

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD
REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME III

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
JANUARY 28, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower, Public Member
Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 1/28/2021)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning
8 everybody. I will call on Sue to go ahead and, again,
9 check to see how many Board members we do have on
10 officially so we can start the order of the business
11 for the morning.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. This is Sue Detwiler. Starting with the roll
17 call of the Board, Don Striker, Park Service.
18
19 MR. STRIKER: Good morning everybody.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Don.
22
23 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
24 Siekaniec.
25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Good morning, Sue, and
27 everyone. I am present.
28
29 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Greg.
30
31 Gene Peltola, BIA.
32
33 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, Roger 10-4, good
34 morning everyone.
35
36 MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett, BLM.
37
38 MR. PADGETT: I am here, thanks, Sue.
39
40 MS. DETWILER: Dave Schmid, Forest
41 Service.
42
43 MR. SCHMID: Good morning from sunny
44 Juneau. Dave's here.
45
46 MS. DETWILER: Thanks, Dave.
47
48 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
49
50

1 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here.
2
3 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Rhonda.
4
5 Public Member Charlie Brower.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MS. DETWILER: And, Chair, Tony
10 Christianson.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm on.
13
14 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Chair.
15 Mr. Chair, we have seven of eight Board members or --
16 seven of eight Board members online now, we're still
17 waiting for Charlie Brower. Would you like me to run
18 through the list of Regional Advisory Councils to see
19 which Chairs are online.
20
21 (Pause)
22
23 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, did we
24 lose.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, no, no,
27 I'm still here, Sue.
28
29 MS. DETWILER: Sorry. Would you like
30 me to go through the list of Regional Advisory Councils
31 to see which Chairs are online.
32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, especially
34 since we have a few that want to be recognized this
35 morning to report out and share their concerns so we
36 will reach out to make sure. And, also we did get a
37 couple, you know, reports that, you know, some people
38 had issues with their lines yesterday and if those
39 people still had something, you know, we'll provide an
40 opportunity this morning as well.
41
42 So, thank you, Sue.
43
44 MS. DETWILER: Okay. I will -- I'll
45 quickly go through the roll call and see who's on then.
46
47 Southeast Chair Cathy Needham.
48
49 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm present, thank you.
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
2
3 Southcentral Chair. I understand Greg
4 Encelewski was not able to join us today but is there
5 somebody else speaking on behalf of Southcentral
6 Council.
7
8 MS. PERRY: Yes. This is DeAnna Perry,
9 Council Coordinator. I'll be present to submit the
10 Southcentral recommendations.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, DeAnna.
15
16 Kodiak/Aleutians, Della Trumble.
17
18 MS. TRUMBLE: Good morning, I'm here.
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Della.
21
22 Bristol Bay, Nanci Morris Lyon.
23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm present.
25
26 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
27
28 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Ray Oney.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Sue. This
31 is Eva. Ray Oney will be joining us a little bit later
32 this morning.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you, Eva.
37
38 Western Interior, Jenny Pelkola.
39
40 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, I'm here.
41
42 MS. DETWILER: Seward Peninsula, Louis
43 Green.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MS. DETWILER: Seward Peninsula.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay, we don't have
2 anyone -- it looks like no one's on yet.
3
4 Northwest Arctic.
5
6 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Sue. This
7 is Katya. Northwest Arctic Chair, Enoch Shiedt,
8 hopefully will be joining us later today.
9
10 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
11
12 Eastern Interior.
13
14 MR. KRON: Good morning, Sue. Yeah,
15 Sue Entsminger should be joining us later today. I
16 will give her a call if I don't hear from her soon.
17
18 Thanks.
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Tom.
21
22 And, finally, North Slope.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Yes, good morning, Sue.
25 This is Eva. We won't have North Slope representatives
26 but I will be on to read their recommendations for the
27 few crossover proposals.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you, Eva.
32 And I also just want to check, Alaska Department of
33 Fish and Game, Ben Mulligan, are you on.
34
35 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes, Sue, we are here.
36
37 MS. DETWILER: Okay, great, thanks,
38 Ben.
39
40 And, Ken Lord, are you on as well.
41
42 MR. LORD: Ma'am. Yes, ma'am, I'm
43 here.
44
45 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. So we have
46 someone from our DOI Solicitor's Office. And, finally,
47 Jim Ustashesfki, is there anybody from USDA Office of
48 General Council.
49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So that concludes
4 the roll call of the other -- some of the other key
5 people, Mr. Chair, so back to you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
8 thank you, Sue. And like we begin every meeting this
9 week, before we do public comment period on non-agenda
10 items I would like to call on my brother, Orville Lind,
11 if he could do invocation for the day and bless the
12 proceedings in hopes that we do the best we can do for
13 the people we serve.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Orville,
18 are you available?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, it sounds
23 like Orville might have gotten dropped, Sue.

24

25 All right, I'll do it. All right, if
26 everyone just wants to take a moment, bow their heads
27 and close your eyes or find a relationship with God.

28

29 (Invocation)

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, with
32 that, we'll go ahead and start the public comment
33 period this morning on non-agenda items. This is an
34 opportunity available at the beginning of each day and
35 this is also when we would ask the Operator if anybody
36 is online to be recognized and then make sure that this
37 is the comment period for non-agenda items and so with
38 that we'll go ahead and open the floor.

39

40 After we provide the public comment
41 period, we will open up the floor for the Regional
42 Advisory Council Chairs to a report out if they weren't
43 able to yesterday or to bring concerns to the Board.

44

45 So that will be the first two orders of
46 business this morning.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 OPERATOR: Thank you. We will now
2 begin the public comment session. If you have a public
3 comment, please press star one. You will be prompted
4 to record your name. Again, press star one.

5
6 One moment please.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 OPERATOR: We do have a public comment
11 from Jessica Black, your line is open.

12
13 MS. BLACK: Thank you. Good morning
14 everyone. I'd like to start by thanking the Chair, the
15 Board and the rural members.

16
17 For introductions, (InNative).

18
19 Good morning, everyone, my name is
20 Jessica Black. My family is from Fort Yukon. And I
21 was also raised in Nenana, Alaska. I'd like to talk a
22 little bit about my experience as a fisherwoman, and
23 also I am a Professor at UAF and a lot of my work
24 concentrates around fisheries.

25
26 I wanted to start by sharing that this
27 past 2020 season was really rough for us in Fort Yukon.
28 Our food securities needs were not met, nor was there
29 adequate subsistence opportunity. We did have a few
30 calls to discuss this but not enough meaningful
31 participation with the subsistence users in management
32 decisions. And I'll just tell you it was really, hard,
33 the fishing season. Days and nights and days and
34 nights out at camp, preparing for the fishing season
35 and then fishing, and I will be honest with you, we
36 caught a few fish in the weeks that we were at fish
37 camp. And that was just really disheartening because,
38 again, our food security needs were not met, but also
39 we, as you might all know, enter into these
40 relationships with salmon in a very spiritual way and
41 it's very disheartening when you spend all of this time
42 out at camp and preparing and you just basically get a
43 few fish. And let me tell you we were very grateful
44 for those few fish and we do not take that for granted.

45
46 Our tribes and our tribal members are
47 best situated to help provide management decisions and
48 accurate real-time run and harvest information. And
49 there's a real opportunity that exists here for us to
50

1 enter into agreements, .809 agreements with the Yukon
2 River InterTribal Fish Commission to help collect data
3 and real-time harvest data and also just speak with the
4 people one to one, understand what's going on out
5 there. We really look forward to working
6 collaboratively with Holly Carroll to develop such
7 opportunities and really enjoy working with her. I
8 think have a good relationship with her, able to
9 discuss things, but we are hurting, you know, this is
10 so much a part of our life, we are salmon people.

11

12 And so I just wanted to share that
13 experience with you.

14

15 I also wanted to say that we have, at
16 UAF, myself and Dr. Courtney Carothers, are launching a
17 program called Tamanta, which means all of us in the
18 Sugg'ik (ph) language and we'll be working to train
19 three to five indigenous graduate students in fisheries
20 for the next five years, and we're really excited about
21 it. Because not only will they be trained in fisheries
22 but they'll be bringing their indigenous knowledge to
23 the table to help inform management decisions and also
24 educate others.

25

26 So I just want to thank you for your
27 time. I wanted to let you know about my experience and
28 hopefully we can help to share in the governing
29 decisions and have better seasons ahead.

30

31 So, thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
34 taking the time to call in this morning and share the
35 concerns of your area. And hopefully the season gets
36 better for all of us. Any questions from the Board.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
41 Thank you, and appreciate that. Operator, will you
42 please recognize the next person online.

43

44 OPERATOR: Certainly. Our next
45 question or comment comes from Christine Brummer, your
46 line is open.

47

48 MS. BRUMMER: Okay, thank you. Hi, Mr.
49 Chair. I have a comment that I'd actually like to make

50

1 on an agenda item but I'm going to ask for permission
2 to go ahead and do it now because I have to work this
3 afternoon and so I'll be missing, unfortunately, the
4 Moose Pass proposal when it's done, probably this
5 afternoon.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
8 the floor. I appreciate making time for people who are
9 busy.

10
11 MS. BRUMMER: Oh, thank you so very
12 much. So good morning, Board members. My name is
13 Christine Brummer. And I'm a UAA graduate student
14 who's been working on my Master's thesis titled, Who is
15 Rural Alaska, a Case Study of Rural Community Practice.

16
17 So Moose Pass has been my case study
18 community and I just wanted to share some preliminary
19 findings with you guys in hopes that the information
20 will assist the Board in making a more informed
21 decision regarding the community of Moose Pass.

22
23 I conducted my field work from November
24 2019 through January 2020, a total of 24 Moose Pass
25 area residents participated in my study. And I define
26 the Moose Pass area as that area from Mile Post 37
27 where the Sterling Highway and Seward Highway meet to
28 Mile Post 15.5 of the Seward Highway, which is the
29 location of the Snow River Hostel breaking down these
30 numbers into CDPs the participants areas follows: 1
31 from Primrose CDP; 8 from the Crown Point CDP and 15
32 from the Moose Pass CDP. I'd like to remind the Board
33 that the CDPs are census designated places, not places
34 in which the residents distinguished for themselves,
35 but that of the U.S. Census Bureau.

36
37 My field work consisted of three
38 components including a mapping exercise, a survey and
39 an interview. Each participant was given the same copy
40 of a Moose Pass area map and asked to draw what they
41 considered their community boundary to be. 23 of the
42 24 participants completed the map. The participants
43 boundaries varied, however, but a majority of the
44 participants extended the "Moose Pass" boundary from
45 Mile Post 37 with, again is where the Sterling Highway
46 and the Seward Highway intersect, to Mile Post 16.9,
47 which is the area of the Snow River Bridge.

48
49 All 24 participants were surveyed and
50

1 interviewed. Participants were between the ages of 36
2 and 79 years of age. Many were from outside of Alaska
3 with five of them being born in Alaska. The
4 participants lived in Alaska for a total of between
5 nine and 70 years. I asked all participants what
6 community would you say you're from, and all 24
7 participants stated they're from Moose Pass. I asked
8 what community means to the participants and if they
9 could define their community. They stated that Moose
10 Pass is a tight-knit community where people choose to
11 live a rural lifestyle. People cooperate for the
12 common goals with defined interests and they're always
13 there for one another even everyone actually values
14 their privacy. And some people may not know each other
15 very well but everyone comes together to discuss and
16 make decisions to celebrate.

17

18 There are a lot of personalities in the
19 community but the residents bond together to enhance
20 the community.

21

22 Participants explain the following as
23 unique characteristics of the community.

24

25 A melting pot of different people from
26 various places that are very outdoor oriented. It is a
27 shut-in mainly year-round community that is spread out
28 over 20 miles where people are self-reliant, creative
29 and share with one another. And sharing includes meat
30 and fish that are caught, berries picked and vegetables
31 that are grown in their gardens. Residents have driven
32 -- they have to drive a lot to get to services,
33 amenities and activities. The community is created out
34 of choice and necessity. And response times for
35 utility and medical services is long. It is a place
36 that is largely unregulated and quiet and the community
37 interests are accomplished through people giving their
38 time.

39

40 One participant commented about how
41 their geographic extent is unique and there's nowhere
42 to build except along the highway.

43

44 I asked participants to please define
45 rural, nonrural and urban. But due to time
46 restrictions I'm just going to go ahead discuss the
47 residents and how they defined rural as nonrural and
48 urban were often suggested as being the opposite of
49 rural by participants.

50

1 Rural was explained as that which is
2 not urban, a place that is away from services like gas
3 stations, stores, restaurants, bars, medical
4 facilities, pharmacies, child care and daycare
5 opportunities. A place with no stop lights. Where you
6 have to wait for DOT to plow the road for long periods
7 of time. A place that is far from urban centers in it
8 makes getting amenities and services is inconvenient.
9 A place that there is a lot of undeveloped land and
10 sparse population. Rural means a lot of sacrifices,
11 missed opportunities and you have to create your own
12 entertainment. One lives in a geographic location that
13 is less human created and more natural. Like if your
14 house catches on fire it's going to burn down before
15 anyone comes to help you. You have to work with what's
16 around you and the residing location. And you have
17 limited factors in a rural place.

18
19 The last question I asked participants
20 was to define their community. All 24 participants
21 stated that Moose Pass was rural. Reasons they gave
22 included that Moose Pass is in the woods but the
23 closest grocery store 35 miles away in one direction
24 and 90 miles in the other direction. Moose Pass does
25 not have a lot of modern conveniences. With no law
26 enforcement, the community actually depends on the
27 State Troopers. No trash service. No local
28 government. Residents rely on one another. And you
29 have to travel to get food, gas and medical services.
30 A participant stated that Moose Pass is rural because
31 when your truck battery dies, you end up tinkering with
32 it instead of driving to Anchorage to get a new one.
33 It is easier to deal with the hassle than to deal with
34 the service. Some of the participants stated that
35 Moose Pass can easily be cut off from other places,
36 including urban centers due to road closures and they
37 have to be self reliant when these things happen. It is
38 common for people in Moose Pass to drive around with
39 sleeping bags and safety gear in case of an emergency
40 or road closure. One participant stated that they felt
41 Moose Pass was rural during the winter months but more
42 nonrural in the summer months when the tourism
43 increases the population in the area. After Labor Day
44 the weather starts to change and the residents living
45 in Moose Pass area have less of a desire to go into
46 town for things so many just do without. No one feels
47 sorry for themselves, it's just that they don't want to
48 spend the time or the fuel on bad roads to go get
49 things that are nonessential.

50

1 So this wraps up my primary findings of
2 the Moose Pass case study. If you have any follow up
3 questions I'm happy to answer them, and thank you so
4 much for your time.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Appreciate that for you calling in and sharing with us.
8 Any questions from the Board.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And we will
13 make sure that we recognize those comments during the
14 time of the proposal that you called in for. So thank
15 you.

16
17 MS. BRUMMER: Thank you, I appreciate
18 it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alrighty.
21 Operator, can you please recognize the next person
22 online.

23
24 OPERATOR: Yes, thank you. And that is
25 Jim Slater, your line is open.

26
27 MR. SLATER: Thank you. And thank you
28 for letting me testify today. My name is Jim Slater. I
29 live in Lisianski Inlet with my wife and three school-
30 aged children. I've lived here since 2000.

31
32 We live a subsistence lifestyle
33 focusing on fishing, hunting and foraging.

34
35 I'm calling in to testify about the
36 increased pressure from outside parties on the
37 resources we depend on for daily life. There are
38 groups, several groups that live outside the area and
39 state, who come seasonally and target some of our key
40 resources here in Lisianski Inlet. These include the
41 coho run in Lisianski River and Sitka black-tail deer
42 hunting in the habitat surrounding Lisianski Inlet and
43 Straits. In addition to this, this year there is
44 predicted to be well over 500 to 750 charter visitors
45 to Lisianski Inlet. We are extremely concerned about
46 the expansion of these charter numbers, especially bare
47 boat charters which will target our local rockfish and
48 groundfish populations.

49
50

1 This outside pressure has affected our
2 ability and especially the ability of our older
3 community members who depend on easy access to
4 resources to harvest food sources on which we all
5 depend.
6

7 This year several community members
8 were not able to harvest a deer at all or saw very
9 limited success. Other community members avoid fishing
10 in Lisianski River for fear of further depleting the
11 coho run which we feel is threatened by the several
12 groups that fly in every year to focus on the coho run.
13 This is exasperated -- exacerbated by the fact that our
14 ferry service has been intermittent and food supply has
15 been undependable.
16

17 I encourage the Federal Subsistence
18 Board to consider some means in which to protect these
19 limited resources and ensure access by our subsistence
20 community, here in Pelican and the surrounding areas.
21

22 Thank you very much.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Jim,
25 for calling. Appreciate that and hopefully we could
26 find some way to help you resolve that. Any questions
27 from the Board.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
32 we do strongly encourage you to write proposals to the
33 Board to address the issue and we do have Staff that
34 can help with crafting that type of stuff and so
35 hopefully we can help find a remedy to the situation
36 you have on the ground there in Pelican, so thank you
37 for taking the time to call in.
38

39 MR. SLATER: Thank you very much.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, can
42 you please recognize the next online.
43

44 OPERATOR: Yes, and the next one comes
45 from Heather Bauscher, your line is open.
46

47 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning, Mr. Chair
48 and good morning Federal Subsistence Board members. My
49 name is Heather Bauscher, I'm the Tongass Community
50

1 Organizer for the Sitka Conservation Society. Some of
2 you may know me because usually when the meetings are
3 in person I show up with a group of youth students so I
4 wanted to give everybody an update on the youth program
5 that we've been running out of Sitka and through the
6 University of Southeast Alaska.

7
8 Usually in other years we've had
9 trouble finding funding to make these programs happen
10 but I want to say a big thank you, in the last year
11 with a lot of help from the Forest Service and the
12 Office of Subsistence Management we did manage to get
13 some good funding for the next couple of years but then
14 Covid happened so I just want to let folks know that
15 this hasn't gone away. Part of the key component of
16 that course is always the experiential learning
17 component of having the students there in person and
18 being able to witness how these things work and move
19 through the process. So we are working with the
20 schools and as soon as things are safer and we can do
21 these things in person we are hoping to bring that back
22 and hoping that the funding should be good through
23 that. So thank you to everybody who has helped to
24 build that program up and I look forward to, when we
25 have meetings again in person, to bring the youth back.

26
27 Thank you very much.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Heather. We always feel good when the youth shows up
31 and hopefully we can continue to support that and we
32 all are looking forward to seeing each other again so
33 keep up the good work and we need to train a lot more
34 of these members to get applying for these seats and it
35 has been a hot topic here is filling seats. So thank
36 you for your work and look forward to the future RAC
37 members.

38
39 Any questions from the Board.

40
41 MR. SCHMID: Dave Schmid.

42
43 MS. PITKA: Rhonda here.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Dave you have
46 the floor.

47
48 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, hey, thanks,
49 Chairman. And thanks so much, Heather, I just want to

50

1 add on my thanks here as well and your commitment and
2 your organization here to these students. It's just a
3 delightful program. I have benefitted and I learn as
4 much from the students as they may learn from us. And
5 so please just keep up the good work and we continue,
6 at least our agency here, to the extent we can support
7 this we will in the future. It's a great program.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you so much for
12 your kind words.

13

14 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda. I
15 definitely miss seeing the high school students and
16 having our annual lunch with them. So when we get back
17 to in-person, I look forward to seeing them all again.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 other Board comments, discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
27 Heather, thank you for calling in. Appreciate, again,
28 your work and taking the time to call in today.

29

30 MS. BAUSCHER: Thanks for your kind
31 words. Good luck with your work today.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
34 Operator, can we recognize the next person online,
35 please.

36

37 OPERATOR: Yes, and that's Jack
38 Reakoff, your line is open.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Hi, good morning, Mr.
41 Chairman Christianson and Federal Subsistence Board
42 members. Jack Reakoff in Wiseman, Alaska. I had my
43 application in for appointment to the Western Interior
44 Council and the Western Interior was passed over, and I
45 have comments on that.

46

47 I feel limited by your deliberations
48 for the Park Service regulations. I would like to have
49 commented and if I were able to I would have. But I

50

1 feel that the Federal Subsistence Board can submit a
2 letter to the Secretary of Interior, Secretary of
3 Agriculture. I do feel that the Board is an arm of the
4 Secretary of Interior and Agriculture. The past
5 Administration's Secretary violated the appointment
6 process by not appointing these three Councils. This
7 is a violation of agreements with the public on
8 appointing these very knowledgeable people.

9
10 It is incumbent upon the Board during
11 this meeting to point out this violation issue to the
12 new Secretaries. The Board should request a review of
13 the applications that are in right now and complete the
14 appointments for the three outstanding Councils. As a
15 resident of the Western Interior region, I feel the
16 current representation of the Council is a direct
17 violation of ANILCA, Title VIII, Section .801(5), which
18 states: that an administrative structure be established
19 for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have
20 personal knowledge of local conditions and requirement
21 to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and
22 wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands in
23 Alaska. Western Interior Regional Council has been
24 severely hindered by the Secretary's office not making
25 timely appointments of qualified applicants for at
26 least the last two cycles, and not even an appointment
27 this cycle. Without any appointments, this year, 2021,
28 the current Council, with only four members will only
29 have 40 percent of the membership. They cannot
30 represent the region in a meaningful role.

31
32 And so respectfully I would request
33 that the Federal Subsistence Board would send a letter
34 to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and the
35 new Secretaries will have to be confirmed, all that,
36 but I feel that it's a very important issue, that we do
37 not skip a cycle of representation of the Western
38 Interior region and any other regions of Alaska.

39
40 Thank you, Board and Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Jack. Thank you for calling in. And I echo your
44 concerns as well and hopefully we can find, during this
45 process this week, a way to formulate some language
46 like you described that will ensure that this gets
47 elevated to the highest level as soon as possible and
48 is a priority so that we can continue knowing that the
49 issues we face in rural Alaska through the testimony

50

1 we've heard yesterday, today and have continued to hear
2 as an office through special action requests, and that
3 it's being played out already, we hope that we can fill
4 the RACs and get the people and the voice back in the
5 appropriate administrative seat to bring that to -- so
6 we can do our job to help you do yours. So thank you,
7 Jack, or bringing that.

8

9

Any questions from the Board.

10

11

12

MS. PITKA: Jack, how many years of
service did you have on the RAC?

13

14

15

16

17

MR. REAKOFF: I was appointed in 1993
and I was serving until I was unappointed this cycle.
I was a founding member of the Western Interior
Council. The first meeting was in McGrath.

18

19

20

REPORTER: Correct.

21

22

23

MR. REAKOFF: I was current Chair. i
was Vice Chair from about 2004 or '03 and became Chair
in 2007.

24

25

26

MS. PITKA: Thank you.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I know,
Jack, that.....

30

31

32

MS. PITKA: Thank you for your public
service.

33

34

35

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep,
definitely.

36

37

MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, Jack, like
I say, I've benefited a great deal from your expertise
and information that you provide at the meetings and
the detailed form that relates directly to Title VIII
and I've learned a lot in the process from that and I
just want to say thank you, and thank you for your
service, and hopefully we can rectify this situation
before too much time elapses.

47

48

49

So thank you, Jack, for calling in,
appreciate it.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: I really appreciate the
2 Board's work and the diligence so thank you very much.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
5 comments or discussion.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
10 thank you, Jack, for calling in. Operator, will you
11 please recognize the next person online.

12
13 OPERATOR: Thank you. The next one is
14 from Darrell Vent, your line is open.

15
16 MR. VENT: Good morning.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
19 Darrell.

20
21 MR. VENT: Yes, I'm here speaking on
22 behalf of the Huslia Tribal Council. I just had some
23 issues here with -- the same comment as Jack. I was
24 Vice Chair on the Federal Subsistence Board along with
25 Jack there and all of a sudden I wasn't elected back
26 in. Whether it was political or had to do with some
27 other issues that I was dealing with, such as the
28 Ambler Road, I don't know. But I think that because we
29 live in rural Alaska that we should be able to
30 represent not because of our political affiliation. I
31 think that some issues that might be affecting our
32 areas, we -- we are supposed to represent, you know,
33 the hunting and the fishing and the gathering of our
34 areas and we are not able to do so because of what's
35 going up higher on the ladder. I think what Jack was
36 talking about there kind of leads towards that is that,
37 you know, we have to represent these areas. If
38 something is going on above us and we can't represent
39 our areas maybe there's an issue there that needs to be
40 addressed.

41
42 I'm not naming names or anything, I
43 just want to let you know that I don't think that's
44 right for our people. I mean we have to live out there
45 and we have to live on the land with what we got to eat
46 and if we can't represent our areas, that means that
47 somewhere along the line that we are being under-
48 represented. I think that if there's something going
49 on somewhere and they could deal with their issues but

50

1 leave us out of the loop as we represent our food needs
2 then that would be easier to do if we don't have to
3 deal with these issues.

4
5 I just want to bring that out because I
6 was a representative. I was doing good on the Western
7 Interior. I was the Co-Chair and all of a sudden I
8 wasn't the Co-Chair no more. So I just like you guys
9 to recognize that maybe there's some other issues
10 that's involved with what Jack is talking about and we
11 need to make sure and try to address these issues
12 whereas it doesn't limit our ability to represent what
13 we eat.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, I
18 appreciate you calling in today, Darrell, and
19 expressing your concern and we really are hopeful to
20 support those of you who have supported the Program and
21 hope you have patience and continuing to want to play a
22 role because your knowledge is critical to doing our
23 job and, you know, without you guys out there that have
24 all of that local knowledge and expertise it's almost
25 impossible for us to make the right decisions so thank
26 you guys for your service to-date, and look forward to
27 hopefully seeing you in the future.

28
29 Any questions from the Board.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
34 thank you for calling in today. Operator, would you
35 please recognize the next caller, please.

36
37 OPERATOR: Yes, it comes from Bruce
38 Irvine, your line is open.

39
40 MR. IRVINE: Hi, can you hear me okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gotcha loud and
43 clear, Bruce, you've got the floor.

44
45 MR. IRVINE: Hi, my name is Bruce
46 Irvine. I'm Upper Tanana Den'a from Northway. Thank
47 you, Chairman and members of the Board. I appreciate
48 all your hard work and I realize that you're often
49 faced with difficult choices.

50

1 I would also like to thank you for the
2 decision on Organized Village of Kake special action
3 request being approved. The Organized Village of
4 Kake's success is a great example of how tribes only
5 take what it is needed and sharing what was harvested
6 with the community.

7
8 I'd like to see Koyukuk and Stevens
9 Village show how they take care of their community
10 because they would definitely show a great respect
11 throughout the whole process.

12
13 During the last few days we heard that
14 the process was paused so I hope with this new
15 Administration someone hits the play button because
16 better action and care needs to happen instead of
17 pausing a great need. I further stress and think we
18 need to listen more to tribes on what they need.
19 Respectfully, tribes know best what they need, not
20 someone in an urban area who has probably never been to
21 any rural Alaska communities off the road system. I
22 would also like to see more tribes involved in
23 selecting the Regional Advisory Council members. The
24 Regional Advisory Council's impact tribes greatly all
25 over Alaska in 10 regional ways. I would also like to
26 know why the State is on the InterAgency Staff
27 Committee and can pull proposals off the consensus
28 agenda early in the process, whereas tribes have to
29 wait until consultation and the scheduled meeting to do
30 so, this is problematic given that the State does not
31 follow the mandate of ANILCA, Title VIII and has made
32 no forward movement in an attempt to do so.

33
34 In closing, I would like to mention the
35 memorandum on tribal consultation and strengthening
36 nation to nation relationships with the State "history
37 demonstrates that we best serve Native American people
38 when tribal governments are empowered to lead their
39 community, and when Federal officials speak with and
40 listen to tribal leaders in formulating Federal policy
41 that affects tribal nations."

42
43 Thank you, Chairman and members of the
44 Board for giving me a chance to speak today. I look
45 forward to future positive progress, equality,
46 empowerment, and collaboration between tribes and the
47 Federal Subsistence Board.

48
49 Thank you. Tennee'

50

1 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Irvine for
2 your testimony. Is there anybody else online.

3
4 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
5 further public comments.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
8 you, and I appreciate you taking the time to call in.
9 I'm sorry, my phone was blanking in and out for a
10 second there. So, again, thank you for calling in.
11 You know, we hope to strive to find that opportunity as
12 a Board to get all of the rural residents engaged in
13 providing for their communities and their families like
14 time immemorial. And hopefully we find a way to get
15 past the hurdles that we find placed before this Board
16 and obstacles that we should be able to dissolve
17 through communication and continuing to strive to
18 provide a meaningful role for our rural residents in
19 providing a sustained livelihood on the land.

20
21 And so I really appreciate all the
22 comment that I've heard here this morning in the public
23 testimony. I want you to know that it doesn't fall on
24 deaf ear and truly appreciate the years of service that
25 some of you gentlemen have in serving your community
26 and providing food for your families.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 With that I would say we conclude the
31 public comment period this morning. If any other Board
32 members have any comments at this time I will entertain
33 them.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene, go ahead.

38
39 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. I just wanted to inform you and the Board, I
41 have to step out here for a bit this morning and Glenn
42 Chen, our Subsistence Program Leader will be sitting in
43 for me until I return later on in the day.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Gene. And good luck to you in your order of business
47 today and we'll look forward to hearing you this
48 afternoon.

49
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. That
4 brings us, I think, to the order of business for the
5 day and I think we start with FP21-12.

6

7 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

8

9 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, did you want
10 to check with the Regional Advisory Council Chairs who
11 may not have been able to give a report earlier in this
12 meeting.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, yeah, I
15 just got thrown off with Jack giving his report, and I
16 did provide that opportunity so thank you for reminding
17 me of my own words, essentially, thank you, appreciate
18 it.

