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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
APRIL 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Anthony Christianson, Chairman
 - Charles Brower, Public Member
 - Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
 - Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Sarah Creachbaum, National Park Service
 - Tom Heinlein, Bureau of Land Management
 - Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service
- Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 4/12/2022)

(On record - 1:30 p.m.)

OPERATOR: Are you ready to start?

MS. LAVINE: Hi, this is Robbin LaVine and in a moment we will open the meeting and take roll call. We, at this point in time, would request that Sue initiate the meeting. Sue, are you on the line?

MS. DETWILER: Yes, Robbin. Thank you. This is Sue Detwiler. I'm on the line and I think, Operator, we can open the call so everybody can listen in. So that would be the speakers room as well as those folks in the listen only mode.

OPERATOR: It's okay if I give opening scripting to let them know the call.....

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

OPERATOR:is being recorded, correct?

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

OPERATOR: And then I can let them know how to cue up for the public comment section?

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

OPERATOR: Okay. Thank you, dear. I'll get you guys started. Please stand by.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Welcome and thank you for standing by. I would like to inform all participants that today's call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. If you would like to make a comment during the public comment sessions of today's call, please press star followed by 1. Please make sure your phone is unmuted and record your name clearly when prompted. I would now like to turn our call over to Ms. Sue Detwiler. Thank you, ma'am, you may begin.

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1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Operator.
2 Just confirming that we have -- nobody's in the waiting
3 room. Everybody is able to listen to this call now who
4 has called in?

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Sue.
7 Anthony Christianson is here.

8
9 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you. I
10 just wanted to confirm that we have -- everybody who
11 has called in is able to listen to the -- listen in on
12 the beginnings of the meeting here. I think the
13 operator just did that.

14
15 The next thing I want to make sure is
16 to confirm with Tina, the Court Reporter, that you have
17 started recording now.

18
19 REPORTER: Yes, Sue, I'm recording.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Okay, great. Thank you.
22 Mr. Chair, I will go ahead and start with the roll call
23 and see who we have. Starting with National Park
24 Service we have Sarah Creachbaum.

25
26 MS. CREACHBAUM: Good afternoon. I'm
27 present. Thank you.

28
29 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

30
31 BLM. Do we have Mr. Thomas Heinlein.

32
33 MR. HEINLEIN: You sure do. Good
34 afternoon.

35
36 MS. DETWILER: Good afternoon.
37
38 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

39
40 MS. BOARIO: Good afternoon, Sue, and
41 everyone. I'm here.

42
43 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

44
45 Forest Service, David Schmid.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Good afternoon, Sue. Dave
48 is on.

49
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1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

2

3 BIA, Gene Peltola.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Rhonda
8 Pitka. I heard you earlier. Are you still on?

9

10 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here. This is
11 Rhonda.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.

14

15 Public Member Charlie Brower. I heard
16 you earlier. Are you still on?

17

18 (No response)

19

20 MS. DETWILER: I just heard you, Mr.
21 Chair. If it's okay with you, I'll continue going down
22 our roll call to see who the other key folks are who
23 are on starting with legal counsel, Department of
24 Interior, Regional Solicitor's Office, Ken Lord and
25 Mike Routhier.

26

27 MR. LORD: Ken Lord is here. Mike will
28 not be joining us I don't believe.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Ken.

31

32 USDA Office of General Council, Jim
33 Ustasiewski.

34

35 (No response)

36

37 MS. DETWILER: Moving to Liaison to the
38 Board, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Ben
39 Mulligan and Mark Burch.

40

41 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
42 with the Department of Fish and Game. Thank you.

43

44 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mark.

45

46 Regional Advisory Council Chairs.
47 Starting with Region 1, Southeast Regional Council, Don
48 Hernandez. Are you on?

49

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1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I am.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Region 2,
4 Southcentral. I understand Chair Greg Encelewski is
5 not on, but Gloria Stickwan, the Vice Chair will be on.
6 Are you on, Gloria?

7

8 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I am. Good
9 afternoon.

10

11 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

12

13 Region 3, Kodiak Aleutians, Della
14 Trumble.

15

16 (No response)

17

18 MS. DETWILER: Region 4, Bristol Bay,
19 Nanci Morris Lyons.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 MS. DETWILER: Region 5, Ray Oney,
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Sue, and
27 members of the Board. The Y-K Delta RAC Chair Raymond
28 Oney had planned to participate this afternoon.
29 However, all the phone lines are currently down in the
30 community of Alakanuk, so hoping he will be able to
31 join us later if the phones get reconnected this
32 afternoon.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Eva.

37

38 Region 6, Western Interior, Jack
39 Reakoff.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: I'm here, Sue. Good
42 afternoon.

43

44 MS. DETWILER: Good afternoon.

45

46 Region 7, Seward Peninsula, Louis
47 Green.

48

49 MS. PILCHER: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Sue,
50

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1 this is Nissa Pilcher, Council Coordinator for the
2 Seward Peninsula Council Chair. Mr. Green is currently
3 unable to call in.

4
5 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you.

6
7 Region 8, Northwest Arctic, Thomas
8 Baker.

9
10 (No response)

11
12 MS. DETWILER: Region 9, Eastern
13 Interior, Sue Entsminger.

14
15 (No response)

16
17 MS. DETWILER: Region 10, North Slope,
18 Gordon Brower. Heard you earlier. Are you still on?

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Good afternoon. Gordon
21 Brower, Regional Advisory Chair for North Slope is on.

22
23 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Moving to
24 Department of Interior, Field Special Assistant for
25 Alaska, Sarah Taylor, are you on?

26
27 (No response)

28
29 MS. DETWILER: Sounds like not. Moving
30 back up to the Board members, did we get Gene Peltola
31 from BIA? Have you joined?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 MS. DETWILER: Or Charlie Brower,
36 public member.

37
38 MR. C. BROWER: Here.

39
40 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie. So
41 Mr. Chair we currently have seven out of eight of the
42 Board members.

43
44 MS. MORRIS LYONS: This is Nanci. My
45 phone is cutting in and out, so I think I missed when
46 you called my name, but I am on.

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you. So,
49 Mr. Chair, we do have a quorum, so I'll hand it off to
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1 you.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue. Appreciate that. I'd like to welcome everyone here. This is Anthony Christianson, Board Chair, to the Federal public meeting of April 12th. We'll just go ahead and again welcome everyone to this meeting. Thank the Staff for all that it takes to get ready for this and look forward to a productive meeting.

Orville, are you on at this time.

MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chair. Can you hear me?

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. As I welcome, Orville, I was hoping that we could do an invocation today and I'd call upon you, Orville, if you can go ahead and bless the meeting today and then we'll move forward with the agenda as presented.

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am honored to do so. Everybody, if we can just take a moment, please join me in giving thanks.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Amen. Thank you for that blessing, Orville. We'll go ahead and move on now that we've established a quorum. Sue, I believe we need to do a roll call at this time.

MS. DETWILER: Yes, we can do that and I believe we have some more people who have joined including possibly Gene Peltola from BIA. So let me just go through the Board roll call one more time. Sarah Creachbaum, Park Service.

MS. CREACHBAUM: Good afternoon. I'm present.

MS. DETWILER: BLM. Thomas Heinlein.

MR. HEINLEIN: Good afternoon. I'm present.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

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1 MS. BOARIO: I'm here, Sue. Thank you.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: BIA, Gene Peltola.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, roger, 10-4. I

6 assume we have a speaking line now. Thank you.

7

8 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Rhonda

9 Pitka.

10

11 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

14

15 Public Member Charlie Brower.

16

17 MR. C. BROWER: I'm here.

18

19 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

20

21 Chair Anthony Christianson.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm here.

24

25 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. All eight
26 Board members are present and accounted for, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
29 Thank you, Sue, for that and just making sure we're all
30 up to snuff there. So with this I'll go ahead and ask
31 Sue if she can go ahead and provide us with an overview
32 of the agenda. So I'll turn the floor back over to
33 you, Sue. Thank you.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 For those folks who are listening I just want to
38 mention that the Board's agenda and informational
39 materials are all on the Federal Subsistence Board
40 website at www.doi.gov/subsistence/board. With that,
41 moving to the overview of the agenda.

41

42 Item 1, call to order and welcome. I
43 believe we've gotten through that now. We're now on
44 item 2, which is review and adopt the agenda. I'll
45 just mention that this would be one of the times when
46 any Board member wishes to remove an item from the
47 consensus agenda could do so.

48

49 Moving on to the overview of the agenda

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1 item 3, Federal Subsistence Board information sharing.
2 That's an informational item.

3

4 Agenda item 4, Regional Advisory
5 Council Chairs discuss topics of concern with the
6 Board. This would be an opportunity for any Chairs who
7 want to remove an item from the consensus agenda. This
8 would be the opportunity to ask the Board to do that.

9

10 Moving to item 5 on the agenda is
11 public comment period on non-agenda items. This public
12 comments period will be available at the beginning of
13 every day of the Board meeting this week.

14

15 Old business is agenda item 6. This
16 was a placeholder on the agenda for any old business
17 that the Board may wish to add as the Board is adopting
18 the agenda.

19

20 Agenda item 7 is review and action on
21 the 2022-2024 subparts C and D proposals and closure
22 reviews. This is an action item and it will be divided
23 into two sections. The consensus agenda and then the
24 non-consensus agenda.

25

26 Following the review of the subpart C
27 and D proposals and closure reviews we would move to
28 agenda item 8, which is Wildlife Special Action
29 WSA22-01 pertaining to Units 22 and 23 muskox. This is
30 an action item.

31

32 Agenda item 9 is also an action item.
33 It is deferred Fisheries Proposal FP21-10 Lower Copper
34 River area salmon.

35

36 Agenda item 10 is a schedule of
37 upcoming Board meetings.

38

39 Agenda item 11 is an overview of
40 Federal Subsistence Management Program correspondence
41 procedure.

42

43 Agenda item 12 is other business. Any
44 other business the Board wishes to discuss.

45

46 Finally agenda item 13 adjournment.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that, Sue. Again, if there is any member of the Board
3 who would like to move an item from the consensus
4 agenda they can do so now. If we're all okay with the
5 way the agenda looks, at this time I'd entertain a
6 Board member to make a motion to adopt the agenda as
7 presented.

8
9 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

12
13 MR. C. BROWER: I move to approve the
14 agenda as presented.

15
16 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

19
20 MS. CREACHBAUM: Excuse me. This is
21 Sarah Creachbaum and I would like to request that four
22 proposals be removed from the consensus agenda, please.
23 That would be Wildlife Proposal 22-40, Wildlife
24 Proposal.....

25
26 MR. C. BROWER: Point of order. Second
27 first.

28
29 MS. CREACHBAUM:22-46, Wildlife
30 Proposal 22-50 and Wildlife Proposal 22-56.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So we
33 have on the floor right now a motion to accept the
34 agenda as presented and we have a motion to remove four
35 items from the consensus agenda. So we're looking for
36 a second to the first motion or we can make a --
37 rescind that motion, Charlie.

38
39 MR. C. BROWER: Well, we need a second
40 to make sure that, you know, these are in order to be
41 pulled out of the consensus agenda.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
44 what I'm saying. For order of business we have two
45 different orders. Charlie made the first motion to
46 accept the agenda as presented.

47
48 MR. C. BROWER: If you want me to
49 rescind my motion, I will. I so do.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. For
2 order here, Sue, do we need to do this by motion
3 because we did offer to remove from consensus agenda
4 and then we made it part of the motion here. So I think
5 that's confusing the Board here as far as the process
6 that we're going through. Sue, could I get
7 clarification here.

8
9 MS. DETWILER: It sounded like Board
10 Member Creachbaum -- I'm not sure if she made a motion
11 or not. It probably would be easiest or most
12 expeditious to just make a motion to that effect. Make
13 a motion to amend the agenda.

14
15 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
18 Ken. Thank you.

19
20 MR. LORD: The Board meeting guidelines
21 say that any Board member can remove an item from the
22 consensus agenda. So I don't believe a motion or a
23 vote is necessary.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that was
26 my point there too, Ken. Thank you for the
27 clarification. So if we can just remove those from the
28 consensus agenda per the request, then we can go back
29 to the original motion of accepting it as amended.

30
31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA. Could we
32 get those proposal numbers again requested to be pulled
33 from the consensus agenda and the titles.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Can we
36 have those restated for the record, please.

37
38 MS. CREACHBAUM: Sure. I'd be happy
39 to. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's Wildlife Proposal
40 22-40, Wildlife Proposal 22-46, Wildlife Proposal 22-50
41 and Wildlife Proposal 22-56.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46 Okay. Appreciate that. Now the floor is open for a
47 motion with the agenda with the changes that we just
48 heard, pulling those four proposals from the agenda.
49 Now the floor is open for a motion to accept the agenda
50

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1 as amended.

2

3 MR. C. BROWER: I so move, Mr. Chair.
4 Charlie Brower, Public Member.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Charlie. Motion on the floor. I need a second.

8

9 MR. SCHMID: This is the Forest
10 Service. I'll second that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Dave. A motion has been made and seconded. Any
14 discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
19 question.

20

21 MR. PELTOLA: Question. BIA.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All in favor
24 signify by saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed same
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
34 unanimously to accept the agenda as presented by staff.
35 Thank you very much. We'll go on to the Regional
36 Advisory Council Chair and discussion, topics of
37 concern with the Board.

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I'm jumping
42 over something here. I'm skipping too fast here.
43 Federal Board information sharing. Sorry, guys. I'm
44 so excited to get to business I forgot the fun part of
45 our job is to get ourselves updated, share some
46 information.

47

48 At this time I'll open up the floor for
49 round robin of Board members to provide updates and

50

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1 info. So I, myself, would like to welcome everyone
2 here to the meeting and look forward to a productive
3 few days of going over all of the agenda items we have
4 here. A welcome back to the Federal Subsistence Board.

5

6 With that I'll go ahead and open up the
7 floor to any Board members who would like to provide
8 updates or info. You have the floor.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
15 the floor, Gene.

16

17 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Good afternoon, everybody. Appreciate your
19 participation and presence here at the Federal
20 Subsistence Board meeting for April 12th to 15th.

21

22 A couple things I'd like to report on.
23 One is that the series of consultations over the
24 Federal Subsistence Program which were held by the
25 Department of Interior early on this winter, those are
26 currently being summarized. The Bureau of Indian
27 Affairs Subsistence Staff is diligently working in
28 conjunction with Indian Affairs Staff and DOI Staff to
29 get those summarized. They'll be forwarded on to the
30 Secretary here later on for her consideration.

31

32 Secondly, we have a lot of visitation
33 within Alaska and Alaska Region. Here coming up first
34 we have DAS-M, which is Deputy Assistant Secretary for
35 Management Jason Freihage from Indian Affairs is in
36 Alaska this week to visit -- doing his rounds visiting
37 with tribes and tribal organizations.

38

39 Next week, as most are aware, we have
40 the Secretary visit and then the following week we have
41 Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland
42 visiting the state. We'll be starting in Southeast and
43 working our way to Southcentral westward and then
44 Northwest Alaska and then finish up in Interior.

45

46 That's all I wanted to pass on for now.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Gene. Welcome. Any other Board members have anything
3 to share. The floor is open.

