they were all over, too. And
43 they say that they're not touching the bottom, but
44 they've got satellite images where they beam down and
45 look at the picture of where these ships are going, and
46 the water's all churned out. Very deep water too but you
47 can see all their trails. You can't be doing a mid-water
48 trawl if there's that much sediment being churned up
49 behind these boats when they take those pictures, you
50 know. So, the ticklers are in contact with the bottom

1 and we need some type of monitoring of that. I think
2 there's a meeting right now with a proposal going on
3 about that.

4
5 Anyhow, I think Southcentral RAC here
6 we need more studies. We need help from OSM to bring us
7 data that shows us more facts to educate us so we can
8 help make better informed decisions. Scientific data. A
9 key factor being habitat destruction. If the habitat is
10 being destroyed, the other animals that live in their
11 intermingle in that, you know, habitat down there for a
12 certain part of their life cycle, they're affected, you
13 know. There's a few key facts I wanted to touch base on
14 real fast, statewide. Okay. This is between 2023 and
15 2025. Trawl bycatch data 35,655 chinook salmon. Okay.
16 122,279 chum salmon were caught just in the year of
17 bycatch at 2023. In February 2025 alone, February! Just
18 February 2025, 8,100 chinook salmon were destroyed and
19 killed. Okay. It doesn't take a genius to understand
20 where all these salmon that are missing up the Yukon
21 River that people with their fish wheels can't subsist
22 off of now. They can't even catch one to eat. And these
23 guys are dumping them dead out there in the ocean. As
24 for halibut, 4.4 million pounds were caught as bycatch
25 in 2023, 4.4 million pounds. With over 800,000 pounds
26 destroyed in a single month in early 2025. As for crab,
27 over 1.14 million individual crabs were caught in the
28 year of 2023. Herring, 7.3 million pounds were caught
29 in 2023. Okay. These are things -- I could go on and on.
30 I've got pages of it. But anyhow we need some more
31 information about trawling here and we need to -- Prince
32 William Sound residents have grave concern watching the
33 marine resources and this is not just Prince William
34 Sound, this is statewide. This is something that we need,
35 as all of our RACs, not just South-central to get more
36 information and more studies, not just these fisheries
37 monitoring up the rivers, but other things need to be
38 calculated, and from the commercial fishery of the of
39 the Pollock. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
42 Andy. Ed.

43
44 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not
45 much to add over what I talked about two months ago.
46 Like everybody else, it's been a really strange winter
47 for at least around Cooper Landing. Very cold. Early
48 cold. Then what little snow we had a few days of rain
49 which took care of that. Then extremely cold. So, we're
50 getting a lot of overflow issues. Culverts are all

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1 blocked up, not thawed out. Overflow on many of the
2 roads up to -- I know one area at least three feet thick
3 coming across the road. In terms of wildlife, it's
4 probably been a pretty good year for our moose with kind
5 of low snow levels. They've been staying up pretty high.
6 And other than that, our resident swans are still happy
7 right there at the bridge. We always have a group of
8 swans that overwinter and Cooper Landing. So that's it.
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
12 Kirk, you on the phone there?

13
14 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Can you hear me?

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Loud and clear.
17 Go ahead, give your report. Thank you.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I don't have a lot
20 more, but I'd like to give a little reminder about what
21 we did in Unit 13 this year with the subsistence users.
22 I mean, we're being overrun with all this modern
23 technology equipment and urban hunters and the pure fact
24 that we know how many moose was confiscated in one big
25 parking lot in Unit 13. It's hard to imagine how many
26 moose are being taken that are not in the legal category
27 in the whole area, because most of our law enforcement
28 are very specific to where all these people are. That's
29 just a little reminder of the overall and I think this
30 year as a overall around my community, I don't think the
31 people did as very well with moose, especially the
32 villages. And I think as a group looking at all this,
33 we're trying to provide and make sure that we get stuff.
34 I think we as a group and I mean, we need to focus on
35 this caribou thing for the Native people in our area,
36 and we need to allocate them a few caribou per village,
37 not only for the protein that they've had forever, but
38 the culture value of just having a few animals in their
39 village and doing like the intertribal or doing these
40 new programs and stuff to get the kids involved. And if
41 you can't get an animal, I mean, they can get study
42 things too, but I mean, I think we need to have a few
43 more caribou for the villages than what there is. And I
44 know it's an extreme shortage right now.

45
46 I have one more thing to comment on and
47 I heard something about the biologist, the state
48 biologist, (indiscernible). I've spent a lot of time on
49 the phone with federal, state, BLM and all the biologists
50 basically. And I have to give a real shout out to the

1 Ahtna Intertribal people, because, man, when I've asked
2 for information from them, they have been prompt and
3 really helped me to make some of the decisions that I
4 make. And I think we really need to keep that in the
5 fourth thought of our minds now in watching what's going
6 on with that organization, because they now have several
7 biologists there and they're using other techniques that
8 the state or federal have never used before. And I just
9 think the whole thing about trying to bring all of our
10 organizations together in a sharing manner over what
11 we're doing would be a wonderful direction to head in
12 for everybody. And I guess that's about all I got to say
13 now. And I sure appreciate -- I sure wish I could be
14 there in person today. And I'm just thankful I can be
15 here on the phone. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
18 Kirk. Okay. I'm going to go ahead and give my report,
19 and everyone's heard some pretty alarming stories and
20 troubles and so on and so forth. But I want to talk a
21 little bit, I won't -- try not to get too carried away,
22 but we did have -- we called it a listening session in
23 Ninilchik here last week. And what we are establishing
24 down there is Takotna Intertribal Fishery Commission.
25 It's a commission that's 501(c)(3), and it's got six
26 tribes involved in it. And so, what we're trying to do
27 is provide fish in the Economic Exclusion Zone, the
28 federal waters and Cook Inlet. Now that is controlled
29 by NOAA. It's not by our group, but it does affect them.
30 And so, we were listening to, you know, ways of getting
31 the permits in and you know, the trawler stuff came up,
32 Andy, and some of that. And, you know, we come to find
33 out that a lot of these Boards are made up of -- they're
34 not local, they're all outside guys and it's pretty
35 alarming.

36
37 Anyway, those things are going on. But
38 anyway, NTC had this listening session, if you could
39 imagine it. There's as many as there is here now and all
40 walks of life, little kids, big ones and all of them
41 talking. But I want to tell you that a setting that came
42 out of that. The elders were so passionate, some of them
43 to tears of the loss of subsistence and what's going on.
44 And it was really amazing, pretty emotional setting. We
45 had people that were coordinated from Knik and
46 Chickaloon and different villages and then the next
47 group up to probably my son's age, which is, I hate to
48 mention this, but he's like in his late 40s. But anyway,
49 you know, he's still subsisted the way I did. He -- I
50 taught him, you know, go -- just go get the fish. Now

1 that's -- they're not there to just do that much anymore.
2 But anyway. So that age group was engaged. You get under
3 that age group a lot of them, some of the younger ones,
4 were passionate, but they were passionate about special
5 environmental things. And they were passionate about
6 pebble mine and the gold mine across the inlet and other
7 things. But it was more political. And there was other
8 people that voiced, you know, the only way we're going
9 to change things is political. And I tend to agree with
10 that, even though it seems like it's a bad approach. And
11 then the younger ones there, a lot of the kids there,
12 you know, they're not really attentive too much, but
13 they were listening.

14
15 A lot of them don't even know what a
16 clam is. You talk about clams or clams. We haven't dug
17 clams in five years. They're wiped out. We got to go
18 across the inlet. All the resources were wiped out. We
19 sit here as a Council -- Advisory Council. Time after
20 time we listen to reports and we want more moose. We
21 want more of this. We want more caribou. We don't have
22 it to give our people -- most of these reports were
23 fighting over 1 or 2 animals. There is a major crisis
24 in the state of our subsistence rights and animals and
25 everything. I'm just here -- I'll tell you, I'm ringing
26 the alarm with Faye. But we no longer have clams. We no
27 longer have king salmon. We no longer have silvers. The
28 chums are going down. The only thing that we're real
29 prolific is red salmon and that's because they eat
30 plankton and some other (indiscernible). The trawling
31 for winter kings, even though those kings are from
32 Washington base, they're getting harder to catch too.
33 So, the resources -- there's a lot more people. There's
34 a lot more pressures. There's a lot more things. We're
35 trying to do what we can in our area that, you know, NTC
36 and the tribe have wrote comments and opposed the
37 reorganization -- proposed reorganization. There's just
38 lots of things going on and I'm just mentioning some of
39 that because they're very passionate, you know, and we
40 do need a lot of data, but what we need, we need action.
41 We need to be able to change management systems, I
42 believe. And so that's what's been happening down our
43 way.

44
45 I told you about there's no kings.
46 There's no this and that. It can't all be gloom and doom
47 you know, we still have tribal fishery. And I tried to
48 encourage everyone in there that we got our tribal
49 fishery through this process right here, and we have a
50 net on the Kenai, and we provide probably close to 5,000

1 fish for the community, rural things. And I talked about
2 this before, very well liked. We do it, we run it by the
3 tribe and we get people fish. People have to swap over.
4 I smoke reds now. Don't like them, but I smoke them. But
5 anyway, kings I buy from Southeastern, smoke those.
6 Things are getting touchy. I fly across the inlet or go
7 by boat to get clams. It's a different way of
8 subsistence. Pay cash. Damn electricity went up hundreds
9 and hundreds of dollars. I don't know how people are
10 going to exist. To be truthful, things are getting pretty
11 tight, so they need subsistence more than ever and they
12 need to keep it in.

13
14 So, since we had a little time, I wanted
15 to comment on a few things there. We have -- we need to
16 make sure we're active in politically and going against
17 some of this stuff. So, what we are doing is we're
18 talking to these guys at NOAA, we're talking to
19 commissions. We're also really concerned about the
20 trawler impact. It's really -- it's true. It's what's
21 happening. I could go on and tell you some other things,
22 but that's it. The good things are, it's been a beautiful
23 winter. I mean, God, it's been nice and cold and snow
24 and a lot better than the rain. So, we liked that. But
25 God knows what's going to happen if it all melts at
26 once. But anyway, welcome. That's my report.

27
28 I got some other things here I'm going
29 to talk about, but I can't change the world. But I will
30 tell you, the big outlook is that we are in trouble. We
31 need to figure a way to enhance our resources, to monitor
32 it, to keep it. And you know, this sounds pretty radical.
33 Who would ever think a commercial fisherman all his life,
34 1948 model would advocate to shut down fishing? I see
35 no other choice but to close kings and close certain
36 things till they rebound. They figure out what's going
37 on, and the allocation there doesn't do any good to
38 close something when the other areas are still open. You
39 know, they still fish in the Ninilchik River because
40 it's a sports thing and they do that. And so, there's a
41 lot of problems and we're here to help do what we can,
42 but we have to stand up and demand our rights. Demand
43 that we have public members on the Federal Subsistence
44 Board, and that we still have a good RAC here, that we
45 could make the process work. So, thank you, everyone.
46 Thank you.

47
48 Okay. It's kind of early, but public
49 comments on non-agenda items. They're available each
50 morning. So, I'm just reiterating that if there's any

1 public comments on non-agenda items we'll take them now.
2 Chair and welcome.

3
4 MS. LINNELL: Good morning and thank you
5 for the opportunity to speak on non-agenda items. For
6 the record, my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the Executive
7 Director of Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission,
8 which is made up of eight federal and state recognized
9 tribes and two ANCSA corporations who are landowners
10 within the Copper River Basin. It stems from Cantwell
11 over to Mentasta down to Chitina and everything in
12 between. We have five mountain ranges. Some of the best
13 salmon. And just -- we're very concerned about some of
14 the things that are happening now in looking at fish
15 management, looking at the caribou management and that
16 kind of thing. In some of the land disposals that are
17 happening, the University of Alaska, Fairbanks -- or
18 University of Alaska is selecting their lands. Many of
19 them are near critical salmon spawning or caribou
20 calving areas. And so those are -- and those will be
21 brought up for sale or open to other activities, mining,
22 etc. The Department of Interior is also looking at
23 revisiting (d)(1), selection 17. So -- 17(d)(1), and
24 those are mines that were restricted -- or lands that
25 were restricted from mining and the state has selected
26 many of those areas. In our area, the Unit 13 is
27 connected to the Copper River watershed, the Yukon River
28 watershed and the Matanuska-Susitna watershed. And so,
29 anything that happens there can directly impact those
30 other river systems. And so, we're very concerned about
31 what that will look like. And how, you know, we can
32 protect our caribou habitat, protect our river systems
33 and our salmon. You know, I usually say I don't want to
34 fight over the last salmon. I don't want to fight over
35 the last moose or caribou. But now I'm fighting for our
36 last salmon and our last caribou. You know, we need to
37 be able to protect those resources so that they can come
38 back healthy and strong. We have strong populations and
39 we won't have these arguments and fights. I don't want
40 to end up like our friends and relatives on the Yukon
41 River where they're unable to harvest any salmon at all.
42 We -- these things are scary, right? We're -- I, you
43 know, and Mr. Chair, you're talking about putting
44 restrictions, and having moratoriums as well, and it's
45 right. But you can't just have it on one area. And if
46 we're not -- if we're doing moratoriums on the Copper
47 River, are we looking at the oceans and having them to
48 have their moratoriums as well for those salmon stocks?
49 Are we looking at the caribou in Game Management Unit
50 13 and 11 and having restrictions there, but then having

1 drawer hunts in Unit 14? Those things are not right and
2 when you're looking at the caribou population you have
3 to look at it as a whole. Yes, some isolate and stay in
4 different areas, but they're still the same caribou
5 herd. And so, when we're looking at this and they talk
6 about bull-cow ratios and that type of thing they're
7 talking about well, once it gets above 40 bulls per cow
8 -- per 100 cows then we'll authorize a hunt. But they're
9 still far, far below their total animal count or goals.
10 I believe we're around 12,000 to 13,000 animals right
11 now. Their management objective is 35 to 40,000. And I
12 have a book on my shelf, it was from 1968 and it's Alaska
13 Peoples in the land and it was done as a precursor to
14 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. And in it, it
15 says the population of the caribou was between in one
16 place it says 85,000, another place it says 75,000. And
17 that's what the land could carry. There was a crash in
18 the mid-70s and that's when they were allowed five
19 caribou per person, which is a lot. And even when we
20 could, we wouldn't take that many. So, it's -- it was a
21 free for all. People were coming from all over because,
22 like in many of the areas, our lands are highway-
23 accessible. And so, we feel a lot of pressure because
24 of that easy access.

25
26 And I do believe that they over
27 harvested clams in the Ninilchik area. I watched it and
28 they claim red tide as a way to say that no clamming.
29 But I think they're desperately trying to get the
30 population back up and I've been watching it for a while.
31 And so those things, you know it's not easy to rebound
32 and so the best management system with lots of public
33 input, but when they're not listening to the people
34 locally and on the ground, that's huge. And you just
35 look at the diversity here in this group and the areas
36 that you cover. That's one thing that I was thinking
37 about with Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board
38 makeup, they're looking to bring it back down to one
39 public member, one public member and if you look at a
40 map of Alaska superimposed over the United States, that
41 one person is from Southeast. So, he said lower southern
42 Georgia, northern Florida. And he's supposed to know
43 what's going on in North Dakota? He's supposed to know
44 what's going on in California, Arizona and up through
45 Kansas? How is that one person supposed to know that we
46 have 26 ecosystems in Alaska? We even have deserts. You
47 know, these things and the way that we use this diverse
48 committee, some with subsistence backgrounds, some with
49 commercial fisheries backgrounds, some with sport
50 hunting, sport and then subsistence hunting. It's a very

1 well-rounded group that represents the concerns in the
2 area of Southcentral Alaska. And I appreciate all your
3 work that you folks put in on this. The looking at non-
4 consumptive uses as well. We -- you know and looking for
5 that balance. And that's something that we sorely need
6 is that balance in order to keep healthy fish stocks
7 healthy wildlife populations, looking for that balance.
8 And right now, we're in a fight to protect those last
9 salmon, those last caribou. And so, I appreciate your
10 time and the opportunity to speak this morning. Thank
11 you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you
14 Karen. Very informative and good stuff. Does anyone have
15 a question for Karen? I'm going to allow questions if
16 you want real quick.

17
18 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

21
22 MS. EWAN: What was the ratio of the
23 caribou versus fatalities? What was the ratio of the
24 caribou facing fatalities like, you know, the
25 devastation of the weather and wolf?

26
27 MS. LINNELL: Yeah, I couldn't give you
28 the numbers on that. I know that they had hunts when the
29 populations were down to 20-21,000 animals because they
30 said there were 46 bulls per 100 cows and they still had
31 hunts. There were draw hunts, and then subsistence hunts
32 were closed early because they met some goal. The other
33 thing is we did have severe weather, record breaking
34 snowfall two years in a row. We had flooding and in --
35 after the spring breakup. There's -- so that's kind of,
36 you know, what we're seeing in our area. There's one
37 more threat under federal management and is that they're
38 looking at PLO 5150, which is that corridor of federal
39 lands that follows the pipeline. And that's part of the
40 area that you folks voted at your last meeting to close
41 to non-federally qualified users. And if they lift that
42 5150, we won't really have any caribou hunting lands
43 because that's where they travel through. It's a narrow
44 corridor and so those are things that we're watching and
45 commenting on. It seems like we make an inch and they
46 take a mile. And those kinds of things. So, thank you.

47
48 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
49 Karen, for your comments and not to be the bearer of bad
50 news, but my understanding is that was lifted. BLM can

1 correct me if I'm incorrect there.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: I know it's north of the
4 Yukon River that is definitely, but the south of that
5 is not clearly defined. And I know that there -- I've
6 heard that there's -- read that there's a lawsuit in
7 place now regarding those decisions. So, it definitely
8 can have an impact on our friends and relatives north
9 of the Yukon.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Thank
12 you, Karen. Thank you very much.

13

14 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Just as a reminder if
17 anyone is online and wishes to give public comment on
18 non-agenda items. That is star-five to raise your hand
19 and star six to mute and unmute.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Got no hands,
22 got no unmuters. Let's take ten. Let's take a break.
23 Coffee time.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Real quickly,
30 before we get into our call for federal proposals.
31 Michael Opheim is supposedly on the phone. Are you --
32 can you hear us, Michael?

33

34 MR. OHPEIM: You got me now?

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, we got you
37 now. You're on the road. We hope you make it. But if you
38 don't, we'll try to talk to you here. We finished our
39 reports, our Council member reports, and I did the Chair
40 report. We did public comment. But if you have a Council
41 report, you want to go as you're driving their hands
42 free, you could -- well keep one hand on the wheel. But
43 anyway, if you want to give a report, you can.

44

45 MR. OHPEIM: Yeah. Lots of swans here in
46 the area. It's been probably 35 of them. And then there's
47 been a lot of freezing. The bay has been frozen more
48 than I've seen in years. It's pretty amazing. There's
49 deer. I just got a report on those this morning that
50 there's one more doe that's been found dead. It was

1 pretty predated on by coyotes, so they don't know if she
2 was actually killed by the coyotes or what happened.
3 They don't know if she was pregnant. Bone marrow, you
4 know, that they saw there said she looked healthy. And
5 yeah, so it's been pretty slow moving around Seldovia.
6 Everything's been hunkered down. And lots of ice around
7 Homer. Water taxis haven't been moving. The planes have
8 been pretty slow with the wind, everything going on. So
9 that's kind of what I have so far.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Michael,
12 thanks for your report. And listen in, we're going to
13 go ahead and have calls for our fish proposals, OSM
14 next. And I'll try and remember that you're on the phone
15 and just speak up if you need to. Thank you.

16
17 MR. OPHIEM: Thank you.

18
19 MS. SENECA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
20 Council Members, my name is Anna Senecal. I'm a Fish
21 Biologist with OSM. I am not Kevin. Sorry. He is still
22 your guy. He's just -- has another meeting double booked.
23 So, he is in Bethel and I am here and I'm very happy to
24 be here. I'm new to the fish team and so I made a handy
25 dandy handout that is probably more for my benefit than
26 yours arguably. But what am I here today to do? I'm here
27 to announce our call for federal fisheries proposals.
28 So, we are at the beginning of the road. All the way at
29 the beginning of the road. When do things actually get
30 published into the register and into a regulations book?
31 In about a year, and there's a lot of stops along the
32 way. So, this is for your reference and mine. So, the
33 Federal Subsistence Board is currently accepting
34 proposals to change federal subsistence fisheries
35 regulations for the '27 to '29 regulatory cycle. The
36 Board will consider proposals to change seasons, harvest
37 limits, methods and means, and customary and traditional
38 use determinations for federal fisheries. If the Council
39 wishes to submit a proposal, you'll need to do so at
40 this meeting. And that's for the Council. So, there's
41 an open window through April 3rd and any member of the
42 public, as you well know, can submit a proposal. But if
43 this body would like to do so, you have to do that at
44 this meeting.

45
46 So, there's a few ways the public can
47 submit proposals and there's more information on these
48 -- on the OSM website in a couple of areas. So, one is
49 in your RAC Council meeting materials. I think it's item
50 10.a, there's a hyperlink and the other one is through

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1 the OSM website under fisheries regulations. If you
2 scroll down, it'll show you the various ways that you
3 can submit a proposal. So again, the deadline for
4 receiving those is April 3rd of this year. And what
5 happens next? So that's detailed on here. But what
6 happens is that OSM staff analyzes those proposals and
7 then they get presented back to you at your fall meeting.
8 So that's the green dot on your handout for your
9 recommendation. The proposal analyses and Council
10 recommendations are then presented to the Federal
11 Subsistence Board for its action during the February
12 2027 Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. And that's the long
13 and short of it. So, my question is, does the Council
14 have any regulatory proposals to put forward at this
15 time?

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'll let them
18 speak. Do we have anything as a group that we want to
19 put in as a proposal? Anyone considered anything or do
20 you have anything? You got time this afternoon to come
21 up with it so you could think a little bit on it. We
22 could think a little bit on it, but I don't know if we
23 have one as a group to come up. Do you want to talk,
24 Judy, a minute? Go ahead.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
27 guess in the past too, we've appreciated some
28 suggestions from OSM, and I know it's been -- I mean,
29 with the shutdown, etc. I'm sure you've had a hard time,
30 but I don't know if there are any suggestions you want
31 to provide to us or any of the other staff would want
32 to suggest.

33
34 MS. SENEAL: I do not have any
35 suggestions. I have not been briefed on any. I don't
36 believe Kevin had any suggestions. Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're right in
39 it. Well, Andy's got something.

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Just a quick question.
42 Can this proposal apply to the Bering Sea and the Gulf
43 of Alaska and federal waters?

44
45 MS. SENEAL: Okay. Thank you for that
46 question, Member McLaughlin. The proposals must apply
47 to federal jurisdiction. So, the marine waters would not
48 be within federal jurisdiction, unfortunately.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye.

1

2

MS. EWAN: So, the federal jurisdiction has concurrent jurisdiction with the state of Alaska in the waters? And that's where you want proposals done to the federal and the state waters? I come from Copper River, and that's what I'm asking you. I said, do you want, you know, the federal -- the state owns of the banks of the river and underneath the river. On one side of my place is federal land across the river, and on the other side is the state and corporation land. We're kind of like in a bind, in Copper River, we have checkerboard patterns for federal and state land. That's why I'm asking, is the navigable water in the state? Can it be submitted into federal proposals? We won't be getting sued, would we? Because the state of Alaska has a big issue of suing us people from Ahtna region. And I do have some proposals if this is okay from the Ahtna region that I will work with my people on. Thank you.

19

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Robbin, you want to talk to us.

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MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM. If there is a question there then yes, we are soliciting proposals to change fisheries -- subsistence fisheries regulations or to modify them based on what you see in your region and in those waters that have a federal nexus. And so, you can always -- anything that is within the state management system, you would go to the Board of Fish. And for federal subsistence regulations, you can submit proposals to change regulations to the Federal Subsistence Board. Thank you.

35

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk or Michael, have you got any questions?

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(Simultaneous speech)

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MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair. Excuse me.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just a second.

MS. EWAN: This is confusing to me because the Copper River, you know, that we have federal fishing permits, and then we have a state permit, and when we submit it to the federal, would the state comply with it?

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1 MS. SENEAL: Anna Senecal, Fish
2 Biologist, OSM.....

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5
6 MS. EWAN: Is federal government over the
7 state of Alaska by law?

8
9 MS. SENEAL: It's a hard, hard question.
10 There's places where there's federal jurisdiction and
11 there's places where there's state management of the
12 fishery. And so, like Robbin said, in the state managed
13 sections, the proposal generation is through the Board
14 of Fish. So, it's a different process. So, the places
15 that are federally managed, where you have a federal
16 permit and operate under federal subsistence
17 regulations, are -- that is the opportunity that's open
18 currently for adjusting, modifying, improving those
19 regulations that apply to those fisheries only. It is
20 very complicated, you are correct.

21
22 MS. EWAN: The reason I say that is that
23 I go to NOAA and North Pacific Fisheries Management
24 Council and there are federal agents, fisheries people.
25 It seems like they don't -- they comply with the state
26 of Alaska before they listen to rural preference or rural
27 -- I mean, the people that live off the land, our way
28 of life. And to me, it's okay to submit proposals,
29 everything. But when it gets to the Board, they just
30 shoot it down. And that's, you know, I don't know about,
31 you know, working together as government-to-government,
32 but our tribe, we're a government too. So, we should be
33 sitting at the table same time you do negotiating all
34 of this stuff here. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
37 questions? Very complicated Faye. But really, basically,
38 I think it's just our federal lands that are -- you have
39 -- we have the right to comment on, so. We have
40 jurisdiction in.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 Yeah. Michael or Kirk. Do you have any
45 questions before I close out there?

46
47 MR. OHPIEM: No, I have nothing.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Kirk?

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 All right. If you come up with something
4 during the day today that the Council wants to support,
5 we could still do that. All right.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 Okay, Kirk, better late than never. Your
10 hand is up. But we were moving on. Go ahead.

11

12 MR. WILSON: Can you hear me?

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I hear you good.
15 Yeah, we hear you, Kirk. Go ahead.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Can you hear me? Sorry.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I can hear
20 you, but you can't hear me. Okay.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I can hear you now.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.
25 (indiscernible).

26

27 MR. WILSON: So, I would just like to
28 comment. I'd like to comment on what Faye was saying
29 there. Now, I've written several of those proposals on
30 the river band there, and I have some ready now. I'm not
31 ready to submit them today. But my suggestion is when
32 you write a proposal to the federal for their -- what
33 you're going to do there, you submit the same proposal
34 to the state of Alaska when time comes right. And that's
35 about all I got to say to that. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay.
38 Thanks, Kirk. Yeah. We were looking at basically -- I
39 got a new agenda here I'm trying to figure it out, but
40 anyway, coming soon. That's the one we just finished up.
41 Yeah. So, we're going to go now to a call for non-rural
42 proposals. Hannah.

43

44 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
45 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with the Office of
46 Subsistence Management. I'm sorry I'm not with you there
47 today.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,
50 Hannah.

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DR. VOORHEES: Hi. Mr. Chair and Council.

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I look forward to seeing you in person soon. But today I'm here to provide you with a brief overview of the current call for proposals for non-rural determinations and federal regulations. And this is the same document in your meeting materials as the call for federal fisheries proposals. Non-rural determination is the process for formally changing in federal regulation a community status from non-rural to rural or from rural to non-rural. And this is the foundation for eligibility in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Any valid non-rural determination proposals submitted this year will be acted on by the Board in 2029. The non-rural determination process is longer. It takes four years as opposed to two. Just because these decisions are so important.

The call for non-rural determination proposals, as I said, occurs every four years, concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory cycle. So, the next call for proposals for non-rural determinations will be 2030. And as you just heard from our colleagues in the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals opened in February and closes on April 3rd, 2026. There's a flyer on our website on how to submit proposals to change non-rural determinations. The flyer includes information on where to submit a proposal and lists items the proposal must contain to be accepted for consideration by the Board. The website address is www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs. This flyer can be found near the bottom of the Frequently Asked Questions page, and additional information may be found in the 2000 to 27 -- 2027 to 2029 subsistence fish and shellfish proposed rule. If you choose to submit any proposals, this is an action item. If not, then no need to take any action. So, thank you very much for your attention and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you. Questions for Hannah? Any proposals questions on rural/non-rural? I'm looking at my agenda here and the reason -- I just got an updated agenda, but that's not the agenda we approved. But anyway, we're on this one. No, it's definitely -- I'm on a different one. But anyway, go ahead. Could you give me the latest and greatest. And I want to make sure you guys -- you probably don't have this in your agenda either, so.