19

20 So any Council Chairs who would like
21 to, again, report out or speak to issues, now is your
22 time, you have the floor.

23

24 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

27

28 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 members of the Federal Subsistence Board. For the
30 record my name is Cathy Needham and I am currently the
31 acting Chair for the Southeast Regional Advisory
32 Council.

33

34 I appreciate the opportunity to talk to
35 you guys today about some non-agenda items. I do want
36 to express that the comments that I am making today are
37 my own comments, not necessarily reflective of the
38 Regional Advisory Council, however, these comments
39 directly stem from discussions that the Regional
40 Advisory has had at the table.

41

42 In my Southeast Regional Advisory
43 Council to the Board as you have also heard from pretty
44 much all of the Regional Advisory Councils across the
45 state and in public comments, there is an expressed
46 frustration regarding late Council appointments. And I
47 want to also make sure that the members of the Board
48 understand that this is a long-term problem, this is
49 not something that has just happened in this cycle.

50

1 Southeast Council, as I am sure other Councils have
2 been suffering from having late appointments in years
3 past as well as having Council positions cut off of
4 their Councils for a number of cycles now. I would
5 like to make a recommendation to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board that you direct the Program to
7 uniformly change the Regional Council Advisory
8 charters. I think that this is a potential solution in
9 heading the right direction and in terms of the charter
10 change, the recommendation would be that all incumbents
11 be able to retain their seats on the Council until
12 appointments are made. This would help tremendously in
13 bridging the gap.

14
15 Currently Council members that are up
16 for renewal leave their seat at the beginning of
17 December, however, Council appointments aren't coming
18 in until the next year and it makes it really difficult
19 for continuity of doing business when we don't have
20 those appointments when they're made at such a late
21 time in the game. So just by changing our charters and
22 allowing those incumbents to stay seated would resolve
23 an issue such as right now where I'm a seated Council
24 member on the Council and I was elected as Vice Chair,
25 however, our Chair, has not been reappointed yet and so
26 he can't attend this meeting because his seat -- his
27 term ended at the beginning of December. So for just
28 continuity of business if he would have been able to
29 serve out as an incumbent until the Council
30 appointments are made then he would have been able to
31 carry on the Southeast Council's business effectively
32 with that continuity. So that is one recommendation as
33 a potential solution to that problem.

34
35 Another issue, or another problem that
36 I'd like to reiterate is for the Southeast Regional
37 Advisory Council, our Council size went from 13 members
38 to eight, not this cycle, but the previous cycle. In
39 that cut we lost a wealth of experience. We lost our
40 25 year member, Patty Phillips, who probably knows
41 ANILCA in and out more than anybody I have ever met in
42 my entire life. She has long-term institutional
43 knowledge and history. She has served in this Program
44 longer than any current seated Board member even. And
45 we also lost Harvey Kitka, another long-term member who
46 has been with the Southeast Council for a number of
47 issues that we're seeing rise again in terms of
48 management issues, he has that knowledge of things,
49 especially when it comes to things like Sitka Sound
50

1 herring. It's a current and emergent issue in our
2 region. It's going to result in an extra-territorial
3 jurisdiction petition and our one representative who
4 was there through the last time Sitka Tribe of Alaska
5 tried to seek extra-territorial jurisdiction, and we no
6 longer have his voice and expertise seated at the table
7 with us to do our business.

8
9 We aren't the only Council that has
10 lost our institutional knowledgebase.

11
12 It's devastating to hear someone like
13 Jack Reakoff who's reapplied and wanted to volunteer
14 his time has not been reappointed to the Council
15 either. And whether that's a lag in a late appointment
16 or whether his seat has been cut, both scenarios are
17 devastating in my opinion.

18
19 These issues with fish and wildlife
20 management are cyclic. We need to have that long-term
21 knowledge. Those knowledgeable folks with ANILCA and
22 also an understanding of how ANILCA has been applied to
23 these same issues in the past, we need that as our
24 business. These long-term volunteers of the Program,
25 they're mentors and they're teachers to me and younger
26 Council members. I've served on the Council for 12
27 years now, I still learn from them every day, every
28 meeting. So it's important that we keep -- if they're
29 willing to still give their time to this Program, it's
30 important that we keep that institutional knowledge on
31 the Regional Advisory Councils.

32
33 Unfortunately I don't have an offer to
34 a solution on how to make it, however, I think Mr.
35 Reakoff, himself, just testified earlier this morning
36 that the Federal Board actually taking an active role
37 and going and working with the Secretaries and getting
38 these appointments done and making sure that all of the
39 applications are reviewed is imperative, and I hope
40 that you really heard, not only his testimony, but plan
41 to take action on it.

42
43 My final comment today is regarding
44 another testimony that we heard this morning. I would
45 be remiss if on behalf of the Southeast Regional
46 Advisory Council that we didn't acknowledge Heather
47 Bauscher and her great work that she has done. We have
48 been very fortunate in Southeast Alaska to have her
49 program seated within our region and have students that
50

1 she has been able to bring to our meetings for the past
2 couple of years now. She brings some very bright,
3 young leaders to our meetings and when we do our work
4 at the table they come and testify to us, it's amazing
5 the thought and time that they are able to put into
6 that and the value that that young perspective can
7 bring to the table and we always -- all of our Council
8 members continue to praise the program and we are able
9 -- when we're seated together in the same room, are
10 able to interact with these youth in very constructive
11 ways. And that knowledge and that help that they give
12 us is only something that we've been experiencing since
13 her program has been put in place and I appreciate that
14 the Board recognize Heather and her hard work, this
15 morning, when she gave her testimony as well.
16

17 And with that I will close and thank
18 you again for the time to make these comments.
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
21 Cathy, and I appreciate your comments. I think some of
22 them are very pointed and on point and I think there
23 are some pretty solid suggestions there, as always,
24 Southeast comes out with an approach to resolve issues
25 and so truly appreciate all the work that you've stated
26 that comes forth through institutional knowledge and
27 gaining from that experience of interacting with
28 people, both young and old, who have a lot to provide
29 to the Program. And so thank you for that insight.
30

31 Any questions or comments from the
32 Board for Cathy.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
37 again, thank you for taking the time to call in Cathy
38 and share Southeast concerns and filling in for the
39 Chairman. We know how valuable his time was as well
40 and commitment to the Program, so truly appreciate all
41 the service and hope to resolve these issues for the
42 Program as well and hope to restore Southeast Alaska
43 back to 13 seats so have a good day.
44

45 Operator -- I mean, is there another
46 Regional Advisory Council person who would like to be
47 recognized at this time.
48

49 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny Pelkola,
50

1 can you hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
4 the floor.

5

6 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I don't know if
7 you're going in order of how the Councils appear on the
8 agenda but I'll just jump in for now.

9

10 I also am very concerned about all the
11 Councils with just a few -- trying to work with a few
12 members, seated members. I just got my packet
13 yesterday in the mail for our upcoming meeting that
14 will be held next month and as I look at the first page
15 of the members sitting on there, I see six vacant seats
16 and four seated members on there. And so our next
17 meeting I believe will be with only four members, and
18 like Darrell said this morning, and also Jack, we're
19 not representing our whole area. And the Western
20 Interior has -- you know, it's all the way from Holy
21 Cross to Aniak to Huslia to Ruby and elsewhere. But we
22 have a large area. And with only four seated members,
23 it's pretty hard to represent the rest of the area when
24 we don't have people seated on our Council from those
25 areas.

26

27 You know I am very discouraged.

28

29 I've been bringing this up forever at
30 our meetings and as I look at the appointments I see
31 it's declining. And next year, two more seats from our
32 Council is going to be open and is that going to leave
33 us with only two members if they don't do the
34 appointments. I'm very concerned. And I agree with
35 the rest of -- the lady, Cathy, that just spoke, you
36 know, I think we need to change the charter maybe to
37 closer to us, instead of Washington, D.C. It seems
38 like, I don't know, we get lost in the mail somewhere
39 and it's very discouraging.

40

41 So that's my comment this morning.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
46 taking the time to call in and, you know, this is the
47 time for us to get these on the record so that we can
48 elevate it to the appropriate people so that our voices
49 can be heard. Thank you for calling in and

50

1 representing your region.

2

3 Is there another Regional Advisory
4 Council Chair that would like to be recognized at this
5 time.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello?

14

15 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I was just
18 making sure, it got quiet. I was just making sure
19 there was nobody else, another Regional Advisory
20 Council Chair who would like to be recognized.

21

22 OPERATOR: Their lines are open.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
27 and I'm only giving you a minute because we did have
28 issues with lines yesterday. If you would like to be
29 recognized and I'm missing you I will provide an
30 opportunity throughout the day to do that so that we
31 don't miss any of the valuable input that Regional
32 Advisory Council Chairs do bring. So at this time
33 hearing no other Regional Advisory Council Chair, I
34 will move on to the order of business.

35

36 Sue.

37

38 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that would be.....

39

40 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, before we
41 continue.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: What's that
44 Charlie.

45

46 MR. BROWER: Before we -- just a
47 question on the non-agenda item when the Regional
48 Chairmans were -- did I hear right that Jack didn't get
49 back on the Eastern [sic] Advisory?

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, that was
2 what he stated, he hasn't been reappointed and they're
3 one of the three that I think they were still working
4 on vetting that didn't get accomplished.

5
6 MR. BROWER: Oh, okay. I just wanted
7 to thank Jack for all his years of service because I
8 worked with him in the Gates of the Arctic Commission
9 in the early years and I know he has a lot of
10 background information of the region and the people
11 that he represents so I just want to thank him for all
12 his hard work and stuff that he's done for that area,
13 and Anaktuvuk Pass and Wiseman and so on. But I just
14 wanted to thank him.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, for going
17 off the agenda.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, that's
20 exactly what we're here for Charlie, so thank you for
21 recognizing him and your words.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 Any other comments from the Board.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
30 hearing none. Hearing no other Regional Advisory
31 Council Chairs wishing to be recognized at this time,
32 Sue, I'll turn it over to you to start on the order of
33 the business FP21-12.

34
35 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So that brings us
36 back to Item 7 on the Board's agenda and we left off
37 with Prince William Sound proposals and, yes,
38 confirming with you, Mr. Chair, that we're on Fisheries
39 Proposal 21-12 and that is presented by Hannah
40 Voorhees.

41
42 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair
43 and members of the Board. This is Hannah Voorhees,
44 anthropologist at Office of Subsistence Management.

45
46 Fisheries Proposal 21-12 begins on Page
47 216 of your Board book. This proposal was submitted by
48 Kirk Wilson of Glennallen and requests that the Board
49 prohibits the use of monofilament and multifilament
50

1 mesh dipnet before August 15th in the Upper Copper
2 River district. Before the State, dipnet rigging would
3 be limited to braided inelastic mesh.

4
5 The proponent raises concerns about the
6 use of dipnets with monofilament or multifilament mesh
7 in terms of its effect on survival rates of chinook
8 salmon that are entangled and then released.

9
10 Yesterday I noted that I would be
11 presenting multiple Upper Copper River proposals and so
12 would not repeat background information each time.
13 However, since we've had a break overnight I will give
14 this background information again for this first
15 proposal and then we'll skip it for the following.

16
17 FP21-12 would apply to the waters in
18 the Upper Copper River district within and adjacent to
19 the exterior boundaries of Wrangell-St. Elias National
20 Park and Preserve. This area is in the traditional
21 territory of the Ahtna Athabascans. Contemporary
22 communities with a customary and traditional use
23 determination for salmon in the Copper River drainage
24 sockeye and chinook continue to make up the majority of
25 their harvest of wild foods.

26
27 In subsistence interviews conducted in
28 2013, residents of rural Copper River Basin communities
29 shared their observations that chinook salmon runs have
30 declined in comparison to long-term baseline. Some
31 residents have a practice of avoiding catching chinook
32 when possible and voluntarily remove chinook from
33 fishwheel boxes if those fish still have a chance of
34 survival. In recent years, both sockeye and chinook
35 salmon returns have experienced decreasing trends. In
36 2020 the sustainable escapement goal was met for
37 sockeye, but not chinook. Low salmon passage at Miles
38 Lake sonar resulted in closure of the commercial
39 gillnet fishery at the mouth of the river as well as
40 reductions in the Chitina personal use fishery and the
41 chinook sport fishery. All Copper River Federal and
42 State subsistence fisheries remained unrestricted
43 through the 2020 season.

44
45 Traditionally Ahtna used rigged dipnets
46 made from spruce roots to catch salmon but today
47 fishwheels, rather than dipnets are the predominate
48 gear in use by Federally-qualified subsistence users in
49 the Upper Copper River district, those who would have
50

1 to adhere to this change in regulation. For example,
2 in 2013, Gulkana residents took 91 percent of their
3 salmon harvest in edible weight by fishweel.
4

5 In 2017 the Board of Fisheries rejected
6 a proposal submitted by the Wrangell-St. Elias National
7 Park Subsistence Resource Commission that would have
8 prohibited the use of monofilament or gillnet mesh in
9 dipnets in State subsistence and personal use fisheries
10 for the Upper Copper River district.
11

12 The OSM conclusion is to oppose this
13 proposal with the following justification.
14

15 This proposal would place an additional
16 burden on Federally-qualified subsistence users who
17 would likely have to replace their dipnet meshes or
18 nets. This new gear specification would make Federal
19 subsistence regulations pertaining to dipnet use more
20 restrictive than State subsistence and personal use
21 regulations. This proposal would likely not have the
22 intended conservation effects, primarily because of the
23 small percentage of the dipnet fishery being conducted
24 under Federal subsistence regulations. This proposal
25 would bring Federal regulations for the area into step
26 with conservation practices and perspectives of some
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users but the burden on
28 all Federally-qualified subsistence users would be high
29 and the conservation benefit would likely be limited.
30

31 New proposals similar to the one being
32 considered here will be taken up at the next Board of
33 Fisheries meeting where Prince William Sound proposals
34 are discussed. These proposals would prohibit use of
35 monofilament and multifilament gill mesh in dipnets on
36 the Copper River before August 15th or year-round
37 respectfully.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 This concludes my presentation.
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 Thank you for that presentation this morning. Any
45 questions from the Board for Staff.
46

47 (No comments)
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
50

1 hearing none we will move on to summary of public
2 comments, Council Coordinator.
3

4 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
5 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
6 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Members of the
7 Board, we received five written public comments in
8 support on this proposal. They can be found in your
9 meeting book starting on Page 236.

10

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50

A summary of those comments.

The Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission supports this proposal and states that it would promote greater survival rates among chinook salmon caught in nets and then released back into the river and dipnets constructed with inelastic seine style mesh and a traditional Ahtna style made with inelastic mesh are effective at catching salmon. The Commission further suggested a modification to this proposal, language such as "you may not use a dipnet that is rigged with monofilament, or multifilament mesh before August 15th when the majority of the chinook run has passed into the Upper Copper River." Before this time -- I'm sorry, continuing with the quote, rather -- before this time your dipnet must be rigged with, braided is struck out, inelastic mesh, deleting the word braided before inelastic mesh.

Michael Mahoney supports this proposal stating that these changes would be helpful in protecting our king salmon. All of these practices are not customary and traditional and have resulted in much higher efficiency levels of harvest.

Thea Thomas strongly supports this proposal and as stated before, she commented, that it was important to limit overharvest in the Chitina dipnet fishery and to acquire timely data on the harvest.

Ahtna TeneNene' supports the proposal to disallow a dipnet that is rigged with monofilament or multifilament mesh before August 15th because after chinook are released with this type of dipnet it causes undue harm or death and they may not reach spawning grounds if they are harmed or weakened. As management objectives weren't met in fiscal year 2020 we need to do what we can to protect them.

1 Bonnie Yazzie supports this proposal.

2

3 Kirk Wilson, the proponent, states that
4 use of a dipnet that is rigged with monofilament or
5 multifilament mesh before August 15th should not be
6 allowed because chinook released from this type of
7 dipnet causes undue harm or death and may prevent them
8 from reaching the spawning grounds.

9

10 Again, for those comments in their
11 entirety, they can be read starting on Page 236 of the
12 meeting book.

13

14 I'd also like to share some Advisory
15 Committee comments.

16

17 Last week, prior to this Board meeting,
18 I received a comment from the Copper Basin Advisory
19 Committee opposing this proposal. In summary stating
20 that specifying a date is hard on the user who would
21 have to switch in-season and that the depth of bag and
22 size of mesh are more important than the type.

23

24 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
25 Subsistence Resource Commission also provided a comment
26 in opposition. Their vote of one in support and seven
27 opposed to this proposal, stating in the experience of
28 SRC members who have commercial fished, net material
29 doesn't make a difference in whether fish become
30 entangled in a net. When one member commercial fished
31 one summer, for example, salmon were often gilled in an
32 inelastic braided net, net or mesh size in their
33 experience was a bigger factor than the material.
34 Another concern is the lack of availability of dipnets
35 made from alternate materials. The person who
36 supported the proposal cited testimony on both sides
37 with some saying the monofilament nets cause damage and
38 expressed concern about avoiding any potential negative
39 impacts to the fisheries.

40

41 That concludes the public written
42 comments on this proposal.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
47 questions by the Board.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
2 at this time, Operator, we will go to open the floor
3 for public testimony if anybody is online who would
4 like to speak to this specific proposal, now is your
5 time.

6
7 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
8 public comment, please press star one. Again, to make
9 a public comment, please press starone.

10
11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
14 the.....

15
16 OPERATOR: Our first comm.....

17
18 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is Tom
19 Kron. I believe that Eastern Interior has a
20 recommendation on Proposal 12 as well. And I think --
21 I'm pretty sure Sue Entsminger is on to be able to
22 provide that and if not I can.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, Sue,
27 either you.....

28
29 MS. ENTSMINGER: Am I online?

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:or Tom has
32 the floor.

33
34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, Tom and Tony I am
35 online, this is Sue.

36
37 MS. DETWILER: So, Mr. Chair, I believe
38 the next step after public testimony is Regional
39 Council recommendation.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, right at
42 this time is if we have anybody wants to publicly
43 testify, I'm still waiting to see, and I have heard
44 none so far Operator.

45
46 OPERATOR: We do have public comments.
47 The first comment comes from Hope Roberts, your line is
48 open.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: She has the
2 floor. We'll get the Regional Advisory Council
3 recommendations and comments after we have public
4 testimony. Thank you. So you have the floor public.

5

6 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning Federal
7 Subsistence Board. This is Hope Roberts from Chugach
8 Regional Resources Commission. Hold on a second.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MS. ROBERTS: From our Alliance, as we
13 introduced yesterday, we are a regional resource
14 commission that represents the Chugach region, seven
15 villages Chenega, Eyak, Port Graham, Nanwalek,
16 Kudachik(ph), Tatitlek and Valdez.

17

18 The Alliance supports Proposal FP21-12.
19 This recommendation came from a joint Copper River
20 Salmon Symposium in 2019 where research and
21 conservation of the resource were two major points of
22 agreement, that Upper and Lower river user groups
23 agreed were necessary, we acknowledged this proposal
24 would create a situation where Federal subsistence
25 regulations are stricter than State regulations. But
26 we believe the importance of these salmon runs require
27 a cautionary approach to conservation. Identical
28 proposals have been submitted to the Board of Fish for
29 consideration. The Federal Subsistence Board has an
30 opportunity to set a conservation example requested by
31 subsistence users.

32

33 So that is the public comment that I
34 have for the organization Chugach Regional Resources
35 Commission.

36

37 May I make a comment, personally, for
38 myself?

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, this is
41 your opportunity as a public member to testify.

42

43 MS. ROBERTS: Great. Okay. Yeah, I
44 just wanted to separate it from the organization.

45

46 So my name is -- well, I'm from Circle.
47 I'm Tlingit, Athabascan and from the public comments
48 this morning, from Dr. Jessica Black and Darrell Vent
49 and Bruce, I really agree that the Board and just

50

1 anybody in general who uses these resources should
2 listen to the people who live in the area. That their
3 comments and their suggestions are really, really
4 important. Because I've read time and time again that
5 some, you know, people -- people would go to these
6 villages, scientists, and just constantly say that they
7 were right, they were right and people who have lived
8 there for generations would be like, no, this is not
9 right, this is what will happen and the village -- the
10 people who live in the villages, their theories are
11 usually the ones that would be correct, so I just -- I
12 would listen to the people of the communities out in
13 these areas first. But, yeah, that's -- those are my
14 comments.

15

16 Thank you for hearing me out.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
19 taking the time today. Next comment, please.

20

21 OPERATOR: The next comment comes from
22 Karen Linnell, your line is open.

23

24 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Thank you,
25 Mr. Chair and members of the Board. I had asked for
26 this proposal to be pulled from the consensus agenda so
27 that we might discuss this in detail.

28

29 As Hope Roberts had mentioned this had
30 come from our Copper River Salmon Synthesis meeting
31 held last February before the pandemic. The Synthesis
32 followed a couple -- two days, or three days of a
33 Copper River science symposium where we heard from --
34 everything from geology to Lake Ahtna and place names
35 and then also with Ahtna place names and -- but also
36 presentations on the Copper River salmon. And
37 following the work -- following that symposium we had
38 this work session with, like I said Native Village of
39 Eyak, Cordova Fishermens United, sports guides, ADF&G
40 Staff, including our local manager and commercial --
41 CommFish Division and I don't know what division Klause
42 Wittig is from but he's out of Fairbanks and he's
43 actually supervisor of -- I believe he's the supervisor
44 of our local biologist and National Park Service, BLM,
45 subsistence users, AITRC, many folks there and we
46 talked about what, you know, the different things and
47 when we had -- we had these idea boards and put things
48 out there and what we were trying to do to create where
49 -- an opportunity to have a sustainable salmon stock.

50

1 These are some of the ideas that came forward. And Mr.
2 Wilson was in attendance there and he took this idea
3 and submitted the proposals, not just here to the
4 Federal Subsistence Board but also to the Alaska Board
5 of Fish for both the subsistence use, personal use and
6 -- so that -- and for personal use so that it can be --
7 we can make changes.

8
9 I've heard this many times before and
10 Hope just brought it up again that, you know, this will
11 be stricter than the State. This is not a political
12 game. We're trying to do what is best for the
13 resource, you know, and I think it's time that we look
14 at it in that way. I was thinking of the prayer this
15 morning and we were talking about, you know, doing
16 what's right for the people, but we need to do what's
17 right for the resources as well and I thank you for the
18 prayer. But it's not just about individuals, or one
19 user group over the other, it's about what's best for
20 the resource. You know we need to look at those types
21 of things.

22
23 Just because somebody else is doing it
24 doesn't make it right. That saying, two wrongs don't
25 make a right, that's what we're trying to do, we're
26 trying to implement change. And at that Board of Game
27 [sic] -- or different meetings that I've gone to it's
28 been brought up, well, the Federal has it this way so
29 we need to -- you know, we need to at least do that, so
30 let's lead by an example. You know, let's lead by an
31 example and say, okay, we're going to do what's right
32 for the resource here and we would expect that the
33 State would follow.

34
35 I've heard some good suggestions about
36 net depths and widths, those might be good things.
37 Right now people are trolling on the river, this is not
38 dipnetting, they're trolling. When the boat is moving
39 that's trolling, correct, and -- and so that's what's
40 happening. And we've put proposals in to stop that as
41 well and they're still calling it dipnetting, but you
42 look up the definition of trolling and this is
43 trolling.

44
45 The folks that are on the banks and
46 things like that and when they're walking out chest
47 deep in the river, a fast moving river, and they're
48 trying to release that king because there's a limit on
49 kings with this type of net it's difficult and unsafe
50

1 and could lead to a fatality.

2

3 Anyway I just urge you, as a Board, to
4 look at what's best for the resource, not what the
5 State is doing, not, you know, it's a hardship for
6 users, you folks change mesh sizes all the time on the
7 Yukon and the Kuskokwim and those folks have to adhere
8 to it so subsistence users there have to adhere to it
9 and you defer to the State on those instances sometimes
10 and their thing -- taking the biggest fish isn't always
11 the best idea either. Our fish are getting smaller and
12 smaller and I don't know what that is, but there's an
13 opportunity for study on that as well.

14

15 But I just urge you to do what is best
16 for the resource here.

17

18 I want to thank you for your time. You
19 guys are phenomenal people and it's not easy. I've
20 been on that side of the table for the State and it's
21 not easy but you have to look at, you know, what your
22 authorities are and what is right for the resource, and
23 I thank you for that.

24

25 Good morning.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.
28 And thank you for that, Karen, and I always have
29 enjoyed your passion for the resource and your people
30 land definitely have to keep that paramount in our
31 discussions, is the survival of our brothers and
32 sisters out there in the environment we call our homes
33 with the animals that provide themselves to us through
34 a whole other process of prayer and reverence, respect,
35 generational deep. So thank you for that reminder.
36 And it's always the forefront in my mind, here we
37 struggled in Southeast with a fish shortage and
38 pandemic as well and I'm a super-subsister they call it
39 and I got eight sockeye last year, the same time the
40 State cut is off with bottom fish and so we were
41 between literally a rock fish and a hard place, and so
42 (indiscernible - muffled) making sure that we keep the
43 priorities what they are, so appreciate your comment
44 this morning.

45

46 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
49 questions from the Board.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
4 thank you, Karen, for calling in and we'll -- Operator,
5 if there's somebody else on the line that would like to
6 be recognized at this time.

7

8 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
9 further comments.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
12 Then that concludes the open floor to public testimony.
13 Next is.....

14

15 OPERATOR: We just had a comment come
16 in if you'd like to take it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we'll take
19 it, that's what we're here for so thank you Operator
20 for recognizing that. You have the floor.

21

22 OPERATOR: Thank you. And, Gloria
23 Stickwan, your line is open.

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: Good morning.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you for the
30 opportunity to speak. I just want to say that Kirk
31 Wilson used to work as a local guide on the Klutina
32 River and he told us he saw a lot of -- he -- as a
33 guide he saw and helped people on charter -- on his
34 charter boat to land king salmon, sockeyes and he was a
35 witness to these -- he saw what happens when they took
36 kings out of these dipnets with mono -- monofilament
37 and he told us about it and he said they got tangled up
38 and a lot of destruction to the king salmon and they
39 were destroyed by -- they got tangled up in these
40 dipnets and -- and then there were some of them,
41 because they were under sized, were released, into the
42 water and they were damaged because they were long
43 enough for regulations so they had to be put back into
44 the water but they were damaged. And that's the
45 concern Ahtna has, is that, you know, king salmon are
46 not the right size, they get destroyed, but -- and they
47 just -- and I know, the Federal people, they get to
48 keep their king salmon no matter what size it is, but
49 it's -- you know, if it's too small do they return it

50

1 to the river. I would think if a king salmon was too
2 small like a jack king then they'd return it and if
3 there's a lot of damage to that king salmon or sockeye
4 and then it's released back into the river, you know,
5 because we've been catching a lot of small, small --
6 especially in the early run season, I've seen some like
7 maybe 10,12 inch sockeyes this summer, they weren't
8 very big at all and so -- and the kings are smaller
9 too, we don't get any large kings the way we used to.
10 I could remember when we used to get 60 pound, 50 pound
11 kings, we don't see that anymore, they're smaller and
12 small king salmon and small sockeyes and then to me, it
13 makes me wonder if they're returning them because they
14 think they're too small and that they're being damaged
15 and then they're released into the water again, you
16 know, they're damaged, from what I understand, from
17 these monofilament dipnets.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Gloria. Appreciate you taking the time to call in and
23 sharing your experience and conversations with other
24 people that have experience on the river.

25

26 Any questions for Gloria.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
31 thank you again Gloria for calling in and have a good
32 day today. That moves us on in the agenda, if there is
33 no other on the public testimony that would like to be
34 recognized at this time, we'll be moving on to the
35 Regional Council recommendations, RAC Chair or
36 designee.

37

38 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
39 This is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
40 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and I am sitting
41 in for our Chair, Greg Encelewski, who could not be
42 with us today.

43

44 The Southcentral Regional Advisory
45 Council does not want to recommend the regulation that
46 would be convoluted and create an additional
47 requirement on Federally-subsistence users only so they
48 opposed this proposal, 3 to 6. The Council stated that
49 the damage and mortality of fish was due more to the

50

1 mesh size and the amount of time the fish is out of the
2 water than the material of the net. They opined that
3 this is the easiest and most efficient way to catch a
4 fish is dipnetting though there should be a move to
5 conservation of the species, this proposal would not
6 result in the desired outcome. If fish are not
7 available then other user groups should be shut down.
8 The Council also voiced concern that this regulation
9 would be challenging for law enforcement to enforce.

10

11 That was the Southcentral Regional
12 Advisory Council recommendation.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
17 questions for the Regional Advisory position.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 are there any other Regional Council comments at this
23 time.

24

25 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, this is Sue
26 Entsminger, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, you
29 have the floor.

30

31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yes, good
32 morning, and thank you to the Federal Subsistence
33 Board. This is Sue Entsminger, Eastern Interior
34 Regional Advisory Council Chair.

35

36 The Council voted on this at our last
37 meeting to oppose. If adopted this regulation would
38 cause hardship for subsistence users and make the use
39 of dipnets more restrictive than for the other users.
40 It's onerous to change all your gear and it might be
41 difficult to get other materials. The Council shared
42 that mesh changes on the Yukon River cause a lot of
43 hardship for people trying to change all their nets out
44 and they don't want it to be repeated on the Copper
45 River. The Council believes that a better long-term
46 solution is to educate people on how to remove king
47 salmon quickly and safely from dipnets.

48

49 The Council also notes that there is a

50

1 lot of discussion about monofilament versus other
2 braided net materials, but most of the research was
3 done in setnets and driftnet fisheries where net
4 materials make a difference. However, given the
5 relatively short amount of time that fish are in
6 dipnets and the conservation that dipnets provide,
7 dipnet materials don't make that much of a difference
8 to fish injury.