4
5 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair. This is Sara
6 Boario with Fish and Wildlife Service. I just wanted
7 to add on to Director Peltola's comments. Next week,
8 as part of Secretary Newland's visit to Alaska, Fish
9 and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams will also
10 be in the state and looking forward to welcoming them
11 both.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
14 members would like to share. The floor is open.

15
16 MR. HEINLEIN: Mr. Chair, BLM.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, BLM.
19 You have the floor.

20
21 MR. HEINLEIN: Thank you. Thomas
22 Heinlein, the Acting Alaska State Director for BLM.
23 Just to add on to BIA, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park
24 Service, we are also eagerly awaiting the Secretary
25 visit next week. Our BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning
26 will also be in state for several days next week. End
27 of report.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
34 floor, Dave.

35
36 MR. SCHMID: Thanks, Tony. Welcome. I
37 wish we could all be together in person here, but
38 hopefully this might be the last big meeting we do
39 virtually here for a while if things continue to
40 improve. But I'll keep up with my friends from
41 Interior here.

42
43 We've also been hosting a number of
44 folks. Our Under Secretaries in Department of
45 Agriculture in both Natural Resources and Environment
46 as well as Rural Development. They were here in
47 Southeast Alaska a week before last to announce our
48 SASS, which was the Southeast Alaska Sustainability
49 Strategy.

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1 It was some directed funding by the
2 Secretary, \$25 million, here to help build capacity and
3 work with the communities here in Southeast Alaska. I
4 would share that about half of that or more will be
5 going to tribal and indigenous groups here in Southeast
6 moving forward.

7

8 So I just wanted to share that. That
9 was good news along with a lot of the other
10 infrastructure funding and programs that will be
11 implementing here in both Southcentral and Southeast
12 Alaska through the Forest Service in the upcoming
13 months.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Dave. I'm always excited when I hear money.

19

20 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair, this is
21 Sarah Creachbaum with the National Park Service.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sarah, you
24 have the floor.

25

26 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Good afternoon, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here.
28 I have a couple of exciting new staffing updates to
29 provide everyone.

30

31 First, Grant Hilderbrand has been
32 promoted to the Associate Regional Director for
33 Resources in the Alaska Region and Mark Dowdle, who is
34 a 22-year veteran of the Park Service, has been
35 selected as the new Superintendent of Gates of the
36 Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley
37 Rivers National Preserve.

38

39 We're excited that Ray McPadden, who
40 was recently of Yellowstone National Park, has accepted
41 the position of Superintendent of the Western Arctic
42 National Parklands. Last, but certainly not least, Eva
43 Patton will be assuming the position of Subsistence
44 Program Manager for the NPS Alaska Region and we'll
45 welcome Eva to our offices around the 8th of May.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

50

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1 Sarah. Any other Board members.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.

6 Hearing none. I appreciate all the Board updates and
7 welcome the Federal Board and look forward to a
8 productive couple of days of meetings. Now we'll go
9 ahead and call on the OSM staffing updates. Sue, you
10 have the floor with the Staff.

11

12 MS. DETWILER: Yes. I'm very happy to
13 announce we have some additional Staff I'd like to
14 introduce. Starting with the Counsel Coordination
15 Division we have three Staff members who all three of
16 them will come from the Alaska Department of Fish and
17 Game. They have a lot of experience.

18

19 We have Nissa Bates Pilcher. She
20 worked for Fish and Game for many years as a regulatory
21 program assistant for Board Support Section and doing
22 seal research and fishery project management. She also
23 is experienced at coordinating up to 30 State Advisory
24 Committees at a time and facilitating up to 60 Advisory
25 Committee meetings in one season. So Nissa will be the
26 Council Coordinator for Western Interior Alaska and
27 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.

28

29 We also have new in the Council
30 Coordination Division Leigh Honig. She worked for the
31 Division of Wildlife Conservation for 10 years as a
32 hunt administrator supervising the Region 4 Information
33 Center and assisting with the Board of Game process.
34 Leigh will be the Council Coordinator for the Bristol
35 Bay and Kodiak Aleutians Councils.

36

37 Finally, added to our Council
38 Coordination is Brooke McDavid. She worked for the
39 Division of Subsistence as a Subsistence Resource
40 Specialist designing and executing subsistence research
41 projects in partnership with rural communities
42 primarily in Interior and Y-K Delta Regions. She will
43 be the Council Coordinator for the Eastern Interior and
44 Northwest Arctic Councils.

45

46 In the Anthropology Division we welcome
47 Jason Roberts. He has a PhD in environmental
48 anthropology and comes to OSM from the BIA in Montana
49 where he was a forester. He has experience working

50

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1 with rural communities throughout much of the U.S. and
2 Pacific Islands. In OSM he'll be focusing on the
3 Southcentral and Kodiak Aleutians Region.

4

5 Also coming back to the Anthropology
6 Division is Liz Williams. Previously she worked for
7 organizations throughout Alaska, including having
8 worked with OSM for six years. Now that she's back
9 she'll be focusing on the Eastern and Western Interior
10 Regions.

11

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Finally, in the Fisheries Division we
welcome Kevin Foley. He comes from our Fish and
Wildlife Service Ecological Services Office. He
completed his detail with OSM this last fall helping
out with the FRMP cycle and he'll be working on
fisheries issues in the Kuskokwim River area.

Justin Koller, he comes to us from the
Forest Service in Sitka. He's been a Zone Fish and
Wildlife biologist working in conjunction with OSM for
a number of years on both fisheries and wildlife. He
will be working on fisheries issues in Southcentral
Alaska and Kodiak and Aleutian Islands areas.

So we're very happy to have new staff.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
I appreciate that we have all those new people on board
to help us take care of our job here. So welcome
aboard all the Staff and look forward to working with
you guys.

With that we'll go ahead and move on to
4, Regional Advisory Council Chairs discuss topics of
concern with the Board. We'll go ahead and provide an
opportunity at this time for each Council Chair. We'll
go ahead and call upon each one in order. So we'll
start with Southeast. That's just how it's listed here.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good afternoon.
This is Don Hernandez. I'm the Chair of the Southeast
Regional Advisory Council. I'm speaking to you from my
home in Point Baker, which is on the Prince of Wales
Island. Chairman Christianson is a neighbor to the
north on Prince of Wales Island.

0018

1 Let's see. Over the past year our
2 Council has been quite busy. We have 11 wildlife
3 proposals that you will be deliberating on at this
4 meeting. They cover elk, moose, deer, goat and wolves.

5
6 Our Council also submitted five
7 proposals to the Alaska Board of Fish. One of them was
8 not heard. It was a halibut proposal. They declined
9 to take it up, but we have four proposals to the Board
10 of Fish. Our Council spent quite a bit of time in the
11 last several meetings discussing items before the Board
12 of Fish. We submitted written comments on 19 of those
13 proposals for Southeast and Yakutat finfish and
14 shellfish.

15
16 Our Vice Chair Cathy Needham attended
17 the Board of Fish meeting in Anchorage and she provided
18 comments on our proposals and also participated in the
19 committee of the whole process where she was able to
20 engage with members of various user groups to talk
21 about management of various fisheries in Southeast
22 Alaska.

23
24 During the last year our Council also
25 started a working group composed of various members of
26 the Council. We are meeting as a group to discuss
27 indigenous co-management. We had participation from
28 other various groups in Southeast Alaska. We had the
29 Tlingit and Haida Central Council participate as well
30 as other tribal groups participating as well as other
31 environmental groups.

32
33 Also the Women's Earth and Climate
34 Action Network participated in that. The goal is to
35 discuss indigenous management and co-management of
36 resources in our region. That effort will continue.
37 We hope to be able to have a policy statement regarding
38 indigenous co-management written up at our next fall
39 meeting to present to the Board for your consideration
40 and information.

41
42 Other items. The Southeast RAC will be
43 ready with it's annual report. We have raised concerns
44 about transboundary river mining and potential impacts
45 to subsistence resources. We've expressed a need for a
46 clear information sharing policy between agencies
47 concerning how do Federal agencies as well as State and
48 other entities share information with each other. We
49 feel it's important that Council members receive
50

0019

1 information german to our decisions in a timely
2 fashion.

3

4

5 Council would also like to know
6 specific guidelines, policies and opportunities for
7 public testimony and public comments. We've also heard
8 concerns about a developing industry here in Southeast
9 Alaska. The mariculture industry involving the
10 permitting of kelp farming various bays and how some of
11 these kelp farms could impact subsistence activities in
12 affected areas.

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We've also asked that analysis content
for proposals should incorporate local observations and
cumulative exceptions for the Council to be fully
informed before they make recommendations on proposals.

Our Council has continued to support
the 2001 Alaska Roadless Rule and the Council submitted
a comment letter regarding the repeal of the 2020
Alaska Roadless Rule during the recent open public
comment period.

The Council would also like the Board
to know that it's received testimony in the last year
about some of these topics. Federally qualified users
are not getting their subsistence needs met. I would
say the biggest concerns deal mostly with deer and
sockeye harvesting.

Also concerned about significant
impacts to subsistence fisheries resources because of
State regulations. One group here in Southeast Alaska
has filed for extraterritorial jurisdiction in the
Sitka Sound area and other areas around Southeast
they're talking about options such as protect and
secure their food sources.

As I mentioned before, we're discussing
the advantages of indigenous co-management in Southeast
Alaska. We also want to mention that on the topic of
deer I, as the Council Chair, have been working with a
group of local users for Unit 2, which is Prince of
Wales Island where I and Chairman Christianson live.
There's a lot of concerns about deer harvesting on
Prince of Wales, Unit 2.

There has been kind of a joint user
group put together and our objective is to hold a deer

0020

1 summit, we're referring to it, sometime next fall to
2 kind of discuss all the issues related to deer
3 harvesting on Prince of Wales. Just get a lot of
4 diverse people together and talk about the situation
5 and share information and see if any kind of a
6 consensus can be drawn as to what's needed to increase
7 the deer harvest on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2.

8

9 I'd also like to note that the Council
10 has been generally pretty frustrated and has taken note
11 of how difficult and challenging it's been to have our
12 Council meetings, especially the regulatory meetings,
13 happening virtually.

14

15 Dave Schmid mentioned we hope we'll be
16 able to return to in-person meetings starting our fall
17 cycle. I think the work of the Council has been
18 somewhat impaired in this process. I just really don't
19 feel that we're really operating in a really efficient
20 manner. It's been very difficult.

21

22 Finally on my report I'd like to note
23 that the Council made a recommendation on Wildlife
24 Proposal 22-06, which was a proposal to establish a
25 quota and place restriction on moose harvest limit in
26 Unit 3. We revisited that proposal at our winter
27 meeting and based on discussion and testimony at that
28 meeting the Council revised its recommendation to the
29 Board and changed its position to oppose the proposal.
30 We initially supported it and now we're opposing it.

31

32 This was based part on clarifying
33 testimony from the president of the Organized Village
34 of Kake. We voiced opposition to Wildlife Proposal
35 22-06 and the Council expressed concern over the
36 unintended consequences of creating potentially more
37 competition for Kake residents rather than what we had
38 intended was providing them with more opportunity.

39

40 So the Council has recognized also
41 there are potential conservation concerns with this
42 hunt and we did not want harvest to exceed
43 sustainability. So in our discussion the Council
44 discussed other ways to provide more meaningful
45 opportunity for Kake residents, but we didn't come up
46 with anything that was within the scope of this
47 proposal.

48

49 Because of that we are requesting that

50

0021

1 Wildlife Proposal 22-06 be removed from the
2 non-consensus agenda and to now place it on the
3 consensus agenda seeing as how our revised
4 recommendation is in line with all the other
5 recommendations on this proposal.

6
7 That concludes my report.

8
9 Thank you very much.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
12 Appreciate that report. Just for my process here, Sue,
13 before I do open the floor for questions for Don from
14 the Board, the last question there, the Council RAC
15 Chairs do have the ability to move from the consensus
16 to the non-consensus. So has this one been moved
17 already, Sue?

18
19 MS. DETWILER: We haven't moved it and
20 I, again, would defer to Ken on this, but I believe
21 it's the Board that actually has to make the motion to
22 move an agenda item.

23
24 MR. LORD: Okay, that is correct, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. I'm just
28 making sure for an order of process here. So we do
29 have a request here by the RAC of Southeast to move
30 this from the non-consensus to the consensus agenda.
31 So at this time before moving forward I would ask if
32 the Board can entertain that motion at this time.

33
34 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

35
36 MR. C. BROWER: I so move, Mr. Chair.
37 Public Member Brower.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie,
40 you have the floor.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Were you
45 making a motion? I heard Dave as well.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. This is Dave.
48 I think we may have lost Charlie there. We were on top
49 of each other. I apologize.

50

0022

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We were opening
2 the floor for a motion to entertain Don's request to
3 move this 22-06 to the consensus agenda.

4
5 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
6 Dave Schmid of the Forest Service. I would move to
7 move WP22-06 to the consensus agenda in light of
8 Chairman Hernandez's recommendation there that the
9 Council had changed their position.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have a
12 motion on the floor and we did lose Charlie. I think
13 Charlie was going to make the motion.

14
15 MR. C. BROWER: I'm back now.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Charlie.
18 Were you making a motion there? Did you want to second
19 that one, Charlie?

20
21 MR. C. BROWER: I'll second it. Thank
22 you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you
25 for that. So we have a second. Any discussion on the
26 floor about 22-06.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing
31 none we'll go ahead and call for the question.

32
33 MR. PELTOLA: Question. BIA.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Gene. We'll move on now. The question has been
37 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed same
42 sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
47 unanimous. Thank you for that, Don. Any questions for
48 the Board? That motion carried unanimously to move
49 that on the agenda. I now open up the floor for any
50

0023

1 questions or comments from the Board for Southeast
2 Board Chair.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
7 Thank you. We'll move on now to Southcentral RAC
8 Chair.

9

10 MS. STICKWAN: Good afternoon. This is
11 Gloria Stickwan, Vice Chair for Southcentral Region
12 Advisory Council, filling in for Greg Encelewski.

13

14 Over the past year this Council made
15 recommendations on 35 proposals with all the subparts.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: The Council found the
21 combination proposals together was quite challenging to
22 consider all at once, especially if the proposals dealt
23 with different units or different species but were
24 presented for Council action in a combined manner.

25

26 Southcentral supported the request by
27 Catherine Martin for an individual C&T determination
28 for salmon in the Batzulnetas area. The Council put
29 together a Prince William Sound fish workgroup to
30 explore options for the Federal Subsistence Board.....

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 REPORTER: Excuse me. Excuse me. Can
36 everybody take a minute and mute your phone. Somebody
37 is talking over Gloria.

38

39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41

42 REPORTER: Hello. Everybody take a
43 moment and mute your line. Somebody is having another
44 conversation over Gloria right now. Gloria, go ahead.

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: The Council put together
47 a Prince William Sound fish workgroup to explore
48 options for opportunities for the Federal subsistence
49 users to harvest in the Prince William Sound. We wrote

50

1 a letter to the Board of Fisheries containing comments
2 on 11 state proposals. Among the items that
3 Southcentral will be raising to the Board in its annual
4 report are concerns about the procedures and processes
5 of making C&T determinations.