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1 MS. CAMINER: I think everybody got a
2 hand out.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you got a
5 handout. Okay. It's supposed to be the newest. Okay. The
6 people online may not see that, but that's okay.

7
8 MS. PILCHER: It's been updated.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been
11 updated. Okay. Okay. Robert's rules. You can't change
12 it once it's approved. Anyway. Okay. Go ahead, Robbin,
13 you've got a question.

14
15 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Robbin La Vine, for the record discussing these -- this
17 action item with my colleagues, we just wanted to make
18 sure that, you know, that the OSM staff is here to
19 support you. So, you don't have to have as a Council a
20 finished proposal for fisheries to change fisheries
21 regulations. You can have ideas and the staff is here
22 to work with you on that. So, people online, you know,
23 council members online and in the room, we are here to
24 support you if there are ideas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
27 you. Yeah. We just give you the cliff notes, and you put
28 it together. Okay. Thank you. They'll write it. Yeah.
29 We're on number c on the handout here. Call for Alaska
30 Board of Fisheries Proposals. Go ahead, Nissa.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: This is just on the agenda
33 mostly to call your -- the Council's attention to that
34 there is a call for proposals, which is through the
35 state system, through the Board of Fisheries, and they
36 will be meeting next year on both the lower and the
37 upper Cook Inlet finfish. As I've put on the record
38 before, at your Council meetings, when there's a call
39 for proposals for state proposals generally it's there
40 most as an FYI and a lot of you are on your local Fish
41 and Game Advisory Councils, and that's generally the
42 system that gets worked through. But if the Council would
43 like to submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of
44 Fisheries on the lower or upper Cook Inlet finfish you
45 guys are certainly welcome to do so.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. She -- I
48 just clarified you could do it through the Council. If
49 anyone got Board of Fisheries proposal or upper Cook
50 Inlet finfish. Anyone?

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(No response)

Fish are gone. Okay, well, keep it in mind because we could go to the Board of Fish, but we could also as a group here, come up with a proposal if you guys have any. And we even could come up with an idea, and they'll put it together for us, OSM. So, we're covered everywhere. Okay, now the next one.

MR. OHPIEM: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Does someone want to talk there?

MR. OHPIEM: Yeah, I had a question. Michael, online here.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Michael.

MR. OHPIEM: I was just thinking about the EEZ. Are we allowed to have proposals put in for Federal Subsistence Board and the EEZ or state subsistence?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You are through feds, but it's not through this group. It's through NOAA. And I know my onions on that one, so. Okay.

MR. OHPIEM: Thank you sir.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You bet. We're going to Review And Approve Your Annual Report. And Nissa will do that for us. We submitted it, we wrote it, we signed it. We sent it. Thank you.

MS. PILCHER: You sure did. I do need to pass it out because it wasn't ready before your packets got sent. Kirk, did you have your hand up or was that still a leftover?

(Pause)

MR. WILSON: How about now? Can you hear me, Nissa?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I could hear you. What you got on your mind?

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah, well, I had Hannah
2 help me write some proposals the last time. And I have
3 three specific proposals, and one of them is targeted
4 at saving wild stock specifically. And it's been pretty
5 important to me. I put it in before and what it is, is
6 basically stopping dip netting right in the mouth of the
7 rivers run into Copper. So, do I work with Hannah to do
8 that again? Or what's up there?

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, you
11 always could do a individual proposal, but if you want
12 the Council to do a proposal with you, then we got to
13 come to consensus on it.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Well, I would like to
16 have the Council specifically on that one proposal.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, you're
19 going to have to get it wrote up and.....

20
21 (Talking)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael. Hey,
24 Michael, you're on your phone going to Kodiak. Okay.
25 Back to you, Kirk. Yeah, if you want the Council to
26 support your proposal as a group, am I correct, Nissa?
27 Robbin? We need to work on that together. And if you
28 could write it up, I mean, you're going to have to get
29 it to us. And it's.....

30
31 (Simultaneous speech)

32
33 MR. WILSON: Okay. I can do that.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There's a
36 clarification coming. I might be wrong here. Go ahead.

37
38 MS. SENEAL: Anna Senecal, OSM. Thank
39 you so much, Mr. Chair. I don't believe you need a write
40 up. I think understanding what the regulation is you
41 wish to change. Talking about how you want to change it.
42 Getting that on the record, making a formal motion,
43 supporting it as a Board and then we take it. So, it'll
44 be Kevin, our team working with Council Coordination.
45 I'm Kevin! To craft the language and, you know, work
46 with you to make sure it represents your intent. And
47 then it comes back to you as the formal proposal.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Where I
50 was going with the write up on it, I want the Council

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1 to fully understand it. We're on a phone here, and so I
2 want him to give me the specific language he wants.
3 That's where I was going. Thank you. Okay.

4

5 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just a second.

8

9 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Vorhees.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, I got your
12 -- I got a notice. You got your hand up somewhere? Yeah.
13 Thank you. Go ahead, Hannah.

14

15 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. I just wanted
16 to add some parameters that might be helpful. It'd be
17 good in the proposal draft to know exactly what waters
18 we're referring to. You know, if it's the -- both
19 subdistricts of the Copper River and you know what the
20 timing would be for this ban on dip netting. And if
21 there are specific waters within that larger area. Just
22 any details that would help us flush this out. Thank
23 you.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's
26 kind of what I was looking for too. So anyway, it's kind
27 of hard to.....

28

29 MR. WILSON: Can you still hear me, Greg?

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I can hear you.
32 I'm trying to figure out how to get you to a
33 understanding proposal to the Council that we could
34 either support or vote down. Kirk, could you give me
35 more detail? I mean, the best you can, and we'll try to
36 have the Council listen to it, so we understand your
37 proposal with specific waters Copper River mouth. That
38 sounds good. They could figure that out. And you want
39 it close to dip netting for other users, as I'm assuming.
40 And give us a little details that you got in mind.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: I think we might be having
43 some technical issues. Can anyone that is not in the
44 room hear us? Okay, I.....

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 DR. VOORHEES: Hi Kirk, this is Hannah
49 Vorhees. I could hear you, but I think maybe our sound
50 connection has been dropped. So, we'll see if they can

00039

1 sort it out there.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Okay. We can hear you,
4 Hannah.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Can you hear me now?

7

8 MS. PILCHER: Oh, yes, we can.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

11

12 DR. VOORHEES: I can hear you there. The
13 meeting room is muted currently.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Yeah, well, I pretty much
16 have this proposal together, but I don't have it with
17 me. I could probably get it there to that meeting this
18 afternoon before it's over.

19

20 DR. VOORHEES: So acknowledging that
21 we're on a group call right now, I would just yeah,
22 encourage you to share the language with the group and
23 get some wider discussion on it before the end of the
24 meeting, which since it's a short agenda, it looks like
25 we may be finished a little early today. Or, you know,
26 if you want to just like work it out through discussion
27 with the Chair if he's willing. Whatever your preference
28 is.

29

30 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Well, that's what they
31 did the last time. They just kind of put us together.
32 And then I sent it to you and we worked on it. It sounded
33 like the Board needs to approve what I'm talking about.

34

35 DR. VOORHEES: I think the last time your
36 proposal was submitted as an individual and if you --
37 it might be preferable to have it submitted by the
38 Council as a whole. If there's support for the proposal.

39

40 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Well, that's what I
41 thought too.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: Yeah.

44

45 MR. WILSON: In fact, I got 3 or 4 of
46 them, but I have one in specific that I really need --
47 it needs to be done soon because the sooner we do it,
48 the more we're going to save our wild stocks. I mean,
49 we just do not want to lose that.

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1 DR. VOORHEES: Well, this would yeah,
2 this would definitely be the time to submit that because
3 otherwise you'll have to you'll be waiting another
4 couple of years. So, time is of the essence.

5
6 MR. WILSON: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Kirk,
9 could you give us the language now just so we can move
10 on with it?

11
12 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Well, I -- yeah, I can
13 give you the language now.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Basically, what I -- what
18 I've written this proposal before, and the most urgent
19 proposal I have is trying to (distortion) the wild stocks
20 in this. And it's basically the small streams where I'd
21 like to see it down within a quarter to a half mile
22 downstream from any clear water creek running in the
23 Copper River. And the reason I want to do that is when
24 those fish come up the river, they pull into that clear
25 water at that river there and rest before they go up.
26 And, and these small streams usually comes in groups
27 specifics to go to some of these small streams. And if
28 you've got dip netters with boats going down that creek,
29 there's a very high potential of wiping out a small wild
30 stock. And I think it's very important to all of us at
31 this point in time to try to save the wild stocks as
32 much as we possibly can, and especially the small wild
33 stocks.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk, this is
36 the federal proposal correct?

37
38 MR. WILSON: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: How many
41 proposals do you know that we approved as a Council
42 here, federal, for dip netting in the -- that area? This
43 proposal could affect.....

44
45 (Simultaneous speech)

46
47 MR. WILSON: I don't know. I have
48 several.....

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: This -- what I'm
2 getting at. Will this affect other proposals or other
3 openings that we have in place or other things we've
4 worked on?

5
6 MR. WILSON: I don't think so.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Does anyone
9 know that?

10
11 (No response)

12
13 None of us really know. So, we'll just
14 go ahead. If we put it in and find out we can't, Hannah
15 is going to put the sideboards on us, so.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I don't know. I'm not
18 positive on the state, but I don't think you can dip net
19 in the Copper River out of a boat in those clear water
20 streams. But as federal, you can. I'm not positive about
21 that, Greg. I'd have to look again, but it would kind
22 of come in line with state management, if that's the way
23 it is. And I'm -- like I said, this is one of the most
24 concerned things. I have other proposals about dip
25 netting, but this is focused specifically on trying to
26 save small wild stocks.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got an
29 idea now, and I think the Council does what you're going
30 after. Dave Sarafin, are you online?

31
32 (No response)

33
34 I was just going to check to see if he
35 had any information on some of that. But hearing none.
36 Okay. What's the Council want to do? Where I'm getting
37 at and why I'm hesitant in this is there's a lot of
38 things that are involved with it. We're trying to create
39 a proposal. We don't really -- we're not real sure of.
40 We don't understand it completely. It should have been
41 here for this meeting. The proponent should have been
42 here. It should have been circulated to us. It wasn't
43 and so we're open, we're trying to make it by the cutoff.
44 So, if you guys are interested in doing something that
45 we're not sure on -- I don't know your choice. Nissa.

46
47 MS. PILCHER: So just to clarify unless
48 regulations have changed under state regulations, you
49 are not allowed -- state users are not allowed to dip
50 net out of the main stem of the Copper. So those clear

1 water streams are excluded. So, this proposal -- yep.
2 So, this proposal would be federal waters for federally
3 qualified subsistence users, which is what the call is
4 for. I'm just not necessarily sure of where that federal
5 jurisdiction is in that part of the country. So, one
6 thing the Council could do is I and Kevin can work with
7 Kirk on drafting the language and we can get it submitted
8 and then the Council can review unless Karen has more
9 to add because she might -- she's more of course, very
10 well more versed on that land than I am. But my one
11 suggestion could be Kevin, and I can work with Kirk on
12 such a proposal and then it would go to analysis and
13 then the Council would see that analysis in the fall.
14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Karen, we'll --
19 go ahead.

20

21 MS. LINNELL: I might to be able to
22 explain what he's trying to get at and that's not -- the
23 Copper River is the federal waters. And he's talking
24 about a distance from the clear water streams and
25 protecting those areas. The Klutina River provides 34
26 to 53% of the sockeye return, and they will be at the
27 downriver side of that trying and dipping close to the
28 inlet into the Klutina. They do the same at other
29 anadromous streams. And so, he's trying to limit that
30 and if you might, I can email Kirk's last proposal to
31 Nissa or you guys should have it, but yeah, for some of
32 the language that was used for your consideration later
33 today.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, well, it
36 sounds to me like we get -- we have time to work on it.
37 We just -- that I didn't quite understand. It sounded
38 like it was urgent to pass now, but it's really not.
39 It's -- we could work and put it together and then we
40 would understand it better, and then we could approve
41 it at our next meeting in time.

42

43 MS. LINNELL: It would have to be at this
44 one.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It would have to
47 be this one, she says.

48

49 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. The deadline for
50 proposals would -- is April 3rd.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, can you tell me this?

MS. LINNELL: Yes sir.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there any federal users that are going to be affected now in that clear water that are using that fishery?

MS. LINNELL: The clear water were unable to use fish wheels were unable to use fish traps. We can sport fish.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MS. LINNELL: And so, there's not a lot there. It's where the Copper River is. And the most -- and the fish wheel users that are there are required to be so far away from the mouth of the feeder streams. And so that there's a little loophole, I guess, if you would call it, where folks dip netting from boats are able to get in there and target those fish.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. So, can I ask you this? Are you in support of it, then? Obviously.

MS. LINNELL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Thank you. Dennis.

MR. ZADRA: Oh, Karen, just for clarification. So, we're talking the Glennallen Subdistrict?

MS. LINNELL: Yes, sir.

MR. ZADRA: Okay.

MS. LINNELL: There there's dip netting south of the Chitina River Bridge, and that is limited to the range, up to Healy Creek,

MR. ZADRA: Right.

MS. LINNELL: And then those north of there, they do target different streams or inlets, or I guess some mouths of the river, right so, that feed into the Copper River.

1

2

MR. ZADRA: Right. I guess what I'm trying to get at that. So that's a state subsistence area, that Glennallen. Can the state subsistence people under their state subsistence permits still go and dip in this closure that the feds couldn't?

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MR. ZADRA: Okay. And that's what I'm getting at.

MS. LINNELL: Yeah, yeah.

MR. ZADRA: You know, if it's going to really affect the resource, it needs to be both on the federal side and the state side. And we're called for proposals for our cycle is what? This fall. For April. Okay. Well, no good. That's it. I'm totally in support of this. I just want to say, you know, we can do it on our end here. But the damage I think comes from the state side. And so, it needs to happen there too.

MS. LINNELL: Yes, sir. Thank you for that.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Karen, you know
2 my position. I'm very adamant about the subsistence user
3 having less preference than the other users. And I have
4 no problem manning up. But if we man up in someone else's
5 ripping off the resource. It doesn't do us a damn bit
6 of good. And so that I couldn't support. Now, if we
7 could close it to where no one is going up those
8 freshwater streams, I'm all for that.

9
10 MS. LINNELL: So, the freshwater streams
11 are closed to subsistence fishery and nets and things,
12 but they're -- actually sport fish has been closed off
13 and on for several years now. Especially for chinook.
14 And so, we've had closures on the Gulkana for fish as
15 well because of temperature and things. The state does
16 emergency orders and closes them. They've been closed
17 for quite some time in the freshwater streams. In the
18 Copper River again, the -- we've had restrictions under
19 state permits for chinook. And with the personal use
20 fishery restrictions on chinook with subsistence permits
21 under the state where they are able to use a fish wheel
22 or now dip net from a boat which is north of -- or
23 upstream of the Chitina Bridge. There -- they're
24 starting to expand that dip netting from boats, and we
25 tried to prohibit dip netting from boats as well. And
26 at the Board of Fish and -- because it's one thing to
27 get dropped off and sit at the bank, but it's another
28 thing to target them in high waters and in the eddies.
29 And that's what we've been working on stopping because
30 it used to be that when the water would drop, we'd see
31 a big pulse of fish and we're not seeing those pulses
32 of fish anymore. So, I -- if we get to do again what's
33 right for the resource and you talked about yourself in
34 the moratoriums and things like that and we watch
35 moratoriums work. You look at Western Alaska and the
36 moratoriums they put on moose harvests, and they've got
37 big populations and now they can get two, right. And so,
38 they do work. We just need to be able to implement them,
39 and I don't want to get to a moratorium place. We want
40 -- we need to be in practice precautionary management,
41 and this is a precautionary management tool, right. So,
42 thank you sir.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
45 you, Karen. Okay, we're getting off topic here quite a
46 bit. So yeah, go ahead, Faye make it brief.

47
48 MS. EWAN: And according to -- on what
49 Karen was just saying true is that the dip netters with
50 the servers that come up the river, they go right by our

1 fish wheel, and they see through the cameras where the
2 fish is going, and they go by our fish wheel. And a lot
3 of times we're getting raided. I mean, there's pirates
4 on that Copper River.

5
6 And same time when we get the fresh fish
7 come in, you know, we watch it, we let it pile up until
8 we're ready to work with it. And by the time we get back
9 down to the river, there's nothing in there and the
10 guide service says they don't do that. And why I say
11 that is that while they're dip netting in the middle of
12 the river, same time they're going to the mouth of
13 Klutina and we can't fish there. It's been closed to us.
14 That's where our people come from, Klutina. Copper
15 River. There was no Kluti Kaah. Kluti Kaah is from
16 Klutina, but we can't fish up there anymore. Our
17 ancestors come from there. The state opened it up for
18 sports fishing, and pretty soon the kings were wiped out
19 and now they're reds. And same time when they use these
20 big motor on those Klutina River or any of those rivers,
21 they use a motor like you're going out to the ocean. I
22 mean, they tear up a lot of that -- erosion on the side
23 of the river while they're fishing up there. They bring
24 people up there. There's been a lot of tragedy, tragic
25 things happen on this fishing in that river. But I like
26 to see is that they have that -- if they're going to
27 open it up, at least give them 20 days to have the salmon
28 run upstream before they open it up to sports fishing
29 or any kind of fishing. Because if we're limited, they
30 should be limited too. But now it's a big business.
31 There's five guide service.....

32
33 (Simultaneous speech)

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I understand
36 that.

37
38 MS. EWAN:right there in Copper
39 River Eklutna. That's why I support this proposal. Thank
40 you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's get
43 back to the proposal. I think we got a lot of history.
44 We got a lot of understanding. I think we have some
45 clarity. Kirk, we're still not sure. I think Dave might
46 be out there. He had his hand up. If he had clarity on.
47 What I'm trying to get is we know all the problems that
48 we're trying to see if as a group, we support this
49 closure, and that's -- if we do, that's fine. Let's put
50 it together. Let's move on. We got -- we can't solve it

1 all right here. But we can support this proposal if
2 that's what your choice is. Dave, you got something
3 briefly that you could enlighten us with.

4
5 MR. SARAFIN: Mr. Chair. Yeah. This is
6 Dave Serafin of Tazlina. Hopefully you can hear me this
7 time. But yeah, my microphone was having a trouble there
8 earlier when you called on me for a question possibly.
9 So, I just want to let you know I'm here if you have a
10 specific question.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The
13 question is, we got a proposal from Kirk to close the
14 dipping in the freshwater streams, and he explained it.
15 I think you probably heard it all. So, we just want to
16 know that -- does it impact anything else that we have
17 authorized openings for the federal subsistence users,
18 or does it affect anything in that region that we -- is
19 there any reason we shouldn't support this?

20
21 MR. SARAFIN: You know, one -- I get --
22 the one thing it would be a discrepancy from state where
23 the state would still allow it. Because the Copper River
24 districts define, you know, the main stem in each of
25 these tributaries, there's a line drawn from upstream
26 point to the downstream point. And then -- so the actual
27 tributary itself would be closed off there. And I'm not
28 aware of, you know, it's mostly a land ownership thing,
29 but I can't think of the regulations saying a fish wheel
30 could not be within that half mile. So that would be
31 something to consider whether it would be -- the intent
32 might be to close subsistence fishing within that half
33 mile instead of just dip net. There's also very limited
34 use of rod and reel that occurs in that freshwater plume
35 coming downstream. That that might be happening too, but
36 that's extremely limited. The harvest is nearly nothing
37 federally so anyways, yeah. Any other questions? I hope
38 that might have clarified something for you, but.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Cleared it up
41 some day. But also, it kind of gives us pause on a couple
42 other things you said there. I think we're just looking
43 at the freshwater streams you want to close off. Judy,
44 go ahead.

45
46 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
47 Kirk, I think at that meeting in Cordova, which might
48 have been your first, I think we were a little maybe
49 misleading to you about the process. And at that meeting,
50 sort of at the end of the meeting, you came up with

1 ideas, and we thought, great, please put those into
2 proposals. But normally what we would like is to have
3 your proposal in front of us, you know, as fully written
4 up as you could so that we could have a discussion here
5 because in my opinion, if a proposal comes from the RAC,
6 it may hold a little bit more weight to the Federal
7 Subsistence Board. So, you know, maybe too late for this
8 one. And so, we may have to do as Greg suggesting, if
9 you and Hannah or others work on firming up the proposal
10 so, we look at it in the fall, then we'll have a robust
11 discussion. But I think we -- sounds like we don't really
12 have enough to go on here in terms of specifics and
13 repercussions. So, in the future, if that's how you can
14 work it, timing wise, we'd appreciate it. But in lieu
15 of that, you know, we'll figure it out.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. In lieu of
18 that, Council -- Ed, go ahead.

19
20 MR. HOLSTEN: Just quick. Mr. Chair, I'm
21 a little confused on this whole issue like most people.
22 Quick question would this -- if we adopt this proposal,
23 would on the federal side be more restrictive than on
24 the state side? And if that's the question, I can't go
25 with this.

26
27 MR. ZADRA: Oh, coming back around. But
28 I do support what Karen's trying to say. Somebody has
29 to go first you know, if we support this it's going to
30 give more strength to this because this proposal is going
31 to come before the Board of Fish and our cycle is going
32 to be listened to in 2027. If we don't, I think it's
33 just going to give the state proposal, which is the one
34 that needs to really change, it's just going to give it
35 a little bit more teeth. You know, if we do this and we
36 wait for the state, you know, we've tried this before
37 and it's going to have a difficult time going through -
38 - passing through this -- the state. But if we're saying,
39 hey, we're doing this on the federal end because it's
40 that important, you know, hopefully that's going to make
41 a change with the state, and it's all going to come down
42 to, you know, who's on the Board of Fish at that point
43 in time. But yeah, it's important. But I do want to say
44 I support what Karen is saying. Somebody's got to go
45 first.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.
48 But we got to go someone first approve the proposal.
49 Just a minute. Judy, she's got a comment real quick.
50

1 MS. CAMINER: I guess one suggestion.
2 Once this whole analysis is done and we really see what
3 we're voting on, there might be able to be some sort of
4 phrase that this would go into effect if the Board of
5 Fisheries supports something similar or identical, you
6 know, after whatever date. Because I don't think there's
7 any way we or the Board might support something that
8 will be detrimental to subsistence users but not
9 necessarily support that could be worked out later.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Karen.

12

13 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. I just want to say
14 we helped Kirk type up his last one. I just emailed my
15 -- or texted my fisheries biologist and asked him to
16 send it so that we can get it to you folks, so you have
17 something to vote on before the end of this meeting. The
18 other thing is this is not closing the clear water
19 streams. It's creating a buffer zone for them on the on
20 the Copper River. So that there's -- they have to stay
21 so far away from that mouth of the -- those tributaries.
22 And that's, you know, it's not asking too much of
23 federally qualified users to move back a few feet from
24 the tributaries. So, thank you.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's not the
27 problem. The problem is the proper proposal submission.
28 That's where we're hung up on. I want everyone to see
29 it and understand it. I'm going to cut this off soon,
30 but go ahead, Robbin.

31

32 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Here's a thought. Because you guys are playing the long
34 game, right. Now is an opportunity to submit a proposal
35 to get it through the regulatory cycle within the federal
36 system, to have a lot of public comment and all the best
37 available input, you know, information put into that
38 analysis and then you can pause and you can direct the
39 Board to pause and then it's in waiting. The next -- I
40 understand that the next Board of Fish cycle for the
41 Copper region would be asking for proposals April of
42 next year. And so, it's just a thought that you could
43 be intentional. Generally, we don't like to defer. We
44 don't like to defer but you've had these solutions before
45 you before, and you have taken action to ensure that the
46 subsistence priority was met in these, you know, these
47 two jurisdictions. But this would be an opportunity to
48 wait and see if the Board of Fish might also come along.
49 Just a suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah,
2 thank you, Robbin, for that. I think what we're going
3 to do is we're going to be getting some information,
4 right. We're going to get that proposal sent to us.
5 We'll look at it this afternoon. If we decide to bring
6 it up, we will. If not, we'll pause on it, but we'll go
7 ahead and pass it out after lunch and take a look at it.
8 It's okay. Okay, I understand. Kirk and Dave, you got a
9 comment. But if you heard what I said, we're going to
10 review it. When we get the proposal sent to us, we'll
11 get copies for the Council here, and then we'll take it
12 up again and where we squeeze it in the agenda later
13 today. All right.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Greg?

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

18
19 MR. WILSON: I would like to just comment
20 just a little bit because there has been some
21 misunderstanding in the conversation.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, there's a
24 whole bunch. That's why we're waiting for your write-
25 up.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Okay. Yeah. Go ahead.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and then
30 there won't be no misunderstanding. Yeah. That's what
31 we're trying to accomplish. So that's what we'll do.
32 Alrighty, thank you.....

33
34 (Distortion)

35
36 We're going to do a review and approval
37 of the fiscal year 2025 annual report. Nissa.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Alright. Hello everyone. So
40 that's the document I passed out just a little bit ago.
41 It was not included in your meeting packet because it
42 hadn't made it through the internal review yet. So, this
43 is your -- of course I've misplaced it. There it is. The
44 FY 25 annual report. This is the annual report that the
45 Council drafts every year to let the Federal Subsistence
46 Board know what's been going on and if there's areas
47 that they'd like to inform the Board about. So, at your
48 guys' last meeting, you identified a couple different
49 topics. And so, the purpose of this is to review, edit
50 them if you'd like and formally approve it with a motion.

1 This is an action item. Unfortunately, at this time, we
2 can't add any new topics. But if there is a topic that
3 you think should go on there, I can put a pin in that
4 and make sure I bring it up at your fall meeting when
5 you're talking about your FY26 annual report. So, your
6 first topic was fund wildlife resource -- fund a wildlife
7 resource monitoring program. The next was use of Council
8 time and lack of compensation. The third one was adequate
9 signage, which I think we can update that title. That's
10 about ensuring adequate signage is out on the land,
11 especially in heavily used areas if there's closures or
12 other such factors at play on that land. And then you
13 have a couple informational topics which you're not
14 requesting the Board or agencies take any action on,
15 you're just informing and that was the general concern
16 over marine subsistence resources. That encapsulates a
17 couple different topics. That is generally in your guys'
18 annual report about PSPs and ocean acidification and
19 included this time is invasive species. Ensuring
20 subsistence opportunities remain flexible, adequate
21 federal staffing. And then that is it. So, if anybody
22 has any edits, I'll gladly take them down and then it
23 is an action item.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll
26 start with Andy. He's got the first at it.

27
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. Yeah. Just going through looking at that number
30 four, there comes after this informational purposes
31 only. I myself feel that the trawling issue should have
32 -- it shouldn't be lumped in with like PSP and things
33 like that. I mean, it's much more of a major thing than
34 that. I think it should have its own bullet point, and
35 I think it should come before this, the remainder of the
36 thing, because I myself would like to hear some feedback
37 about that. So, I'd like that ahead of the number four
38 behind the remainder of this report is for informational
39 purposes only, deserving no feedback. I kind of had a
40 lot more lengthy things about the trawl fishery,
41 including habitat detriment and some of that ecosystem
42 destruction is listed in there, but there's a lot of
43 factors involved in the trawling thing. And I would like
44 it to get some feedback and have its own spot. Thank
45 you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I believe we
48 could do that. And Nissa said, yeah. Do you need a
49 motion? No, no, just to approve it, as amended. Yeah,
50 just at the end. We'll approve it after. Any other

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1 corrections or edits? Kirk, you got an edit. And,
2 Michael, you got an edit? Anyone? Go ahead.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yes. Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk, go ahead.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Are we talking about
9 the proposal now?

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, no, no.
12 We're -- sorry. We're talking -- we're on the annual
13 report.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: And that document that --
16 this is Nissa, Kirk.....

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 MR. WILSON: Oh. I'm sorry.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, yeah. That was
23 emailed to you this morning with the agenda.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Okay. Okay. Sorry.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No problem.
28 We're going to take yours up a little later again after
29 we get it. But we moved on down the agenda there, Kirk.
30 Sorry.

31
32 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I see. I'm sorry.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

35
36 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
37 don't know if this counts as a new topic, but I think
38 requesting an All-RAC meeting and even an annual All-
39 RAC meeting, it's not included in this report, and I
40 don't know if it's enough of a subject to be considered
41 a new subject. But I think we've been calling for an
42 All-RAC for several months. In fact, it was brought up
43 at the last meeting. So, I don't know if it's still
44 considered a new subject, but I would like the Federal
45 Board to consider an All-RAC.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got.....