9
10 And, Mr. Chair, I had some other things
11 going on when you had called on me for non-agenda
12 items. I'd be willing to bring in a couple non-agenda
13 items when maybe you're finished with this proposal.

14
15 But I did want to say that I, too,
16 served on the Board of Game in the '90s -- '93 to '96,
17 and the Federal and the State system has changed a bit.
18 The Federal system if every other year for game and
19 every other year for fish, and the Board of Game and
20 Board of Fish were on two year cycles and they're now
21 on three year cycles and some of these types of
22 proposals, people are putting them in to try to put a
23 concurrent proposal in to either the Fish Board or the
24 Game Board, and I believe after watching the system
25 over time, that it's time for both the Federal and the
26 State systems to think about how they can work together
27 on some proposals that people are -- they're coming out
28 before the Federal Subsistence Board first when it
29 should be last and people used to try to make that
30 happen in the past but it just doesn't happen so I can
31 see that this is an example, where something like that
32 -- where there's a way for these two systems to work
33 together on joint proposals to each Board.

34
35 So I wanted to bring that up and if
36 there was -- if you wanted -- I can bring up my non-
37 agenda items after you're finished with this proposal,
38 whatever works for your guys.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Either way is
41 good for us Sue, so glad you brought it up now, but if
42 you want to wait to do it at a specific time, too,
43 that'd be okay as well.

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: Well, it's just two
46 short ones, maybe I can do it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
49 you have the floor.

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'm on the Wrangell-
2 St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. And I know
3 on both of these -- the RACs and the SRCs are governed
4 through FACA and it is a little confusing to understand
5 that the SRCs are on until someone replaces them so if
6 their appointments up they're still on there. So it is
7 confusing why the two systems are different so that
8 brings up a question in my mind.

9
10 And then I wanted to state that the
11 Vice Chair, Andrew Firmin, has been talking to me and
12 he's concerned about having our in-person meetings and
13 several of us agree with him, that maybe the Government
14 will get used to that and then we won't have in-person
15 meetings anymore and it concerns him and he and I had
16 talked and we don't understand why, if -- maybe some
17 Council members decided they wanted to meet in-person,
18 why that couldn't happen and other persons call in.
19 It's just an issue I thought the Board should know,
20 that this is -- it's being discussed among our members.

21
22 And that's all.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue,
25 appreciate the willingness of the Board to want to
26 continue to work diligently as they do and, again,
27 never -- never is getting together face-to-face
28 replaceable. So thank you.

29
30 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
33 Regional Advisory Council recommendations or Chairs
34 wish to be heard at this time.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
39 we'll move on to the tribal, Alaska Native Corp
40 comments, Orville Lind.

41
42 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, can you hear me?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
45 brother.

46
47 MR. LIND: Hey, good morning. This is
48 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
49 Subsistence Management. Good morning everyone. Board

50

1 members.

2

3 Of the folks online, tribes that called
4 in, we had one person on June 11th, consultation, Chief
5 Gary Harrison, from Chickaloon, and on FP21-12, he just
6 mentioned that he wasn't really sure if that was a good
7 proposal and that was all he mentioned.

8

9 And that's all I have for you, Mr.
10 Chair.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
15 questions for Orville.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, hearing
20 none, we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and
21 Game comments, our esteemed colleague, Ben Mulligan.

22

23 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
25 and Game.

26

27 The Department opposes this proposal.
28 It is unlikely that the prohibition on monofilament or
29 multifilament web material would increase the survival
30 of released kings. Tangling is more a function of net
31 depth and mesh size rather than net material. This
32 proposal would also create an inconsistency between
33 State and Federal regulations which may lead to user
34 confusion.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
39 questions from the Board for the State.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
44 We'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
45 Katya.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Members of the Board. For the record, my name is Katya
49 Wessels, Acting Policy Coordinator with OSM. And for
50

1 the purpose of this meeting, the InterAgency Staff
2 Committee has a standard comment, it reads as follows:

3
4 The InterAgency Staff Committee found
5 the Staff analysis to be a thorough and accurate
6 evaluation of the proposal and that it provides
7 sufficient basis for the Regional Advisory Council
8 recommendation and Federal Subsistence Board action on
9 the proposal.

10
11 The InterAgency Staff Committee
12 provided the standard comment on Fisheries Proposal
13 FP21-12.

14
15 And as we move forward through thenon-
16 consensus proposals, if only the standard comment
17 applies to the proposal this is what I will state on
18 the record.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
23 that Katya. Any questions for Katya.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
28 we'll move to Board discussion.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, I
33 open the floor for Board action.

34
35 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don, you have
38 the floor.

39
40 MR. STRIKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 move that we adopt FP21-12. If I get a second I'll
42 explain why I plan to vote against my motion.

43
44 MR. BROWER: Second.

45
46 MR. STRIKER: Thank you for that
47 second. I intend to vote in opposition to my motion in
48 deference to the Eastern Interior RAC, the Southcentral
49 RAC and the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource

50

1 Commission, and, importantly this is also consistent
2 with the recommendation of the ISC and the State. My
3 opposition is for the reasons outlined in the Staff
4 analysis primarily that this would be an unnecessary
5 burden on Federally-qualified subsistence users, that
6 it would be unlikely to significantly benefit the
7 resource given that such restrictions have been
8 rejected by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and that
9 Federal harvest by dipnet in this area is low.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
14 other Board discussion, questions, comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
19 question.

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

22

23 MR. BROWER: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 Roll call, Sue, please.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: The motion on the floor
29 is to adopt Fisheries Proposal 21-12.

30

31 Start with the maker of the motion, Don
32 Striker.

33

34 MR. STRIKER: Opposed for the reasons
35 given. Thank you.

36

37 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

38

39 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
40 Siekaniec.

41

42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. For
43 the reasons highlighted by the National Park Service
44 and in support of the Southcentral RAC, Eastern
45 Interior RAC and the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
46 Resource Commission, I support the National Park
47 Service motion to oppose this proposal. Ultimately
48 this proposal will not contribute to conservation of
49 salmon stocks and would be more restrictive and an

50

1 additional burden to Federally-qualified subsistence
2 users.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

7

8 Glenn Chen for BIA.

9

10 MR. CHEN: Yes, Sue, the BIA votes to
11 oppose this proposal as recommended by the Southcentral
12 and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils as well
13 as the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
14 Commission.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

19

20 Chad Padgett, BLM.

21

22 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Sue. I oppose
23 as stated by the previous comments. Thank you.

24

25 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

26

27 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

28

29 MR. SCHMID: Hi, Sue. The Forest
30 Service opposes in deference to the RACs and with the
31 justification provided by the National Park Service.

32

33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

34

35 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

36

37 MS. PITKA: I oppose in deference to
38 the Regional Advisory Councils, Southcentral and
39 Eastern Interior. And also that this would create
40 undue stress on the rural public members.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

45

46 Public Member Charlie Brower.

47

48 MR. BROWER: Yeah, I oppose it from the
49 recommendations of Southcentral Advisory Council, the

50

1 Eastern Interior and Wrangell-St.Elias.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
6
7 Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose as
10 stated.
11
12 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. So
13 motion to adopt fails so this Fisheries Proposal 21-12
14 does not pass.
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue,
17 appreciate that. We'll move on to the next, FP21-13.
18
19 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, can we take a
20 nature call.
21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, we will
23 take a five minute break for Charlie, I always forget
24 I'm the youngest one on the Board, I think next to
25 Rhonda, so five minute break.
26
27 MS. PITKA: I am younger than you.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. STRIKER: I don't know what that
32 had to do with anything.
33
34 MR. SCHMID: Much appreciated, Mr.
35 Chair.
36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: I resemble that
38 comment, Mr. Chair, thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, hey, hey,
41 I'm sorry, guys, we're all young bucks at heart.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 (Off record)
46
47 (On record)
48
49 MS. DETWILER: It looks like we have
50

1 all Board members on.
2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue,
4 appreciate that, quorum. As we go through here and
5 anybody needs to reach us, just reach out through the
6 Operator and we'll recognize you. Sue, I'll turn it
7 back over to you to call the order of business and call
8 on the Staff to present.
9

10 MS. DETWILER: So we are continuing on
11 now with Fisheries Proposal 21-13.
12

13 MS. VOORHEES: Hello, again, Mr. Chair
14 and members of the Board. This is Hannah Voorhees,
15 anthropologist at Office of Subsistence Management.
16

17 Fisheries Proposal 21-13 begins on Page
18 246 of your Board book. This proposal is also
19 submitted by Kirk Wilson of Glennallen and requests
20 that the Board prohibit fishing with dipnets from boats
21 or crafts floating in the river in the Upper Copper
22 River district.
23

24 The proponent states that salmon tend
25 to rest in deep areas on their way up river and can be
26 targeted by those fishing from boats, which may be
27 contributing to depletion of salmon stocks.
28

29 Much of the information for this
30 proposal pertaining to public waters, cultural
31 knowledge and traditional practices and biological
32 background is identical to that presented for the
33 previous Upper Copper River proposals.
34

35 If this proposal carries, this may have
36 bearing on consideration of the next proposal which
37 requests that the Board prohibit use of fishfinders
38 while fishing from boats in the Upper Copper River.
39 Currently there are no restrictions on dipnetting from
40 boats in either the Federal subsistence or the State
41 subsistence and personal use fisheries in this area.
42 Ahtna dipnetting for salmon traditionally took place
43 from shore or platform built from shore. Access to
44 fishing sites was limited by territorial jurisdiction,
45 part of a traditional management system. Today
46 fishwheels are the predominant gear in use by
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users in this area.
48 Dipnetting, including from boats takes place primarily
49 under State permit.
50

1 In 2017 the Board of Fisheries rejected
2 a proposal submitted by the Ahtna Customary and
3 Traditional Use Committee that would have prohibited
4 dipnetting from boats in the Glennallen subdistricts.
5

6 The OSM conclusion on this current
7 proposal is to oppose with the following justification.
8

9 This proposal would make Federal
10 subsistence regulations pertaining to dipnetting more
11 restrictive than State subsistence and personal use
12 regulations. The majority of salmon taken by
13 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the Upper
14 Copper River district are taken by fishwheel rather
15 than from boats. Because both are not widely used to
16 dipnet for salmon under Federal subsistence permits in
17 the Upper Copper River district, adopting this proposal
18 would have little effect on the practice of concern and
19 little conservation effect. Two proposals similar to
20 the one being considered here will be taken up at the
21 next Board of Fisheries meeting where Prince William
22 Sound proposals are considered. These proposals would
23 prohibit dipnetting from boats in the Glennallen
24 subdistrict or the entire Upper Copper River district,
25 respectively.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 This concludes my presentation.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
32 appreciate that. Any questions from the board.
33

34 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair, BIA, please.
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Glenn, you have
37 the floor.
38

39 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our
40 question is directed to any of the Federal or State
41 managers who have knowledge about this fishery in the
42 Copper and our question is, is there any information
43 anecdotal or otherwise that could inform us about how
44 many fish are caught via boat dipnetting, in either the
45 State or Federal fisheries, and the second part of the
46 question also is we'd like to know if there's an idea
47 of how many fishers are via boat fishermen, if this
48 amount is increasing, or decreasing or staying the
49 same.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I
4 think that was a question.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Glenn. Did you ask a question of the Staff, Glenn?

10

11 MR. CHEN: Yes, Tony, that was a
12 question to Staff, Federal or Staff.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Does somebody
15 want to answer that question Glenn asked.

16

17 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is
18 Hannah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
21 floor.

22

23 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. I would
24 refer that question to either the State, Mark
25 Somerville, or National Park Service, the in-season
26 manager, if they'd like to comment on that.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is the in-
31 season manager available on the call today or is that a
32 question that we need to wait for somebody to get on
33 the line for.

34

35 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, this is Don.
36 I don't think our in-season manager is typically on the
37 call. We might have Barbara Cellarius on the call or I
38 don't know if Josh has access to that data, if their
39 lines are activated.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
42 And if any of those people are on, we await a response.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 OPERATOR: This is the Operator and I
47 did open Barbara's line.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

1 Welcome, Barbara, you have the floor.
2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I
4 am actually trying to contact our -- Dave Sarafin, is
5 the one who handles those reports. In terms of whether
6 we have actual quantitative data, I don't believe that
7 the harvest report that the fishermen submit asks that
8 question. So I don't believe that we have quantitative
9 data on that particular question for the Federal fish
10 permits.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is
15 Hannah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
18 floor, Hannah.

19
20 MS. VOORHEES: That comports with my
21 understanding as well and I would also add that under
22 Federal permit, we don't have ready access to
23 information about how gear use breaks down because
24 three kinds of gears can be -- including a dipnet, can
25 be used on the Federal permit, and it's actually more
26 complicated to generate gear reports for how fishing
27 was conducted than one might think, at least through
28 the Federal system.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I
31 hope that helps you Glenn. Do you have any other
32 questions for them.

33
34 MR. CHEN: Tony, thanks to Barbara and
35 Hannah for your answers, appreciate it.

36
37 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue.
38 I see that David Sarafin is trying to get on. He said
39 he tried to hit star one but has no means of speaking,
40 maybe the Operator can just doublecheck on that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Yeah, we'll check on that.

44
45 OPERATOR: I did open Dave's line, this
46 is the Operator.

47
48 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you. Hello, Mr.
49 Chair, can you hear me okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
2 you have the floor Dave.

3
4 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Yeah, we don't
5 have any data specific to dipnetting from boats. We do
6 have some information on the harvest by dipnet and, you
7 know, through 2019 anyways -- or the five year average
8 through 2019 was about 13 percent of the harvest of
9 salmon being by dipnet. We have seen a slight rise in
10 the past three years that is likely due -- it's mostly
11 coming from the Chitina subdistrict where we have seen
12 additional participation by Federal users now that we
13 are no longer matching the State schedule. So that has
14 -- in '19 it went up to about 21 percent, and I believe
15 2020 might be tracking at around 30 percent. And so
16 that's -- you know, there are -- in Chitina,
17 especially, there's a fair number that might be
18 dipnetting from boats that this would apply to.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
21 Thank you for answering the question there, Dave. And,
22 Glenn, did you have any questions in reverse or do you
23 have direction?

24
25 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. No followup
26 questions, thank you very much Dave for the
27 information. Appreciate it.

28
29 MR. SARAFIN: You're welcome.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, thank you
32 guys for that. I believe we were still in the
33 discussion points from the Staff analysis and so we'll
34 go ahead and move on to the next part which is a
35 summary of public comment, Council Coordinator.

36
37 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
38 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
39 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. And this
40 Council received five written public comments in
41 support of this proposal. They can be found in your
42 meeting book starting on Page 266.

43
44 A summary of those comments are:

45
46 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
47 Commission strongly supports this proposal and states
48 there is significant opposition to the dipnetting from
49 boats practice among Copper Basin locals. Dipnetting
50

1 from boats is not a customary or traditional use of the
2 resource and these harvesters would be able to target
3 salmon resting in deep parts of the river giving them a
4 competitive advantage over both fishwheel users and
5 dipnetters who fish from the shore.

6
7 Michael Mahoney supports this proposal.
8 Again stating that these changes would be helpful in
9 protecting our king salmon. He addressed Fish
10 Proposals 21-12, 13 and 14 at once. He stated that all
11 of these practices are not customary and traditional
12 and have resulted in much higher efficiency levels of
13 harvest.

14
15 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
16 proposal and as stated before when she commented on
17 Fish Proposals 21-11, 12, 13 and 14, it was important
18 -- it was important to limit overharvest in the Chitina
19 dipnet fishery and to acquire timely data on harvest.

20
21 Ahtna TeneNene' supports the proposal
22 because fishing from a boat or other craft floating in
23 the Copper River has an advantage over dipnetting from
24 shoreline and fishing from a boat down river is
25 essentially trolling for fish. Fishing in areas where
26 salmon rest also enables fishermen to harvest an
27 abundance of salmon at one time. Enforcement would be
28 a challenge, but may result in more salmon harvested
29 and not reported.

30
31 Bonnie Yazzie supports the proposal
32 because dipnetting from boat is not customary or
33 traditional way of getting salmon and it creates an
34 unfair advantage of the resource as it isn't
35 dipnetting, it's trolling. She heard that dipnetters
36 with boats were limiting out this year, while many
37 fishwheelers were struggling.

38
39 Kirk Wilson, proponent, supports his
40 proposal stating that fishing from a boat or other
41 craft floating in the Copper River has an advantage
42 over dipnetting from shore. Fishing from a boat moving
43 down river is essentially trolling. Fishing in salmon
44 hold up areas enables an abundance of salmon to be
45 harvested at one time. He also mentioned concerns
46 about enforcement. And that the traditional dipnetting
47 from a platform will work for harvesting salmon.

48
49 Again, for the comments in their
50

1 entirety, those can be read starting on Page 266 of the
2 meeting book.

3
4 We have also received comments from the
5 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
6 Commission and the Copper Basin Advisory Committee.

7
8 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
9 Subsistence Resource Commission opposed this proposal
10 with a vote of 1 in support and 7 opposed. Commission
11 members were generally not concerned about the practice
12 of dipnetting from boats by Federally-qualified
13 subsistence users, although concern was expressed about
14 increasing occurrence of dipnetting from boats by
15 participants in State managed fisheries in the Upper
16 Copper River. The numbers of Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users fishing from boats is limited, some
18 SRC members noted, however, that people dipnetting from
19 boats should be restricted before fishwheel users in
20 times of low salmon numbers. The Commission also noted
21 a need for information about harvest by gear type.
22 That would have been an important part of information
23 to include in the proposal analysis.

24
25 Last week, prior to this Board meeting
26 I received a comment from Copper Basin Advisory
27 Committee who chose not to vote on this proposal but
28 they did share some of their discussion on the topic,
29 which included acknowledging the shortage of fish but
30 there seems to be a shift from fishwheels to dipnetting
31 and so it's getting more popular. You can catch fewer
32 fish dipnetting versus using a fishwheel but there was
33 less than a one percent take of fish in the
34 Gulkana/Klutina area, and they also mentioned, we
35 didn't have boats and equipment like we do today and
36 presumably that addresses historical methods used for
37 take.

38
39 That's a summary of the public written
40 comments received on this proposal.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
45 questions for the public comments.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none

50

1 we'll move on, we'll open the floor to public
2 testimony. Operator, if there's anyone who would like
3 to speak to this proposal, please make their line
4 available.

5
6 OPERATOR: Again, just press star one
7 if you'd like your line open. Again, star one. And
8 Karen Linnell, your line is open.

9
10 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Members of the Board. I would like to talk about some
12 of the resources and the things that we've seen
13 happening and have been reported to me by folks up and
14 down the river. From Chitina north of the bridge there
15 by the airport and up in Copper Center, all the way to
16 Gulkana and Gakona, there are folks that are coming
17 near fishwheels. There's a lot more boat traffic. The
18 folks are able to target salmon when they're held up
19 during high water. I personally have witnessed this,
20 when we went down to visit the Native Village of Eyak
21 camp at Wood Canyon and when we were coming back it was
22 high water, we weren't catching -- folks weren't
23 catching very many salmon in their fishwheels but I
24 seen -- I saw two boats going back and forth in this --
25 where some salmon were held up and just catching them
26 one after the other. There was about four people in
27 the boat and filling their, you know, getting their
28 limit. And that was south of the Chitina River bridge,
29 but it's also happening up north. You know we all know
30 that the fish hold up during high water and as soon as
31 the water starts to drop the salmon will run and move,
32 we're not seeing that anymore.

33
34 Again, it's -- the effort has changed.
35 We have elders, Faye Ewan, who reported to us that, you
36 know, they went to check their wheel at 1:00 o'clock in
37 the morning and caught a boat leaving their fishwheel,
38 you know, there. So she lives one mile from her
39 fishwheel. And it used to be customarily that we would
40 actually camp at our camps and I do do that at my camp
41 because it's 50 miles away, I stay there, but nowadays
42 folks are able to work on their fish and then -- right
43 there and go home because it's easier to get -- stay at
44 home and have the running water, et cetera, now, with
45 these modern conveniences.

46
47 But they are targeting those schools of
48 fish that are held up during high water.

49
50

1 And it's not just a handful of boats,
2 now there are hundreds. Folks coming from Fairbanks.
3 Our office is located right across from the local
4 grocery store here in Glennallen and I was walking back
5 from the store to our office one day and there was an
6 elderly couple and I asked them if I could help them
7 with anything and he told me, no, he said, we're good,
8 we just came down to go fishing. One of my friends
9 told me where to go so we got our boat and we're going
10 to head out there. This isn't just a few folks, this
11 is a lot of folks that are doing this and targeting
12 fish while they're held up.

13
14 Again, I'm urging you to look at the
15 resource, quit managing for people. This has been
16 happening quite a bit, both on the State side and the
17 Federal side. As we just saw, you're looking at what's
18 restricting for the subsistence user, we are
19 subsistence users and we're asking for this restriction
20 because we're concerned for the resource.

21
22 Like I said, in one of my previous
23 testimonies I got 66 sockeye this year, this last year,
24 and it was in a one month period. When I first built
25 my own camp at my dad's homeland, I would get 60 in a
26 day, you know, and then we'd shut off the wheel and
27 we'd work and whatever, and get 120 in a day, but 66 in
28 one month is pretty poor. One day I was tasked with
29 watching all the fishwheels and distributing the fish,
30 40 fish between four fishwheels, that's it, 40 between
31 four, and I was distributing that to the owners because
32 all the young folks were off and working and whatever
33 so I got it to the elders. That's not good. That is
34 the worst I've ever seen it in all the years that I've
35 lived off of this land. I'm 57 years old and there's
36 not a year in my life that I haven't eaten food from
37 this home, my father's homelands. I watch and see and
38 hear my elders talking about the changes that we're
39 seeing, yes, modernization can be a good thing, we're
40 vacuum-packing, we're freezing now, you know, that's a
41 good thing, but dipnetting from boats right now is not
42 a good thing.

43
44 It used to be that those folks would
45 take them and drop them off on the banks of the river,
46 the transporters would drop them off on the banks of
47 the river and then they would leave. The other
48 proposal that we have in is to stop them from using
49 fishfinders. I'm sorry but if you're on our river and
50

1 you're using a fishfinder, you're going to hit a rock
2 anyway because you're looking down and not ahead of you
3 and reading the river. Anybody that knows this river
4 knows you can't do that. It's a fast moving river,
5 it's braided and you can't use those modern tools on
6 this river to navigate the river.

7
8 So I believe that this is where you
9 folks, as the Federal Subsistence Board, can look at
10 and take action to guarantee, to ensure that we have a
11 sustainable fishery. And that's what I've been asking
12 all along, don't do what is more restrictive than the
13 State, don't look at that, we're looking at the
14 resource. I do not want to turn into the Yukon and the
15 Kuskokwim where anybody's restricted, I'm looking at my
16 -- I'm looking for generations down the road, not
17 today, not tomorrow. You know what we have happening
18 now is when there's "record number" getting by the
19 Miles Lake sonar they increase the personal use permit
20 and more people come. It used to be that there were
21 only 3,000 dipnet permits sold a year and now we're at
22 9,000. So this is an issue. And we need to look at
23 it. You know, our local -- one of our local managers
24 talks about, well, they're getting their limit and it
25 kind of shows a flat line on his graph but he never
26 shows you that there's been a significant increase in
27 permits. And I want to thank Dave Sarafin for
28 mentioning the increase in permits and I strongly
29 believe that it's because now they're using boats.

30
31 Anyway I urge you to what is right for
32 the resource and not worry about whether the State is
33 doing it or not, I urge you to look at what can be
34 done. You know, there might not be data but I can tell
35 you what we see on the daily and I sure hope Faye Ewan
36 has called in and is going to speak because she can
37 tell you her personal experiences on that river. We
38 were at Gulkana Village not long ago and they were
39 talking about their concern for that and Odin Miller,
40 who's an anthropologist for Ahtna InterTribal Resource
41 Commission was the one that had direct contact to that
42 and that concern raised with him and he said that he
43 would bring it forward so I hope he also comes on to
44 speak to this. You know, some of our local folks
45 aren't out there on the daily and don't see it and then
46 when you have folks that tell that they don't care if
47 they have more data they're not going to use it, and
48 then our local manager with the State, you know, that
49 concerns me. And we're here, we're on the land every
50

1 day. We're on that river every day and we know what's
2 going on and we can see it every day and we want to
3 make these changes so that we can ensure that we're not
4 going to be restricted in the future and that this
5 salmon will be here for centuries to come.

6
7 You know the whole reason we have
8 salmon now is because Doc Billum wrote a letter to the
9 Department of Education because the BIA and -- this is
10 in the 1900s when they had a fish weir across the
11 entire Copper River and the people in Chitina and up
12 river were starving, that's why we have salmon, we
13 intervened then and we're trying to intervene now, to
14 prevent this from happening and I truly hope that you
15 guys will do what is best for the resource.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Karen. And truly appreciate your testimony for this
21 proposal and adding that level of information for us to
22 consider. Is there any questions from the Board for
23 Karen.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I, too,
28 echo your concerns, you know, when we look at these
29 proposals, I thought it was alarming to see, you know,
30 9,000 permit versus 168 permit difference and pointing
31 at each other across the line, like there was a clearly
32 an issue there and so I hope we could resolve that and
33 find a way to continue to meet the priority needs of
34 the users of the area. So thank you for calling in and
35 testifying.

36
37 Operator, is there another person
38 online who would like to be recognized at this time.

39
40 OPERATOR: We do. We have Faith [sic]
41 Ewan, your line is -- I'm sorry, Faye Ewan your line is
42 open.

43
44 MS. EWAN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
45 or Good morning, Mr. Chair. I want to speak on behalf
46 of my tribe and my people here in the Copper River. We
47 face a lot of deficit in many different ways,
48 especially if we live off the river to -- that is one
49 of our biggest diet for the Copper River Ahtna people.

50

1 This year, the National Park Service
2 and the State of Alaska issued, maybe, I don't know how
3 many people that put a camp across the river on the
4 Wrangell-St.Elias National ParkLand and gave them the
5 permission to dipnet off the river when us, as a
6 sovereign nation, a tribe here in Alaska can't even go
7 over there and fish on that land and hunt unless we
8 make negotiations on behalf of our people and they go
9 ahead and do that and guess what, the river is only
10 about a half a mile, three-quarter miles wide, they can
11 come over to my wheel and they unload my wheel and they
12 take it back over and have big barbecue over there,
13 there's cameras, there's people, I reported to Ahtna
14 Land Department, I reported -- we had the Fish and Game
15 in there and you know what, they don't do nothing about
16 it. I depend on that fishwheel. So does a lot of
17 people in Alaska, they depend on our fishwheel to feed
18 their families, especially the ones that work in the
19 cities that cannot come out here to do that. When you
20 go down to Chitina and you got 10,000 people there
21 camped all over in that place, encroached on Ahtna
22 lands and fishing out there, by the time the salmon
23 come up to Copper River, in three months I got 500
24 salmon and five kings to feed my family of 27 of us.
25 That, to me, isn't justice to my people. When we watch
26 -- I grew up on Copper River, my mom and dad started
27 ANILCA, ANILCA for -- when they did the Copper River
28 for fighting for their rights to keep their wheel open
29 in time of shortage. Where ANILCA has not upheld our
30 rights, they have not had government to government
31 consultation on our behalf on fishing stuff like that,
32 we should have a -- a tribal quota should have been
33 given to our tribes way before these dipnetters and
34 these people came in -- in 1962 as dipnetters. As a
35 sovereign nation we have issues, we have rights to this
36 river, we have a right to fish and we have a right to
37 know what's going on and a right to know when there's
38 regulations going down. We should be at the table as a
39 traditional knowledge and educated people to go there
40 and negotiate. We know Copper River and we know what's
41 coming there, we know how it's going to be there.

42
43 And every time there was an increase in
44 fish, like Karen said, they brought in more quota when
45 we told Somerville to put a stop to the river, let the
46 fish come through. Okay the biologist said. No fish
47 came to Gulkana River, even up at Batzulnetas, nothing
48 came. That is five years from now. This is depletion.
49
50

1 Another thing too, and why are these
2 people all having these rights to go down the river and
3 dipnet down the middle of the river, especially around
4 where we're fishing. They know where all the eddies
5 are. To me, this is unfair, especially when, you know,
6 as subsistence users are only one percent, two percent
7 users. And everything we have, we have to share. I
8 ended up with 30 salmon this year and a half a king to
9 feed my family of 27 because I have to share with my
10 sister and brothers and my other family that didn't
11 have a fishwheel.

12
13 So to me, I would ask the indigenous
14 people in the Copper River region, what do you think
15 about managing this right here. Don't go by the
16 biologists and scientists and them people, we're the
17 people that know that river.

18
19 And thank you for listening to me.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 MS. EWAN: Anybody there?

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MS. EWAN: They hung up on me -- hello?

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we're
30 still online.

31
32 MS. PITKA: Thank you for your
33 testimony.

34
35 MR. STRIKER: We heard you. We think
36 we might have lost our Chairman again, sometimes he's
37 losing his signal.

38
39 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Faye, for your
40 testimony, and thank you Ms. Linnell for your testimony
41 also. Is there anybody else in the queue.

42
43 OPERATOR: We do have Hope Rogers --
44 Roberts, I'm sorry, your line is open.

45
46 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning again, Staff
47 and Federal Subsistence Board. Thank you for the
48 floor. Also (In Native) to elder Faye Ewan.

49
50

1 I am the -- again, I am the intertribal
2 liaison for Federal subsistence outreach at Chugach
3 Regional Resources Commission.

4
5 I'm sorry, hold on a second.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MS. ROBERTS: Chugach Regional
10 Resources Commission is an intertribal fish and
11 wildlife commission that address environmental and
12 natural resource issues of concern.