6
7 The Councils would like to see
8 information and substantial evidence in an analysis to
9 make well supported recommendations. Since it is
10 anticipated as a significant amount of C&T proposals
11 will come in the future, it is important that the
12 process of addressing C&T determinations be reviewed.

13
14 Various areas in the regions reported
15 low numbers of sockeye and chinook salmon and there
16 were concerns about the minimum escapement goals that
17 would not be met. The Council would like to know if
18 the subsistence use amounts as used by the state would
19 be a viable and productive way to move towards stronger
20 Federal management.

21
22 Subsistence users are experiencing
23 conflicts with other users for fish and shellfish in
24 the Prince William Sound. Under State regulations the
25 allowable catch of these resources is limited and
26 because of competing commercial and sport interests
27 subsistence users are not able to meet their
28 subsistence harvest needs. Council would like to see
29 dual jurisdiction for these resources if possible to
30 provide a meaningful opportunity for subsistence users
31 of these resources.

32
33 Research into the impacts of climate
34 change and the specific effects it has on fish and
35 wildlife is crucial. The funding of the Fisheries
36 Resource Monitoring Project is vital and should
37 continue to provide for monitoring of fish stocks.

38
39 Finally, the Council feels very
40 strongly about a few issues I would like to close with.
41 FP21-10. The deferred process for FP21-10 was very
42 confusing. The Council had been asked to consider this
43 proposal again with several new Council members in
44 hopes that they may change their support of this
45 proposal.

46
47 The Board should realize that this was
48 a big personal commitment from every Council member to
49 prepare and attend an additional meeting. Asking the
50

0025

1 Southcentral and Eastern Councils to come up with a
2 compromise or consensus made many Council members feel
3 pressured to have to agree.

4
5 This Council would request that the
6 Board consider the impact and undue burden that a
7 deferred proposal back to the Council creates for each
8 and every Council member and that in future the Board
9 performs its duty as the decision-making body of this
10 program instead of referring proposals back to the
11 Regional Advisory Council for further action or
12 consideration.

13
14 Virtual meetings. The Council along
15 with other Councils has conducted its meeting virtually
16 for the last couple years. Between technical
17 challenges, like the dropped phone lines and the
18 distraction of background noises and the inability to
19 hear clearly, the Councils feel that they are at a huge
20 disadvantage in trying to conduct its business.
21 Especially since almost half of the Council is new and
22 we have started using virtual meetings because of
23 Covid-19. It is far more important than ever to start
24 holding meetings in person as soon as possible.

25
26 That concludes my report.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Gloria. Any questions from the Board for Gloria.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was there a
36 request in there for anything to be moved on the
37 agenda? I was trying to keep track and make sure I get
38 a hold of everything, Sue.

39
40 MS. DETWILER: No, I didn't hear
41 anything on that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
44 you. I'm just making sure. Thank you, Gloria. No
45 questions from the Board for Gloria. We'll move on to
46 Kodiak/Aleutians.

47
48 MS. TRUMBLE: Can you hear me?

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. You have
2 the floor.

3
4 MS. TRUMBLE: Oh, okay. Thank you.
5 This is Della Trumble. The Kodiak/Aleutians met in the
6 fall and made recommendations on six of the proposals
7 at the fall meeting. Issues identified the last year
8 of the Council's annual report included the need for
9 increased staffing at both the Kodiak and Izembek and
10 hopefully a lot of those positions will get filled. We
11 know there's been problems with getting them filled.

12
13 Concern over the Council vacancies.
14 We've individually as Council members had to make calls
15 out to people within the region that we thought had
16 either been involved before or we thought might be
17 interested. I'm not sure if they got any applications
18 in, but we're hoping to be a little bit more proactive
19 to get some of these seats filled.

20
21 The Covid-19 affecting food security
22 disruption supply chain is still a concern. The
23 Council is appreciative of the support for the crayfish
24 invasive species research. This has been a big problem
25 for Kodiak, the Buskin. We'd like to see Federal funds
26 for FRMP extradition project at some point in time.

27
28 We really appreciate the support on the
29 Unimak caribou and sea otter issues. We all know that
30 caribou coming back on Unimak and that in itself is a
31 blessing that we're able to start look at harvesting.

32
33 Around the region observations shared
34 is the Kodiak Buskin salmon run this past summer. Low
35 chinook and chum salmon returns. Fish in Buskin Lake
36 are a concern and they continue to be a concern. The
37 road system open for spring harvest of birds. One
38 bison was actually harvested in the fall for the first
39 time in Old Harbor and it's quite the impressive
40 program they've got put together in Old Harbor with the
41 bison.

42
43 The deer population was expressed it
44 still needs to recover and there were concerns over
45 charters and too many sport hunters hunting deer. The
46 Emperor geese and other shorebirds appear --
47 populations appear to be higher. King crab populations
48 are declining due to warm weather temperatures. The
49 for otter has closed, which is causing a bottleneck for
50

0027

1 locals harvesting sea otter hides.

2

3

4 Adak did have a good salmon return in
5 Lake Andy and the fish plant is currently closed, which
6 is affecting the local economy. And locals are
7 concerned over the caribou population not being able to
8 harvest off road as they had in previous years.
9 However, much appreciation was expressed in getting the
10 group together to be able to come up with some
11 management protocol for the caribou on Adak.

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Unalaska, the sea otter population is increasing and is affecting the king crab populations negatively. They did have a good halibut season.

King Cove, Cold Bay, user conflicts between subsistence and sports users. We're working around those. I know with me, with the King Cove Corporation, we work with various guides and hunters to try to work with everybody in this arena.

Other than that I think there was just some comments on the proposals, but for the most part I think everything looks real good.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We appreciate that presentation. We'll move on -- no questions for Kodiak/Aleutian. We'll move on to Bristol Bay.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Nanci Lyon, the Chair of Bristol Bay RAC. This was last year for our wildlife cycle for this Council and we made recommendations for eight proposals at our fall meeting.

We really appreciate you pulling our one proposal that we had agreed with, 2-40, and I look forward to informing the rest of the Board on why we're requesting that be pulled. We put a lot of time and energy into this proposal and it has since been taken up by the Board of Game and passed by the Board of Game in a different form than what it had been presented in.

0028

1 So I appreciate you guys hearing us and making sure
2 that -- we want to make sure we get it right before we
3 ask for passage of it.

4
5 We also made recommendations for
6 maintaining status quo on two of our wildlife closures
7 just because we're not seeing the increases we hoped to
8 see. We identified some important issues over the past
9 year and they include things such as staffing for
10 ourselves as well.

11
12 We're struggling out here with Federal
13 agencies not having enough staff to even do reports for
14 us to work with so that we have knowledge in what
15 science is telling us that they're seeing available for
16 our game and it makes it hard for us to make decisions.

17
18 We're also having trouble filling up
19 our board seats as well and just my board members and
20 myself have pledged to approach at least three people
21 in our communities to see if we can gain more interest
22 in filling our board member seats. We're hopeful that
23 that will bring us some more representation on our
24 board from across our region.

25
26 We are concerned about chinook salmon
27 declines that we're seeing on both sides of the bay out
28 here. Both the Dillingham side and the Bristol Bay
29 side have struggled with lower numbers. Even as
30 concerning to most of us are also the size composition
31 of our runs. We're seeing much smaller fish returning
32 and not a lot of our really big fish that we've enjoyed
33 for so many years in our smokehouses.

34
35 Those are things that we're hoping --
36 that we'd like the Board to advocate on on behalf of
37 the Bristol Bay subsistence communities for more
38 research and long-term solutions at higher management
39 levels so hopefully we can get some changes.

40
41 One of our primary areas of concern is
42 the Chignik area, who has been struggling for longer
43 than the rest of us and we just really feel for our
44 neighbors down south and hope that we can get some
45 research done down there and some solid answers defined
46 so that we can get food back in their freezer for them
47 in the winter to -- we know they've been missing it.

48
49 We're also concerned about quickly
50

1 growing bear populations in our area. We've had -- you
2 know, there's always good news and bad news. For us
3 our sockeye populations are booming and expanding more
4 rapidly than anybody ever imagined. With that is a
5 growing bear population, which increases the predation
6 badly on our moose and caribou herds. It's going to
7 take a toll in the long run and we'd just ask that the
8 Board is aware of that. There may be need for
9 regulatory changes because of it in the very near
10 future.

11

12 We still are concerned with wanting to
13 know more about the shorebird die-off we're seeing
14 around Lake Iliamna and other areas of Bristol Bay. We
15 know research is being done and we hope to have some
16 information on that in the future that I can share with
17 the Council at hopefully maybe even our fall meeting or
18 perhaps our next spring meeting.

19

20 We've also wanted to follow up with our
21 frustration in the past and I'm sure in the future with
22 the Board's procedure when regulations are in conflict
23 with ANILCA. We really feel very strongly about this
24 problem and would like to see a resolution and know
25 moving forward that ANILCA is being followed in the way
26 it was meant to be followed.

27

28 And just other real brief comments
29 about the region from shared views of our board
30 members. Other than the low chinook populations that
31 we struggled with this year, the good news was that we
32 had been struggling with low ptarmigan populations and
33 they seem to be rebounding now in the Iliamna, Naknek
34 and Dillingham areas. Down south still seems to be a
35 little bit sparse, but at least they seem to be popping
36 back a little bit better than what we've had.

37

38 The other thing too -- and I heard some
39 of these issues from Southeast in the Iliamna area
40 they're struggling with some trespass issues on private
41 lands and tribal allotments. It's become more of an
42 issue. People get boats and the means to -- and planes
43 and the means to get to these places and it creates
44 land use issues.

45

46 We experienced a super cold winter this
47 year. I'm anxious to see what that will bring for us
48 in our future. Overall we appreciate the opportunity
49 to report to the Board and I'd be happy to answer any
50

50

0030

1 questions anybody has.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

4 Appreciate that presentation. Any questions of Bristol
5 Bay.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.

10 Thank you for that presentation. We'll call on

11 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
14 and Members of the Board. This is Eva Patton, Council
15 Coordinator for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
16 Regional Advisory Council.

17

18 Unfortunately our Y-K Delta RAC Chair
19 Raymond Oney of Alakanuk is not able to call in this
20 afternoon. All the phone lines, land lines, cell phone
21 and internet are currently down in Alakanuk at this
22 time. Hoping he might be able to join us later this
23 afternoon.

24

25 I did want to submit a request from the
26 Y-K Delta RAC to remove these proposals. Wildlife
27 Proposal 22-41 from the consensus agenda to the
28 non-consensus agenda. The Council would like to have
29 further discussion on conservation strategy for the
30 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. That was a request again to
31 remove WP2-41 from the consensus agenda to the
32 non-consensus agenda.

33

34 The Council has in their annual report
35 many of the topics the Chair had wished to address to
36 the Board and also several letters come into the
37 Federal Subsistence Board too addressing the Council's
38 concerns regarding catastrophic low chinook and chum
39 salmon returns. If the Chair doesn't have an
40 opportunity to join this afternoon, those letters and
41 reports will be coming to the Board soon.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.
46 At this time I would ask if the Board members can make
47 that motion to remove that as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
48 Regional Advisory Council has recommended. The floor
49 is open.

50

0031

1 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
4 floor, Rhonda.

5

6 MS. PITKA: I move that WP22-41 be
7 moved from the consensus to the non-consensus agenda.
8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. SCHMID: Forest Service will
11 second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Dave. The motion has been made and seconded. Any
15 further discussion.

16

17 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. Again, this is
18 Ken. Again, there's no vote needed on this. Any Board
19 member can remove an item from the consensus agenda.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay. We
22 just need to go through -- the Board needs to say yes.
23 We'll pull that. Okay. Thanks, Ken. So after this
24 we'll just move forward with the rest of the Regional
25 Advisory Councils and just have the Board put that in
26 the consensus with the Regional Advisory Council
27 recommendations.

28

29 Is there any opposition to this motion
30 as presented.

31

32 (No opposition)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
35 The motion carries unanimous to pull that and move it.
36 For order of business we'll follow Ken's process of
37 this as long as the Regional Advisory Council Chair
38 recommends that we'll get the Board to concur with that
39 and move forward. Thank you all.

40

41 We'll move on to Western Interior.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: This is Jack Reakoff,
44 Western Interior Council Chair. I'm in my home in
45 Wiseman in the Central Brooks Range. The Western
46 Interior Regional Council had 13 Federal wildlife
47 proposals that we made recommendations on. We had nine
48 State proposals that we made recommendations to the
49 State Board of Game.

50

1 The Council drafted a letter to the
2 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on hatchery
3 production concerns. We've had phenomenally bad chum
4 salmon and chinook salmon returns into the Kuskokwim
5 and Yukon River Drainages and our Council is really
6 concerned about static release of hatchery fish. The
7 last chum salmon releases in Alaska, Washington and
8 Oregon and other Pacific Rim, so we'd like the North
9 Pacific Fisheries Management Council to address that.
10 We'd also like to send one of our members to the North
11 Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting in June.

12
13 We reviewed and approved a joint
14 Council letter to go to the North Pacific Fisheries
15 Management Council with the other affected Councils,
16 Eastern Interior, Y-K Delta and Seward Pen, as the need
17 for reduce salmon bycatch in the trawl fishery.
18 There's no cap on the chum salmon and the bycatch cap
19 for chinook is too high.

20
21 Issues identified over the past year
22 for this Council's annual report included the need for
23 more effort to rebuild the Yukon-Kuskokwim chum and
24 chinook stocks. Concerns about bycatch of chum salmon
25 in the Area M District. There was a very high harvest
26 of chum salmon. The suppressed stocks of Yukon and
27 Kuskokwim should be taken into consideration by the
28 State and Federal managers.

29
30 Concerns about other impacts to other
31 species being increasingly harvested for subsistence
32 instead of salmon includes sheefish, whitefish and
33 moose. People in our region are having to shift to
34 other resources and we also have concerns about some of
35 these other like moose populations.

36
37 We would like tribal representation on
38 the FRMP process, Technical Review Committee, State
39 violations of ANILCA, late during the Federal closure
40 on the Kuskokwim River and June 28th of 2021 when the
41 State opened fishing on the Kuskokwim River against the
42 will of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working
43 Group and the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission and
44 the Federal closure. The Council feels that the
45 in-season manager, if it makes a closure, that should
46 be applied to the State closures also.

47
48 Concern about the BLM issuing guides
49 use permits for Dall sheep in the Central Brooks Range
50

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1 despite the extremely low Dall sheep population and the
2 subsistence priority. There's no survey data until the
3 summer of 2021. As this Council has been saying for
4 many years, the deep snows and so forth have decimated
5 these sheep populations. The allocations of commercial
6 guides needs to be vastly reduced by the BLM.

7

8 So the Board is requesting us to speak
9 directly to the agency of the land managers and we're
10 making those recommendations to the land managers, BLM.

11

12 The Western Interior Council members
13 shared some observations. They're concerned about food
14 security and there was an overwhelming concern of many
15 members, including myself, with the collapse of the
16 salmon run on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Drainages.