48
49 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa for the
50 record. I think that we could add it under the topic of

00053

1 number two. Because that is use of Council time. And my
2 apologies, I know that was a request of Western Interior.
3 So, for some reason I thought it was in here, but it's
4 not in this one. It's in my other Council. But we could
5 add it in there.

6

7 MS. TOTEMOFF: And so, would it fall
8 under your recommendation then, is that where you put
9 it? Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good. Good one.
12 Any others? Edward? Dennis? No, no, no, no. Okay. Nissa,
13 did we do okay? We got a couple changes there and you
14 captured them. Okay. Now we could take a Council vote
15 to approve the amended report as discussed.

16

17 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. So, moved.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
20 Angela. Is there a second?

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy seconded.
25 Discussion?

26

27 (No response)

28

29 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed,
34 for the record?

35

36 (No response)

37

38 It carries unanimously. Okay.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 I'll push the button. We're going to
43 take five minutes to get some coffee, and then we're
44 going to review a wildlife proposal before lunch on the
45 Unit 7 moose and hopefully Michael is in the area. But
46 -- and Kirk still. So, we're going to be right back guys
47 in about five minutes. That's German time, so don't be
48 late.

49

50 (Off record)

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(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're ready to roll. This next one, it's a wildlife proposal, 26-17. It's Unit 7 moose and I think -- who's going to do it? Andrew and Nissa? Lisa, you're going to talk to it. Okay. Yeah, and we'll remind everyone in the Council here. We took this up before and what we did is we wanted to give them a little later season in September and cut back on the earlier August. And I think they want some amendments to that. So, I'll let you come up, Lisa, and go ahead and give us a rundown so I don't goof it all up.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, for the record, and I believe Andrew Sanders is online prepared to speak to this and I'm just in person to help answer questions if needed.

MS. SANDERS: Yeah, I'm here online, through the Chair. This is Andrew Sanders.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

MS. SANDERS: Yeah. So sorry to bring this one back to you guys. I know you have enough other stuff to discuss, but when we went through the transcripts and were reviewing the RACs recommendation for this, what it appeared to be from the transcripts that was voted on was to shorten the season to only September 25th to October 20th. Oh, and I'm sorry, this should be in your supplementary materials, but the book isn't on the website, so I'm not sure what page number it is. But you can see at the very end if you can find it in there. What we understood from the -- sorry, there's a bit of an -- from the transcripts what it was. So that's September 25th to October 20th. But what we thought we understood from the meeting was that you guys wanted the season to be September 1st to October 20th or -- yeah, September 1st to October 20th. And then we also wanted to consider maintaining the early August 20th to October 20th season, which would be another option in the realm of what was suggested.

And then if you scroll up or look above the literature cited section of the analysis, there's an addendum, which is where we did a further analysis of the proposed changes from the RAC meeting. Just because some of them were a little outside what we had

1 analyzed previously. Essentially there -- the main
2 points are that losing the August season would be kind
3 of a significant loss of opportunity that users weren't
4 able to comment on during the open comment period so
5 that would be possibly a surprise to folks at the
6 subsistence -- at the Federal Board meeting. About 1 in
7 8 federal moose have been harvested during that August
8 season. Also, you know, we did discuss in the original
9 analysis, there are some concerns with having a late
10 hunt in Unit 7, and those concerns are more severe during
11 the late September, early October portion of the season
12 than they would be for the October 20th to November 10th
13 section of the season. So that's the sort of the 30,000-
14 foot view of why we brought it back to you guys. And the
15 additional analysis that we did, and if there's any more
16 questions about that, I'm happy to discuss further.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
19 to -- did you want to say anything before I go?

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: No. Go ahead, Greg.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I -- just
24 before I take it to Council, I just wanted to confirm
25 the dates in the changes here. September 25th to October
26 20th. Is that correct? And then you say we want to open
27 -- we don't want to mess with the current August one?

28

29 MS. SANDERS: So, the -- that's what we
30 gathered from the transcripts, was that what was
31 actually voted on was to make the season September 25th
32 to October 20th. The current season starts August 20th,
33 and the state season starts September 1st. So, prior to
34 September 25th, there would be a state season that
35 federal users could hunt under state rules. So, we
36 wondered -- I thought from the discussion at the last
37 meeting, the intention was to maintain that federal
38 opportunity during the state season as well.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Can you do that
41 down here in Unit 15 for me?

42

43 MS. SANDERS: So, it would be -- if you
44 got rid of the early federal season in Unit 15 and you
45 also got rid of the late season in Unit 15, and you only
46 let people hunt during the time that's currently closed
47 in the middle during the rut.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We don't
50 have memory of the September 25th to -- well, I mean,

1 normal seasons down that way, Unit 7 and 15 is pretty
2 close. But we have our season, the state opens the 1st
3 September and it goes through the 25th. And they took
4 away the August hunting season, the early one when they
5 extended it to the five days in September. So, we don't
6 have an August opening under state. Under federal, we
7 have an early -- we have a five-day preference early
8 opening on -- in the federal lands. So, we do get a few
9 days late August. Then we have a late one in October
10 that we could fish and it's late October to the first
11 few days in November. I'm just looking at this. You
12 would have an opportunity to hunt basically September
13 1st under state rules. Then you'd pick it up under fed
14 rules and you'd hunt till the 20th. So, you'd have a
15 hell of a good hunt if the moose could support that.

16
17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. And so,
18 I guess just to reiterate, let me clarify a little bit
19 what Andrew was saying is the proposal was submitted was
20 to add that late hunt October 20th to November 10th, and
21 then the Council, you might remember, kind of had a
22 discussion all over the place in -- at your meeting in
23 January. And you ended up just, you know, supporting the
24 proposal with modification to change the dates to
25 September 25th to October 20th. And then when we were
26 writing up the justification and the draft regulations,
27 we just wanted to, a) verify because this is kind of
28 outside the scope of the proposal. And so, to make sure
29 your recommendation meets all the requirements of the
30 Administration -- Administrative Procedures Act that
31 we're not violating, you know, the outside-the-scope
32 proposal. But also, just that, that was truly the
33 Council's intent was to eliminate the entire current
34 season and to just create this new season from September
35 25th to October 20th. Or if it was -- you meant to just
36 eliminate the August portion and maintain alignment with
37 state regs for that September 1st to 25th season? Or,
38 you know, basically just clarify your intent here. And
39 as Andrew stated, the OSM did write that addendum to
40 just highlight some conservation concerns we have for
41 this moose population and particularly harvesting during
42 the rut.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I must have
45 missed something because I really thought it was -- they
46 had the late season October 20th and November 10th and
47 that we went to the September 25th, so. And we moved
48 August something. But someone else give me some
49 clarification on that. Who -- was you involved in that,
50 Faye. You know the dates?

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MS. EWAN: Faye Ewan. What dates are you -- you're using? What dates do you want to use on this? You got two different dates on here. Then you said another one, September 25th to October 20th.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Correct. Lisa Grediagin. So, I'll try to explain this without being too confusing. So, the current season, the current federal season is August 20th to September 25th. The proposal as submitted was to add an additional late season of October 20th to November 10th. The current state general hunt is September 1st to 25th. And then the Council at your January meeting modified the proposal to change the season dates to September 25th to October 20th.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No one seems to recall that. That's Ed (indiscernible). That's one hell of a season. I mean, I don't know if that could even support the.....

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, I'm I was somewhat involved with that in January with that season. Now this has -- two things. This has caught me by surprise. It's kind of like a -- that we weren't notified before this meeting of what was going on. This is the first I heard of it. And so, it's going to take me some time to kind of go through that and then kind of go through my notes what was proposed. I think the original intent, regardless of what the dates, were to -- we had that early hunt. And even though a few animals are taken elsewhere in the state, including Unit 7, it's tough. Early hunt, bulls are going into the rut later. It's harder to hunt in that early season because leaves haven't fallen yet, so the whole purpose was to have a later hunt, subsistence hunt. But you know, again, I'm going to have to -- maybe over lunch break, I'll have to sit down and look at this. But I'm somewhat upset that this first I've seen this.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I do know through our debates off and on for years, you know, we try to keep out of that rut season. And that's why we went to that later season, like October 20th and November 10th, you know, for the second (indiscernible) of the moose. But I mean, I look at it and I mean, I'm fine with whatever the end of August through the 25th of September, but not all the way straight through. It should be the second opening then starting in October to November. I mean, that's the way I recall it, but

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1 maybe I was in a different party, so.

2

3 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. And just so I'm clear,
4 it's like Unit 15 has it the same way that they're trying
5 to do with Unit 7. Is that correct?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: This guy is
8 trying to put it all the way through.

9

10 MR. ZADRA: No, no, I think it's
11 mirroring because it already says Unit 7 moose, August
12 20th to September 25th. And then the addition will be
13 to open it October 20th to November 10th, which....

14

15 (Simultaneous speech)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that
18 would mirror.....

19

20 MR. ZADRA:the same thing that 15
21 is doing.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That would
24 mirror 15.

25

26 MR. ZADRA: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. That's
29 correct. Okay. Andy.

30

31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I was just
32 curious, maybe Todd on the phone can answer this that
33 are the federal tags all being utilized? Are they all -
34 - is there some in this that would, to me, warrant, hey,
35 this later season, which I'm all for allowing
36 subsistence users to take the resource when they can get
37 it, and if they don't have it yet and they've still got
38 a tag, then fill the tag so. Can Todd -- are all the
39 tags getting used? Is everything getting filled? Is
40 there a quota being met?

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, Lisa Grediagin, I'm
43 sure Todd can speak to this or Andrew, but I mean, it's
44 the -- it's by federal registration permit, but it's
45 unlimited permits, so they're not limiting the number
46 of permits. There's not a harvest quota, but the success
47 rates, I'm not sure it's probably in the analysis, but
48 I'll let.....

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50 (Simultaneous speech)

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Todd, do you want to address that.

MS. GREDIAGIN:Todd and Andrew speak to that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're the one.....

MR. ESKELIN: Sure

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're the one to arrest them, so let's talk about it.

MR. ESKELIN: Alright. Todd Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Yes. The original proposal was to mirror what we have in Unit 15. The discussion that we had was how much more similar Unit 7 and 15A were, and that we were uncomfortable with having that additional late season on the very small moose population. So that's where the discussion kind of went. And we were kind of -- seemed like we had a lot of mixed opinions on that from the Council. And then it didn't really seem like there was a ton of support for that full late season like that on this really small moose population. And then that last proposal that was proposed was for cutting everything out and just doing a September 25th to October 20th season which, you know, we during our Council debate, we had discussed how hunting through that rut period is really detrimental for cow moose because they really -- their best productivity is if they are impregnated in their first estrus and the second or third estrus has a much lower calf survival rate. So, by hunting in that August 20 -- I mean not August 20th, sorry, September 25th to October 20th time frame that puts a lot of pressure on cow moose that have already been gathered up by a bull. And if that bull is then harvested, they probably, in these smaller populations, they're probably not going to get impregnated in that first estrus. So, it basically pushes them into a second or third opportunity to get impregnated. And then you have, you know, lower calf survival. So, it was kind of a last second amendment by you guys, but it would -- both options have their own pitfalls for a smaller moose population. If you move to October 20th to November 10th timeframe like we have in 15B and C, you still are putting extra pressure on a really small moose population. Yes, it's certainly easier to hunt and harvest when the leaves are down and,

1 and they're at the post part of their rut, but there's
2 some concerns about that. There's even more concerns
3 about hunting in that September 25th to October 20th
4 timeframe. That would be super detrimental. So, I'm
5 available for questions and just leave it at that for
6 now.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I got the
9 same conclusion you gave so we could discuss it, but the
10 25th of September to October 20th is a period that we
11 actually didn't want to be hunting. But anyway. Then we
12 just threw a catch all. I don't know who did that. Yeah,
13 and Dennis, just to clarify that does mirror the 15. If
14 you, if you take these dates on the front of those dates.

15
16 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Right. 15B and C
17 though, but 15A, I see it's -- that and its different
18 habitat for sure that 15A.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. What's
21 the pleasure of the Council. Do you want to support this
22 wide-open proposal? Judy.

23
24 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, I'll echo
25 what Ed said. I mean, I saw this on the agenda, but I
26 didn't know what it was. And I would have looked over
27 my notes from the last meeting to just be ready for
28 this. So, I think we are kind of blindsided by this.
29 But, you know, I do hear what you're saying about the
30 concerns, and we do may want to consider changing after
31 Ed does his analysis, what we concluded before.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, are we
34 correct? If we do nothing, then it goes to September
35 25th through November 10th?

36
37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. I mean,
38 that's the current Council recommendation and it's up
39 to the Board whether to adopt it or not.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I have a Jason.
42 Jason, are you on the phone?

43
44 MR. LESMEISTER: I'm right here.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh. You're
47 here? Go ahead. I'm looking for you. I've been meaning
48 to see you. You want to come up and talk to this?

49
50

1 MS. LESMEISTER: So, I know the guy who
2 made this proposal. He's one of the few guys that really
3 well (distortion) a few, but he definitely takes his
4 subsistence hunting seriously. Oh, my name is Jason
5 Lesmeister from Cooper Landing. So, the October 10th --
6 or October 20th, November 10th would be what I would
7 support. And that's what Ray put in here. The hunting
8 right after the ruts not a good idea. In my opinion, I
9 agree with Todd so, but the reason I -- one thing I'd
10 say about this whole deal is Unit 7 does not have a lot
11 of moose, that's for sure. Early season hunting for moose
12 is never really the greatest thing in the world for
13 hunting as well as meat care. So having this opportunity
14 to hunt later is awesome. Would be great, as well as the
15 fact that now you actually get a hunt without a bazillion
16 other people hunting in our unit and we could hunt from
17 our front door. We wouldn't have to go down to Unit 15B
18 to do it. And so that's why I like another thing that
19 is a factor, a lot of the subsistence users in Unit 7
20 are Cooper Landing, Moose Pass area and Ninilchik as
21 well, you know, our seasonal workers as far as fishing,
22 commercially sport, you know, guiding and as well as
23 rotational people and everything else so that that small
24 window you get on the front end to subsistence hunt is
25 not the best time to do it, in my opinion for a multitude
26 of reasons, I stated. And then, you know, having that
27 back half where you're not being hunting animals that
28 have been pressured and then you get a lot of moose that
29 come out of the hills that aren't really that accessible.
30 Now that I'm 52, have a squashed lumbar and arthritis
31 all over my body, I don't want to have to pack an animal
32 out of the mountains to subsist, nor do I have time to
33 do it. So, this would allow people the time and
34 opportunity to actually get a few moose.

35
36 Another thing to consider is we have had
37 a forest fire that has helped a little bit on the moose
38 population. It seems like there's an (indiscernible).
39 We also have a brown bear season now that's helped a
40 little bit that's on a quota. And we've had all this
41 beetle kill, which is now in theory going to help our
42 habitat as well. And you can't -- I wouldn't be for this
43 if I thought we were going to wipe out moose populations.
44 I think we got -- we're going to have a little better
45 habitat and we're managing brown bears a little better
46 now as well and keep making them -- keeping them a part
47 of our ecosystem. So, I think with all that, this is a
48 good idea, and it will help people get a few more moose
49 on the table. And I don't think it's going to be
50 detrimental to moose populations at all. So that's why

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1 I support August 20th to November 10th personally, so
2 thank you for listening to me.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I thought I
5 heard you earlier say you didn't support during that
6 second rut, but you supported August 20th all the way
7 straight through?

8

9 MS. LESMEISTER: August 20th-November
10 10th. I support that from September 25th or whatever the
11 amendment thing was I read, I do not support that. I
12 don't -- I think, you know, I guess the second rut o
13 second estrus what I do notice that Unit 7 a lot is we
14 do have a lot of calves born late. I've spent countless
15 hours hunting spring brown bears all over the state. And
16 there's a, basically a timeline when most calves are
17 born. And I've noticed Unit 7, there's a lot of these
18 calves that are born later than is typical in the rest
19 of the state and you'll notice those calves don't
20 generally survive. They get eaten pretty quick. And so,
21 I don't know, you know, how much of an impact shooting
22 some of these bulls -- I don't think it's going to change
23 much as far as affecting the second rut. The outcome in
24 the spring with the calves that are born on the second
25 rut.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're a
28 little confused on there. Go ahead, Judy. The reason
29 we're confused, we originally thought that you were
30 supporting the other season, but if you're supporting
31 it straight through, I think this Council needs to debate
32 that and understand that.

33

34 MS. CAMINER: So, the proposal that was
35 before us originally was August 20th to September 25
36 with the break then and then October 20 to November 10.
37 But you said support all the way through. But did you
38 mean including a break sort of for the rut time?

39

40 MS. LESMEISTER: No, I never have once
41 said all the way through. What I said is I support this
42 proposal right here. Right now, the state season is
43 September 1st through 25. We are allowed just like in
44 Unit 15, to hunt from subsistence August 20th to
45 September -- to August 31st, we are allowed to do that.
46 I think we should still be able to do that, even though
47 I don't personally use those days. Then the closure from
48 the 26th to the 19th of October, I agree with. And then
49 August 20th to November 10th, I agree with -- or October.
50 So, this front page of this is what I am saying I like.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We won't say it, but we heard other, so.

MS. LESMEISTER: So, I'm sorry if I did. Talking.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's great.

MS. LESMEISTER: I'm sweating and everything else. I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I agree with you. I agree with you wholeheartedly. That's what should be and I think that's what the Council intended. But anyway, I'll rest my case. Andy, go ahead.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, that's -- I thought that's what you were getting at. And yeah, I myself, I like this diversified. I hunt the August seasons in other zones and not a lot of people do, but I like that less pressure. And I like velvet, fat moose you know, and so August 20th to September 25th seems very logical to me. I think I was -- last time we were pretty spent at that last meeting, you know, and things maybe got pretty kooky, you know. And then October 20th -- and then having the closure for the run and then October 20th through November 10th. I like extending the season. I've always been an advocate for subsistence users to have a longer extended season because we take the resource when the opportunity exists. And if you haven't got your food yet, you're going to put more time and energy into that later season. So, I myself am not into this September 25th to October 20th. I'm not quite sure how that happened, but I'm for as written on that proposal like that. And I would make a motion if it need to be.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Make a motion.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I make a motion to have as written like in this proposal, the August 20th to September 25th, then the break for the rut, then October 20th to November 10th for a little extended season for the federal subsistence users. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Perfect.

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MR. HOSTEN: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there second to that? Ed.

MS. TOTEMOFF: For purposes of discussion, I'd like to second. For purposes of discussion, I'd like to second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Ed seconded. But I'll let you second it too.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Just to confirm, there's no conservation concerns here?

(Talking)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's tight, Angela. It's tight one. But I think they have the right to close it too, so.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got a motion. I got a second on it. We're in discussion and Lisa, did you want to say something?

MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the record. OSM and the federal program considers there's conservation concerns for Unit 7 moose. And that's why OSM is opposed to this proposal. And just for the record, the motion Andy made was just to support the proposal submitted. So, it's just a straight support.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Right. Right.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Is there a delegation of authority for the manager to close?

MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. Not currently, no. And I think that was one alternative OSM was considering to delegate authority just to address conservation concerns. But the feedback we got from the federal managers is that they're not really going to be able to do any in-season assessments to figure out how many moose are being harvested, or whether they need to close the season early or not. So, it might be one of those things, depending on what the, you know, the Council thinks the harvest pressure is going to be low

1 enough. It's not going to create conservation concerns
2 that -- you know, and the Board adopts it to just monitor
3 it and see what happens in the future. I don't know if
4 Andy or -- I mean Andrew or Todd has any additional
5 input on that, but.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think
8 Todd talked about it quite a bit. And you know, one of
9 the things that -- in the Ninilchik area, we have these
10 same exact dates on the front page of this. And what
11 it's done is it's given the federal subsistence user an
12 opportunity a little early in the season to get a moose
13 if they wanted to. It also allowed them to get one later,
14 and most of them still just hunt the state hunt. And we
15 have a lot more moose than Unit 7 does. Unit 7 is pretty
16 tight and pretty hard to get them there. They got too
17 many bears up there to eat, a lot of them. But anyway,
18 that said, I think this is a good proposal that's moved
19 and seconded here. So even if there is a slight
20 conservation concern, you know, they told us that we had
21 all kinds of conservation concerns for everything on the
22 Kenai Unit 15 and when we got our federal fishery and
23 we went in there and we proved that we wouldn't take the
24 kings and we didn't take the kings since then. We proved
25 that we got moose in the early run managed by Todd. He
26 opens it and closes it and we do just fine. This year
27 we got up to the -- to almost to eight. So, he gets a
28 little concerned. As you know it was hard for people to
29 get moose otherwise. But anyway, you know, I think this
30 is manageable is what I'm trying to say. Thank you.

31
32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Just to establish
33 some precedence. Conservation concern in the past was
34 oh, no, we can't hunt deer in the month of January. Oh,
35 no, we can't hunt when I put proposals in for extending
36 the goat season, others conservation concern about the
37 goats that ended up happening and statistically
38 negligible harvest rates have occurred. So, it's -- all
39 it has done is advanced some opportunities for the
40 subsistence users.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
43 Okay. I got a motion and second and we're in discussion.
44 But before you go, Judy, I got a hands up from Andrew
45 and Todd. So, if you guys want to make a quick talk
46 where we made the motion, we second it and we're in
47 discussion. Go ahead. Whichever one wants to go first.

48
49 MS. SANDERS: Oh, through the Chair. This
50 is Andrew Sanders. I just wanted to clarify that there

1 is a delegation of authority for Unit 7 remainder moose
2 to the Seward Ranger district to issue emergency special
3 actions and close and open, re-open federal seasons.
4 Adjust harvest and possession limits and close federal
5 public lands to the take of moose by all users.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: There you go.
8 Thank you. I thought there was, but I didn't want to
9 argue with you guys. Okay. Todd, speak now or forever
10 hold your peace.

11
12 MR. ESKELIN: Yes, Mr. Chair Todd Eskelin
13 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. I would just kind of
14 want to throw out there that we don't have most surveys
15 from Unit 7. The numbers of moose in Unit 7 are so low
16 compared to 15 and B and 15C and even 15A that Fish and
17 Game doesn't have the resources to continue to do those
18 counts. So, while it is good that there is a delegated
19 authority opportunity for Unit 7, if there's concern,
20 we don't have the resources to find out when we are
21 hitting those points where a manager would want to close
22 it. So, I think that's why in 15A, we've never had that
23 late season because moose numbers in 15A are so much
24 significantly lower than B and C. And I would just
25 caution adding that, because we you know, through the
26 refuge Fish and Game and the Council, we've chosen not
27 to do that in A, you know, specifically for that reason
28 of low numbers and having that later additional harvest.
29 So, I kind of feel like A, 15A and 7 kind of fall in
30 that same category. But while we have these safeguards,
31 we don't have the information to be able to employ those
32 safeguards if we needed them.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Todd, your
35 information should come from your harvest reports in the
36 state, too. So, we should have some tracking, I would
37 think. Anyway.

38
39 MR. ESKELIN: Right. We know how many are
40 harvested, but we don't know what the population is. So,
41 it's like, you know, you don't really know what that
42 impact would be if you increased harvest, right.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I would,
45 through traditional knowledge, TEK, I would say that I
46 know if you're taking a lot of moose there's more moose.
47 But anyway, I'm not going to go there. Go ahead, Andy.

48
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. Yeah. Just to point out, like in the Kings Bay

1 thing, we've gone through four or 6 or 7 years. I don't
2 even know how many years now because there's not enough
3 money to survey this thing. So, it's been closed for
4 this whole time, and we've missed a lot of years of
5 opportunity for subsistence users in Prince William
6 Sound to be able to utilize that resource. Just because
7 they're not surveying it doesn't mean they're not there.
8 And we are going to find out soon from this recent CRRC
9 survey that there are a harvestable population of moose.
10 They're just at the same numbers that I said seven years
11 ago, are probably in there on an average year. So, the
12 TEK is a very good point. You need to have some local
13 knowledge that tells you that as well.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, motion on
16 the floor. We got a second. We're ready to vote on it
17 and Judy wants to talk.

18
19 MS. CAMINER: So just a quick reminder,
20 we are voting differently than we did last time. And I
21 just hope we have enough justification for doing that,
22 given that we didn't have a lot of information.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We question how
25 we voted last time.

26
27 MS. CAMINER: I guess, right.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We should have
30 the authority to redo it.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All in
35 favor, aye. I'm on the record.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

40
41 MR. ZADRA: I'm opposed.

42
43 MR. HOLSTEN: Opposed.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. One. Two.
46 Still carries. Three.

47
48 MR. HOLSTEN: Pardon? Opposed? Yep.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: How many for it?
2 One. Two. Three. Four. Michael, how you vote?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 We lost Michael.

7
8 MS. PILCHER: Michael, you may have to
9 star-six.

10
11 (No response)

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: How about Kirk
14 while we're waiting? How are you voting?

15
16 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm for it.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
19 you. It's five. Did you get Michael?

20
21 (Talking)

22
23 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. Michael, we
24 can show that you're unmuted, but we can't hear you in
25 the room.

26
27 MR. OHPIEM: How about now?

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Are you
32 are you for or opposed? Michael, could you take a vote?

33
34 MR. OHPIEM: I'm for it.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
37 you. I got -- does anyone want to have lunch?

38
39 MR. HOLSTEN: Can I have just a quick....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead,
42 Ed.

43
44 MR. HOLSTEN: Concerning this. The reason
45 I reluctantly opposed this was my original intent in
46 January meeting was not to lengthen the season was to
47 basically shorten that early season and lengthen the
48 late season, and I'm still somewhat concerned with low
49 population numbers in Unit 7. I haven't been hunting in
50 that unit in Cooper Landing for over 25 years. So,

1 whether it's a -- that needs to be looked in, but whether
2 we ever get a survey done by Fish and Game is something
3 else. But I think, again, why I opposed it just for the
4 record was in essence lengthening that season. And for
5 all the arguments I proposed in January about reducing
6 the early season, just kind of went by the wayside, so.
7 Yeah, and it's like I said before, this was just kind
8 of a wham bam. How did this end up at this stage, you
9 know. Okay. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, go
12 ahead.

13
14 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Also, can you remind me what the process of -- because
16 when we were reconsidering other proposals, there was a
17 process that we went through to reconsider our proposal.
18 So, I just want to make sure that was this, just to
19 provide clarity. I feel like we were presented with a
20 rewritten proposal. And this is outside of how we usually
21 process proposals to begin with and although, you know,
22 there are some changes that we did make, I really think
23 we have to be careful about how we submit the proposals
24 and getting stuff approved through this committee. So,
25 I just would like us to all consider and honor and
26 respect that process.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I agree with
29 you, Angela. I talked to that with Nissa, and she assured
30 me it was -- could be brought up for reconsideration.
31 But I think what -- I've always known is it has to be
32 on the agenda. Notification and in the agenda. But
33 anyway, I guess this one was already voted on, so I
34 don't know how it works, but it's certainly out of the
35 -- it wasn't on our packet either, so.

36
37 MS. TOTEMOFF: Maybe they can provide
38 clarity.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay.
41 Nissa is going to work on some clarity.