13
14 Last year we developed the InterTribal
15 Federal Subsistence Cooperative Management Alliance and
16 I am speaking on behalf of them this morning for FP21-
17 13. We ask you to support this proposal. These
18 comments are similar to the other ones that I've given.
19 These recommendations came from the Joint Copper River
20 Salmon Symposium in 2019 where research and
21 conservation of the resource were two major points of
22 agreement that Upper and Lower River user groups agreed
23 were necessary while these proposals would create a
24 situation where Federal subsistence rights were
25 stricter than State regulations. We believe the
26 importance of these salmon runs require precautionary
27 approach to conservation.

28
29 That is what I have for that particular
30 proposal, Staff and Board.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Ms. Roberts, for
35 the testimony. Does anybody have any questions for Ms.
36 Roberts.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MS. PITKA: If not, is there anybody
41 else in the que for oral public testimony on 21-13.

42
43 OPERATOR: We do have, we have Odin
44 Miller, your line is open.

45
46 MR. MILLER: Hi, thank you. Thank you
47 for the opportunity Federal Subsistence Board members
48 to comment on this proposal, FP21-13. I don't have any
49 remarks prepared, I apologize.

50

1 But I can just speak to some of what
2 I've seen and heard working at Ahtna InterTribal
3 Resource Commission as an anthropologist. From what
4 I've seen, dipnetting out of boats has been a major
5 conservation concern among Ahtna subsistence fishers as
6 Karen and Faye were both able to express from years of
7 direct experience on the river. As Karen mentioned,
8 there's traditional knowledge that fish during times of
9 high water tend to hole up in deep parts of the river
10 and that when the water level begins to drop, they go
11 through in pulses and so I think that, you know, until
12 the 2020 low salmon return it seemed like there was
13 some question or dispute among managers on the Copper
14 River about whether sockeye runs were even actually
15 doing that badly, I think some of that's changed. But
16 what I've seen is that there's been a lot of
17 qualitative observations from people who have years of
18 experience fishing on the river and are raising a lot
19 of concern about various indicators about the health of
20 the species and I think that the pulses of fish that
21 Karen mentioned, the fact that those aren't going
22 through with nearly the same intensity they used to be;
23 that's something that I've heard several people mention
24 that is potentially an indicator of a change in run
25 quality that is quite concerning.

26
27 I think, more generally, just a
28 difference between fishwheels and dipnetting from the
29 bank, one way in which those methods differ from
30 dipnetting from a boat is that dipnetting from a boat,
31 just to state the obvious is a lot more mobile, people
32 can go anywhere in the river that's navigable. Now,
33 granted there's certain things that limit where you can
34 practically dipnet but it gives people who use this
35 practice a lot more mobility and if they can figure out
36 where the fish are, it gives people the ability to
37 target schools of fish with a lot more of a surgical
38 precision.

39
40 And then finally the other thing with
41 regard to Federally-qualified subsistence users, as the
42 Staff mentioned in their analysis, this would only
43 affect a small number of Federally-qualified
44 subsistence users because most use fishwheels. And I
45 think one reason why most Federally-qualified
46 subsistence users use fishwheels is because owning a
47 boat costs a lot of money, it's very expensive, so I
48 think it does -- if this increasingly becomes a
49 predominant method of harvesting salmon it sort of, I
50

1 think, you know, makes -- it could have the potential
2 to make subsistence fishing on the Copper River into an
3 increasingly expensive activity that requires a lot
4 more funds to successfully participate in.
5

6 And, you know, to be perfectly honest I
7 don't have a whole lot of hope that the Federal
8 Subsistence Board is going to pass this proposal today,
9 especially because the Southcentral RAC has already
10 voted against it, but I think as with, you know, some
11 of the previous proposals, I would just encourage the
12 OSM and, you know, other agencies, the State as well,
13 to support doing a lot more concerted and directed
14 research into fishing equipment and other factors that
15 might be affecting the health of stocks on the Copper
16 River because it seems to me like a lot of these
17 things, from what I've been able to find, there really
18 isn't a lot of really good studies and high quality
19 data about the kind of effects these are having. And
20 so given the conservation concerns that a lot of people
21 have it seems like this is really something that
22 warrants a lot further research and that we should be
23 using the precautionary principle and putting pause on
24 practices that may be having negative impact on salmon
25 populations.
26

27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 that. Any questions from the Board.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
35 hearing none, Operator -- thank you for calling in
36 today, appreciate that. Is there anyone else that
37 would like to be recognized at this time.
38

39 OPERATOR: And you can just press star
40 one. Our next one is Gloria Stickwan, your line is
41 open.
42

43 MS. STICKWAN: I wanted to speak to
44 FP21-13 fishing from a boat. Earlier I heard that
45 there's no studies done on fishing from a boat or
46 keeping data on that. It wouldn't be that hard to add
47 that to the permit, how you have access to the fish, if
48 you use a boat or not. I think a baseline study should
49 be started because as the years go by there's going to
50

1 be an increase in this kind of fishery to fish from a
2 boat and possibly dipnetting, and it's going to be
3 adopted in the Lower Copper River too if there's ever a
4 fishery down there, you know, it's going to be -- it
5 will be adopted, I'm sure. If there ever is a fishery
6 in the Lower Copper River, and what impact that's going
7 to have on the total fisheries in the Copper River,
8 there is going to be an impact. So I think the
9 National Park Service should have that on the permit.
10 I would ask them to put that on there and keep track of
11 that.

12
13 Hovercrafts were used on the National
14 River, what other boats are being used on the Copper
15 River. What types of boat. We don't have any data on
16 that and what impact does it have on the Copper River.
17 That sort of thing needs to be kept track of. Because
18 there is an impact on the fisheries because, you know,
19 they're able to go where their ideal spots are for
20 where -- where the sockeye are held up and who knows,
21 due to lack of enforcement, could be harvesting a lot
22 of fish. We don't have any enforcement on the
23 fisheries other than the State, the National Park
24 Service can't go out there anymore, I mean, you know,
25 who's doing enforcement on the river other than the
26 State. I don't think anybody.

27
28 One of the things I heard about is the
29 people said they were on their fishwheels and they had
30 wakes from boats being close to their fishwheel, made
31 their fishwheels rock while they were on it because the
32 boats are too close to their fishwheel.

33
34 And this fish proposal -- I mean this
35 kind of fishing, I think was adopted from the State,
36 like most of the regulations were. It's not customary
37 and traditional for the Ahtna people to use boats to
38 fish, we've used dipnetting from a platform on the
39 river. The biggest concern I have about this is a
40 conservation concern, about low returns of sockeye and
41 kings and enforcement, who's watching people getting
42 their bag limit, who's watching them to make sure they
43 do that -- make sure they get their bag limit.

44
45 And also I've heard that people are
46 fishing close to the tributaries and they're doing well
47 there, fishing close to the tributaries like Klutina,
48 getting close to that area, being able to catch a lot
49 of fish that are going up there to spawn at Klutina

50

1 Lake. I mean it's affecting the spawning fish by
2 fishing too close to the tributaries with boats.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

7

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Gloria. Appreciate your taking the time to call in
today to testify to this. Any questions from the
Board.

8

9

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Gloria. Operator, will you please recognize the next
one online.

15

16

17

OPERATOR: Yes, and that comes from Jim
Simon, your line is open.

18

19

20

MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Members of the Board and Regional Advisory Council
members. My name's Jim Simon. I am a consultant with
the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, but today I
just want to share my personal comments on this
proposal as a former Federally-qualified user who grew
up living on Copper River salmon and have also spent 30
years working throughout Alaska as an anthropologist
and spent 14 of those years as the Regional Program
Manager for the Arctic/Yukon and Kuskokwim region.

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And through those experiences I've
learned from elders from different rivers that are
quite different from the Copper River, you know,
geologically, et cetera, but, you know, the fish --
it's highly effective fishing from boat and with
fishfinders in the middle channel during high water
periods or any period, it's concerning to me from a
conservation standpoint because of the lack of
tributary monitoring and to really protect the
diversity of those various stocks of salmon, both
chinook salmon and sockeye salmon and just the gauntlet
of the canyon, and this new emergent fishery,
dipnetting from boats, is likely having a
disproportionate effect on the passage of fish up
river. And in many other areas traditional knowledge
has long understood that fish swimming in the middle of
the river are likely often times bound further up
stream and that, you know, when before fish turn into
the tributaries to reach their spawning ground they get

1 bank oriented and I think that this is part of why
2 fishwheels and dipnetting from shore, as is the
3 customary and traditional practice on the Copper River
4 is an important legacy of tribal stewardship because
5 the conditions of the river, for one, as well as being
6 able to monitor how the various fisheries, the long
7 traditional fisheries along the river impacted the
8 spawning and health of those populations.
9

10 And so I'm very concerned at the lack
11 of fish getting past the bridge in Chitina for -- and
12 the testimony that you have heard about how it takes a
13 month of active fishing to get what used to show up in
14 your fishwheel in one day, and that this is likely a
15 hypothesis that should be investigated as to how this
16 new fishery, from dipnetting from boats, is impacting
17 those up river stocks. Even the hatchery program isn't
18 being able to reach their recovery goal for new eggs,
19 et cetera, there are not enough fish getting past the
20 bridge.
21

22 And I urge you to vote to support this
23 proposal in opposition of the Regional Advisory Council
24 position because of the conservation concern of chinook
25 salmon in particular, but also sockeye salmon, which is
26 increasingly becoming a problem and an area of concern.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I
31 appreciate you taking the time to comment today. Any
32 questions from the Board.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, you
37 have a nice day today. Appreciate again you taking the
38 time. Operator is there somebody else who would like
39 to testify to this proposal.
40

41 OPERATOR: We do have Karen Linnell,
42 your line is open.
43

44 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. I want to
45 thank you for the second opportunity to talk. One of
46 the things that I failed to mention earlier was the
47 erosion. You know, we hear a lot about the climate
48 change and the effects on the coastal waters but we're
49 also seeing it here in our rivers and losing, you know,
50

1 20 or 30 feet of bank for change and having to move our
2 fish camps and things like that. That's an additional
3 concern. The fishwheels and the proximity of those
4 boats going by when they cause a wake, it can cause
5 your fishwheel to get off kilter and stop.

6
7 And then the other thing I want to talk
8 about and Gloria and folks were talking about, simple
9 change to the permit. I'm not sure, but maybe Barb
10 Cellarius can speak to it but I know when we were
11 talking about having -- being able to compare apples to
12 apples when I was on the Board of Game, we asked if
13 they could change the Federal permit to include the
14 antler spread and how many brow tines was on it and
15 that they had to go through an OMB process and that it
16 was a cumbersome thing and it wasn't as simple as
17 reprinting new permits, and so there's that process
18 that needs to happen as well. And so I don't know if
19 Barb can speak to it but at the time it seemed like it
20 was a difficult thing and not a simple change as that.
21 And so I think that those are considerations that you
22 folks will have to address in your deliberation as
23 well.

24
25 I just thought I'd raise that as a
26 concern.

27
28 Again, I just would like you to, again,
29 urge you to do what's best for the resource and not
30 worry about so much the people and it seems that we've
31 shifted to managing for people, and this is what's
32 going on at the State level. When I was on the Board
33 of Game it was one of my bigger concerns and I raised
34 it quite often is that we're managing people versus
35 managing the resource.

36
37 And I just want to thank you for your
38 time and your consideration in this matter.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Karen. And, again, always appreciate your input on the
44 proposals. Any questions from the Board.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, again,
49 thank you. Operator, is there anyone else who would

50

1 like to be recognized.

2

3 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
4 further comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
7 thank you very much and appreciate everyone who took
8 the time to call in this morning to publicly testify.
9 At this time we'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
10 recommendation, RAC Chair.

11

12 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
13 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
14 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and for Greg
15 Encelewski, the Chair.

16

17 The Southcentral Regional Advisory
18 Council opposed this proposal 1 to 8. The Council
19 majority agreed with the rationale provided by OSM in
20 its analysis and felt that this proposal would be an
21 unnecessary restriction on Federally-qualified
22 subsistence users. This would limit how those users
23 could harvest their fish and drifting could make
24 harvesting more efficient and less time consuming.
25 Further this proposal would affect only a small number
26 of Federal subsistence users as this is not a method
27 used by a lot of people. The restrictions would be
28 contrary to the intent of ANILCA. It is concerning
29 that many people you see boat dipnetting are State
30 subsistence users with a commercial operator. This
31 burden would be too big of a change on the small group
32 of Federal subsistence users. And this Council also
33 discussed, possibly, sending a letter to address this
34 issue to the Board of Fish. They will further discuss
35 that at their upcoming winter meeting in February.

36

37 That's the recommendation of the
38 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Appreciate that. Is there any other Regional Advisory
44 Council Chairs.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, again,
49 I'll just ask one more time is there a Regional Council

50

1 recommendation, I know we've been hearing from two of
2 you.

3
4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, Mr. Chair, this
5 is Sue Entsminger for the Eastern Interior Regional
6 Advisory Council.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
9 floor, Sue.

10
11 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you. And
12 good morning, folks. This proposal was six support,
13 two opposed by the Eastern Interior. The Council noted
14 that this proposed regulatory change is getting a lot
15 of support from Federally-qualified subsistence users
16 because fishing from boats has long-term effects on the
17 way of fishing in the Copper. The Council said that
18 the fishing from boats is becoming increasingly
19 competitive and provides an advantage over traditional
20 methods and means, such as dipnetting from shore and
21 using fishwheels. This is a typical situation in a
22 fishery where people have discovered a new method of
23 fishing, once it becomes popular because of its success
24 and advantage it will overturn long-term established
25 fishery practices. Next we'll be dealing with too many
26 boats on the river. It will become dangerous to
27 people, the conflicts will start with too many boats
28 trying to fish at the same time. The Council believes
29 that the Federal Subsistence Board should take the lead
30 on this issue by recognizing the negative effects of
31 dipnetting from boats on Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users and use its leverage to convince the
33 State to also pass this regulation.

34
35 Additionally, the Council said that
36 this type of fishing does not give fish a place to hide
37 and rest without being interrupted and captured, which
38 is an issue due to the long migrations.

39
40 And I wanted to say this, again, is a
41 situation where if the State Board of Fish met first
42 then they -- and they supported something like this for
43 State users then the Federal side met later, it's
44 possible that things might change on how the support of
45 this goes, because at the SRC meeting I attended -- I'm
46 a representative from the Eastern Interior RAC to the
47 SRC, the vote was one to seven and several subsistence
48 users actually had talked to me and they feel that a
49 lot of the abuse is not subsistence users, they felt it

50

1 was from the State users. So I mean I think that's why
2 the vote was one to seven at the SRC and then the 6/2
3 at the Eastern Interior RAC. And I know that the
4 people on the Eastern Interior RAC, the majority of
5 them are from the Yukon and they do have concerns of
6 other fisheries because of what has occurred on the
7 Yukon.

8

9

So that's all I have.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 appreciate that, Sue. Any questions.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
19 Regional Advisory Council recommendations or RAC Chairs
20 who wish to speak at this time.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
25 thank you. Hearing none there we will move onto
26 tribal Alaska Native Corp comments, Orville Lind.

27

28

MR. LIND: Yeah, can you hear me?

29

30

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
31 the floor.

32

33

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
34 members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office
35 of Subsistence Management. During the consultation
36 held in June we had one member, Chief Gary state that
37 he was not in support of this proposal, FP21-13.

38

39

That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

40

41

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Orville. Appreciate that. Any questions.

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing
47 none there, we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish
48 and Game comments, Ben Mulligan.

49

50

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
3 and Game. The Department opposes this proposal
4 prohibiting dipnetting from boat. It would be
5 unnecessarily restrictive on subsistence users with no
6 management or biological benefit. It would create
7 inconsistencies between State and Federal regulations.

8
9 Given the question that I think was
10 posed earlier by BIA, I reached out to our area
11 biologist, Mark Somerville, and if we can let him in on
12 the call he is prepared to provide some data.

13
14 OPERATOR: And this is the Operator, I
15 am looking for his line. One moment please.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Who are we
18 talking about, Operator.

19
20 OPERATOR: Mark Somerville, I'll open
21 the line.

22
23 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yes, hello, this is
24 Mark Somerville with the Department of Fish and Game,
25 area management biologist for the Upper Copper, Upper
26 Susitna Management Area. I know you had several
27 questions earlier and I apologize I couldn't -- I was
28 trying to get online to answer those questions at the
29 time and wasn't able to. So, Board Members, please, by
30 all means please repeat your questions or come up with
31 any other questions. We have lots of data on harvest
32 from boats versus shore, in boat fisheries, and harvest
33 success over the last 20 years, so feel free to ask any
34 questions you'd like, sir.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, could
37 you guys still hear me on this line?

38
39 REPORTER: Yes.

40
41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes.

42
43 MR. SOMERVILLE: I can hear you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I was
46 just making sure. I appreciate you taking the time to
47 call in too as well. Any questions for the State.

48
49 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair, BIA.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, you have
2 the floor.

3
4 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
5 Mr. Somerville, so we had asked the question earlier
6 about information pertaining to dipnet harvest from
7 boats, if there's any quantitative or anecdotal
8 information from the managers, and also if you have a
9 sense as to whether or not boat harvest, dipnet
10 harvests have been increasing, staying the same or
11 decreasing.

12
13 Thank you very much.

14
15 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yes, sir. Through the
16 Chair. BIA. So the Department of Fish and Game has
17 been monitoring harvest from boats versus shore since
18 2001 in the Chitina subdistrict below the bridge in the
19 personal use fishery and we just started requiring --
20 in 2019 was the first year we required that same
21 information from subsistence above the bridge, whether
22 they fish from boats or from shore when they're fishing
23 with a dipnet.

24
25 So it looks like, basically over the
26 last five years average harvest in the personal use
27 fishery below the bridge, about 25 percent of the
28 harvest is taken by dipnets from boats versus dipnets
29 from shore. Success rates, you're looking at about
30 slightly better success rates for boat versus shore in
31 that fishery.

32
33 And then in the subsistence fishery in
34 2019 about 30 percent of the sockeye salmon that were
35 harvested by dipnets, were harvested from boats, and
36 about 36 percent of the king salmon were harvested from
37 boats. Looking at the numbers here, success rates,
38 dipnetting from a boat the average harvest for king
39 salmon is two per permit and 27 sockeye; dipnetting
40 from shore average harvest of kings was one per permit
41 and 45 sockeye per permit.

42
43 And then when you compare that to
44 fishwheels, the average harvest for fishwheel is five
45 king salmon and 70 sockeye per permit on a fishwheel.

46
47 So dipnetting from boats compared to
48 dipnetting from shore, below the bridge is a slight
49 advantage, and dipnetting in the subsistence fishery

50

1 it's -- for some people, like I say, find it more
2 successful, but overall harvest per permit is a little
3 bit lower than any other methods used in those
4 fisheries.

5
6 In all cases, the harvest in both
7 districts is -- we feel it's plenty sustainable
8 regardless of the method. We have been seeing an
9 increase in dipnet permits in the subsistence fishery
10 along with a decrease in the number of people getting
11 on fishwheels. The overall effect of this is not an
12 increase in harvest but an overall decrease in harvest,
13 since dipnetting from boats is less effective than
14 fishing from a fishwheel.

15
16 And then as far as dipnetting and
17 success rates, at high water all fisheries do poorly,
18 whether you're dipnetting from a boat, from shore, or a
19 fishwheel. High water affects all the gear types
20 pretty much the same. People do still find stocks to
21 fish from boats because they can move around and so on,
22 the eddies shift, depending on the water level, but
23 overall success goes down during the high water.

24
25 I agree with the testimony there as far
26 as the pulsing of fish after high waters. In 2020 we
27 did not see those pulses. And that's not because of
28 anything to do with the fisheries, it has to do with
29 the fact that we had so few fish in the river that
30 those pulses were pretty much hard to see.

31
32 The other observations from 2020 here
33 is that -- to let you know, it was the lowest sockeye
34 salmon run for the Copper River since the early 1960s.
35 So obviously we're going to see a lot lower harvest.
36 Harvest in the Glennallen subdistrict was about 35 --
37 it looks like it's going to be about 35 percent below
38 average. Harvest in the personal use fishery below the
39 bridge is running about 55 percent below average. And
40 the commercial fishery is somewhere about 90 percent
41 below average for 2020. So an extremely bad year and
42 everybody saw the same results in their harvest and
43 stuff, it just wasn't a good year.

44
45 So that's the differences between the
46 different fisheries there.

47
48 If you have any other specific
49 questions I'll be happy to answer those.

50

1 MR. CHEN: Mr. Somerville, thank you
2 very much for that detailed information it was very
3 helpful.

4
5 MR. SOMERVILLE: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you as
8 well. Any other questions from the Board.

9
10 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
13 floor.

14
15 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. Ben, I
16 appreciate your input and the -- I certainly appreciate
17 opposition to proposals that create more inconsistency
18 between the State and the Feds. I'm curious on this
19 notion of a Federal action setting a precedent and in
20 doing so perhaps moving the State fisheries folks to
21 consider a proposal. Is there precedent for Federal
22 action taking, you know, sort of that additional
23 incentive for impacting the State deliberations?

24
25 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair.
26 Member Striker. You know I'd have to -- that'd be
27 something I'd have to research. In the time I've been
28 here I'm trying to, you know, dig through my memory
29 just from my time from 2010 to 2015, and the two years
30 now but then also my time going to Board of Fish
31 meetings when I was a legislative aide and I'm trying
32 to remember if I ever saw a case where justification
33 for passing a Board proposal hinged on aligning Federal
34 and State regs on our side, it seems like, just knowing
35 -- it seems like the situations where the Board of Fish
36 or Board of Game has made the action and then we see a
37 subsequent proposal come into your Board's process, but
38 that's something -- I mean I can definitely talk to
39 folks who've got, you know, decades of experience with
40 the Board. I'll talk to our Executive Directors, of
41 both the Board of Fish and the Board of Game and see if
42 I can't provide some examples for you guys.

43
44 As our directed -- as we developed our
45 protocols on, I can provide that to Mr. Pappas to
46 provide to all the Board members and their Staff.

47
48 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. Thank you so
49 much.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 other questions.

3
4 MS. PITKA: Not necessarily a question.
5 But there is precedence for State Board action
6 following Federal action and reverse. We kind of do it
7 all the time.

8
9 And also how many State permits were
10 issued to boat users?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think that
13 was a question back to the State, how many permits, if
14 you guys do know, that were issued to boat dipnetters?

15
16 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair. I'd have to
17 ask Mark Somerville to answer that question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
20 you.

21
22 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yes, this is Mark
23 Somerville, so what was the question again, please.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
26 Rhonda, you have the floor.

27
28 MS. PITKA: How many State permits were
29 issued to boat users?

30
31 MR. SOMERVILLE: To boat -- I don't
32 have that information directly in front of me right
33 now, but as far as, though, in the Chitina dipnet
34 permit we issue the permits and people can either fish
35 from boat or shore, their choice, and they list their
36 harvest. So on average, over the last five years in
37 the Chitina subdistrict below the bridge, 1,039
38 permit holders show that they fished from a boat, and
39 4,855 showed that they fished from shore. And the --
40 let me look here for a second, the number of permits
41 dipnetted from boats in the Chitina -- in the
42 Glennallen subdistrict in 2019 we had 548 permits that
43 dipnetted from a boat and in 2019 we issued roughly
44 about 2,000 -- or, actually I take that back, about
45 1,700 permits were issued that year from the State.
46 173 showed that they dipnetted from shore, 150 did not
47 -- did not show what they -- did not designate boat or
48 shore.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 answering that. I hope that helped you Rhonda.

3
4 Any other Board discussion or
5 questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
10 we'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments,
11 Katya, you have the floor.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Members of the Board. For the record, this is Katya
15 Wessels.

16
17 The InterAgency Staff Committee
18 provided the standard comment on the Fisheries Proposal
19 FP21-13.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 thank you, Katya, for that. We'll move on to the Board
25 discussion.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we've
30 had a lot of good discussion here on this one. We'll
31 move on, I will open the floor at this time for Board
32 action.

33
34 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
37 have the floor.

38
39 MR. STRIKER: I move that we adopt
40 FP21-13, and if I get a second I'll explain why, with
41 heavy heart, I plan to vote against my motion.

42
43 MR. BROWER: Second.

44
45 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. You know I'm
46 really very moved by the public testimony and
47 particularly that of those who have such a depth of
48 traditional knowledge in this area. Ultimately,
49 though, it just seems to me that adopting this proposal

50

1 would take subsistence harvest opportunity away from
2 those Federal users that rely on dipnetting from boats.
3 Most of the salmon harvest by Federal subsistence users
4 in the Glennallen subdistrict is by fishwheel, but
5 there are subsistence users that don't have access to
6 fishwheels and public land available to install a
7 fishwheel is pretty limited, so dipnetting from boats,
8 you know, is necessary for some subsistence users and
9 it's particularly efficient for harvest in the Chitina
10 subdistrict.

11

12 I guess my concern is that imposing
13 this restriction on subsistence users who don't have
14 fishwheels won't necessarily have a significant impact
15 on the problem that we heard testimony about. Compared
16 to State fisheries, Federal subsistence users harvests
17 are relatively low number of Copper River salmon, and a
18 stated by the State there's not a conservation need
19 right now to restrict dipnetting from boats.

20

21 So I guess my intent is to oppose the
22 proposal consistent with the recommendation of the
23 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and the
24 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
29 other discussion or comments from the Board.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
34 question.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
39 called. Roll call, Sue, please.

40

41 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The motion is to
42 adopt Fisheries Proposal 21-13.

43

44 Let's see, Park Service, Don Striker.

45

46 MR. STRIKER: I oppose for the reasons
47 stipulated but I will commit to people that I will work
48 with Superintendent Bobowski to coordinate more science
49 and not -- not let this issue go.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

4

5 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife
6 Service.

7

8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. For
9 reasons articulated by the National Park Service and in
10 support of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council,
11 I agree with the National Park Service to oppose this
12 proposal. I think ultimately this proposal will not
13 eliminate the practice of concern we are speaking of or
14 contribute to conservation of salmon stocks without
15 concurrent State support and action and I do advocate
16 for the idea of the precautionary principle at least
17 being given some level of review and discussion as to
18 whether or not we are hitting some level of need for
19 addressing this issue concurrently with the State and
20 Federal.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

25

26 Glenn Chen, BIA.

27

28 MR. CHEN: Yes, the BIA votes to oppose
29 the proposal as per the reasons articulated by Mr.
30 Striker and also in support of the Southcentral
31 Regional Advisory Council as well.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Just to make sure,
36 that's -- you oppose the proposal, correct?

37

38 MR. CHEN: That's affirmative, Sue.

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, okay, thank you.
41 My phone was cutting out a little bit there.

42

43 Chad Padgett, BLM.

44

45 MR. PADGETT: I oppose for the reasons
46 already stated by my counterparts. Thank you.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

49

50

1 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

2
3 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I'm also going to
4 oppose in deference to the RAC but share the concerns
5 expressed by the National Park Service, Fish and
6 Wildlife Service and others then that there is a need
7 here for some concurrent work with the State and I
8 pledge as well to do anything that I may be able to to
9 promote that and look for a workable solution here. I
10 rely heavily on the traditional ecological knowledge in
11 the many of the folks that testified today expressed,
12 and would like to incorporate that moving forward as
13 this looks like this is an expanding issue and
14 certainly affects those users locally. But we'll
15 oppose at this point.

16
17 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Dave.

18
19 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

20
21 MS. PITKA: Hello, can you hear me?

22
23 MS. DETWILER: Yes, Rhonda.

24
25 MS. PITKA: I vote to support FCR21-13
26 [sic] in deference to the Eastern Interior Regional
27 Advisory Council per the recommendation on Page 263,
28 the Council believes that the Federal Subsistence Board
29 should take the lead on this issue by recognizing the
30 negative effects of dipnetting from boats on Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users.

32
33 I believe there is a public safety
34 concern with people who dipnet from boats. I believe
35 it was Ms. Ewan who spoke to that particular danger.
36 And there is also a conservation issue on this
37 particular river. The fact that people that were
38 getting 60 fish in one day are now getting 60 fish in
39 one month is very concerning and we should look more
40 deeply into this issue.

41
42 Thank you, very much.

43
44 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.

45
46 Public Member Charlie Brower.

47
48 MR. BROWER: Public Member Charles
49 Brower also supports the recommendation provided by my

50

1 colleague Rhonda Pitka.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

6

7 And, finally, Chair, Tony Christianson.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I agree
10 with everybody and oppose [sic] in deference to the
11 RAC. Thank you.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: So you are opposed to
14 the motion -- are you in agreement with Rhonda and
15 Charlie or with the other members of the Board?

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: My vote should
18 be reflected as the same as everybody else's, I agree
19 with Rhonda and Charlie.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. Okay,
22 so we have three votes in favor of the motion to adopt
23 FP21-13 and five opposed to adopt the motion, so the
24 motion to adopt fails so FP21-13 is not adopted.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
27 thank you, and I think that concludes the order of
28 business for this morning. I want to thank everybody
29 for their hard work. We will be making a couple of
30 announcements right after the lunch break here so
31 standby. I want to say, again, thank you to all the
32 Staff and everybody for patiently waiting as we get
33 through the process on the teleconference in this tough
34 epidemic time we're in. So hope to see you guys all
35 back here at 1:30. 1:30. Please call in early and be
36 ready to go to business.

37

38 MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (On record)

43

44 OPERATOR: Thank you for rejoining. I
45 would now like to turn the conference over to Sue
46 Detwiler.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Chair Tony
49 Christianson, are you on?

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm on the
2 phone, thank you, Sue.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Would you like me
5 to continue with the roll call for the Board members
6 and then also go through and see which Regional Council
7 Chairs have joined us?

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you,
10 Sue.

11
12 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Dave Schmid is
13 out for an hour and a half or so. Wayne Owen, I
14 understand you're on.

15
16 MR. OWEN: Yes, Sue, I am.

17
18 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Wayne is on for
19 Forest Service.