17

18 Our communities have had to move
19 towards taking more whitefish, including sheefish. We
20 have expressed concerns about the long-term effects on
21 blackfish population should this continue. So we need
22 to be paying close attention to those freshwater stocks
23 with any kind of additional commercial or sport
24 harvest.

25

26 Tied to this concern many Council
27 members, many Council members refer to how many brown
28 bears were moving around and more prevalent on the
29 landscape because they're seeking an alternate food
30 source. Like our subsistence people, the brown bears
31 aren't able to get the food they need from salmon, so
32 they're taking more moose and other animals, including
33 black bears. We had several people in our region
34 talking about how the black bear population is being
35 stressed by the brown bear population.

36

37 Another concern is the climate change
38 and heavy snowfalls that have occurred in the last 10
39 years. It's highly affecting these ungulate
40 populations. 2012-13 there was rain on snow in the
41 Central Brooks Range with a very late spring. 2018-19
42 we had 146 inches of snow where I live here with rain
43 on snow in October. I've never seen it rain an inch of
44 snow into the snow pack in October after a freeze-up.

45

46 Then in March of 2019 we have again
47 really deep snow pack and then we had rain on snow in
48 March. Break-up doesn't come here until early May to
49 mid-May timeframe. So these animals were in deep snow,
50

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1 crusted snow so hard that sheep could not chip through
2 all that ice. 2019 again early snowpack in
3 mid-September, rain on snow in October. These are
4 unprecedented things. These are not heard of in our
5 120 year oral history where I live here.

6
7 Then we have rain on snow in April
8 again about a month before the break-up. These are
9 decimating impacts these weather events are having on
10 the moose, Dall sheep and caribou populations. The
11 Central Arctic Caribou population in 2012-13 when they
12 finally surveyed they found a 66 percent decline in the
13 Central Arctic Caribou Herd because of those late
14 springs and rain on snow events.

15
16 There's also increasing wolf predation
17 upon these ungulate species, moose, Dall sheep,
18 caribou, because when there's deep snow wolves are on
19 top. They eat better, their fecundity goes way up and
20 they take more resource. So we also have a high wolf
21 population coinciding with these declines.

22
23 Recent Council action. The Council was
24 advised at its last meeting that there were two Special
25 Action Requests pending. One was the Wildlife Special
26 Action Request 21-01. The Council heard information on
27 this deferred Special Action. They chose to defer that
28 to the home Council, as you knew when you met on that
29 proposal.

30
31 Fisheries Special Action Request 22-01,
32 02, 03, 04 Council provided a formal recommendation
33 supporting these identical requests with a request to
34 extend the species affected from chinook and summer
35 chum to the fall chum and fall chum to include coho as
36 well.

37
38 The Council also received an update on
39 Wildlife Special Action 21-03 at our fall meeting. The
40 Council chose to submit a Special Action Request on
41 Dall sheep in Units 24A and 26B west of the
42 Sagavanirktok to be closed to all users for the '22 to
43 2024 wildlife regulatory cycles due to the population
44 and harvest concerns.

45
46 The sheep population cannot support any
47 harvest, subsistence or non-subsistence harvest because
48 there's no recruitments into the population. When I
49 look at the sheep population, there's no quarter,
50

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1 there's no half, there's no three-quarter curl rams.
2 There's only very, very few of those cohorts and
3 there's only six and seven year old rams, which are
4 going to be eminent of being full curl and will be
5 killed in the next two years.

6
7 This Council feels strongly that
8 there's a need for full closure. You'll be reviewing
9 that Special Action Request after the public comments,
10 hearings and so forth, but that's what this Council
11 feels strongly needs to happen especially here in the
12 Central Brooks Range with road access and non-guide use
13 areas on BLM lands, restrictive guide use areas and no
14 restrictions on the amount of harvest.

15
16 When they surveyed sheep in the summer
17 of (audio dropout) all adult rams, all full curl rams
18 that were seen were taken in the harvest or wounded in
19 the harvest. So the bottom line is we're very
20 concerned about (audio dropout). We're super concerned
21 about the salmon resources in Yukon. We're super
22 concerned about the Dall sheep.

23
24 Our moose population is also down.
25 When they surveyed Kanuti there were two yearling bulls
26 per 100 cows. That means there was only four yearling
27 moose per 100 cow moose that are recruited. So we're
28 looking at a declining moose population also with
29 additional predation.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Federal
32 Subsistence Board.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Jack. Appreciate that. Any questions for Jack from
36 the Board.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
41 Hearing none. Thank you, Jack, for that observation
42 and appreciate you calling in today. Sue, I moved away
43 from my agenda. Can you call the next region up,
44 please.

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Yes. That would be
47 Seward Peninsula.

48
49 MS. BATES PILCHER: Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 Louis Green, Seward Peninsula Council Chair sends his
2 apology. He will not be able to join the meeting today
3 due to a family medical emergency. This is Nissa
4 Pilcher, Council Coordinator for the Seward Pen RAC. I
5 will let you know if he will be able to join in
6 tomorrow or any time later this week. Also Tom Gray,
7 Seward Peninsula Vice Chair is also not currently
8 available to join. In their absence I will be the
9 Council representative during the meeting until one can
10 participate.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
13 Appreciate that. Next, Sue.

14

15 MS. DETWILER: Northwest Arctic.

16

17 MR. BAKER: Thank you, Sue, Mr. Chair
18 and the Board. This is Thomas Baker, Chair of the
19 Northwest Arctic RAC. Just for myself, thank you for
20 the opportunity to address the Board today. I may not
21 be able to call in the rest of this week or even after
22 this report. Thank you again for the opportunity.

23

24 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
25 Council appreciates this opportunity. Again, one of
26 the big things that we've had going on in the last
27 couple years with our RAC is the lack of success in
28 harvesting caribou in Unit 23 by Federally qualified
29 subsistence users due to changes in caribou migration
30 patterns and the associated effects of guides and
31 transporters and climate change on the Western Arctic
32 Caribou Herd.

33

34 With the recent action and approval of
35 the Modified WSA21-01A and B, I'd like to extend the
36 utmost gratitude from the RAC and the people of Unit 23
37 that have been affected by this issue for a number of
38 years. People are ecstatic and already are expecting
39 -- having a better expectation of the hunting season to
40 come this year and next year. Thank you again to the
41 Board for the action taken on that deferred Wildlife
42 Special Action Request.

43

44 Also a need for arctic grayling and
45 salmon research in Unit 23. Arctic grayling is a very
46 important subsistence fish resource; however, it's been
47 many years since any studies were conducted on grayling
48 in the Northwest Arctic Region. The Council requests
49 that this be pursued as a research priority for funding
50

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1 under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

2

3

4 Similarly, salmon is an extremely
5 important subsistence fish resource and the Council
6 would like to receive updated reports on status of
7 salmon populations in the region. Ongoing subsistence
8 salmon monitoring programs are important.

8

9

10 There's a request for updated reports
11 on population change in moose and beaver. The Council
12 is very concerned about the decline in the moose
13 population. As we all know, moose is a critical
14 subsistence resource for communities especially in
15 times that caribou are scarce. The Council requests
16 ongoing monitoring and population surveys for moose in
17 Unit 23 and regular reports of Council meetings.

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Conversely, the beaver populations are rapidly increasing and expanding. We've discussed this several times over our last few meetings and hoping to get more reports and more understanding of the extent of this beaver expansion, discuss interaction with other subsistence resources and ensure that the subsistence opportunity for the hunting and trapping of beaver be expanded as the population grows.

There's a request for RAC representatives to attend other organizations' meetings, such as the Ambler Mine Access Road, some Subsistence Advisory Council meetings, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meetings. We've also had some requests for engagement with elder support and subsistence programs conducted here in Game Unit 23 between such as the Maniilaq Association and the tribes that we have in all of our villages.

The Council hears Regional reports of people having difficulty getting food and store shelves are empty. Support getting healthy subsistence foods is more important now than ever. The Maniilaq Association has an elder food program wherein hunters can go out and say I'm going to be providing food for these individuals off this list and can get subsidized food stuff, ammunition, oil, gas for subsistence activities.

This is one of the things that our Council has really appreciated and wanted to bring to the attention of other regions and organizations that

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1 if there's any way to help subsidize and support
2 communal subsistence activities, it would be greatly
3 appreciated.

4
5 I'll echo I'm sure everyone else that
6 will be on this call that the Northwest Arctic RAC has
7 had its share of frustrations, members not being able
8 to call in, being able to call in but not being able to
9 unmute themselves and everything with the current
10 status of the pandemic and having to have everything
11 over distance. Hopefully we can all begin to have our
12 meetings in person again.

13
14 If there are any questions for myself
15 and the Northwest Arctic RAC, I would be happy to
16 answer them now, but that is what I have.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Board.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
21 Appreciate the report today. Any questions from the
22 Board.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
27 Thank you. Sue, call on next.

28
29 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
32 have the floor.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
35 I could, I was wondering if I could go back to Western
36 Interior and Jack for a moment. I debated asking the
37 question, so I apologize for my tardiness in the
38 question forum. One of the comments he made was about
39 Dall sheep. I've heard that from a couple other people
40 over the Brooks Range, in specific the Central Brooks.

41
42 So, Jack, with regard to the Central
43 Brooks, are any of those areas covered by a Federal
44 concessionaire special use permits? And, two, if they
45 are, have you or anybody else reached out to the
46 managing -- land manage agencies to potentially discuss
47 reduction and authorization under those permits?
48 Because if we could handle things at a local level, it
49 may preclude future things coming to the Board's
50

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1 attention.

2

3 Thank you. I appreciate your patience,
4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Was that a
7 question for me?

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that was
10 for you, Jack.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, the Western Interior
13 Regional Advisory Council wrote to the Regional
14 Director regarding the high allocation to the guides
15 that are on BLM land. They basically have relatively
16 high allocation. Some guides have allocations that
17 entail the entire population of adult males.

18

19 There are literally hundreds of hunters
20 that travel the Dalton Highway. There are lots of
21 people that hunt off the road. The harvest reporting
22 does not capture how many people actually hunt there
23 because they may shoot at an animal and not get it, may
24 wound it, but it's not recorded in the harvest
25 reporting system. They may hunt this area, may go to a
26 different area and take a sheep in another unit.

27

28 So there are literally hundreds of
29 hunters hunting here and among all the hunting guides,
30 so there's a lot of guides on the non-Federal Wildlife
31 Refuges and the Park Preserve. There are Park Preserve
32 and Wildlife Refuge guide use areas. Those have
33 limited one guide. They have allocations of how many
34 sheep they can take. There's basically unlimited
35 amounts of guides can put in for some of these areas
36 and then there's lots of additional hunting pressure at
37 the top of that.

38

39 The problem is that the populations of
40 sheep are so low the State is making the assumption
41 that they have recruitment. They do not have
42 composition data. They do not have the slightest idea
43 how close to the edge of the cliff we are on decimating
44 the rest of the adult rams.

45

46 So this proposal, the Special Wildlife
47 Action proposal regarding Dall sheep closure for the
48 next two years is in response. It's a conservation
49 proposal. There's all kinds of data that shows that if
50

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1 you wipe out all the adult rams and shift the breeding
2 to small young rams, you will have reproductive
3 failure. So that's the reason the Council took those
4 actions before you.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Peltola.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Jack. I
11 appreciate your elaboration.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Jack, for that. Okay, Sue, moving on to the next one.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Next up is Eastern
17 Interior.

18

19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, this is Sue
20 Entsminger. Do you hear me?

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
23 floor, Sue. Thank you.

24

25 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I'm the
26 Chair of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
27 and I'm in my home too at Mentasta Pass. We got a -6
28 this morning and it's already up to +40, so looking
29 outdoors it's hard to want to be inside.

30

31 We still have a lot of snow to melt and
32 it's still very cold. In the nights it's been below
33 zero six nights out of the last 11. I wanted to say
34 the Eastern Interior encompasses 12, 20 and 25.
35 There's a river system, which is more remote in the
36 area, and then the road system. Each has its
37 differences.

38

39 Regarding the Yukon River, there was no
40 fishing on the Yukon River for king salmon or chum
41 salmon last summer. This created an enormous hardship
42 for the people living on the Yukon trying to feed their
43 families and their dog teams. Lack of salmon puts most
44 pressure on moose, caribou and other fish as people
45 still try to meet their subsistence needs.

46

47 Council members are very concerned
48 about the bycatch in the Bering Sea and Area M
49 fisheries and how they may be impacting the Yukon River

50

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1 salmon. Members feel that the genetic sampling of both
2 chinook and chum salmon bycatch to identify which
3 salmon stocks are being caught and our RAC was also one
4 of the signers on the bycatch letter that went to the
5 National Marine Fisheries Commission or Council.

6
7 We have had concerns over hunter safety
8 and hunter ethics. It's an ongoing project and it just
9 seems it's a slow, slow process. We were told about a
10 survey that was done by Amanda Pope up on the northern
11 portions of the caribou and moose areas off the Taylor
12 I believe it was and Central. The very nice report
13 that she had given to the Council on how hunters
14 responded to that.

15
16 We have a lot of concerns across the
17 Council of the heavy snowfall for the Interior,
18 although we were reported that the Porcupine was lower
19 snowfall and then the eastern part over by Chisana was
20 a little bit lower snowfall than the rest of the area.
21 That it may negatively affect our moose survival. I've
22 had moose walking through my yard bellied out.

23
24 At any rate the Council feels that
25 there needs to be more moose surveys completed in areas
26 of low moose abundance in the middle Upper Yukon River
27 Drainage, including the Noatak drainage, where moose
28 numbers have been declining for years.

29
30 There are lower sheep numbers in this
31 Eastern Alaska Range. Council members brought up that
32 House Bill 4716 is now in Congress. It was to stop
33 trapping on Refuge lands. We put in our views to that.
34 This is very offensive to our way of life. It was
35 brought aware to us by Bruce Ervin about the land
36 disposal by the State of Alaska on the Taylor Highway
37 and we made our comments to that against it because
38 it's an area where it's heavily used by subsistence
39 people in the region.

40
41 I wanted to go into this in-person
42 meeting, the problems of it. As I listen to this
43 meeting and how hard it is for people to get online,
44 after two years it's even more exasperating of a
45 problem. I don't see how we're doing a fair job and
46 making decisions. We've had problems caused by the
47 teleconference meeting and people getting knocked off.
48 It's just been annoying.

49
50

1 One of the Council members said he'd
2 never attend another meeting by teleconference. Bill
3 Glanz and I talked. That was Bill. He was vice-chair
4 at the time and I said, Bill, I'll drive to Fairbanks
5 if you drive to Central and we were told they can't
6 stop us from meeting, so we did meet. We went to
7 Fairbanks on our own dime and actually TCC had meetings
8 going on at the same time. We had six of us there. We
9 arranged to meet on our own in the North Thompson
10 Center and it was nice to meet some of the RAC members
11 I'd never met before.

12
13 It's just really sad that we can't be
14 meeting in person. Hopefully we can have a change in
15 that. We were able to meet in a Federal building, so
16 it didn't cost us any money to go there and meet.
17 Staff allowed it, but they didn't want anyone in there,
18 public comments, so it was a little bit awkward, but we
19 did get through it.