42
43 MS. PILCHER: I can provide some clarity.
44 So, there was a couple of things. First motions for
45 reconsideration is made during the original meeting. So,
46 what we did last time was original meeting. As for how
47 you guys can take up stuff at different meetings, I
48 won't speak to that because I haven't experienced it
49 yet. This would be my first time. We got notice that
50 that others other than me wanted to take this up to the

1 Council after the documents were sent out for the
2 supplemental materials, so I wasn't able to send them
3 out. And I'm going to blame the furlough due to my
4 inability to accomplish all the tasks I needed to do. I
5 obviously have now learned that I needed to make sure
6 that you guys were very aware that this was coming or
7 any proposals that were relooking at you guys know about
8 moving forward. So that was a failure on my part and my
9 apologies. The liaison agenda that we normally get in
10 the meeting is normally the final draft. So, I thought
11 that's what we were working off of and I didn't mean to
12 attempt to slip in something by working off a previous
13 agenda in the meeting today. So, my apologies for that.
14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
16 you. I think we need to kind of watch that. We also had
17 a change agenda today, but after we approved it. And so
18 that should be considered too. We should -- we shouldn't
19 be doing that. Okay. We are done with that proposal for
20 now until someone brings it up for reconsideration or
21 whatever. Yeah. Very unfortunate. Yeah. I will say one
22 thing. I wanted to go on the record too that, you know,
23 I don't remember the total specifics, but we have been
24 concerned about Unit 7 numbers for a long time. And I
25 know the Council has discussed that many a time. So
26 that's good to know that there's an in-season manager
27 and there should be some way of, through local knowledge
28 and management to be able to say, hey, man, these needs
29 to be closed or whatever. But that said, does anyone
30 want lunch or you want to work through lunch? You want
31 to stay tomorrow and have two lunches? I don't know. The
32 agenda is still doable. I hope we could finish tonight,
33 but we'll see how it goes. But how would you guys like
34 an hour? Is there somewhere you could get to eat around
35 here in an hour? It's -- I got just about 20 after 12.
36 So, if we got back at 1:30. Sound good? Okay, everyone,
37 be back at 1:30. Thank you.
38

39 MR. OHPIEM: Thank you.

40 (Off record)

41 (On record)

42
43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks,
45 we're ready to get started again. So, we got a couple
46 things we're going to do. First of all. Hello. Hello.
47 Hello. Okay. I got everyone's attention. Good. The first
48 thing we want to do is, we want to recognize Barbara
49 Cellarius for coming and her retirement. So, if you want
50

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1 to come up and say a word, you can.

2

3

(Applause)

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: I guess for the record,
6 I'm Barbara Cellarius. I'm a resident of Copper Center.
7 I used to work for the Park Service, but I retired at
8 the end of last month and I've appreciated working with
9 you all over the years. Faye and I have some unfinished
10 business. I'm trying to sell things, and she said she
11 might buy something I'm trying to sell. So, anyway, I
12 appreciated working with you all over the years and sort
13 of on a last trip to Anchorage to get some things done
14 and figured I'd -- I met up with Judy and figured I'd
15 stop by and say hi. So, I don't really know what else
16 to say.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well. Thank
19 you. Many years, you know, you and I have been around
20 for a long time, but we always enjoyed you and your
21 reports and keeping us on task. So, it's been very good
22 work relation and we wish you the best. And I don't know
23 how in hell you retired before me, but anyway. Yeah,
24 that's another story.

25

26 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I got family in the
27 Lower 48 that needs my help. So, it's sort of an
28 incentive for me to live closer to them. Thanks.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do you want to
31 say a word?

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Well, thanks, Barbara. And
34 that doesn't even cover it. I was at Park Service in the
35 day, you know, even before Park Service, when Barbara
36 and her family were making inquiries about what it would
37 be like to work in Alaska. And I'm so glad you decided
38 to come up. You have been an excellent face of the
39 National Park Service to your region and to your Park,
40 and your dedication is unsurpassed. So, thank you very
41 much.

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. And I will
44 miss coming to these meetings and talking to people from
45 different parts of the state and different parts of the
46 region.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You can still
49 call me so we could authorize a hunt?

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm passing that to Amber
2 and Kyle.

3
4 MS. EWAN: Yes. I want to say something
5 about Barbara. When I first met her, we was [sic] at a
6 meeting. Why was I ever radical? Poor Barbara. But we
7 were going through some rough times at that time. And
8 in the end of all these times, I really appreciate you.
9 I appreciate all the things you've done for our people
10 in Copper River and listening to us as we, you know,
11 proceeded and continued with the National Park and all
12 the other agencies that moved in. And Barbara has really
13 worked with our people and got us all involved with
14 everything that happened with the National Park. She got
15 us involved and called us up and if she couldn't get a
16 hold of anybody, she always said, hey, this is Barbara.
17 I said, yeah, what do you want now? Thank you, Barbara,
18 for everything you've done for our people, especially
19 the young kids, the young people that learn from all the
20 jobs and stuff that you do. And if you need job, we got
21 one for you. Thank you. Thank you. Barbara.

22
23 MS. CELLARIUS: Thanks, Faye.

24
25 MR. GREYBEAR: Yeah, I just want to say,
26 Barbara, I was one of those young kids a while ago that
27 really didn't know too much, and I got thrown into the
28 customary and traditional coordinator program, and I
29 just kind of learned a lot from you. And you always were
30 very open about helping me with any questions I had. And
31 I know I had like a thousand questions all the time that
32 I would go up to you and, Barbara, does this look good?
33 And you were like, yeah, that's fine. I don't know why
34 you keep asking me the same thing. And I just know that
35 you always came to all of our events and all the culture
36 camps. And so, I'm going to really miss seeing you there.

37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, Barbara,
41 I'm going to miss the calls. This is Barbara Cellarius,
42 Wrangell-St. Elias.

43
44 (Applause)

45
46 (Indiscernible) reports. Thank you. Got
47 to talk on the mic. I'll tell her when she comes in. But
48 if you see Victoria Florey, it's her birthday. So, wish
49 her a Happy St. Pat Day. But maybe she got started early
50 on it. I'm going to go back to the mic. So, I'm on the

1 mic and we're going to talk.

2

3

4 We're going to get back into our agenda.
5 But before we do, let's go back and clean up what we
6 left on Kirk's proposal during lunch. Nissa, she went
7 and she got us a copy of the state proposal that he was
8 going to put in, and he wants us to kind of mirror this
9 for this RAC's proposal. So, I don't know if you guys
10 had a chance to briefly look through it, but I'd like
11 to take that matter back up and finish it up before we
12 move on. I'm going to have Angela read it out loud here
13 so we all got it good in our minds.

13

14 MS. TOTEMOFF: Proposal 8, Copper River
15 Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Plans and 5 ACs -
16 - AC. What is the issue you would like the Board to
17 address and why? The dip netting in the Upper Copper
18 River. If we do nothing, we will continue to see our
19 stock and Gulkana broodstock decline and some drainages
20 that are very small, we could lose the entire wild stock.
21 Wild stocks are stopping and resting in these areas
22 before continuing upriver. The wild stocks are time
23 sensitive and travel in small groups, leaving them very
24 vulnerable to overharvest in these areas. Remember,
25 these stocks are in some cases very small. They have
26 been very little studies in these areas and there is
27 virtually no data to support keeping these areas open
28 until there are some kind of analysis. We already have
29 an example of this that exists on the Gulkana confluence,
30 and the 500 yards below that is flying fish only. This
31 only lets a sport fisher to take three reds and one king
32 that way. The way the current dipnet regulation reads,
33 you can fish in the same area, and the limit is 200 and
34 in some cases more. This goes against the idea of trying
35 to protect wild upriver stocks and broodstock at the
36 Gulkana hatchery. They have not met their goal at the
37 hatchery in five years and in some cases very low. This
38 is only one example of how it can start to bring back
39 our broodstocks, both wild and Gulkana hatchery.
40 Something needs to be done soon about this problem. I
41 have done my best to write this proposal in layman's
42 terms. I could quote several sections from ANILCA that
43 directly relate to this issue. There's also very little
44 scientific data on this issue. Proposed by Kirk Wilson.

45

46 Comments. We support Proposal 8 with
47 modification, such that the adoption of this would
48 restrict dip netting around the mouth of the salmon
49 spawning tributaries, as opposed to any stream or river,
50 as the original proposal is worded. This would protect

1 stock diversity of a particular concern on the streams
2 with small spawning populations that can easily be
3 fished out. While returns on these tributaries may be
4 small today, the genetic diversity of these stocks
5 provide may be important for -- provided maybe -- is
6 that what it's supposed to say? Diversity of these stocks
7 provide -- provided may be important for the resilience
8 and the adoption to environmental change. Some
9 tributaries are easy to access by large number of fishers
10 and therefore fished at disproportionately high rates.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Angela. Okay, here we got the proposal for the state
14 that he wrote it up, and I'm going to open it up to the
15 Council for comments and questions. Nissa, go ahead.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Just to note, the comments
18 on the back were provided by Ahtna. So those are Ahtna's
19 comments on the proposal.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: When Karen sent me the
25 proposal, she just said, see the attached for the SRC
26 consideration, so I'm not sure. She did mention when she
27 was sitting there that she had the comments -- that she
28 had the proposal with comments, but I'm not sure if it
29 was Ahtna or AITRC, but I bet it would be AITRC.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Online there
32 you want to talk to this, but see if you can give us
33 clarity because we're not going to redebate it, but go
34 ahead.

35
36 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Were you talking to
37 me?

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You better
40 believe it. You're the one that brought this.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Okay, Chair. I just want to
43 say a few things on this thing that are really important.
44 First off, we're not talking about any of the streams
45 themselves, whatever. They can't fish in there. But
46 where those streams hit the Copper River and it's clear
47 water going down there. And I've spoke with Ken Roberson
48 on this several times, and I'm glad Karen mentioned the
49 Klutina today, because we now know that the Klutina holds
50 the majority of the red salmon coming up that Copper

1 River. I mean, it is a big run. And this is the thing
2 that a lot of people don't know about places like the
3 Klutina up there. And where I've found out about a lot
4 of this information is from Ken Roberson, and there are
5 lots of little streams, and there's actually freshwater
6 springs in Klutina Lake where some of these salmon go
7 to spawn. And some of these streams only hold 15 to 20
8 to 40 fish. And Ken kind of confirmed the fact of they
9 usually travel in small groups and say, for instance,
10 that you're at the mouth of the Klutina or Gulkana and
11 you're dipnetting and you know, half of that population
12 of that stream is in one little group there. I mean, the
13 potential to take, you know, 25% of the whole creek on
14 these wild stocks. It's like what Karen was mentioning
15 earlier. We're talking about the last fish here in those
16 little, tiny places like that. And we do not want to
17 lose that. Those are our wild fish. And that's kind of
18 all I got to say about it right now.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very well
21 put. Thanks, Kirk. Who's next? Go ahead, Ed.

22
23 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. At this stage I
24 understand the proposal. I understand the concerns in
25 the proposal. I'm not speaking for OSM, but I think OSM
26 would have a hard time justifying this because
27 restrictions placed on federal subsistence users over
28 state use. I understand we need to get a message over
29 to the state concerning this. I'm not sure -- and it's
30 important. I'm not -- my idea is -- my feeling is if we
31 did go with this, state would just ignore it. It wouldn't
32 be an issue for them. That's just my feeling. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 guess just again, for clarity, this is a proposal that
38 would go to the Board of Fisheries. And I thought earlier
39 Kirk was talking about a proposal that would go into the
40 federal system. Maybe we can find that out, please.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nissa's going
43 to let you know about it.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: And Kirk, correct me if I'm
46 wrong. So, I believe the original proposal was submitted
47 to the Board of Fish and it was not passed by the Board
48 of Fish. So, the discussion that was had earlier was
49 submit a similar proposal on the federal side. And there
50 was a discussion that Robbin mentioned about adding a

1 clause in the proposal that the Council would want action
2 on the proposal deferred until the Board of Fish took
3 action at their next Prince William Sound/Copper River
4 meeting where a sister proposal would be submitted. And
5 if the Board of Fish took proposal and made those
6 restrictions, then the proposal that this Council is
7 discussing submitting would then also take effect. So,
8 it would involve some dominoes falling in the right spot,
9 but I believe that is the course of action that was
10 being discussed earlier.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Can you hear me, Nissa?

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, we're still
15 going. We'll get back to you in a minute. Just a second.
16 Go ahead, Andy.

17
18 MR. WILSON: Oh, okay. Sorry.

19
20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Through the Chair.
21 I personally have seen many -- not many times, but,
22 well, 6 or 7 years of somebody round haul harvesting.
23 They had a commercial fishing permit. There's a late
24 silver salmon season out in Prince William Sound that a
25 lot of commercial fishermen are not utilizing, and
26 they're not allowed to fish within the freshwater mouths
27 of some of these. There's signs, but I knew of someone
28 many years ago, a couple of decades ago, where, you
29 know, 6 or 7 years, they -- what happens is when there's
30 a low-pressure system, that's when all the fish will
31 move up. So, they'll kind of congregate at a high-
32 pressure system and then when the low-pressure system
33 comes, that pushes the group upstream. So, they do
34 congregate at the mouths of certain drainages and
35 smaller, very small streams that you wouldn't think --
36 I'm talking fish, such small streams that, you know,
37 maybe two dozen fish total. And I saw robust silver
38 salmon populations completely be devastated after six
39 years of round hauling every year that same batch of
40 fish would be. And this person was -- they passed away
41 now, so that's not happening anymore. But now there's
42 no more fish in the drainage. So, I do understand very
43 small drainages have such a conservation concern. They
44 can be nuked in a very short period of time, relatively
45 speaking. This is the first time I've ever imagined a
46 proposal coming from, you know rural subsistence users
47 that want to see the federal become more strict, more
48 stringent about the harvest ability than the state
49 rules, you know. I don't see the state having a big
50 pattern over all of my, I don't know, 12 some years on

1 here, complying, wanting to align. They kind of want
2 align federally to them that want us to adapt that way.
3 It always seems that we should provide the federal. I
4 think ANILCA supposed to have us apply federal
5 subsistence priorities over the state sport use or
6 personal use or whatever in the management. Kind of
7 interesting that Ahtna is supporting this moratorium
8 type thing despite the state discrepancy. It seems to
9 me that like subsistence user, federally qualified one
10 can take off his federal subsistence hat when he gets
11 within 500 yards of there and then just put on his state
12 hat and, oh, now I'm a state resident. I'm not a federal
13 subsistence and can still go fish in that zone. So, I'm
14 not sure it's going to make a big difference. I'm not
15 really sure that the state is going to go, oh, they
16 opened the door. The feds are doing it. We got to do it
17 too. But I'm at the point at this where I will support
18 Ahtna. They're the stewards of the land in that place.
19 And they're the ones that have the most respect for that
20 resource to exist in perpetuity on into the distant
21 future for their future generations. So, if they're
22 willing to make that, I will support the direction that
23 Ahtna is going on this. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else
26 want to comment to the proposal? Go ahead, Faye.

27
28 MS. EWAN: You know, living up in Copper
29 River, we have to protect our resources and our food
30 security and our food chain. To me, the decisions made
31 on the Board of Fish for the State of Alaska does not
32 see that because they think we all live off of food
33 stamps and whatever. We don't. A lot of us don't qualify
34 for it. But as far as protecting resources and salmon -
35 - I'm for this proposal because I know where Kirk stands
36 with this proposal, because Klutina used to be able to
37 see salmon clear across the (In Native) River. Even
38 Tonsina, Gulkana, up Mentasta way. Now you barely see
39 any spawn, even up Paxson way. You hardly see any of the
40 fish coming. I go up there, I hunt. I lived in Copper
41 River all my life. I know Paxson. I can take you anywhere
42 in Paxson and Delta, Mentasta, Tok area, down this way.
43 I can take you, I can tell you all the stories about
44 this country here. But when it comes to a time of
45 shortage, we respect that. We don't even run our
46 fishwheel in the Copper River because we know there's
47 no fish. We don't disrespect our fish. We do it a lot
48 different than non-Native people. We save the tail. We
49 save the backbone. Only thing we don't eat is the
50 intestines. And I think, you know, if you do this here,

1 we support this here, at least we'll have a start and
2 something to protect the resources. And I don't see any
3 agencies from the State of Alaska try to protect our
4 fishing, even we try to tell the Department years and
5 years to stop the fishing, slow it down, put a stop to
6 it. They still don't listen. They still open it up. And
7 they give the personal users, dip netters, more rights
8 than us Copper River Indigenous people. And I feel like,
9 you know, that's a threat to me and my younger
10 generations because it seems like dip netters has more
11 rights than we do as far as people that live off the
12 land. And I don't have no problem with them feeding
13 themselves, but when you take us to court and start
14 suing my people just to feed your family and get rich
15 while we're being oppressed and still down and out and
16 barely getting by. That is a problem there with me.
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else got
20 a comment? Go ahead, Dennis.

21
22 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Just to me, it's kind
23 of common sense. And, you know, I'm a commercial
24 fisherman and in Prince William Sound like Andy alluded
25 to, you know, all the anadromous streams that have these
26 small little runs, there's a 500-yard radius around
27 those streams that we can't fish. No commercial
28 fisherman. So, and that is specifically to protect those
29 small, localized runs.

30
31 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Would it be helpful to include that history in this
33 proposal just to send that message too when the Board
34 of Fish is -- obviously it's going to go across there,
35 for their consideration again, but I think the point
36 here was just to have another as what was said earlier,
37 to get a little bit more teeth into this action. So, I
38 think it would be helpful if they understood the history
39 of why we are making this decision today.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'm not
42 opposed to putting it in there, if that's the wish of
43 the Council. I'm going to make a couple comments now,
44 and my comments are, number one, and it's been said
45 before. The whole reason we have the federal subsistence
46 is because we're supposed to have a preference for the
47 rural users, and that's the law of the land. That's the
48 law of ANILCA. That's the law. And that's what we're
49 here to do is support the federal users. And so, if we
50 see our fish getting, you know, in peril like it is,

1 yeah, we have to take action and probably close things
2 and do things, but it's sure -- you need to be really
3 careful because it's a slippery slope, because the state
4 sure as hell ain't going to support you in it. And the
5 state hasn't supported it. So now I'm going to have to
6 go talk to people and tell them that, yeah, we're
7 supporting a federal law to close us down over state.
8 And that's not going to fly well with a lot of people.
9 And I just want you to be aware of that. I do clearly
10 see the need for the conservation. I don't have a problem
11 there. And if we want to step out, take the thing off.
12 I only vote in a tie, so I'm not worried about it. But
13 anyway, that's just I think you need to think about
14 that. And you really need to think about why. You know,
15 we started, in my opinion, we started a really bad
16 preference when we started saying, we want to mirror the
17 state, we want to mirror the state. We want to --they're
18 not mirroring us. They're not protecting our rights. And
19 the reason we have the federal employees is because of
20 that they didn't do it. That's why they lost. The state
21 now, if they could take it back over, they'd be doing
22 it. If they could throw out the Federal Board, they're
23 going to do it. And if they say, well, the feds are
24 closed down, we'll do it now, you know. So anyway, food
25 for thought from a wise old man of 78 old years. So,
26 thank you.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I just want to
29 make sure I know what I'm voting on. This is to vote on
30 that we support this proposal going to the Board of
31 Fisheries?

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

34
35 MS. CAMINER: No, this is to Federal
36 Board? Okay. I can't support it then. Right. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
39 that gave some clarity to my Vice Chair for sure. Thank
40 you. And that's the way it is. So, if someone wants to
41 make a motion, we'll entertain it and take a vote. We
42 always make a motion in the affirmative. So go ahead,
43 Faye.

44
45 MS. EWAN: Make the motion.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

48
49 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. Second.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, second.
2 Is there any discussion?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 We discussed it plenty. Hearing no
7 discussion. All in favor, aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Can you count
12 the ayes?

13
14 MS. PILCHER: All right. Can
15 everybody.....

16
17 (Simultaneous speech)

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We might have to
20 have a roll vote.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. We could -- do you
23 want to do a roll call vote?

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

26
27 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Get them all on
30 record.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: That means I got to.....

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do me last.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Okay. So, this is Nissa
37 Pilcher for the record. So, to clarify, so this is a
38 vote to submit a proposal similar to the one you have
39 in front of you to the Federal Subsistence Board, on a
40 similar topic. I guess I would want clarification from
41 the motion maker, if that is to include a request to
42 defer implementation of the proposal until the Board of
43 Fisheries has a Prince William Sound/Upper Copper
44 meeting? Should that be included in the proposal?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Was it in the
47 motion? She is the motion maker.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Should the deferral
50 of the implementation of the proposal be hinged on the

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1 Board of Fish taking action? Do you want that in the
2 proposal?

3

4 MS. EWAN: See what they do.

5

6 MS. PILCHER: Okay. All right. So, motion
7 maker. And thank you.

8

9 MS. CAMINER: But, Mr. Chair, I mean,
10 that they would take action to approve it, not -- we
11 should clarify that. We want them to support this. And
12 then, this would also take effect in the federal, but
13 not just for them to have a meeting.

14

15 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Correct. All right.
16 So, roll call vote. So, a vote in affirmative means you
17 want to have the Council draft and submit this proposal
18 to the Federal Subsistence Board. Edward.

19

20 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Dennis.

23

24 MR. ZADRA: Yes.

25

26 MS. PILCHER: Judy.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: Angela.

31

32 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: Faye.

35

36 MS. EWAN: Yes.

37

38 MS. PILCHER: Andy.

39

40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: Ed.

43

44 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: Kirk.

47

48 MR. WILSON: Yes.

49

50

00082

1 MS. PILCHER: Michael, are you somewhere
2 you can hear us?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 All right. And then, Greg.

7
8 (No audible response)

9
10 Okay. Unanimous.....

11
12 (Simultaneous speech)

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: For the wrong -
15 - for the right.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: All right. Unanimous. I
18 will draft to that -- I will -- with Fisheries Division's
19 help, I'll draft that proposal, and bring it back to you
20 to approve. Greg.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think if we
23 had that proposal where we would after lunch, in the
24 future would be very helpful. We spent hours on it, and
25 we concluded it very quickly when we knew what we were
26 voting on. Okay. No breaks. Time to go. Okay. We've got
27 to get going here. What agenda am I working on now?

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 We need to go to future meeting dates.
32 You guys got a calendar?

33
34 (Talking)

35
36 MS. PILCHER: All right, so the first
37 thing is to review your next -- oh, they got stapled
38 together wrong. Okay, so first off, in the packet you
39 were given is the calendar. Looks like winter 2027 is
40 on top, which is not how it should be. Fall 2026. So,
41 the last page is what you want to be looking at.
42 Currently this Council is scheduled for September 28th
43 and 29th in Anchorage. So, this would be confirmation
44 of dates and locations. This is an action item, but what
45 you can do is, you can either take up each of the three
46 meetings and I'm going to ask separately, or we can do
47 it all at once at the end. It's up to you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: These folks
50 want to do it one at a time, one day at a time. So,

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1 let's go first one, fall. If we look at September 28th
2 and 29th. That's what I'm trying to figure out here
3 myself. And it seems like I committed myself to
4 something.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. I don't know how the
7 stapler works, apparently, so.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I'm good.
10 Okay. How's everyone on that?

11
12 (Talking)

13
14 It's okay. We're going to trump the
15 Board of Fish, for once. Okay. Is everyone good with
16 September 28th, 29th for the fall meeting in Anchorage?
17 Yes.

18
19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Motion to approve
20 September 28th and 29th for the Southcentral meeting.

21
22 MS. TOTEMOFF: Angela. Second.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
25 Angela. Discussion?

26
27 (No response)

28
29 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

34
35 MR. WILSON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Someone
38 opposed. Is that you, Dennis?

39
40 (Talking)

41
42 Oh, you just slowed. You voted for it,
43 though. You can make it, Kirk?

44
45 MR. WILSON: Yes, I can make it.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
48 good. Thank you. One down, three to go -- two to go.
49 Okay. Next. Do we want to go to the winter or the fall
50 first? Fall of 20.....

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MS. PILCHER: Okay, so next is winter 2027, which is the front page of that packet.

MS. CAMINER: Winter or fall?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I was trying to go fall, but she wanted to go winter.

MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, it'll go -- so, we just voted on your next meeting, which is fall. The next meeting after that will be winter of 2027, which is that front page. You guys are not currently on there because you haven't.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You got us -- oh, that's not us. That's someone else.

MS. PILCHER: Yeah. You guys aren't on here at all. So, these are just the Councils that met previous to you during this cycle that have selected those days for themselves. So, this is a fresh date and a fresh location.

(Pause)

And just to let you guys know in -- there is an Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting March 4th through the 15th in Anchorage during this timeframe, and the Board of Game hasn't come out with their schedule yet -- that I found yet.

(Talking)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so what are you saying, Angela? March 8th and 9th.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes, sir. March 8th and 9th for consideration. And Andy brought forward.....

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: 16th and 17th, gives me a buffer travel date.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Both.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Are you going to the second one, Andy, or are you just a different date?

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I think the 16th, 17th would be better for me, but I can try for the 8th or 9th.

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1 It doesn't at this point.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: And also, you guys will be
4 revisiting these dates in this location at your fall
5 meeting. So, this isn't a set and done.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, we just vote
8 on.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: Yes, we do need something.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Angela,
13 the 8th and 9th would work if you could conclude your
14 business on the 9th.

15

16 MS. TOTEMOFF: I don't have a preference.
17 I think there's a preference over here for the 16th and
18 17th. So that's what I'll propose.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dennis?

21

22 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I would go for the 16th
23 and 17th. That Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting
24 is going to be a pretty big deal, I think, and I'd like
25 to participate in that.

26

27 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's also OSM wouldn't
28 have a conflict with the Kodiak park of the week --
29 previous week.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: How do you feel
32 about -- you do? That's two years in a row, St. Patrick's
33 Day. I got one. Okay. Okay. Someone want to make a motion
34 for that 16th, 17th of March '27? Location. Hopefully
35 inside.

36

37 MS. TOTEMOFF: Angela. Proposing 16th,
38 17th of March in Anchorage.

39

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
42 a second?

43

44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
47 Andy. Discussion? Sounds like it works for everyone. Ed,
48 it's good. I don't hear Kirk. I don't hear Michael. I
49 think it's all good. All in favor, aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

4

5 MR. WILSON: Aye.

6

7 MS. PILCHER: He's not opposed.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Are you sure? I
10 got new hearing aids.

11

12 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair. Yes.

15

16 MS. EWAN: Someday I'd like to see this
17 RAC come up to Copper River and have a meeting there.
18 That way we can have more people involved from our Copper
19 River regions, our other regions too. And I'll invite
20 you to my fish camp, but you got to bring your own tent.
21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got a fall
24 meeting, right? Barbara Cellarius. Okay, we got a fall
25 meeting. Let's look at those dates for '27. And what's
26 the story on the Caribou Lodge there?

27

28 MS. PILCHER: It doesn't exist.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, the
31 Caribou Lodge burnt down. Doesn't exist.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
34 Angela.

35

36 MS. TOTEMOFF: AFN is -- meets during the
37 week of the 18th to the 22nd, I would ask that we not
38 consider that week. Yes.

39

40 (Talking)

41

42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair, how about
43 29th and 30th in fall of '27? September.....

44

45 (Simultaneous speech)

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI:with
48 Dillingham? Bristol Bay RAC.

49

50

00087

1 MS. PILCHER: There's no shared -- yeah,
2 there's no shared staff. And we'll make it work.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay.

5
6 (Talking)

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's the
9 middle of the week. 28th, 29th? 29th, 30th would be
10 better. It would give you a couple of days to hang the
11 meat. Last season -- 25th is the end of the season.
12 Dennis won't even be out of the woods till 27th. Yeah,
13 it's a true story. Probably.

14
15 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I'm pretty tied up till
16 the 1st of October. Most year I'd.....

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I figured.
21 Yeah.

22
23 MR. ZADRA: But quite frequently I can
24 call in. I'm good with whatever you guys want to do.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Most
27 people want it in September. It's looking like the end
28 of September. 29th, 30th. Is that going to work?

29
30 (No audible response)

31
32 And Dennis, you call in. Okay. We got a
33 proposal for the 28th, 29th of September.

34
35 (Talking)

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: 29-30.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. 29-30.
40 Okay. I moved it. These days and these days I put 29-
41 30.

42
43 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, is there some
44 options for meeting locations that we would like to
45 consider?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, there
48 should be. That's September. The roads should still be
49 okay. Logistically, you probably need an extra day maybe
50 to get there the 28th. So, you got to probably plan

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1 three days. Well, we're trying to figure that out. I was
2 thinking Kona, Hawaii, but yeah. I don't think I'll get
3 away with it. Okay, anyway. Anyone have an invitation,
4 a preference? Are we meeting anywhere else outside? You
5 know?

6
7 MS. PILCHER: Currently -- this is Nissa,
8 for the record. Currently, it's been Anchorage the last
9 couple times, and you guys haven't requested -- the only
10 thing you just need to make a motion to have it
11 somewhere. The Copper Basin isn't in your hub
12 communities. I just have to do up a request and submit
13 it. Yep. So you can -- I mean, you could -- I can do a
14 request for Kona, but like I said, probably.....

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we'll try
17 the Copper River? The place is.....

18
19 (Talking)

20
21 The place is Copper River. The time is
22 the 28th, 29th of September. Faye will just have her
23 moose dressed up hanging and we'll be ready to go. Yeah.
24 That's what we brought up. We might have to go in the
25 burned rubbles, but there are other places there, isn't
26 there?

27
28 MR. GREYBEAR: Yeah, there.....