20
21 Chad Padgett from BLM.

22
23 MR. PADGETT: I'm here, thanks, Sue.

24
25 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

26
27 Glenn Chen, BIA.

28
29 MR. CHEN: Hi, Sue, I will be on for a
30 bit longer and then Gene plans to join us in a few
31 minutes.

32
33 MS. DETWILER: Oh, okay, thank you.

34
35 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife
36 Service.

37
38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, good afternoon,
39 Sue, I am here.

40
41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Greg.

42
43 Don Striker, Park Service.

44
45 MR. STRIKER: Good afternoon, thank
46 you.

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Don.

49
50

1 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Charlie
6 Brower.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MS. DETWILER: They may be still trying
11 to get into the speaker's room. I will go ahead and go
12 through the RAC Chairs and maybe give Rhonda and
13 Charlie a couple minutes to get back online if they're
14 not already online.
15
16 Southeast Chair, Southeast Regional
17 Council, DeAnna, you or Cathy on the phone.
18
19 MS. PERRY: DeAnna is on. I believe
20 Cathy was going to as well, but in case she isn't, I'm
21 on.
22
23 MS. DETWILER: Okay -- okay, thank you.
24
25 Do we have anyone from Southcentral.
26
27 MS. PERRY: Again, this is DeAnna, I'll
28 be sitting in for Chair Encelewski.
29
30 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thanks, DeAnna.
31
32 Kodiak/Aleutians, Della, are you on.
33
34 MS. TRUMBLE: Great.
35
36 Bristol Bay, Nanci Morris Lyon.
37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I'm here.
39
40 MS. DETWILER: Okay, great.
41
42 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Ray Oney, did
43 you join us.
44
45 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney here, thank you.
46
47 MS. DETWILER: Oh, great, thank you.
48
49 Let's see, Western Interior, Jenny
50

1 Pelkola.
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, I'm here.
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
6
7 Louis Green, Seward Peninsula.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MS. DETWILER: Anyone from Seward
12 Peninsula join -- Regional Advisory Council join.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
17
18 Northwest Arctic. Did anybody join us
19 from Northwest Arctic.
20
21 MR. PAPPAS: Sue, this is George
22 Pappas. Yes, I was contacted that the Chair is
23 currently ill today and the Vice Chair is at work,
24 they're trying to get the Vice Chair off to attend.
25
26 Thank you -- or thank you, Sue.
27
28 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, George.
29
30 Eastern Interior, Sue Entsminger.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MS. DETWILER: And I understand we
35 don't have anybody from the North Slope Regional
36 Advisory Council but, Eva, are you on the line?
37
38 MS. PATTON: Yes, Sue, this is Eva.
39 I'll be online to speak to their one crossover
40 proposal.
41
42 Thank you.
43
44 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
45
46 And Rhonda Pitka, I believe you are
47 back online, can you confirm that?
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Operator, can you check
2 to see if Rhonda Pitka's line is open or if she's on.

3
4 MR. LORD: Sue, she was on the chat
5 thing, she was online about a minute ago.

6
7 MS. DETWILER: Okay. I believe the
8 Operator is checking to see if Rhonda Pitka is online
9 and if she can be moved to the speaker's room if she's
10 not, and in the meantime, Charlie Brower, have you
11 joined us?

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So Operator we
16 are having a little bit of trouble getting Rhonda
17 online, I'm seeing her on a chat line but I'm not able
18 to hear her on the phone and I just want to make sure
19 she's recorded as being present here.

20
21 OPERATOR: Okay. I just looked in the
22 main conference, I did not see her dialed in. We did
23 just get a signal so one moment.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It seems, Sue,
28 there's a few people having trouble being heard online
29 (indiscernible - cuts out) recognized.

30
31 MS. DETWILER: Yes. And I'm also
32 seeing that -- ask the Operator if she could move Cathy
33 Needham to the speaker's room as well. And also Rhonda
34 Pitka. So we need both Rhonda Pitka and Cathy Needham
35 moved to the speaker's room. And Charlie Brower if he
36 is there as well.

37
38 OPERATOR: I do see Cathy. I'm not
39 seeing Rhonda.

40
41 MS. DETWILER: Hum. So is she in the
42 other room, the public room?

43
44 OPERATOR: I'm not seeing her -- I see
45 Cathy and I see Joshua but I'm not -- I'm not seeing
46 Rhonda. One moment.

47
48 (Pause)

49
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So it looks like
2 Rhonda has hung up and she is going to try calling in
3 again so.
4
5 (Pause)
6
7 OPERATOR: Okay, Cathy has been opened.
8
9 (Pause)
10
11 MS. PITKA: Hello, this is Rhonda, I am
12 online.
13
14 MS. DETWILER: Oh, great, Rhonda,
15 you're in the speaker's room, finally. So let me just
16 check to see if Charlie Brower -- Public Member Charlie
17 Brower did you -- are you in any -- either of the
18 rooms?
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Well, Mr. Chair,
23 we do have seven of eight people -- seven of eight
24 Board Members online.
25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
27 Hopefully they can continue to have Rhonda and try to
28 get her patched in, and hopefully she'll get on -- so
29 on the agenda here, I know we had discussed earlier
30 when you said -- I said there'd be a couple of
31 announcements.
32
33 I'd like to say that we'd like to
34 congratulate Lisa Maas, the OSM policy coordinator had
35 a baby and is (indiscernible - breaking up) and we'd
36 like to say congratulations to Lisa and God Bless them.
37 And we'll wait and (indiscernible - breaking up) Rhonda
38 birthday.
39
40 REPORTER: So, Tony, this is Tina.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
43
44 REPORTER: Hi, this is Tina. So you're
45 breaking up quite a bit, I'm not sure how you're
46 talking in your phone but I just wanted to let you know
47 that, for recording-wise.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is that a
50

1 little bit better, I'm hollering at my phone.

2

3 REPORTER: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Yeah, it
6 just might be the connection, it sounds a little grainy
7 on my end.

8

9 REPORTER: Yeah, it seems like it's
10 changed this afternoon, for everybody.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. Yeah, I
13 had a little older line that wasn't working as well.

14

15 REPORTER: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we'll try to
18 get back to Board business here and we'll go ahead and
19 have the next analysis.

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
22 Greg.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg.

25

26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Tony, I'm not
27 hearing you really at all. I didn't hear any of your
28 announcement and you're just starting now and you're
29 really breaking up.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, you guys
32 are really breaking up too, I don't know what the --
33 the connection is not very good on this end either but
34 I can hear you guys.

35

36 REPORTER: Okay, so where are we then?

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: My first
39 announcement was just about Lisa Maas having a baby and
40 I wanted to congratulate her and wish her the best at
41 home. And then Rhonda's birthday is coming up this
42 week.

43

44 REPORTER: Happy Birthday Rhonda.

45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right, well, thank
47 you, Tony, I did hear it come through that time. And,
48 yeah, congratulations to Lisa and Happy Birthday
49 Rhonda.

50

1 MS. PITKA: Thank you, all.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Help me Rhonda.
4 I'd almost sing you a song.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
9 well, it sounds like we're all back on now and
10 connected and I'll do my best to talk loud, it's a bad
11 connection, so everybody can hear. And with that I'll
12 turn it over to Sue, we can get started on the next
13 proposal and call on the Staff to provide the analysis.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The next proposal
18 is Fisheries Proposal 21-14 and I believe that, again,
19 is Hannah Voorhees doing -- starting that presentation.

20

21 MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon, Mr.
22 Chair and members of the Board. This is Hannah
23 Voorhees again. I'm an anthropologist at OSM. And
24 this is the last you'll be hearing from me today. I
25 have a fairly brief presentation for you for this final
26 proposal.

27

28 Fisheries Proposal 21-14 begins on Page
29 276 of your Board book. This proposal was also
30 submitted by Kirk Wilson of Glennallen and requests
31 that the Board prohibit use of onboard devices that
32 indicate bathymetry and/or fish location also known as
33 fishfinders while fishing from boats or other
34 watercrafts in the Upper Copper River.

35

36 The proponent states that the use of
37 electronic devices enables fishers to locate and target
38 specific holding areas for sensitive salmon stock.
39 Most of the information for this proposal pertaining to
40 public waters, cultural knowledge and traditional
41 practices and biological background is identical to
42 that presented for the previous Upper Copper River
43 proposals.

44

45 The waters of the Upper Copper River
46 are fast and murky. Fish cannot be seen as they travel
47 up the river and traditional Ahtna practices of fishing
48 with basket dipnets from platforms was adapted to these
49 conditions. Today, fishwheels are the predominate gear

50

1 in use by Federally-qualified subsistence users in this
2 area. As a reminder and for example, in 2013 Gulkana
3 residents took 91 percent of their salmon harvest in
4 edible weight by fishwheels and Tazlina residents took
5 88 percent of their salmon harvest by fishwheel.

6
7 Dipnetting, including from boats and,
8 therefore, the use of fishfinders in combination with
9 fishing takes place primarily under State permit.

10
11 The OSM conclusion is to oppose this
12 proposal with the following justification.

13
14 If this proposal is adopted, Federal
15 subsistence regulations pertaining to use of gear would
16 be more restrictive than State subsistence or personal
17 use regulation. In addition, prohibiting fishfinders
18 may create a safety issue for those navigating the
19 river. Adopting this proposal would probably need to
20 the proponent's desired conservation outcome.
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users are the ones who
22 would have to adhere to this regulation if they do not
23 dipnet from boats and (indiscernible) with fishfinders
24 in significance enough numbers to make this an
25 effective conservation measure. Furthermore,
26 Federally-qualified subsistence users could continue to
27 use fishfinders on boats under State regulations in
28 both the Glennallen subsistence and the Chitina
29 personal use fisheries.

30
31 A proposal similar to the one being
32 considered here will be taken up at the next Board of
33 Fisheries meeting where Prince William Sound proposals
34 are discussed. That proposal would prohibit
35 fishfinders in the Upper Copper River district from
36 June 1st to September 30th under State regulations.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 That's all I have.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
43 questions for Staff.

44
45 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I'm online
46 finally.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Charlie, for joining us, appreciate you getting on.

50

1 No questions for Staff, we'll move on
2 to summary of public comments, Council Chair
3 coordinator.
4

5 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Members of the Board. This is DeAnna Perry,
7 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Coordinator.
8 Five written public comments in support were received
9 on this proposal and those can be found in your meeting
10 book starting on Page 292.
11

12 A summary of those comments.
13

14 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
15 Commission supports this proposal and states that
16 fishfinders enable boat-based fishers to target schools
17 of fish and this targeting contributes to the likely
18 overfishing of salmon. This proposal would be unlikely
19 to have negative impacts on many Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users and restricting fishfinders would
21 merely encourage inexperienced fishers to develop the
22 knowledge and experience requisite for fishing on a
23 swift, dangerous river such as the Copper.
24

25 Michael Mahoney supports this proposal.
26 Again, stating that these changes would be helpful in
27 protecting our king salmon. Addressing Fish Proposals
28 21-12, 13, and 14 at once, he states that all of these
29 practices are not customary and traditional and have
30 resulted in much higher efficiency levels of harvest.
31

32 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
33 proposal and as stated before commenting on Fish
34 Proposals 21-11, 12, 13 and 14, that it was important
35 to limit overharvest in the Chitina dipnet fishery and
36 to acquire timely data on the harvest.
37

38 Ahtna TeneNene' supports the proposal
39 stating that allowing use of fishfinders may encourage
40 fishermen to find ideal spots on the Copper River to
41 overharvest salmon. Everyone should be concerned about
42 allowing fishfinders due to the condition of the
43 fishery this past summer. There was low sockeye and
44 king salmon runs.
45

46 Bonnie Yazzie supported the proposal
47 stating that boaters with fishfinders have used the
48 excuse that they need them to navigate the river
49 channel, these fishers need to learn the river channel.
50

1 Using fishfinders to find salmon is taking unfair
2 advantage.

3
4 Kirk Wilson, the proponent, commented
5 that allowing fishfinders may encourage fishermen to
6 find ideal spots to overharvest salmon.

7
8 Again, for the comments in their
9 entirety, those can be read starting on Page 292 of
10 your meeting book.

11
12 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
13 Subsistence Resource Commission also provided a comment
14 in support of this proposal and stated their vote was 5
15 in support and 3 opposed. Justification for supporting
16 the proposal included an increase in fishing from
17 boats, which some characterized as a new fishery and,
18 with it, an increase in the number of people using
19 fishfinders. Using fishfinders allows people to target
20 areas such as eddies where fish are resting and catch
21 more fish, although one of the members who opposed the
22 proposal questioned the effectiveness of fishfinders in
23 locating many fish in the silty waters of the Copper
24 River.

25
26 Last week, just prior to this Board
27 meeting I received a comment from the Copper Basin
28 Advisory Committee opposing this proposal. In summary,
29 saying that fishfinders do not seem to work well in
30 silty water, depth finders can help with safety of
31 operating a boat. They stated that the quality of the
32 units makes a big difference. They mentioned concerns
33 about how to enforce this and that people would have to
34 remove them from boats and the Advisory Committee did
35 not want to take away a safety device.

36
37 That's the summary of the public
38 written comments received on this proposal.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 DeAnna, appreciate that. At this time, Operator, we'll
44 open the floor to the public to be recognized to this
45 specific agenda item.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, were
2 you able to hear me on that one?

3
4 OPERATOR: Yes. If you would like to
5 make a public comment, please press star one. We do
6 have a public comment from Karen Linnell, your line is
7 open.

8
9 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
10 members of the Board. Again, we're seeing a decrease
11 in salmon getting to the north end of the tributaries
12 and the headwaters where my fish camp is. And looking
13 at this, and I want to remind you folks, in looking at
14 the comments from both the Eastern Interior RAC and the
15 Southcentral RAC, both have jurisdiction here a Eastern
16 Interior represents Mentasta, Dot Lake and Dry Creek,
17 who all have a C&T in Copper River.

18
19 I just want to say that this is new
20 technology that gives benefit to a small percentage of
21 users that can and will exploit that. On our river, if
22 you're looking down and not looking ahead and reading
23 the sand bars and the river, you're going to end up on
24 a sand bar high centered. You have to pay attention to
25 what's going on around you. Our river is not extremely
26 deep and not slow flowing like the Yukon or, you know,
27 it's a pretty -- fairly fast moving river. And I hear
28 this all the time from my husband who works on the Oil
29 Spill Response Crew, and they go up to Tanana
30 occasionally for training. They participate in those
31 kinds of things, and the other pump stations up North
32 come down here for fast water training on the Copper
33 River, so that's where my knowledge is coming from on
34 this. I've seen the Yukon, it is a very slow moving
35 river. Very wide, very deep. Their fishwheels are
36 quite a bit larger than ours. Our average is 8 to 12
37 feet -- 8 to 10 feet, usually, the average is like
38 either a 4x10, 4x8, or 4x12 foot basket. Very
39 different. Not like the 20 foot fishwheels I've seen
40 on the Yukon or bigger. And I just wanted to talk
41 about that and make sure that you folks understand what
42 we're talking about. You have to be looking ahead when
43 you're driving on the river. And because of the depth,
44 I don't think that the fishfinders look down deep
45 enough or far enough ahead for them to use it as a
46 safety device.

47
48 Again, they've been targeting the
49 schools of fish at high water when nobody else is
50

1 successful. Mr. Somerville didn't give any percentage
2 when he gave his report and I find it odd that you were
3 asking him for anecdotal information when we were
4 giving anecdotal information from what we've seen.
5 Because he has a degree behind his name or because he's
6 an official from the Department, their anecdotal
7 information is weighed differently than people and
8 users on the river? That, to me, is concerning as
9 well.

10

11

12 And I just want to say, again, that we
13 need to watch for the resource here and ensure that all
14 subsistence users up -- all the way up to the north end
15 of the river are getting their subsistence needs met.

16

17

18 I know I'm a little emotional about
19 this but that directly affects me, my family, the Katie
20 John camp and their family, it really does, and there
21 would be no Federal management if it was not for that
22 Katie John case and all of this and it just blows me
23 away that you guys don't take that into consideration.
24 We're looking at the north end of the river and
25 providing subsistence for the subsistence needs of
26 those people, myself included. Anybody above the
27 Gulkana River, where there is no enhanced stock from
28 the -- from the Gulkana Hatchery. So please take this
29 under serious consideration and ban the use of
30 fishfinders on the Copper River, even if it is prior to
31 the State doing the same, because we put in the
32 proposals to do the same.

33

34

35 And I would like to say that this has
36 been done before, the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is an
37 example of where the State action took prior to the --
38 I mean where the Feds have taken action prior to the
39 State taking action.

40

41

42 Again, thank you for your time and your
43 consideration.

44

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.....

47

48

49 OPERATOR: The next comment.....

50

51

52 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A comment, you
53 have the floor.

54

55

56 OPERATOR: Our next comment comes from
57 Hope Roberts, your line is open.

58

1 MS. ROBERTS: Good afternoon, Federal
2 Subsistence Board and Staff. This is Hope Roberts.
3 I'm in Valdez and I am representing Chugach Regional
4 Resources Commission Federal Alliance Team. The
5 Alliance Team is made up of one person from each of the
6 seven Chugach tribes which are Chenega, Eyak, Port
7 Graham, Nanwalek, Kudachik(ph), Tatitlek and Valdez.
8 As a whole we are in support of FP21-14 prohibiting the
9 use of fishfinders or bathymetry devices on the Upper
10 Copper River for the same reasons as we were in support
11 of the past proposals that were spoken on this morning.
12

13 And just to reiterate these
14 recommendations have come from the Joint Copper River
15 Salmon Symposium in 2019 where research and
16 conservation of the resource were two major points of
17 agreement that Upper and Lower river user groups agreed
18 were necessary. While these proposals would create a
19 situation where Federal subsistence regulations are
20 stricter than State regs, we believe the importance of
21 these salmon runs are required for a cautionary
22 approach to conservation.
23

24 I thank you, again, for hearing me out
25 and allowing me to speak on behalf of Chugach Regional
26 Resources Commission and their Federal Subsistence
27 Alliance.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32 Thank you for taking the time to call in today and
33 share the concerns and comments. Any questions from
34 the Board.
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
39 thank you. Operator, are there any other people who
40 would like to be recognized at this time.
41

42 OPERATOR: I'm showing no further
43 comments, sir.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 appreciate that. At this time we'll move on to
47 Regional Council recommendation, RAC Chair.
48

49 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
50

1 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
2 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. This might be
3 the last time you hear my very practiced DJ radio voice
4 today.

5
6 The Southcentral Regional Advisory
7 Council opposed this proposal 3 to 6. The Council
8 majority felt this restriction on the Federally-
9 qualified subsistence user could prohibit the users
10 ability to quickly and successfully harvest fish. The
11 Council felt that if a conservation concern is
12 determined for this area, then per ANILCA, any
13 restrictions should be placed on other user groups
14 before the restriction is placed on the Federally-
15 qualified subsistence user. The Council also addressed
16 the importance for all users on the river to learn to
17 navigate the waters by reading the river and not
18 relying on bathymetry devices.

19
20 That was the recommendation from the
21 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
26 other comments or questions for RAC Chair.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are there any
31 other Regional Councils that would like to be
32 recognized at this time.

33
34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, hi, this is Sue
35 Entsminger, Eastern Interior RAC.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, you
38 have the floor.

39
40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you. The
41 Eastern Interior RAC supports Proposal 21-14 and it was
42 unanimous. Fish returns over the last several years
43 have been very poor, therefore, the Council supports
44 this conservation minded proposal for the sake of
45 future generations. The Council noted that
46 traditionally subsistence users do not use fishfinders
47 while looking for fish. Is it likely that fishfinders
48 will not do much good finding fish in silty water like
49 the Copper River.

50

1 In addressing the public comment about
2 river navigability, the Council suggested to use depth
3 finders rather than fishfinders because you need them
4 when your boat goes at a speed of 35 to 40 miles an
5 hour and you are in unfamiliar waters.

6
7 And I did want to add just a little bit
8 here, when, on Page 66 of the Federal Board fisheries
9 book for C&Ts for salmon. In Eastern Interior it also
10 includes Healy Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Tanacross,
11 Tetlin, Tok, the Tok Cutoff all the way to Mentasta
12 Pass where it reaches Unit 13, and also the Nabesna
13 Road in that part of Unit 12.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
18 Thank you, very much. Any questions for Sue.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
23 thank you. Any other Regional Advisory Council Chairs
24 who would like to be recognized at this time.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
29 hearing none. Any questions from the Board.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
34 we'll move on to tribal, Alaska Native corp comments.
35 Orville.

36
37 MR. LIND: Yeah, Mr. Chair, can you
38 hear me?

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
41 you got it.

42
43 MR. LIND: Thank you. Good afternoon,
44 Mr. Chair. Board members. Orville Lind, Native
45 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.

46
47 During the consultation held on June
48 11th, Mr. -- Chief Gary from Chickaloon replied after
49 the Fisheries Proposal 21-13 was read, he said that
50

1 that's probably a good thing and he supports it.

2

3 That's all I have for that proposal.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Orville, appreciate that. Any questions for Orville.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on
13 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Ben
14 Mulligan.

15

16 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Again, for the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department
18 of Fish and Game. The Department opposes the removal
19 of navigational devices such as these electronic
20 fishfinders from the boats for the Copper River. You
21 know, in anticipation when we knew the -- our Board of
22 Fish cycle was coming up and there was a proposal of
23 this nature on that side, we did conduct some
24 interviews with boaters about these devices and we
25 found that for the most part those guys were telling us
26 that they use it more for finding the bottom than
27 finding the fish. The silty nature of the Copper
28 really affects their signal strength and using it to
29 find fish really isn't that effective. And also, as
30 usual, if this is done it will create some
31 inconsistencies between the State and Federal
32 regulations.

33

34 Those are our comments.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
39 Any questions for Ben from the Board.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
44 hearing none, thank you, appreciate that. InterAgency
45 Staff Committee comments, Katya.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Members of the Board. For the record, this is Katya
49 Wessels. The InterAgency Staff Committee provided the

50

1 standard comment on Fisheries Proposal FP21-14.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
6 questions for ISC.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
11 hearing none, open the floor for Board discussion, and
12 if no discussion, Board action.

13

14 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, National Park
15 Service.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
18 have the floor.

19

20 MR. STRIKER: I move that we adopt
21 FP21-14 consistent with the Eastern Interior RAC and
22 the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. In my opinion, unlike the
23 last proposal this would have a very limited negative
24 impact on subsistence opportunity. And it serves as a
25 better test of this notion of sort of paving the way
26 for something that we believe should be a Federal and
27 State change in this area where there's been so much
28 compelling testimony from our users.

29

30 I understand well the ISC's safety
31 concern, but I believe as outlined by Ms. Linnell's
32 testimony that the safety concerns sort of cuts both
33 ways, I'm not sure that I can make a clear case in my
34 mind that 50 is better one way or the other and so for
35 that -- for that reason I move that we support this
36 motion -- support this proposal.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
41 Any other questions or comments.

42

43 OPERATOR: So, Tony, could we get a
44 second on that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I thought I
47 heard a second, sorry.

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Second.

50

1 MR. BROWER: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
4 the second. Thank you, Tina, for the reminder.

5

6 REPORTER: Yep.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
9 discussion from the Board, questions, comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
14 we'll go.....

15

16 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, go ahead.

19

20 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. If I may I'd
21 like to ask a question of the Department in-season
22 manager.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll have to
25 ask, is he available.

26

27 MR. MULLIGAN: Mr. Chair, this is Ben.
28 Mark Somerville should be listening in so we just have
29 to let him in.

30

31 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. I'll lead into my
32 question and ask a question.

33

34 So from -- thank you, Ben, for that
35 information. So my question -- my lead in would be that
36 the Federal Subsistence Board is now looking at another
37 proposal to potentially restrict a potential pool of
38 Federally-qualified users in the upper river.
39 Throughout the analysis of these various proposals
40 there's a commonality about providing opportunity and
41 meeting opportunity needs of the upper river residents
42 and here's another example where we have one Regional
43 Advisory Council which is in opposition and another one
44 who supports. As I mentioned yesterday, the overall
45 harvest of the Copper salmon population, whether it be
46 red, chinook or what may have you is an insignificant
47 amount, so via in-season action, in recent history, has
48 the Department taken any administration action to try
49 to minimize -- or actually try to maximize the amount

50

1 of fish to make it to the up river section of the river
2 to make them available for harvest, whether it be a
3 Federally-qualified user or a non-Federally-qualified
4 user, and, if so, what are those specific actions.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Gene. And we'll just give it a minute, Operator, were
10 you able to open that line freely and make it available
11 for him?

12

13 OPERATOR: I'm sorry, I caught the
14 first name was Mark, what was the last name?

15

16 MR. MULLIGAN: Somerville.

17

18 OPERATOR: Somerville, thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are you
21 available now, Mark?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And we'll just
26 wait a moment until Mr. Somerville is available. Thank
27 you.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 OPERATOR: If Mark could hit star zero
32 that would make it easier. Mark, if you could hit star
33 zero -- oh, I see him, okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 we'll give him another minute to get back on here.
37 Thank you.

38

39 OPERATOR: Mark is -- Mark Somerville's
40 line is open.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Mark, you have the floor.

44

45 MR. SOMERVILLE: You can hear me now.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, can hear
48 you loud and clear, Mark, you have the floor. Thank
49 you for getting on.

50

1 MR. SOMERVILLE: All right, thank you
2 very much. Again, Mark Somerville, Upper Copper, Upper
3 Susitna Management Area, area management biologist for
4 the State of -- Department of Fish and Game.

5
6 I believe the question that was put
7 forth is do we actively manage to get fish to the upper
8 portions of the Copper River, the question there -- how
9 that works, we manage the runs from the beginning to
10 the end as it comes through the sonar and we have to
11 manage the same throughout the whole period so the
12 whole idea is to get fish to the upper parts of the
13 river as well as the lower parts. Two things have been
14 -- have been done over the last several years, one was
15 to -- for the commercial fishery to have fewer openings
16 in the inside areas to allow early king salmon to move
17 -- to get into the river, presumably those fish going
18 to the upper portions of the river, and the upper parts
19 of the river in the Chitina -- Chitina subdistrict,
20 that fishery used to open on June 1st, sometime between
21 June 1st and 7th, it now cannot open until June 7th, so
22 that opening was held off a week, again, to allow more
23 fish to get into the upper portions of the Upper Copper
24 River.

25
26 In the subsistence fishery, that
27 fishery opens on June 1st and pretty much stays open
28 23/7. Fish passing through that area, there's a
29 fishery down -- a majority of the fish are caught down
30 in the lower portions of that subdistrict from the
31 Chitina/McCarthy bridge to the Tonsina River and then
32 -- and then as we go up river we get fewer and fewer
33 fish further up river just because they go off into the
34 side channels and so on.

35
36 That's basically how our management is
37 at this point. We don't deliberately close down the
38 lower portion of the subsistence fishery in order to
39 allow more fish up river. We have no counting,
40 assessment away of looking at that to tell exactly
41 where we're at.

42
43 We also do aerial surveys at the end of
44 the season to look at distribution and monitoring
45 distribution into various streams. That's a real
46 coarse estimate to give us an idea if we're seeing fish
47 in normal numbers into the upper portions of the river.
48 And from the last several years the aerial surveys have
49 shown that we're getting the same consistent
50

1 distribution across the area. In fact, the upper river
2 has actually had a fair -- fair number of fish making
3 it up and higher numbers, above average numbers,
4 actually, into the upper -- some of the upper streams.
5 But if that changes, over time, it -- it ebbs and flows
6 and I know in 2020, the counts across the area were
7 extremely low in all streams and distribution showed
8 low numbers in the upper river.

9
10 But, again, no directed management
11 other than those -- the week clo -- the week delay in
12 the personal use fishery and then the moratorium on
13 more than one opener in the first two weeks of the
14 commercial opener on the inside islands.

15
16 MR. PELTOLA: A general followup
17 question if I may, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
20 have the floor.

21
22 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. I appreciate
23 the overview of the management strategy for the Copper.
24 And you said you, generally speaking, are seeing more
25 make it up to some of the upper tributaries, do you
26 have anything more quantitative that you could present
27 to us about, whether it be a swag or anything more
28 firm, about increased percentile or anything more than
29 just it looks like we're getting generally more fish to
30 the tribs?

31
32 MR. SOMERVILLE: Good question. Good
33 question. And I apologize for not having direct
34 numbers here, those numbers are usually collected
35 through the commercial fishery manager and I don't have
36 them offhand here to provide but I would say that
37 probably we're looking -- depending on -- I'd say
38 looking at as far as going back to about 2012 when we
39 started seeing these large runs up into the Copper
40 River, some of the -- some of the highest runs where
41 we've got over a million fish into the river, we still
42 have probably -- I'd have to guess the counts in the
43 upper portions like Mentasta -- Mentasta, up in Tanada
44 they saw some -- some increases but I would say we're
45 probably looking -- boy, I'd hate to throw a number at
46 it -- maybe 20 percent on average, but, yeah, I'm a
47 little uncomfortable throwing out a -- throwing out a
48 number. All I can say off the top of my head is that
49 we did see strong -- strong returns to the upper river
50

1 during those years.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, Mr. Chair, I don't
4 mean to test everybody's patience but I'd like to ask
5 one more followup question of our State in-season
6 manager, if I may, and with that being said, when you
7 gave your overview, which I, you know, really greatly
8 appreciated, you talked about the personal use fishery
9 being delayed a week. So can you tell me whether our
10 catch with that delayed week has remained constant, it
11 has decreased or have we potentially seeing an increase
12 by just compressing the harvest over a lesser period of
13 time than we would have without that one week delay?