20
21 When our meeting had started one of the
22 first things that came up was OSM had the authority to
23 adjourn our meeting if things get out of hand. This
24 was alarming to the members. You know, I've been on
25 this Council 21 years. I've never seen anything like
26 that, that it could happen. The Council members were
27 very concerned about that. What did it mean. Would
28 they really adjourn one of our meetings.

29
30 I'm sure there never was a time, but it
31 was sad that it had to be brought up, like saying that
32 something is going wrong with our meeting. So it's a
33 deep concern that we would be going through a meeting
34 and all of a sudden Staff would adjourn one of our
35 meetings.

36
37 I wanted to bring up also that I have a
38 concern on the lengthy introduction of government
39 people at our teleconference meetings or even our
40 regular meetings, in-person meetings. We had a joint
41 meeting with Southcentral. I think it took almost an
42 hour.

43
44 I feel like there ought to be a system
45 there that government people should come together
46 before the meeting starts. All sign in somehow,
47 somehow, and then we just get a report of how many
48 people are online because it just takes so long to do
49 that. We're volunteers and I believe that our time is
50

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1 precious and having more time for the work that we have
2 to do as Council members is very important.

3

4

5 There's a hunt -- we've been working on
6 a hunter education safety and ethics thing for, jeez, I
7 think six years now. It just is a slow process. It
8 gets a little frustrating that things can't happen a
9 little faster. Us as a Council we're only as good as
10 our coordinators.

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The Eastern Interior has gone through quite a few coordinators here in the last couple years. I'm real excited to have the new gal Brooke online because I feel that she's in it for the long term and I think that's what's important for us as the RAC members.

I'm looking at my points here. You'll have to forgive me. And I do want to mention that there was a late mailing of our books for our winter meeting 2021. We didn't get them until the deadline was over for public comment. Also there was -- people around our area were saying that when they do the tribal consultation that's during a busy hunting and fishing season. There's no chance to comment when that happens.

And I want to talk about my frustration over that Fisheries Proposal 21-10 asking it to come back to the joint RACs for a compromise. I feel like there was a better way to go about doing that. I think it would have been nice to -- well, we were told that there would be no public comment. So everything that was presented to us in our individual RAC meetings came to us for a compromise to a joint meeting. It seems to me that that could have been better handled in that more work was done, more information and new information and new public comments because it's really hard to throw something back to you that you already had taken up without new information.

I agree with everything Gloria said about that and I'm sure our RAC members the same, would totally agree with everything because we really didn't accomplish much at the meeting I don't think other than I think the board may have learned a lot more about the process and how the members feel.

I did want to bring up a problem that

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1 occurred probably six months ago or longer. The Alaska
2 Gateway School District asked for an educational permit
3 for something they had done for five years with kids
4 working on building a fishwheel and then they wanted to
5 get an educational permit. The year before they just
6 had one of the people put in for a permit to go and get
7 the fish on the fishwheels in Slana off the Copper.

8
9 It seemed like -- I don't know. It
10 just seemed like something went awry there because it
11 was a good program and it was just an individual's name
12 and then they asked for it as an educational and
13 cultural permit. I was told about it three days before
14 the meeting and as Chair I should be on it. They ended
15 up pulling that permit because there was not enough
16 time for them to deal with everything and getting it
17 ready for the summer. So they ended up having to do
18 something in Tok instead.

19
20 At any rate, I just had some concerns
21 and I wanted to bring them up. The Council is always
22 concerned about the Yukon River fish and its depletion
23 and it probably is a holdover to how they would feel
24 about other fisheries like on the Copper River.

25
26 That's it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
29 Appreciate your comments today. Any questions from the
30 Board.

31
32 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. This is Ken.
33 Just a quick comment.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Ken, go
36 ahead.

37
38 MR. LORD: I'd just like to respond to
39 the concern about designated Federal officers
40 adjourning RAC meetings. That's something that we
41 didn't make up. That's actually in the Federal
42 Advisory Committee Act regulations that apply to all
43 advisory committees nationwide. So it's not something
44 that we can either change or have any control over.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 the clarification there, Ken. I hope that helped
48 answer your question. All right. Hearing no more
49 questions from the Board. Sue, can we go to the next
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1 RAC.

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4 North Slope.

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MS. DETWILER: Yes. The last RAC is

MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. This is Gordon Brower, North Slope Regional Advisory Council Chair. I'd like to thank the Federal Subsistence Board for the opportunity to express our concerns and our recommendations and things like that.

Our Council approved the annual report on March 8 and 9 of 2022, so we met last month and the Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses on the North Slope. I'm going to start off with some of my own observations and concerns and dovetail that into our report.

On the Slope there's a fisheries up here with some concerns that I would like to express. The local whitefish runs that occur from about September 10 to about October 10. The concerns I raise are based on climate-related changes for the ability to harvest the broad whitefish.

There's been some response to some of these concerns like, oh, well, you know, you can wait until it freezes or move over to an adjacent river or some other way to just brush it off to the side and try to address it as winter sets in, but the understanding behind these fish is that they only run in the Ikpikpuk, Chip for a brief period and then they disappear. They go back to where they come from, from the lakes and go back.

That's highly -- that's traditional knowledge that we use and where we try to make the effort to harvest these fish when it's prime, when they're getting ready to spawn. Lately the river and the Ikpikpuk is -- you need to have a cover of ice over the river in order to put your nets under and it's been plagued by moving ice for the last maybe 10-plus years.

Back in the '70s and early '80s we would have nets under the ice around September 18 and September 15 and then the fish that we harvest were flash frozen. Where they're fresh, they maintain their

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1 color and we're able to store them until winter sets in
2 to where you can haul them to the communities in
3 November for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

4

5 We're just not seeing it happen that
6 way. For instance a lot of my catch will start to
7 spoil. I mean don't get me wrong. Even the spoiled
8 fish we eat them, but the delicacy of having fresh fish
9 with the eggs being bright yellow is a very sought
10 after condition of those fish. We struggle with that
11 today. It's kind of like a food security issue.

12

13 More often I'm going to small
14 tributaries because the main river is not frozen.
15 There's icebergs coming downriver. You try to fish and
16 it will tear up your nets and then you miss out on the
17 run. So I try to go to small tributary rivers when the
18 river is high because the current is less and then they
19 freeze over and I'm able to fish on some of the smaller
20 rivers.

21

22 All I'm trying to say is there is these
23 climate related issues of the subsistence resource. I
24 was taught by my parents and they'd always say don't
25 forget how to fish here because there's lots and lots
26 of traditional knowledge and family and related times
27 for at least a couple hundred years in these areas
28 where it supported the ability to fish for periods of
29 hunger, periods where the communities were starving in
30 the past and these areas were able to support
31 community-wide fishing.

32

33 It's not the same in the adjacent river
34 like the Meade. There's no comparison in the fish runs
35 in these areas. Not even in the Colville River, the
36 whitefish runs, like it does in the Ikpikpuk. So very
37 different. The Colville is primarily qaaktaq and the
38 arctic cisco.

39

40 That's a concern I would like to bring
41 and there needs to be some acknowledgment of how we
42 continue to be able to harvest these and preserve them
43 in their fresh condition because the weather is not
44 conducive to doing this. The run is not going to
45 change. The timing of the run will not change. So I
46 try to do my best to look at what's going on with this
47 stuff.

48

49 The other thing that we've expressed,

50

0047

1 especially in Anaktuvuk Pass, is the availability of
2 subsistence caribou, to be able to harvest caribou. We
3 know Anaktuvuk is surrounded by Gates of the Arctic.
4 It has state land that is managed for the benefit of
5 all residents and it's important to recognize those
6 kind of concerns.

7

8 One of the things that the North Slope
9 Borough -- and, by the way, I serve as the Chair of the
10 Regional Advisory Council. At the same time I sit as
11 the Director of Planning appointed by the Mayor to be
12 the North Slope Borough Land Management Administrator
13 within the entire boundary of the Borough to manage
14 lands in accordance with the adopted policies and land
15 management regulation of the North Slope Borough, which
16 are codes and ordinances that are important to
17 recognize even by the Federal entities because the
18 Borough Land Management Ordinance is
19 multi-jurisdictional. It's enforced on Federal land.
20 It's enforced on State land. It's enforced on private
21 land.

22

23 One of the concerns about Noatak and
24 the Northwest Arctic Borough that we support these time
25 area management issues and Federally qualified users on
26 Federal land to have rural preference when the ability
27 to put food on the table is at stake. We see those
28 kinds of concerns and the Borough has created
29 corresponding comprehensive plans for communities.

30

31 It's important, even though if the
32 Federal Subsistence Board cannot comprehend what's
33 going on in an Organized Borough on how to look at ways
34 to provide for communities is an important task I think
35 for land managers to recognize in these areas and
36 co-mingle.

37

38 One thing I like to call out is the
39 Village Area of Influence in all of the Village
40 Comprehensive Plans in the Organized Borough, the North
41 Slope Borough as the land manager, that the Village
42 Area of Influence in its definition is the lands
43 immediately outside of the village district.

44

45 Village district is like the city
46 limits. The lands immediately outside of the village
47 district that are used for traditional and contemporary
48 subsistence practices to support the community and have
49 a higher emphasis to protect the subsistence
50

0048

1 traditional uses and practices that support the
2 community.

3
4 Those are important features to
5 recognize. I would say pay attention to the North
6 Slope Borough Land Management Ordinance as well when
7 we're looking at -- you're almost doing practically the
8 same thing when we're looking at time/area management
9 when we look at a request.

10
11 Well, we need an area to focus on rural
12 preference because the caribou migrations are being
13 affected in some way and with many different variables
14 involved. We just can't put our finger on it and point
15 what's the matter. It's a very important process in
16 the Federal process to look at rural subsistence
17 priority and when we need to act to preserve these
18 resources.

19
20 So they're not just managed in a way
21 that we're going to consume them. Sometimes I cringe
22 at the way the State manages the resources where
23 they're managed for everybody, the entire state, until
24 a resource is at the brink, which we should never allow
25 these resources to be managed to the brink and then
26 everybody is cut off, you know.

27
28 Those are just some of the concerns
29 that I bring about locally here within the boundaries
30 of the North Slope Borough. I feel it's also my
31 responsibility to make sure, as the land management
32 administrator for the Borough and implementing the land
33 use policies and we need to find a way to work together
34 around some of these laws.

35
36 When the comprehensive plans are
37 adopted by the Assembly that are required by state
38 statute and then by the charter of the North Slope
39 Borough to bring these land management practices and
40 using them. Sometimes it might be easy to just brush
41 that off and say, hey, we don't deal with that stuff.

42
43 There needs to be a way to address
44 those things and then work towards them because we can
45 effectively do the -- with the Village Area of
46 Influence with managing the need for communities to put
47 food on the table because that's what the Village Area
48 of Influence does on the North Slope.

49
50

0049

1 With that, Mr. Chair, I'm going to go
2 ahead and go through some of our letters. Again, our
3 report was adopted March 8 and 9, 2022 in our winter
4 meeting and the Council wishes to share information and
5 raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation
6 of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of
7 subsistence using on the North Slope.

8
9 One, there's a request for monitoring
10 of Unit 26C muskox and transboundary management with
11 Canada. One of the things that we're seeing in working
12 with ADF&G is the movement of muskox in Unit 26A. Now
13 there exists some opportunity for a harvest and some of
14 our proposals are going to be acted upon by this Board
15 as well.

16
17 But in the far most reaches of Unit
18 26C, the struggle for muskox population growth and
19 trying to define the eastern population from the
20 western population, the struggle continues in Unit 26C
21 with some information bleeding over from the Canadian
22 side, that there's some evidence of liberal management
23 of muskox in the borderlands between Canada and the
24 United States that leads to suggest maybe that
25 population is not really allowed to move more westerly
26 around that boundary.

27
28 So the Council is very concerned about
29 the continuously low muskox population in Unit 26C.
30 There has not been any subsistence harvest opportunity
31 for muskox in the region for many years. Maybe it had
32 never been. This muskox population's range extends
33 across the border between Canada and the eastern side
34 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the United
35 State. Muskox move back and forth between the two
36 countries.

37
38 The Council has heard reports that high
39 muskox harvest occur in Canada and is concerned that
40 overharvest in Canada may be keeping the overall
41 population low. The Council requests information on
42 cross-boundary management of muskox within the Arctic
43 National Wildlife Refuge in Canada and would like to
44 explore options for the creation of a joint U.S./Canada
45 muskox management group similar to the Porcupine
46 Caribou Management Board.

47
48 Number two. The ongoing concerns about
49 contaminants in subsistence fish within NPR-A it seems
50

0050

1 this concern is either escalating and now starting to
2 affect other species. The initial concerns came back
3 about maybe five or six years ago related to broad
4 whitefish having this mold, like Saprolegnia I think is
5 the scientific word for it.

6
7 There have been more concerns raised.
8 A fish that they normally didn't see with fish mold
9 occurring on them, but we're starting to see some other
10 concerns that it's maybe starting to be seen in the
11 arctic cisco. So the Council remains very concerns
12 about contaminants in subsistence fish within Federal
13 lands of the National Petroleum Reserve, NPR-A.

14
15 This is an issue of real distress for
16 the community of Nuiqsut whose residents continue to
17 find sick and dying fish. Residents now have anxiety
18 about eating fish that have traditionally been
19 essential to their diet and well-being for many years.
20 The Council tried to find a way to monitor contaminants
21 in subsistence fish through the Fisheries Resource
22 Monitoring Program.

23
24 The Council has been informed that this
25 needs to be done by the land management agencies.
26 Thus, the Council requests that the Bureau of Land
27 Management funds this necessary contaminants research.
28 BLM is responsible for the permitting of the past and
29 present industrial activities within NPR-A that are the
30 source of these contaminants.

31
32 The Council seeks the support of the
33 Federal Subsistence Management Program to ensure these
34 essential subsistence fisheries resources are protected
35 and that communities get answers about contaminants so
36 that they can safely continue to eat healthy
37 traditional subsistence foods.

38
39 That seems to be something that we talk
40 about for years and years. I mean I can remember
41 talking about Umiat and the landfill that's eroding and
42 being undercut in some of our own inspections as a land
43 management administrator for the Borough. Dispatching
44 inspectors to river breakup season to look at what the
45 landfill might be doing during breakup because those
46 concerns continue to be coming in from the community.

47
48 That debris gets shot out during
49 breakup season and we don't know what the Corps of
50

0051

1 Engineer's timing might be to try to clean up the Umiat
2 landfill. We've heard estimates of \$980 million to dig
3 it up and fly it out to \$460 million to put a road in
4 and truck it all out, but you've got to dig it up and
5 get it out of the path of the Colville River to do some
6 of these.

7

8 I don't know if that's part of the
9 extent of contaminants and perceived issues relate to
10 fish mold and things like that. So it's just an
11 important thing to keep up the pressure and talk about
12 these things because they affect the harvest of
13 subsistence resources for the Arctic.

14

15 Number three is a recognition in
16 support of community harvest and sharing patterns. The
17 Council wishes to highlight the importance of
18 traditional community harvest and sharing of
19 subsistence foods. Subsistence communities need to
20 take care of each other and continue to have access to
21 healthy subsistence food especially during ongoing
22 hardships of the pandemic.

23

24 The Council encourages the Federal
25 Subsistence Management Program to recognize and support
26 these traditional sharing practices and share easy
27 access to designated hunter permits and community
28 harvest programs. It might be an elder and not be able
29 to go out and do the normal hunting you did as a young
30 person, but it is the diet that they love and the foods
31 that they have customary traditional determinations to
32 and the ability to continue for all range of our rural
33 residents.

34

35 Number four. Request the Federal
36 Subsistence Board to further consider continuation of
37 subsistence uses and that substantial evidence include
38 local and traditional knowledge when making actions on
39 proposals. I think those are some of the most
40 important things.

41

42 The indigenous people, the traditional
43 knowledge of those that do subsistence and live off the
44 land have an intimate relationship with the land, the
45 subsistence resources and the animals. We tend to be
46 our own ways of conserving. Many of the new laws on
47 the North Slope came from traditional knowledge when we
48 were faced with a serious decline in Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd back from 2014 to 2017 and ADF&G was going
50

1 to propose additional regulations and limit the harvest
2 and take of those caribou. We stepped up to the plate
3 and said, hey, you know, we do a lot of conserving
4 ourselves.

5
6 We don't hunt the bulls when they're in
7 rut. While the other competing users look out for
8 taking the trophy value, we never do. We put laws into
9 place that we are not going to hunt bulls from October
10 10 until December 6 until the rut flavor is out of the
11 bulls and things. So we are in our own right.
12 Traditional knowledge has showed us we're not going to
13 hunt the bulls from this period to this period because
14 they don't taste so good and we'll hunt them later when
15 the hormones are reduced in that.

16
17 So supported by substantial evidence,
18 that's an emphasis made by the Council, is one of the
19 top criteria the Board considers in its decision making
20 on regulatory proposals and Special Action Requests.
21 The Council has observed that the expertise of local
22 and traditional knowledge is often not considered along
23 with Western science when identifying substantial
24 evidence.

25
26 Rural and indigenous communities have
27 direct experience and observations that span life lived
28 on the land throughout the years and throughout a
29 knowledge handed down across generations. Traditional
30 knowledge and the observations and experiences of
31 subsistence resource users are as substantial as
32 Western science.
33 The Council requests that the Board better incorporate
34 local and traditional knowledge in its decision making.

35
36 Council also requests the Board to give
37 greater consideration for continuation of subsistence
38 uses in its decision making as well. Subsistence
39 priority cannot be achieved without access to
40 subsistence resources. Actions from non-subsistence
41 resource users may deflect animals away from rural
42 communities, change migration patterns and timing and
43 have other effects that prevent subsistence resource
44 users from accessing fish and wildlife populations.

45
46 I think those are important and
47 far-reaching words about competing users on lands from
48 those that are from rural residents or indigenous folks
49 with traditional knowledge on the use of these
50

0053

1 resources. We expect them. We know their trails and
2 it's important to recognize that the North Slope
3 Borough has worked to develop a comprehensive plan that
4 also incorporate village area influence with
5 definitions about what that area of influence is.

6
7 Someday I would think the North Slope
8 Borough may want to work with the land managers that
9 are present here in the Federal Subsistence Board to
10 look at how we look at areas of influence and zone
11 those as such and apply policy in those areas to
12 protect the migration patterns much the same way as we
13 do that with the bowhead whale where we have time area
14 closures.

15
16 We often have industry stop. If we
17 don't have a conflict avoidance agreement with the
18 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, we will do a cease
19 and desist on industrial activities in their barging
20 operations and such until the harvest of bowhead whales
21 have been achieved by communities because it is an
22 important subsistence resource.

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participant note muted)

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: I will stop there and I
28 think that's the extent of our report. The North Slope
29 Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board's
30 attention to these matters and the opportunity to
31 assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in
32 leading its charge of protecting subsistence resources
33 and uses of those resources on Federal public lands and
34 waters.

35
36 REPORTER: Okay.....

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: The Council looks
39 forward to continuing discussions about the issues.....

40
41 REPORTER:whoever is typing
42 please mute your phone.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER:of the subsistence
45 users in the North Slope Region. If you have any
46 questions regarding this report you can contact me,
47 Gordon Brower, Regional Advisory Chair for the North
48 Slope or Eva, but I heard that, Eva, and
49 congratulations on the new post, Eva. Our madame
50

0054

1 coordinator will be moving over to a new position I
2 heard.

3

4 Thank you. That concludes the North
5 Slope Regional Advisory Council's report.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
8 that, Gordon. Appreciate the report. Any questions
9 from the Board for Mr. Brower.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
14 Hearing none. I appreciate all the Regional Advisory
15 Council reports. That gives us good insight to not
16 only what's in their report but what's happening at the
17 ground level and some of the processes on the ground
18 that are the day-to-day operations and then, you know,
19 the struggle that we've all had here through the
20 pandemic, the meetings virtual, wanting to be back and
21 in person, down to working on the ground with agencies,
22 partners, land managers and everything in between,
23 trying to coordinate it.

24

25 I just want to thank all the
26 coordinators, all the RAC Chairs and everybody who came
27 together today to get your report to us and then to
28 have time here to provide testimony about each of them
29 and thank you all for that.

30

31 With that we're going to go ahead and
32 move on to the next part of the agenda. Before we do
33 I'd like to take a 15-minute break. So I'm going to go
34 ahead and call for a 15-minute break right now at this
35 time. That means we'll come back here at -- let's just
36 say five to 4:00. So if we can have everybody sign
37 back off, take a quick break and then we'll come back
38 and continue with public testimony opportunity.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (On record)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back.
47 Anthony Christianson is here, so whenever you're ready
48 you can just do a roll call and make sure that we have
49 a quorum again. No rush.

50

0055

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Well, I will
2 start with you and you're here, so I can check you off
3 that you're present. Let's see.

4
5 Start again with Park Service, Sarah
6 Creachbaum.

7
8 MS. CREACHBAUM: I am present. Thank
9 you.

10
11 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

12
13 BLM, Thomas Heinlein.

14
15 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris, BLM. Tom is
16 on a call right now, but he'll be back momentarily.

17
18 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thanks, Chris.

19
20 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

21
22 MS. BOARIO: I'm here, Sue.

23
24 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Sara.

25
26 Dave Schmid.

27
28 MR. SCHMID: I'm back. Thanks, Sue.

29
30 MS. DETWILER: Gene Peltola, BIA.

31
32 MR. CHEN: Hello, Sue. This is Glenn
33 Chen. Gene stepped out for just a sec. He'll be back
34 shortly. Thank you.

35
36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37
38 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

39
40 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.

43
44 Public Member Charlie Brower.

45
46 (No response)

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, we're waiting
49 on Charlie Brower and we have a couple of ISC members
50

0056

1 standing in for the two Board members who should be
2 joining shortly. So you do have a quorum.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
5 We'll just wait a few more minutes.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It looks like
10 it's 4:00 o'clock now, so we'll go ahead and get
11 started, Sue.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Just to follow
14 up, I believe we were waiting for Tom Heinlein from BLM
15 and Gene Peltola from BIA and Charlie Brower, Public
16 Member. If any of them have signed in.

17

18 The next agenda item is Agenda Item 5,
19 public comment period on non-agenda items.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll open the
22 floor at this time. Operator, if there's anybody
23 online that would like to speak to non-agenda items,
24 this is the time for the public to go ahead and do so.
25 Operator, you can create a cue for that. Appreciate
26 it.

27

28 OPERATOR: Certainly. For any comments
29 at this time please press star, one. Please unmute
30 your phone and record your name clearly when prompted.
31 Once again it is star, one.

32

33 I do have a comment that cued up
34 earlier. I'm not sure if it's relevant at this time.
35 Kevin Meyer, your line is open.

36

37 MR. MEYER: Thanks. Can you hear me?

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. You have
40 the floor.

41

42 MR. MAIER: Oh, great. Thank you. My
43 name is Kevin Maier. I'm here representing the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game, Juneau-Douglas Advisory
45 Committee. I'm not sure if this is the appropriate
46 moment, but I would love the opportunity to comment
47 briefly on Wildlife Proposals 22-07 and 22-08. Is this
48 an appropriate time to do so?

49

50

0057

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I believe both
2 of those are on the agenda.

3
4 MR. MAIER: They're on the
5 non-consensus agenda. So should I wait to do that when
6 they come up?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll give you
9 an opportunity here to provide a small summary of it,
10 but, yeah, you can have time here and there. This is
11 usually a time for anything that's not on the agenda,
12 but since you called in I'll allow it.

13
14 MR. MAIER: Okay. Great. I apologize
15 for misunderstanding and I'm thankful for the
16 opportunity. I've submitted written proposals on
17 behalf of our advisory committee, but just wanted to
18 quickly say that we're hoping that you can help
19 maintain consistent and equitable access to deer
20 hunting opportunity for all residents of our sparsely
21 populated region by approving Proposals 22-07 and
22 22-08.

23
24 Our full written comments are on pages
25 658 to 659 in the book. I think I'll wait and call
26 back in before -- call back in when you're considering
27 those proposals if that's okay. Again, thanks for the
28 opportunity to quickly register our concerns here and I
29 look forward to that discussion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you
32 for taking the time to call in today. Appreciate that.

33
34 Operator, is there anybody else who
35 would like to be seen at this time?

36
37 OPERATOR: Yes, sir. Our next comment
38 is from Mike Adams.

39
40 MR. ADAMS: Hi. I want to start by
41 thanking the Board for an opportunity to speak. I'm
42 calling with a request to remove Proposal 20 from the
43 consensus agenda and I respectfully request that the
44 Board move this proposal to the non-consensus agenda
45 and revisit the proposal as it was originally
46 submitted.

47
48 Currently Proposal 20 is listed as
49 having a consensus opposed to the proposal. The
50

0058

1 proposal seeks to establish a C&T determination
2 supporting moose hunting in Unit 15C, the community of
3 Cooper Landing. The proposal was written and submitted
4 as a result of multiple conversations with Cooper
5 Landing community members and I can attest that
6 subsistence users in Cooper Landing do support the
7 proposal.

8
9 The Office of Subsistence Management
10 also supports the proposal with the following language
11 as justification for their support. Their
12 justification is stated as: The Board has previously
13 recognized customary and traditional use of other
14 wildlife including caribou and goat in Unit 15C by
15 residents of Cooper Landing. Based on these previous
16 determinations, Cooper Landing has already established
17 a recognized pattern of harvest and use of wild
18 resources in Unit 15C consistent with the eight
19 factors.

20
21 Cooper Landing residents pattern of
22 moose hunting and harvest generally exhibit the
23 characteristics of customary and traditional use in
24 Unit 15C as shown through comprehensive subsistence
25 surveys and data from residents hunting for moose in
26 Unit 15C under state regulations.

27
28 Cooper Landing has had its customary
29 and traditional use of moose recognized on all of the
30 Kenai Peninsula except for Unit 15C. The documents
31 proposal will expand recognition of customary and
32 traditional use of moose by residents of Cooper Landing
33 to the entire Kenai Peninsula consistent with the
34 Board's policy of making inclusive area-wide
35 determinations.

36
37 The proposal was also supported as
38 written initially by the Southcentral RAC with a
39 majority of votes in favor to one against. It is my
40 understanding that only after objections were raised by
41 a community member from Ninilchik did the RAC
42 reconsider this proposal as modified.

43
44 The modified language reads -- this is
45 from the minutes: It says support WP22-20/25A/27 with
46 modification to include only those lands within Units
47 7, 15A and 15B. After being modified the RAC seems to
48 have voted on three proposals all at once, not taking
49 up Proposal 20 individually. They voted 5 votes in
50

0059

1 favor to 4 against with two abstentions. This
2 modification effectively killed Proposal 20, which the
3 RAC had already voted firmly in favor of.

4
5 This example seems to exemplify the
6 statement made by the Vice Chair of the Southcentral
7 RAC earlier today and it was difficult to vote on
8 several proposals as a group especially when they dealt
9 with more than one unit. In light of these facts, I do
10 not believe this proposal received a true opposition
11 consensus.

12
13 For all of these reasons I believe that
14 Proposal 20 should be revisited by the Board as a
15 non-consensus item to allow for further discussion.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Board.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
20 questions or comments from the Board.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
25 that. We will consider that as we move forward.
26 Operator, was there anybody else from the public who
27 wanted to call in and participate today?

28
29 OPERATOR: Yes. I have a comment from
30 Ryan Beason.

31
32 MR. BEASON: Hi. Can everybody hear
33 me?

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
36 the floor, Ryan.

37
38 MR. BEASON: Just like Kevin Maier
39 earlier I was going to talk on the deer proposals, but
40 if there's a more appropriate time later on I can
41 certainly do that. Is that my understanding?

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, there will
44 be an opportunity to speak to these proposals in the
45 public comment period on these. So today's public
46 comment period is on non-agenda items. Want to talk
47 briefly.

48
49 MR. BEASON: Yeah, I'll keep it brief.

50

0060

1 I'm with Territorial Sportsmen in Juneau. Again, I'll
2 talk further on this at the designated time. We oppose
3 the four deer proposals 22-07, 08, 09 and 10, but again
4 I will talk further at a more appropriate time later on
5 in the meeting.

6
7 Thank you for your time.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.
10 Appreciate that. Any questions from the Board about
11 that. Again, there will be opportunity before every
12 proposal to go ahead and speak on it. Operator, is
13 there any other public that would like to be recognized
14 at this time?

15
16 OPERATOR: I'm showing no further
17 comments at this time.

18
19 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I'm on now.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back,
22 Charlie. We just went through the public non-consensus
23 agenda item there and we've just concluded that part.
24 We'll move on to old business and we have none, so now
25 we're going to get an update from Orville on this
26 tribal consultation process that we went through
27 earlier. Orville, I'll call you up to the plate.

28
29 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chairman
30 Christianson. Board members. Orville Lind, Native
31 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll
32 give a summary on this morning's consultation. Again,
33 please, folks, if you hear something that is not on the
34 summary or misconstrued or not true, please let me know
35 as I go through this.

36
37 I'm going to start off with AITRC.
38 They are concerned about misinformation related to
39 community harvest system. People were upset that AITRC
40 information may have been wrongly characterized. This
41 is an OSM proposal, not an AITRC proposal. Ahtna and
42 AITRC are separate entities. They had asked to
43 publicly be able to speak on Fisheries Proposal 21-10
44 at the Council meeting but were told no. Concerned
45 that the public process has been stifled.

46
47 They also were told that they should be
48 able to speak on Fisheries Proposal 21-10 at the
49 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. AITRC is comprised
50

0061

1 of eight tribes and allows for cooperative management
2 of wildlife on Federal lands. AITRC also requested
3 possible step-down plans for how the 2016 agreement
4 should proceed.

5

6 We had a member from TCC that says
7 members rely on natural resources for their well-being.
8 They want to improve their subsistence situation.
9 Subsistence policy is critical and TCC is authorized to
10 initiate consultation with the agencies. They do not
11 seek to negotiate with agencies separately, but would
12 like to talk with Federal agencies as a group. Based
13 on January 21st, 2022 communications, TCC and the Yukon
14 River Intertribal Fisheries Commission understood that
15 co-management and consultations would be occurring.

16

17 TCC is concerned that the Joint
18 Secretarial Order of the stewardship of Federal lands
19 and water was not included in the RAC packet. These
20 are directly related to the Regional Advisory Council
21 agencies.

22

23 TCC also asked that all Federal staff
24 be aware of these agreements. Tribes have been
25 stewards of the land since time immemorial and seek to
26 carry out their role and work with Federal subsistence
27 staff.

28

29 We had a person from Bristol Bay tribe
30 said that their involvement would be limited due to
31 conflicts later on today, but they support the model of
32 the Togiak Refuge and the community that is working to
33 provide co-management for caribou. The community has
34 helped distribute two caribou to the senior center in
35 Dillingham. The tribal council opposed the ban on
36 trapping on Refuges, which is under HR-4716.

37

38 Also the Second Chief from BBNA they
39 said that Wildlife Proposal 22-40 is a concern. They
40 have been coming to the Board on a positioning issue
41 over past years. She also serves on the Bristol Bay AC
42 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game. State
43 regulatory language has been adjusted by the Alaska
44 Board of Game. The proposed language matches language
45 for Unit 23.

46

47 It would be best if this language would
48 be taken up by Federal Subsistence Board. This has
49 been quite a long time with the word positioning.

50

0062

1 Caribou positioning wording is not going to work with
2 wolverine and wolf. They want to go with existing
3 wording in the proposal, not the proposed OSM
4 modifications. They're still waiting to hear who will
5 assure that ANILCA is being followed. ANILCA has
6 priority and must be followed by the agencies and the
7 Federal Subsistence Board.

8

9 We had a member from Tazlina. The
10 Southcentral and Eastern Interior Councils oppose
11 Fisheries Proposal 21-10. Now is not the time to put
12 in a new fishery. They haven't been making chinook
13 salmon escapement goals on the Copper River. Returns
14 are low and they barely made sockeye escapement goals
15 in the Copper river. Copper River fishermen have
16 limited options compared to subsistence fishermen
17 around Cordova.

18

19 There's sharing going on. Traditional
20 sharing of subsistence food. The Native Village of
21 Eyak has been opposed to Fisheries Proposal 21-10.
22 There's opposition to this proposal because of the low
23 fisheries returns.

24

25 We had the president of the Organized
26 Village of Kake who stated they've been having problems
27 with Fish and Game and they've been having problems
28 with black bears. They were in a search and rescue
29 situation where a person fell off the dock, but they
30 were also at the same time having bear problems.

31

32 ADF&G rules are to skin a DLP bear,
33 defense of life and property bear, and send it to them.
34 Of course, the two Federal marshals came into town to
35 arrest the person who did not follow regulations. They
36 could have taken care of this with a summons. They are
37 more concerned about live animals than people. The
38 tribe filed suit against the State several years ago,
39 but the State continues to pursue this even though they
40 had lost it in court. The State wants to continue to
41 fight.

42

43 We had a person from Southeast Tribal
44 Council state that commercial fishermen are wiping out
45 the crab resource around the villages and communities
46 and he's very concerned. Traditionally people have
47 settled in the communities where there are lots of
48 resources, but if resources are being taken away from
49 them, outsiders are taking the village's deer and the
50

0063

1 crab. There's pressure from everywhere. Villages
2 don't have the option to go to Costco. This is
3 important to Angoon subsistence way of life. ADF&G
4 needs to look at the impacts on the villages when
5 resources are being taken out of their area.

6
7 We had a Northway Tribal member. He
8 said there was no consultation done on a State cabin
9 site project. They are opposed to the land sale noting
10 that ADNDR chose a very busy subsistence time for Tanana
11 tribes for public comments. They are concerned that
12 locals will be displaced from the important subsistence
13 use area.

14
15 He requested that consultation should
16 occur any time land sales are in an area. This area is
17 highly used for subsistence uses. Every year outside
18 hunters come into this area and utilize the same
19 resource. He's working with the Eastern Interior
20 Regional Advisory Council. He also requests the
21 Federal Subsistence Board's support.

22
23 That completes the summary I have for
24 you, Chairman and Federal Subsistence Board members.
25 I'm available for any questions at this time.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Orville. Appreciate the summary for the Tribal Council
29 consultation this morning. The floor is open for any
30 Board member who would like to ask Orville any
31 questions, comments, feedback.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: all right.
36 Hearing none. We'll go ahead and move on to number 7,
37 the 2022-2024 Subparts C&D proposals and closure
38 reviews. We'll call for the announcement of the
39 consensus agenda. I'll go ahead and turn it over to
40 you, Sue, to call on Lisa.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: I'll call Lisa
43 Grediagin. Thank you.

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 This is Lisa Grediagin, the Wildlife Division
47 Supervisor at OSM. The consensus agenda contains all
48 the proposals and closure reviews for which there is
49 agreement among the Federal Subsistence Regional
50

0064

1 Advisory Councils, the Federal Interagency Staff
2 Committee and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
3 concerning Board action.

4
5 The consensus agenda can be found after
6 the public meeting agenda in the Board meeting
7 materials. The analyses for these are contained in
8 Volume 1 of the meeting materials. Anyone may request
9 that a proposal or closure review be removed from the
10 consensus agenda and considered individually by the
11 Board. However, only a Board member may actually
12 remove a proposal or a closure review from the
13 consensus agenda.

14
15 So, for example, we had a request to
16 remove WP22-20 from the consensus agenda, but that was
17 a member of the public who made that request, so
18 currently it will remain on the consensus agenda unless
19 a Board member asks for it to be removed off the
20 consensus agenda and put on the non-consensus agenda.

21
22 After the Board acts individually on
23 all the non-consensus proposals and closure reviews,
24 the Board will take up the consensus agenda and vote on
25 it collectively toward the end of this meeting.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 That concludes announcement of the
30 consensus agenda.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Lisa. At this time we come to a public comment period
34 on consensus agenda items. This is the opportunity
35 available at the beginning of each day before we take
36 final action. I said earlier there would be a time
37 later on the agenda for consensus agenda items and this
38 would be the opportunity for the public to speak on the
39 consensus agenda as presented. I know we did have one
40 public person who called in wishing for Proposal 20 to
41 be pulled, but I believe that was a public and not a
42 Regional or Council Chair.

43
44 So at this time I would ask the
45 Operator if there's any public comment online for the
46 consensus agenda items.

47
48 OPERATOR: As a reminder for any
49 comments, please press star, one. Please unmute your
50

0065

1 phone and record your name clearly when prompted.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 OPERATOR: Once again that is star, one
6 for any comments. We do have a few coming in. One
7 moment. I have a comment from Mike Bethers.

8

9 MR. BETHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Is this the time when I speak on WP22-09? Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, is that
13 one on the consensus or not consensus, please? Thank
14 you.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Maybe Lisa Grediagin has
17 that information at the tip of her hands.

18

19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, Mr. Chair.
20 WP22-09 is on the consensus agenda, so this is the
21 appropriate time to comment on that proposal. Thank
22 you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25 Guest, now you have the floor. Thank you.

26

27 MR. BETHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
28 for this opportunity to comment. My name is Mike
29 Bethers, with a B, and I ask you not to support
30 Wildlife Proposal 22-07, 22-08 -- I guess I'll keep
31 this only to 22-08 at this time.

32

33 I've had a lot of experience in the
34 past writing wildlife regulatory proposals and I don't
35 believe these proposals will really do what these
36 proposers really wanted. I've been a lifelong
37 74-year-old deer hunter. I live in either Auke Bay or
38 Tenakee Springs.

39

40 The last 50-plus years my hunting has
41 been on Admiralty and Chichagof Islands. I spend about
42 50 days a year in the woods and use a deer call and I
43 still hunt. I access areas in my boat and I don't have
44 to shoot from boats and haven't been on the Hoonah road
45 system in decades.

46

47 The last several years deer have been
48 very abundant and at or near carrying capacity. If a
49 crippled-up old man like me with a bunch of medical

50

0066

1 issues can go into the woods and find as many deer as
2 I've been seeing, there's basically isn't any
3 legitimate reason I can see for subsistence users not
4 getting their deer, you know.

5

6 Federal qualified users, they have a
7 definite priority to the resource. They extend their
8 season in January when they're most often available
9 quite often. The designated hunter program, you know,
10 you can shoot for others. Further, you know, Federally
11 qualified users typically live right in or really close
12 to the hunting grounds and they're really, really close
13 to that hunting opportunity.

14

15 Usually available ADF&G deer harvest
16 data on both qualified and non-qualified hunters showed
17 that Federally qualified hunting effort is way down
18 since the 2007-2008 hard winter. However, those
19 Federally qualified users still hunting are doing just
20 fine. They're getting more deer than they got in the
21 past.

22

23 Juneau deer hunters, they're residing
24 at least 50 miles away from either the Hoonah place or
25 the Angoon. They're not impacting their deer hunts and
26 they're not causing a problem there. They just can't
27 be.

28

29 Anyway, specific comments on Proposal
30 2008 follow. Hoonah has dealt this wildlife habitat
31 two major blows through extensive clearcut logging and
32 a hundred miles of logging roads. These have both
33 proven many times to have very negative impacts on the
34 wildlife populations and wildlife movements.

35

36 Many studies have shown that deer shy
37 away from roads in order to survive. It's called
38 natural selection. The road system in Hoonah really
39 changed hunting. It made it real handy and real easy,
40 but now the deer near the roads are wiped out soon
41 after the opening of doe season.

42

43 This proposal also includes much more
44 area than I think you need to address the concerns of
45 the road system. The Federally qualified users in
46 Hoonah that I know are still hunting. They're having
47 no problems. They're getting their deer.

48

49 This proposal also impacts the north

50

0067

1 shore of Tenakee Inlet, which should be excluded from
2 the proposal. Tenakee is not attached to the road
3 system and has none of the road system issues of
4 Hoonah. ADF&G deer tagging data shows minimal movement
5 of deer between drainages draining into Tenakee Inlet
6 and areas draining north towards the Hoonah Road
7 System.

8
9 Consequently, the deer harvested on the
10 north shore of Tenakee Inlet is separate from that of
11 the area accessed by the Hoonah Road System and the
12 Tenakee harvest would have absolutely no impact on the
13 Hoonah areas closer to the road system.

14
15 Drainages flowing south into Tenakee
16 Inlet are identified in an area called ADF&G Wildlife
17 Analysis Area 3526 and you can see that on some maps
18 there in this literature printed on these proposals.
19 Anyway, this area 3526 should be excluded from Proposal
20 22-08.

21
22 Excluding this area is especially
23 important to Tenakee as when the east or north winds
24 blow hard in Tenakee Inlet we can't cross the inlet to
25 hunt on the south side and the north shore is the only
26 place we're able to access the hunt.

27
28 In conclusion, Hoonah Wildlife Proposal
29 22-08 should be amended to include only areas accessed
30 by the Hoonah Road System. That's the roads that are
31 hooked to the Ferry Terminal. I think this is where
32 your greatest perceived problem lies.

33
34 This proposal will make no changes in
35 the non-qualified user deer bag limit on any
36 State-owned beaches bordering the North Chichagof
37 Management Area and be no impact to hunting on State
38 land, you know, between high tide -- or high mean tide
39 and the low water line.

40
41 The north shore of Tenakee Inlet, like
42 I said above, specifically Wildlife Analysis Area 3526
43 should be excluded from Wildlife Proposal 22-08 as it's
44 not used by Federally qualified hunters from Hoonah.
45 The deer harvest there has no effect on -- is accessed
46 by the Hoonah Road System and it's the only place
47 hunters from Tenakee can hunt in heavy northeasterly
48 winds.

49
50

0068

1 Further, another comment. The last
2 several years recent reductions in the Alaska Ferry
3 Service to Hoonah will likely continue to provide less
4 opportunity for Juneau non-qualified hunters to get to
5 Hoonah.

6
7 That concludes my comments, sir.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
12 your comments there. Again, we're back on consensus
13 agenda and I believe the proposal you spoke to was a
14 non-consensus agenda item. So you'll actually have
15 another opportunity to speak to that later.

16
17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

20
21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 This is Lisa Grediagin for the record and I just wanted
23 to clarify that WP22-07, 08, 09 and 10 all concern deer
24 in Unit 4 and 07, 08 and 10 are on the non-consensus
25 agenda while Proposal 09 is on the consensus agenda.
26 That may have been where a little bit of confusion
27 happened here.

28
29 I thought he was just speaking
30 specifically to 09, but if any of the public wishes to
31 speak on Proposals 07, 08 or 10, the other Unit 4 deer
32 proposals that are on the non-consensus agenda, this is
33 not the time to comment on those. They will be taken
34 up individually later in the meeting by the Board.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Lisa.

40
41 OPERATOR: I have no further comments
42 at this time.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Operator. Appreciate that. Thank you to the public
46 for calling in. We do our best to take as much of the
47 comments as we can and provide the opportunity. So I
48 thank the public for their brief summarizations and
49 also to come back at the opportune time here later in
50

0069

1 the meeting to share your full testimony. So we look
2 forward to you staying involved in the process and
3 appreciate the Staff making that available for you. So
4 thank you guys.

5
6 We'll move on after the announcement
7 of.....

8
9 OPERATOR: I'm sorry to interrupt. I
10 do have one other comment.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One other
13 comment online. Go ahead, Operator. We'll entertain
14 that at this time.

15
16 OPERATOR: Okay. Mike Adams, your line
17 is open.

18
19 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. I commented a
20 moment ago. I hope it was the right time for it about
21 removing Proposal 22-20 from the consensus agenda. I
22 wasn't sure if now is an appropriate time to just
23 provide comments about that proposal since it is
24 currently still remaining on the consensus agenda.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, this would
27 be the time for you to do that as I did make another
28 reminder. So this would be the opportunity for you to
29 do that.

30
31 MR. ADAMS: Okay. All right. Well, a
32 lot of stuff I guess I already mentioned. As I
33 previously mentioned, the proposal was written and
34 submitted as a result of multiple conversations with
35 other Cooper Landing community members who partake in
36 subsistence activities. So I can attest that other
37 subsistence users in Cooper Landing do support the
38 proposal.

39
40 The wildlife population obviously
41 fluctuates over time and I believe that regional
42 subsistence users should be allowed to exercise their
43 time-honored practice of traveling within the region in
44 pursuit of harvesting for themselves and the community
45 members by utilizing the populations of greater
46 abundance in accordance with customary and traditional
47 practices.

48
49 I think we all like to provide from the
50

0070

1 land as close to home as possible, but the nature of
2 subsistence has always required people to travel.
3 Cooper Landing residents have, do and will continue to
4 travel to Unit 15C to hunt and to gather just as
5 residents from Unit 15C travel to Cooper Landing to
6 harvest salmon and other resources.

7
8 I'd also like to point out that it
9 seems like the primary resistance to this proposal has
10 come from the community of Ninilchik, but 15C is a
11 large area and also includes -- it begins in Kasilof.
12 A lot of Cooper Landing residents travel to Kasilof to
13 hunt the late season moose hunts, which concurrently
14 that's the boundary. There does seem to be a consensus
15 on the OSM findings that Cooper Landing residents do
16 have a C&T in Unit 15C.

17
18 Another point I kind of came across
19 with this is that an opposing view of C&T determination
20 in this case seems out of balance with past decisions
21 that the Board has made because in the past the Board
22 has approved proposals to allow subsistence harvest of
23 fish and wildlife resources in Unit 7 by residents of
24 Unit 15C, sometimes just by very strong opposition from
25 Cooper Landing community members.

26
27 A case in point is the subsistence
28 dipnet fishery at the Russian River Falls. Right now
29 Unit 7 and for many years now we've been in a period of
30 historical low moose abundance. It seems like the
31 numbers maybe rebounded a little bit in recent years,
32 but nothing significant. We also have a lot of
33 non-subsistence hunters from other areas outside the
34 Kenai Peninsula that seem to be hunting here more and
35 more often.

36
37 I believe this proposal will create
38 opportunity for subsistence harvest for community
39 members that might not otherwise have that opportunity,
40 particularly in the late season hunt when fewer hunters
41 are on the landscape and I think that will encourage
42 greater subsistence community participation.

43
44 I believe that Board support for this
45 proposal would show fairness to both communities in
46 Unit 7 and in Unit 15C. I thank the Board for their
47 time and if you guys have any questions for me, I'd be
48 happy to answer them.

49
50

0071

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 calling back in. Any other public at this time for the
3 consensus agenda items. Any questions from the
4 Council.

5
6 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
9 have the floor.

10
11 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 For further discussion purposes BIA would like to
13 request to have this proposal just commented on moved
14 from the consensus to be put on the non-consensus.

15
16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, it pays
18 to play. Thank you for calling back in. Thank you,
19 Gene, for recognizing the need for this to be
20 continually deliberated and we'll pull that from the
21 agenda and move it to the non-consensus agenda. So
22 thank you for calling in.

23
24 MR. C. BROWER: Do we need a second?

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. The Board
27 can do that just like that for order of business.
28 We'll have that moved and let the Staff note it.

29
30 Sue, I'll call on you to see where
31 we're at in order of business.

32
33 MS. DETWILER: I believe that brings us
34 to item 17, which is Board deliberation and action on
35 non-consensus agenda items. I will turn that over to
36 -- let's see, who is the first speaker on that? Lisa,
37 can you help here?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Hi, Sue. This is Pippa
40 Kenner and I am the first on the agenda.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

43
44 MS. KENNER: Shall I begin?

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Thanks.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
49 and members of the Board and Regional Advisory Council
50

0072

1 Chairs. The analysis for Proposal WP22-01 begins on
2 Page 500 of Volume 2A of your Board meeting materials.
3 My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist at
4 the Office of Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

5

6 This proposal was submitted by the
7 Office of Subsistence Management and requests to
8 clarify who is and who is not a participant in a
9 community harvest system. First I'll describe
10 community harvest system in Federal regulation.

11

12

13

14

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This proposal was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to clarify who is and who is not a participant in a community harvest system. First I'll describe community harvest system in Federal regulation. Community harvest systems generally allow hunters to harvest animals up to a community harvest limit. Individual harvest limits such as one moose do not apply to hunters in a community harvest system. Each hunter may continue to harvest until the community harvest limit is met. These regulations generally describe what animal species may be taken, where they may be taken and who may take them.

The general regulation describing community harvest system harvest limits is split between pages 502 and 503 in your Council book. It says: An animal taken under Federal or State regulations by any member of a community with an established community harvest limit for that species counts towards the community harvest limit for that species. Except an animal taken as part of a community harvest limit counts towards every community member's harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or State of Alaska regulations.

So what the regulation doesn't say is that a person might not want to participate in their community harvest system for moose for example. This proposed regulation clarifies that a person can request a registration system where only people who register participate in the community harvest system.

The proposed regulation reads: For the purposes of this provision, all residents of the community are deemed participants in the community harvest unless the Board-approved framework requires registration as a prerequisite to harvesting or receiving any fish, wildlife, or shellfish pursuant to that community harvest, in which case only those who register are deemed participants in that community harvest.

0073

1 This proposed regulation will not
2 affect existing community harvest in Federal
3 regulations. So the OSM conclusion is to support the
4 proposal WP22-01. Thank you for your time. This is
5 the end of my presentation and I'm available to try
6 answering your questions.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Pippa. Any questions for the Staff.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
14 Thank you. We'll go ahead and move on. Sue.

15
16 MS. DETWILER: That would be summary of
17 public comments. Again Pippa.

18
19 MS. KENNER: No comments -- no public
20 comments were submitted for this proposal during the
21 public comment period. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next on the
24 agenda. Sue.

25
26 MS. DETWILER: Next up for this
27 proposal is opening the floor to public testimony.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Again,
30 Operator, if there's anybody online that would like to
31 speak to this agenda item, the floor is open to the
32 public at this time.

33
34 OPERATOR: Once again star, one if
35 you'd like to make a comment. For any comments at this
36 time please unmute and record your name. I do have a
37 comment from Mike Bethers.

38
39 MR. BETHERS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. Is this the time and place to comment on
41 Wildlife Proposals 22-08 and 22-10 or is there a more
42 appropriate time when you'll be addressing these
43 proposals? Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46 I'll call on Lisa for that answer.

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair.
49 This is Lisa Grediagin and right now the Board is
50

0074

1 considering Wildlife Proposal 22-01. Right now they're
2 just asking for any public testimony specific to 22-01.
3 So with the non-consensus agenda proposal they're
4 taking them up individually and there will be an
5 opportunity for public testimony on each proposal
6 that's on the non-consensus agenda.

7

8 So this Proposal 22-01 deals with
9 community harvest systems. Hopefully you have access
10 to the meeting materials that outlines the
11 non-consensus agenda and you'll see which ones the
12 Board will consider before getting to 22-07.
13 Considering it's 4:45, I would expect the Board will
14 get to all the Unit 4 deer proposals tomorrow.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. BETHERS: Okay. Thank you very
19 very much. I appreciate that clarification. Thank
20 you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, too.
23 I just wanted to make sure we get the most precise
24 answers. So thank you, Lisa. Thank you for your
25 patience.

26

27 Operator, is there any other public
28 online who would like to speak to the agenda at this
29 time.

30

31 OPERATOR: Once again, star, one for
32 any comments. We do have one coming through. One
33 moment. I believe the comment is from Karen Linnell.

34

35 MS. LINNELL: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chair and members of the Board. I would like to thank
37 OSM Staff for their summary and want to thank them for
38 working on this proposal to clarify the error that was
39 found during the formation of the Community Subsistence
40 Harvest System for the AITRC and the eight villages
41 that we serve.

42

43 I appreciate the work that went into
44 it. I just want to thank the Board for their
45 consideration on this item. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
48 Thank you. Does that conclude our public testimony at
49 this time?

50

0075

1 MS. DETWILER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
2 believe the next step would be Regional Advisory
3 Council recommendations. Since this is a statewide
4 proposal, any of the Regional Council Chairs who are
5 present may wish to speak on it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. The
8 floor is open for Regional Advisory Council Chairs.

9
10 MS. BATES PILCHER: Mr. Chairman,
11 Members of the Board. For the record, my name is Nissa
12 Pilcher and I'm the Council Coordinator for the Seward
13 Peninsula Council. The Seward Peninsula Council voted
14 to defer unanimously. The Council was presented with
15 the proposal and discussed it, but deferred the
16 decision to the home regions as there are no community
17 harvest systems in the Seward Peninsula Region. That
18 is all.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. This is
23 Southeast Council, Don Hernandez.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
26 floor, Don.

27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Southeast Council took
29 no action on these two proposals as we do not have any
30 community harvest systems in place. Thank you.

31
32 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is Della
33 Trumble of Kodiak Aleutians.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
36 floor, Della.

37
38 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you. For the
39 record, the Kodiak Aleutians supported unanimously and
40 they appreciated the regulatory clarity.

41
42 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. This is DeAnna,
43 coordinator for the Southcentral Regional Advisory
44 Council. I would just like to check if Gloria Stickwan
45 is online to provide Southcentral's recommendation.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: I thought this was a
50

0076

1 Southeast proposal. 22-01?

2

3 MS. PERRY: Yes, Gloria.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: The Council supported
6 it. The Council supports the proposal based on the
7 information presented and we'll clarify that those who
8 are not listed under the community can still hunt under
9 the Federal hunt regulations to meet their subsistence
10 needs. The Ahtna people can continue their customary
11 and traditional ways of hunting.

12

13 Sorry for the confusion.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is
16 Jack Reakoff, Western Interior.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
19 floor, Jack.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: The Western Interior
22 Regional Advisory Council supported WP22-01. The
23 justification was the proposal allows people to opt out
24 of the community harvest system. It will benefit all
25 subsistence users statewide.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Jack. Any other Regional Advisory Councils would like
31 to comment.

32

33 MS. MORRIS LYONS: Yes. This is
34 Bristol Bay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
37 floor.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYONS: This is Nanci Lyons,
40 Bristol Bay Advisory Council. We also support this
41 proposal.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
44 other RACs that would like to comment at this time.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. This is
47 Brooke McDavid. I am Council Coordinator for the
48 Northwest Arctic and I will be presenting because the
49 Chair is unavailable.

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0077

1 The Northwest Arctic RAC supported
2 WP22-01. They said that customary and traditional
3 patterns of harvest in the region are consistent with
4 community harvest systems and regulations. Hunters
5 distribute their harvest to elders first and then to
6 other households that need it most. The Council also
7 supports the proposal so that regulations are
8 consistent across regions.

9
10 I will also be presenting for the
11 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. The
12 Eastern Interior Council also supported WP22-01. They
13 stated that the proposal is beneficial to subsistence
14 users who will find this regulation less confusing.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
17 other RACs.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
22 this time we'll call on tribal/Alaska Native/corporate
23 comments. Native liaison.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 This is Eva. We do have our North Slope Subsistence
31 Regional Advisory Council Chair on the line to provide
32 the North Slope RAC recommendation on WP22-01. Thank
33 you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.
36 The floor is yours.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. This is
39 Gordon Brower.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
42 the floor, Mr. Brower.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: I'm trying to go
45 through the proposals. Is this 22-01?

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, that's the
48 one we're on.

49
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0078

1 MR. G. BROWER: The Council elected to
2 support WP22-01 that's found on Page 511. Our
3 justification was Anaktuvuk Pass has a community
4 harvest system for sheep. Only Federally qualified
5 subsistence users with customary and traditional use
6 determination for that resource can participate in
7 Federal Community Harvest System. We did hear from --
8 I think it was the Western Interior RAC on the lower
9 numbers of sheep in this area.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 other Regional Advisory Council comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
17 Hearing none. We'll go ahead and move on to tribal,
18 Alaska Native, corporate comments.

19

20 MR. LIND: Can you hear me?

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
23 floor, Orville.

24

25 MR. LIND: Yeah, there are no comments
26 and no recommendations, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
29 this time we'll call on the Alaska Department of Fish
30 and Game comments. State liaison.

31

32 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
34 and Game. Thank you for your guys's indulgence on this
35 item with the coming up having to do with the Community
36 Harvest Hunt System.

37

38 While we here at the Department
39 appreciate the clarifying proposals of 01 and 02, we
40 did want to take the opportunity that if and when the
41 Board takes any action on any more of these sorts of
42 hunts in the future, that the participation and harvest
43 data is collected and reported to be at the same
44 standard as the individual hunt reporting requirements
45 so that proper management can continue to occur and
46 conservation concerns do not develop due to
47 under-reporting.

48

49 It is necessary for consistent updates

50

0079

1 to be given to the Federal agencies or else we could
2 have a situation that, you know, we did get remedied,
3 but there was a delay in being able to find out some
4 information on the Community Harvest System Hunt for
5 Unit 13 last fall.

6
7 I don't anticipate it to happen again,
8 but I just wanted to stress the importance of having
9 that same standard of reporting so that when our
10 managers are looking to determine harvestable surplus
11 for a possible next step phase of a hunt we can do that
12 in a timely manner to let users know.

13
14 Thank you, sir.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
17 Appreciate that. Any questions for the State.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
22 Thank you. Interagency Staff Committee comments. ISC
23 Chair.

24
25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Members of the Council -- or the Board. This is Robbin
27 LaVine and I'm the Subsistence Policy Coordinator for
28 OSM. I'm also the chair of the Interagency Staff
29 Committee.

30
31 The Interagency Staff Committee
32 forwarded their standard comment and their standard
33 comment reads as follows: The Interagency Staff
34 Committee found the Staff Analysis to be a thorough and
35 accurate evaluation of the proposal and that it
36 provides a sufficient basis for the Regional Council
37 recommendation and Federal Subsistence Board action on
38 the proposal.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Robbin. We'll move on to Board discussion with Council
44 Chair and State Liaison. This is the opportunity for
45 the Board to ask questions of the State or Council
46 Chairs.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0080

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
2 Hearing none. We'll move on to Federal Board action.
3 I'll open up the floor at this time to take action on
4 WP22-01.

5
6 MR. HEINLEIN: Mr. Chair. Tom
7 Heinlein, Bureau of Land Management.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, you
10 have the floor.

11
12 MR. HEINLEIN: Mr. Chair. I move to
13 adopt Proposal WP22-01. If I get a second, I'll explain
14 why I intend to vote in support of my motion.

15
16 MR. C. BROWER: Second. Public Member
17 Brower.

18
19 MR. HEINLEIN: Thank you. Adoption of
20 this proposal will help to make regulations governing
21 community harvest systems less confusing and easier for
22 Federally qualified subsistence users and others to
23 understand. These proposed changes to regulation will
24 result in more equitable harvest options and
25 flexibility for rural residents while preventing any
26 unintentional restrictions on the individual harvest
27 limits of those living in communities with a community
28 harvest system.

29
30 Adoption of this proposal is also
31 consistent with the recommendations of eight of the ten
32 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
37 further questions, comments, deliberation.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
42 question.

43
44 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
47 has been called. All in favor of the motion as
48 presented signify by saying aye.

49
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0081

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed same
4 sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion
9 carries unanimously.

10 At this time we made it to 5:00 o'clock and so I just
11 want to appreciate the time and everybody being mindful
12 of the process and where we do interject and help to
13 keep us on the agenda. So appreciate the public and
14 their patience with us. And all the staff in being
15 able to clarify and give us the guidance today. I feel
16 like it was a good productive day. Appreciate all the
17 efforts.

18

19 I will go ahead and recess this meeting
20 today. We'll reconvene again tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. At
21 the beginning of each day we do provide an opportunity
22 for the public to speak to non-consensus items and then
23 we'll begin back up on some of the agenda items that we
24 were talking about today with opportunities for further
25 in-depth public testimony. So we offered that up
26 today.

27

28 Without any objection we'll go ahead
29 and recess for the day and reconvene tomorrow at 9:00
30 a.m. Have a good day.

31

32 OPERATOR: This concludes today's
33 conference. You may disconnect at this time.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37

38 (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 I taken electronically by our firm on the 12th day of April;

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 30th day of April 2022.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22