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: There was
33 another big hotel across the street somewhere.

34
35 MR. GREYBEAR: We do have some other
36 places, maybe a little bit of a drive, but they do have
37 like Uncle Nicolai's Inn in Copper Center. I know that
38 they have like bunk houses. And then you have Tolsona
39 Lodge also that's open, and they have quite a bit of
40 rooms.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That'd be nice.

43
44 MR. GREYBEAR: Yeah. And then there's
45 Galkona that also has a lodge, and then they have like
46 private cabins.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Wow.

49
50 MR. GREYBEAR: So.

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MS. PILCHER: I'll be googling it.

MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That sounds good. Okay, we got a location.

MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got a location and we got the date.

MS. EWAN: I was going to also say that in Kluti Kaah we have a brand-new gymnasium and we have facilities, everything there to accommodate. And maybe the National Park crew can help us set up hospitality for everyone. And we can work that together with Kluti Kaah. Your Vice President right there, he can set that all up. I'm just a worker, council member, but I like to appoint people that work and I'm pretty sure Karen and her crew too, will be, you know.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. EWAN:everything. So, I have no problem with this, but we know during Copper River, we'll cook your traditional food. But if you guys have allergy or anything, we got -- also we have a growing operation that we are growing our own vegetables for food security. So, you fall for you people that eat green, we'll have green too. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're growing some of that green stuff we could smoke?

MS. EWAN: I don't have any of that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, it will be okay. Okay.

MS. CAMINER: You're on the record.

(Pause)

00090

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got
2 September 29th, 30th in Copper River area on 2027 for
3 the fall meeting. Okay. Motion?

4
5 MS. TOTEMOFF: So moved.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Angela. Second?

9
10 MR. GREYBEAR: Second.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second,
13 GreyBear. Discussion?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're always
30 opposed. But that's okay. We understand. Okay. Thank
31 you.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 Okay, first report. Who we're going to
36 go with? We're going to go with AITRC, Tribal
37 governments? Wait a minute. I got a different agenda
38 again.

39
40 MS. KOSBRUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. This
41 is Deanna with Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.
42 As a whole organization, we do not have any updates to
43 report since January when we had given report. But later
44 on the agenda, you will be hearing from our Fisheries
45 Biologist, Dan Gorze, and he'll give you an update on
46 the Tanada Creek weir.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

49
50 MS. KOSBRUK: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

(Talking)

Okay. Next organization, CRRC Kings Bay moose survey. I think I got it right, the agenda now. I don't.....

(Talking)

Welcome. Go right ahead.

MR. MERIZON: Hello, Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. My name is Rick Merizon. I'm the Tribal Wildlife Biologist for Chugach Regional Resources Commission. I just wanted to give you a brief update on our Kings Bay moose project. So, Kings Bay is historically a significant location for rural residents of Prince William Sound to hunt and harvest moose. And as you heard earlier this morning, Fish and Game has -- does not typically have the resources to monitor moose populations in Unit 7. So, CRRC partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to conduct a project, a two-year project, to complete aerial survey moose index -- population index surveys in the Kings Bay watershed. So, we initiated this project last winter. We were hoping to do a moose survey during the winter of 2024-2025. But again, according to my predecessor in this role, the weather conditions were not conducive to completing that survey because of poor weather conditions and almost complete lack of snow cover, which is really required to do these aerial surveys.

This winter, however, we were lucky. As many of you stated, it was cold. It was fairly snowy, particularly in the survey area. So, on January 22nd we were able to complete a full moose survey. We initiated the flight in Cooper Landing, flew to (indiscernible) Lake where we initiated the count, and flew down (indiscernible) River to tidewater and then continued on up Kings Bay or excuse me, Kings River and we spent about three hours searching and I think in your supplemental packets, you have the map of our survey route. Kind of looks like a multiple wet spaghetti noodles there. I can attest that we did all those twists and turns as can my stomach, but we were successful in finding -- putting eyes on 9 individual moose. And we saw four separate unique sets of tracks independent of those 9 moose throughout that whole survey route. Moving

1 forward with this project, we're hoping -- I'm hoping
2 to do another aerial survey as soon as potentially late
3 March or early April before we lose our snow conditions.
4 With this cold weather, I'm optimistic we might be able
5 to do that. If not, we're still planning to do 1 to 2
6 additional surveys next winter to round out this
7 project. And yeah, I'm happy to field any questions if
8 you have any.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. I'm
11 sure Andy might have a few, but.....

12
13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. It doesn't look like the red lines that you went
15 out to the north side of Kings Bay, there's a few
16 drainages out there that I have known of moose tracks
17 being in in the spring, clear out towards the Twin Bays.
18 That's off the map there. So that might be a potential
19 place to look in the future.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm glad you got
22 to fly it and get some data. That's great. Okay.
23 Appreciate it. Thank you.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
28 Jackie, Subsistence Division Research. Tell us something
29 good. Thank you.

30
31 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
32 members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name
33 is Jackie Keating. I'm the Lead Subsistence Resource
34 Specialist for the Southcentral Region for the Division
35 of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And
36 I am happy to report a couple of good things today. We
37 do have our standard one-page update that I think is
38 making it around the room. The most important thing when
39 we spoke before you two months ago was the update that
40 we would be conducting comprehensive surveys in Cordova
41 in a very close partnership with the Native Village of
42 Eyak and Chugach Regional Resources Commission. So, I'm
43 happy to report that was a huge success. We completed
44 203 household harvest surveys. Just to give folks an
45 idea of what this looks like, they average about an hour
46 of time to take per person. So really appreciative of
47 everybody that took it. There are several people in the
48 room that were out there conducting surveys for this
49 project. And he's not in the room, but Michael Opheim
50 was also out there conducting surveys. We had 21

1 different people out in pairs, knocking on doors and
2 listening to people and helping document information.
3 So, I want to give a couple shout outs just to the Native
4 Village of Eyak for being such great partners, same with
5 Chugach Regional Resources Commission.

6
7 And just to let folks know what our
8 timeline sort of looks like for those. They're in the
9 process of being analyzed as we speak. Again, because
10 they average about an hour. They're 40 pages long. So,
11 we have a double data entry system where we have two
12 staff people inputting the same surveys. So, we make
13 sure there's not mistakes and the information is
14 accurate. Sometime in the fall, probably around
15 September, we'll find a time to go back to Cordova. We
16 never publish this type of information without a
17 community data review. So, we'll have at least 1,
18 probably 2 or 3 meetings in Cordova for folks to come
19 look at the draft data and tell us what we messed up or
20 what looks weird, then we fix it. So, really excited to
21 share the results of that with this Council in the fall.

22
23 And then I also wanted to make council
24 members aware that we are starting a new project. I also
25 alluded to last meeting. This is a partnership with the
26 Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation and
27 University of Alaska Fairbanks. Member McLaughlin
28 alluded to the changes in black bear composition in
29 Prince William Sound, and the Department is interested
30 in that, particularly due to the drastic change in
31 hunting pressure since the opening of the tunnel. So,
32 we'll be collaborating to design a survey of hunters
33 that will be administered next spring to better
34 understand what those folks are seeing, what's
35 motivating people to get involved. But very importantly,
36 we're also conducting focus groups throughout the spring
37 with folks that live in Prince William Sound, folks that
38 are familiar with this hunt or maybe are no longer
39 hunting because of concerns about population. So,
40 looking for advice and help in spreading the word. Those
41 will be paid focus groups for people that choose to be
42 involved. We'll probably do one in Valdez. We'll do some
43 here in Anchorage. We'll do several online. So, it'll
44 be accessible for many folks to participate in.

45
46 And then lastly, on the regulatory
47 front, we've got the Southcentral Board of Game meeting
48 beginning this Friday in Kodiak. So that'll all be
49 streamed online for anyone that wants to listen in to
50 that. And there's been a lot of conversation about the

1 Board of Fish meetings coming up for the next regulatory
2 year. I wanted to put on people's radar, if you weren't
3 aware already, that the Board of Fish is in the third
4 year of doing a traditional knowledge testimony. They
5 first started this at the Kodiak meeting three cycles
6 ago. It didn't quite begin at the Lower Cook Inlet
7 meeting. So next year will be the first year that the
8 Board is offering this. I wanted to let folks know about
9 that because there's been a lot of really great
10 conversation here today. The traditional knowledge
11 testimony is meant to follow staff presentations and
12 acknowledge that three minutes isn't really enough time
13 to share the amount of valuable information a lot of
14 people have, so it's a longer period for folks from
15 tribal organizations to speak directly to the Board
16 about traditional knowledge, things they want them to
17 know. So, I'll try to send out a reminder about that
18 next fall so folks are aware but getting that on your
19 radar sooner rather than later. I'm happy to take any
20 questions if you've got them. Thanks for your time.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
23 Jackie. I'm excited on that time to testify with
24 traditional knowledge. That's good. I'll let Darryl know
25 too. Well, wait a minute.

26
27 MS. EWAN: Is this study going to be just
28 done in the Prince William Sound?

29
30 MS. KEATING: Through the Chair, for the
31 comprehensive Cordova surveys? Is that what you're
32 referencing? Yeah. Thanks for the question. For now,
33 that is the -- currently the only one we have planned.
34 We are very close to finally publishing the results of
35 similar surveys we did in Mentasta, Chistochina, and
36 Slana. So that will be published soon. And we've been
37 chatting with our friends in the Copper River Basin about
38 other communities we could work with to do the same,
39 because it has been about ten years since we've done
40 those surveys.

41
42 MS. EWAN: So, on that one part that you
43 said that you checked out in the Copper River was there
44 -- what was the statistics or the analyst of how many
45 black bears did you see out there?

46
47 MS. KEATING: Thank you. So, for that
48 portion that was more focused on all resources that any
49 households were harvesting. So that was less focused on
50 talking to people directly about black bears. There were

1 certainly some harvests. They don't have the numbers in
2 front of me at the moment, but I could get them for you
3 if you're interested.

4
5 MS. EWAN: Because I live up in that
6 country. And I noticed that there's a lot of brown bears
7 that never used to be. It used to be up in the mountains.
8 I noticed a lot of it started coming in to residential
9 area. And I know my neighbor had to have one put down
10 and it was just a cub. And I think the people that got
11 the mom was on Klutina Road up that way. Hunters. It was
12 springtime and it's really sad to see these babies born
13 and their mom is not around and they're going into the
14 communities to eat and stuff. And I see that a lot. I
15 don't know about the Fish and Game people though, but I
16 do.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
19 Jackie. You'll include it in your report. Take it out.
20 Oops. I got U.S. Forest Service, next. Chugach National
21 Forest update. Andy. Andrew.

22
23 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, that's me through the
24 Chair.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead.

27
28 MR. SANDERS: I'm happy to get my report.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. We're
31 listening.

32
33 MR. SANDERS: Oh, I'm getting an echo
34 from the room.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're going to
37 turn our mic off and let you talk here, but yeah, you'll
38 get an echo. I was acknowledging that you spoke to me.
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. SANDERS: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah. So,
42 we've had some changes in the staffing of the subsistence
43 program. So, we don't have anybody over on the Kenai
44 Peninsula anymore. I'm doing everything from here in
45 Cordova. We have a new staff officer, Sam Carroll since
46 last year. And yeah, our technician, Dan Schmalzer, is
47 doing some other stuff this winter. So, he's going to
48 be coming back on a little later than usual this spring.
49 So yeah, our staffing level is very low right now. And
50 we've lost some experience there. We did do a special

1 action this year. We did an emergency special action,
2 which then turned into a temporary special action after
3 public meeting. That was to restrict the harvest of
4 caribou in Unit 7 to bulls only after we got some survey
5 data from ADF&G that showed that the population of
6 caribou on the peninsula or in the Unit 7 herd in the
7 Kenai Mountains had a big decline since the last time
8 they flew it. We didn't want to completely close out any
9 opportunity for folks there, but we didn't want to lose
10 any cows either. So hopefully we'll get to fly that
11 again soon, but we might have to do it again this year.
12

13 Ongoing cost share with Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game, that continues to be a very
15 valuable and productive agreement that we have with the
16 state to do population surveys. You know, it was state
17 data on the caribou that helped us discover that there
18 was a problem there. We also have the cost share
19 agreement with CRRC. So, you guys just heard from Rick
20 with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission about
21 their successful moose survey. We're very appreciative
22 that they were able to pull that off. And we look forward
23 to doing some more flights with them to just get better
24 and better data on what's going on with those Kings Bay
25 moose. We had a very successful moose season in Unit 6C
26 in Cordova. You know, as per usual, we don't have 100%
27 harvest success, but pretty darn near. And usually, as
28 in past years, those folks that didn't harvest, you know,
29 they -- folks who didn't necessarily know what they were
30 doing or who were not extremely motivated or were
31 attempting to use very rustic means to hunt. So, we're
32 very pleased with that. We plan on issuing the same
33 number of tags next year and looking forward to doing
34 the drawing here in the next week or two.
35

36 NVE was able to harvest their moose for
37 their Sobriety Day potlatch. We've had a pretty
38 successful deer season from what I've gathered. We don't
39 have all the harvest data on that yet but last winter
40 was very mild for the deer. This winter also had some
41 tough hunting conditions, but it was definitely better
42 than last year. We're going to get out and do deer pellet
43 surveys in May, maybe June, if we get more snow and it
44 sticks around. We also have finally managed to deploy
45 all 18 of the game cameras we were trying to put out on
46 Hawkins Island. So, we have a partial year of data from
47 last year, and when we get out there this summer, we'll
48 get a full winter's data for the whole island. And it's
49 going to take a few more years, but eventually we will
50 be able to use machine learning and artificial

1 intelligence to use that camera data to get a better
2 estimate of how many deer there are on the island, and
3 compare that with the deer pellets that we've been doing
4 for a number of decades. We did not get any requests for
5 ceremonial deer permits from the Native Village of
6 Chenega or Tatitlek.

7
8 Black bear. We're still working with
9 ADF&G on the black bear project, but we're kind of
10 wrapping that up. So, we did send some tissue samples
11 to be analyzed for stable isotopes, and we didn't really
12 find anything earth shattering there. The bears move
13 from the mountains down to the beach, and they eat
14 whatever they can find. Pretty much the story there.

15
16 We did issue two 6D goat permits and
17 none were harvested, so that's about on par with previous
18 years. We issued 143 salmon permits for the Sound, not
19 including the Copper River, which is a bit of an uptick
20 from last year, which last year was basically -- it was
21 pretty good fishing last year, sorry, two years ago was
22 a run failure. But that's a big uptick in the number of
23 permits. And that's something I haven't really had the
24 opportunity to dig into. Why we issued more permits than
25 we have in the past. And the same thing for the Lower
26 Copper River. We issued 146 permits, which was a big
27 increase. This year was phenomenal fishing at the Lower
28 Copper River. It was really perfect conditions for
29 fishing. And I think that it was -- it gave us an idea
30 of really what to expect as kind of the ceiling for that
31 fishery. There was a really nice gravel bar. People were
32 able to set up their lawn chairs and have cookouts with
33 their family and get some fish and everybody in town who
34 had a dipnet or knew somebody with a dipnet got out and
35 did that once or twice. And so that's about what that
36 looks like, 146 permits and Wrangell-St. Elias National
37 Park will be able to give you the data on harvest there.
38 I don't have Prince William Sound harvest data this year.
39 They are still working out bugs in the new database. And
40 it's very challenging to pull the data out of it and I
41 was not able to get the fish harvest data. From my
42 experience, it was not anything extremely higher or
43 lower than in past years. It was pretty good fishing.
44 Ibeck Creek ran clear, which helped.

45
46 On the Kenai side of things, we had two
47 meetings to issue permits to local folks in their
48 communities. You may recall that in the past we tried
49 to do three, one in Hope, one in Moose Pass, and one in
50 Cooper Landing for fishing, and then to do those three

1 again in the fall for hunting. With our loss of staff,
2 we were not able to do the fish meetings at all.
3 Thankfully, the Refuge stepped in and was able to get
4 into the communities and help issue permits. And then
5 we were only able to do two meetings in the fall for
6 hunting permits. So, folks from Cooper Landing had to
7 come meet us in Hope or Moose Pass, which was really
8 unfortunate. I recognize that that's a long drive for
9 those folks. This year, I am optimistic I will at least
10 be able to do hunting permits in all three of those
11 communities as got more time to kind of plan on dealing
12 with what we've got. So, for the moose hunt in Unit 7,
13 it was about what we would expect from past years. We've
14 got slightly higher numbers of folks who didn't report.
15 Again, that's due to issues with the new database and
16 pulling out the data to contact people who haven't
17 reported.

18
19 The caribou hunt. Again, very similar
20 numbers as far as permits issued. You can see that very
21 few people hunted their permit this year, and I think
22 that was because of the closure on cows. And folks
23 recognized that there was a conservation concern and
24 there weren't a lot of caribou to go chase. So, I think
25 they just didn't bother taking the time when they knew
26 that the caribou are not doing great. We had the mountain
27 goat drawing. We drew three permits. One person did not
28 ever come to get their permit from us, and they didn't
29 return my calls. So, I don't know what happened to that
30 person. The other two people, both had some issues and
31 they didn't have very much time to hunt or there were
32 some injuries and some breakdowns that led to short
33 hunting seasons there. So, kind of a bad luck year for
34 goats.

35
36 We drew a Dall sheep tag for the second
37 time. The person did hunt it, but they were not
38 successful. And we did have a very successful year of
39 continuing to monitor Dall sheep on the peninsula. So,
40 part of that is monitoring lambing in the Crescent Lake
41 area. And even with our loss of capacity in Moose Pass,
42 we were able to continue that with help from OSM and
43 from other Forest Service folks who were able to help
44 us out in addition to their regular duties. And then we
45 had another year of surveys with Kenai National Wildlife
46 Refuge. That's been a great partnership studying the
47 sheep in the Round Mountain area. They cross back and
48 forth from the forest to the Refuge and yeah, we got
49 out, we did a lot of vegetation surveys, gathered some
50 good data. I hope that we can continue that partnership

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1 and continue to get more and better data that can
2 hopefully eventually lead to some habitat improvement
3 for Dall sheep and help that population recover. And
4 with that, that's my whole report. I'm happy to take any
5 questions about what we've been doing in the past year
6 on the forest.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's a long
9 report. Go ahead, Ed, you go first.

10

11 MR. HOLSTEN: Through the Chair. Yeah.
12 Thank you for your report. This is Ed Holsten, Cooper
13 Landing. Just one question on Kenai Mountains caribou.
14 Because I used to hunt that area many years ago and
15 populations were in the hundreds. What was the number?
16 The recent number of population count of Kenai Mountains
17 caribou? And what was the bull-cow ratio? Thank you.

18

19 MR. SANDERS: Let me just pull that
20 number up really quick because I don't want to misspeak.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 So, the minimum count was 55 animals. I
25 do not have the bull-cow ratios right in front of me. I
26 would need to find that.

27

28 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. Thank you. It sure
29 seems like it is a conservation issue going on with
30 Kenai Mountains caribou. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
33 Okay. Who's next? Let's see. Okay. I'm going to just
34 take a short break, five minutes. I need to get some
35 water, and we'll get right back to that report.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCEWLESKI: Alrighty folks.
42 We'll go ahead and get started here. Make sure I got my
43 agenda right. National Park Service, Amber. Was saying
44 Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve, Barbara.

45

46 MS. COHEN: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

49

50

1 MS. COHEN: This is Amber Cohen, for the
2 record, Cultural Anthropologist and Subsistence Program
3 Lead at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.
4 And I think we're going to start with our subsistence
5 and anthropology report, which I believe is in your
6 supplemental materials. And I'll just give you a second
7 to pull that out if you want to follow along. There's
8 some numbers I'm going to fill in that unfortunately,
9 at your fall meeting, I had to leave to beat some bad
10 weather back to Copper Center and was unable to give you
11 guys a report. So, happy to be here and much brighter
12 and nicer days than Anchorage and also in the Basin, so.

13
14 On the bottom of that first page of that
15 subsistence and anthropology report, there's a little
16 blurb about the alternative harvest monitoring project.
17 I'm going to start with that and then move into our
18 permitting and harvest report data for the 2025 season.
19 So, I've introduced this project to the Council a few
20 times. I just wanted to give an update. So, this project
21 came from David Hooper and myself. David is the AITRC
22 Anthropologist, and we were working with the Division
23 of Subsistence on harvest assessments in Slana,
24 Mentasta, and Chistochina. And while we were doing what
25 they call key respondent interviews with participants,
26 one thing that came up was a desire to capture a person's
27 full subsistence history. So, in those -- in the actual
28 surveys that they do for harvest assessments, it
29 captures one year, right? And then the KRIs are used to
30 capture the full picture of someone's subsistence use.
31 And what we heard from the people who participated was
32 like, it'd be really great to find out how can we capture
33 a whole lifetime of subsistence history. So, David and
34 I are working on that. That's the goal of this project,
35 is actually to come up with a methodology that uses
36 network analysis to capture sharing and resource use
37 across a person's lifetime. So far, we've interviewed
38 one person and we are hoping to continue to interview
39 more people. So, I'm putting out the call for interest
40 as part of this report to see if anyone who is in the
41 Copper Basin or in the Ahtna traditional territory who'd
42 be interested in being interviewed. These interviews
43 include questions about different resources, mapping,
44 genealogy, and sharing patterns. I would say like an
45 average interview takes about an hour, hour and a half.
46 If you are interested, you can reach out to me or to
47 David Hooper over at AITRC.

48
49 In terms of subsistence permitting for
50 last year, along with the Tetlin National Wildlife

1 Refuge, Wrangell-St. Elias issued 221 federal
2 subsistence permits for moose, goat, and sheep for
3 Wrangell-St. Elias lands and Units 11 and 12. Our most
4 frequently issued permit was the Unit 11 remainder,
5 that's our FM11-06 permit and we issued 147. We had 55
6 people who hunted on it and 5 moose were harvested. So
7 that was a 9% success rate. To put that into context,
8 both the five- and ten-year average on that hunt is 13
9 moose harvested. So, five moose is about 61% below the
10 average. In terms of success rates, the five-year
11 average is about 20% success rate. So, a 9% success rate
12 is about 55% below the average. I'm still waiting on 3
13 harvest reports. Potentially that number could go up and
14 people just didn't report on time. But usually really
15 late reports are did not hunts that just sort of forget
16 to report to us. So, I do assume that probably 5 was the
17 amount of moose that was harvested last year on that
18 hunt.

19
20 On the third page of your report, it
21 talks about the RM291 hunt. That's the Unit 11 and 12
22 hunts on the Nabesna Road. And that one also had some
23 lower success than usual as well. In 2025, 327 permits
24 were issued. There was 175 people who hunted on it, and
25 there were 13 moose harvested, 10 moose in Unit 11 and
26 3 moose in Unit 12. For federally qualified subsistence
27 users within that so, 153 of the permits were issued to
28 federally qualified users. 95 of those users hunted, 8
29 animals were harvested, and it's about 8.4 success rate,
30 which again is lower than usual, although federally
31 qualified subsistence users are still harvesting most
32 of the moose on that hunt. So again, for this year, 8
33 out of the 13 moose that were harvested were by federally
34 qualified subsistence users. The five-year average of
35 this hunt is 18 for the harvest of moose. So, our harvest
36 this year is about 27% below average on that hunt too.

37
38 If you flip back to your second page
39 where there's a whole bunch of columns there, I'll go
40 over the rest of the hunts and for every hunt again,
41 except for that fall moose hunt, we have 100% of harvest
42 reports in. So, for Unit 11 goats, there were 5
43 individuals who hunted and 1 goat harvested. This was
44 the first goat since 2019, and this was a 20% success
45 rate on that hunt. For Unit 11 winter moose, that's at
46 FM11-07 hunt, we had 6 people who hunted, 2 moose were
47 harvested, and a 33.3% success rates. For elder sheep
48 in Unit 11, that's FS11-04, 11 people hunted, 2 sheep
49 were harvested, and that's an 18% success rate. For Unit
50 12 caribou, 4 people hunted and no caribou were harvested

1 that year.

2

3 On the third page, we flip over, the
4 top, there'll be Unit 12 elder sheep. Two people hunted
5 and no sheep were harvested. We didn't permit for either
6 Unit 11 or Unit 12 senior/junior sheep hunts. There just
7 was not interested in 2025. So, no one requested a
8 permit. On the last page, page 4, you'll see some
9 projects that we are working on. I think I've gone over
10 quite a few of these with the Council a few times, and
11 I want to thank Jackie over at Division of Subsistence
12 for giving an update for when that technical report will
13 come out for the Upper Copper River harvest assessments.
14 I just wanted to add that when that paper does come out,
15 David Hooper and myself are planning on going back up
16 to the three communities, kind of giving an overview of
17 the technical paper and also wanting to hear some future
18 research ideas from those three communities. So, we have
19 money in our budget to travel and do that. So, we're
20 excited for when that comes around. I also wanted to
21 highlight that we did write a draft summary report for
22 our Dall sheep local knowledge interviews that we've
23 been undertaking since 2023. We did interview eight
24 long-time hunters and pilots, and those with a long
25 history of both observing and interacting with sheep in
26 Wrangell-St. Elias lands. And so, we're currently
27 working on undergoing some revisions on that summary
28 report to then send them back to the narrators for their
29 review, and then hopefully get that out to the public
30 sometime in the future.

31

32 And I have a very exciting update on the
33 Outer Coast ethnographic landscape study. So, March 6th
34 through 9th, Mike Loso, who's our park geologist, and
35 myself went to Yakutat and we were joined there by Native
36 Village of Eyak, who brought three elders with them and
37 two of their staff. And we had, I'm going to say, about
38 8 or 9 elders in Yakutat who also joined us, as well as
39 about over 30 public community members in Yakutat who
40 came together to talk about landscape changes along the
41 coastline and also talking about fishing. That was a
42 really fun discussion for a lot of people who were
43 involved in that. And we -- this was sort of a year in
44 the making with a combined effort from Yakutat-Tlingit
45 Tribe, Native Village of Eyak, Portland State
46 University, and the Park to bring these groups of people
47 together for these discussions. And it's sort of like a
48 phase one of this project for the ethnographic landscape
49 study. So, the themes and places that were discussed two
50 weekends ago will go into a scoping report that will

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1 then kind of inform the direction of that baseline
2 document, which is that ethnographic landscape study.
3 So, we're really happy we were able to pull that off,
4 and it was a great weekend in Yakutat. It was super
5 snowy and then it like lit up with the sun. And it was
6 really awesome just to have everyone together.

7
8 And then finally, I want to highlight
9 that we are doing another summer of the in-season
10 teleconferences for the Copper River. We had them all
11 throughout 2025, starting in early June and ending at
12 the end of August. We're meeting with AITRC in April to
13 work out what this year is going to look like, but this
14 is a project that both entities are really excited about.
15 It's a great opportunity to hear from people out on the
16 river about how is the fishing actually going. And as
17 the delegated in-season manager, it's really important
18 for us to hear from people on the ground. And it's really
19 given some context into the fisheries report that I will
20 be giving in just a few moments. So, I'll end there and
21 see if there's any questions.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great report
24 and good stuff.

25
26 MS. COHEN: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye, you
29 wanted a question? No? Okay. Okay, good. Anyone else?

30
31 MS. EWAN: You know that -- this is Faye
32 Ewan, Kluti Kaah. When you were talking about the sheep
33 hunting and the goat hunting, is that drawing permit,
34 or is that just you can apply for it?

35
36 MS. COHEN: Yeah, through the Chair.
37 Thank you, Member Ewan. That's a great question. So, we
38 have like a registration permit for elder sheep hunts.
39 So, if you're 60 and above, you can come to the park and
40 get a federal permit and it gives you a longer season.
41 That season goes until almost the end of October. For
42 anyone under 60, you go to the State of Alaska and it's
43 just a harvest ticket for sheep in Units 11 and 12. And
44 then Unit 11 federal go is also a federal registration
45 permit where you come to the park.