14

15 MR. SOMERVILLE: That's a -- yes, sir,
16 that's a great question. Overall harvest numbers did
17 not decrease with that -- with that delay of a week.
18 The point of that delay was to see -- was to allow more
19 fish further up river, but when we look at the harvest
20 levels from the week of 1st -- 1st of June to the 7th
21 of June, and we look at it in the Chitina subdistrict
22 and then we also look at it in the Glennallen
23 subdistrict during that week, over the course of time
24 it's been very, very little -- basically no real change
25 in the number of fish harvested in that -- in that week
26 in the lower portions of the Cop -- in the lower
27 portion -- up through, I'd say below the Tonsina River.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you,
30 appreciate that. And, Mr. Chair, I could probably go
31 on for longer but I'll stop here.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Gene. Appreciate that. Anybody else, any comments or
37 questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
42 thank you. We still are with a motion on the floor and
43 seconded, under discussion, any other discussion or
44 questions from any other Board, if none I'll have
45 somebody call for the question.

46

47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been

50

1 called. Roll call, Sue, please.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The motion is to
4 adopt Fisheries Proposal 21-14. Start out with Don
5 Striker, Park Service.

6

7 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. I support for
8 the reasons previously articulated.

9

10 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

11

12 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife
13 Service.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. I
16 oppose this proposal in support of both the
17 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. And I do not
18 believe we should be requiring a removal of, you know,
19 navigation and bathymetry devices from Federally-
20 qualified users as one, they're often combined into the
21 same unit and I do believe they provide an important
22 tool for river users.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Greg.

27

28 BIA, Gene Peltola.

29

30 MR. PELTOLA: BIA would request that
31 you come back to us, we still have not solidified our
32 position.

33

34 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

35

36 Chad Padgett, BLM.

37

38 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Sue. I also
39 oppose for the same reasons articulated by the U.S.
40 Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you.

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

43

44 Dave Schmid -- oh, actually Wayne Owen,
45 Forest Service.

46

47 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Sue. The Forest
48 Service opposes -- opposes the motion in deference to
49 the wisdom of the RAC.

50

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

2

3

Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

4

5

6

MS. PITKA: I support this in deference
to the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.
It's very difficult to use a fishfinder on a silty
river.

7

8

9

10

Thank you.

11

12

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

13

14

Public Member Charlie Brower.

15

16

17

MR. BROWER: I support it as stated by
my colleague Rhonda.

18

19

MS. DETWILER: Okay.

20

21

BIA, are you ready to vote yet.

22

23

24

MR. PELTOLA: Yes. The Bureau of
Indian Affairs votes to support the proposal, although
we strongly feel that the burden of conservation should
not be placed on the Federally-qualified user in the up
river segment of the river but being sensitive to some
of the testimony -- from public testimony received and
in addition to the Eastern Interior RAC. I think we
need to take a closer look at the distribution of
harvest along the whole system and adjust accordingly.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

Thank you.

34

35

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Gene.

36

37

And, finally, Chair Christianson.

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support, as
stated.

41

42

43

MS. DETWILER: Okay. I'm just counting
up the votes here. So it looks like we have five votes
in support and three opposed, so motion passes.

44

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue,
for the count. And thank you to the Board and
everybody calling in and participating in that one,
it's deliberative and very important discussion and I

48

49

50

1 hope we did a good job of laying out the record for
2 that. And we'll go ahead and move on to the next
3 agenda item, Sue.
4

5 MS. DETWILER: Yes. So that brings us
6 to several fishery closure reviews in the Aleutians,
7 Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak areas. And the presenter
8 is, initially on that will be Robbin LaVine.
9

10 MS. LAVINE: Yes, hello, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair and members of the Board. For the record my name
12 is Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the
13 Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm prepared to
14 present Fisheries Closure Reviews 21-08, 09, 11 and 13,
15 and my colleague Jared Stone is ready to present
16 Fisheries Closure Reviews 21-16, 18, and 19.
17

18 But before we begin, it's important for
19 you to know that the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory
20 Council recommended deferral on all seven closure
21 reviews in order to solicit additional input from the
22 communities most impacted by Board action on the
23 reviews. You can find the Council recommendation and
24 justification for deferral on Page 392 of your Board
25 book. The justification for deferral is the same for
26 all seven closure reviews.
27

28 So if you're interested in considering
29 deferral, you have the option to take all seven up as a
30 package or you can address each closure review
31 individually. To help with your decisionmaking process
32 you should know that all these closures share the
33 following in common.
34

35 They were incorporated into Federal
36 regulations from State regulations approximately 20
37 years ago. This is the first time they've been
38 reviewed. All closures involve waters closed to
39 subsistence fishing, while remaining open to
40 sportfishing. In all of these areas the majority of
41 subsistence fishing happens elsewhere and all have been
42 recommended for deferral by both the Council and the
43 ISC.
44

45 So at the direction of the
46 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council, OSM Staff
47 and Council members are already reaching out to
48 community, tribal and State Advisory Council
49 representatives for input. A meeting was held with
50

1 tribal representatives from Kodiak Island on January
2 6th, seven representatives were in attendance, all
3 tribal representatives expressed gratitude for the
4 notice and withheld any comments or recommendations
5 until they had more time to read the closure reviews.
6

7 So Jared and I are prepared to do any
8 of, let's say, three things.
9

10 1. We're prepared to present the full
11 closure reviews.
12

13 2. We can give you a brief description
14 of each; or
15

16 3. You can take action on all of these
17 reviews as a package based on the information I've
18 shared thus far.
19

20 And I do know that Kodiak/Aleutians
21 Regional Advisory Council Chair Della Trumble is on
22 hand to respond to any questions regarding the Council
23 recommendation.
24

25 So we look forward to direction from
26 you, the Board, and thank you.
27

28 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie,
31 you got the floor.
32

33 MR. BROWER: Yeah, there's a
34 recommendation to defer the fishery closure review on
35 all of them so we should offer to either make a motion
36 or hear them out or is -- could it go both ways, or
37 what, just a question.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Based upon what
40 I would -- and then if anyone wants to chime in
41 otherwise, I would offer that -- I would entertain a
42 motion now based on the information presented by the
43 Staff to go ahead and defer until we can get a clear
44 review of these by additional people and get the
45 involvement that we're usually accustomed to when we do
46 a review such as this, and as she stated, you know, the
47 urgency is in the package, and so I would, at this
48 time, entertain a motion to defer.
49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg,
2 with.....
3
4 MR. BROWER: I would so.....
5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC:Fish and Wildlife
7 Service.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.
10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
12 would like to make a motion to defer action on the
13 Fishery Closure Reviews 21-08, 21-09, 21-11, 21-13, 21-
14 16, 21-18, and 21-19 until the next wildlife [sic]
15 regulatory cycle. The language for these closure
16 reviews are shown on Page 380 to 463 of the Board book.
17 Following a second, if it should happen, I will explain
18 why I intend to support my motion.
19
20 MR. BROWER: Second.
21
22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
25 the floor.
26
27 MR. SIEKANIEC: I recommend deferring
28 these closures in deference to the Kodiak/Aleutian
29 Regional Advisory Council. I think deferring these
30 proposals to the next fishery regulatory proposal cycle
31 will allow the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
32 Council to gather the local community input that they
33 have voiced is so important to the formulation of
34 Council recommendations for these closures. I think
35 it's important to delay Board action on these closures
36 to the next fishery regulatory cycle to coincide with
37 publication of the Federal Register notice announcing
38 new fish regulations. Board actions on these closures
39 prior to the next fishery regulatory cycle would not
40 expedite their implementation as any new regulations
41 need to be published in the Federal Register before
42 they can be implemented. These closures have been in
43 place, as we heard, for 20 years, and deferring Board
44 action to the 2023 fish regulatory cycle will likely
45 have minimal impact to subsistence communities, as we
46 heard.
47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Greg. Any questions, comments or further discussion on
3 it.

4
5 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda. I have a
6 question. And I have difficulty hearing who seconded
7 the motion and I couldn't hear who seconded that
8 motion.

9
10 REPORTER: Charlie did, Rhonda.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I believe
13 Charlie seconded that motion.

14
15 MR. SIEKANIEC: That was by Charlie,
16 correct.

17
18 MR. BROWER: That's correct.

19
20 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
23 have the floor.

24
25 MR. STRIKER: Just a point of order.
26 I'm sorry to be the confused new guy and are we going
27 to do summary of public comments and public testimony
28 and RAC recommendations and tribal comments on these
29 before we take action?

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. Right now
32 I'm entertaining a motion to defer it which would just
33 make that a null and void portion of this so that we
34 could get further review and then once we get that
35 we'll pull that back to the floor for that level of
36 scrutiny by the Board to make a decision and so what
37 we're doing is just deferring this so that there could
38 be a more comprehensive, an in-depth look at the -- for
39 the closure.

40
41 MR. STRIKER: 10-4, thank you.

42
43 MR. BROWER: In that case, Mr. Chair, I
44 call for question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
47 called. Roll call, Sue, please.

48
49 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So the motion for
50

1 -- there's a motion to defer Fisheries Closure Reviews
2 21-08, 09, 11, 13, 16, 18, and 19.

3

4 And I will turn to the maker of the
5 motion for the first vote, Greg Siekaniec.

6

7 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support as stated.
8 Thank you, Sue.

9

10 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

11

12 Gene Peltola.

13

14 MR. PELTOLA: Support.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

17

18 Chad Padgett, BLM.

19

20 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Sue. Could I
21 just clarify one point real quick, I just want to make
22 sure I heard something correctly before I issue my
23 vote.

24

25 Greg, did you intend to say the
26 wildlife cycle or the fish cycle, I just want to make
27 sure I'm clear on that point.

28

29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I probably
30 misspoke on one, the fish cycle, thank you.

31

32 MR. PADGETT: Okay, thank you. I
33 support.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Chad.

36

37 Wayne Owen, Forest Service.

38

39 MR. OWEN: Forest Service supports.

40

41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

42

43 Don Striker.

44

45 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports for
46 the reasons articulated by Mr. Siekaniec.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

49

50

1 Public Member Pitka.
2
3 MS. PITKA: I support the motion to
4 defer, thank you.
5
6 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.
7
8 Public Member Charlie Brower.
9
10 MR. BROWER: I support the motion to
11 defer.
12
13 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
14
15 Chairman Christianson.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MS. DETWILER: Tony.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MS. DETWILER: Tony may have dropped
24 off. Nevertheless, we do have seven votes to
25 support.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm on, Sue.
28
29 MS. DETWILER:the motion.
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32
33 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Tony.
34 We had just gotten to you. We had, so far, seven votes
35 to support the motion and we're waiting on your vote.
36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support,
38 thank you.
39
40 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Motion passes
41 unanimously, so the proposals are deferred.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
44 support taking a five minute break.
45
46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.
49
50

1 MR. STRIKER: Thank you.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MS. DETWILER: And, actually, Rhonda, I
8 -- it could possibly be that Charlie -- that Tony is
9 having problems again with his phone system. I know I
10 talked with him last night and there was a problem with
11 his personal phone and also with his phone service down
12 there, so I'm not sure if he's trying to get back on
13 and can't, but I'd just toss it out to you as the next
14 person in line of being Chair there.

15

16 MS. PITKA: Yes, so before break we
17 voted to defer the fishery closure reviews, so I
18 believe we're on FP21-02; is that correct?

19

20 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that is correct.
21 And actually if you wanted to start on that, I can
22 actually text Charlie [sic] to see if he's had -- see
23 what his -- see if he's having a problem getting on.
24 But, yes, we would be starting with Fisheries Proposal
25 21-02, would you like Pippa to start that presentation?

26

27 MS. PITKA: Yes, please.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair, BIA.

30

31 MR. PELTOLA: That would be great if
32 she could start that presentation.

33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Rhonda, BIA.

35

36 MS. PITKA: Yes. Yes, sorry, I
37 apologize.

38

39 MR. PELTOLA: No problem.

40

41 MR. PELTOLA: Go ahead, Mr. Peltola.

42

43 MR. PELTOLA: Yes. Procedurally, under
44 the Roberts Rules of Orders I'd like to request
45 reconsideration of the vote on Fisheries Proposal 21-
46 13. Strict adherence to the Roberts Rules of Orders
47 dictates it doesn't require a second but if it makes
48 everybody feel comfortable I would proceed if I did get
49 a second on reconsideration of the vote.

50

1 MR. BROWER: I'll second.

2
3 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Charlie. The
4 reason I ask for a reconsideration of the vote on FP21-
5 13 is after discussion with Staff, the Bureau of Indian
6 of Affairs wanted to show support to the Eastern
7 Interior's concern. As I expressed on BIA's vote in
8 earlier, our most recent Copper River proposal, that it
9 would be placing additional restriction on Federally-
10 qualified users. Data has shown that that is not the
11 significant aspect of the harvest where it's a fraction
12 of a -- of a couple percentile over the whole drainage.
13 Actions have been taken but we're still resulting in
14 minimal passage and less than ideal fish available for
15 opportunity on the upper river. For those reasons
16 Bureau of Indian Affairs has asked for a
17 reconsideration of the vote on 21-13.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 MS. PITKA: Thank you. So I'm not as
22 familiar with the reconsideration, Ken Lord, can you
23 walk us through the procedure.

24
25 MR. LORD: Well, Gene's got it right as
26 long as the meeting has not been formally closed, any
27 Board member can move for reconsideration of a
28 decision.

29
30 MS. DETWILER: So the motion has been
31 made and seconded, so I believe there would be -- next
32 there would be Board discussion and then Board action.

33
34 MS. PITKA: Thank you. So I'm going to
35 open the floor for Board discussion on the
36 reconsideration motion put forward by Member Peltola.

37
38 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair, BIA. If we
39 don't have any additional comments or items for
40 discussion other than those we presented when we made
41 the motion for reconsideration, although if we do have
42 a call for question and do another recall vote, might I
43 request that we hold off until Chairman Christianson's
44 available and back on so all members are available for
45 a consideration on the vote.

46
47 MS. PITKA: Yes, okay.

48
49 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Madame Chair, this is
2 Greg with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
3
4 MS. PITKA: Yes, I'm sorry, go ahead.
5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. Sue, could you refresh us on how that vote
8 went.
9
10 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Let's see, 21-13,
11 the motion was to adopt the proposal. The motion
12 failed by 5-3, with basically the agency folks voting
13 against the motion and the public members voting for
14 it, to adopt it.
15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Thank you,
17 Madame Chair.
18
19 MS. DETWILER: So I believe if there
20 were no discussion then the next question would be to
21 call for the question and do a vote.
22
23 MR. STRIKER: I call the question.
24
25 REPORTER: Who was that, please.
26
27 MS. PITKA: I believe that was Mr.
28 Striker.
29
30 REPORTER: Thank you.
31
32 MR. STRIKER: Yes, I'm sorry, Park
33 Service called for question.
34
35 REPORTER: Thank you. Thank you.
36
37 MS. DETWILER: So would you like me to
38 do a roll call vote, Madame Chair.
39
40 MS. PITKA: Yes, thank you.
41
42 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Starting with the
43 maker of the motion, Gene Peltola, BIA.
44
45 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to support.
46
47 MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett, BLM.
48
49 MR. PADGETT: I oppose, thank you.
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
2
3 Wayne Owen, Forest Service.
4
5 MR. OWEN: I would oppose.
6
7 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
8
9 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife
10 Service.
11
12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. I
13 oppose for the same reasons articulated yesterday.
14
15 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
16
17 Don Striker.
18
19 MR. STRIKER: I'm opposed, thank you.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
22
23 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
24
25 MS. PITKA: I support the motion to
26 reconsider, thank you.
27
28 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
29
30 And Public Member Charlie Brower, on
31 the motion to reconsider.
32
33 MR. BROWER: I would support, thank
34 you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, Sue, I'm
37 back on.
38
39 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Chair Tony
40 Christianson, there was a -- BIA made a motion to
41 reconsider Fisheries Proposal 21-13, it was seconded by
42 Charlie Brower. We're finishing up the vote on that
43 and I'm just now counting up the support versus
44 opposes, so we have 4 opposed and 3 -- 3 support, so we
45 have three members that support -- support
46 reconsideration.
47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support
49 reconsideration.
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Well, it's actually, it
2 looks like a tie, which I believe that means the motion
3 fails. Let me just -- let me -- give me a second here
4 just to make sure I recorded all these, quickly.

5

6 Yes, the vote is four to four, so it
7 appears that the motion failed, so the previous vote
8 stands. Is that correct, Ken Lord?

9

10 MR. LORD: That is correct.

11

12 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA. Thank
13 you to all my fellow Federal Subsistence Board members
14 for obliging me on that reconsideration vote.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Gene, appreciate that. And, okay, Sue, so the next
20 order of business, I would appreciate that.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. DETWILER: Yes, we were just
25 getting started on Fisheries Proposal 21-14 -- oh, I'm
26 sorry -- sorry, wrong page, 21 -- Fisheries Proposal
27 21-02.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa. Mr.
30 Chair, can you -- how do I sound?

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MS. KENNER: Could anyone hear me?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
37 you loud and clear.

38

39 MS. PITKA: I can hear you, Pippa.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Okeydoke. Hello, Mr.
42 Chair, members of the Board and Council Chairs. My
43 name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist at the
44 Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis of
45 Proposal FP21-02 begins on Page 52 of your Board
46 materials.

47

48 The Yukon Delta National Wildlife
49 Refuge.....

50

1 MR. BROWER: Excuse me, what page?

2

3 MS. KENNER:submitted this
4 proposal. Page 52.

5

6 The Yukon Delta National Wildlife
7 Refuge submitted this proposal. It requests the Board
8 reduce the required distance between setnets from 150
9 feet to 75 feet in Kuskokwim River tributaries. The
10 Refuge stated, Federal regulations are more restrictive
11 than State regulations. This requested regulation
12 change would align Federal and State regulations and
13 reduce user confusion and enforcement concerns.

14

15 I'm going to give you some regulatory
16 history.

17

18 Last year, the Alaska Board of
19 Fisheries took action on a proposal submitted by the
20 Organized Village of Kwethluk and modified the required
21 distance between setnets to 75 feet in tributaries of
22 the Kuskokwim River drainage. The Organized Village of
23 Kwethluk requested allowing the operation of a setnet
24 within 50 feet of another setnet. They said throughout
25 the Kuskokwim River drainage there are few eddies to
26 set gillnets during spring to fall and under ice during
27 winter months where we see setnets less than the
28 current regulation. People along the Kuskokwim River
29 drainages have set gillnets in eddies in spring to fall
30 and under the ice, which are usually less than 150 feet
31 apart. In order to correct this, the Department must
32 adopt a revised regulation that meets the needs of
33 setnetters throughout the year. The Board of Fisheries
34 amended the proposal to allow the operation of the set
35 gillnet within 75 feet of another set gillnet instead.
36 Board of Fisheries members were concerned that nets
37 might get tangled with one another and user conflict
38 might ensue.

39

40 The OSM conclusion is to support the
41 proposal.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's the end of
44 my presentation.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
47 appreciate that. Any questions for Staff on that
48 presentation.

49

50

1 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, just a
2 question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
5 floor, Charlie.

6
7 MR. BROWER: Just a question, if this
8 is not adopted the Federally-qualified subsistence
9 users will not be able to fish under the State
10 regulations, you mean they won't be able to fish even
11 though they ask for a permit or something under the
12 State regulations?

13
14 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
15 question, Member Brower. I think -- I was having a
16 little bit of a hard time hearing you. If I heard you
17 correctly about the ability of Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users to fish under State regulations, my
19 -- my response is two-pronged. One is that if the --
20 even though the Federal regulation may stay at 150
21 apart -- 150 feet apart, a Federally-qualified user
22 could opt to fish under State regulations where the
23 required distance between setnets in tributaries is 75
24 feet. The exception to that is when Federal public
25 waters are closed to the harvest of fish and in that
26 situation the State regulations wouldn't apply and you
27 -- and one would have to fish under Federal
28 regulations.

29
30 As you know, a lot of these salmon
31 bearing tributaries in the Kuskokwim have been closed
32 the last five or six years to the harvest of chinook
33 and sometimes other fish because of the conservation
34 issues and to allow for subsistence uses and in those
35 cases, for instance in the Kwethluk River, a person
36 would have to separate their nets by 150 feet.

37
38 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
41 questions for the Staff.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 hearing none, we'll move on to summary of public
47 comments.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

50

1 members of the Board. For the record, Eva Patton,
2 Council Coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and there were no
4 written public comments submitted on Proposal FP21-02.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
9 We'll now move on to anyone online, Operator, who
10 wanted to testify, now is the time to be recognized.

11

12 OPERATOR: If you would like.....

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

15

16 OPERATOR:to make a.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: Okay.

19

20 OPERATOR:public testimony.....

21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
23 Board. We do have John Andrew online. He was not able
24 to get through directly on the teleconference call but
25 he is on through my cell phone at this moment and he
26 wished to speak to public comments.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
31 floor, John.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Members of
34 the Board. This is John W. Andrew, Kwethluk, Alaska.
35 I'm a lifetime fisherman over here, full subsistence.
36 I used to be -- I used to fish commercially too.

37

38 Someone originally, from my village,
39 made that proposal some time ago, I think came from the
40 corporation board, the tribal office, so when they
41 heard about it, then they objected to it, they don't
42 want setnets set too close to each other. Because in
43 springtime, the mainstem on the Kuskokwim, we're not
44 allowed to fish out there for a couple reasons. Try to
45 avoid catching chinook out there if the early ones are
46 coming up. The first part of the -- first part of the
47 spring and summer the water's always high, murky and
48 poor (indiscernible - cuts out) we can't fish on the
49 mainstem, even on the tributaries so we end up fishing

50

1 back in those lakes, mostly back in the lakes so much,
2 mainly go whitefish and pike and small sheefish. And
3 when they go into the lakes, even if it's -- if it's a
4 lake they have ways to set -- they have small channels
5 in the (indiscernible - cuts out) if you set your --
6 traditionally (indiscernible - cuts out) the lakes and
7 ponds back there used to be -- have the -- people used
8 to have spring camp and have their whitefish nets out
9 and if a guy comes up and corks him within 50 to 75
10 feet, they'll take their fish away from the guy a
11 little up river -- a little above them (indiscernible -
12 cuts out) have trouble catching any fish. It's one of
13 the reasons why they don't like to go out to the
14 mainstem on the Kuskokwim in the early part of the
15 spring and summer, too high, too murky and too many
16 debris, (indiscernible - cuts out) we're talking about
17 a (indiscernible - cuts out), they tear up the nets if
18 they hit one of them. When the water's high and --
19 when the water's high and then there's lots of
20 (indiscernible) they ruin their small delicate nets.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25 Thank you for taking the time to call in, any
26 questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
31 hearing none, thank you for calling in and sharing that
32 today. Was there anyone else online who would like to
33 be recognized.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I forgot to
36 mention that I'm one of the -- I'm one of the RAC
37 members at the YK Subsistence RAC and also with the
38 State Advisory Committee.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
43 public comment, please press star one. We do have a
44 public comment from John -- Jim Simon, your line is
45 open.

46

47 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
48 members of the Board for the opportunity to provide
49 some personal comment on this proposal.

50

1 It seems to me that this is probably a
2 good idea to pass this proposal to align the Federal
3 subsistence fishing regulation spacing requirement in
4 tributaries with the State given that there are a
5 number of years now that the Fish and Wildlife Service
6 has stopped enforcing Federal subsistence regulation
7 and has, instead, relied on the State of Alaska's
8 enforcement officers to enforce subsistence fishing
9 regulations and the State of Alaska, as I understand
10 it, is only capable of enforcing State regulations. So
11 I think while decreasing the distance between setnets
12 in the tributaries may contribute to more combat
13 fishing, which is a common concern expressed on the
14 Kuskokwim River during pulse fishing opportunities for
15 many years, it's probably a good idea to align it if
16 the Federal government is going to continue to not
17 enforce its own Federal subsistence regulations.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 questions from the Board.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
27 appreciate you taking the time to call in today.
28 Operator, is there anybody else online who would like
29 to.....

30
31 OPERATOR: I have no one online right
32 now.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
35 thank you. All right, we'll move on to Regional
36 Advisory Council recommendations.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 For the record my name is Ray Oney. I come from the
40 village of Alakanuk. The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
41 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council opposed FP21-02.

42
43 Reducing the distance between setnets
44 in Kuskokwim tributary rivers from 150 feet to 75 feet
45 will not increase actual opportunity, it will only
46 increase crowding and less efficiency of fishing for
47 all. When setnets are only 75 feet apart, nets set up
48 stream are blocked or corked and everyone has a
49 difficult time catching fish. Setnet sites are managed
50

1 traditionally by families and they use the same eddies
2 year after year. Nets set so close together will
3 reduce the number of fish caught by everyone up stream.
4 Good setnet sites are limited and people often try to
5 set nets as close to the mouth of tributary rivers as
6 they can. Reducing the distance between nets causes
7 crowding and reduces safety. Reduced distance will
8 increase density of nets at the mouth of tributary
9 rivers and increase the likelihood that nets will be
10 run over by boat traffic from villages and subsistence
11 activity especially at night. This poses a safety
12 issue and also increases likelihood of nets and boat
13 motors getting damaged.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
18 questions from the Board.

19

20 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Just to
21 clarify my -- did he say he opposed it or supported.

22

23 REPORTER: Ray.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. For the
26 record, we did oppose FP21-02.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
33 that question and answer. Any other Regional Advisory
34 Council Chairs like to speak to this proposal.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 This is Karen Deatherage, the Council Coordinator for
38 the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
39 Advisory Council. I'm speaking on behalf of Jenny
40 Pelkola, who is the Acting Chair, with the Council's
41 recommendation for this proposal FP21-02.

42

43 The Western Interior Alaska Regional
44 Advisory Council unanimously opposes FP21-02. The
45 Council is very concerned with the high potential of
46 nets being very close together under this regulation.
47 This would not only create crowding in traditional
48 fishing areas but also have the potential to impact
49 harvest. Salmon could be sucked into eddies on the

50

1 river and be easily caught. This is especially
2 challenging right now due to recent low chum salmon
3 runs. The Council agrees with the Yukon Kuskokwim
4 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council that this
5 regulation would not protect the resource, would create
6 crowding and reduce in-season management capacity.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
9 Board.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 appreciate that. Any questions from the Board.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
17 hearing none, any other Regional Advisory Council
18 Chairs who would like to speak to this.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing
23 none, I'll go ahead and move on to Alaska Native
24 Liaison.

25

26 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
27 you hear me?

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, loud and
30 clear, Orville, you have the floor.

31

32 MR. LIND: Quyana. Orville Lind,
33 Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
34 Management. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Board
35 members. During the consultation we -- consultation on
36 Fisheries Proposal 21-02, we did not have any questions
37 or comments on that proposal.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
42 you, Orville, appreciate that. We'll move on to Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game, Ben Mulligan.

44

45 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
47 and Game. ADF&G supports this proposal as it aligns
48 State and Federal regulations.

49

50

1 Just to give you a thumbnail
2 background, this proposal on the State side was put in
3 at the last AYK Board meeting in 2019, and the original
4 proposal was from a citizen who asked to reduce that
5 distance to only 50 feet, which originally failed the
6 Board, but it was brought back up under reconsideration
7 on a compromised deal to 75 feet where it passed.

8
9 So, thank you, Mr. Chair, for letting
10 us provide our comments.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben,
13 appreciate that. Any questions for Ben.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
18 thank you. No questions for the State, we'll go ahead
19 and ask the ISC to provide their comments.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
22 members of the Board. This is Katya Wessels. The
23 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
24 comment on the Fisheries Proposal FP21-02.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 Katya. I'll open the floor for Board discussion.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, I
34 open the floor for Board action.

35
36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg with
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
40 floor, Greg.

41
42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Yeah, I would like to move to adopt Fishery Proposal
44 21-02. This proposal is shown on Page 52 of the Board
45 book. Following a second, should I receive it, I will
46 explain why I intend to oppose my motion.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: BIA, second.

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. I oppose
2 adopting Fishery Proposal 21-02 in deference to the
3 Yukon Delta and the Western Interior Regional Advisory
4 Councils. Both Councils have clearly indicated that
5 they are concerned that reducing the spacing of setnets
6 to 75 feet in tributaries will increase potential
7 conflicts due to crowding of nets. During times of
8 State management of the Kuskokwim drainage, subsistence
9 users will still have the option to setnet in
10 tributaries under less restrictive State regulation.
11 When Federal public waters in the Kuskokwim drainage
12 are closed to non-subsistence users, the more
13 restrictive Federal regulation may help to reduce
14 conflict and crowding of nets in tributaries especially
15 when good setnet sites are limited, as we have heard
16 from the two Regional Advisory Councils.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

21

22 MR. BROWER: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
25 called. Roll call, Sue, please.

26

27 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The motion is to
28 adopt Fisheries Proposal 21-02.

29

30 Starting with the maker of the motion,
31 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

32

33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. I
34 oppose as stated.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37

38 Moving on to Gene Peltola.

39

40 MR. PELTOLA: BIA opposes in deference
41 to the Regional Advisory Councils as the three criteria
42 in order to vote otherwise are not present in this
43 situation.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Gene.

48

49 Don Striker, Park Service.

50

1 MR. STRIKER: Park Service opposes for
2 the reasons given by my colleagues.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
7
8 Chad Padgett, BLM.
9
10 MR. PADGETT: I oppose for the reasons
11 as already articulated. Thank you.
12
13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
14
15 Dave Schmid, Forest Service, or Wayne
16 Owen.
17
18 MR. OWEN: Forest Service opposes with
19 our colleagues.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
22
23 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
24
25 MS. PITKA: I oppose in deference to
26 the Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council
27 and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council
28 as listed on Page 59 of the Board book.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
33
34 Public Member Charlie Brower.
35
36 MR. BROWER: Oppose. Same as stated.
37
38 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
39
40 Chair Christianson.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose.
43
44 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So the vote is
45 unanimously no so the motion fails and Fishery Proposal
46 21-02 is not adopted.
47
48 So, Mr. Chair, I believe that brings us
49 to Fisheries Closure Review 21-07.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Sue,
2 we'll call on Staff to provide the analysis.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Did you hear
7 me, Sue, I was just -- said we could call on our Staff
8 to provide the analysis on that, thank you.