46
47 MS. EWAN: Because why I was asking, is
48 that back in the -- when the territorial law was here,
49 before it became a State of Alaska, we had hunting rights
50 over in Wrangell Mountains. That is our main source of

1 diet. In the last 65 years, we haven't eaten sheep. I
2 don't even think our kids know -- we make spoon with the
3 sheep horns. We make art with the fur. We do a lot of
4 things with it, but we haven't been able to go out and
5 hunt in the mountains. My dad was born on Mount
6 Blackburn, and we have a long history of Ahtna people
7 in a hunt up there. But I don't understand is how these
8 people have rights to come in there and hunt goat and
9 sheep and when we don't even have an open season for us
10 to go out there and eat. I still eat sheep. I grew up
11 with it. Before caribou came to Copper River, before
12 moose migrated there, that was our main source of diet,
13 was sheep. And after the territorial gave the state the
14 land, it was all cut off. And today, the 2026, we're
15 still fighting for our rights that we had when we were
16 born. And through the federal agencies I'd like to see
17 maybe a proposal or something where it would give the
18 tribes hunting rights, you know, to go out and get sheep
19 for potlatches and stuff like that included in there,
20 in your study. Because I know the sheep migrates from
21 Nelchina over to the Wrangell Mountains and they go over
22 into Whitehorse and then come back.

23
24 But I liked (indiscernible) talking
25 about all this hunting and stuff here. It seemed like
26 the federal government, when they took over, made it
27 into a National Park or whatever they did, they cut off
28 a lot of our hunting rights to the land, which should
29 have been intact with the territorial laws to the state
30 law. Constitution says it right there in black and white.
31 I would like to see if the National Park can do -- maybe
32 take out the kids to go out there sheep hunting or
33 something like that and teach the history of Copper River
34 not written by other people. I did some of that book
35 that you guys write, but I didn't put my name in there
36 because I don't want my name in that book. But that
37 Ahtna book, it shows that, you know, how we historically
38 were sheep hunters, way before caribou and moose, and
39 I'd like to see the historical story put back into the
40 National Park, where they know the real story of our
41 people. That's why we tell our own story and do our own
42 documentary today. You'll be in there. Thank you.

43
44 MS. COHEN: Thank you, Member Ewan.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds like you
47 got to get a hunting party going soon.

48
49 MS. COHEN: Sounds like it.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds like it.
2 Okay. Are you doing the next one with the fishery report?

3
4 MS. COHEN: That I am.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
7 you could go ahead and go into that.

8
9 MS. COHEN: Okay. Again, for the record,
10 this is still Amber Cohen, but now more acting in my
11 capacity as a Subsistence Program Lead for the Park. I
12 believe the updated fisheries report for Wrangell-St.
13 Elias is also in your supplemental handouts. Okay.
14 Getting some nods. It's good. And I want to start
15 actually on page 3 of this report, where it says,
16 highlights as of February 24th, 2026. So, Wrangell-St.
17 Elias issued 251 Chitina Subdistrict, 323 Glennallen
18 Subdistrict, and 3 Batzulnetas permits this last year.
19 So, in terms of permitting, that's about within the five-
20 and ten-year average for the Glennallen Subdistrict, but
21 it was much higher for both the five- and the ten-year
22 average for the Chitina Subdistrict. So, we're seeing
23 more permitting of the Chitina Subdistrict. Of the
24 permits we issued for the Glennallen Subdistrict, 54%
25 of them were fished on and 46% were not fished on. For
26 the Chitina Subdistrict, 52% were fished on and 48% were
27 not fished on. For both subdistricts, we are at or over
28 95% of harvest reports returned, and that is the highest
29 return rate since 2002. So, we're pretty excited about
30 that.

31
32 So, I mentioned the teleconferences a
33 few minutes ago, and I think one of the best things of
34 those is that we get to hear either why people didn't
35 go out and fish or troubles that they had while they
36 were fishing. And then in addition, when I'm following
37 up with people about harvest reports, I also get to hear
38 about either why they didn't fish or why they were late
39 giving me a harvest report. Last summer we heard issues
40 about low water in the Copper River and actually the
41 State of Alaska Glennallen Office confirmed it was one
42 of the lowest years on record in the Copper River in
43 terms of the river depth heights. There was debris that
44 were hitting wheels and impeded harvest, particularly
45 in the upper reaches of the Copper River. We heard that
46 from some Slana fishwheels up there. There were quite a
47 few people who reported to me that they didn't need to
48 fish on their permit, because they were given enough
49 fish by their family or friends in the area. And then,
50 as usual, people have conflicts with work or some life

1 events that happen. I had a few people who did get a
2 permit, and then sometime during the summer, they moved
3 out of Alaska, or they moved to Anchorage and so they
4 were unable to fish, and then they also lose their
5 eligibility as well if they leave the federally
6 qualified area.

7
8 So, the overall expanded estimated
9 harvest this season was 19,095 fish. And of that 18,561
10 were sockeye salmon, 439 were chinook salmon, and then
11 the rest were coho and other species. So, this overall
12 total harvest is just a slightly below both the five-
13 and ten-year average. Sockeye salmon harvest was also
14 slightly below five- and ten-year average, while chinook
15 salmon harvest was 42% below the five-year and 51% below
16 the ten-year.

17
18 If you look on, I believe you flip
19 another page or two, there's a table 1 that has a whole
20 bunch of historical data and 2025 data on there. You can
21 see that we've had a few strong years for chinook harvest
22 in the past, particularly 2018 and 2019, but we have
23 mostly trended downwards in terms of chinook harvests
24 in the Upper Copper River districts. There's been a
25 slight uptick in 2022, but then since 2023, so the past
26 two years and hopefully not counting the harvest has
27 decreased in terms of chinook harvests. Sockeye harvests
28 in the Glennallen Subdistrict was slightly below average
29 and chinook harvest was below average. Sockeye harvests
30 in the Chitina Subdistrict was above average, and though
31 the chinook harvest was below the five-year average, it
32 was above the ten-year average. And that was from some
33 early years, from like 2002 to, I'm going to say 2010,
34 some pretty low chinook harvest numbers in the Chitina
35 Subdistrict that have gone up. So that's why that ten-
36 year average numbers is relatively lower. And that five-
37 year average number is a little bit higher.

38
39 About 70% of fish were harvested by
40 fishwheel and 30% by dipnet. And the number of people
41 who have been dipnetting is higher. It's higher than the
42 five-year average and about 48% higher than the ten-year
43 average. Most harvests occurred in June and July, so
44 about 80% of the harvests occurred in those two months
45 in the Chitina Subdistrict. In the Glennallen
46 Subdistrict, most harvests occurred in July. That's
47 about 50% of the harvest. In the Glennallen Subdistrict,
48 most of the fish were caught in the section between
49 Tonsina to Galkona, and in the Chitina Subdistrict,
50 O'Brien Creek and Healy Creek were some of the locations

1 with the most harvests reported.

2

3 To summarize the kind of data from this
4 past season, dipnetting has increased even though
5 fishwheel still tend to take most of the harvest in the
6 Upper Copper River, sockeye harvest was relatively on
7 average, and chinook harvest overall has been decreasing
8 in line with some weaker runs over the last few years.
9 And then other parts of this report I just want to
10 highlight is that, as you all know, our Fisheries
11 Biologist Dave Sarafin did retire in May of last year.
12 He may still be on the phone and if he is, hello, Dave,
13 good to hear from you. And with Dave's retirement, we
14 did have to, you know, pull in some team members to get
15 some work done, but also really rely on some great
16 partners in the Copper Basin. AITRC is one of them and
17 Native Village of Eyak another.

18

19 In 2025, the NPS staff did install
20 Tanada Creek weir. We helped run it until June and then
21 AITRC assumed operation in July. And I will let AITRC
22 kind of talk more about the weir. There's another project
23 we're working on with AITRC to inventory ten lakes in
24 Wrangell-St. Elias for different freshwater harvestable
25 fish species. And we'll start field work for that this
26 spring and summer, which is exciting. Throughout 2025,
27 the federal managers monitored the run to see if we
28 needed to take any appropriate management actions, but
29 no federal special actions were issued by the Park this
30 year, and federal harvest opportunities remained open
31 the entire season. And again, I just want to emphasize
32 how much work we do with partners and how successful we
33 are at Wrangell-St. Elias, particularly with fisheries,
34 because we have great partners and we work together. I
35 mentioned the project with AITRC, but we also work with
36 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Glennallen Office
37 for preseason coordination, communications throughout
38 the season, and postseason data sharing and reports. We
39 also coordinate with the Chugach National Forest to
40 manage the Lower Copper River fishery. We also partner
41 with Native Village of Eyak and Prince William Sound
42 Science Center. And so even though we are lacking a
43 fisheries biologist, we have built and maintained strong
44 partnerships that allow us to make these good management
45 decisions. And I will add that the Park is looking to
46 hire a seasonal fisheries biologist, and hopefully we'll
47 have them onboarded soon to get started before fisheries
48 kind of pick up in mid-May.

49

50

1 And then I just wanted to jump down to
2 the Lower Copper River federal subsistence fishery that
3 opened on June 1st and stayed open till September 30th.
4 146 permits were issued, and that was an increase, and
5 there was a total of 905 sockeye salmon, 21 chinook
6 salmon, and 3 coho that were harvested through September
7 3rd. For the upcoming fisheries season, which I said
8 kind of kicks off May 15th, Park staff will meet with
9 different partners like Fish and Game, Native Village
10 of Eyak, Chugach National Forest, and AITRC to work on
11 preseason coordination. Federal subsistence salmon
12 fisheries of the Copper River will open on May 15th and
13 should remain open until September 30th unless in season
14 run estimates prompt concerns of meeting salmon
15 escapement goals. So happy to answer any questions about
16 fisheries.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty.
19 Questions? Welcome, Michael. Good report. We got one
20 here, Angela. Go ahead.

21
22 MS. TOTEMOFF: Hi, Amber. In there you
23 mentioned that you had a 95% -- a 96% return rate on
24 your reports. What do you attribute to that high number?

25
26 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair, thank you,
27 Member Totemoff. That's a great question. To be a little
28 silly, I think part of it is persistence and annoyance
29 of our permit users. But basically, we at the Park will
30 send out a first email out to all users and let them
31 know that like harvest reports are due. And I sort of
32 blast people's emails about 3 or 4 times. And then once
33 I get down to a number, which is usually about 30 or 40
34 people, I actually will give phone calls and remind
35 people that they need to report. And then I'll send
36 letters. So multiple ways of reminders. And I think at
37 some point people get so tired of me bugging them that
38 they finally give me a report. But I will say a lot of
39 people who are late in reporting, it's just that they
40 did not fish. And they sort of didn't realize they needed
41 to report that they did not fish.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Faye.

44
45 MS. EWAN: I like your report. Sounds
46 good. But to me, I don't know how many thousand fish it
47 says you've counted, 19,000 or whatever. Was that
48 between Chitina and Batzulnetas?

49
50

1 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair. Yes,
2 Member Ewan, that was for the entire Upper Copper River
3 District, including Batzulnetas.

4
5 MS. EWAN: And that's all federal
6 subsistence users?

7
8 MS. COHEN: Correct.

9
10 MS. EWAN: You know, when they closed
11 down king salmon June 1st or July 1st, when the kings
12 went by, it seems like, you know, I was okay with it
13 when the feds didn't close down, which, you know, fed
14 our elders. We have our customary traditional ways of
15 distributing our salmon. We don't keep it to ourselves,
16 put it in a freezer. We're not that kind of people. We
17 live off the land, you know, we abundantly feed our
18 people. But it's sad to say, a lot of my people in Copper
19 River never got no fish. And I fished from June 1st till
20 September 30th and I didn't see very many silvers come
21 in. I fish at Chitina. I fish in Batzulnetas. I fish in
22 Copper River. I go to all these places where they have
23 fish. I watch how those fish look. I could be your
24 traditional biologist.

25
26 MS. COHEN: Yeah.

27
28 MS. EWAN: But you know, this report
29 sounds good, but in reality, I don't think there's any
30 more kings. They're not coming back as big as these
31 tables like they used to. They're coming back I think
32 3 years old, maybe 2 to 3 years old. They're not coming
33 back full term, 5 years. That is something that needs
34 to be studied and looked into and why is our fish coming
35 back, you know, some of it is sick and poor, like real
36 soft meat when you get it. Those kind of studies, I'd
37 like to see in this year. Not scientific, but reality.
38 Why is it getting like that? Is that PFAS? Is it plastic
39 in the water? What's contaminating these fish that we're
40 consuming? Why I'm saying that? Because we have the
41 highest rate of kidney cancer, highest rate of different
42 kinds of cancer in Copper River. And that is mostly our
43 staple, is that salmon and our meat. And, you know, to
44 me, I hear all the studies about it, but I don't hear
45 no studies about the rivers. What is in contamination
46 in those rivers? We need to know the level of PFAS and
47 all the contaminants -- mercury, everything in these
48 salmon here and these reports so we know. When I go to
49 the UN meeting, I know what I'm reporting. And this is
50 something to do with climate change. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Amber. Good job. You got us covered, I think. I don't see any more questions, so thank you. Wait a minute. You got one?

MS. PILCHER: I don't have a question. So, we've got two things that could be happening right now. So first, you guys added to your agenda to discuss a Park Service proposed rule. That could be done before the reports are finished. But we do have someone online from BLM to give that really brief update on the P -- update on (d)(1) and PLOs in Southcentral and adjoining regions. So, it's up to the Council if you -- yeah. Well, you added the Park Service proposal at the beginning of the meeting. So just a gauge on if you wanted to keep going with Park Service or we could veer over to BLM.

MS. COHEN: Okay, great. Again, thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, this is Amber Cohen, Cultural Anthropologist and Subsistence Program Lead at Wrangell-St. Elias, and I do want to put a kind of a disclaimer here that I'm introducing this, as you will, as a staff member at Wrangell-St. Elias. I do think the more details or any questions that you may have, you know, we have been telling people to speak to our regional office and I have an email address that has been put in the Federal Register Notice. But I believe Nissa sent you the news release that came out about the hunting and trapping rule for Alaska National Preserves. And I believe she also gave you a few other handouts, including a Subsistence Resource Commission letter that was sent in 2016 in response to the 2015 proposed rule. And then your comments from 2016. And then the 2023 comments from the 2024 proposed rule. So, I just wanted to really highlight for you all as a Council that the summary of what this proposed rule is looking to do is to rescind the remaining aspects of the 2015 rule, 2017 rule, and 2024 rule into this new proposed 2026 rule. And there's a lot of different aspects in here. We did do some tribal consultation last spring, spring of 2025, and we consulted on the bear baiting provisions and the trapping provisions. And those are included in the proposed rule. And then there are a few other regulatory changes.

And if you have the Federal Register Notice with you, you can see it's quite a lengthy notice, about 13 pages. But at the very end of that Federal

1 Register Notice, which I think is the part to direct
2 your attention to, where it says, 'Part 13 National Parks
3 System Units in Alaska', this is page 11493 on your
4 Federal Register Notice. That will tell you what
5 particular regulations is the National Park Service
6 looking to either change and in some of these they are
7 looking to just remove language. Some of them are looking
8 to move language from one regulation into just another
9 part. And that's the part I would direct the Council's
10 attention to because that will kind of say, what exactly
11 is the Park Service looking to do for this proposed
12 rule.

13
14 The public comment period is open until
15 April 9th. Unfortunately, this rule came out on March
16 10th. And so, that was after the Wrangell-St. Elias
17 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission was able
18 to meet. We met on February 27th and 28th and so, the
19 SRC did not comment on this proposed rule. I did send
20 it to our members and said that they could -- they could
21 comment as individuals, but if the Council wanted to put
22 in any comments you do have that opportunity because
23 that public comment period is open until the 9th. So,
24 that's my little overview. You have some resources with
25 you and some materials. If you have questions, I can
26 attempt to answer them or I can connect you to our
27 regional office and see if we can get you some better
28 answers.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: I did want to note that one
31 option for commenting is we don't have enough time to
32 comment. That is a perfectly acceptable comment. And
33 another is, whatever comments you guys do choose to make,
34 you can also request that I forward your previous
35 correspondence up, if the Council hasn't changed their
36 feelings, that was in those documents. My apologies, you
37 just got them today, I just found them today, as well.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, there's a
40 whole lot of stuff to digest here. But that said, I got
41 this Vice Chair sitting next to me that has read all of
42 this. And so, while we were preparing for this so, I'm
43 going to kind of let her guide us through this a little
44 bit. For me, I mean, you're taking stuff out from '15,
45 '17, '24 consolidate in 26. That all sounds good, but I
46 need it wrapped in a big bow and what it is. Okay. And
47 if then I get that, then I could deliberate it, okay.
48 That's my comment. Go ahead, Judy.

49
50

1 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
2 believe me, I've not fully absorbed it. I think Angela
3 has taken a look, too. I mean, there's all different
4 sections. There's bear baiting, there's gathering,
5 there's handicrafts, probably other sections. I mean,
6 some of the phrases that I see here seem to put the
7 state in charge. So, I think these are really very
8 concerning. And I don't know if you're able to address
9 some of these specifics. I think it's unfortunate that
10 no one from the regional office who has maybe worked in
11 this is here today. So, you're on the hot seat, and we
12 don't mean to put you there, but if you can give us a
13 few more specifics on what this would really mean besides
14 a lot more consultation or deference or, to this date.

15
16 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair. Thank you,
17 Member Caminer. I can, and one thing I did put together,
18 and this is not an official document, but I did take
19 changes that were listed in the Federal Register and
20 then compared them with the current regulation, so I can
21 go through, and, unfortunately, I can't share this
22 document with you all just because it's not an official
23 NPS document. This is an Amber document. But I can go
24 through and then you can stop me when this gets too
25 regulatory. You're like, please. So, one of the changes,
26 in section 13.1, would be to remove that definition of
27 furbearer that was added in the 2024 rule. Furbearer
28 right now, in the regulation, means one of the following
29 species: beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx
30 marten, mink, least weasel, short-tailed weasel, m
31 muskrat, land otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel,
32 ground squirrel, Alaskan marmot, hoary marmot, woodchuck
33 wolf and wolverine. So, that's one change is just to
34 remove that definition. They would also revise the
35 definition of trapping. Right now, trapping means,
36 taking furbearers under a trapping license with a trap
37 or with a firearm, when a furbearer is ensnared in an
38 intact trap, ensnared in a trap that is no longer
39 anchored or mortally wounded by a trap that is broken
40 free from the trap. And the revised language would be,
41 trapping means taking furbearers under a trapping
42 license. So, I just want to highlight one of the big
43 differences there is removing that language about a
44 firearm that was added in the 2024 rule.

45
46 In 13.40, the change there would be,
47 basically, to take language as in 13.42 and just move
48 it into 13.40. So, kind of would consolidate language
49 about hunting and trapping and closures and restrictions
50 into one part of the regulation together. In 13.42, as

1 I mentioned. So, they would remove 13.42 and move it
2 into 13.40. There's revising 13.50, that's about closure
3 and restriction procedures. And part of this, and it's
4 pretty lengthy, but one of the changes is that, if there
5 is going to be a permanent closure or restriction, it
6 needs to be published as rulemaking in the Federal
7 Register. And that's defined a few times. And the same
8 with opening something that was prohibited, would also
9 need to be rulemaking in the Federal Register. In 13.400,
10 they would add a new paragraph E that would read that,
11 'The State of Alaska is authorized to regulate the taking
12 of fish and wildlife for subsistence uses within park
13 areas, to the extent such regulation is consistent with
14 applicable federal law, including, but not limited to,
15 ANILCA'.
16

17 In 13.420, they would remove the
18 definitions for animal parts and handicrafts. And also,
19 revise the definition for subsistence uses. And the way
20 that they would revise that is that, currently, for
21 customary trade, the definition is, means the exchange
22 of handicrafts or furs for cash to support personal or
23 family needs, and does not include trade, which
24 constitutes a significant commercial enterprise. They
25 would revise that to just customary trade shall be
26 limited to the exchange of furs for cash. In 13.470
27 they, basically, just simplified the language about
28 subsistence fishing. And then, in 13.480, they also
29 simplified the language about hunting and trapping and
30 simplified it to local rural residents may hunt and trap
31 wildlife for subsistence uses in park areas, where
32 subsistence uses are allowed, in compliance with
33 applicable state and federal law.
34

35 They will review, remove 13.482. That
36 was about collecting animal parts. And they -- a bunch
37 of revisions in 13.485. The revision would read, 'The
38 noncommercial gathering by local rural residents of
39 fruits, berries, mushrooms and other plant materials for
40 subsistence uses, and noncommercial gathering of dead
41 or downed timber for firewood shall be allowed, without
42 a permit, in park areas where subsistence uses are
43 allowed'. And then, sorry, this is kind of a lengthy one
44 that they've revised here, in 13.490, they revised the
45 closure to subsistence uses to say, 'Notwithstanding any
46 other provision of this part, the superintendents, after
47 consultation with the state, and adequate notice and
48 public hearing, the affected vicinity and other
49 locations, as appropriate, may temporarily close all or
50 any portion of a park area to subsistence uses, of a

1 particular fish or wildlife population, only if
2 necessary for reasons of public safety administration
3 or to assure the continued viability of such population.
4 For purposes of this action, the term temporarily should
5 mean, only as long as reasonably necessary to achieve
6 the purposes of the closure'.
7

8 And then they would remove paragraph D
9 in 13.1902, which is special regulations for Wrangell -
10 Saint Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence. And
11 that would be D is, use of bait for taking bears. The
12 superintendent may issue individual annual permits,
13 allowing the use of human produced food items for bait,
14 for taking -- I'm sorry, as bait, for taking bears, upon
15 finding that such uses are compatible with the purposes
16 and values of the area that was established, and that
17 the permit applicant does not have reasonable access to
18 natural baits, and that permits will specify specific
19 locations in the park where this could occur. So, that
20 that part would be taken out of that regulation. And
21 those are the, as I said, a lot of lengthy changes there.
22 And that's the, I wish I could give this to you guys,
23 might be helpful to have it in paper, but that's the
24 different regulatory changes I was able to compile for
25 that.
26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we'd need
28 a week to understand that, at least. But, very good. To
29 dangerous things, very dangerous in there. One about the
30 State of Alaska taking and having control of whatever.
31 And the other one was had to do with them too in the
32 closures they deemed fit in an emergency or whatever.
33 You're lining state. Well, I'm not going to go there.
34 Whatever the Council wants to do, but it sure as hell
35 looks like we're lining some bad practices.
36

37 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 just want to get a few comments on the record that, sort
39 of as a result of conversations I've had with people who
40 have been looking at these in more details. If these NPS
41 regs are eliminated, the Title VIII preference, which
42 is actually provided by the current NPS regs, will be
43 gone, and local rural residents and residents of NPS
44 residence-zoned communities are highly likely to face
45 increased competition, as all Alaska residents are
46 subsistence users under the state law and regs, as we
47 know. Those state laws and regulations will control all
48 aspects of hunting and trapping in the preserves. So,
49 the more competition for rural users, lots of details,
50 the state regs can then be changed every year by the

1 Board of Game. So, I guess for what we do today, it's
2 hard to say. You know, I mean, we can just vote and say,
3 well, we don't support these, but I'm sure we'd like to
4 do something in a little more detail, and I don't know
5 what the best way is to do that.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We were having
8 a sidebar. April 9th is the comment period. And we're
9 trying to figure out what the Council would like to do.
10 I mean, to make, you know, substantial or legitimate
11 response to it, it's kind of short. I don't know if you
12 could -- what's your suggestion? You, we all try to
13 hammer it out now or we try, I don't know, I'm not
14 prepared to figure it all out, but it's going to take
15 some time, so.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, this is Nissa for the
18 record. That's the issue is, while the comment deadline
19 is a ways away, not even that far away, but not today.
20 The Council, by the time you guys adjourn, either today
21 or tomorrow, have to have at least -- you don't have to
22 go into detail, but I'd need a bare bone structure in
23 order to build off, because you've given me some things
24 and I can certainly write a draft that you would approve
25 and look at before it goes any further, but I couldn't
26 add anything else in, at that time, other than comments
27 you guys have already made on this process, which I
28 would have available on transcripts. But that's
29 assuming, of course, that what was said in like 2014 is
30 something the Council still believes. So, it's a -- as
31 to quote you a couple times today, it's a slippery slope.
32 So, I don't have a good answer for you as the,
33 unfortunately, the.....

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: This one. Any
36 comments that anyone's got, any comments to this?
37 Dennis, how are we going to tackle this one? Puts guys
38 on the spot. Okay.

39
40 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I agree with, it is a
41 slippery slope and, you know, it sounds like it's good
42 in removing some regulations, but I think the unforeseen
43 consequences of some of this needs to really be hashed
44 out.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, exactly.
47 GreyBear? No. Michael, do you want to speak? You haven't
48 had a chance to speak today.

49
50

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1 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I had three different
2 mute buttons I was trying to hit on the road, so.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we heard
5 you started going into a conversation about something
6 in Kodiak, and it sounded pretty interesting, but we
7 (indiscernible).

8
9 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I had no ideas but it
10 was it was a fun drive anyway. But, you know, it seems
11 like Title VIII of ANILCA and ANILCA was created
12 specifically, you know, because the State of Alaska
13 could not take care of subsistence for, you know, the
14 people that it was supposed to in ANCSA. So, you know,
15 I would have a hard time supporting anything that gave
16 more authority to the state and took away more from us
17 that, you know, have been living by ANILCA Title VIII.
18 So, yeah.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good comment.
21 Nissa, I got a question for you. Can we -- our comment
22 be that we oppose it. until we have a legitimate time
23 to vet it and do debate it.

24
25 MS. PILCHER: Absolutely.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's my
28 answer. Okay.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: That'll be after a
31 deadline.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's okay. We
34 still could do it. We don't have to go by their deadline,
35 is what I'm getting at.

36
37 MS. EWAN: And one of these clauses that
38 says that, when your subsistence, it says that you got
39 to wait for a National Park Officer to come there and
40 report where you got your hunting stuff. And Copper
41 River, it's like, 100,000 miles ratio, to get one person
42 out there, your meat will get rotten by the time they
43 get out there. I mean, maybe they'll drive by, but I see
44 the National Park rangers, you know, and the state
45 troopers, there's very limited. And they can see already
46 a flaw right there in what you see in this section here,
47 where it says you have to report all the game where you
48 got it from and subsistence. And I'm confused about, is
49 that...? This, uhm, I guess it's a presidential order
50 that was put there. Did the tribes ever have a chance

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1 to even have a government-to-government with these
2 agencies that put this together?

3
4 MS. COHEN: Yeah. Through the Chair,
5 Member Ewan. As I mentioned, with the Regional Office
6 here in Alaska and the Park Units, we did conduct tribal
7 consultation on rescinding the 2024 rule. So,
8 specifically, about rescinding bear baiting prohibitions
9 and about revising the language about trapping that I
10 went over. So, we sent out a letter to the Wrangle- St.
11 Elias, we sent out a letter to the 14 tribes we're
12 affiliated with. And we followed up with phone calls,
13 emails, and three tribes sent in responses and we did
14 have, we did call into one Tribal Council meeting but
15 they decided not to comment after learning more. But
16 that was back in April and May of 2025.

17
18 MS. EWAN: So, this has been on for a
19 year?

20
21 MS. COHEN: I believe the development of
22 this change of proposed rule has been ongoing for a
23 year. We had heard it was going to publish sooner, but
24 I believe, with the lapse of government appropriations,
25 a lot of things got pushed back. Last I heard, this was
26 supposed to come out last December. And it did just
27 publish on March 10th.

28
29 MS. EWAN: Wow.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

32
33 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, just to put a
34 couple things on the record, then I would suggest we
35 would oppose these changes on collecting and on
36 customary trade. And I don't know what to say about bear
37 baiting. There's probably mixed opinions on that, but I
38 think, as Michael said, this is too much imposing the
39 state's preferences or will onto our program. And so,
40 we would want authority retained by the federal
41 government for most of these issues that they're trying
42 to push back to the way things were.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I agree with
45 that.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
48 Chair.

49
50 (Distortion)

1

2 Yeah, just to reiterate that same thing,
3 I would, you know, opposition seems like warranted,
4 aligning our federal regulations with state management
5 stuff has never been like a requirement. At this point
6 we're, like, we give them, the state manager, some
7 blanket delegation of authority. That doesn't jive very
8 well. And this increased competition for the local
9 subsistence users, that's not a good thing. And like Mr.
10 Alpine mentioned, you know, the Title VIII of ANILCA,
11 one of the things that works very well in our system is
12 this 804 analysis that can be run, which determines that
13 there's a meaningful preference for certain users to
14 have access and right to utilize the resource over, you
15 know, and that that would be out the door. So, this is
16 -- I can't support.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I think we
19 got enough captured. Do you think we have enough that
20 you got to, comments? You said you could write it up.
21 I'm counting on you. We can't, I mean, if we want to. I
22 don't think that's appropriate. We know what we feel.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: I believe I have enough to
25 capture quite a bit. Between what you guys have put on
26 the record right now and what the -- what your previous
27 correspondence has been on, I think we're probably not
28 going to capture 100%, but included in that letter could
29 also be -- there's not enough time.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Would we need a
32 motion for that?

33

34 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. This would be an
35 action item.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Would
38 someone like to make a motion, Andy, on that? Sorry, I
39 caught you taking a think, but.....

40

41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well, I just make a
42 motion to write this letter and it seems like our general
43 opposition to capture these comments that everybody has
44 said opposing the -- yeah.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
47 second to that?

48

49 MR. HOLDEN Second.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
2 Third by Faye. Discussion?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none, all in favor, aye.

7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good job.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. That
15 said, we got that part done, right? Before I move on,
16 let's take a short break. I'd like to get through the
17 other stuff here but, who had the hand up? He doesn't
18 want a break?

19
20 (Talking)
21 Oh, he said okay, Kirk, you said okay,
22 you voted. I think that was a vote. You okay?

23
24 MR. WILSON: Yes, I said okay. Yes.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
27 you. Okay, let's take five. Just got to hydrate and then
28 you got to un-hydrate, so.

29
30 (off record)

31
32 (on record)

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Jacob, you
35 online there for BLM?

36
37 MR. VIALPANDO: Yes, sir.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're
40 ready to go. Update on the, looks like, (d)(1) and PLO
41 in Southcentral and adjoining regions.

42
43 MR. VIALPANDO: Okay, so yeah, my name
44 is Jake Vialpando. I'm the Anchorage BLM Field Manager.
45 Been in the position since the beginning of 2023.
46 Hopefully you guys can hear me okay.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We hear you
49 good, thank you.

50

1 MR. VIALPANDO: All right. Good deal.
2 Yeah, so providing a little bit of information update
3 on where BLM is with the PLO EIS and the ANCSA 17(d)(1)
4 withdrawals processes. So, if you recall, it involves
5 about 28 million acres of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawal
6 lands over five planning units in Alaska. And, with that
7 said, back in April of 2021, the Department of Interior
8 deferred opening lands under the Public Land Orders in
9 order to address deficiencies in the previous
10 administration's decision-making process, which
11 initiated an environmental impact statement process. In
12 2024, under Secretary Holland, the EIS was completed and
13 a decision was made, a record of decision was issued
14 adopting the no-action alternative for that EIS. So,
15 here we are today, in January of 2025, under a new
16 administration. And the BLM is under new direction
17 regarding the public land orders, in accordance with
18 president's executive order. And BLM is currently
19 developing a plan to implement this new direction to
20 revisit the EIS and the decision that was issued back
21 in 2024. No other information that I know of, at this
22 time, to share, besides BLM is working on it. It's one
23 of the highest priorities for BLM Alaska.

24
25 That's regarding the EIS and the Public
26 Land Orders, specifically. Moving on to the Public Land
27 Order, the 5150, which I think everybody's pretty
28 familiar with, the revocation of lands north of the Yukon
29 River, which, my understanding is, to be effective March
30 27th of this month. With that said, February 25th of
31 this year, the department issued Public Land Order 7966
32 associated with the Dalton Utility Corridor. The order
33 revoked two previous withdrawals associated with 2.1
34 million acres of BLM managed lands north of the Yukon
35 River and specifically associated with 5150 -- Public
36 Land Orders 5150 and 5180. These lands were not top
37 filed, thus -- oh, excuse me. Let's see. As part of the
38 revocation process so, the withdrawals were revoked,
39 of course, in those two public land order areas. As part
40 of that process, the State of Alaska is committed to
41 putting together a plan to relinquish other excess
42 state-held selections to address over-selection. It's
43 been in place for years, in accordance with the Alaska
44 Land Transfer Acceleration Act. Areas where the state
45 selection is relinquished will, once again, be subject
46 to federal subsistence priorities under ANILCA. The PLO
47 revocation leads to state selections and top filed
48 lands, specifically. And BLM is working with State of
49 Alaska to mitigate impacts for federal subsistence.
50 Regarding the PLO 5150 south of the Yukon River, my

1 understanding per the information that was shared with
2 me, is that there is no timeline for addressing those
3 lands south of the Yukon River, but it remains a priority
4 for the Department of the Interior and the BLM in Alaska,
5 in accordance with the executive order and the secretary
6 order. That's the brief update information that was
7 shared with me to share with you all. Not a whole lot.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions?

10
11 (No response)

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 Done deal. Huge loss. Can't do nothing
16 about it. Sucks. Other than that, good report, but thank
17 you very much.

18
19 MR. VIALPANDO: Well, thank you guys very
20 much. Appreciate it.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MS. LA VINE: All right. Good afternoon,
25 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. I'm Robbin La Vine,
26 I'm the Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM and the
27 Leadership Team Representative here at the meeting
28 today. And I'm going to give you a brief update on what
29 OSM has been up to since your last meeting, which
30 actually, as you know, wasn't very long ago. And that's
31 part of my report today, is that we are still operating
32 under a compressed timeline, driven by a extended
33 furlough last year. And so, as you know, all ten Councils
34 were able to meet for their fall meeting cycle. Eight
35 of them met earlier this year, actually in the winter.
36 And what was really important about that is that we are
37 in a wildlife regulatory cycle. And during your fall
38 meetings, that's usually when you meet to look at all
39 of the proposed changes to regulations, the analyses,
40 and you make recommendations to the Board. So, those had
41 to happen really quickly in order for us to prepare for
42 the upcoming Board meeting and success, success,
43 everybody did finally meet. Most everybody got their
44 recommendations accomplished during their winter cycle.
45 A few had to circle back around, as you did, during this
46 winter meeting. Anyway, so, we thank you all for helping
47 these meetings be a success. And this one today, even
48 driving four hours from Homer, as you did to be here.
49 We value all of you and we value your time.

1 The Tribal and ANCSA Corporation
2 consultations on Wildlife Proposals and Closure Reviews
3 were, likewise, deferred because we usually have them
4 after the fall meetings. After they benefit from
5 listening to Council discussion on these analyses and
6 closure reviews. They were held virtually February 17th
7 and 18th. And there's always opportunity for tribal
8 consultations with the Board and you can reach out to
9 our Tribal Liaison Orville Lind. If anyone is
10 interested, they can be -- we have regularly scheduled
11 opportunities for tribal consultations, but we are
12 always open, the Board is always open to meet on any
13 subject. The Federal Subsistence Board will meet April
14 21st through 24th at the Egan Center in Anchorage for
15 the wildlife regulatory meeting. So, all the work that
16 you've been doing these last couple of meetings, that
17 gets funneled into a big meeting. Your work benefits the
18 Board, and the Board will make decisions on this year's
19 wildlife regulatory proposals at that meeting.

20
21 As a reminder, anyone who's provided
22 testimony to this Council, today or during your winter
23 meeting, that testimony and all those comments, that
24 feeds into your decision making process, but it doesn't
25 go to the Board. So, if anyone is listening now, online
26 or anyone in the room, wants to attend the Federal
27 Subsistence Board meeting in April, and wants to make
28 sure that their testimony and their comments get to the
29 Board, there are a number of opportunities to
30 participate. Every day, the regulatory meeting begins
31 after the first day. Each morning there's an opportunity
32 for, as you have, comments on non-agenda items. And then,
33 of course, there's opportunities for people to comment
34 on action items, the wildlife regulatory proposals and
35 closure reviews as they come up on the agenda. There's
36 also, as we always schedule, an opportunity -- another
37 opportunity for tribal consultations, and that will take
38 place immediately preceding the Board meeting, in
39 person, on April 20th at the Egan Center and that will
40 be at 1:00. So, tribes and ANCSA corporations, please
41 join the Federal Subsistence Board, downtown Anchorage,
42 before we begin our public meeting, and that's at 1:00
43 on April the 20th.

44
45 As mentioned earlier, the Secretarial
46 Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program
47 opened for public comments on December 15th. Yeah, 15th,
48 2025. All Councils took up this topic and submitted
49 letters with comments on the review, and I believe yours
50 can be found on the website. I don't know if we were

1 able to finalize and print it out, but you guys worked
2 hard on that, those comments, as all the Councils did,
3 and the Federal Subsistence Board is forwarding those
4 on to the assistant -- the Senior Advisor to the
5 Secretary of Interior for Alaskan Affairs, the person
6 who's leading this scoping period for a potential review
7 of the program. On February 3rd, there was a public
8 listening session on the Secretarial Review, was held
9 in Anchorage. There were over 76 people who provided
10 oral comments in person or on the phone, and plenty more
11 who were in attendance in person or online, just
12 listening. The period for public written comments was
13 extended. Initially, it was going to -- the deadline was
14 going to happen and in February, now, it was extended
15 by 45 days and closes March 30th, 2026. Statewide tribal
16 and ANCSA consultations on the review. They were held
17 March 10th. The last one was held today. But any tribe
18 can request a separate consultation on this topic, at
19 any time. Kara Moriarty, the Senior Advisor for the
20 Secretary of the Interior for Alaskan Affairs has noted
21 that all comments will be reviewed and that no decision
22 has been made on whether the review will result in any
23 program changes. So, this is just listening, right now,
24 and gathering everybody's input.

25
26 So, in -- since we last met, I believe
27 the Federal Subsistence Board held its winter work
28 session, here in Anchorage, February 5th. And during
29 that session, the Board took care of a number of
30 administrative tasks, including accepting the 2026
31 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. We still have
32 updates for you on that, I believe, coming, right. It
33 approved the Regional Advisory Council transmittal
34 letters to the Secretaries and those topics for
35 transmission to the Secretaries were the Council's
36 concerns about ANCSA 17(d)(1) lands, cross-
37 jurisdictional and conservation related fisheries
38 concerns, and then the Board agreed that they felt it
39 was still really pertinent to forward previous
40 correspondence to the last administration to the current
41 on Regional Advisory Council Member Compensation. The
42 Board heard an update on request for reconsideration
43 RFR25-01, asking the Board to reconsider its 2025
44 decision to designate Ketchikan as rural under federal
45 subsistence regulations. The Board will decide during
46 its April meeting whether this RFR meets the threshold
47 criteria for full consideration of the request. So, as
48 the Southcentral Council, you all have been through a
49 number of RFRs before. You know that the first step is
50 seeing if it actually meets the threshold for a full

1 analysis. So, that's what's happening at the April
2 meeting. And if it's determined to meet that criteria
3 or some criteria, then it will proceed for a full
4 analysis and go through a public review. But this
5 pertains, specifically, to Southeast and not your
6 region. But given you an update anyway.

7
8 The Board also received an update on
9 ongoing development of the Federal Subsistence Permit
10 Database, an online effort that has gone on far too
11 long. I won't beleaguer it here. And an update from the
12 Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior on
13 Alaskan Affairs, Kara, regarding the Secretarial Review
14 of the Federal Subsistence Management Program. So, these
15 are a lot of the things that the Board takes up during
16 its work sessions, any of its work sessions. So, in the
17 winter, it's a fisheries resource monitoring focused
18 work session. And in the summer it's, primarily, a
19 Regional Advisory Council work session. And over the
20 years, we've recognized how really important that summer
21 work session is. That's when the Board will review your
22 annual reports and approve responses, and it's an
23 opportunity to review your correspondence, especially
24 if it's going to or through the Board. And we've begun
25 to realize how important Council Chair or Council
26 representative participation can be during that meeting.
27 So, the summer work session is held August 4th and 5th
28 of this summer. You will be deciding or working with
29 Nissa on who can attend. But, if the Chair cannot, if
30 he's too busy, I really urge you all to send somebody,
31 because this is where you can have really informal face-
32 to-face discussions with the Board. It is on record.
33 People can listen in. You can hear the Board discuss
34 your annual reports and you can hear the Board address
35 some of the issues that you're really interested in and
36 are important to your region. We're working on making
37 those summer work sessions more of a meeting between the
38 Chairs and the Board. And I'll leave that agenda to
39 develop itself closer to the time.

40
41 As you know the fish and shellfish
42 proposed rule was published February 12th. I know you've
43 all had your discussions about submitting proposals to
44 change regulations. Anyone listening online that wants
45 more information on that, they can find information on
46 how to submit proposals on our website. And the period
47 for submitting fisheries proposals ends April 3rd of
48 this year. The Councils will make recommendations on any
49 proposals affecting their regions at their fall
50 meetings, and the Board will act on those proposals at

1 the Fisheries Regulatory Meeting, which has been
2 scheduled, February 1st through 5th, 2027. Almost a year
3 away.

4
5 Council appointments. The 2025
6 applications submitted during last year's recruitment
7 cycle are still under consideration at the Secretary of
8 Interior's Office. The -- once the Secretary's Office
9 completes its review and appointments are finalized, we
10 will share the updates. We hope those updates will be
11 coming shortly. Of course, as we're waiting for those
12 announcements, we are -- we also have an open call for
13 new council applications and nominations. So, please,
14 the application forms are available on the public table.
15 For details, you can talk to your Coordinator. Nissa
16 will keep you all updated on where you're at and when
17 your term expires. So, we are looking for you all to
18 reapply and if there is any openings and vacancies, we
19 hope to fill those vacancies with qualified candidates.

20
21 The gentleman from Cooper Landing has
22 left. I was going to give him a pointed look. Let's see,
23 where are we? Ah! Well, there you go, this concludes my
24 presentation. I'm happy to take any questions.
25 Otherwise, I'll zip on out of here.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Judy's
28 got one question.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: Just, thanks very much,
31 Robbin. Just a couple points of clarification, because
32 I probably didn't catch it all. The tribal consultation
33 before the Board meeting. Will that also be available
34 to people online?

35
36 MS. LA VINE: No, that is a government-
37 to-government and ANCSA corporation consultation
38 opportunities. So, the doors will be closed for that.

39
40 MS. CAMINER: I mean, to others -- to
41 tribes who might not be able to come in.

42
43 MS. LA VINE: Oh, yes. Yes. So, there is
44 an opportunity to attend virtually or in person.

45
46 MS. CAMINER: Great.

47
48 MS. LA VINE: Thank you.

1 MS. CAMINER: And then I probably just
2 didn't hear who filed the request for reconsideration
3 on Ketchikan.

4
5 MS. LA VINE: We had two proponents and
6 one was Craig Tribal Association and the other was (In
7 Native) Native corporation. So, these are two tribal
8 organizations and corporations in the Southeast region.
9 Yep. Thank you.

10
11 MS. TOTEMOFF: I have one more question.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
14 Yeah. Go ahead, Angela.

15
16 MS. TOTEMOFF: Can you give me the dates
17 for the Federal Subsistence Board meeting again?

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: April.....

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 MS. LA VINE: The Federal Subsistence
24 Board meeting for the wildlife regulatory meeting,
25 that's going to be the 21st through the 24th. I will
26 give you all a heads up. You may be aware -- April, of
27 April. And the tribal consultations begin 1 p.m. on the
28 20th, Monday the 20th. I am going to give you all a
29 heads up that there is a very full agenda. And Greg,
30 even if you were Chair, I think it would take a while
31 to get through everything. So, there may be, especially
32 up front, some long days.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Wouldn't be bad
35 if you give me one day of training beforehand. Go ahead,
36 Faye.

37
38 MS. EWAN: There was a, you mentioned
39 something about a representative from this Board here?

40
41 MS. LA VINE: Yes. Thank you. Through the
42 Chair. Some of you are new, some of you have been around
43 for a very long time. But it is essential to our process
44 that a representative of your Council, usually the
45 Chair, attends the Board meeting. When the Board is
46 taking action on any of these proposals they're going
47 to be reviewing your recommendations. And then the Chair
48 is there to answer questions and provide more insight
49 about what you discussed here and the knowledge that you
50 shared. And so, that's -- of course, everybody can come

1 and attend. But your Council representative, Greg
2 Encelewski, he is a liaison to the Board, and he will
3 be seated around the table with the Board as an advisor,
4 as is the state, the state representative there. And
5 then Council, or sorry, OSM staff is there to support
6 the Board process. And then there is plenty of
7 opportunity for the public to come to the table.

8
9 MS. EWAN: How long does it take to put
10 a proposal through the Federal Subsistence, seems like
11 there's lots of votes to dump to get to the main Board.
12 You know, when the ANSCA, I mean, the ANILCA first
13 became, my people from my home, my dad, my grandpa, and
14 all our relatives on my dad's side, they were the ones
15 that was on the Federal Subsistence Board with Mitch
16 Demientieff. I wrote the first customary traditional
17 proposal for -- if you look at it, you'll see
18 (indiscernible) signed it. I wrote that for the
19 recognition of our customary traditional use, and it's
20 back in the 80s. But, you know, from going back, way
21 back. I think there should be a seat for the tribal
22 members too, to be on that Federal Subsistence Board as
23 a representative, just because the Southcentral RAC and
24 these other RACs, there's no tribal representation.
25 Except OSM has a tribal liaison, but he don't come to
26 Copper River and talk to us. You know, he don't go around
27 and see what's going on with reality. I'm talking about
28 reality. I live off the land. That's the only way I feed
29 my family. I don't have no big income. I don't have
30 Social Security and all that. You know what? I don't
31 live on food stamps and stuff like that. I live off my
32 hands. I'm very creative with my hands. But without moose
33 skin, caribou skin and all of those things I need, it
34 hurts my way of life, by producing. I make vests, I sew,
35 I can make anything out of any kind of animals and stuff.
36 To me, there's nothing in this federal law and anything
37 in these state law that says there should be a criteria
38 for the Native Americans to exercise their rights in
39 time of shortage and time of loss. It should be some
40 kind of clause in these verbiage here that needs to be
41 recognized. As a federally recognized tribal member, I
42 would like to see that implemented in the Federal
43 Subsistence Board. And those people that are crying
44 about it, that's okay. You look at the Federal
45 Subsistence Board and you look at the State Board.
46 There's one Native I see on the on the State Board. I
47 forgot his name. Kirk something. But anyways, I think
48 that representation to me is that I want to be
49 represented. I don't care if you're Timbuktu, but I want
50 to, I want my voice to be heard at the table.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye, your voice is being heard.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. EWAN: And I think that (indiscernible). Thank you and thank you, Greg.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes, Faye, your voice is being heard loud and clear quite often today, and we appreciate it. But, one of the things I just remind you all, you know, we're here as the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, these people all come to us with proposals and we go through them, we vet them, and we come up with decisions and we present them to the Federal Board. Most actions that I've seen that really been favorable have went through this process, including the fishing on the Kenai, Ninilchik that they won. Took a took a little bit more than that, took a few lawsuits, but, but anyway, yeah, there is a procedure. We're going to have training tomorrow. You're going to have training, I guess. But anyway, we're going to talk more about it. But you are a representative to speak at these meetings.

MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just add, and as you said, we're going to be holding training for new and old members in regards to the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and we can discuss a lot of the things that you brought up in detail. Some of the things that I can answer and say, look, this is where this is covered or this answers this and wow! That's a good question. And that is a great observation, we'll be taking notes. But anyway, that can happen tomorrow. And really, I invite all of you to join us here for further training. Or not, maybe. Okay, I will let Nissa go.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I don't think we decided yet, but she'll be talking to it, yeah. Okay. We got -- thank you, Robbin. I think that covers that. But thank you very much. We have -- one thing we would like -- I'd like to go back to -- whoops! Okay. When we were talking, the National Park Service rule, we would like to go back. We got a couple comments we want to get on record, please.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nissa, I thought, one thing I probably neglected to

1 mention before is change in the same day airborne rules.
2 And I think that should be part of our comments, too.
3 And then I had a quick question for Amber. The previous
4 rules that came out and regulations had an environmental
5 assessment associated with them. Do you know if one has
6 been done for this?

7
8 MS. COHEN: Thank you. Through the Chair
9 Member Caminer, again, for the record, this is Amber
10 Cohen, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.
11 And actually, there is an answer for this in the Federal
12 Register Notice. It does say, the MPS will prepare an
13 environmental assessment to determine whether this
14 proposed rule will have a significant impact on the
15 quality of human environment under NEPA. The
16 environmental assessment will include appropriate new
17 information and analysis of impacts evaluated in the
18 environmental assessments prepared for the 2015 rule,
19 the 2017 rule, the 2020 rule, and the 2024 rule, all of
20 which resulted in a finding of no significant impact.
21 The environmental assessment will incorporate feedback
22 received during pre-consultation, consultation with
23 tribes and ANCSA corporations and during public comment
24 periods.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: No. So, we can expect it
27 in the future then?

28
29 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair. That is
30 correct.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Thanks a lot.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Amber,
35 could I get you just one more second? Same-day airborne.
36 You want to make sure it's on the record? We just want
37 to make sure that it's on the record and explained.

38
39 MS. COHEN: Yeah, through the Chair,
40 again, Amber Cohen, from Wrangell-St. Elias. I guess I
41 wanted just a clarity on the question, if that's
42 something that's being considered and being in the
43 revisions or just asking for clarification on the
44 question.

45
46 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
47 way it's written, I'm wondering if it liberalizes same-
48 day airborne, which would then, of course, put
49 subsistence users at a great disadvantage. And, you
50 know, I don't quite have it memorized from before, but

1 it might be a change from past practices, and.....

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MS. COHEN: Through the Chair, Member Caminer. From my understanding, what they're looking to do in 13.42 is just to move all of that up to 13.40 and so, that prohibition would remain in place in my reading of the Federal Register Notice.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you much. Okay, that (distortion). Okay. Nissa is going to give us some correspondence updates.

MS. PILCHER: All right. So, in your supplemental materials, on page 31, is the one letter that has been drafted by your Council since, what? 62 days ago, since you last met. That was on the, your comments to the Federal Subsistence Management Program review that's currently ongoing. It has been submitted, so I can't -- and it was approved by your Chair. So, I can't change that letter. But if -- not that I want to advocate for delaying the meeting, but if there's something in there that isn't in there that you want it in there, we can certainly draft another letter. But that is all the correspondence that has been drafted at this time and no correspondence was received that was directed towards your Council. So, that is the correspondence update.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you. I don't want to rewrite the letter either, if I don't have to. But anyway, I don't think we got anyone saying that. What?

MS. PILCHER: I did want to also echo what Angela had said earlier today. As noted, that is an ongoing comment period. So, if anyone, individually, on this Council or listening in would like to submit comments that is still ongoing through the end of this month.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: March 30th.

MS. PILCHER: Yes. Oh.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think go ahead, Angela.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there a way that we can get other -- we can see other RACs responses? Or comments to the federal, the review?

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MS. PILCHER: Yeah, I can certainly, those should have actually been included with this meeting materials. I can put a packet together and email it out to you guys so you guys can see. I do believe they're available also on the Federal Register, but that is a very long thing to wade through. But I'll put that together and send out an email.

MS. TOTEMOFF: That'd be great, just to see if -- I'm assuming we're all saying similar things, I just want to make sure that we're not missing anything from other regions.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's good. Okay. I just asked Nissa if we could -- do come up with something between now and the 30th that you review and we could give it to her and she could get it in there. Okay? Okay. Next we have Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update Anna and Hannah.

MS. SENEAL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It took a while to get here but (indiscernible).

MS. SENEAL: Here I am.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MS. SENEAL: Yeah, here I am. Home stretch. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members. for the record, Anna Senecal, OSM and I am joined online by Hannah Voorhees, who is Anthropologist, OSM. And we're here to provide brief updates on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, FRMP, and also the Partners Program. So, those are two funding sources, funding programs. And the mission of the Monitoring Program is to identify and provide information needed to sustain the Federal Subsistence Fisheries. And the Monitoring Program also supports meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and promotes collaboration among federal, state, Alaska Native, and local organizations. So, that's the umbrella, that's the mission. OSM is currently in the final phase of the 2026 monitoring program funding cycle, which Robbin alluded to. It went before the Board. The Board approved the plan, which was really more of a process, because at the time we didn't have a budget and we still don't have exact numbers, so

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1 we have a process that we're working through. The Federal
2 Subsistence Board met in early February and approved the
3 final monitoring program funding plan or process. But
4 with this cycle coming to an end, what's the next step
5 is to prepare for the next cycle? And the major
6 contribution point that the RACs have in this process
7 is identifying those information gaps or priority
8 information needs. So, here's an opportunity for these
9 knowledge gaps and local concerns related to subsistence
10 fisheries to be identified. And this is going to guide
11 what projects are submitted for consideration. So, these
12 get included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and,
13 basically, those are the folks that apply. So, it really
14 does set the foundation for the Monitoring Program. And
15 we're asking for volunteers from this Council. The
16 Southcentral is kind of unique. I think it's the only
17 region where there's only one Council that identifies
18 your PINs. So, that's easy peasy. So, you would meet by
19 telephone, over the summer, to identify knowledge gaps
20 and information needed for management of your
21 subsistence fisheries. And the draft list of priority
22 information needs that's developed by the volunteers
23 will be presented back to the Councils for final approval
24 during their fall 2026 meeting. So, this is not an action
25 item, but I am looking to walk away today with a couple
26 of names, 2 or 3, for volunteers for working on the
27 PINs. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. I can take questions and
28 accept volunteers at this time.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: A lot of fun to
31 work on the PINs. So, I've been involved and I'm being
32 kind of facetious, but it was a lot of fun actually. So,
33 if you've got volunteers, we'll get them to -- yeah.

34
35 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

38
39 MS. TOTEMOFF: Before I throw myself on
40 the grenade.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah

43
44 MS. TOTEMOFF: What does that involve,
45 exactly? Like, the timeline, meetings. Yeah.

46
47 MS. SENECAL: Thank you. Through the
48 Chair. I -- this is also my first rodeo. Going to be
49 super upfront about that, but from what I've heard, it's
50 one, maybe two meetings. It's a couple of hours, it's

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1 virtual or on the phone. So, I think it involves, you
2 know, going over the existing PINs, talking, just pretty
3 informal, talking about what the needs are. It could be
4 more structured. It's really up to you, up to the team.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: And there isn't really,
9 like, a specific deadline or a date that it has to get
10 done. It's basically sometime this summer that works for
11 everybody that's involved kind of a thing. So, we'll go
12 to the individuals that want to participate and try to
13 figure out when a good time is for everyone to meet.
14 Because we also do understand that summers are busy.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And then you'll
17 cancel it and reschedule it and then reschedule it one
18 more time and then you'll get it.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 I just want to work on them. Andy's
23 shaking his head. Michael, you have enough to do, you're
24 okay.

25

26 (Talking)

27

28 Okay. You got two volunteers, that's
29 good. Those guys could work with Nissa, and we could
30 talk to her, too, so. You could take those names and
31 write them in stone.

32

33 MS. SENEAL: Moving.

34

35 (Talking)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question
38 for.....

39

40 MS. EWAN: How long is this voluntary
41 position?

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: A couple hours.

44

45 MS. EWAN: Just once or twice a year?
46 That's a long time.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

49

50

1 MS. SENEAL: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair. It's one, likely one meeting. Maybe two. Probably
3 one, couple hours long. Sometime this summer. A date
4 that works for everybody.

5
6 MS. EWAN: Can I just volunteer somebody?
7 I was going to say Deanna back there. I don't know if
8 she's still back there. AITRC, for AITRC, Deanna back
9 there.

10
11 MS. SENEAL: So, the PINs do need to
12 come from the RAC. It is, I think, a great idea to confer
13 with the local experts. Resource -- folks that are in
14 touch with the resource. At the North Slope meeting,
15 there's similar conversation, but then they have to come
16 from the RAC.

17
18 (Talking)

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We have -- what
21 I was hearing is he was nominating someone We can't do
22 that. Right. I think it's a good idea. I thought we did,
23 because I worked on PINs and I had people talking to me
24 and supporting us from other areas, but maybe they
25 weren't part of the actual -- okay. Yeah. Okay. Okay.
26 Well, we got to we got it on there. We're good, Faye.
27 Well, good. We're, we'll be good. Okay.