9
10 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that would be Cory
11 Graham, and I see -- yeah, I see some folks are getting
12 disconnected. I don't know if Cory is on or not.

13
14 MR. GRAHAM: No, I was struggling with
15 my mute button, I'm sorry. How am I coming through.

16
17 REPORTER: Great.

18
19 MS. DETWILER: We could hear you.

20
21 MR. GRAHAM: Okay. Hello, Mr. Chair,
22 members of the Board. My name is Cory Graham and I'm a
23 fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence
24 Management. I'll be presenting Fisheries Closure
25 Review 21-07 which can be found on Page 366 of your
26 Board book.

27
28 Fisheries Closure Review 21-07 reviews
29 the closure to the harvest of Arctic grayling in Nome
30 Creek of the Yukon River drainage by Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users. The Federal Subsistence
32 Board adopted this closure from State regulations at
33 the beginning of the Federal Program in 1992 and it has
34 not been reviewed or modified since. Under State
35 regulations, Nome Creek is closed to subsistence
36 fishing. Sportfishing is allowed, however, all
37 grayling must be released. Sportfishing is limited to
38 unbaited artificial lures or flies with a single hook
39 from April 1st through May 31st. Nome Creek is in the
40 White Mountain Special Recreation Management Area which
41 is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and is
42 approximately 50 air miles north of Fairbanks.

43
44 A mark/recapture study performed in
45 2000 estimated there were 419 grayling greater than 250
46 millimeters fork length in the upper section of Nome
47 Creek, abundance in the lower section was estimated to
48 be between 878 and 4,522 grayling greater than 180
49 millimeters fork length.

50

1 As noted before, sportfishing is
2 allowed but all grayling must be immediately released.
3 Mortality can occur during catch and release fishing
4 with previous estimates ranging from one to 10 percent
5 for Arctic grayling.

6
7 The OSM conclusion is to maintain
8 status quo. If this closure is maintained, Nome Creek
9 will continue to be closed to subsistence fishing for
10 grayling and catch and release sportfishing will still
11 be allowed under State regulations.

12
13 The justification for maintaining the
14 closure is that grayling are susceptible to over-
15 exploitation and Nome Creek is road accessible which
16 allows for easy access and harvest of fish, therefore,
17 allowing a subsistence harvest has the potential for
18 local depletion or overharvest of these stocks.

19
20 And that concludes my presentation for
21 Fisheries Closure Review 21-07.

22
23 And we are prepared to take any
24 questions.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
27 questions from the Board for Staff.

28
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
30 Greg.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
33 have the floor.

34
35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Yeah,
36 thanks for the introduction and presentation. So
37 grayling seem to be known to move around quite a bit, a
38 lot of these fish, I apologize I don't recall from the
39 Board book, are they moving around quite a bit, have
40 there been any studies to see, are they moving into
41 areas where they are then subject to subsistence
42 harvest and then, you know, moving back seasonally; do
43 you have any of that information?

44
45 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. Thank
46 you for your question. My understanding is that
47 grayling in the area are using Nome Creek largely for
48 spawning -- spawning areas in the spring and as feeding
49 grounds in the summer, and I believe there is exchange
50

1 between Nome Creek and Beaver Creek and grayling are
2 susceptible to -- are allowed to be harvested under
3 subsistence regulations in BeaverCreek.

4
5 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
9 other questions from the Board.

10
11 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene, go ahead,
14 you have the floor.

15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
17 I recall, the way we currently stand it's closed to
18 subsistence take but open for sport. Do you have any
19 population specific catch and release mortality
20 information for this population.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. Thank
25 you for your question. My understanding is that catch
26 and release mortality estimates that were included in
27 the analysis are species specific but not necessarily
28 location specific to Nome Creek.

29
30 MR. PELTOLA: And one more followup,
31 Mr. Chair, if I could. For my memory, could you
32 express the catch and release mortality rates which may
33 be utilized and expressed towards this population that
34 were in the analysis?

35
36 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. The
37 estimates that we gave, I believe, we were ranged
38 between one and 10 percent mortality from catch and
39 release.

40
41 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, much,
42 appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, one
45 second, I'm having a personal issue right now, Rhonda,
46 could you please take over. I'll be back on in five
47 minutes, Rhonda, thank you.

48
49 MS. PITKA: Absolutely. Does anybody
50

1 have any further questions for Mr. Graham.

2

3 MR. SCHMID: No, Rhonda, but this is
4 Dave Schmid, just to let you know I'm back on as well,
5 and thanks, Wayne, for covering.

6

7 MS. PITKA: Hi, Dave, thank you. So I
8 believe that we are at the summary of public comments,
9 is that true?

10

11 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Yes, Rhonda,
12 that's true.

13

14 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Could we get
15 the summary please.

16

17 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. This is Tom
18 Kron from OSM. There were no written public comments
19 on FCR21-7.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Kron. I'd
24 like to open the floor right now to public testimony.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. PITKA: Operator, is there anyone
29 in the que.

30

31 OPERATOR: Apologies. If you would
32 like to make a public comment, please press star one.
33 One moment please.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 OPERATOR: I am showing no public
38 comments at this time.

39

40 MS. PITKA: Thank you. I'd like to
41 hear the Regional Council recommendation. I believe
42 this is Eastern Interior.

43

44 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes. This is Sue from
45 the Eastern Interior, Sue Entsminger. And I've been
46 chatting with Andrew Firmin, the Vice Chair, and I'm
47 not sure if he's online and he was going to take this
48 up. Andrew, are you on?

49

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Hello, Sue, this is Andrew
2 Firmin, I'm on but I was just -- I just got on and I
3 wasn't sure as to what -- which proposal we were
4 discussing right now.

5
6 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MS. PITKA: Andrew, this is Rhonda.
9 We're at Fisheries Closure Review 21-07 and we are now
10 at the Regional Advisory Council recommendation. It's
11 in your Board book on Page 375.

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: I'm trying to get there on
14 my computer right now if you'll bear with me a moment.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Perhaps for sake of time
19 Sue can read what's there and I can elaborate some when
20 I get the meeting materials up in front of me.

21
22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

23
24 MS. PITKA: Go ahead, Sue.

25
26 MS. ENTSMINGER: All right, thank you.
27 On Page 375 the Eastern Interior, we voted to modify
28 the closure by closing the Nome Creek drainage to the
29 harvest of grayling by all uses and users. And then in
30 your book you'll see the modified regulation, how it
31 should read. Do you want me to read all of that, or
32 just read our justification?

33
34 MS. PITKA: Your justification, it's
35 just your presentation, ma'am.

36
37 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay. Because it's
38 just the language for the book and I think all it did
39 is strike out subsistence fishing on the last page
40 there before our comment.

41
42 The Council said catch and release
43 fishing should not be allowed when conservation
44 concerns exist that preclude subsistence uses. The
45 Council thinks current regulations give priority and
46 more liberal opportunities to sportfisheries over
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users. If the intent
48 of this closure is to protect the grayling population
49 from over exploitation, then the closure should be for
50

1 all users and uses, including catch and release
2 sportfishing. It is well documented that the catch and
3 release fishing causes mortality which could affect a
4 small population of grayling. The Council's reason for
5 this modification is a conservation concern for
6 grayling and any and all cases of grayling mortality
7 should be eliminated. The Council also noted that Nome
8 Creek is not easily accessible or widely used and that
9 there are many other creeks in the area loaded with
10 grayling such as the Deadwood Creek and Crooked Creek.

11

12 And if I may, I just -- I got a
13 message, I don't know -- this is how we voted at the
14 meeting but it seems like BLM noted to me that there
15 was some information from Fish and Game but it wasn't
16 at our meeting so I don't know how that will work out
17 so I'm not going to get involved because it wasn't at
18 our meeting.

19

20 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Andrew, do you
21 have anything to add? Mr. Firmin.

22

23 MR. FIRMIN: I think Sue pretty well
24 covered it. I'm sorry, this is Andrew Firmin, the Vice
25 Chair of the Eastern Interior RAC. I just -- I think
26 that that was a lot, just trying to remember our
27 discussion on it, that, as Sue stated, there are plenty
28 of other fishing opportunities in the area and if
29 conservation is a concern then the handling of the fish
30 and the catch and release and the things like that was
31 what kind of took over our conversation at our meeting.

32

33 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Does anybody
34 have any questions for the Regional Council.

35

36 MR. PADGETT: Madame Chair, this is
37 Chad Padgett with BLM.

38

39 MS. PITKA: Yes, Mr. Padgett.

40

41 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. If it's
42 helpful for the RAC, we do have our subject matter
43 experts with BLM who are in the public que that we
44 could have join. I think there might be some updated
45 information that maybe not have been available during
46 your meeting. Would that be helpful to present now or
47 we could wait until the motion as well?

48

49 MS. PITKA: I think it's fine to

50

1 present it now, this is just discussion with the
2 Regional Advisory Chair, correct, it'll be fine.
3

4 MR. PADGETT: Okay, thanks. I'm not
5 sure who's on, John Haddix and Jim Herriges are on the
6 line and so if they could be let in, they can probably
7 speak to the updated information.
8

9 MS. DETWILER: So Operator did you get
10 those two names to let them -- open up their lines?
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 REPORTER: Or they could prompt with a
15 star one and that'll prompt the Operator.
16

17 OPERATOR: Jim has disconnected -- oh,
18 Jim is open now.
19

20 MS. PITKA: Okay, please proceed then.
21

22 MR. HERRIGES: Good afternoon, Madame
23 Chair and Board members. I'm Jim Herriges, I'm with
24 the Eastern Interior Field Office of BLM. And I help
25 service the Subsistence RAC. The new information, I
26 guess, that Sue would have been referring to would --
27 that the Board -- or that the Eastern Interior RAC
28 didn't have when they were considering this is that --
29 that BLM and Department of Fish and Game have made
30 plans to do some -- some studies of grayling in Beaver
31 Creek and Nome Creek and -- and so that could be
32 utilized essentially to assess the -- the potential
33 effects of -- of a subsistence harvest, which was in
34 the original analysis thought to be not sustainable so
35 -- and I don't have a lot of information on that but I
36 believe that someone from Fish and Game is probably on
37 line that could go into that a little bit more and --
38 and about the -- the potential effects of allowing a
39 subsistence harvest as an alternative.
40

41 So that would have been the -- the
42 other alternative that was analyzed in the -- in the
43 Staff report.
44

45 MS. PITKA: Thank you. So I have a
46 question, so it was noted in the proposal earlier --
47 the presentation earlier that this was a subsistence --
48 spawning grounds, the spawning grounds for some of the
49 grayling, would that have an effect on the harvestable
50

1 surplus?

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'm not a
7 fisheries biologist. It is -- this is Jim again. I --
8 that is the reason that -- one of the reasons that
9 there's a catch and release fishery here now and it's
10 the reason for the -- the specific single hook,
11 unbaited regulation that's for a portion of the season
12 that's in place. So -- so there would be some concern
13 that if there was a -- a heavy harvest, there's
14 significant recreational use of Nome Creek Valley, BLM
15 has developed 18 miles of road and two campgrounds in
16 the Valley and most of Nome Creek in that section is
17 accessible. But as was alluded to in the -- in the
18 comments in the Eastern Interior RAC discussion,
19 there's a lot of creeks that have grayling fishing
20 available that are closer to home for subsistence users
21 so it's not anticipated that there would be a -- really
22 a -- much interest amongst subsistence users of
23 traveling into Nome Creek to fish for grayling if there
24 was a limited harvest limit.

24

25

26

MS. PITKA: Thank you very much for
that. Does anybody have any further questions for the
Regional Council Chair.

27

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

32

33

34

35

MS. PITKA: So I see on my screen that
the other Regional Advisory Councils voted to defer to
the Eastern Interior. So I think at this moment we're
at tribal and Alaska Native Corporation comments with
Orville Lind.

36

37

38

39

MR. LIND: Yeah, can you hear me Madame
Chair?

40

41

42

43

44

45

MS. PITKA: Yes, thank you, Orville.

MR. LIND: Yes, good afternoon. Members
of the Board. During the consultation session we did
not have any questions or comments on 21-07.

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Lind.
Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, Ben

1 Mulligan.

2

3 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
5 and Game. The Department supports OSM's preliminary
6 conclusion and opposes the proposed amendment by the
7 Eastern Interior RAC.

8

9 Nome Creek is located within the
10 State's Fairbanks non-subsistence area and elimination
11 of recreational opportunities within a popular
12 Federally-designated recreational area would be
13 unnecessarily restrictive. And most conservative
14 fishing regulations have already been implemented out
15 of abundance of caution, and that was done in 1995.
16 But the level of fishing effort and associated hooking
17 mortality on this population is negligible and
18 sustainable and there is a level of exchange between
19 the grayling population between Nome and Beaver Creek,
20 as has already been said, which has the large
21 population.

22

23 I will say given the conversation that
24 we've heard and the conversations that have been had,
25 we know that there is the possibility for a small
26 subsistence fishery on that. In order to better
27 understand that population and neighboring population
28 there is going to be some joint work planned and I have
29 one of our area biologists, Lisa Stube, online and
30 ready to take any questions but then also kind of
31 present what that study would do and any other
32 pertinent background on that grayling population she
33 feels the Board should know.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Mulligan.
38 Does anybody have any questions for Mr. Mulligan or Ms.
39 Stube.

40

41 MR. MULLIGAN: It's up to them, I
42 offered it.

43

44 MS. PITKA: I would like to hear her
45 presentation on this particular study, though, if she's
46 online and available.

47

48 MR. MULLIGAN: I think she is. I think
49 you hit star one.

50

1 MS. PITKA: Hi, is Ms. Stube online,
2 can she please present on the study.

3
4 MS. STUBE: Hello, can -- can you hear
5 me?

6
7 MS. PITKA: Yes, I can hear you now.

8
9 MS. STUBE: Okay. For the record I'm
10 Lisa Stube with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
11 Division of SportFish and I am currently the Yukon area
12 management biologist. It excludes the Tanana River
13 though.

14
15 And I and Chris Clark, the new Bureau
16 of Land Management fisheries biologist, we're working
17 on getting a radiotelemetry study going on Arctic
18 grayling in Nome and Beaver Creeks. Right -- right now
19 we don't -- what we're hoping with the study is to be
20 able to deploy radio transmitters this summer and then
21 track them for a good year and a half and be able to
22 actually document spawning areas because there is no
23 hard documentation of the spawning areas. Document
24 spawning areas within Beaver and the Nome Creek
25 tributary as well as oversummering areas, overwintering
26 areas. There was a study done back in 1993 using
27 radiotelemetry for overwintering but there hasn't been
28 any work done since then. And also to note, timing and
29 movements of the fish, you know, between their
30 overwintering areas because they'll overwinter, you
31 know, per the 1993 study much further down river, like
32 towards Wickersham Creek, and those areas, lower, you
33 know, a little bit lower in the river but still within
34 the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Get
35 timing of when they come in to Nome Creek. Also look
36 at exchange, too, between Arctic grayling within Beaver
37 Creek and Nome Creek and we're hoping, too, with this
38 telemetry study and answering these questions to be
39 able to design a future mark/recapture study to
40 actually get a better handle on the population within
41 Nome Creek.

42
43 The study that was performed back in
44 2000 was kind of -- it was a -- kind of a separate
45 study on Beaver Creek from Little Champ -- from
46 Champion Creek on down to below -- well, the Big Ben,
47 and the Nome Creek was separate but there were some
48 issues actually with it not being a closed system and,
49 you know, it -- and to satisfy the -- you know satisfy
50

1 the consistent, you know, Peterson, and having it be a,
2 you know, closed system and not have movement in and
3 out of the system wasn't satisfied, so we're hoping to
4 look and better understand the movements of the Arctic
5 grayling and then hoping in 2023 to be able to use this
6 information to design an upcoming mark/recapture study
7 so -- so we better understand what the actual
8 population is.

9
10 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Ms. Stube, I
11 look forward to the results of that study. Does
12 anybody have any questions right now for Ms. Stube.

13
14 MR. SIEKANIEC: Madame Chair, this is
15 Greg.

16
17 MS. PITKA: Yes, Greg.

18
19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, thank you. So it
20 might be more for Ben. Ben, you had noted that there's
21 possibly room for some limited subsistence harvest, I
22 think I heard you say that and if that's correct, could
23 you give me -- do you have a little more information
24 around that, what you're thinking?

25
26 MR. MULLIGAN: Well, there's been some
27 conversations with the local managers and BLM's local
28 folks and I got word that a compromise may be
29 presented, and that's why I prefaced that, you know,
30 that I think it was five grayling but you'll have to
31 get the details from BLM.

32
33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you, Ben.
34 And then if you were designing a study and under ideal
35 conditions, what status would you like to see the river
36 in. Is the way that it's being administered right now
37 or if a subsistence fishery was added into that river,
38 does that complicate your study in some way where you
39 would have less confidence in potential results?

40
41 MR. MULLIGAN: I -- through the Chair.
42 Greg -- I will ask Lisa definitively for that, I would
43 say I don't think that it would disturb the study too
44 much but she could give you a definitive answer on it.

45
46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks Ben.

47
48 MS. STUBE: My apologies. Could you
49 please repeat the question.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I was just
2 asking, so you're designing a study and if you had an
3 ideal study scenario, would it be under the conditions
4 that the river is administered or managed right now, or
5 would it change your confidence in the study if we had
6 a limited subsistence harvest at the same time as we
7 have a sportfish catch and release?
8

9 MS. STUBE: That's a very good
10 question. I guess the only concern would be if the
11 subsistence user were to catch a radiotagged Arctic
12 grayling but we -- we will implant the transmitters via
13 surgeries and usually there's always going to be a
14 recovery time, and -- and we could put up informational
15 signs too, to let folks know if you do catch an Arctic
16 grayling, you know, that that is part of the study and
17 you'll see an antenna, you know, coming out of it.
18

19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.
20

21 MS. STUBE: You know, to -- to, please,
22 you know, let it go and/or, you know, to give me a
23 call. I don't think this would be a problem at all. I
24 mean we're planning on -- we're still working on the
25 nuts and bolts of it and still getting a proposal
26 together for when the call of proposals is issued, here
27 probably in the next couple of weeks, but I believe
28 we'll have enough radio transmitters deployed that if
29 there was an occasional Arctic grayling that succumbs
30 to subsistence mortality, that it should be fine.
31

32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you very much. I
33 think that's what I was waiting to hear, was, that you
34 can design that into your study and feel good about it.
35

36 MS. STUBE: Yes. Yes.
37

38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, thank you. Thank
39 you, Madame Chair.
40

41 MS. PITKA: Thank you, very much. Does
42 anybody else have any further questions.
43

44 (No comments)
45

46 MS. PITKA: If not I would like to go
47 to the InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
48

49 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 Members of the Board. This is Katya Wessels.

2

3 The InterAgency Committee has concerns
4 about a potential precedence being set if the Board
5 moved to maintain the closure to grayling fishing in
6 Nome Creek by Federally-qualified subsistence users as
7 recommended by the Office of Subsistence Management in
8 the FCR21-07 analysis. Doing so, would allow for a
9 catch and release sportfishery while not allowing for
10 consumptive use of grayling by Federally-qualified
11 subsistence users. This would appear to violate the
12 priority consumptive use clause found in ANILCA,
13 .802(2).

14

15 As stated in the analysis for FCR21-07,
16 grayling are very susceptible to over-exploitation.
17 And even though the sportfishery currently in place in
18 the area is catch and release only, there is associated
19 mortality. In one study as high as 10 percent as
20 indicated in the analysis. And any mortality should be
21 considered as take.

22

23 The InterAgency Staff Committee
24 believes that the modification proposed by the Eastern
25 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
26 which seeks to close the fishery to all users is more
27 appropriate if the intent of the current closure to
28 Federally-qualified subsistence users is to conserve
29 the grayling resource from over-exploitation.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MS. PITKA: Thank you, very much,
34 Katya. I'd like to open it for Board discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. PITKA: Hearing none, I'd like to
39 open the floor for Board action.

40

41 MR. PADGETT: Madame Chair, Chad
42 Padgett, BLM.

43

44 MS. PITKA: Go ahead, Mr. Padgett.

45

46 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Madame Chair.
47 I move to modify the closure for FCR21-07, to replace
48 the closure to subsistence harvest of Arctic grayling
49 in Nome Creek with an allowable subsistence harvest of

50

1 five fish per day, which is the limit currently in
2 place down stream of the mouth of Nome Creek.

3

4 The analysis for FCR21-07 can be found
5 on Page 366 of your meeting materials booklet.

6

7 If I get a second, I will explain why I
8 intend to support my motion.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: BIA second.

11

12 MR. BROWER: Second.

13

14 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. The current
15 State catch and release fishery does not represent a
16 conservation concern and such concern is not supported
17 by substantial evidence. This proposal would provide
18 an opportunity for subsistence harvest and a
19 subsistence priority not currently in regulation. The
20 level of interest among subsistence users of traveling
21 into Nome Creek, given the abundance of grayling
22 fisheries much closer to home, is likely to be quite
23 low. The harvest pressure and grayling population size
24 and characteristics can be monitored and if a
25 conservation concern arises, further restrictions could
26 be considered.

27

28 Although subsistence harvest does have
29 the potential to result in depletion or overharvest of
30 the fishery in Nome Creek, the level of subsistence
31 harvest is likely to be low and can be monitored.

32

33 BLM is planning to begin studies in
34 2021, including a radiotag movement study followed by a
35 population study, which will allow estimation of
36 effects of limited harvest and/or sportfishing related
37 mortality.

38

39 The proposed regulation would make the
40 subsistence regulations in Nome Creek the same as those
41 currently in place from the mouth of Nome Creek down
42 stream to the mouth of O'Brien Creek.

43

44 The amended regulatory language should
45 read as follows:

46

47 In Beaver Creek down stream from the
48 confluence of Moose Creek a gillnet with mesh size not
49 to exceed three inches stretch measure may be used from
50

1 June 15th through September 15th. You may subsistence
2 fish for all non-salmon species but may not target
3 salmon during this time period. Retention of salmon
4 take and incidentally to non-salmon directed fisheries
5 is allowed. The Beaver Creek drainage down stream to
6 the confluence of Moose Creek, only rod and reel may be
7 used. Nome Creek and Beaver Creek down stream to the
8 confluence of O'Brien Creek, the daily harvest and
9 possession limit is five grayling. From the mouth of
10 O'Brien Creek down stream to the confluence of Moose
11 Creek the daily harvest and possession limit is 10
12 grayling.

13

14 With that I'll conclude my motion.

15

16 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Padgett.

17

18 MR. BROWER: Question.

19

20 MS. PITKA: Question's been called.

21

22 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair, BIA.

23

24 MS. PITKA: Yes, sir.

25

26 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. I'd like to
27 ask a question of our Solicitor, Ken Lord. The Board
28 is currently in the process of a closure review,
29 according to policy, regulation and procedure, is that
30 -- and this is not a harvest proposal, would the Board
31 be acting within our authority by amending a closure
32 review?

33

34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MS. PITKA: Mr. Lord.

37

38 MR. LORD: Yeah, that question was just
39 raised by Staff as well. I'll tell you what, can I
40 just take a minute to review what's going on here
41 exactly and think about that?

42

43 MS. PITKA: Yeah, so we can take a
44 short five minutes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I concur,
47 this is -- I'm back on now Rhonda and I thank you for
48 doing a good job.

49

50

1 MS. PITKA: Thank you.
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
8 Deatherage. I just want to let Ken know as he's looking
9 that up, that FCR21-04 also had a modification and this
10 closure was under the consensus agenda.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 We'll take five minutes to clarify.
16
17 (Off record)
18
19 (On record)
20
21 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue, I'll just
22 quickly go through the roll call while we're waiting
23 for people to gather up.
24
25 Don Striker, are you back.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MS. DETWILER: Greg Siekaniec.
30
31 MR. SIEKANIEC: I'm here, Sue, thank
32 you.
33
34 MS. DETWILER: Gene Peltola.
35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, Roger 10-4.
37
38 MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett.
39
40 MR. PADGETT: I'm on.
41
42 MS. DETWILER: Dave Schmid.
43
44 MR. SCHMID: I'm here.
45
46 MS. DETWILER: Rhonda, I just heard
47 you.
48
49 Charlie Brower, are you on.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MS. DETWILER: Tony Christianson, did
4 you come on.
5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm on
7 now, too, Sue, thank you.
8
9 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So it looks like
10 we're only missing Don Striker and Charlie Brower.
11
12 MS. PITKA: Tony, I heard Ken Lord say
13 he was back on.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
16 you.
17
18 MR. STRIKER: (Indiscernible)
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Don Striker, was that
21 you?
22
23 MR. STRIKER: (Indiscernible)
24
25 MS. DETWILER: I'm sorry, could --
26 whoever just joined and was trying to say something
27 could you repeat that please.
28
29 MR. STRIKER: Yeah, I (indiscernible).
30
31 MS. DETWILER: I'm sorry, Don, I'm
32 thinking that's you but can you confirm.
33
34 MR. STRIKER: (Indiscernible).
35
36 MS. WESSELS: So this is Katya,
37 Operator is telling me that it's him.
38
39 MS. DETWILER: That Don Striker is on?
40
41 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, that's what she's
42 saying.
43
44 MS. DETWILER: Could she tell if
45 Charlie Brower's on yet?
46
47 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I'll ask her.
48
49 MR. BROWER: Yeah, I've been on.
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I guess, yeah, he
2 said himself.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: So Don Striker is trying
5 to dial back in but, Mr. Chair, we do have Ken Lord and
6 the other seven Board members on while Don is trying to
7 call in.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, if they're
10 ready to proceed we'll start now.

11
12 MR. LORD: Okay, Mr. Chair, this is
13 Ken. Sorry about that, I had to do a bit of thinking,
14 we're in unchartered waters here and conferred with
15 Theo. My recommendation is that the best way to ensure
16 appropriate opportunity for public comment as well as
17 actually for the RACs to weigh in, would be to treat
18 this as either -- at the moment for either, as a
19 binary decision, either opened or closed, and if the
20 Board decides to open then, then invite a special
21 action request in the short-term, and a proposal in the
22 long-term that would allow for the appropriate input
23 and transparency in terms of setting seasons and bag
24 limits.

25
26 While it's probably not just to this
27 proposal but also 21-04, which is on the consensus
28 agenda.

29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
31 Greg.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
34 floor, Greg.

35
36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Ken, thanks
37 for that, I'm just trying to make sure I'm following
38 this in the simplest way, perhaps, is we should either
39 maintain the closure or get rid of it, that's sort of
40 the base of our decisionmaking today, and then.....

41
42 MR. LORD: Yes.

43
44 MR. SIEKANIEC:if we get rid of
45 the closure, we should encourage a proposal to be put
46 in front of us?

47
48 MR. LORD: Yeah, that would -- for the
49 short-term a special action request.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, yep, yep.
2
3 MR. LORD: And for the longer term a
4 proposal, yeah, exactly.
5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, thank you.
7
8 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad
9 Padgett with BLM.
10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
12 have the floor.
13
14 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Based on the
15 new information procedurally here it sounds like the
16 best course of action, and, Ken, I'll try and get this
17 right but pay attention so I do. But procedurally it
18 sounds like it would be best for me to withdraw my
19 motion; would that be the best course going forward and
20 then reintroduce a different motion on the thumbs up or
21 down on the closure?
22
23 MR. LORD: With the approval of the
24 second, that would be a good way to do it.
25
26 MR. PADGETT: Okay. In that case I'd
27 like to -- Mr. Chair, I'd like to withdraw my motion,
28 if I could get a second.
29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Second, Fish and
31 Wildlife Service.
32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes and yes.
34
35 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Okay, so I
36 think at this point I can make a new motion.
37
38 So the new motion I'd like to make, I'm
39 sorry I'm doing this on the fly so my -- I apologize
40 for the wording here. But my new motion, I'd like to
41 keep status quo as far as the closure goes. So the new
42 motion is just to keep the status quo.
43
44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Second, Fish and
45 Wildlife Service.
46
47 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. A
50

1 motion's been made and seconded, any further discussion
2 on the floor.

3

4

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, BIA, you
7 have the floor.

8

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: I have a question for
11 BLM. Chad, are you prepared to take additional action,
12 with potentially a special action in place at this
13 meeting or -- or not. I'm trying to see where we're
14 going to go from this.

14

15

MR. PADGETT: You bet. I think we'll
16 have to discuss and see if we can't get a new proposal
17 in front of the Board.

18

19

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So
20 that's the understanding that we're just going to
21 develop a new proposal on this for the next cycle or
22 next meeting?

23

24

MR. PADGETT: It sounds like it will be
25 the next cycle.

26

27

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may, BIA.

28

29

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene,
30 that's what I was just trying to make sure we had
31 clarification. You have the floor.

32

33

MR. PELTOLA: So one thing for
34 consideration, Chad, is an emergency special action
35 which could take place later on in this season and
36 could be implemented before, you know, the ice melts,
37 if you wanted to consider that route, or a temporary
38 special action which would just entail having a meeting
39 -- a public meeting within the affected area, and if
40 that's the route you want to consider, you might want
41 to consider a deferral until a later date on this if
42 you want to implement your -- your negotiated -- or
43 your alternative option to close, maintain the status
44 quo, open or closing.

45

46

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48

MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Gene. I think at
49 this point -- through the Chair. I think at this point

50

1 we'll discuss it as a special action and make sure that
2 we do it right and get it in front of the appropriate
3 folks.

4
5 Thanks.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
8 other further Board discussion, questions or
9 deliberation.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
14 question.

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Sue,
19 please.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Okay, the motion is to
22 maintain the status quo on FCR21-07.

23
24 And starting with the motionmaker,
25 Chad Padgett.

26
27 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Sue, I support my
28 motion.

29
30 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

31
32 Gene Peltola.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Could you come back to me
35 shortly, I'm having discussion with my Staff.

36
37 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

38
39 Greg Siekaniec.

40
41 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support the motion to
42 maintain status quo with the expectation that we would
43 see a special action request as Chad indicated.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. PELTOLA: BIA's ready.

48
49 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

50

1 Don -- I'm sorry, Gene.
2
3 MR. PELTOLA: BIA's ready to cast their
4 vote.
5
6 MS. DETWILER: Okay, go -- go ahead,
7 Gene.
8
9 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports the vote and
10 the justification provided by the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service.
12
13 MS. DETWILER: I'm -- I'm sorry, Gene,
14 could you repeat that.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Support for the same
17 justification as provided by.....
18
19 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
20
21 MR. PELTOLA:the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service.
23
24 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
25
26 Don Striker.
27
28 MR. REAM: Hi, Sue, this is Joshua
29 Ream. Don Striker's having trouble getting back on the
30 call and said that I should go ahead and vote for the
31 Park Service if.....
32
33 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
34
35 MR. REAM:that's okay with the
36 Board. The Park Service supports the motion for the
37 reasons articulated by the other agencies.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
42
43 Moving to Dave Schmid, Forest Service.
44
45 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, the Forest Service
46 also supports the motion that maintains the status quo
47 and like the Fish and Wildlife Service, with the
48 expectation this would come back as a special action.
49
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
4
5 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
6
7 MS. PITKA: I vote to maintain the
8 status quo on FCR21-07. I would also like to ask that
9 we have the specific information around the effects of
10 opening a fishery in a spawningground.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
15
16 Public member Charlie Brower.
17
18 MR. BROWER: Support as stated.
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
21
22 Chair Tony Christianson.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
25
26 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The motion passes
27 unanimously to maintain the status quo.
28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
30
31 MS. DETWILER: That leads -- yeah.
32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, you
34 have the floor.....
35
36 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:call the
39 next order of business please.
40
41 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
44 have the floor.
45
46 MR. STRIKER: So if it pleases the
47 Board, first of all I'm back. And second of all I
48 noticed a problem with FP21-14 and if it's okay I'd
49 like to just take a minute to talk about that one
50

1 before we move on.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, you have
4 the floor, Don.

5

6 MR. STRIKER: All right, thanks. So
7 Staff brought it to my attention that the general
8 description that I was using to formulate my motion
9 doesn't appear to match the proposed regulation. I was
10 thinking that the intent was not to be able to have
11 fishfinders in operation while fishing from the boats,
12 but a closer read of the proposed regulation says that
13 you can't even have the device on board.

14

15 I don't think that's within the purview
16 of the Board to make a statement like that. And I'm
17 just thinking that maybe, and, maybe Ken can dig me out
18 of this mess, too, but could we clarify that the
19 intention of the Board was to -- was not to have that
20 language that was sort of, you're not even allowed to
21 have it on board, interpretation of this.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
24 Any questions for Don.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello,
29 Operator, can you hear me?

30

31 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, we can hear you.

32

33 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, so -- this is Sue,
34 and I guess as far as making motions, I guess I would
35 ask if we actually need to make any motions on that or
36 if that's something that we could just deal with based
37 on the record here, just make sure that that is what
38 eventually goes into the regulation.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I would just
41 ask that the maker and the second have concurrence with
42 the new information and that we would direct Staff to
43 go ahead and inject that into the regulation and make
44 sure we just clearly have that stated on the record.

45

46 Thank you, Sue.

47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is

49 Greg.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: I was having trouble
4 hearing you, what is your recommendation?

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I was just
7 saying as long as we have first and second -- maker of
8 the motion concurring, that, Sue's recommendation of
9 just making sure that it's included in the regulation
10 to reflect that change, that we just move ahead.

11

12 MR. SIEKANIEC: And the change being
13 that we're not requiring the removal of equipment, just
14 that.....

15

16 MR. STRIKER: That's right.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC:just using the
19 equipment.....

20

21 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair.

22

23 MR. SIEKANIEC:is that.....

24

25 REPORTER: Okay, just one at a time,
26 please.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, Don, can
29 you restate that for Greg so he can clearly understand
30 it.

31

32 MR. STRIKER: Yeah, so I -- I was
33 relying on the general description and the intent of
34 that is that you don't have a fishfinder in operation
35 while fishing from the boat, and that's how the
36 regulation should read, not -- it should not read that
37 you can't even have the device on board.

38

39 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, BIA, go
42 ahead.

43

44 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Don, the Bureau of
45 Indian Affairs voted to support that with the
46 interpretation of prohibit the use.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that. That sums it up and just make sure that the
3 regulation.....

4
5 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett,
6 BLM.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
9 have the floor.

10
11 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Procedurally,
12 wouldn't this require an amendment to the motion? Ken
13 would have to answer that question, I think.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think,
16 myself, as the Chair, it seems Gene just did a good job
17 stating that: prohibit the use of, clearly, you don't
18 have to take it off the boat.

19
20 MR. LORD: Yeah, agreed, Mr. Chair,
21 this is Ken. Everything in that analysis talks about
22 limiting the use and it's only the language of the
23 proposed regulation at the beginning of text about not
24 having one on board and so that was where the lack of
25 clarity came in. And I think as long as the Board is
26 clear on its intent, any mechanism by which we
27 accomplish that would be sufficient for Theo to be able
28 to draft the appropriate regulation.

29
30 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
33 discussion on this.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
38 thank you, it's through, I think we gave the Staff
39 enough to go ahead and develop that. And, Sue, I'll
40 call on you for the next order of business.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So the next order
43 of business is adoption of the consensus agenda and I
44 would note that on the consensus agenda is Fisheries
45 Closure Review 21-04, which does the same thing as what
46 we just discovered we cannot do with Fishery Closure
47 Rev -- 21-07, which is to establish a -- establish a
48 harvest limit, so we'll have to figure out what to do
49 with that consensus agenda item, FCR21-04.

50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
4 Gene.
5
6 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. Might I recommend that we remove -- remove 21-
8 04 from the consensus, take it up individually, then we
9 could act upon the consensus agenda for the remaining
10 actions.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think if
13 there's no opposition from any other Board member for
14 that I think that should be something we could do.
15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: No opposition from Fish
17 and Wildlife Service.
18
19 MR. BROWER: None from Public Member
20 here.
21
22 MR. SCHMID: None from Forest Service.
23
24 MR. STRIKER: None from Park Service.
25
26 MR. PELTOLA: And none from BIA.
27
28 MS. PITKA: I'm good.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. So
31 we'll go ahead and pull that one from there with the
32 information that was provided to us earlier and move
33 forward with the remaining consensus agenda items. And
34 entertain a motion at this time.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello,
39 Operator, can you hear me?
40
41 OPERATOR: Yes, I hear you, are you
42 wanting to open for public comment, sir?
43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we're
45 going to listen to the Staff analysis and then move on
46 with the consensus agenda.
47
48 MS. DETWILER: So, Mr. Chair, did you
49 -- let's see -- just to clarify, we're moving on with
50

1 the consensus agenda, did you want Staff member George
2 Pappas to read the consensus agenda and then move to
3 Board deliberation and Board action on the consensus
4 agenda?
5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Yes, that
7 was the order of business, I was calling for the Staff
8 to provide the summary of the consensus agenda.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.
13

14 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 George Pappas.....
16

17 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry,
18 George -- Mr. Chair, this is Katya Wessels. If we move
19 the FCR21-04 off the consensus agenda, don't we need to
20 first listen to the presentation on that before we vote
21 on the consensus agenda is introduced?
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think either
24 way works. I mean we can get this off and then go
25 back, or we can do it either way. Is there a
26 preference by anybody on the Board, we do it one way or
27 the other?
28

29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
30 Greg. I see we T-up the consensus agenda as George is
31 ready to go.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I agree. Let's
34 go with George and we'll back up to the one we just
35 pulled and we'll run through the whole process for that
36 non-consensus agenda item.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 George Pappas. I will go through the consensus agenda
42 noting that the two proposals have been pulled off.
43

44 So this is Agenda Item 7, Page II of
45 your book. The following are brief summaries of
46 fisheries proposals on the consensus agenda as well as
47 the recommendations for each proposal and what page or
48 on, fishery proposal, occur in your book.
49
50

1 I'm going to start with FP21-01. The
2 request repeals -- repealing the closure to subsistence
3 fishing prior to, during and after State commercial
4 fishing periods in the Kuskokwim District 1 and 2 for
5 salmon. The recommendation is to support the proposal
6 and it can be found on Page 39 of your meeting
7 materials book.

8
9 The second proposal here on the
10 consensus agenda is FP21-03 that requests modification
11 language to clarify set gillnet orientation in the
12 tributaries of the Kuskokwim River for all fish. The
13 recommendation is to support the proposal and it can be
14 found on Page 67 of your book.

15
16 The next one, FP21-05 seeks to repeal
17 subsistence regulatory language referring to State
18 commercial fishing districts in Bristol Bay area for
19 salmon. The recommendation is to support this proposal
20 and it can be found on Page 68 of your book.

21
22 Next one, FP21-06 seeks to modify
23 subsistence regulations for the Bristol Bay area to
24 include dipnet, beach seine and gillnets for salmon.
25 The recommendation is to oppose the proposal and it can
26 be found on Page 79 of your book.

27
28 The next one is FP21-07 seeking to
29 repeal time restrictions for harvesting salmon in the
30 Egegik River. The recommendation is to support the
31 proposal and it can be found on Page 93 of your meeting
32 materials book.

33
34 Next one is FP21-08 seeks to repeal
35 prohibition of harvesting fish 300 feet from the stream
36 mouth used by salmon for the Bristol Bay area. The
37 recommendation is to oppose the proposal and it can be
38 found on Page 99 of your meeting materials book.

39
40 And next one, FP21-09 which seeks to
41 modify naming conventions of early or late run Kenai
42 River chinook salmon with specific date ranges. The
43 recommendation is to support the proposal and it can be
44 found on Page 109 of your meeting book.

45
46 The next one is Fisheries Closure
47 Review 21-01 which requests to rescind the closure to
48 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the Yukon
49 [sic] drainage for chinook salmon. And the
50

1 recommendation is to retain status quo and it can be
2 found on Page 330 of your meeting materials book.

3
4 The next Fisheries Closure Review is
5 FCR21-06 seeks to rescind the closure to Federally-
6 qualified subsistence users in the Toklat River for all
7 fish. The recommendation is to support eliminating the
8 closure and that can be found on Page 356 of your
9 meeting materials book.

10
11 Next one is FCR21-22 seeks to rescind
12 the closure to all except Federally-qualified users in
13 Makhnati Island Federal public waters for herring and
14 their spawn. The recommendation is to maintain the
15 status quo. The proposal can be found on Page 464 of
16 your materials -- meeting materials book.

17
18 And, again, the Board retains the final
19 authority for removal of proposals from the consensus
20 agenda. The Board will take final action on these
21 fisheries proposals on the consensus agenda at this
22 time.

23
24 Thank you very much for your time, sir.

25
26 Standing by.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 George. Appreciate you taking the time to present us
30 with the consensus agenda. Any questions from the
31 Board for George.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 hearing none.....

37
38 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, BIA, you
41 have the floor.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: BIA moves to accept the
44 consensus agenda a presented to the Board.

45
46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Fish and Wildlife,
47 second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
50

1 made and a second, any discussion.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
call for the question.

7

8

MR. BROWER: Question.

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
called by Charlie. Sue, roll call, please.

12

13

14

MS. DETWILER: Okay. Motion to accept
the consensus agenda.

15

16

Gene Peltola, BIA.

17

18

MR. PELTOLA: Accept.

19

20

21

MS. DETWILER: Greg Siekaniec, Fish and
Wildlife Service.

22

23

24

MR. SIEKANIEC: I accept the consensus
agenda, thank you, Sue.

25

26

27

MS. DETWILER: Don Striker, Park
Service.

28

29

30

MR. STRIKER: We accept the consensus
agenda, thanks. Sue.

31

32

33

MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett, BLM.

34

35

36

MR. MCKEE: Sue, this is Chris, Chad
had to step out briefly so I'll act in his stead. BLM
accepts.

37

38

39

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Chris.

40

41

Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

42

43

MR. SCHMID: Yeah, Forest Service
accepts the consensus agenda.

44

45

46

MS. DETWILER: Public Member Rhonda
Pitka.

47

48

MS. PITKA: Yes, I accept, thank you.

49

50

1 MS. DETWILER:
2
3 Public Member Charlie Brower.
4
5 MR. BROWER: Yes.
6
7 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
8
9 Chair Tony Christianson.
10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
12
13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
14 passes unanimously, the consensus agenda is accepted.
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Now, Sue, I
17 guess we will step back to the ones that we pulled off
18 so we could address the non-consensus item we have
19 remaining on our table today.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: So, I believe we have
22 just the one that was just pulled off the consensus
23 agenda, 21 -- Fisheries Closure Review 21-04.
24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. And if we
26 could have the Staff come up and give us a brief
27 summary of that so we could run through the process of
28 consideration.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. And I -- I'm
33 sorry.
34
35 MR. BROWER: Was that 21-04?
36
37 MS. DETWILER: Fisheries Closure Review
38 21-04, yes.
39
40 MR. BROWER: Okay, thank you.
41
42 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, Mr. Chair, Members
43 of the Board. This is Cory Graham again, and I'm a
44 fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence
45 Management. I'll be presenting Fisheries Closure
46 Review 21-04 which can be found on Page 339 of your
47 Board book. This closure review reviews the closure to
48 the harvest of all fish in the Jim River drainage by
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users.
50

1 The Federal Subsistence Board adopted
2 this closure from State regulations at the beginning of
3 the Federal program in 1992 and it has not been
4 reviewed or modified since. Under State regulations,
5 Jim River is closed to subsistence fishing but
6 sportfishing is allowed. Three miles of Jim River
7 exists within the Kanuti Refuge boundary, the remainder
8 of the Jim River drainage is on general domain lands
9 managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

10
11 Coho, chum and chinook salmon spawn in
12 the Jim River. Aerial surveys that were conducted from
13 2009 to 2012 and in 2015 indicated there were, on
14 average, 183 chinook salmon and 462 chum salmon counted
15 each year. There is no escapement goal for any salmon
16 species in this drainage. The predominant non-salmon
17 fish found in the Jim River drainage include Arctic
18 grayling, burbot, round whitefish and slimy sculpin.
19 Population estimates conducted for grayling in the Jim
20 River indicated there were between 5,100 and 5,400
21 Arctic grayling in a 10 kilometer stretch near the
22 Dalton Highway in 1995; and approximately 12,000 Arctic
23 grayling over a 21.3 kilometer section of the river in
24 1997.

25
26 Communities in the vicinity of the Jim
27 River include Wiseman, Coldfoot, Evansville and
28 Bettles. Wiseman has a documented use area for non-
29 salmon fish that includes the Jim River and areas
30 adjacent to the Dalton Highway. Important non-salmon
31 species include grayling, sucker and burbot.

32
33 If this closure is eliminated Federal
34 subsistence regulations for the Yukon area would apply.
35 Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings,
36 closings and fishing methods would be the same as those
37 issued by State emergency order unless superseded by a
38 Federal special action.

39
40 The OSM conclusion is to eliminate the
41 closure and modify regulations to allow subsistence
42 fishing by rod and reel only. Currently this drainage
43 is closed to fishing by Federally-qualified subsistence
44 users but remains open to other uses, which does not
45 allow a subsistence priority. OSM recommends that
46 subsistence harvest be restricted to rod and reel to
47 protect healthy populations in the system. Under OSM's
48 recommendation, subsistence rod and reel harvest limits
49 would mirror State sport regulations.

50

1 And that concludes my presentation and
2 we're prepared to take any questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
5 Appreciate you being ready to do that on the fly. Any
6 questions from the Board.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
11 hearing none, we'll move on to the next part of the
12 process. We'll listen to the summary of public
13 comment.

14
15 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
16 public comment, please press star one.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry,
19 Operator, at this time I'm asking the Staff if there's
20 any public comments that were received.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 OPERATOR: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And then we'll
27 go to the.....

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
30 Wessels.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Katya, you
33 have the floor.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Thank
36 you, Mr. Chair and Members of the Board. We did not
37 receive any written public comments on FCR21-04.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Katya. We'll, at this time, Operator, open up the line
43 to any public who may want to testify at this time,
44 this is their opportunity.

45
46 OPERATOR: Thank you. Once, again, if
47 you would like to make a public comment, please press
48 star one. One moment please.

49
50

1 (Pause)

2

3 OPERATOR: I'm showing no public
4 comments at this time.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Operator. And with that we'll go ahead and move on to
8 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, RAC Chair or
9 designee.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No RACs wish to
14 speak to this, calling on any RAC who wishes to speak
15 to this proposal at this time, now would be your
16 opportunity.

17

18 OPERATOR: Please hit star one.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
21 Karen Deatherage. So are you asking for the Regional
22 Advisory Council's recommendation for FCR21-04?

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm just
25 seeing if any of the RAC Chairs want to chime in on it,
26 we did pull it off the consensus and made it non-
27 consensus. Just trying to give everybody an
28 opportunity to speak to the proposal before we
29 deliberate and vote on it.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: With the Chair's
34 permission I'd be happy to speak on behalf of Jenny
35 Pelkola, the Acting Chair for the Western Interior
36 Alaska Council, and this recommendation for this
37 fisheries closure review.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
42 floor, thank you.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 The Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council
46 supported elimination of the closure per the OSM
47 recommendation with the following modification. Allow
48 a bag possession limit of 10 grayling per day by rod
49 and reel in the Jim River, including Douglas and
50

1 Prospects Creek. This closure was authorized to
2 minimize the disruption of the State's continuing fish
3 and game management of subsistence, while at the same
4 time fulfilling the requirements of ANILCA. The Jim
5 River is currently excluded from the list of rivers
6 where subsistence use is permitted along the Dalton
7 Highway Corridor. Under this regulation, use has been
8 closed to Federally-qualified subsistence users, but
9 open to sportfishing under State regulation. The
10 Council believes there is verifiable traditional use of
11 salmon in this river and a limited harvest of rod and
12 reel should be allowed to occur.

13

14 The Council also believes that if
15 subsistence users are going to travel down the river
16 for grayling, the bag limit should be increased to
17 justify time and expense. Allowing for a small
18 traditional harvest of salmon along with a reasonable
19 harvest of grayling would reestablish a subsistence
20 priority use of this resource.

21

22 I do want to note, and Cory or Hannah
23 can correct me if I'm wrong, that opening this closure
24 would allow for a bag limit of five grayling per day,
25 based on the additional portions of the regulations.
26 So what the Council is asking for is to increase that
27 bag or possession limit to 10.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
30 Board.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
33 questions from the Board.

34

35 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA. I have a
36 question for legal Counsel.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There you go.

39

40 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
41 my understanding based on the previous direction
42 received on the grayling in the White Mountains, we
43 have the Western Interior, which has been deferred to
44 by YKD, Seward Penn, all the others, we would vote to
45 rescind the closure, which would put in place an
46 existing bag limit of five as Ms. Deatherage
47 identified, and if the bag limit and possession wanted
48 to be modified, then that could be addressed in the
49 same manner, via special action request, emergency, or
50

1 temporary followed up by a regulatory change during the
2 cycle. Is that correct, Mr. Lord?

3
4 MR. LORD: That is correct. Thank you,
5 Mr. Peltola.

6
7 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, sir.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
10 appreciate the comment. And any other questions --
11 thank you for that position -- any other Regional
12 Advisory Council Chairs wish to be recognized at this
13 time.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
18 we'll call on the tribal, Alaska Native Corp comments,
19 Orville Lind.

20
21 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Can you
22 hear me?

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I can hear you
25 loud and clear, brother.

26
27 MR. LIND: Yeah, during the
28 consultation session there were no questions or
29 concerns on FCR21-04. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
34 Next, we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game, Ben Mulligan.

36
37 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
39 and Game. The Department has no comment on this
40 closure review.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
45 Mulligan. We'll move on to the InterAgency Staff
46 comments, Katya.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
49 members of the Board. Katya Wessels. The InterAgency
50

1 Staff Committee had the standard comment on Fisheries
2 Closure Review FCR21-04.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Katya. Board discussion, Board action, the floor is
8 open.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman, Greg.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
13 floor, Greg.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. At this time I would like to move that we
17 maintain the closure of FCR21-04, and if I get a second
18 I will add some additional justification.

19

20 MR. BROWER: Second.

21

22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie. In
23 moving to maintain the closure, I believe that the
24 status quo is appropriate until such time as we receive
25 a special action request from the Western Interior
26 Regional Advisory Council. I think this is similar to
27 the last issue that we dealt with. There is obviously
28 some interest and it looks like justification that can
29 be put together around this and to make sure that we
30 get it right and take the appropriate Board action, I,
31 again, would say that we should maintain this closure
32 until that time.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

37

38 MR. SCHMID: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
41 called, thank you, Dave. Sue, roll call.

42

43 MS. DETWILER: Okay, the motion on
44 Fisheries Closure Review 21-04 is to maintain the
45 status quo.

46

47 Greg Siekaniec, your vote.

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support maintaining

50

1 the status quo.
2
3 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
4
5 Don Striker.
6
7 MR. STRIKER: I support, thank you.
8
9 MS. DETWILER: Gene Peltola.
10
11 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports with the
12 same expectations as the Fish and Wildlife Service.
13
14 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
15
16 Chad Padgett, BLM.
17
18 MR. PADGETT: I support.
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
21
22 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.
23
24 MR. SCHMID: I also support with the
25 same expectations as stated by the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service.
27
28 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
29
30 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
31
32 MS. PITKA: I support maintaining the
33 status quo. Thank you.
34
35 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Charlie
36 Brower.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. DETWILER: Charlie Brower, did we
41 lose you on this vote.
42
43 MR. BROWER: I support, thank you, as
44 stated.
45
46 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
47
48 And, finally, Chair Christianson.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
2 stated, thank you.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Okay, motion passes
5 unanimately to maintain the closure.

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, this is
8 Karen Deatherage. With the Chair's permission I'd like
9 to speak to this.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
12 floor, Karen.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.
15 I just wanted to remind the Board that the Council
16 voted unanimately to support the elimination of this
17 closure, not to maintain status quo, and that they
18 supported the elimination of the closure with a bag
19 possession of 10 grayling per day.

20
21 So I just heard, and it's late in the
22 day so I could have heard wrong, that the Board just
23 voted to maintain the status quo, which to me would
24 maintain the closure, which would go against the
25 recommendations of the Western Interior Council.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 that. Does that clearly reflect what just happened,
31 and I think there was some legal reasons why; can
32 somebody explain?

33
34 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken, you have
37 the floor.

38
39 MR. LORD: That's exactly right. The
40 deference issue is not a concern when we are acting in
41 a manner that trying to properly implement the law, in
42 this case, the Administrative Procedural Act, so
43 there's no need for the Board to go down that list of
44 three possible reasons for not deferring to a Council
45 in this particular case because there's an unwritten,
46 fourth one, which is compliance with the law.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 appreciate that. I hope that helps you understand the
50

1 position of the Board at this time.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

6

7

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
8 have the floor.

9

10

MR. STRIKER: Thanks for your
11 indulgence and I apologize for seeming to have Park
12 Service domination. I would like to request
13 reconsideration of FP21-14, and if I get a second I'll
14 explain my rationale.

15

16

MR. PELTOLA: Second, BIA.

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
19 made and seconded for reconsideration, you have the
20 floor, Don.

21

22

MR. STRIKER: Thank you, Gene. I just
23 want to make abundantly clear on the record what my
24 intent was and provide a clear opportunity for the
25 Board to be able to vote on this with that intention
26 being crystal clear. I want to make sure that we're
27 not running afoul of any possible interpretation of
28 taking an action that could be viewed as arbitrary and
29 capricious.

30

31

Thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
34 that Don. I think we're here to do business while
35 we're at the table so I appreciate that. Any other
36 Board discussion, questions or comments.

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There is a
41 motion on the floor to reconsider the proposal we just
42 voted on, at this time I'll call for the question on
43 that reconsideration seeing as it has a second.

44

45

MS. DETWILER: So just -- so I'm making
46 sure, this is a motion to reconsider Fisheries Proposal
47 21-14?

48

49

MR. STRIKER: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
2
3 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
4
5 MR. PELTOLA: BIA calls for a question
6 on Fisheries Proposal 21-14 as clarified by the
7 National Park Service.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call.
10
11 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
12
13 Don Striker.
14
15 MR. STRIKER: Support.
16
17 MS. DETWILER: Greg Siekaniec.
18
19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Support.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: Gene Peltola.
22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Support.
24
25 MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett.
26
27 MR. PADGETT: Support.
28
29 MS. DETWILER: Dave Schmid.
30
31 MR. SCHMID: Support.
32
33 MS. DETWILER: Rhonda Pitka.
34
35 MS. PITKA: Support.
36
37 MS. DETWILER: Charlie Brower.
38
39 MR. BROWER: Support.
40
41 MS. DETWILER: Tony Christianson.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
44
45 MS. DETWILER: Motion passes to
46 reconsider Fisheries Proposal 21-14.
47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That brings
49 that up back up to the table and at this time we could
50

1 either have further discussion or we could get a motion
2 on the floor to clearly articulate our intent for the
3 record.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
10 have the floor.

11

12 MR. STRIKER: I move that we adopt
13 Fisheries Proposal 21-14 in deference to the Eastern
14 Interior RAC and because of the overwhelming public
15 testimony that we heard in the region. It's not clear
16 to me that this equipment provides substantial benefits
17 on the river. Additionally, I don't think that this
18 action will unduly affect subsistence opportunity. I
19 believe it's a starting point for us to explore how
20 some restrictions of this nature can help facilitate
21 future conservation efforts driven by the local users.

22

23 I'm a little concerned that the
24 restrictions are on Federal users, and I do hope that
25 we can find ways to work with the RACs and the State to
26 jointly work towards conservation and to fully
27 understand the issues.

28

29 I also want to be clear that the
30 regulation is to prohibit the use of bathymetry
31 equipment and fishfinders while fishing from a boat or
32 watercraft, not to prohibit them from being on board
33 entirely. That is beyond the jurisdiction of this
34 Board.

35

36 I would also welcome exploring future
37 proposals regarding this equipment and to hear more
38 broadly from people in the region regarding their use,
39 both for finding fish and for safety and where there
40 might be room for compromise more broadly. And I also
41 want to reiterate that I take great, great hesitancy in
42 restricting Federally-qualified subsistence users when
43 State users don't have the same restrictions.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don,
48 appreciate that. Further Board questions or
49 discussion.

50

1 REPORTER: A second?
2
3 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.
4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
6 that reminder, Tina.
7
8 Motion's been made by Don, seconded by
9 Gene, now the floor's open for further discussion,
10 deliberation.
11
12 MR. BROWER: So, Don, your motion is to
13 iterate that while you're fishing from a boat or a
14 watercraft you may use one of these devices for fish
15 locations, fishfinders, for the subsistence users?
16
17 MR. STRIKER: No, so it would prohibit
18 -- it was prohibit the subsistence users from having
19 that equipment turned on basically while fishing.
20
21 MR. BROWER: Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
24 Board questions, discussion.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Question.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
31 called. Roll call, Sue, please.
32
33 MS. DETWILER: The motion is to adopt
34 Fisheries Proposal 21-14.
35
36 Don Striker.
37
38 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
39 supports for the reasons previously articulated.
40
41 MS. DETWILER: Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
43
44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. I
45 oppose. I think, again, restricting Federally-qualified
46 users in this regard is going to be extremely
47 complicated because quite often navigation bathymetry
48 and fishfinder devices are all in a combined single
49 unit now and, you know, limiting them from a safety
50

1 standpoint of having their navigation utilized, I
2 think, is going to be something that a law enforcement
3 officer will find great difficulty in enforcing.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

8

9 Gene Peltola, BIA.

10

11 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
12 votes to support for the reasons articulated by my
13 colleague at the National Park Service. And I'd also
14 like the record to reflect my comments carried over
15 from the previous vote on this proposal.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

20

21 Chad Padgett, BLM.

22

23 MR. PADGETT: I oppose for the same
24 reasons as previously stated. And I'd like to add,
25 too, that this may be out of our jurisdiction due to
26 Coast Guard regulations.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

31

32 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

33

34 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I'm going to oppose
35 for the reasons stated by both BLM and Fish and
36 Wildlife Service.

37

38 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

39

40 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

41

42 MS. PITKA: I vote to support as stated
43 by my previous comments and also in support of the
44 National Park Service.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

49

50

1 Public Member Charlie Brower.
2
3 MR. BROWER: Support as stated.
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
6
7 Finally, Chair Tony Christianson.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support.
10
11 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
12 passes five to three. So the proposal -- Fisheries
13 Proposal 21-14 is adopted.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And that's why
16 we like to entertain people on the call and make sure
17 they pay attention because you can change the business
18 of the Board by giving us information so I truly
19 appreciate everyone's diligence, paying attention and
20 trying to make sure we get it as correct as we can for
21 the people who are on the land using the resource, so,
22 thank you.
23
24 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. BIA
25 recommends since we have the rural/nonrural coming up
26 next on the agenda, that we recess for the evening and
27 convene in the morning.
28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I concur, as
30 the Chair, if there's no opposition to it starting
31 again in the morning at 9:00 a.m.
32
33 MR. SCHMID: That works for me, thank
34 you.
35
36 MS. PITKA: I look forward to the
37 morning. Goodnight.
38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40
41 MR. STRIKER: Thank you.
42
43 (Off record)
44
45 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically by our firm on the 28th day of January 2021 via teleconference;

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 Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of February 2021.

—
Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22