28
29 MS. SENEAL: All right. Fantastic. Thank
30 you, volunteers. It'll be great fun. I hear it's great
31 fun. Okay. For the for the record, Mr. Chair, Council
32 members, again, Anna Senecal, OSM, and now I have the
33 pleasure of updating you on the Partners for Fisheries
34 Monitoring Program, collectively known as the Partners.
35 We have FRMP and we have Partners. One's identifying
36 research gaps. And one is capacity building. So, the
37 Office of Subsistence Management posted a Notice of
38 Funding Opportunity for the Partners Program during
39 spring of 2025. And this is a competitive grant for
40 Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations. So
41 only Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations
42 can apply. The intent of this program is to strengthen
43 Alaska Native and rural involvement in federal
44 subsistence management by providing salary funds to
45 organizations so they can hire professional biologists,
46 social scientists, or educators. So, it funds positions,
47 capacity building. It also provides funds for science
48 and culture camps and paid student internships. The
49 funding lasts for up to four years, and the Partners
50 Program Review Panel made up of subject matter experts

1 across various DOI agencies have reviewed the proposals
2 and OSM, the Regional Director, has approved final
3 funding for three new partners or continuing partners.
4 So, these are the Bristol Bay Native Association, Native
5 Village of Eyak and Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
6 Commission. The next Notice of Funding Opportunity will
7 be sometime in the spring of 2027, for funding to begin
8 in 2028. And so, if you'd like to learn more about this
9 program, you can contact Liz Williams, Anthropologist
10 with OSM, via email or phone, and her contact information
11 can be found on the Partners' web page at
12 www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners. And if anyone here is
13 interested, come see me or other OSM team members, at
14 any time, during the last 15 minutes of this meeting,
15 and we'd be happy to answer questions about the program.
16 So, thank you, Mr. Chair. This concludes my updates, and
17 I think there's some more interesting content coming at
18 you from actual projects. It's very exciting.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I asked her if
21 she was referring to Matt of the other interesting
22 comments. My light was red. Maybe I had my hand in front
23 of my face. Okay. Thank you. Very good. Okay, next we
24 have, you know, I don't know how you end up on the back
25 of the end, but come on up, Matt. You got to give us
26 your report. Yeah. We should reshuffle the deck once in
27 a while, let you out early.

28
29 MR. PICHE: Good afternoon, Chair and
30 fellow Council members. My name is Matt Piche. I am the
31 Fish Biologist and Natural Resources Coordinator at the
32 Native Village of Eyak Tribal Government in Cordova and
33 my position is funded through the OSM Partners Program.
34 Last summer marked the 25th year of NVE's Mark-Recapture
35 Program to estimate the annual in-river abundance of
36 Copper River chinook salmon. This monitoring project is
37 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and
38 NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund through the
39 Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. In 2025 -- this handout
40 that just got passed out, I'm just going to go through
41 that briefly. In 2025, the in-river abundance estimate
42 of Copper River chinook salmon was 35,584 with a standard
43 error of 9,751. This represents the number of chinook
44 salmon passing through Baird Canyon on the lower Copper
45 River from the 13th of May through the 20th of July,
46 measuring greater than 500mm total length.

47
48 We flip to the next page, this bar
49 graph, by adding the commercial and subsistence harvest
50 that occurs below the tagging site gives us a returning

1 run size estimate of approximately 42,000 and a half
2 chinook salmon in 2025, and spawning escapement will be
3 estimated by subtracting the harvest occurring above the
4 tagging site from the in-river abundance estimate. In
5 2025, no personal use harvest occurred on chinook salmon
6 and sport fisheries were restricted. All subsistence
7 fisheries in the Copper River remained unrestricted in
8 2025. Based on these harvest restrictions and average
9 subsistence harvests, it's very likely that the spawning
10 escapement goal was met in 2025 for Copper River chinook
11 salmon. The escapement estimate will be published by
12 ADF&G once the sportfish harvest data comes in. The
13 sustainable escapement goal on the Copper River for
14 chinook salmon is 21,000 to 31,000 fish.

15
16 On this page and also the following one
17 is the chinook salmon run performance and harvest
18 performance since 1980 so, for the past 46 years. Each
19 total bar, from the bottom all the way to the top,
20 represents returning run size. All of the color bars
21 represent what made it in-river past the commercial
22 fishery, which is represented by the gray bar. And then
23 each color represents harvest per user group or area.
24 The light blue line on the bottom represents spawning
25 escapement during this period of time.

26
27 Page three is just the same data that's
28 in that bar chart, just numerical. And then, lastly, on
29 page four, the one with the pie chart here, is our
30 preliminary results of our most recent radio telemetry
31 study on Copper River sockeye salmon. Last year we put
32 out just over 1,000 sockeye salmon radio tags,
33 distributed evenly across the run from early May into
34 August. And this is a joint study between Native Village
35 of Eyak, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of
36 Sport Fish, Glennallen Field Office and also the Prince
37 William Sound Science Center. There's a lot to talk about
38 and I will get into this more at the fall meeting. It'll
39 be a little more applicable then. But we took energetics
40 on these fish. We tracked them. We have run-timing past
41 all these telemetry stations set up through the river
42 so, we have migratory speed. And we have their end
43 spawning location. We did aerial surveys to track the
44 fish where they're actually spawning across the entire
45 67,000 square kilometer drainage. But the big takeaway
46 from 2025 data is that big blue piece of the pie that
47 represents Klutina. So, 55% of all sockeye salmon
48 returning to the Copper River wound up in the Klutina
49 drainage. This marks the seventh year that Native
50 Village of Eyak has done this work and 2025 represents

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1 the highest Klutina stock proportion that we've seen.
2 And determining the drivers of this stock composition
3 is a top priority for the tribe. And NVE is working with
4 partners to try to learn more about Klutina salmon
5 productivity and assess stock vulnerability across the
6 watershed. And more to come on this at the fall meeting,
7 after we have more time with the data. And I'm happy to
8 take any questions. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great report.
11 So, you did say the chinook escapement 2025 was met,
12 right?

13
14 MR. PICHE: Correct. Well, okay. So,
15 technically, sportfish harvests, we won't know that
16 until all the mail-out harvest survey data comes in from
17 ADF&G. So, ADF&G is who actually publishes the actual
18 escapement number. But I mean, it would have to be a
19 heck of a lot of harvest for us not to meet the
20 escapement goal. It's highly likely that the escapement
21 goal will have been met in 2025.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's good
24 news.

25
26 MR. PICHE: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's very
29 good news. Okay. Questions? Sorry. Go ahead, Dennis.

30
31 MR. ZADRA: Good report, Matt. Just for
32 my information, these kings come back, like, in 4 or 5
33 or 6 years, right?

34
35 MR. PICHE: Yeah. And even some sevens.

36
37 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Do you know, roughly,
38 what the percentage of all those are?

39
40 MR. PICHE: So, off the top of my head,
41 I don't want to misquote it, but what I am comfortable
42 talking about is the fact that we've seen age truncation
43 on the Copper River. So, the majority of the kings that
44 are returning are five-year olds. And this number is
45 increasing. We're seeing more and more and more five-
46 year olds and fewer and fewer six and seven-year olds.
47 So, we're seeing more, yeah. The age truncation is
48 occurring. And that is something to be concerned about.
49 You like having age distribution across the different
50 years, particularly if something drastic happens, you

1 know, in one tributary, you want some of those genetics
2 to come back as six-year olds or seven-year olds or
3 four-year olds. So, if all your bread is in one basket,
4 if they're all five-year olds, that is something to be
5 concerned about. The other thing that we're seeing on
6 the Copper River, and it's unique to see all of this
7 together, but we're also seeing decrease in size across
8 all ages. So, every age class is getting smaller. And
9 that's been a steady decline for the past 20 years. We,
10 at NVE, we have well over 100,000 fish measurements,
11 dating back to 1999. I'd be happy to give a more detailed
12 report on the changes in size and age at the fall
13 meeting, if that's something that you'd like. I'm just
14 I'm not prepared to go into the details.

15

16 MR. ZADRA: Oh, yeah. No, that answers
17 the question. I'm just, so, the majority are five-year
18 olds.

19

20 MR. PICHE: Majority are five-year olds,
21 and the proportion of five-year olds is getting larger.
22 We're seeing fewer and fewer six- and seven-year olds.

23

24 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And that's the
27 bad news of the report. Okay. Go ahead, Andy.

28

29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chair. Has there been any, out of all these years you're
31 gathering this data, any run timing changes, not just
32 the size of these fish and the year class of these fish
33 or whatever. The last year in particular, everything was
34 like a month behind, from what I noticed myself on the
35 Upper Copper. So, is the timing of these fish coming in
36 at a later time of year?

37

38 MR. PICHE: Excellent question. So, just
39 to clarify, the current radio telemetry study that it's
40 -- one of the goals is to look at stock specific run
41 timing. We haven't gotten into the run timing for 2025
42 yet per stock, so I can absolutely have that information
43 for you at the fall meeting. For chinook salmon, though,
44 we've done, we finished that study three years ago. And,
45 from the first study done, from 2002 to 2004, to the
46 study done 2019 to 2022 -- or 2023, we saw no changes
47 in overall run timing between those two snapshot time
48 periods for chinook salmon. But sockeye salmon, I'm not
49 -- we'll have that data for you, I just don't have that
50 worked up at this point in time.

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

MR. PICHE: Yeah. What we did see for sockeye salmon, last year, was some extremely fast migratory time through the river. There were a lot of reports at the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Meeting about fish arriving in the Upper Copper River district, bright and colorful and firmer flesh. And they look different in 2025. They looked healthier. And that coincides with what we were observing in terms of migratory timing. We were seeing them get from, basically, the salt water into Wood Canyon, the dip net fishery there, the federal subsistence dip net fishery in Chitina in six, seven days. So, those fish were flying. That's 160km, you know, in six, seven days. So, the fish were moving really, really fast, early season in that low water and just taking advantage of that low water. So, it likely resulted in fish getting up to the spawning grounds in a bit better shape. And, like I said, we were taking energetics on all of those fish so I'll actually have some data to present on that, yeah, later.

MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

MS. EWAN: I am from Copper River and, listening to your report, sounds really -- just like the big, beautiful bill. I, for myself, and I have a fish wheel. We also dip net to teach. I teach my grandchildren how to use different forms of fishing. But anyways, I see that king salmon, it -- May 15th, it opened up and I know there's still ice under the on the river. And I know, from my traditional knowledge, that that fish come up the river way before NVE put their fish wheel monitor into the sonar, into the river. I can pretty much tell you that the king salmon is not the way it used to come back to us. We don't eat jack king, Ahtna people don't eat jack king because we have a traditional story for that. But when it comes to king salmon, I noticed that a lot of the meat is not dark red. It's like pink beige color. And also, a lot of those fish come back with marks of nets on it, with squares. I never knew they had square skin before in my whole 71 years I live in Copper River. Because that's coming from nets and boats, that somebody need it and let it go. And those fish that came back with those marks on there were sick. I worked with ARITC [sic]. I started that salmon program because I was concerned about the health of our people.

1

2 I think that the reds, when they come
3 in, like the June month run, I noticed it came in right
4 around the 20th of May and end of July -- end of June
5 month run. We have different runs. We know where they
6 go. And when the June month, end of the month, June come
7 in, that came in, in the middle of June. July run came
8 in, in June 15th. It's like 2 or 3 weeks ahead of time,
9 month ahead of time, I know that, the biology of the
10 salmon. And then, when you take out the eggs, they're
11 already squished out. All you have to do is squeeze the
12 stomach and the eggs start squirting out. That is not
13 healthy. That is something that needs to be documented,
14 is the health of the salmon. How much contamination you
15 find in those rivers. I know there's the health issue
16 of salmon is very, I don't know, like Karen said today,
17 you might have to do a moratorium on king salmon, which
18 is going to be hard on us because that's our main staple.
19 But, you know, throwing that fish back into the river,
20 too, is another issue. But I think the health of the
21 salmon is not the way I seen it in 1960, 70, 80, 90,
22 2000. The last 10-15 years, the salmon health has gone
23 down. And I know that when we make salmon grease, I know
24 how much that fish is healthy. We have different methods
25 of weighing how we know how fish is. And NVE, you say
26 52% of that salmon was going up to Klutina. Well, you
27 got people that are sports fishing and fishing that out.
28 How much is making it to the lake? That's what I want
29 to know. Not just what goes by the creek. I want to know
30 what gets into the lake and how much comes back out, and
31 how much goes back to the route -- back to the ocean.
32 This is the kind of information I'd like to see. Thank
33 you.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, Matt, I
36 guess you could take that under advisement, but I do
37 know you got a report of some healthy fish that are
38 moving pretty fast. I'm really concerned that the, you
39 know, the upper age is not returning the way they should.
40 Also concerned on some of the contaminants, some of the
41 stuff we see in the fish, too. But it's really good to
42 see an indication that there's more kings coming up, so.
43 Anyway, any other questions for Matt? If -- go ahead,
44 Angela.

45

46 MS. TOTEMOFF: No question, just a
47 comment. Really excited to see this partnership. So,
48 yeah, keep up the great work. Looking forward to seeing
49 more of these reports moving forward. Thank you.

50

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1 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.
4 Okay, now we have Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission,
5 Partners Report, Tanada Creek Weir.

6

7 MR. GORZE: Yeah. Hello? Can everybody
8 hear me?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we hear
11 you loud and clear.

12

13 MR. GORZE: All right. For the record,
14 my name is Dan Gorze.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dan.

17

18 MR. GORZE: A bit of an echo here. But
19 I'm a Fisheries Biologist for Ahtna Intertribal Resource
20 Commission. I just received Partners funding for my
21 salary for, hopefully, the coming years. I wish I could
22 be there in person today, but a bit under the weather
23 so, presenting from home. I have quite a few projects
24 going on, but I'm here specifically to address the Tanada
25 Creek Salmon Weir. We entered into a cooperative
26 agreement with Wrangell-St. Elias. This is an FRMP
27 funded project. Overall, the season 2025 went really
28 well. I ran the project on minimal funding, in
29 anticipation of a second year of run time. We ran with
30 one technician, Mentasta resident, Tim Olsen. He did an
31 outstanding job. He did the work, historically, of 2 or
32 3 people. We upgraded the physical weir structure with
33 the NPS maintenance crew. AITRC upgraded the DVR system,
34 the camera, the lighting system. Most importantly, the
35 AITRC team designed video review media player for more
36 efficient footage review.

37

38 We had 81 days of counts between June
39 19th and September 25th. High water and underestimating
40 the capacity of the new DVR led to a couple weeks missed
41 counts. During that time, the Batzulnetas fish wheel,
42 directly downstream, had minimal to no harvest, so we're
43 confident that there was no fish passage at that time
44 or very minimal. This passage was 11,067 sockeye and one
45 chinook. Peak daily passage was July 21st to July 30th,
46 when the high flows subsided, with about 45% of the run
47 traveling past in that ten-day period. There was a
48 smaller second peak around August 15th, which indicated
49 later run timing than normal. Otolith collection for age
50 composition, (indiscernible) was conducted September

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1 14th and 15th. Approximately 91%, historically, of these
2 fish are five-year olds.

3
4 I requested funds from FRMP to continue
5 this project, and after running this year and receiving
6 PFMP funds, I can run this project in less than requested
7 funding. Now a quick summary comparing to other years
8 of the long-term index. Non-continuous passage estimates
9 beginning in 1997 have been ranked for confidence high,
10 meaning full count; moderate, as partial count; and low
11 as a minimal count. I'm only comparing to the high
12 confidence estimates at this point. There's 15 years of
13 high confidence data. The range, the minimum is 5,800
14 fish. Maximum is 52,000 fish. The mean is 18,500 and the
15 median is 14,300. So, comparing 2025 Tanada Creek salmon
16 passage of 11,000, approximately, sockeye was 22% below
17 the median and fell within the interquartile range of
18 about 9,000 to 28,000, indicating a below average but
19 typical return with the observed range of variability.
20 In simpler terms, 2025 was a below average, but not
21 anomalously low return consistent with observed
22 interannual variability in Tanada Creek.

23
24 Miles Lake sonar, this last year was
25 900,000 fish. It's important to note, I was playing with
26 some numbers and there is no big surprise, no correlation
27 between Tanada Creek salmon passage and the Miles Lake
28 sonar annual in-river abundance estimate, nor Miles Lake
29 sonar total passage estimate of brewed year and return
30 of progeny at Tanada Creek. Next, I'm going to compare
31 passage at each site, Miles Lake sonar and Tanada Creek,
32 by stat week and account for lag time based on radio
33 telemetry. See if there's a correlation and explore how
34 environmental variables and extraction may interact.
35 Lastly, I'm working on utilizing machine learning for
36 automated counting. That concludes my report and I'm
37 open to questions.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right, Dan,
40 thanks. Good report. Questions. There is a below 22%.
41 That's not good. Anyone want to tackle the question?

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Dan, believe it or not, they're getting
46 tired or whatever's happening. But I think that.....

47
48 (Simultaneous speech)

49
50

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1 MR. GORZE: Sounds like everybody's ready
2 to go home.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I guess.
5 Okay. Well, thank you much. What? Yeah. Could we get a
6 copy of your report?

7
8 MR. GORZE: Yes, you can.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.
11 You send it to Nissa, she'll get it to us. Thank you,
12 Angela.

13
14 MR. GORZE: Will do.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you
17 much.

18
19 MR. GORZE: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right.
22 Well, according to my agenda, we're on number 13, Council
23 Members Closing Comments.

24
25 (Talking)

26
27 Oh, handy dandy. Andy. Okay, go ahead.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: I can give a very brief
30 update. So, the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
31 Council requested to the Federal Subsistence Board that
32 on the -- in the hunting federal regulation books that
33 in addition to the lands that are already mapped out in
34 there, that tribal and ANSCA lands also be added to the
35 overlays. And the Federal Subsistence Board suggested
36 that all of the other Councils weigh in on it. So far
37 all of the other ones have, at this point in time. The
38 ones that I have been involved with were all positive
39 that they wanted to see this happen. It is another
40 overlay, to a map that already is rather busy. But yeah,
41 it's not an action item. It's just a -- what is the
42 Council think?

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, as the CEO
45 of a Native corporation with 70,000 acres here, 50,000
46 across the inlet, I would, you know, it's public
47 information. They're going to find it if they want it.
48 The overlay may get busy, but I think it could be good.
49 And the reason I say it could be good, because it
50 identifies private lands and the private lands should

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1 be respected, regardless, so. That's my comment on it.
2 I'm not in charge of it, but that's what I'd tell you.
3 I'm all for it.

4
5 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
8 Angela.

9
10 MS. TOTEMOFF: I concur.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hey, we have
13 concurrence, very good. We took care of that one. Anyone
14 object?

15
16 (No response)

17
18 Hearing none. I think we'll give you the
19 go ahead. Thank you. Okay, how am I going to pick this?
20 I got to figure it out. I think Edward GreyBear, you've
21 been very good and very involved today, and I think you
22 should start with the comments.

23
24 MR. GREYBEAR: I just want to say thank
25 you, everyone, for meeting again. I know we've just seen
26 each other two months ago, but still, it's always really
27 exciting to come to these meetings and to get to talk
28 to everybody and get to see everybody out there. I'm up
29 in Fairbanks, going to school, so I don't really get to
30 see my community as much during the school time, so.
31 It's really nice. I'm looking forward to the summertime,
32 looking forward to fishing and yeah, can't wait for the
33 next meeting in the fall.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you've had
36 nice cool weather up there.

37
38 MR. GREYBEAR: It was really cold. Yeah.
39 I think we set a record in Fairbanks for coldest date
40 in March.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I got a
43 grandkid, grandson works up there. Anyway.

44
45 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I just like to
46 reiterate the good meeting. Nice to get done with this
47 in a day. And I guess I'm going to go participate in
48 Board of Fish now.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You did good.
2 And I know you was on the radio -- on the phone and
3 everything else so, we appreciate that. You go ahead and
4 give your comments. I know you probably missed a little,
5 but you probably heard most of it, I think.

6
7 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I tried to get as much
8 as I could in as I was. Driving wasn't always the best
9 signal at times echoes and things like that. But, you
10 know, it was great to have that option to be able to
11 call in and still participate in that way so, I do
12 appreciate that. The discussions I did here were pretty
13 good. And yeah, thanks. Look forward to the next one.

14
15 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
16 to all the participants. Once again, we packed a lot of
17 information into many hours, but we do a good job of
18 that, and I think we had some good, thorough discussions
19 today. So, wishing everybody a good summer and good trip
20 home.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, we left
23 them on the phone till the end so, you go ahead.

24
25 MS. TOTEMOFF: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair
26 (indiscernible). First of all, thanks to the team, the
27 staff, this meeting space, the organization. I
28 appreciate that a lot, you guys have done a lot of work.
29 So, federal subsistence users and community leaders,
30 please, please, please submit your comments. Encourage
31 your community, community members, tribal members to
32 submit their comments in support of the Federal
33 Subsistence Management Program. Yeah, I truly support
34 this process and believe in all the input that is going
35 in from our -- directly from our communities. So, if you
36 guys haven't submitted your comments, I might be -- I'm
37 preaching to the choir, for sure. Please get them in and
38 talking to myself there a little bit. But also, this
39 packet here will have been doubled. So, if we could
40 please, please, please get some deadlines in place so
41 we can have some submissions, totally recognizing that
42 you guys had a quick turnaround on this meeting. I
43 recognize that and how hard it is. It's -- it would just
44 really help if we can have this in front of us a little
45 sooner so, I'd appreciate that. Last time -- and then
46 one last recognition, and thank you so much for the hard
47 work, Nissa. I had requested these last time. Yeah, so
48 I really love this idea. I have this on my desk and I
49 refer to it often so thank you for that. That's it.
50 Thank you. See you guys next time.

1

2 MS. EWAN: Hello everybody. I learned a
3 lot in this Council. I learned Robert's Rules of Orders.
4 I'm still learning. I enjoy the reports and understand
5 a lot of the biologist reports, and I see the numbers
6 and things and it really helps me understand everyday
7 life as I go through, you know, what we eat and how we,
8 you know, what we do with it. And one thing about Copper
9 River is that we have to share our 500 fish that we get
10 for being federal subsistence users. I share that food
11 with people from Allakaket and different places on the
12 Yukon for their potlatch and stuff. And I ended up with
13 200 fish because it was out of my permit. But I like to
14 see sometime maybe we can get a statistics on how many
15 people from different areas fish the Copper River and
16 the Kenai and the impact statement EIS statement on the
17 -- so we can give it to North Pacific Fishery Management
18 Council. So, maybe they could read those numbers. And
19 when we tell them the time of shortage, you know, the
20 time of shortage. And they don't listen to the tribes
21 and the people that advocate for their salmon. And the
22 control and the management of the caribou and all the
23 different animals. And I don't think there's a good
24 management there. And I really am happy that the federal
25 government came in and started helping our tribes to get
26 to where we are with permits and everything. I've been
27 federal subsistence user since they started in '82, '83,
28 and I'm number one on Copper River, Greg. That's my fish
29 wheel number.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Number one?

32

33 MS. EWAN: Number one.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We'll be
36 looking for it.

37

38 MS. EWAN: Yep. You'll see my official
39 number. Big number one on there.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You need to have
42 that big, big fat (In Native) in there because I'm like
43 the whale. I like to eat fresh kings.

44

45 MS. EWAN: Anyways, you know the numbers
46 I see, the impact, when we talk about Klutina. If there's
47 100, 200 trailers parked there and you go look around
48 the river, elbow to elbow combat fishing. It's right
49 from the river and it's only a three quarters of a mile
50 from the mouth of Copper River. So, I would like to see

1 that we move that fishing up at least three to five
2 miles up, further up there where they can let some of
3 that fish go by. Another impact is that population on
4 the caribou and moose. We get impacted, big time ,in
5 Copper River by all the hunters from all over the
6 country. And, you know, to me, I would like to see the
7 management from the state and the federal give us an
8 extra hunt. That's like Unit 15 and Unit 7 do in the
9 wintertime. That would be a really great. Especially for
10 us that do potlatches ceremony and stuff like that,
11 cultural things. That really helps. I got moose from one
12 of the people work for AITRC in our traditional way. He
13 gave me moose meat, gave me a portion of his moose and
14 things like that. You know, it went out to the people
15 that didn't get meat. And my people, they always say,
16 don't give Faye anything, she'll just give it away. But
17 that's our traditional way. We don't take and take and
18 take. It's not our way, being greedy. And, you know, I'm
19 really happy you guys have your heart into this, you
20 know, our way of life is very sacred to us. And thank
21 you for all your work, getting up at 8:00, going to
22 work, going to meetings. I worked for my tribe for many,
23 many years. And, you know, I am on top of what's going
24 on. And as far as the rights of my people, I think it's
25 being violated big time. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

28

29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you. Thanks,
30 big thanks to the Office of Subsistence Management, all
31 the agency people that come here and put a lot of time
32 into keeping us informed and helping us make decent
33 decisions. Thanks to all the RAC members, bringing their
34 knowledge and wisdom from all their, you know, home
35 territories. The marine waters of Prince William Sound
36 are still under state jurisdiction, though they are
37 being utilized by federal subsistence users. That's
38 something that doesn't seem like it's going to go away
39 because the Magnuson-Stevens Act. But let's get Kings
40 Bay opened. I think for moose next time. That's my plan.
41 Some type of proposal, get some help from OSM to get
42 Kings Bay back open, back up again. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right. Ed.

45

46 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
47 said in the past what I really appreciate, one of the
48 main things is discussion from OSM, agency reports,
49 AITRC, really mean a lot for us and for me. I want to
50 thank Nissa for all her hard work on this. I know it was

1 kind of a -- at times a little contentious but wasn't
2 your fault. And Greg, for keeping a good meeting going.
3 I just wanted to make one comment. I was at -- I'm on
4 our local AC and we were going over Board of Game
5 proposals. And what really interested me, because I'm
6 concerned with low population numbers of caribou, goat
7 and sheep in Unit 7. And there were a number of proposals
8 limiting the number of permits to be given to non-
9 residents down to, I think, from 20 to 10%. Whether
10 Board of Game goes along with that, I don't know. But
11 those and to some respect, moose, but especially sheep,
12 when you fly around and do a survey, you only see one
13 legal ram and you're still having hunts. That kind of
14 bothers me, so. But anyway, thank you for a good meeting,
15 I appreciate it.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
18 Okay. Kirk, we got you, go ahead.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Yeah. You know, I wish that
21 could have been in person today, but it's just not in
22 the cards for me. We just have so much going on, and I
23 apologize for not being a little more organized, but my
24 technical skills and just what's going on in my life
25 right now is kind of put me in a position where I haven't
26 had the time to really devote to it that I have,
27 especially since our meeting was only two months away.
28 I'm just thankful that we have the technology to -- for
29 me to participate. And I just thank all of you for being
30 there and just keep up the good work, everybody. Thank
31 you for letting me participate.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
34 Kirk. Good job. Thank you. Okay, that brings it to me.
35 I'm going to make a few comments. I think most everyone
36 said the comments I wanted to say. Nissa, I know I give
37 you a bad time about bringing last-minute stuff and
38 changing agendas, but that's my job, okay. And you do a
39 good job. So, keep it up. We do want to try and get the
40 material, as much as I can, ahead of time so we can
41 study it and go through it. I think that we're doing
42 some great business here. I think they're going to hold
43 a training session tomorrow. And I think all of those
44 that can participate, would be good to really get
45 refreshers and do some of that stuff. I'm really excited
46 to see some of the stuff that's showing up, that maybe
47 there's an increase in the kings coming back in some
48 areas. So, that's good news, if that's, you know, I know
49 it's not in our area, but. Anyway, I hope that we have
50 a good rest of our spring and it warms up someday. And

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1 -- did I leave anyone out? Did anyone have anything that
2 they want to finish up last parting shot or not? If not,
3 we're going to have a motion to adjourn.

4

5 MR. HOLSTEN: Just, quickly, where is
6 this training session to be held tomorrow?

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Right in your
9 seat.

10

11 MR HOLSTEN: Oh, okay. I'll be.....

12

13 MS. PILCHER: I can speak to it briefly
14 before we.....

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you speak
17 briefly because I got to use the restroom.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: I, so, it's been mentioned
20 a couple times, but one of the ideas I had since we're
21 closing, we're ending the meeting today, and the meeting
22 room is going to be open, is those members that don't
23 want to scoot out of town real fast, we can come back,
24 not on the record, at 10:00 tomorrow and do a brief
25 training session. We're spit balling at this point in
26 time. So, I don't have a topic yet. But it'd be a
27 training session and a chance to have a good
28 conversation. It looks like Robbin knows what she's,
29 yep. So, if 10:00 tomorrow morning, in here, for those
30 that are welcome are interested. It is not a mandatory
31 training but please, I'll have some snacks, so, come on
32 by, we'll talk a little bit and then that's it. Thanks.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Speaking of
35 snacks, that fish you brought from Costco. I'm a little
36 bit impressed. I've had some made there, but it was
37 actually doggone good strips. They must have got them
38 out of one of our rivers somewhere. Anyway. Thank you.
39 Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn?

40

41 MR. GREYBEAR: I'll make the motion to
42 adjourn.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

45

46 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded. All
49 in favor, aye.

50

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IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We stand
adjourned at 5:18.

(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 150 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 17th 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 8th day of April 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager