

SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING

GORDON WATSON CONFERENCE ROOM
Anchorage, Alaska
March 4, 2020
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Encelewski, Chairman
Aaron Bloomquist
Ed Holsten
Andrew McLaughlin
Michael Opheim
Gloria Stickwan
John Whissel
Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 3/4/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, good
8 morning folks. Welcome. Beautiful day out there.
9 Beautiful day to do business.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway I'm going
14 to go ahead and call the Southcentral Region Advisory
15 Council meeting to order March 4th here in the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service building, and we're going to
17 start out with an invocation and then we'll go through
18 the call for order.
19
20 But Gloria's going to go ahead and do
21 invocation for us. Thank you.
22
23 (Invocation)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
26 Gloria. Okay, we did -- we need to do the roll call.
27
28 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I can do the
29 roll call.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
32
33 MS. PERRY: Edward Holsten.
34
35 MR. HOLSTEN: Here.
36
37 MS. PERRY: Greg Encelewski.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Here.
40
41 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff. I believe
42 she may be on the phone.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MS. PERRY: Diane, do we have you on
47 the phone?
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Gloria Stickwan.
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: Here.
4
5 MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.
6
7 MR. ZADRA: Here.
8
9 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim. I believe
10 he's on the phone as well.
11
12 MR. OPHEIM: I'm here.
13
14 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Michael. Andrew
15 McLaughlin.
16
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.
18
19 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
20
21 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Here.
22
23 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
24
25 MR. WHISSEL: Here.
26
27 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. We have all of
28 our Council members except for one participating. We
29 do have a quorum.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
32 Deanna. Welcome and introductions. So generally we go
33 around and we introduce everyone here on the Council
34 but we're going to start with the audience I guess and
35 we're going to introduce everyone and we'll get to know
36 everyone. We'll see if we miss anyone, and then we'll
37 get started. Also remind me, DeAnna, we got to make
38 sure we get the phone people, too. But we could start
39 anywhere we want and you guys could just maybe stand
40 and introduce yourself.
41
42 MR. PICHE: Hello. My name is Matt
43 Piche. I'm the Partners Program fish biologist for the
44 Native Village of Eyak in Cordova, Alaska.
45
46 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli.
47 The Bureau of Indian Affairs subsistence anthropologist
48 here in Anchorage.
49
50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl. I am the
2 Fisheries Subsistence Division lead for OSM.

3
4 MR. SARAFIN: David Sarafin. The
5 fisheries biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

6
7 MR. HILDRETH: Hi. I'm Derek Hildreth.
8 I'm the permit specialist at the Office of Subsistence
9 Management.

10
11 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. I'm Carol
12 Damberg. And I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service as a regional subsistence coordinator.

14
15 MR. REAM: Good morning. I'm Joshua
16 Ream. I'm the Alaska region, subsistence program
17 manager for the National Park Service.

18
19 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. I'm Amy
20 Craver, and I'm the subsistence coordinator for Denali
21 National Park and Preserve.

22
23 MS. LEHMAN: Good morning. I'm Charity
24 Lehman with the Department of Fish and Game, Board
25 Support, I'm the Southcentral regional advisory -- or
26 the Southcentral regional coordinator for the Advisory
27 Committees.

28
29 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham. The
30 subsistence coordinator for the Chugach National
31 Forest.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
34 and members of the Council. My name is Jeff Anderson
35 and I'm with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish
36 and Wildlife.

37
38 MR. PEARSON: Good morning. David
39 Pearson, United States Forest Service, subsistence
40 biologist.

41
42 MR. ADELFIGIO: Hello. My name is Luca
43 Adelfio.

44
45 MS. LENHARTZEN: Good morning. My
46 name's Valerie Lenhartzzen, I'm the assistant manager
47 for the BLM office in Glennallen.

48
49 MS. LUCERO: Good morning. I'm Jill
50

1 Lucero, Wildlife biologist for the Glennallen Field
2 Office, BLM.

3
4 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair
5 and members of the Council. I'm Robbin LaVine, and I'm
6 the anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
7 Management and Southcentral as well as Southwest and
8 Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians.

9
10 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
11 members of the Council. I'm Scott Ayers. I'm the
12 fisheries biologist at the Office of Subsistence
13 Management for this region.

14
15 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name's
16 Tom Whitford. I'm the Regional Subsistence Program
17 Leader for the Alaska Region and the Forest Service.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. John,
20 you want to start on your end there.

21
22 MR. WHISSEL: For a report?

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, your
25 introduction.

26
27 MR. WHISSEL: Oh. John Whissel. I'm
28 from Cordova representing the village of -- or, sorry,
29 City of Cordova and Native Village of Eyak, Prince
30 William Sound.

31
32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy McLaughlin from
33 Chenega Bay, Federally-qualified and rural subsistence
34 user.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Greg Encelewski.
37 Ninilchik.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan.
40 Tazlina.

41
42 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron Bloomquist. I
43 live half the year in Palmer and half the year in
44 Copper Center and I'm -- I guess I represent a
45 commercial seat on the RAC.

46
47 MR. HOLSTEN: Ed Holsten. Cooper
48 Landing. I represent people of Cooper Landing and Hope
49 and Moose Pass.

50

1 MR. ZADRA: Dennis Zadra from Cordova.
2 I guess I represent the commercial side in Cordova, as
3 well as a Federally-qualified subsistence user myself.
4

5 MS. PERRY: Good morning everyone.
6 This is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
7 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Michael, do
10 you want to introduce yourself on the phone.
11

12 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim. Seldovia.
13

14 MS. PERRY: Diane, are you there yet?
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there any
19 others on the phone out there we'd like to introduce.
20

21 MR. MILLER: Odin Miller, Partners
22 anthropologist Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.
23

24 CHRISTINE: Christine. I'm a UAA
25 graduate student and I'm just a member of the public.
26

27 MR. ESKELIN: Todd Eskelin. Kenai
28 National Wildlife Refuge.
29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Todd, you could
31 have come.
32

33 (Laughter)
34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else out
36 there.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I think
41 that kind of covers it here. We're going to move into
42 the agenda review. And it looks like I got to do that,
43 review and adopt the agenda. I got a little cheatsheet
44 here that I got some additions so let me see what I
45 got.
46

47 (Pause)
48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Would you explain
50

1 the additions that we want to put on here for the
2 Council.

3

4 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

5

6 The Office of Subsistence Management
7 has received a special action regarding Unit -- or, I'm
8 sorry, caribou in Unit 13 so we would like to go ahead
9 and add that to the agenda as 11A and that's based on
10 availability of the presenter. So it would actually go
11 in front of 11A, right before the call for Federal fish
12 and shellfish proposals under new business.

13

14 And then we also have an update on the
15 deferred Wildlife Proposal 18-19, and if we could slip
16 that in under 10B or as 10B under old business.

17

18 And those have been recent additions,
19 Mr. Chair.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: I have -- Wrangell-St.
24 Elias took action on a special action request, 20-01 on
25 caribou; was that added -- did you add that? Was that
26 13 you added?

27

28 MS. PERRY: I would assume that we
29 would also cover that when the proposal is talked about
30 under 11, I guess you'd call it, A, that was a public
31 comment from Wrangell-St. Elias Commission. So after
32 we get the presentation we could add that at that time,
33 would that be okay?

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

36

37 MS. PERRY: All right, great.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Could you repeat what
42 10B was.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Yes, 10B. A few years ago
45 the Board deferred Wildlife Proposal 18-19 and so we do
46 have a status update on that so our Division Chief for
47 wildlife and the Office of Subsistence Management will
48 provide that.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got one
2 other that Andy would like to add under G, under 11.

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Federal jurisdiction
5 discussion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Federal
8 jurisdiction discussion. He wants to make sure we stay
9 here awhile.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway.

14
15 MS. PERRY: And that's under new
16 business, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We added a
23 few things here and I think I got them. We added under
24 11A, and that's Unit 13. We added another one under
25 Wildlife Proposal 18 and that's going to be under 10B.
26 And then we added Federal jurisdiction, G. under 11,
27 under new business. And we're going to discuss
28 Gloria's thing under new business under call for
29 Federal fish proposals.

30
31 So that's the additions I have. If I'm
32 correct that's the agenda we're presenting to you guys,
33 the Council here. So you could accept it, reject it or
34 make a motion.

35
36 MS. STICKWAN: It's a wildlife
37 proposal, not a fisheries proposal. It's for Unit 11,
38 special action request.

39
40 MS. PERRY: Yes. Are you talking about
41 the comments from the Commission, Gloria -- I believe
42 we'll have that during the status update for the
43 wildlife special action. So the wildlife special
44 action 20-01, which is a special action on Unit 13
45 caribou, it's my understanding we have received a
46 formal comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
47 Resource Commission and we'll discuss that at that
48 time, if that's acceptable to the Council.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Bear with us,
2 this is the confusing part, but we'll get through it.
3 Hopefully we'll get through it.
4

5 With that said, is there any additions,
6 any more?
7

8 (No comments)
9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none
11 we'll go ahead and.....
12

13 MR. WHISSEL: Move to approve the
14 agenda with the deferred Proposal 18, 19 as 10B with
15 caribou as new 11A and Federal jurisdiction discussion
16 as 11G.
17

18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.
19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
21 and seconded. Any discussion.
22

23 (No comments)
24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.
26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor,
28 aye.
29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
33

34 (No opposing votes)
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll
37 follow the revised adopted agenda.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 Alrighty, we got the agenda all set and
42 we got those things added in there.
43

44 The next order of business is the
45 election of officers, if I'm correct, DeAnna.
46

47 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Would you
48 like me to open the nominations for Chair or would you
49 like your vice Chair to do that?
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You could do it.
2 It says I could use an officer, you could do that,
3 please.

4
5 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 We'll now hold election of officers for the
7 Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

8
9 Are there any nominations for the Chair
10 position.

11
12 Mr. McLaughlin.

13
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would nominate Mr.
15 Encelewski here.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Richard Greg Encelewski has
18 been nominated as Chair.

19
20 Any other nominations.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. PERRY: Seeing no other nominations
25 I'll declare the nominations process closed. We have a
26 nomination of Richard Greg Encelewski for the Chair
27 position of the Southcentral Subsistence Regional
28 Advisory Council.

29
30 If we have a motion to appoint him as
31 Chair of the Council.

32
33 MR. WHISSEL: Move to appoint Mr.
34 Encelewski as Chair to the Council.

35
36 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Whissel.

37
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

39
40 MS. PERRY: Thank you for the second.
41 All in favor please say aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 MS. PERRY: All opposed, say nay.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MS. PERRY: Congratulations, Mr.

50

1 Encelewski, you are our Chair once again.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
4 thought I got out of it. That's what happens, I guess.
5 I know how it works.

6

7 Anyway, thank you guys for your
8 confidence, all of you.

9

10 And we'll press on, and slow me down if
11 you need to.

12

13 Okay. I'm going to continue with the
14 elections so we're going to open the floor for a
15 nomination for vice Chair.

16

17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'd nominate Gloria
18 Stickwan as vice.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria's been
21 nominated, is there additional.

22

23 MR. ZADRA: I'll second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been
26 seconded, thank you.

27

28 Any other nominations for vice Chair.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, I
33 guess we could take a motion for Gloria.

34

35 MR. WHISSEL: Move to appoint Gloria
36 Stickwan as vice Chair.

37

38 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
41 and seconded to appoint Gloria for vice Chair. Any
42 discussion.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All those in
47 favor of Gloria, aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, see how
6 it works -- okay.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got one
11 more here. We need a nomination for secretary.
12
13 MR. WHISSEL: I nominate Andy
14 McLaughlin.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy's been
17 nominated, is there a second.
18
19 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
22
23 MR. OPHEIM: Second.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded in the
26 audience again -- no, that was Michael I think.
27
28 Okay, I'll take a motion on that.
29
30 MS. STICKWAN: I move to nominate Andy
31 McLaughlin.
32
33 MR. WHISSEL: Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
36 by Gloria, seconded by John for Andy. Is there any
37 other discussion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
42 in favor aye.
43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
47
48 (No opposing votes)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No opposition.
2 Okay, that carries it.

3
4 Okay. Now, we have the officers for
5 the year, we're all going to go -- we're going to move
6 into the minutes and we're going to review the previous
7 meeting minutes. That was our October 10th meeting,
8 and the 11th, in Seward. I found them very accurate
9 and succinct and I don't know if you guys got any
10 additions or corrections, but I looked through them.

11
12 MS. STICKWAN: I move to adopt the
13 minutes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got a motion to
16 adopt the minutes.

17
18 MR. WHISSEL: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been
21 seconded by John. Any discussion.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Call the question
26 on that.

27
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got a
31 question called to adopt the minutes as presented. All
32 in favor, aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none the
41 minutes that stand as approved.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 Okay, now we're going to go into
46 Council member reports and Michael, since you're on the
47 phone I'm going to let you start first, okay.

48
49 MR. OPHEIM: All right. We went before
50

1 the Board of Fish in Seward and got three of our
2 subsistence fishing proposals passed. The one for the
3 extended fishing period into June and one for distance,
4 a shorter distance between nets. And one for more
5 fishing area so we could try and get more people out
6 fishing. And those were all passed with some
7 amendments.

8
9 We've got our moist air incubator here
10 in Seldovia. And I think we've got all our permits for
11 the summer to try and get some coho returning to our
12 area in greater numbers.

13
14 And the highlight of the winter so far
15 is my permit for the Nelchina caribou hunt so I'm kind
16 of happy about that. Otherwise the winter's been kind
17 of slow.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
20 Michael, thank you. I don't know how you draw a permit
21 though, I just -- I just donate but okay. Thank you.
22 Very good.

23
24 John, you want to go next. Thank you.

25
26 MR. WHISSEL: Things in Cordova have
27 been chugging along since last October. I think where
28 we left off was our coho run not looking like it was
29 doing so well and it didn't really seem to do very well
30 at all, which was kind of a low point on an overall
31 pretty decent fishing season. We had some restrictions
32 at the sport level on coho harvest in the fall, which
33 were not imposed on Federal subsistence users obviously
34 so the sport fishermen weren't allowed to fish with
35 bait and they had their limit cut.

36
37 Winter has been winter for once. We
38 have had some snow and some colder temperatures, a
39 couple of storms. We're sitting on a snow pack for the
40 first time in a few years that looks like it will
41 persist in through spring. That will be good for
42 streams and our salmon resources.

43
44 Up in the Lower Copper, though, seems
45 to be a little bit funny this year. The temperatures
46 have been sort of high. We've been watching, you know,
47 Miles Lake, sort of neighborhood, a little bit north of
48 there, high temperatures, high snow pack, reports of
49 the ice on the river being very thin with abundant snow
50

1 on top of it. So not the best place to travel around
2 these days.

3
4 I haven't gotten after it very much
5 myself but it seems like there's a fairly good number
6 of king salmon around this year, which is excellent.

7
8 And everybody's gearing up to go out
9 and harvest tanner crab these days. The subsistence
10 fisheries on and the commercial fishery is about to
11 fire off here.

12
13 So that's Cordova.

14
15 Oh, and I think there was a fairly good
16 deer harvest this year, from what I heard, we haven't
17 had reports yet but it seems like there's a good number
18 of deer around.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.
21 Those are the early kings you were talking about
22 showing up.

23
24 MR. WHISSEL: The winter kings, yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Winter kings,
27 yeah. Thank you.

28
29 Andy.

30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, for Chenega Bay
32 and Western Prince William Sound, I think a lot of
33 significant climate change things still taking place.
34 A lot of the report would be very much like what
35 happened in October, and mentioned in Seward.

36
37 Our bear numbers seem to be on a good
38 increase from that bad low we had a little while back.
39 I'm not sure what caused that. I don't think we're up
40 to an average year for, you know, my few decades there.

41
42 Our reds were late. And silvers, same
43 as Cordova, basically next to none. Late into the fall
44 we were hoping they were just going to be late but it
45 just kind of never happened.

46
47 Very significant thing to the
48 communities out there is this warmer waters, even by
49 slight degree change has the Center for Disease Control
50

1 giving us reports of, you know, paralytic shellfish
2 poisoning in Southeast and in places like Kodiak,
3 which is basically our waters because it's like a big
4 river that just kind of flows through us too from those
5 places and to those places. So people have not been
6 harvesting clams, which is a very significant impact to
7 subsistence use resource out there.

8
9 Currently, probably out of my 27 years
10 there this might be the fifth deepest snow in Western
11 Prince William Sound that I've seen. I'm a little bit
12 worried about deer population, they always take a hit.
13 You know we had the snowpocalypse event several years
14 ago and this is nothing compared to that snow, we did
15 get a little reprieve with some rain knocking it down a
16 little bit but that kind of made the base layer harder.

17
18 Anyhow some concerns about the goat
19 population, too.

20
21 Like what was mentioned last fall, our
22 berry crops were an amazing abundance. The --
23 typically a function of our spring pollination, the
24 events that happen in the spring and the weather that
25 enable the insects to do that pollinating. First time
26 ever that I've noticed though a simultaneously berry
27 ripening event that happened in all elevations. It
28 wasn't -- typically it's timed and it's early, at low
29 elevation, at sea level and slowly as time goes on the
30 berries are ripening on the way up the mountain to the
31 top but this time entirely across the board all at once
32 in timing everything was ripe, which I'd never seen
33 that before. I'm not quite sure what climate change
34 event made that happen.

35
36 So, you know, seeing these climate
37 change things happening I think it, you know, has
38 affected the ability to go harvest goats, even the king
39 salmon trolling, things like that that happened in the
40 community is not happening because weather is kind of
41 funky. And so I think that warrants extended seasons
42 in areas that are designated as Federal versus State as
43 to whether people can start using these resources more
44 efficiently.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.

49
50

1 Gloria.

2
3 MS. STICKWAN: We had a cold winter,
4 more than usual. It's been a -- it's supposed to be 30
5 below tonight from what I hear. It's continuing to
6 stay cold, hopefully it'll warm up pretty soon.

7
8 We had a SRC meeting on February 25th
9 and we made comments on the Unit 13 caribou which
10 somebody will talk about later.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Gloria.

14
15 Go ahead, Aaron.

16
17 MR. BLOOMQUIST: All right. I haven't
18 seen you guys, I missed the last meeting. So probably
19 maybe cover something somebody else covered.

20
21 But in the Copper Valley last summer we
22 kind of had a -- well, I guess I'd call it a mediocre
23 fish run, it wasn't terrible, it wasn't great, but kind
24 of kept everybody busy. I think the people with the
25 wheels got plenty and dipnetters probably did too,
26 sportfishing was okay.

27
28 Crazy warm summer last year that
29 allowed for a lot more swimming and playing with the
30 kids than fishing, probably.

31
32 Fall I was in the Arctic mostly so I
33 don't have a real good report, although I understand
34 that the Nelchina Caribou Herd are doing pretty good
35 still and most people are finding those that have tags.
36 My wife actually got a tag this year so somebody else
37 drew one.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. BLOOMQUIST: And I drew an elk tag
42 last year, that's why I wasn't with you guys. I had an
43 Afognak elk tag and that was a really interesting, fun
44 place to be, I'd never been there so it was really
45 neat.

46
47 As Gloria said, the Copper Valley is
48 pretty cold, I haven't spent a ton of time out there
49 this winter, I've been mostly in the Mat-Su Valley. I
50

1 sit on the Mat-Su AC now, too, and that committee was
2 pretty successful with a lot of their proposals at the
3 Board of Fish meeting. They got a little dipnet
4 fishery on the Susitna and honestly I'm not the fish
5 guy on that committee so if Andy Couch was here he
6 could tell you a whole heck of a lot more. But I know
7 the fish contingent was happy, so probably to the
8 behest of maybe some Lower Cook Inlet commercial stuff,
9 but.

10

11 I guess that's about it. I've got a
12 brand new baby at home so I'm loving life and we're
13 looking at starting a -- kind of in the infancy process
14 of starting a summer camp for kids out in the Copper
15 Valley to kind of teach them about what we do more and
16 been talking with Ahtna some with that and hopefully it
17 will happen. Our schedule is like 2022, long-term
18 stuff.

19

20 But anyways, that's me.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Aaron,
23 great.

24

25 Ed.

26

27 MR. HOLSTEN: I think -- well, as most
28 of you know we had a tough season due to the fire in
29 the Cooper Landing area. A lot of businesses have, and
30 probably still are, have suffered quite a bit,
31 financially, because of the road closure and
32 cancellations, et cetera.

33

34 I know there's -- I've heard some
35 concern about, as a result of the fire, some soil
36 slippage that may occur in the Kenai River Canyon. If
37 you floated the Canyon you could see where that fire
38 came down and it was a very deep burn this year. So I
39 know there's local concern for that potential.

40

41 On the up side, we had a monstrous
42 sockeye run this year. As most of you know the sport
43 limit went up to nine a day creating traffic jams on
44 the Sterling Highway.

45

46 Like everybody else it's been a good
47 winter after many winters in Cooper Landing with very
48 little snow. We already had one snowmachine rider
49 fatality up at Cooper Lake, so people snowmachining

50

1 take care. It's been a good year for ice fishing.

2

3 The good news is snowshoe hare
4 populations finally are starting to come back up in the
5 Cooper Landing area.

6

7 And everybody's looking forward to a
8 good sockeye dipnetting season up at Russian River
9 Falls this year.

10

11 That's it, thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

14

15 MR. ZADRA: All right. Well, John did
16 a pretty good job of summarizing the Cordova area so I
17 won't belabor his points.

18

19 But, yeah, we are definitely having
20 what is deemed is more of a normal winter. And it
21 seems like I spend half of my time moving snow instead
22 of working on my other projects but it's good after the
23 hot summer we had last year, we definitely needed to
24 get the mountains repopulated with snow and it looks
25 like that's happening.

26

27 The little change to our Federal
28 subsistence moose hunt, bull/cow ratio was not as high
29 as people are used to and some guys were having a
30 harder time getting their bulls and so they dropped the
31 -- I just spoke with Milo and I hope I got my numbers
32 right, I think we're down to 30 bulls and -- but they
33 upped the cow harvest up to 40, I believe. So that's
34 doing good. The numbers themselves aren't bad, it's
35 just the bull/cow ratio.

36

37 And so -- and, again, as John said,
38 some of the guys that troll the kings out there are
39 saying it's the best season they've ever seen so a lot
40 of kings. A lot of these kings are Columbia River
41 kings and so it's not like the Copper River is going to
42 have a huge king run but it's just good to see that
43 there's good survivability of kings and, yeah,
44 everything's good. Optimistic.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's
47 great. Good reports. Now, I'm going to tell you a
48 little bit about my area here.

49

50

1 We did a pretty detailed report on our
2 fishery. I think, Ivan, from the Traditional Council
3 of Ninilchik might be here this afternoon to kind of
4 give you an update. He's on the agenda anyway. But
5 I'm not going to go into the fishing year, the stuff
6 that I talked at the Seward meeting, but I did have a
7 couple other things I wanted to report.

8
9 Jeff and Andy came down and met with
10 the Ninilchik Council, as we do, and we do a
11 coordination meeting and a government to government
12 relation and we had a good meeting. We reviewed our
13 fishery for the past year and everything else, and
14 we're having another one here in April. But things are
15 moving fine there and our fishery on the Kenai was just
16 awesome as I reported.

17
18 A couple things that I'm going to talk
19 about that are interesting that happened in Ninilchik
20 this winter, there's a -- you know, since we've had a
21 good winter, we've had some predator issues and I know
22 there's controversy of predator control but the
23 trappers have done, at least one, very well, on some
24 wolves that were taken out. In fact this trapper took
25 13 wolves, and I report this for -- just to show you
26 what's happening. Because of the burn, some of these
27 wolves were tagged, they were coming out of Unit 15A
28 and they were coming all the way from up past Kenai and
29 down in the Ninilchik area. We also were getting
30 wolves in the Ninilchik area from down in the Lower
31 Peninsula, which was interesting. So fire, whatever,
32 some of them, it's moved some of those around, but
33 we've got more than our share of wolves and we're just
34 getting the moose back. So, anyway, for what it's
35 worth that's what's going on there.

36
37 The snow pack is great. Good to see a
38 regular winter. In fact this is mild compared to some
39 of them but it's really nice, good to have snow and
40 cold and get things back to normal.

41
42 The Council down there met and this is
43 all State land and State issues, but the clams are a
44 huge area of our concern because they used to be one of
45 our biggest staples there in Ninilchik and, of course,
46 we have to harvest them on State land, so we don't have
47 any preference. But they've been closed in Ninilchik
48 for four years, maybe longer now. So everyone has to
49 go to the west side, take boats and go to the west
50

1 side. They're getting restricted over -- they're not
2 restricted over there but they're getting less clams
3 over there. So we had the biologist come up from Homer,
4 Mike Bose and he -- I mispronounce his last name, but,
5 anyway, he's very willing to work with the tribe to
6 maybe do some sampling on how well the clams are coming
7 back. He thought that there might be some opportunity
8 for some harvest there. Well, we told him we didn't
9 want to go harvesting because we know that they're not
10 quite ready yet, they're small. We're not going to
11 tell you how we know but we just know. So, anyway,
12 clams are an issue there. But maybe there's a slight
13 thing that they're starting to come back.
14

15 They did a draw, and you guys talk
16 about draw permits and we all put in for draw permits
17 too, but they did a new thing in the Ninilchik area
18 this year, and they had draw permits and I forget, it
19 was 15 for any bull, and someone could correct me if
20 I'm wrong, and I think one person from Ninilchik drew
21 one, one of the school teachers, but, anyway, they did
22 open it up, there's going to be some opportunity for
23 people to come down and take any bull in our area so
24 that might impact too.
25

26 Trappers did good. The snow's are
27 good. The clams -- oh, Board of Fish and the fishery,
28 that sucks, but, anyway, that's just the way it is.
29 But, you know, we'll talk about some of those issues.
30 There's some major changes that are going to affect the
31 way that -- I don't know that it'll affect our
32 subsistence because we're in the Federal up there on
33 the Kenai, and so we're good there, but as far as State
34 issues, kings, you know, we keep hearing -- and I found
35 this interesting because I listened and I read the
36 reports from last year and everyone had a pretty good
37 king year, but the Kenai kings, especially the large
38 kings are very concern, and so there's going to be
39 restrictions on those kings again. There's
40 restrictions for size, they increased the amount of the
41 escapement from 13,000 minimum to 15,000. They've
42 increased the escapement on the reds in the Kenai from
43 X to 1.1 million on the lower stock. So, anyway,
44 there's going to be some big changes for the commercial
45 people. I think the commercial, especially setnetters,
46 are going to be very impacted. So I'm hoping -- they
47 do a buy back and I get a draw and they buy my permit,
48 but, anyway, long story short.
49
50

1 So I'm just telling you that, there's
2 change, there's always change, some good, some bad.
3 Hopefully, you know, they're hoping to get some fish up
4 more the Susitna. I wish them luck but I don't think
5 so, those are mixed stocks and they just don't work
6 that way.

7
8 But, anyway, that's pretty much what I
9 have to report that's been additions from the winter,
10 and so that's what's going on in Ninilchik. And Ivan
11 will probably be here if you got questions for him in
12 the afternoon.

13
14 It's mentioned here that public, tribal
15 comments on non-agenda items are available every
16 morning just so people know if they want to talk about
17 anything.

18
19 According to my agenda we're now to old
20 business. And we got Number A under old business, we
21 got non-rural determination and Robbin are you going to
22 give us an update on that?

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
25 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
26 Robbin LaVine and I'm a Southcentral Regional Advisory
27 Council area anthropologist. And there's not a lot to
28 say in regards to the non-rural proposal 19-01.

29
30 As you'll recall, it went through
31 validation and then threshold and now we're in the
32 analysis and public process stage, which is going to
33 take place, kind of aligned with the fisheries
34 proposals, as they come in. There will be another
35 opportunity for public comment on this proposal at the
36 same time that the fisheries proposals for this cycle
37 are advertised for public comment. So, once, again,
38 there'll be an opportunity for anybody to comment on
39 that proposal then. And that should happen May, June,
40 around that time, there should be about a 60 day period
41 for public comment.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions,
46 anyone.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Robbin.

3
4 DeAnna, am I correct, are we going to
5 do B, the added deferred Wildlife Proposal 18-19 next?

6
7 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. And Chris
10 were you going to give us a story -- an update.

11
12 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
13 the record my name is Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife
14 Division supervisor here at OSM.

15
16 I'm not -- I will say that I'm going to
17 be mentioning this deferred proposal a little bit
18 later, I guess -- am I up next with the special action
19 update, is that next on the agenda after this?

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

22
23 MR. MCKEE: Okay. I might just wait to
24 mention the update on that because I'm not really
25 prepared to talk about any updates on the deferred
26 proposal other than to say that it's going to be
27 brought up at the Board's meeting in April. We have a
28 few other things in the works here, but nothing that I
29 really want to go into any detail in at this point.

30
31 So not really much that I can update
32 you on at this point, except to say that it absolutely
33 will be brought up to the Board at their April meeting
34 in Gakona.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's
37 cool. While you're here, did we move G up there and
38 that was Wildlife 20-01, special action, Unit 13
39 caribou?

40
41 MR. MCKEE: Yes. Yes, Mr. Chair. And
42 I actually have the request that we got that I will
43 give to DeAnna to hand out here.

44
45 Okay. Well, again, for the record I'm
46 Chris McKee, Wildlife Division supervisor at OSM, and
47 I'm going to be presenting some information concerning
48 wildlife special action request on WSA20-01 and the
49 Council is going to be asked to make a recommendation

50

1 on this request.

2

3 WSA20-01 was submitted by William
4 Amberg of Copper Center and requests a continuous
5 caribou season in Unit 13 from August 1 to March 31st
6 and that the caribou harvest limit in Unit 13 remainder
7 be changed from two bulls to two caribou for the
8 2020/2021, and also the 2021/22 regulatory year, so for
9 the next coming wildlife cycle, which is two years --
10 regulatory cycle.

11

12 The proponent notes that the State has
13 extended its fall season in recent years to September
14 30th, which matches the Federal season and precludes a
15 Federal subsistence priority. Additionally it's stated
16 that the caribou have been migrating through Federal
17 lands in October when the season is closed, precluding
18 any opportunity for Federally-qualified users. He also
19 notes safety concerns due to the high number of hunters
20 along the Richardson Highway and then increasing
21 harvest on the Nelchina Caribou Herd could help reduce
22 the size of this herd which is currently above
23 objectives and at risk of over-grazing its habitat.

24

25 Just as a quick background, the latest
26 regulatory history. In 2019 the Alaska Department of
27 Fish and Game extended the closing date of its fall
28 caribou season by 10 days from September 20 to
29 September 30th in order to help reduce the size of the
30 Nelchina Caribou Herd. The Nelchina Herd has exceeded
31 State management objectives in all years since 2010
32 with the exception of 2018. The State management goal
33 for the herd is 35 to 40,000 animals, and as of 2019
34 the population estimate was at 53,500 animals. If the
35 herd numbers are not reduced the range quality and
36 long-term herd stability may be compromised. As a
37 note, the Mentasta Herd is a small caribou herd that
38 primarily ranges in Units 11, 12 and 20E, however,
39 given the proximity of Unit 13 to the Mentasta Herd's
40 range, some Mentasta caribou could be present in Unit
41 13 during the hunting season. Substantial conservation
42 concerns exist for this herd due to its low population,
43 which as of 2019 was at 479 animals, and also due to
44 its chronic low recruitment. However, about 20
45 Mentasta caribou have active radio collars, which would
46 assist agency Staff in determining whether or not
47 Mentasta caribou are present in Unit 13.

48

49 The Nelchina Caribou Herd's population

50

1 is primarily controlled by harvest and harvest quotas
2 are adjusted annually to achieve management objectives.
3 95 percent of the harvest from the Nelchina Herd occurs
4 in Unit 13. Currently the State is managing the
5 Nelchina Caribou hunt to reduce herd size through high
6 harvest quotas and any caribou harvest limit and season
7 extensions. While there is no targeted hunt for
8 Mentasta caribou because of conservation concerns, as I
9 mentioned before, some incidental harvest may occur
10 when hunting for Nelchina caribou.

11
12 One alternative considered is to
13 delegate authority to the Federal in-season manager to
14 open and close a may be announced season between
15 October 1 and 20 and to set restrictions -- set sex
16 restrictions in Unit 13 remainder for the 2020/2022
17 regulatory cycle, which would allow flexibility in
18 responding to changing herd and/or environmental
19 conditions. I should note that the BLM Glennallen
20 Field Office manager already has delegated authority to
21 set sex restrictions in Units 13A and 13B.

22
23 Adopting this proposal would increase
24 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
25 users. The season has historically been closed in
26 October due to the rut, which renders mature bulls
27 unpalatable and hunting during this time could disrupt
28 breeding. However, users could still harvest cows and
29 young bulls during an October season and since the
30 current management goal is herd reduction, disruption
31 of breeding is not as much of a concern as it would be
32 at other times. Minimal conservation concerns exist
33 for the Nelchina Herd as its population currently
34 exceeds objectives and overgrazing of its habitat is a
35 concern. However, events reducing the size and
36 recruitment of the herd are possible as evidenced by
37 the population decline in 2018. In this case increased
38 total harvest and cow harvest could become a
39 conservation concern and then, again, while some
40 incidental take of Mentasta Caribou Herd may occur, the
41 likelihood of this is relatively small.

42
43 So with that, Mr. Chair, and members of
44 the Council I'd be happy to field any questions.

45
46 Although I will note that yesterday at
47 its meeting, the Eastern Interior Council considered
48 this special action and the Council supported this
49 special action with modification to only change the
50

1 harvest limit in Unit 13 remainder from two bulls to
2 two caribou. The Council agreed that with the
3 recommendation from the Wrangell-St.Elias Subsistence
4 Resource Commission to support the change in harvest
5 limit but not change the season. The Council stated
6 that changing the harvest limit would provide increased
7 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
8 users and could benefit the herd by helping to reduce
9 its population. The Council did not support an October
10 season as it would occur during the rut when bulls are
11 inedible. The Council was concerned about potential
12 wanton waste issues from users harvesting rutting
13 bulls.

14
15 So I just wanted to give you that
16 latest update, that it was in fact taken up by the
17 other Council with C&T for this herd in Unit 13.

18
19 So, with that, Mr. Chair, I'd be happy
20 to answer any questions.

21
22 I should also note as an aside that we
23 have two other special actions that are related to
24 caribou in Unit 13, WSA -- one of which was submitted
25 by Ahtna which is kind of an identical proposal to
26 their previous special action and through the deferred
27 proposal 18-19, and we also have another proposal
28 that's asking for Federal public lands in Unit 13 to be
29 closed to non-Federally-qualified users in that area as
30 well. Both of these special actions have been
31 validated but we're not going to move forward on them
32 until after the Board's meeting in April because it's
33 possible that the Board could take some actions that
34 would render both of those special actions moot. So
35 we're not going to move forward with the analysis
36 process until after -- if needed, until after the
37 meeting in Gakona.

38
39 So a lot of new information there but I
40 wanted to give you guys all the -- the full skinny on
41 what's going on there, so if you have any questions I'd
42 be happy to answer them.

43
44 Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Chris.
47 It was a good overview. I'm sure we got some questions
48 from the Council.

49
50

1 Go ahead, Gloria.

2
3 MS. STICKWAN: Did you say the
4 population's 53,500 in 2019, is there a current number?

5
6 MR. MCKEE: That's the latest number we
7 have, yes.

8
9 And also in case you're interested and
10 maybe I can get DeAnna to hand this out, I do have
11 copies of the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC recommendation on
12 this, too, just for your information.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
17 Chair. What data was used for the over-grazing?

18
19 MR. MCKEE: It was more just a fact
20 that the current management objective of the herd is
21 about 15,000 or so animals lower than what the current
22 herd is so they're kind of worried that they're going
23 to kind of -- with that number of animals, they're
24 worried about them kind of eating themselves out of
25 house and home. And as I mentioned before, a lot of
26 the management is geared towards controlling the herd
27 through harvest. So this special action would
28 certainly achieve that on the Federal side.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got a question.
31 Is the winter -- this winter affecting them at all, the
32 snow up there, or nothing?

33
34 MR. MCKEE: You know, I don't know, I'm
35 not -- I can't answer that question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

38
39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Greg, maybe just
40 anecdotal from people I know, you know, a lot of -- the
41 Nelchina, a lot of them winter north of the range too
42 and it's just a pretty normal winter out there, I don't
43 know that.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:I mean maybe in
48 the Copper Basin, the ones that are left there there's
49 quite a bit of snow but probably not north of the
50

1 range.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good info.
4 Okay, go ahead, Chris.

5

6 MR. MCKEE: I should also mention just
7 as a process that, because this is a temporary special
8 action we are going to be holding a public hearing for
9 this, but, again, we're still kind of early in the
10 process and the fact that this Council meeting came up
11 during a time after we've gotten the request, that's
12 why I'm presenting it here, but we still have to go
13 through that process. So the Board will not be acting
14 on that until we have that public hearing, we
15 incorporate the comments from the public into the
16 analysis and it won't be ready to go to the Board until
17 after that meeting.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's got a
20 process to go through but we could make a
21 recommendation here is what you're looking for?

22

23 MR. MCKEE: Correct, yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

26

27 Gloria.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Wrangell-St. Elias was
30 to keep it to two any caribou in Unit 13 and to keep
31 the existing season.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.

34

35 Andy.

36

37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I don't know if
38 I'm rushing it, Greg, but I guess I would move that we
39 concur with the Wrangell-St. Elias recommendation. It
40 seems reasonable to -- it seems reasonable to make it
41 two caribou but we generally don't harvest caribou in
42 October and it's probably going to result in more waste
43 than anything. So I move that we concur with the
44 Wrangell-St. Elias Park Subsistence Resource Commission
45 recommendation.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
48 second.

49

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
4 Gloria. So it's on the table here.

5

6 Go ahead, DeAnna.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. This is not
9 currently an action item for the Council. I don't know
10 if the Council wants to take action on this prior to an
11 analysis and hearing the Office of Subsistence
12 Management analysis and a proper recommendation in the
13 fall or after the public meeting.

14

15 MR. MCKEE: No, this is an action item.
16 Yeah, because we don't know what the scheduling is
17 going to be that's why I presented the overview. I
18 mean part of the problem we have is that we're still
19 early in the process. We don't have a formal analysis
20 that I could actually hand out for you but I gave you
21 the gist of the biology and the harvest history. We
22 didn't just want to submit the request to you because
23 in order to make a recommendation, we want you to make
24 an informed recommendation and so I think I gave you
25 the gist of what you would need to know to make a
26 recommendation.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I believe
29 that we could make a recommendation unless someone
30 wants to tell me that we can't, but I think we can make
31 the recommendation based on Chris' analysis.

32

33 And so I got a motion -- a move to do
34 so and a second and so we are open for discussion.

35

36 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Just a question for
37 Chris. So if I'm understanding it right, the Board is
38 likely to act on this request at the April meeting, or
39 not?

40

41 MR. MCKEE: I would seriously doubt
42 that.

43

44 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay.

45

46 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, because, again, we
47 have to schedule a public hearing. That requires a
48 couple of weeks notice in order to do that, and then
49 we'd have to incorporate those comments, and the

50

1 analysis has to go through another level of review with
2 the InterAgency Staff Committee before it's ready to go
3 to the Board, and so given the short time period and,
4 frankly, we're gearing up for the meeting and Staffing,
5 I just don't see the Board being able to take it up at
6 its April meeting. It's not on the agenda for that
7 meeting at this time.

8
9 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Which meeting would be
10 the target then likely?

11
12 MR. MCKEE: It would most likely be --
13 I would -- I don't want to try to guess but best
14 estimate would be a Board teleconference that they
15 would act on it, but it would be open to the public to
16 either attend or listen on the phone.

17
18 MR. BLOOMQUIST: But before our October
19 meeting?

20
21 MR. MCKEE: Yes, the goal is to that we
22 want the Board to act on this before the season would
23 start, which is August 1st.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's why we're
26 going to make our recommendation.

27
28 Okay, I got a motion and seconded. I
29 got a valid motion on the table. We've got into
30 discussion and we've asked questions. Any other.

31
32 Go ahead, Gloria.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say I
35 support this because it'll give opportunity for the
36 subsistence to take any caribou in Unit 13 remainder
37 and to keep the season the same so that the bulls won't
38 be disturbed during the rutting season. And it would
39 -- keeping the season as it is would -- people wouldn't
40 be allowed to take caribou during the rutting season
41 which would be a waste of meat so that's why I support
42 this proposal.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Gloria,
45 good. John.

46
47 MR. WHISSEL: I think the only question
48 I would have is how the herd will adapt to the shift of
49 pressure on cows but it's a pretty modest harvest for
50

1 the Federally-qualified users so I think it seems
2 pretty reasonable to me to provide that opportunity.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.
5 Any other comments or questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, are
10 we ready for a question.

11
12 MR. WHISSEL: Call the question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
15 called on the motion for a recommendation only, and it
16 may be moot but we're going to do it.

17
18 Go ahead, Chris.

19
20 MR. MCKEE: Just one more thing before
21 -- so my understanding is that you're going to support
22 as modified by the Wrangell-St.Elias SRC; is that
23 correct?

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.

26
27 MR. MCKEE: Okay, thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So carries.

38
39 Thank you, Chris.

40
41 MR. MCKEE: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, I
44 appreciate you trying to keep us out of trouble but I
45 hope that's okay.

46
47 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I think I got lost in
48 a different special action so I apologize to the
49 Council.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's okay.

2

3 MS. PERRY: And I thank Chris for his
4 clarification.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we're
7 okay. Okay, thank you. Not quite time for a break yet
8 so hang on.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, where are
13 we at. We got -- we added that, and we moved -- are we
14 ready for new business.

15

16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, yeah, we
19 moved the one up on new business so we took that first,
20 so let's go back now to 11A, call for Federal fish and
21 shellfish proposals, OSM.

22

23 Scott, you got the floor.

24

25 MR. AYERS: I'm ready.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you shoot.

28

29 MR. AYERS: Okay. Mr. Chair. Members
30 of the Council. I'm going to be providing you on an
31 update regarding three programmatic areas. The
32 Fisheries Regulatory Cycle, the Fisheries Resource
33 Monitoring Program, and the Partners Program. These
34 should be brief, which will fall in line with the rest
35 of how this meeting seems to be going so far but please
36 do ask questions and I'll be happy to answer them as
37 best as I am able.

38

39 So we'll begin with the fisheries
40 cycle.

41

42 The Federal Subsistence Board is
43 accepting proposals this spring to change the Federal
44 regulations for subsistence take of fish and shellfish
45 on Federal public lands and waters for the 2021 to 2023
46 regulatory cycle. You can find a flier starting on
47 Page 14 of your books that describes how to submit a
48 regulatory proposal. The Board will consider proposals
49 to change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest

50

1 limits, methods of harvest and customary and
2 traditional use determinations until April 20th. So
3 we've got a bit of time still that this is open.
4

5 There's a number of ways that proposals
6 may be submitted.
7

8 If the Council has a proposal that
9 they'd like to submit now or any individuals, you may
10 do so, we can discuss that. You can also submit
11 proposals to OSM through the Council coordinator, by
12 hand or by mail, and we can assist in drafting
13 proposals if anyone would like. There's also an online
14 process outlined more clearly in that flier that's in
15 the books. These proposals will be analyzed and
16 presented to the Councils during this fall meeting for
17 Council recommendations. Proposals and analysis and
18 Council recommendations will then be presented to the
19 Federal Subsistence Board in January of 2021 at the
20 Fisheries regulatory cycle meeting.
21

22 In addition, this cycle we'll be
23 conducting reviews of closures in the fisheries
24 regulations, similar to what the wildlife regulations
25 just did. There are 32 fisheries closures statewide.
26 There is only one in this region within the Cook Inlet
27 Area and I just looked it up and it is a closure to the
28 harvest of grayling and burbot for subsistence purposes
29 and it covers the whole Cook Inlet area. And so we'll
30 take a look at that at that point in time.
31

32 So if there's any questions or if the
33 Council has any proposals they'd like to discuss, this
34 is the time.
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question is does
37 the Council have any proposals they want to propose or
38 talk about, work on. I know we got a little bit of
39 time. So you know all the areas to do, you can put
40 them in yourself, you could do them on line, you could
41 encourage your co-people to get them in on time but
42 however you want to do it, you could wrestle with them,
43 whatever. But now is the time, we got a little window.
44

45 MR. WHISSEL: Well, one of the issues
46 that the tribe is likely to take up in the upcoming
47 cycle, and there's a Board of Fish fisheries cycle as
48 well so I'm not sure exactly how this is going to
49 settle out.
50

1 We have -- our salmon harvest is
2 connected to the State harvest on a single limit, and
3 that works pretty well, for the most part, you know,
4 not having a separate limit for Federal subsistence
5 users, however, pink salmon and chum salmon sort of
6 fall outside of that. So the limit is 15 fish for the
7 head of the household, 15 fish for the second member,
8 and then 10 for each additional member, and you can't
9 use -- whatever you harvest on the State counts against
10 your Federal, whatever you harvest on your Federal
11 counts against the State; it's one limit between the
12 two subsistence fisheries. We have people that want to
13 use higher volumes of fish. So those are pretty
14 conservative limits, you know, for the size of the
15 resource we have there and the need we have. People
16 want to use more pinks and chums for, you know,
17 different sorts of things. They want to get those fish
18 in higher numbers, and currently there's some ability
19 on Federal subsistence to go ask -- you know, you can
20 go see Milo and say, hey, there's a lot of pinks, maybe
21 I want to go get some extra and good chance you may get
22 a chance to do that, but we want to just sort of
23 memorialize that in regulation that those two salmon
24 resources are different and maybe deserve their own
25 discreet set of limits. And I think the best way to do
26 that would be to have it done, just like we have the
27 other one, where it's both on Federal subsistence and
28 State with a single limit between the two and we have
29 an opportunity with this cycle coming up now to get
30 both of those going.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks for that
33 info, so you're going to put in a proposal for that
34 probably?
35

36 MR. WHISSEL: I think that's pretty
37 likely for the State and likely for the Federal
38 subsistence also.
39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay, you
41 still have time, if you think of one let us know and
42 we'll go back to it, or whatever, but go ahead, Scott,
43 I'll let you move on.
44

45 MR. AYERS: Okay, great. And that's
46 good to know, John, thank you.
47

48 All right, so into the Fisheries
49 Resource Monitoring Program. We are currently in the
50

1 final phase of the 2020 Monitoring Program Funding
2 cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met on January
3 28th and made recommendations about the final funding
4 plan. Once the Office of Subsistence -- once we get
5 our final budget, which we have received half of that
6 at this point in time and we're desperately waiting on
7 the other half to show up. Then the Assistant Regional
8 Director for our office will approve a funding plan and
9 all applicants will be notified of the status of their
10 submissions. So we are right down to the wire on this
11 and we're trying to get everything lined up so that as
12 soon as we get the word we can get that process rolling
13 and projects funded.

14
15 So with the 2020 cycle nearing
16 finalization, it's time for the Council's to begin to
17 develop the priority information needs for the 2022
18 cycle. So as soon as one ends we start up another one.

19
20 The priority information needs are
21 obviously an important component of the FRMP program as
22 they identify issues of local concerns and knowledge
23 gaps related to subsistence fisheries and they're based
24 on the input from the Regional Advisory Councils.

25
26 The priority information needs
27 determine which types of projects that the Councils for
28 each region consider important and provide a framework
29 for evaluating and selecting project proposals. So
30 similar to the last cycle we are asking for several
31 Council members to volunteer to meet telephonically
32 over the summer to identify knowledge gaps and
33 information needed for management of subsistence
34 fisheries in the region. Volunteers will review a list
35 of the priority information needs from the last few
36 cycles and the list of which projects have been funded,
37 from those PINS they will then discuss whether the
38 projects have addressed the previous needs, the
39 potential to reuse previous information needs and then
40 also the development of new priority information needs
41 to address issues that the Council has identified.

42
43 So we are trying to get folks together
44 to kind of hash through some of this stuff before we
45 get to the fall meeting. The results of the telephonic
46 meeting will be presented to each respective Council
47 during their fall meeting to help jump start the
48 discussion. Councils will formally make a motion to
49 adopt priority information needs at that meeting and
50

1 start a whole new monitoring program funding cycle.

2

3 So at this point in time we're just
4 looking to see if there are any individuals with this
5 Council that are interested in participating over the
6 summer.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's a
9 good question. Remind me who we had before, we had a
10 couple on there.

11

12 MR. AYERS: Gloria has
13 participated.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

16

17 MR. AYERS:several times. Ricky
18 Geese also participated.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's right.

21

22 MR. AYERS: As did Judy Caminer.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Gloria,
25 would you like to volunteer again?

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You got one. Is
30 there anyone else that would like to work with them.

31

32 MR. WHISSEL: I'll volunteer also.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John, okay,
35 great. There you go. Anyone else. There you go,
36 you're good to go for awhile.

37

38 MR. AYERS: Perfect, thank you. Okay.

39

40 And the last part here is just a brief
41 update on our Partners Program. The last Partners
42 Program cycle began in January of this year and the
43 four year term extends until the end of 2023. Matt
44 Piche with the Native Village of Eyak is here to speak
45 with you about that program right after I finish up.

46

47 And that effectively wraps up my
48 presentation on fisheries related items. So unless
49 anyone's got any other questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, thank
2 you, Scott.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Matt.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You folks on the
11 phone, Matt's going to do a presentation. I don't know
12 if he could send it to you sometime or whatever, but
13 we're going to be listening and watching something.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 MR. PICHE: Well, I'll just start
20 talking and we'll let that work itself out.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. PICHE: And, DeAnna, I do have a
25 copy here if you need the copy.

26
27 Okay. So my name is Matt Piche, I am
28 the Partners Program fish biologist for the Native
29 Village of Eyak in Cordova and I'm here today to
30 present on the Copper River Salmon Monitoring Program.

31
32 This is a program that was established
33 in 2003 by the Native Village of Eyak and this is
34 funded through the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
35 Subsistence Management, Partners for Fisheries
36 Monitoring Program, Fisheries Resource Monitoring
37 Program, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish, and
39 the Copper River Marketing Association.

40
41 So just to give you a brief overview.

42
43 This chinook salmon monitoring program,
44 we've also done some sockeye salmon work, but I'm just
45 going to be focusing on chinook salmon today. It's
46 responsible for determining the in-river abundance
47 estimate of Copper River chinook salmon on an annual
48 basis. And this is a lower river mixed stock analysis.
49 This occurs in Baird Canyon and it's the amount of

50

1 chinook salmon passing through Baird Canyon on an
2 annual basis. Because there's no harvest occurring in
3 this area where we're conducting this mark/recapture
4 study, we're able to simply add the commercial harvest
5 and flat subsistence harvest to get an estimate of
6 total returning run size each year and we're also able
7 to subtract the in-river harvest from the subsistence,
8 personal use and sportfisheries to get a system-wide
9 spawning escapement. That data is -- the harvest data
10 is calculated by the National Park Service and Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game. And that data's used to
12 determine if the annual sustainable escapement goal of
13 24,000 or more chinook salmon has been met.

14
15 And that is the wrong presentation,
16 just so you guys know, over there.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. PICHE: It'll be the -- yep, the
21 one all the way on the bottom, thank you. Perfect.

22
23 So in 2019 we added a whole another
24 component to this study. And we were taking 650 radio
25 tags, esophageal radio tags and we're putting those in
26 chinook salmon. Now, those are active radio
27 transmitters so we're able to use these tags and track
28 these fish as they migrate through the entire
29 watershed.

30
31 And if you want to go back one slide,
32 please. Thank you.

33
34 And so by having the data to track --
35 having the ability to track a chinook salmon as it
36 migrates through the whole entire system gives you a
37 whole bunch of data and all of these fish have
38 individual unique ID, unique frequency radio tags so
39 we're actually able to identify the individual as it
40 swims past one of our telemetry towers or as we fly
41 over in a plane with our telemetry aerial surveys. So
42 what this provides is distribution data. So, you know,
43 we're doing -- we're getting an estimate down at Baird
44 Canyon that's a mixed stock, that's all the fish coming
45 up, but it's important to know what percentages of the
46 fish are returning to each drainage throughout the
47 whole watershed. So this provides distribution data on
48 a -- at a system-wide level and also within tributary
49 drainages because we're doing these aerial surveys. We
50

1 can actually go into these tributaries and find the
2 spawning areas of chinook salmon.
3

4 Now, with all this data we're also able
5 to collect stock specific run timing so we can figure
6 out when each specific stock is migrating through Baird
7 Canyon. And we are also able to combine this with the
8 in-river abundance data and the population estimate to
9 derive stock specific abundance, so the actual
10 population estimates of the individual stocks making it
11 up to the spawning grounds.
12

13 We use two project sites. A marking
14 site in Baird Canyon, a recapture site in Wood Canyon,
15 and we operate our fishwheels 24/7, May through July.
16

17 So first -- oh, sorry, next slide
18 please.
19

20 So for the 2019 population estimate of
21 Copper River chinook salmon through Baird Canyon we had
22 43,714 chinook salmon. Again, this is in-river
23 abundance through Baird Canyon on the lower river. For
24 the study we marked 4,685 chinook salmon, we examined
25 2,646 and of those 2,646, 297 had originally been
26 tagged down in Baird Canyon. Standard error on this
27 estimate is 3,143 and the lower 95 percent confidence
28 interval and upper are stated there as well.
29

30 Now, one important thing that I'd like
31 to point out this year and we've been very clear every
32 time we release this data, we had to end our sampling
33 operations at Baird Canyon early this year due to
34 flooding and unsafe river conditions for our crews and
35 for our gear, we actually pulled our fishwheels on July
36 2nd. Passage of chinook salmon likely occurred after
37 this date. Historically we've operated the fishwheels
38 from anywhere from zero to eight more days and the
39 range of catch that we've had after this date has been
40 from 87.9 percent of our catch all the way up to 100
41 percent of our catch by July 2nd. So we think we
42 really have a very close estimate but we certainly
43 missed fish at the end of the season and unfortunately
44 we have no way to estimate what that missed percentage
45 is with the mark/recapture data. Fortunately ADF&G is
46 conducting some sonar studies at the same time so we're
47 hoping to use some of that sonar data to inform what we
48 may have missed through Baird Canyon.
49
50

1 So in summary, the 43,714 is likely
2 biased low.

3
4 Next slide please.

5
6 So just a brief summary of what
7 happened in terms of harvest.

8
9 2019 in-river harvest has not been put
10 out yet. But 2018 was recently released. And in 2018
11 the -- actually kind of the big change that we saw in
12 2018 was a historical peak for total subsistence
13 harvest, that's State and Federal combined on the
14 Copper River, and it was just under 8,000 chinook
15 salmon. And actually for the first time ever that was
16 greater than the commercial harvest. Commercial
17 harvest in 2018 harvested about 7,000, 7.5 thousand
18 chinook salmon. And total in-river, which includes
19 subsistence, sport and personal use, that number was
20 right around 10,000 chinook salmon in 2018.

21
22 And preliminary data shows that results
23 are anticipated to be similar in 2019 as they were in
24 2018 in terms of harvest but, again, I haven't seen any
25 of those published numbers yet, it's just been
26 communications with managers.

27
28 Next slide please.

29
30 So to get into the really cool radio
31 telemetry study that we're doing. On the left hand
32 side, all those little green dots are the telemetry
33 towers, those are fixed stations that we have and any
34 time a chinook salmon passes by there it's recorded, we
35 have its unique ID, we know when it passed and how long
36 it took to get by. Now, because these towers aren't --
37 they don't detect 100 percent of the fish passing by,
38 you're going to have fish that gets missed, we also
39 combine this with aerial surveys over the entire
40 drainage so that really helps increase the resolution
41 of this study.

42
43 In 2019 approximately 59 percent of
44 radiotagged chinook salmon made it into the spawning
45 areas. This is spot on with previous radio telemetry
46 studies that have been done on the Copper River. In
47 fact, the 2004 was a really similar year on the Copper
48 in terms of water flow and water temperatures. A lot
49 of water coming down the river, really really high

50

1 temperatures in the Upper Copper and 59 percent made it
2 through that year as well.

3
4 So this is -- this shows our -- the
5 estimates -- the amount of fish that we're able to use
6 in the data set, like basically our sample size, and
7 the rest is just data loss. That data loss includes
8 in-river fish that were harvested in-river, tag
9 failure, tags that are regurgitated, these fish don't
10 necessarily enjoy having a tag in their throat so
11 sometimes they just puke it up, and also in-river
12 mortality.

13
14 Next slide please.

15
16 Okay.

17
18 And so here is the distribution of the
19 fish that were classified as spawning and making it up
20 into the tributaries. And what we found is that
21 distribution in 2019 was right within the previous
22 observed ranges. This study was conducted by ADF&G
23 back in 1999 as well as from 2002 and 2004, and the
24 only outlier on that is the Klutina, the Klutina
25 actually had 14 percent of the spawning population
26 going up into that drainage, which was higher than the
27 previous range. Everything else fell right within the
28 range that was previously observed. And here we can
29 see the Chitina is the largest producer and followed by
30 the Upper Copper, those two tributaries alone represent
31 over half of the chinook salmon population. That's
32 followed by the Gulkana, the Klutina, the Tonsina and
33 the Tazlina drainages.

34
35 Next slide please.

36
37 So another cool thing that we can use
38 this data for is we can look at the aerial surveys that
39 ADF&G conducts on an annual basis. Every year for like
40 the last 30-plus years they've conducted aerial
41 surveys. These nine streams are ones that have been
42 consistently flown in all study years. So it's
43 actually a pretty decent data set. So we can look at
44 where we detected our fish and how many of those fish
45 in each one of these drainages were located within one
46 of these streams that's flown by the aerial surveys.
47 In 2019, 39 percent of the chinook salmon population
48 that made it to the spawning grounds were located
49 within these nine aerial index streams and the take
50

1 home message here is that the majority of chinook
2 salmon are spawning outside of these aerial index
3 streams. The ADF&G telemetry study found similar
4 results in 2002 to 2004.

5

6

Next slide please.

7

8

9 So when we take the resolution and we
10 start looking at the individual drainages so here is
11 the Upper Copper River drainage, this is everything
12 above the -- up river of the Gulkana, so this includes
13 the Gakona, the Chistochina, the Slana River, we get
14 this -- this finer resolution and the highlight --
15 areas highlighted in pink are areas that are flown by
16 the ADF&G aerial visual surveys.

16

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And so 24 percent of the total spawning
escapement was estimated to return to the Upper Copper
River, these are the furthest migrants in the water
shed. These are also the earliest migrants coming
through. These are the first fish to hit the river and
they're traveling the farthest and coincidentally we
found that they're actually traveling the fastest too.
Estimated abundance is 8,000 with our confidence
intervals there, and telemetry flights to detect these
fish occurred on July 13th and August 1st.

And we have something like this for
every single drainage on the Copper, I just don't have
time to go through it all today so I just wanted to
give you a little taste of what this looks like and how
powerful this data can be.

Next slide please.

So we could also take things such as
the Gulkana River counting tower, and look at the
Gulkana River and figure out where these chinook salmon
are spawning within the Gulkana and how many of them
are actually passing over the Gulkana River counting
tower and spawning in areas above the counting tower.

When the very first radiotelemetry
study was done on the Copper River back in 2002 and
2003 and 2004, you know, they had estimates like 81
percent of all the Gulkana River chinook salmon were
going above the counting tower and that really helped
site in that tower and helped pick that location of
where it was going to go. Since then numbers have been

1 dropping and people have been wondering why and it's
2 because the chinook salmon are simply spawning
3 elsewhere in the Gulkana River system. And ADF&G
4 conducted a study in 2013 through 2015 and they were
5 finding between 45 and 54 percent of chinook in the
6 Gulkana were going above the tower; in 2019, it looks
7 like that increased a bit and we had 63 percent of the
8 chinook salmon going above the Gulkana tower.

9

10 Next slide please.

11

12 And just one last pitch, these are what
13 the tags look like. On the outside of the tag there is
14 an address, a name and address located on that, when
15 you harvest a fish or if you catch a fish you're going
16 to see a wire coming out of its mouth just like this,
17 and up on the top left that shows how big they are in
18 someone's hand, look at the right hand there, and if
19 you get any of these tags in fish that you are
20 intending to harvest, we ask that you remove the tag
21 and get it into ADF&G. These tags are about \$200
22 apiece and we can only use them for one season. So if
23 you wait until the following season to return it to us
24 we won't be able to use it. But what happened this
25 year is we were able to increase our sample size which
26 increases our resolution which gives us better data.
27 Tags that were returned to ADF&G, once we get enough of
28 them, we send a plane on to Baird camp and we deploy
29 these tags out if we get them before the chinook run
30 concludes. So please spread the word, if you guys see
31 these tags in these fish, on fish that you're
32 harvesting, please, please turn the tags back in.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 Next slide please.

37

38 And that's all I have, thank you.

39

40 Any questions.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Andy.

43

44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: What data is collected
45 by the tags, is it just the distribution location?

46

47 MR. PICHE: Yep, so the data that's
48 actually collected by the tags -- all the tag is doing
49 is just sending out a signal. So we have to have

50

1 receivers, those fixed station telemetry towers up and
2 down the system to detect that tag and so it's just
3 logging, it's just recording passage, basically, that's
4 all the tag is actually doing, is emitting a signal
5 that we're then picking up.

6

7

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So location?

8

9

MR. PICHE: Yep.

10

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: At each of those
towers, is there like dissolved oxygen and temperature
readings and other things going on in the data
collection, other factors in the environment?

MR. PICHE: We don't have any of that
set up, no. They're in pretty remote areas and it's
pretty challenging just to keep the towers on line, and
keep them going, so we haven't added any other data and
also we're not -- the towers aren't necessarily right
next to the river banks, sometimes they're up on a high
cliff overlooking the river because it's a radio
signal. And also the water on the Copper fluctuates so
much that we don't put them right near the water's
edge. So it'd be pretty difficult for us to get that
information from the water up to the recording site.
And it's a great idea and we would like to start adding
a big temperature component to this study and we're
looking to do that this year.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I used to do hatchery
work and there's dissolved oxygen meters that can just
be submerged and it'll give you temperatures, you can
come down and load that thing and it's got months and
months of data. It seems like you could toss one of
those out in the river at any one of those locations
where you're already taking people and then like maybe
four years down the road you could correlate the
conditions of the river environment to the marine
success survival of the ones that came back as adults
later.

MR. PICHE: That's a great suggestion,
thank you, we'll look into that, yeah.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

MS. STICKWAN: Could you put the tags
anywhere else on the kings?

1 MR. PICHE: No. We have to -- the
2 esophageal is -- this is pretty much the standardized
3 method that's been used for these fish. You really
4 don't want to inhibit their migration so attaching to
5 the outside, you would have to like sew it on in some
6 way and I'm not sure -- I think that would probably end
7 up doing more harm than good at the end of the day.
8 So, you know, the esophagus is just the standardized
9 way that you deploy these tags.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, thanks. It's
14 neat to -- this is the first presentation I've -- I've
15 got a counting tower on my property on the Klutina so
16 it's neat to see this. Just one question.

17

18 I think one of the early slides you had
19 2018 harvest and abundance data and there was some
20 precedence that that year that it was the highest
21 subsistence -- the first time the subsistence take was
22 more than a commercial take and I guess I got
23 distracted for a second, did you say you thought 2019
24 would be similar, because 2018 was a pretty darn unique
25 year on the Copper with the Cordova commercial fleet
26 shut down for a lot of the summer due to low sockeye
27 abundance and we had more kings in 2018 than we've had
28 since probably 2005?

29

30 MR. PICHE: Could we pull the
31 presentation back up for a second.

32

33 And so to answer your question, I don't
34 know, I haven't seen the 2019 data yet.

35

36 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay.

37

38 MR. PICHE: And that's going to come,
39 Dave Sarafin might have something to present in terms
40 of the Federal subsistence fisheries on that, and Mark
41 Somerville out of the Glennallen office would have the
42 State data but, again, they're working their way
43 through that. I think -- I don't even think the
44 mailout surveys for the sportfish are even due yet.

45

46 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay, yeah.

47

48 MR. PICHE: That stuff is like a year
49 -- usually a year behind on the State side of things.

50

1 Usually it's quite a bit quicker on the Federal side of
2 things.

3

4 But if we can go back a couple slides.
5 Keep going. Keep going. More. Couple more. Okay,
6 right there.

7

8 So, yeah, if you look in 2018, there is
9 this high harvest and, you know, these two graphs, the
10 bottom graph is zero to 80,000 chinook salmon whereas
11 the top graph is zero to 10. So everything on the top
12 graph is occurring within the first little bar range of
13 the bottom graph so there's -- that's an important
14 thing to remember. But also, you know, in 2018 we had
15 52,000 chinook salmon in-river.

16

17 If you'd go back one slide please.

18

19 So the last time we had 50,000 fish in
20 the river, you know, it's only happened once, it
21 happened in 2006, we had over 50,000 fish in the river,
22 we had actually closer to 70,000. And then in 2007 we
23 had really close to 50,000. So let's say we're going
24 to look at 2006/2007, which had similar in-river
25 abundance years and compare that to 2018.

26

27 If you'll go forward one slide please.
28 Nope, the other way -- there we go.

29

30 So looking back at 2006 and 2007, we
31 had really similar abundance in those years, in-river.
32 And we're still following the way out of, where we did,
33 in terms of subsistence harvest in 2006 and 2007, so,
34 you know, I don't know what exactly is going on and I
35 don't have the participation, the harvest ticket
36 numbers, how many people are actually utilizing the
37 fishery. But we have had years in the past, 2006 and
38 2007 where we have had close to the same amount of fish
39 in the river as we did in 2018.

40

41 So that's just something -- just
42 something to note.

43

44 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, that all makes
45 great sense and that big jump is personal -- or
46 subsistence dipnetters above the bridge, I can
47 confidentially say that probably but, you know, yeah,
48 it's interesting. Thanks.

49

50

1 MR. PICHE: Any other questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Was there a
6 change, a more lenient State subsistence regulations
7 that took place that can account for some of that, that
8 you're aware of?

9

10 MR. PICHE: Not that I'm aware of. But
11 I'm not the expert on that, someone from the State
12 could answer that more precisely. But, no, I don't
13 believe there's been any major changes in the
14 regulations at least.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John.

17

18 MR. WHISSEL: Well, one thing first in
19 response to Andy. There was some interesting
20 management decisions made in-river that year where
21 users were allowed to shift from one permit to the
22 other after having registered, and that may account for
23 them moving out of Wood Canyon and towards places where
24 they are targeting kings.

25

26 But that's.....

27

28 MR. PICHE: That was 2017.

29

30 MR. WHISSEL: Oh, sorry, okay, oops
31 that was the wrong year -- strike that from the record.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. WHISSEL: What I wanted to say is
36 that I get to work on this project with Matt, mostly
37 with Matt, I just turn him loose which is pretty easy
38 to do. We're super excited about this and where it's
39 going. All I can say is that poor Matt has to cut so
40 much great information out of this presentation. If
41 this is something that you guys think is interesting,
42 stay tuned, watch the reports coming out, we're going
43 to be doing more of this work. And sort of a priority
44 for our department, we're shifting towards watching
45 this stock and how it migrates more so than just
46 counting the fish. Hopefully Fish and Game will be
47 able to do that on sonar soon but this is the kind of
48 thing management really needs moving forward is to know
49 how the fish move through the system and where they go

50

1 for conservation.

2

3 So I'm really excited about it and I'm
4 sure Matt will talk your ear off after the meeting if
5 you give him a chance to.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great. Any other
8 questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, very
13 good.

14

15 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You thought I was
18 going to move on to review the annual report but I'm
19 not, I'm going to take a break. So we're going to take
20 a break for 10 minutes, take a stretch and then we'll
21 come back.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
28 you. And you guys on the phone if you need to speak up
29 just let me know. We're up on the agenda now, we're
30 moving into review of our 2019 annual report and
31 DeAnna, you're going to go through that with us.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 In your folder of supplemental
36 materials, actually I just kind of passed out another
37 version of that -- not another version, another copy of
38 that so you'd have it right in front of you. It's the
39 draft of the Council's 2019 annual report. It covers
40 several topics that were raised at the last meeting,
41 and if you guys need just a minute maybe to look that
42 over real quick we can take that and then the Council
43 can decide if there should be edits to the report and,
44 of course, that would include any additional topics
45 that you want to add. I can make those edits in real
46 time on the record here on my computer and then the
47 Council can take action. This is an action item, I
48 want to say it's really an action item and it's the
49 Council's responsibility to finalize the report by

50

1 either adding, subtracting or otherwise editing the
2 topics at this meeting.

3

4 So what would be the Council's wish.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
7 they've probably read it but I'm going to give them a
8 few minutes and let them take a look and anyone that
9 has any additions or corrections or anyone want a
10 deletion we'll consider that too. But you guys look it
11 over and Gloria, go ahead.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: Well, probably getting
14 ahead but I wanted to add to this report about the FACA
15 new regulations in place to reduce the number of seats
16 on the RAC. I have a concern about that. Because my
17 understanding is Southeast lost their representation
18 for Southeast. The representation throughout Southeast
19 is not covered and that my happen to -- I mean through
20 all the RACs there's been reduction in seats and that
21 concerns me because we may not have representation in
22 the future from all our Southcentral areas, you know,
23 and lack of representation will not help with ANILCA
24 or, you know, it'll be a concern -- ANILCA's supposed
25 to be providing for the RACs and I see this FACA Act as
26 a detriment to ANILCA because we won't be
27 representative -- have representation from all areas of
28 Southcentral and other RACs as well, if you understand
29 what I'm trying to say here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You said it very
32 well. Yeah, it's a concern so I think DeAnna's writing
33 it down there and that's certainly something we could
34 add if it's agreed with with the rest of the Council.

35

36 (Council nods affirmatively)

37

38 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Just to be
39 clear, Gloria, so we would be adding a topic to the
40 annual report that would address the recent Executive
41 Order regarding FACA committees and talking about the
42 detriment to the Regional Advisory Council
43 representation. That's in a nutshell what your point
44 is?

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, it's to the Federal
47 Board, for them to forward that concern on to the
48 Department of Interior.

49

50

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Gloria.

2
3 Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. You
6 guys got anything else you'd like to report as we put
7 it together before, anything else.

8
9 Andy.

10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. I
12 see number 3 there, fisheries and climate change, it
13 talks fisheries and salmon type stuff but major
14 concerns about shellfish, and not just fisheries stuff
15 but ocean acidification and pathogenic, you know,
16 paralytic shellfish poisoning and things like that.

17
18 Another thing, I'm not sure if it's for
19 this one, but maybe the next annual report, the stuff
20 that we hopefully we discuss today about jurisdictional
21 inadequacies in representing customary and traditional
22 use regions that are designated as State marine waters
23 instead of Federal, where people have lived there for
24 ions of time and not able to use that, so that's kind
25 of an important thing.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got the
28 shellfish added and what you said there, and DeAnna's
29 writing it down. And the jurisdiction issue is going
30 to get large and so we'll talk about that, it's on the
31 agenda.

32
33 Go ahead, John.

34
35 MR. WHISSEL: The only item I had is
36 I'm going to repeat what Andy said, I'd like to see in
37 number 3 in fisheries and climate change and ocean
38 acidification, focus on that, particularly on both
39 species that are harvested for subsistence but also in
40 food web impacts. I'd really like to see us sort of
41 shift our focus there.

42
43 Thanks.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good stuff.
46 Anyone else.

47
48 Okay, DeAnna, what do you conclude with
49 those two extra comments.

50

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. If the Council
2 is okay with that, I will add verbiage based on what
3 was discussed here regarding the FACA Executive Order
4 as well as ocean acidification on number 3, and then we
5 would need, at this meeting, if the Council is okay
6 with me doing those two changes, have a motion to
7 approve and a second so that we can finalize this
8 report.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
13

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.
15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
17 to approve as.....
18

19 MR. WHISSEL: Second.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:as
22 discussed. Seconded by John. Any discussion.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
27 All in favor, aye.
28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
32

33 (No opposing votes)
34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It carries.
36 Michael I didn't hear anything out there but I'm
37 assuming you're okay with it.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I said aye.
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. My ears
44 are getting about 70 years old so they're getting bad.
45

46 MR. OPHEIM: A plane was just taking
47 off from here so you might not have heard nothing but
48 plane.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: My ears are still
2 good then maybe.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're ready to
7 move on DeAnna, number -- we're under Denali National
8 Park Subsistence Resource Commission. Amy.

9
10 MS. CRAVER: Good morning, Mr. Chair
11 and members of the Council. For the record my name is
12 Amy Craver and I work at Denali National Park and
13 Preserve as their subsistence coordinator.

14
15 I'm here to update you on the status of
16 the two Southcentral RAC appointments to the Denali
17 Subsistence Resource Commission.

18
19 The two Southcentral RAC appointments
20 to the Denali SRC are Eleanor Dementi and Jeff Burney.
21 Eleanor Dementi's term on the Denali SRC expires on
22 November 4th, 2021 and Jeff Burney's term expires on
23 November 4th, 2020. As you know since Eleanor has
24 resigned from the Southcentral RAC, her Southcentral
25 RAC appointment is now vacant on the Denali SRC. And
26 as of February 24th, 2020 Jeff Burney resigned from the
27 Denali SRC. So his appointment will need to be filled
28 by the Southcentral RAC. Justin Mason has submitted an
29 application to the Southcentral RAC for the Denali SRC.
30 And you have his -- I gave each one of you his
31 application. And so before I present Mr. Mason's
32 application to the Council I'd like to present some
33 background information to the RAC about the Denali
34 Subsistence Resource Commission.

35
36 The purpose of the Commission is to
37 devise and recommend to the Governor and the Secretary
38 of Interior a program for subsistence hunting within
39 Denali National Park. The Commission hunting program
40 recommendations may address major topics related to the
41 management of subsistence such as access, customary and
42 traditional use determinations, eligibility, season and
43 harvest limits, methods and means, traditional use
44 areas, trapping, customary trade, cabin use, and
45 research. After consultation with appropriate local
46 Advisory Committee and Regional Councils, the
47 recommendations of the Commission are conveyed directly
48 to the Secretary of Interior and to the Governor. The
49 Commission reports to the superintendent of Denali
50

1 National Park and Preserve. However, since the
2 establishment of the Federal Subsistence Management
3 Program in 1990 the SRC has been making recommendations
4 on harvest limits and customary and traditional use
5 proposals effecting Denali National Park directly to
6 the Regional Advisory Councils and to the Federal
7 Subsistence Board.

8
9 The Denali Subsistence Resource
10 Commission is comprised of nine local rural residents
11 representing geographic, cultural and user diversity
12 from within the region. Each member's terms on the
13 Commission is for three years unless they resign or are
14 removed for cause by the appointing source. The
15 Commission has three members appointed by the
16 Department of Interior, three members appointed by the
17 Governor of Alaska and one member appointed by both the
18 Eastern Interior and two appointments by the
19 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. The SRC
20 regularly submits and comments upon Federal subsistence
21 regulatory proposals and provides comments to other
22 topics addressed by the Federal Subsistence Program,
23 such as tribal consultation and rural determinations.

24
25 The Southcentral RAC may appoint two
26 members to Denali's SRC. Each of these members shall
27 be a member of either the Regional Advisory Council or
28 the local Advisory Committee within the Regional
29 Advisory Council and also engage in subsistence
30 resources at Denali National Park.

31
32 Justin Mason resubmitted an application
33 for the Southcentral RAC appointment to the Denali SRC.
34 And just sort of an overview of his application, Justin
35 is the owner of Denali Wilderness Winter Guides and he
36 is qualified for this appointment because he serves as
37 the Secretary of the Denali Fish and Game Advisory
38 Committee. And just a brief overview. Justin grew up
39 in a family that harvested wild game in Montana and
40 he's hunted for many years in Alaska. He lived in
41 Kotzebue between 2003 and 2005 where he hunted wild
42 game which was an important food source for his family.
43 And he moved to the Denali Borough in 2005 and
44 initially lived in Healy and now he lives in Cantwell
45 and he's lived in Denali Borough since 2005 to the
46 present. And while his family moved -- when his family
47 moved to Cantwell they started subsistence hunting for
48 black bear, grizzlies, caribou and moose and just
49 recently Justin's 11 year old daughter took a caribou
50

1 in the Park. When Justin is not hunting or
2 berry picking he continually educates his fishing
3 clients in the summer as well as winter clients about
4 subsistence in the Park. Justin enjoys staying abreast
5 of current issues such as public lands, status of
6 wildlife populations and global warming and wildlife
7 conservation through podcasts, press releases and
8 research publications.

9

10 So that concludes my sort of overview
11 of Justin's application.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.
14 So we need to appoint someone?

15

16 MS. CRAVER: Correct.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's the only
19 application we got, correct?

20

21 MS. CRAVER: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Kind of limits
24 the debate.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions for the
29 Council, go ahead Gloria.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: You said there's two
32 vacant seats. I talked to Grant (indiscernible), he's
33 in Cantwell, he's an Ahtna from Cantwell, he's prob --
34 he's not on the AC, he's not a RAC member so he can't
35 apply, but he did tell me he's interested and he's
36 going to try and get on the AC so maybe we can fill at
37 a later time for one of the vacant seats?

38

39 MS. CRAVER: Yes, I know that Grant is
40 very interested and I talked with Gordon Carlson, who's
41 the Chair of the Denali AC and they just recently had
42 one person resign from the AC so I was planning on -- I
43 just found out that -- so I'm planning on working with
44 Grant to see if possibly he'd be interested in applying
45 and working with the coordinator for the local AC. And
46 so that would mean that your fall Southcentral RAC
47 meeting he could put an application for Jeff Burney's
48 resigned appointment.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good, we got back
2 up. Any other discussion.

3
4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none,
8 I'll entertain a motion to appoint Justin.

9
10 MR. WHISSEL: Move to appoint Justin
11 Mason to the SRC.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
14 second.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I'll second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Second by Andy.
19
20 Any discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
25 in favor aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No opposed.
34 Okay, so it carries, there you go Amy.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MS. CRAVER: Great. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chair and members of the Council.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you.
42 And we'll get to Grant in the fall.

43
44 Welcome Judy, I see you stepped in,
45 good to see you.

46
47 MS. PUTERA: Hi.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hi. We're going
50

1 to talk right now on the effects of warmer winters.
2 Now, who's going to take that one on, it's awful damn
3 cold out there.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, okay, go
8 ahead.

9

10 MR. ADELFIGIO: Good morning. My name is
11 Luca Adelfio, and I'm a hydrologist and fish biologist
12 for the Chugach National Forest stationed in Cordova
13 Alaska. Mostly I do salmon habitat restoration and we
14 also do some monitoring of water levels and water
15 temperature that I'm going to be sharing with you
16 today. Thank you for what you guys do on the Council,
17 we really appreciate it in Cordova. Since I've been
18 stationed there I know how important it is to the well
19 being of the community to have Federal subsistence so
20 thank you for your support and the attention you guys
21 provide to Federal subsistence issues.

22

23 Water temperature. Obviously this
24 winter is more normal, but previous winters as you guys
25 have noted in your report outs have been warm,
26 considerably warmer than we've seen in the past. And
27 so we've used this opportunity to investigate the
28 impacts on salmon incubation and try to take some
29 lessons learned about what this might mean for the
30 future of salmon production. I did this work with some
31 of my co-authors who work for the research arm of the
32 Forest Service and then for National Marine Fisheries
33 Service.

34

35 And the first point that I'd like to
36 make is when we think about, you know, I apologize for
37 the size of the slides but I'll just try to relay all
38 the main points verbally and for those on the phone as
39 well. When we think about warmer water temperature the
40 first thing that comes to mind is the summer maximum
41 temperatures and fish kills and these warm summer
42 conditions that we have. I think it's important to
43 consider as well, though, especially here in Alaska,
44 that changes in the winter can affect temperatures more
45 directly during those winter months and that's when
46 eggs are developing in the gravels throughout the
47 winter. And so while in the lower latitudes
48 Washington, Oregon and California, there's a lot of
49 concern about extirpation of whole salmon runs with

50

1 these warm summer temperatures. Here in Alaska I think
2 part of the research and the discussion has to be,
3 well, how about the changes in run timing or the size
4 of our salmon runs or, you know, with the location that
5 fish are actively spawning, are these things going to
6 change if water temperatures warm up.

7
8 And so that's a spoiler alert. I don't
9 have any serious answers for you, but I have some
10 insights I hope that you'll find helpful and I have
11 some ideas on what this might mean for management.

12
13 The Chugach National Forest
14 commissioned a Climate Vulnerability Assessment a few
15 years ago and it projects that we're going to have
16 warming air temperatures and importantly on the coast
17 of Alaska we're going to be seeing fewer months below
18 freezing in the winter, which is going to mean less
19 snow and more rain at low elevations in the winter
20 months. We're looking at 20 to 40 percent reductions
21 in snowfall at low elevations right on the coast. In
22 picture form it means we'll have a whole lot less of
23 what you see on the left, which is a winter like we're
24 having this winter and a whole lot more of what you see
25 on the right, which was 2016, where you can see that
26 this low elevation pond was nearly entirely ice free
27 throughout the whole course of the winter.

28
29 So to track these changes we've been
30 monitoring water temperature. We do this at the
31 locations where salmon spawn and we have 40 sites
32 spread across the Chugach National Forest. And what's
33 somewhat unique about our water temperature monitoring
34 is that we put the temperature loggers down in the
35 gravel, right where the eggs are developing. So you
36 see in that photo on the right, you'll see the eggs
37 there in the gravel. And so in the middle photo you
38 see a gentleman holding a temperature logger, it's a
39 little orange dot about the size of a quarter in his
40 right hand, and that's a little logger, it can hold up
41 to five years of data. We just deploy it down in the
42 gravels and we go back periodically and grab it and we
43 download the data. We're collecting data all year-
44 round and every hour at those 40 sites. We also
45 measure the water in the stream itself, but we're
46 really focusing in on what's happening where these eggs
47 are developing.

48
49 So this map shows all of our sites
50

1 across the entire Chugach National Forest. The
2 analysis I'm going to share today is focused on the
3 sites circled that are on the Copper River Delta. That
4 web link on the bottom there and also in your handout
5 is to a University of Alaska Anchorage website and at
6 that site they have this similar -- this is where this
7 map came from but they'll show where all the
8 temperature loggers are throughout Southcentral so you
9 could go there and look and see what's happening in
10 your area through that link.

11

12 So one thing that we've really been
13 noticing is that the water temperature in streams
14 varies greatly from one stream to the next, and this is
15 somewhat intuitive, you guys have been spent time out
16 and about and know that some streams are fed by snow
17 and some by glaciers and some by rain. But what's been
18 shocking is the amount of variation and over short
19 distances. So in the photo you see here this is out of
20 the window of an airplane, you see the stream's one
21 circle, then orange, and one circle then blue, they're
22 less than two miles apart and they have dramatically
23 different water temperatures. So the one circled in
24 blue is a groundwater fed system in a big alpine
25 valley, so there's some hanging ice in there, a lot of
26 snow melt, but in the valley bottom there's also a lot
27 of sand and gravel and that holds groundwater, that
28 stays at a very steady temperature. And so we see very
29 low summer maximum water temperatures but also perhaps
30 counter-intuitively, for the same reason, we see warm
31 winter temperatures. So this system is very resistant
32 to freezing despite the fact that there's glaciers in
33 the headwaters and it's a high elevation catchment
34 because that groundwater is keeping things warm
35 throughout the winter months. So that's important for
36 our eggs. Circled in orange you see one of these lower
37 elevation streams coming out of a, what we call a
38 muskeg, right, a peat bog, it's underlain by bedrock
39 and so the water doesn't go deep in the ground and so
40 it warms up dramatically in the summer, even warmer
41 than the air temperature in often cases. But for the
42 same reason it will freeze very solidly and readily in
43 the winter months. So that's just a very variable
44 temperature pattern. Here are those patterns on the
45 graph that you see in the upper left hand side there.
46 On the vertical axis is water temperature and across
47 the horizontal axis we have two years of time and you
48 see those 19 black lines on that plot, each for a
49 different site and there's about 19 different
50

1 temperature patterns so that gives you a sense of the
2 variability.

3
4 But we can group this into kind of two,
5 these two groups of the groundwater fed and the
6 precipitation fed. So for the blue line that you see,
7 see how it's warmer in the winter and then colder in
8 the summer. Very typical groundwater pattern. And why
9 is that? Well, again you see my little PowerPoint art
10 in the bottom there, you have the stream is underlain
11 by sand and gravel and these fish are likely picking
12 spots to spawn where that groundwater is upwelling.
13 And in that photo that you see there's a pipe that's
14 into the stream bed and there's water right up to the
15 top of that pipe. That pipe is only a couple of feet
16 into the gravel and there's four inches of positive
17 water pressure filling it up above the surface of the
18 stream so that's indicating that there's water
19 upwelling into the stream in that reach.

20
21 Conversely if you look on the right
22 hand side you'll see one of those muskeg streams and
23 they're underlain by bedrock so the water can't really
24 spend much time in the ground, it has less residence
25 time in the ground and so the temperature in the stream
26 really reflects the atmosphere and it can even, like I
27 said, it can warm up greater than the atmosphere. So
28 it can be 20 or 30 percent -- it can change by 20 or 30
29 percent more than the air does over like a weekly
30 average.

31
32 So what does this mean for eggs?

33
34 Well, we took five years of data where
35 we had two cold snowy winters, the snowpocalypse year
36 that I heard mentioned earlier and then the next year
37 that we're, you know, it was maybe slightly colder than
38 the long-term average temperature and where at least 60
39 percent of the precipitation in the winter came in the
40 form of snow, so kind of the conditions that you see
41 pictured on the left. And then we took three winters
42 that were warm and rainy, where up to 90 percent of our
43 winter precipitation fell as rain on the coast and so
44 you see that pictured on the right. And we decided to
45 compare egg development between these cold snowy
46 winters and these warm rainy winters. By the way based
47 on that Chugach vulnerability assessment, the warm
48 rainy winters are expected to be about normal by about
49 2050. So to do the modeling of the egg development, we
50

1 used this curved line you see in the middle. So it's
2 almost like a Nike swoosh but not quite so extreme.
3 And what we have is, we have temperature on the
4 horizontal axis and then we have the development time
5 of the eggs from when they fertilize until they swim up
6 as fry out of the gravel and we have that on the
7 vertical axis, the number of days. So we take our
8 winter temperature data and we plug it in and we get
9 out the days to development. And this was developed
10 based on studies in the lab and at hatcheries where
11 they reared coho salmon at different temperatures and
12 it fits pretty well with those lab data, it's actually
13 surprisingly strong fit, temperature is a major driver
14 for these development rates. And so if you look at the
15 set of dashed and dotted lines on the left, you can
16 line up with two degrees celsius, which is about 36
17 degrees fahrenheit, and at that temperature it takes
18 250 days to develop a coho salmon from the time it was
19 fertilized until it swims up as a fry. Contrast that,
20 warm it up by two degrees celsius or three degrees
21 fahrenheit, a very small amount to us since we're warm-
22 blooded, but for the eggs, that cuts down the
23 development time considerably. And you see that
24 there's a 90 day, about a three month difference in
25 development with just that couple degree change.

26
27 These numbers aren't arbitrary, these
28 are similar to what we see across the landscape. Here
29 you see our same Nike swoosh, but I've super imposed
30 two circles, one for our precipitation fed streams plot
31 and one for where these groundwater fed streams plot,
32 and this is in one of these cold and snowy winters, you
33 know, kind of the historical normal. And there's about
34 a three month, you know, 110 day difference between the
35 means of those two groups.

36
37 And at the time we were doing this
38 study, a PhD student was also looking at the
39 development of the coho salmon, she was collecting the
40 fish and looking at the time that they emerged from the
41 gravel and what they were eating, a whole study on the
42 fish themselves and so it was really enlightening,
43 Emily Campbell, the PhD student found that the
44 emergence of the juvenile salmon from the gravel was
45 nearly synchronize across all these streams. And this
46 fits nicely with what we observed, that there's a three
47 month range in spawning. We know that some fish are
48 spawning in September or October, and some fish are
49 spawning in November or December, or even into early
50

1 January in some cases. But that it seems to be paired
2 to the different temperature patterns, to where the
3 juveniles are emerging at a very similar time in the
4 spring. So in other words the fish have selected a
5 spawn timing that ensures a certain emergence timing.
6 And that emergence timing for the fish, is, it
7 correlates really nicely with the peak abundance of
8 these midges, chironomidaes in the stream that the
9 juvenile salmon are eating so they seem to have figured
10 it out.

11

12 Well, what happens when you warm it up?

13

14 We warmed up, you know, in those warm
15 blob years, 2016, 2015 timeline, the air temperature
16 warmed up by about two degrees C on average during the
17 winter and -- but the warming was not equal across the
18 landscape. The big changes were at these precipitation
19 fed streams that are vulnerable to the changes in
20 atmospheric conditions. And so they basically caught
21 up to the groundwater fed streams. They warmed up to
22 about the same temperature so all of a sudden the water
23 temperature's average winter water temperatures are
24 very similar across all these sites. And so while we
25 had only about a two week change at the groundwater fed
26 streams, we had a one to three month change at these
27 precipitation fed sites and you can see that the
28 variability was greatly reduced, that they're all kind
29 of lining up right there on 4 degrees C.

30

31 Here it is in kind of a picture form,
32 we see the chain of incubation that links two really
33 important life history events for these fish, the time
34 that they spawn and the time that the juveniles emerge.
35 And during these cold snowy winters that chain is
36 longer at the precipitation fed streams, it takes
37 longer for them to develop, but you see the incubation
38 is nearly synchronize.

39

40 If we have a warmer winter we're
41 basically removing a link from that chain from the
42 precipitation fed streams, the groundwater streams stay
43 unchanged for at least the short term and we have this
44 emergence occurring earlier.

45

46 So the question is, well, what does
47 that mean? What does that mean for the fish?

48

49 And I'll get into this in the slide,

50

1 but if it reduces the viability of the juvenile salmon,
2 what we would expect is to see a shift in the spawn
3 timing of the adults, that's going to be the first
4 mechanism that they have to adapt. And so we would
5 expect something, or about the size of something like
6 this, where we have earlier -- or sorry, excuse me,
7 later spawning at these precipitation fed streams and
8 then more synchronize spawning to adapt for that if --
9 if viability is reduced. That's a big if at this
10 point.

11

12 So here's our take away points.

13

14 No. 1. The water temperatures are
15 variable across the landscape. Now, from one stream to
16 the next you can have a whole different water
17 temperature pattern.

18

19 No. 2. Earlier emergents can have
20 cascading effects. This gets back to that viability
21 question. For example, if these fish that are emerging
22 earlier in the spring, if they feed more that first
23 year, say there's a lot of food available for them and
24 they feed really well, studies other places indicate
25 they may go out to sea after one summer instead of
26 after two. In that case it sounds great, they go out
27 to ocean sooner, but studies indicate that perhaps
28 their viability is not as good because they're going
29 out to ocean a little smaller and so then fewer of them
30 will come back. And so that's one concern. Again, my
31 work is on the temperature. So here I'm sharing some
32 studies that other folks have done and then we can
33 relate it all together.

34

35 No. 3. If that viability is reduced,
36 then that's where we might expect to see that change in
37 spawn timing and if we see that, that has big
38 implications for managers who are studying the timing
39 of these fish runs. We set up fishwheels and weirs and
40 counting towers at certain times of year and so we're
41 always cognizant if those things are starting to
42 change, perhaps more importantly it will affect the
43 consumers of fish whether it be humans or bears or
44 others that are relying on certain run timing. If
45 those start to change that would be a good thing for
46 managers to be able to track.

47

48 So I think potential things for
49 management to keep in mind.

50

1 First off, that there's a lot of
2 diversity in our habitat, especially here in Alaska
3 where we have a lot of intact habitat and the diverse
4 habitat results in diverse fish and studies have
5 indicated that diverse fish are a more robust fishery.
6 So this idea of portfolio effects, financial portfolios
7 are on folks minds with the Corona virus and all the
8 rest but if you think about a diverse portfolio of
9 stocks and assets it's more robust to these
10 disturbances than if you have all your proverbial eggs
11 in one basket. And studies indicate that the same
12 applies for fisheries. If we maintain a diversity of
13 habitats, different run timings, different life history
14 traits that are of -- fish will be more robust and
15 there could be more harvest.

16
17 Now, secondly, connectivity is
18 important. What do I mean by that?

19
20 Well, so the ability of these juvenile
21 fish that might be 30, 40 millimeters long and they're
22 just an inch or two long, to move around the landscape.
23 Remember coho salmon are spending a year or two in
24 freshwater after they emerge. And so if they're
25 developing faster in one of these precipitation fed
26 streams, those juveniles might need to be able to move
27 to ponds or lakes or other streams or places to rear
28 successfully. And so doing things like replacing
29 undersized culverts with more fish friendly models or
30 other things to improve connectivity across the
31 landscape could be really important to enable these
32 juveniles to use the whole landscape to pick and choose
33 where they end up to develop better.

34
35 And then the final point is this
36 adaptability thing, our systems as human's tend to get
37 pretty rigid pretty fast and it can take us awhile to
38 move things around. So anything that we can do to
39 ensure that our management is more fluid and is on the
40 ball's of our feet here can make a big difference, I
41 think, as things continue to change rapidly.

42
43 This study is just a few sites in one
44 area and just with temperature and then some modeling
45 so it's not very powerful in the sense that we weren't
46 measuring the fish themselves. So we're now -- what
47 was helpful about this study is it helped us ask the
48 right questions and now we're going back and we're
49 looking into this more deeply. We're kind of peeling
50

1 back the layers of the onion, if you will. So here's
2 what we're working on right now.

3
4 For starters we're doing the same
5 modeling across all 40 sites, so across the entire
6 Forest and we're doing it for all five species of
7 salmon and for different run timings to see if the
8 different spawn timings makes a difference on these
9 development ideas.

10
11 Secondly, we're collaborating with
12 folks at University of Alaska Anchorage who are doing a
13 regional analysis of water temperature across all of
14 Southcentral so they're taking our data, all the data
15 they can find from the Copper Basin, Cook Inlet
16 regions, Kenai Peninsula and they're using a much more
17 powerful computer than I have to look at them all at
18 once. So that would be really insightful and to look
19 at the sensitivity and if these patterns of groundwater
20 and precipitation hold across a bigger area.

21
22 The third one I'm really excited about,
23 this is fun. We're taking as a common garden
24 experiment they call it, we're taking eggs from these
25 groundwater systems and then rearing them in the lab at
26 Fairbanks in conditions that mimic the precipitation
27 fed streams and the groundwater fed streams to see, nu
28 number 1, do these development models work well, and
29 number 2, are there any characteristics about the egg
30 that have developed to compensate for the temperature.
31 So we're rearing the eggs in the lab environment where
32 we can control things in different temperature
33 scenarios, which will be really insightful to see what
34 the fishes responses are.

35
36 And then, finally, a genetics study is
37 taking place with the Wild Salmon Center and they're
38 sending the samples off to a lab in UC-Davis. And this
39 lab sequences millions of genes, it looks at a whole
40 bunch of genes in these fish trying to identify the
41 gene's responsible for spawn timing. And so those
42 samples will be run this summer. But they are going to
43 be looking to see if there's a genetic link to spawn
44 timing. Is there a genetic difference between these
45 fish that are spawning in September and these fish that
46 are spawning in December, and, if so, how much
47 variability is there at that gene. So for example, one
48 of the ideas we'd be investigating is you might assume
49 we could stake the flag at these groundwater fed
50

1 streams because they're less variable but if those fish
2 evolved with less variability, do they have less
3 resilience to respond because they're not used to the
4 inner-annual differences that the fish at the
5 precipitation fed streams are. The fish in the
6 precipitation fed streams, one year is really warm. the
7 next year is really cold, they have to be able to
8 respond to that to survive. Whereas the groundwater
9 fed system is much more homogeneous and so we're going
10 to be looking to see if that's coded in the genes or if
11 a coho salmon is a coho salmon regardless of where you
12 find it on the Copper River Delta.

13
14 And so thank you for your time and your
15 attention, that's what I have and I'm happy to answer
16 any questions.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: A lot of
19 information, that was great. Questions, who wants to
20 start -- John, go ahead.

21
22 MR. WHISSEL: That's really cool,
23 thanks. I've enjoyed watching this project sort of
24 commence and go public, it's been pretty cool.

25
26 The issues you were ending with there
27 were kind of what I was sort of thinking about during
28 this and I'm wondering if you could talk a little bit
29 more about those, specifically, the issue of having a
30 stable system may create fish with, you know, less
31 resilience. And to me, what we're talking about, you
32 know, is plasticity in that genetic structure of the
33 coho. So is that what the genetics and the common
34 garden experiments are going to look at, at the
35 laboratory level, how fish from specific streams fare
36 in other streams and test the conditions to see if it's
37 not plasticity but it's adaptation?

38
39 MR. ADELFIGIO: Exactly. Yes. That's
40 exactly what we're getting it. Is how plastic are
41 these fish, meaning how much can they adjust, how
42 easily can they adjust their life history, their
43 behavior to changing conditions and how much of it is
44 codified in their genes to where it'll take a selective
45 process for them to change. And this will have to do
46 with their -- this will have big effects on management
47 implications and the total impacts of climate change,
48 and so that's the heart of it. And, unfortunately,
49 it's -- it's in the works this year, the labs are at
50

1 Davis waiting to get run but I don't have the answers
2 for you quite yet.

3
4 MR. WHISSEL: Do you know, though, that
5 the stocks you're using are adherent to one type of
6 stream or another, do you have any genetic markers that
7 suggest that you do have, you know, generations
8 returning to one stream because coho get a little bit
9 like pink salmon once they're up in the freshwater and
10 our waterways are so connected. I'm wondering if
11 they're not already mixing or whether you've looked at
12 that at all.

13
14 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yeah, so an important
15 part of this conversation is that Fish and Game manages
16 all these different streams as one stock, one run, but
17 we did send some genetic samples to the State lab that
18 they have run that do show that there are some
19 differences that indicate that we could be seeing some
20 of these genetic differences in spawn timing that
21 we're searching for. It's very possible based on the
22 preliminary genetics work that we've seen thus far.
23 But, yes, we'll have to see. And, you know, these are
24 dynamic glacial systems. The Copper River Delta is a
25 big glacial outwash and so the location of streams and
26 water sources changes a lot and so -- so presumably the
27 fish have some capacity to adapt, you know, that's
28 inherent, but we also expect a lot of our fish for
29 harvest -- a lot of harvest from different user groups
30 and so we were curious if the number of fish returning
31 will be able to maintain as these fish are adapting to
32 changing climate environments, that's an important part
33 of the question.

34
35 MR. WHISSEL: So one follow up to that
36 is, are you controlling for streams that are dominated
37 by glacial outflow or are you just not looking at those
38 streams?

39
40 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yeah, interestingly, in
41 glacial systems where we see salmon spawning, it tends
42 to be these groundwater upwellings, either underneath
43 the glacier water or in a small groundwater channel on
44 the side of the main glacial river. That's where we
45 see a lot of the spawning activity happening. So in
46 some says this groundwater term may be synonymous with
47 glacial because that's where the fish are using whether
48 there's glacier flow over or not. But the glacier
49 water will really matter for the rearing, the success
50

1 in the freshwater rearing of those juveniles. Although
2 again even on these glacial systems you have -- if the
3 good flood plain connectivity, there's water across the
4 landscape, there's usually clear water coming in from
5 the sides and that's where, I think, the fish are
6 really making their living.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I knew you'd get
9 deep into it but that's good, that's good stuff. Yeah,
10 I know you could go all day, but that's okay. Andy,
11 you want to go next.

12
13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, sure. So I
14 appreciate that that was coho and I'm glad to see that,
15 one, you're going to be doing all five species. What's
16 kind of important to people in my region is humpies and
17 even dogs, and they're like -- they don't require that
18 smoltification process in the streams and what not, and
19 I think some research may also need to be going towards
20 the plankton bloom that peaks around the 7th of April
21 or so because if these cumulative celsius temperature
22 units make these one year cycle fish that don't smolt,
23 just out-migrating fry, pop out earlier in March,
24 they're missing that food opportunity when they get to
25 the ocean and they out-migrate and there's a big
26 problem about food sources and whatever, and that's
27 also going to be shrinking this return timing that
28 helps that species cover the bases of spawning in a
29 drought or a flood or whatever, you know, they're
30 travel up stream or whatever, so I think that's where
31 that's going to be headed with the humpies and even
32 chums on the fast out-migrating, the ones that don't
33 live in the stream all year, it's not about
34 chironomidaes, it's about plankton, you know.

35
36 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yeah, no, you're
37 absolutely right. And same for sockeye, I think, too,
38 where a lot of sockeye are spawning at groundwater fed
39 systems that will be very stable over the short term,
40 but then they're rearing in these lakes and on the
41 Copper River Delta our lakes are very shallow and
42 they're ground zero for warming temperatures, they warm
43 up the most out of anything that we see. And so for
44 both sockeye and then for pink and chum like you
45 mentioned, we're concerned is there going to be an off
46 set or a synchrony between the availability of the food
47 for these small little juveniles that are freshly
48 emerged based on when the eggs are developing and
49 hatching. For pinks and chums an interesting thing
50

1 that we're seeing is that the inner -- a lot of pinks
2 and chums in Prince William Sound, especially eastern
3 Prince William Sound are spawning in the inter-tidal
4 zone where they're, you know, in some cases up to 70
5 percent of pinks and 90 percent of chum salmon are
6 spawning where the tide affects the temperature. And
7 the ocean has -- is kind of like -- you know, it warms
8 up and can stay warm for longer and so that can affect
9 the development time. So that's one thing that we're
10 looking at in Prince William Sound, is the differences
11 between just a freshwater stream and the inter-tidal
12 zone and we're seeing some pretty substantial, multiple
13 month differences in development timing there. And so
14 that will all also affect, you know, when they're
15 emerging for -- when they swim out of those streams,
16 it'll be based on food availability then too. Yeah.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Was your logger in
19 Jackpot and is that inter-tidal or is that up stream?

20
21 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yes, we have a logger at
22 Jackpot up stream about the fifth lake up the system.
23 We do have some inter-tidal loggers and freshwater
24 stream loggers at Herb Creek which is in Ewan Bay
25 there, and -- and then the other inter-tidal site that
26 we have is Olsen Creek, which is in Eastern Prince
27 William Sound.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Do others have
30 questions.

31
32 Go ahead, Gloria.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: What are the five
35 species you're going to study?

36
37 MR. ADELFIGIO: Chinook, chum, pink,
38 sockeye and coho.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What this tells
41 me is the Creator was very technical when he made all
42 these fish, you know, holy smokes. I know there's a
43 lot to it but it's good stuff.

44
45 I guess my question would be, you know,
46 it would probably take a heck of a long time, one thing
47 that really got my attention was your groundwater
48 coming up and you say that's a good place for the
49 spawners. And I'm assuming that'll stay cold for a
50

1 long time long after I'm gone but hopefully it'll stay
2 good.

3
4 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yeah, no, that's an
5 interesting point. And the residence time in the
6 ground is affected by a variety of things, including
7 how big that underground aquifer is and how much
8 precipitation you have following, and so in a place
9 like Cordova where you have a lot of precipitation we
10 could be talking about the average residence time only
11 being a few years or less than a decade and so those
12 groundwater temperatures will roughly equivalent with
13 the average annual air temperature so over time they'll
14 start to climb as well. We just don't have this inner-
15 annual variability there. So, yes, at the end of the
16 day, you could see some fairly substantial changes in
17 the groundwater, we're just not seeing it on the short-
18 term timeline.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very interesting.

21
22 Other comments. Questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good
27 presentation. Thank you Luca, very good.

28
29 Milo, you want to come up and tell us
30 that the bears are going to eat all the fish that we
31 save.

32
33 MR. BURCHAM: Hello. Milo Burcham from
34 the Chugach National Forest. And I share an office
35 with Luca, he's a great hand and his supervisor,
36 Theresa Tanner, who was a co-author on that
37 presentation, they mentioned that coho genetic study,
38 that's partly funded by the Subsistence Program so we
39 work together on various things like this.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Before you get
42 started, is there a way we could get a copy of that
43 presentation. My eyes, I can't even read this, but I
44 mean is there a way we could get that emailed to us or
45 something.

46
47 MR. ADELFIGIO: Yes, certainly.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'll get you a
50

1 card. But that would be real handy for discussion.

2

3 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, he'd be happy to
4 share that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. This is relatively
9 quick, not as technical, but I just wanted to keep you
10 abreast of the black bear -- the cooperative black bear
11 project that we're doing with Alaska Department of Fish
12 and Game. The fall meeting, you know, there wasn't
13 enough time for it and this is just a little bit longer
14 than I might fit in my agency report so I wanted a
15 special time slot. It's an ongoing project. I don't
16 have results, per se, to present to you but I just
17 wanted to let you know where we are with it.

18

19 So the project goals -- well, I guess
20 you'll have to advance the slide.

21

22 First of all, we want to look at
23 habitat selection during the hunting season, in
24 particular, and we have two study areas, one more
25 heavily hunted than the other and we want to be able to
26 compare the two. We want to compare habitat selection
27 patterns for bears exposed to different levels of
28 hunting. We want to assess the feasibility of ground
29 based capturing for a project as opposed to aerial, you
30 know, darting, which is more often used in remote
31 areas. And then we're collecting a variety of other
32 data that will inform us in lots of other things, like
33 home ranges and then just, you know, size, age, sex of
34 the bears. That'll help us -- that'll inform a lot of
35 future work.

36

37 As I said, this is a partnership with
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We started this
39 project in 2016, my cooperater on the project is
40 Charolette Westing, she's the local area biologist out
41 at Cordova, and a great hand and, you know, we're both
42 really interested in and enjoying this project.

43

44 Next slide.

45

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Milo, there's a
47 clicker up there that'll advance it.

48

49 MR. BURCHAM: Oh, I can advance it.

50

1 I'm not sure how this is working. That's a pointer.
2 Okay, got it. Got it.

3
4 This is our study area in Prince
5 William Sound. We've worked on two islands, Esther
6 Island and Knight Island. Esther Island is the one
7 that qualifies as that higher hunter -- the more
8 heavily hunted island. It has a high harvest density,
9 you know, bears killed per square acre. It's very
10 close to Whittier, a short boat ride from Whittier and
11 receives a lot of hunting pressure from there. Knight
12 Island, by contrast, is quite a bit more remote and
13 it's also a little bit bigger island. But, anyway, I
14 just want to emphasize that this study is taking place
15 in really remote areas. We're using boats, a Forest
16 Service vessel to access them for all of our trapping
17 and radio collaring, and so we just can't get there,
18 you know, whenever we want and a lot of bear projects
19 have taken place on road systems where you could drive
20 trucks, that's not the case here. We got to hike to
21 our trap sites from the shoreline and all that.

22
23 So we started this project in 2016.
24 Here we are working a bear on the ground. It's got a
25 blindfold on, tranquilized, and most importantly we're
26 getting radio collars on them because movement data is
27 the most important thing that we're after but we're
28 also taking a lot of measurements, you know, weight,
29 different measurements, you know, lengths -- lengths of
30 the body, weight and things like that. And if the bear
31 is big enough, an adult bear, we put the radio collar
32 on it. We're finished with the capture phase of the
33 project and that's what I reported to you last year as
34 well. We ended up capturing 106 bears, 96 different
35 individuals and 53 were fitted with radio collars and
36 that shows our capture success over the life of the
37 project. We went out twice per season, 10 day trip at
38 a time, and we got a little bit better at it as the
39 project went on.

40
41 And to the right there's a bear in a
42 snare. Unfortunately she's the famous one, the
43 infamous one that was poached in her den that you guys
44 all heard about last year.

45
46 I'm just going to review this for you.
47 This is what I showed you last year but I have more
48 information to add to it now, and that's mostly what I
49 wanted to do with this project. Is we saw some things
50

1 happening and speculated and initial results looked
2 pretty grim but I just want to paint a fuller picture
3 of what happened, especially after the summer of 2018.
4 This gives a general view of bears on Esther Island and
5 what their home range is -- the female home ranges look
6 like, they're pretty tight little clusters, and if you
7 draw lines around them it looks something like this.
8 The males have the bigger circles. You can see the
9 home range size for males is quite a bit larger.

10

11 But this is what we observed and what I
12 reported last year after 2018. And we're basically
13 certain this is in response to a food shortage,
14 probably a berry crop failure. And we had females,
15 about half our females on Esther Island, that had these
16 nice tight little home ranges that we had observed the
17 first two years of the project did things like this in
18 2018, they went to places that we had not seen them go
19 before, including hanging out at the hatchery down
20 here. In fact a number of bears did that. Here's
21 another female and her home range in 2016, 2017 and '18
22 prior to the end of July, and then from late July
23 through August, her home range did this. She actually
24 left Esther Island, it's the first bear that we had
25 seen leave the island and crossed the narrow there.
26 And then this female, an 18 year old female, same, had
27 a tight little home range for the first three seasons
28 of the project, and then late in the third season did
29 this, all the way up to Cog Hill.

30

31 So, anyway, something was going on then
32 and, you know, we were concerned about it and it
33 correlated with observations all over Southcentral
34 Alaska and that was bears coming into town, high
35 incidences of DLPs, defense of life and property
36 killings of bears. There was close to 20 that were
37 killed in Cordova alone. And it correlated really
38 well, at least our study painted a real accurate
39 picture I think of what was going on. So it was really
40 interesting to have radio collared bears during that
41 event.

42

43 Well, they went into hibernation that
44 year, you know, we observed these increased ranges in
45 the summer of 2018 and then they went into their dens
46 and we do some den work, and I'll report what's going
47 on with our radio collared sample here at the end, but
48 we're basically losing collars through attrition as
49 some fail, some bears get shot by hunters, and some

50

1 drop off and we're trying to keep as many going. Now,
2 that we're done trapping we're trying to keep as many
3 collars working in the field and so we're doing some
4 den work to visit dens of bears whose collars have
5 failed and fit them with new collars. Well, prior to
6 doing that, we do a flight and we try to pinpoint den
7 locations before we go in the field. And when we did
8 this flight last April, so it would have just been
9 after we met last year, we heard basically seven
10 transmitters in mortality mode, and we thought, wow,
11 this is, you know, really interesting we might have
12 some dead bears out there which we hadn't observed up
13 to this point. And we reported that to people in
14 conversation basically but we, since then, have
15 investigated these mortality signals and we got out on
16 the ground last spring and did that and that's what I
17 wanted to report, you know, accurately, you know,
18 exactly what went on there. The very first one was
19 alarming, and it took a little while before we got to
20 some of the other ones. When we were doing the den
21 work in April, one of the bears we went to investigate
22 was a 18 year old female that we had caught the
23 previous year, she was 140 pounds at capture and we
24 found her carcass just dead on the ground, not in a den
25 in early April when we did this den work. When we
26 downloaded the collar data we were able to see when the
27 collar began going into mortality mode and so she had
28 just died a few -- a couple weeks before on March 21st,
29 so her carcass was in very good shape. It was
30 basically refrigerated, it was still cool then, even
31 though it wasn't in snow. And when we got back to town
32 and weighed it, she weighed just 55 pounds. And here's
33 a picture of the carcass, it looked like a puppy
34 basically and this is an adult female bear that
35 actually had a cub with her the previous summer. We
36 were pretty shocked by that, this emaciated bear, that
37 for one reason or another didn't make it through the
38 winter, and we were beginning to speculate that that
39 was what we were going to find with the rest of these,
40 but I wanted to report, you know, the rest of that.

41
42 We had two that went into mortality in
43 the fall. We knew their signals were in mortality, we
44 didn't get a chance to get to them until the snow
45 melted in the spring. This is one of them. And we
46 don't have a cause of death because we weren't able to
47 recover the carcasses until many months later in May.
48 But here's an adult female, 175 pounds, 11 years old
49 that we found just laying on the ground, dead, you
50

1 know, near what might have been a denning site but
2 we're not sure if it made it to a den or not. And the
3 same was -- this is another bear in the same condition
4 that died in the fall and decomposed by the time we got
5 to it.

6
7 So, anyway, three were mortalities, as
8 I'm showing here.

9
10 And then the next three kind of changed
11 the story a little bit. But we basically had the
12 collars slip off of three bears. And these are
13 pictures of the collars where we found them inside den
14 sites. This is bear 21 that was caught in 2016.
15 What's interesting is two of these bears, two of these
16 three that slipped their collars had worn the collars
17 for three years, or three seasons prior to this and
18 denned twice and emerged with their collars on twice
19 before this. This was a 16 year old adult female.
20 This den is in a rocky cave in the back of a crevice
21 there. Here's another one in a rock cave, rock
22 crevice, you can see the collar laying on the ground
23 with fur and stuff and vegetation or duff around it.
24 This was an adult female as well. And the third one,
25 this is the den site underneath a stump. And this is
26 unusual, this is the first non-cave type bear den that
27 we had around on Esther Island, and this was a younger
28 bear, still an adult, what we call an adult, four years
29 old, but it slipped its collar as well. And for
30 contrast I wanted to show what -- oh, and then we had
31 one mortality signal on Esther -- on Knight Island and
32 it was an adult male there we had caught the year
33 before, a 225 pound male, nine years old and he slipped
34 his collar and his den was in a stump. By contrast --
35 because I just showed you two stump dens, this is the
36 only den we've seen on Knight Island so far. On Esther
37 Island all of our dens are like this, they're in caves
38 or under large granite boulders. You know, Esther is
39 granitic and blocky and it's geology and there's lots
40 of places like this. And so the bulk of our dens so
41 far that we've, you know, the information we have on
42 dens and it's a stark contrast to Southeast Alaska
43 where they den almost exclusively in old growth large
44 trees, stumps and things like that, on Esther Island
45 we're seeing them in caves or under large rocks like
46 this for the most part. Here's another one, it looks
47 like it's a stump but it's not, you can see the left
48 hand side's granite and there is a tree growing in
49 front of it but it's also a cave.

50

1 And I think I mentioned before, one of
2 the things we do when we're not necessarily going
3 inside dens to change collars, when we have the
4 opportunity we put cameras in front of dens, and it
5 isn't to catch poachers, although that was the net
6 result last year, the reason we're doing it is to
7 document cub production, and here's a collared female
8 emerging with a yearling cub, a single cub, the reason
9 we were doing the cameras was to document this sort of
10 thing.

11
12 We don't see our bears because our
13 study area is remote and so we don't know whether they
14 have cubs or not, which is important information when
15 you want to analyze for habitat use and home ranges and
16 things like that. So cameras and then flights are --
17 trying to get visuals are two efforts that we make to
18 learn more about our bears since -- you know, after we
19 get the collars on them.

20
21 So where we are right now is collecting
22 data from our collared bears and trying to keep as many
23 collars in the field but we're kind of losing them
24 through attrition. Harvest -- hunter harvest is part
25 of it. On Esther Island we've had four of our 10 males
26 collared harvested. It's a lower percentage on Knight
27 Island, where one of 11 males, we did have an ear
28 tagged female harvested, and then we had one bear lost
29 for unknown reasons, it just went off the air in the
30 fall, coincidentally or not, soon after the fall
31 hunting season opened, but anyway we don't know the
32 status of that one. We had the same thing happen to a
33 bear on Esther Island and for some strange reason it
34 was harvested a few weeks later by a hunter who claimed
35 it didn't have a collar on it. We can't explain that
36 one but it seems to have lost its collar somehow and
37 there's no trace of it anywhere and a hunter harvested
38 that bear later.

39
40 I told you that we try to get presence
41 of cubs, you know, that information that helps inform
42 our analysis later. We do some of that with cameras
43 but we did some aerial efforts last year, we even got a
44 helicopter which was much more successful at getting
45 visuals than fixed-winged flights and we observed 16 of
46 our bears in our -- our females in 2019, 14 of them did
47 not have cubs, one had a female with a yearling and one
48 had a female with a cub of the year. That seems low,
49 and we don't have much else to compare it with because
50

1 the previous years we didn't get very much information
2 on cub production. That could be a factor of the poor
3 berry crop the year before, we're not sure but it's
4 interesting. We have some collars fail so we're losing
5 our sample size through that. It's a relatively small
6 rate, 10 of the 53 have failed since 2016 but some of
7 them were out for quite some time before they did fail.
8 In 2018 we replaced three in dens and then last spring
9 we had no snow pack, quite a contrast to this winter
10 and there was no snow up to about thousand feet or
11 maybe even a little higher and when we approached dens
12 to change collars in the first week of April we had
13 several bears bail as we approached and we weren't able
14 to work and we were able to replace the collar on one
15 male in a den but unsuccessful in the other attempts.
16

17 And now we're getting to the planned
18 releases of collars. The collars are programmed to
19 release after three seasons so the first ones -- the
20 first batch of collars that we deployed on Esther
21 Island in 2019 they all fell off last fall and we will
22 be picking those collars up this summer or spring and
23 so our 2017 captures, they will drop off this fall and
24 then our final batch will drop off in 2021. So we're
25 losing collars that way.
26

27 And this gives a rough picture, it's
28 not quite up to date of what we have in the field
29 still. What's missing is our 2016, you can't even see
30 the pointer on there, the active collars for Esther
31 Island 25 is actually lower than that because of the
32 ones that dropped off this fall. So that's not quite
33 up to date.
34

35 This is the -- just reporting on what I
36 just told you about, last spring we were only able to
37 replace a collar in one den. 2018 we did it in three,
38 we had the poor weather, low snow pack in 2019, but at
39 the end of this month we have a charter planned and
40 have plans to replace collars on up to seven bears and
41 get them active again. So we'll have a snow pack for
42 sure, in fact, I'm worried about how much digging we
43 might have to do to get to dens as compared to the
44 previous two years. But they should still be in them.
45

46 So that's most of what I wanted to
47 report. That's where we are. We're going to keep as
48 many collars going through 2021. We're going to keep
49 checking our weather stations. On Esther Island we have
50

1 weather stations that Luca has actually helped me with
2 the data loggers, where we're collecting temperature
3 and with a camera measuring snow depth throughout the
4 winter at four different elevations. We're going to
5 retrieve dropped collars and even though we're getting
6 location data through satellites, when we retrieve a
7 collar we can get a data download that might include
8 locations that weren't able to get to the satellite, so
9 we should have better data set from the retrieved
10 collars and we're beginning to play around with the
11 analysis and write reports. We're working with a
12 biometrician and Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 here in Anchorage, John Skinner, and just starting to
14 look at some of our data sets and what we can get out
15 of them.

16
17 Oh, and I wanted to -- there's
18 Charolette, my co-worker, or partner in this project on
19 the left. Here we are with the last bear that we put a
20 radio collar on in 2018. And then this has been all
21 hands on deck and it's been a great collaborative
22 effort of pulling employees to help us, because she and
23 I can't do this alone, the field work always requires
24 additional folks with us and I just want to just kind
25 of show a sample of the many hands that we've had help
26 us on the project with some of our tranquilized bears.
27 Dave Pearson, my subsistence partner on the Kenai, has
28 been out in the field with us and helped, and Jason
29 Herriman you saw on that last -- actually in several of
30 these pictures here, Jordan Rheimer, law enforcement on
31 the Kenai has been helpful, but it's been many that's
32 allowed this to happen.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. A
37 good report. I got one question, but anyone got
38 questions for Milo.

39
40 Go ahead, Aaron.

41
42 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I see you had weights
43 on a lot of -- did you weigh all the bears that you
44 guys.....

45
46 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

47
48 MR. BLOOMQUIST: What was the biggest
49 one you weighed?

50

1 MR. BURCHAM: The biggest was -- the
2 biggest was a 315 pound male and this is in summer,
3 probably before, you know, they've reached their max
4 with berries. A 295 pound male had the biggest neck
5 and we caught it in June, earlier in the season, than
6 the 315, so by dimensions it was larger, and -- but we
7 had one that weighed a little bit more later. So
8 that's the upper end, like right around 300 pounds.

9
10 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, interesting.

11
12 MR. BURCHAM: The average female -- I
13 do have a chart, I didn't happen to put it in this
14 slide show, they probably averaged closer to 175 pounds
15 or something like that. And actually the males don't
16 average that much greater, at least our captured sample
17 might average more like 195 or something but we've had
18 a few outliers, you know, in the high 200s.

19
20 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Interesting. Yeah,
21 I've weighed a ton of bears, I just was curious what
22 size you had out there.

23
24 MR. BURCHAM: I don't think there's any
25 500 pound bears out there, black bears.

26
27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Only on Facebook.

28
29 MR. BURCHAM: Right. Every bear's a
30 big one.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, go
35 ahead.

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. Just
38 curious if the female harvest component has dropped
39 down since that lack of data, but now the State's doing
40 the skulls and teeth and all that, do you know what's
41 going on with the sporthunters?

42
43 MR. BURCHAM: I don't have my hands on
44 that right now. But that is something that we'll look
45 at in the final analysis. The female harvest component
46 isn't as high as was alarming when we were getting into
47 this project, it looks like.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John.

50

1 MR. WHISSEL: So you had some
2 dispersion from your telemetry data, you saw some very
3 emaciated bears and some mortality, you lost a crazy
4 number of collars for what you did, I mean that's --
5 you stated that very succinctly, but that's an
6 outrageous number of collars to lose in a season, to
7 me, you know, having done this kind of work a little
8 bit, I never had a rate of loss like that.

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

11
12 MR. WHISSEL: So what -- I mean
13 obviously reading between the lines, these bears got
14 skinny and their collars slipped off is what you're not
15 saying, but did you -- on the bears you went back and
16 were able to handle a second time after that event, did
17 you notice a trend in shrinking neck girth and was that
18 across bears or was that.....

19
20 MR. BURCHAM: There's only -- we're not
21 putting our hands on bears very often any more and
22 there's only one bear, the male that we worked in a den
23 last year, is the only one that we put our hands on and
24 we found -- so when we did our initial captures we
25 weighed all these bears, we're working in really
26 confined spaces when we work them in the den, we're not
27 pulling them out and putting them back in and so we
28 don't have weights on them.

29
30 MR. WHISSEL: But did you measure
31 the.....

32
33 MR. BURCHAM: No.

34
35 MR. WHISSEL:the -- you didn't
36 get any measurements, no?

37
38 MR. BURCHAM: We're lucky to get the
39 collar back on.....

40
41 MR. WHISSEL: Oh, I gotcha.

42
43 MR. BURCHAM:a new collar back on
44 them to be honest.

45
46 MR. WHISSEL: Okay.

47
48 MR. BURCHAM: So I can't compare that.
49 It looked in okay condition and it survived and is
50

1 still healthy right now.
2
3 MR. WHISSEL: And then recruitment is
4 just terrible.
5
6 MR. BURCHAM: It seems so. Yeah, I
7 don't know how statistically valid.....
8
9 MR. WHISSEL: Wow.
10
11 MR. BURCHAM:that is but.....
12
13 MR. WHISSEL: It's not.
14
15 MR. BURCHAM:we didn't see a lot.
16
17 MR. WHISSEL: But.....
18
19 MR. BURCHAM: Right.
20
21 MR. WHISSEL:I can say it, you
22 can't.
23
24 MR. BURCHAM: And it is interesting, I
25 intentionally did not attribute the slipping of those
26 collars to bears being in poor condition, but everybody
27 that I tell this story to has the same conclusion.
28
29 MR. WHISSEL: You lay it out very
30 clearly for us, Milo, but, yeah, very good not saying
31 that.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. WHISSEL: Another thing I can say
36 that you can't, maybe. Thank you, that's interesting.
37
38 MR. BURCHAM: Thanks.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I just got one
41 quick question for you. That one, that hunter that you
42 mentioned, you said that he got the bear and the collar
43 had disappeared, but how did you know that he -- how
44 did you connect that?
45
46 MR. BURCHAM: The poaching case?
47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, on the
49 poaching case?
50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, the harvested
2 animal.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, there was a
5 harvested animal, you said that he was harvested.
6
7 MR. BURCHAM: Well, we don't know.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: He had no collar
10 but you.....
11
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Probably ear tag.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Did it have more
15 tags on it?
16
17 MR. BURCHAM: Well, on Knight Island I
18 reported two. One was an ear tagged female, and then a
19 male that we don't know about. We don't know what
20 happened to it. The signal just went off the bear in
21 early September, coincidentally soon after the hunting
22 season started -- oh, I'm sorry, and then -- I didn't
23 have it on my slide, but I mentioned a collar that went
24 off the air on Esther Island and, yeah, we just lost
25 track of it, and then a hunter shows up in Anchorage
26 sealing a bear that had an ear tag that was this bear,
27 that's how we made the connection, yeah.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It had another
30 tag on it?
31
32 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Got to look for
35 all the tags, okay.
36
37 MR. BURCHAM: Right.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good
40 presentation, Milo, thanks.
41
42 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, thank you.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. All
45 right, I imagine some of you want to have lunch, uh,
46 that might be a good idea.
47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, where do
2 you suggest we go, we'll take a break, and what's
3 everyone need, an hour.

4
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: An hour's
8 sufficient, we'll come back at 1:00. I'm looking at
9 agency reports, we have some people that probably want
10 to -- that won't be here tomorrow, so if I calculate my
11 agency reports, no one came to me with an extension of
12 15 minutes, we got about 2.5 hours left and so
13 hopefully we'll finish up this afternoon. We'll see.
14 But anyway take an hour and we'll see you back here at
15 1:00.

16
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: We still have that
18 Federal jurisdiction discussion.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I allowed
21 for that as well.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael are you
28 on the phone?

29
30 MR. OPHEIM: Yes, Sir.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Diane, did you
33 ever show up.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll have
38 to talk with you.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're going
43 to go ahead and get back to order here. I hope you
44 guys found a place to dine and it was good. I found a
45 quick flop shop, but, anyway it all worked out.

46
47 The item we're on now, we had one last
48 item under new business and that was Andy asked us to
49 add it to the agenda this morning and we're just going
50

1 to discuss it just for discussion purposes at this
2 point but he wanted to talk about Federal jurisdiction,
3 so I'm going to turn it over to him and let him talk
4 about that a little bit.

5

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Greg.
7 Yeah, just a point here.

8

9 Multiple years in a row coming to these
10 meetings and I've done all sorts of proposals about
11 regulations on fish and on wildlife stuff, mostly, and
12 a point that needs to be brought forward on to the
13 record is that a great injustice is being done to the
14 rural residents of Prince William Sound who truly
15 reside within Federal public waters. All of Prince
16 William Sound is nearly entirely surrounded by Federal
17 public lands which are designated as Chugach National
18 Forest. We've provided a means to propose regulation
19 changes in these books here for seasons and harvest
20 limits of these resources, but this great disservice is
21 happening because there's no means to propose any
22 changes to such things as jurisdiction.

23

24 We heard earlier today how both the
25 State and Federal regulations overlap to enable
26 resource users in Cordova on their salmon, and even
27 there was a time when -- maybe 20 years ago I was out
28 there and I held a State and a Federal mountain goat
29 tag which overlapped, okay. And so I'm wondering if
30 OSM could help guide us on how to put a customary and
31 traditional use determination for the marine waters of
32 Prince William Sound. You can go to the book and on
33 Page 70 it just lists freshwaters, freshwaters,
34 freshwaters and that only refers to dipnetting of
35 humpies and -- basically, for what the people in my
36 communities I represent are doing. I remember in
37 previous regs books the wording was slightly different
38 and it said -- if my memory serves me correctly, it
39 said something like marine waters exempt, but that's
40 not seen in this book anymore and I'm wondering how to
41 make a proposal to change that.

42

43 Also Chenega Bay is in the middle of a
44 commercial fishing district, this is in the marine
45 water section of Chenega Bay and resources like salmon
46 and even commercial fishing of fish, okay, halibut,
47 these things are things that are available to the
48 industry for profit but not being made available to the
49 households of the people who rurally reside there as a

50

1 food resource. There's things like salmon, rockfish,
2 halibut, many finfish. One thing that goes on,
3 shrimping in the summer, this is regulated by the
4 State. Crabbing in the winter, regulated by the State.
5 But Federal users out there could be using shrimp in
6 the winter and crab in the summer.

7
8 A difference in season timing is
9 warranted for those types of resources because of the
10 way climate change is messing with people's
11 availability to harvest.

12
13 I mentioned the State and Federal
14 places overlap in many regions for the way things are
15 determined. So I'm wondering, can we request a C&T
16 determination for the marine waters of Prince William
17 Sound, or can we be provided a way to change
18 regulations as written in this book that are regarding
19 deficiencies that need modifications that aren't just
20 about seasons and bag limits.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's an awful
25 lot. Basically he wants Federal jurisdiction to extend
26 to the marine waters, which I've always wanted. That
27 would make all the Kenai fish Federal fish. But that
28 would really get some people up in the air, wouldn't
29 it. But, anyway, I'll just throw it out there, it's an
30 interesting concept. I'm not sure -- I mean I
31 definitely support what you're saying because those are
32 customary and traditional uses in those areas, they
33 used them for centuries, but how to go about the
34 process. I know that we can put it in our next year --
35 we're going to talk about putting that in our annual
36 report at our next meeting this fall, but about
37 specific proposals, we need some guidance on how to
38 press forward on this.

39
40 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I can make a
41 note of that and approach Office of Subsistence
42 Management Staff.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

45
46 MS. PERRY:for further
47 information.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I
2 appreciate that DeAnna, that's good. Any other
3 discussion on the Federal waters.

4
5 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

8
9 MR. WHISSEL: I would just echo that.
10 I think that there's a need to reevaluate how the
11 waters of the -- the near shore waters are used by the
12 residents there and I think this is a step in the right
13 direction.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I really do
16 feel it's the right direction and I feel that there
17 should be a Federal preference for where they've used
18 them all their lives, it's kind of tough, but, anyway,
19 it's a good subject to tackle. We need to tackle
20 something new.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 Okay, very good, we're moving on.
25 We're going to have agency reports, and the first
26 agency report, tribal government, Ninilchik Traditional
27 Council. Ivan.

28
29 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. Members of the RAC. For the record my name
31 is Ivan Encelewski. I'm the Executive Director of the
32 Ninilchik Traditional Council. And just going to give
33 you a quick, short report based on last meeting.

34
35 We did report on the 2019 Kenai,
36 Kasilof gillnet at the October 11th, or 10th and 11th
37 RAC meeting in Seward, so I won't belabor you with
38 that. But just as a quick recap on the Kasilof River
39 we harvested around 553 sockeye. On the Kenai it was
40 somewhere around 2,832. So very successful years, we
41 filled almost all the permits and so it was a very --
42 as we all know, a very banner year there and things
43 went smoothly.

44
45 So as a result of that, a couple quick
46 things to report on.

47
48 As part of our memorandum of
49 understanding with the Fish and Wildlife Service, we
50

1 met with Mr. Andy Loranger and Mr. Jeff Anderson on
2 November 22nd, we talked about the recap of the Federal
3 subsistence season, summaries any expectations we had,
4 some of the changes in the large king escapement goals
5 that were made at the Board of Fish.

6
7 Some concerns that NTC has and
8 continues to have is invasive species, elodia issues,
9 around the -- not only the Peninsula but the state.

10
11 We talked about some concerns NTC has
12 continuing with the marine fisheries in the Cook Inlet
13 that don't seem to be curtailed in comparison to some
14 of the curtailment of the Kenai River chinook
15 fisheries.

16
17 Talked about some other interests.

18
19 Jeff was very good at getting
20 information back to us on some of the -- one of the
21 other issues that we had was the Ninilchik River, even
22 though it's a State river, it stopped for the
23 sportfishing and stocking that river with chinook in a
24 mixed stock river has always been a concern of ours.
25 So Jeff's been really helpful in getting information on
26 some of the USFWS service reports on stocking and mixed
27 stock fisheries, which is still a huge concern for
28 Ninilchik. So things went really well.

29
30 I just talked to Jeff yesterday and we
31 are planning our spring consultation for April 9th.
32 Everything's looking pretty good there.

33
34 I know there were some changes at the
35 Board of Fish. We don't expect that really to change
36 the gillnet fisheries on the Kenai or Kasilof so things
37 have been pretty smooth there. There are a few issues
38 that we think we can work together on with regards to
39 some proposals. You know, one that I broached and I
40 had mentioned this before in our report and with Jeff,
41 is potentially looking at moving our gillnet season.
42 One thing that the tribe might look at is trying to
43 move that from the 1st to the 15th, it starts on the
44 1st through 15th of July, and we'd rather see that
45 probably go to the end so August 15th to 30th. So
46 taking those two weeks out on the front end and moving
47 them to the back end, to protect some of the early run
48 even though we don't have any encounters with chinook,
49 it gives us an opportunity -- it would give us an
50

1 opportunity to, you know, have more sockeye harvest
2 potential at that later time when the fish are in.
3 When we originally proposed the fishery we thought
4 there'd be more early run, blueback type fish, sockeye
5 in the Kenai but it just hasn't come to fruition during
6 that 1st to the 15th of July so it doesn't make a lot
7 of sense to have that but we'll continue to work on
8 that.

9
10 Talked to Jeff about some proposals,
11 maybe alignment on the early/late run, removing some of
12 the language and also changing on the rod and reel for
13 a slot limit that coincides with the current
14 restrictions that are being put in place for the
15 sportfishery.

16
17 So we see ourselves probably being able
18 to probably work together on some of those issues and
19 maybe even putting in some proposals in those three
20 areas.

21
22 So excited about those opportunities.

23
24 I don't have anything else to report on
25 the wildlife side. As you guys know you approved three
26 areas of caribou, sheep and mountain goat and I don't
27 have anything more to report on that other I think
28 we'll continue to have another successful season,
29 hopefully on our subsistence fisheries.

30
31 So if you have any questions I'd be
32 happy to answer them.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The only question
35 I have for you Ivan is remember the end of April is
36 Nascar and don't book any more meetings.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I just had to put
43 that on the record.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions for
48 Ivan.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
4 Thanks for coming up and taking time to update us.

5

6 Next I had Matt, who gave his report
7 earlier, so on your agenda that's pretty well covered,
8 Eyak.

9

10 The next one is Ahtna InterTribal
11 Resource and Ahtna is, Karen or Susan, which one is
12 going to talk to us. Come on up.

13

14 MS. LINNELL: Good afternoon. For the
15 record my name is Karen Linnell, I'm the Executive
16 Director of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.
17 The Commission is comprised of the eight Ahtna tribes,
18 Ahtna Incorporated and Chitina Native Corporation.
19 We're pretty unique in having our tribes and our
20 corporations work together on subsistence and resource
21 concerns.

22

23 Just wanted to give you an update on
24 things that have been happening with us. First I'd
25 like to recognize my Chair, Shirley Smelcer's here with
26 me.

27

28 But we have grown our Staff. We have
29 an anthropologist on staff now to tell our story and
30 our traditional knowledge and how that is science, the
31 long term use of the land and stuff. So I'll talk to
32 that a little bit more. We have a fisheries biologist
33 on Staff and a wildlife biologist with a genetics
34 background. And so we're pretty happy with our Staff.
35 And I also have a project manager who's helping with
36 link our biomass and moose browse projects to biomass.

37

38 Just to give you an update on the
39 status of our MOA with the Department of Interior. The
40 Eastern Interior RAC, Southcentral RAC and the Federal
41 Subsistence Board approved a subsistence local advisory
42 committee charter that is still sitting here in state
43 somewhere and has not gone to the Secretary for
44 approval. That, along with the shape filing map of the
45 Ahtna traditional territory. There was supposed to be
46 a proposed rulemaking that would allow for us, AITRC to
47 issue or have a permit, or a series of permits to
48 manage our own hunts and that hasn't happened yet. And
49 we submitted a community harvest permit proposal a

50

1 couple years ago and the RAC here had made some
2 modifications to it and so did the Eastern RAC, they
3 mirrored what Southcentral RAC did. We brought that to
4 the Federal Subsistence Board, they kept saying that
5 they can't do it because of the Privacy Act and some
6 other things but that's what they negotiated in the MOA
7 and that's a legal thing, and so we're still trying to
8 work through that. We were supposed to work with the
9 BLM and National Park Service on what the framework
10 would look like for that community harvest permit, we
11 submitted something and the Staff -- InterAgency Staff
12 Committee reviewed it and didn't like where we were
13 going with it, I think, or didn't agree that it was
14 possible, said it was outside of the Federal
15 Subsistence Board's authority. So we were sent to work
16 with BLM and the National Park Service on that and
17 we're still waiting for that meeting to happen. I got
18 a text yesterday so sometime between now and April 6th,
19 I hope we have that meeting.

20
21 We have a Partners in Fisheries
22 Management grant and we did a survey with both tribal
23 and nontribal users and with the managers on user
24 participation in resource management, and that should
25 -- we should have the final report by July or so on
26 that -- the interviews that were conducted. There were
27 12 interviews when Odin Miller came on staff, and I
28 think he did another 13 interviews so it should be
29 pretty comprehensive. He went through the interviews
30 that were conducted by our previous anthropologist and
31 saw some data gaps and he went to look at that and
32 collect more information, so we're looking forward to
33 having that done.

34
35 We have worked with ADF&G on otolith
36 sample collection for the Glennallen subdistrict and
37 we're looking to bring on a fisheries technician to
38 help with that project this summer.

39
40 We have a -- we participated in the
41 Copper River Science Symposium that was hosted by
42 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Copper River
43 watershed project and Wrangell Institute for Science
44 and Engineering and AITRC, where we had
45 anthropologists, geologists, glaciologists, biologists,
46 fisheries and wildlife and linguists, lots of ists were
47 there talking about from the warming trends and the
48 affects that it's going to have on the land and to Lake
49 Ahtna to traditional names, that was really neat to see
50

1 the traditional names and the placements and how those
2 places were named during Lake Ahtna's time. And that
3 those names are still there and still have the same
4 meaning, same -- we've been working with Ahtna
5 Incorporated to do a carnivore study. We started in
6 2018, out of the 26 samples we found 30 bears, about --
7 most of them were all browns, I think nine black in
8 there, most of them female and that was at 26 stations
9 in 26 square miles. And then we did a collection again
10 in 2019 so we're waiting for the DNA results to come
11 back from that. Our wildlife biologist has a genetics
12 background so that comes in real handy with this.

13
14 This year we're looking at expanding to
15 five locations throughout the Ahtna lands from Chitina
16 to Chistochina, five different locations, 40-something
17 hair snare sites so we'll be looking at those and
18 checking them weekly and hoping to get that expanded.

19
20 And then more just to let you know what
21 we've been up to, we've submitted a special action
22 request again regarding community harvest permit for
23 AITRC. And I received word that the InterAgency Staff
24 Committee, yesterday, had come up with a framework, I
25 haven't seen it yet, so hopefully we'll get to look at
26 that before the Federal meeting is held in Gakona. So
27 they're coming out to our country for their very first
28 time they're going to have a meeting in a rural setting
29 and so we're looking forward to hosting them.

30
31 And we put in one of the FRMP proposals
32 with the Native Village of Eyak and CommFish Division
33 in looking at salmon escapement on the Klutina. I
34 think you folks might have seen the proposal and stuff
35 and so we're hoping that gets funded and we'll find
36 out, I guess, soon, if they ever pass money down,
37 whether that will get funded or not but we're pretty
38 excited about it. I think it's good to know. Based on
39 previous radio telemetry work that was done 30 to 50
40 percent of the sockeye return is on the Klutina for the
41 whole river and so we want to make sure that that river
42 -- that salmon population stays solvent and a healthy
43 population.

44
45 And I think that kind of sums it up
46 aside from attending meetings and things, we're still
47 trying to meet with tribes from the Lower 48 that do
48 co-management and are actually cross-deputized with the
49 State and with the Feds and how they run their
50

1 programs.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, Karen,
4 boy you guys are busy. You got some wonderful programs
5 that you guys are going to be able to control all your
6 stuff here shortly, hopefully.

7

8 MS. LINNELL: Lord's willing. We'll
9 get some legislation passed that will allow us to
10 manage life resources on our own lands.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's for
13 Karen.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
18 much for coming, and, Susan, for coming and updating us
19 in your area, and the exciting things, good examples
20 for us all.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Jeff, I can't
27 believe we got to you the first day, U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife Service.

29

30 MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon, Mr.
31 Chair and members of the Council. For the record my
32 name is Jeff Anderson. I'm the field supervisor for
33 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kenai Fish and
34 Wildlife Conservation Office, and in that capacity I've
35 been delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence
36 Board as the in-season manager for the Cook Inlet area
37 Federal subsistence fisheries. And thank you for the
38 opportunity to speak today. Sorry, I missed the
39 meeting in Seward.

40

41 I've got an updated harvest summary
42 from the 2019 season that I gave DeAnna to hopefully
43 get out today. It's a couple weeks old. The Federal
44 subsistence harvest reports aren't due until January
45 15th of the following year so we just wrapped up the
46 final numbers for the 2019 season. Not much has really
47 changed since the interim report that I provided back
48 in the fall. I guess we got some final numbers for the
49 dipnet fishery and Russian River falls, about 1,848

50

1 sockeye. The rod and reel fishery numbers are the ones
2 that have really changed since the fall. Those are the
3 numbers that usually just get reported at the end of
4 the year when the harvest reports get turned in, and,
5 yeah, and Ivan and Darrel had presented information --
6 or Ivan had on the community gillnet fisheries back in
7 the fall and also briefly here. So not much new to
8 report.

9
10 I guess we've got about a 96 percent
11 return rate on the permits this year, which is pretty
12 good and I think we're looking forward to an upcoming
13 meeting here with Greg and Ivan with our preseason
14 consultation with the Ninilchik Traditional Council and
15 getting ready for issuing permits here again for the
16 2020 season, here, hopefully pretty soon.

17
18 I don't know if anyone has any
19 questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And the question
22 is I'll try and get my report in this year without you
23 sending me a certified letter, but, anyway, everything
24 else is good.

25
26 Questions for Jeff.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good,
31 short and sweet. But that's good and as you can see I
32 just want to make another point here for the Ninilchik
33 gillnet fishery, that it's been very successful and,
34 you know, the community -- we do it for the whole
35 community and those people are very thankful for that
36 fish. It's worked out well.

37
38 Thanks, Jeff.

39
40 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: U.S. Forest
43 Service.

44
45 MR. BURCHAM: Hello again. Milo
46 Burcham, Chugach National Forest, subsistence
47 coordinator. And I've got Dave Pearson, my sidekick
48 for the Kenai here as well. And we're going to tell
49 you what's going on with our agencies.

50

1 A couple updates in personnel and some
2 people that had hoped to be here but recognizing this
3 was a short meeting, could be a short meeting, and
4 travel and stuff like that, didn't make it to this one.
5 But we have a new District Ranger in Cordova, Steve
6 Namants is his name and I've encouraged him to come to
7 the fall meeting given that he couldn't make this one
8 because we'll have more going on, more proposals
9 probably to deal with. And then we have a new Forest
10 Supervisor in place, Jeff Schram, and he was hoping to
11 be here tomorrow if we are going to be here tomorrow
12 and if he can't make this one I'm sure he'll try to
13 make a future meeting as well.

14
15 So those are going on.

16
17 We don't have any -- we did not have
18 any special actions in the 2019 season.

19
20 We're nearing completion with the
21 Forest Plan Revision. I'm sure some of you have been
22 involved in the Chugach Forest Revision process or been
23 aware of it. And we're getting really close, we're
24 hoping to sign it in April, and then there's an
25 objection period that follows that. And there was a
26 meeting -- the Regional Forester scheduled a objection
27 resolution meeting in January related to the plan. So,
28 anyway, we're on the final stretch of that and that's
29 been a long drawn out process and it'll be such a
30 relief to have it behind us.

31
32 Somebody told me that there might be a
33 delay but that's not fact. So that's what we're going
34 with right now.

35
36 We've hinted at and I know Dennis
37 touched on moose in Cordova. I'll switch to the
38 Cordova district now and just talk about the species
39 that we're dealing with. A lot of this got reported in
40 the fall but not harvest, not harvest results, maybe
41 survey results we touched on at the fall meeting.

42
43 We harvested 33 of 35 cows in the
44 Federal harvest and 36 of 45 bulls in the Federal
45 harvest. And that -- even though it sounds pretty
46 decent it's a lower success rate than we've seen on
47 bulls and several different things are kind of pointing
48 in the same direction. Even though we don't know the
49 bull/cow ratio or know that it's low, as Dennis was

50

1 talking about, we had lower hunter success, hunters
2 were coming to me and to the State biologist and
3 reporting seeing very few bulls and many pilots in the
4 area were saying the same thing. And when a local
5 State Advisory Committee meeting was held we kind of
6 threw some options to them and they decided on lowering
7 the bull quota. And so rather than 60 bull permits as
8 we've issued the past few years, we dropped it actually
9 to 40, we knocked 20 off of that, and 10 of those went
10 in the State draw, or will be harvested by the State
11 and then we issued 30 for our 75 percent of the quota.
12 They also opted or recommended raising the cow harvest
13 to partially make up for the fewer bulls coming to town
14 and our population is good, we're at basically an all
15 time high in the 600s with our West Delta moose
16 population. We raised the cow quota from 35 to 40 and
17 those were all in the Federal draw. I just did the
18 Federal draw last week, it's a random drawing that
19 Cordova residents can put in for. It's always kind of
20 fun to get it out, you always get a little grumbling
21 right afterwards, how come so and so got it last year.
22 I do want to say that, sure, some people do draw on
23 back to back years, it's a small number, I think it was
24 three this year out of 80, but you hear about it when
25 it happens. And we have tried to put something in
26 place to not allow people who were successful one year
27 to draw the next but the Solicitor has seen that as a
28 violation of ANILCA and, anyway, we can't pass that.
29 I'm content with that now, given that I can't do
30 anything about it, but it's not like we don't have
31 anything in place to kind of spread the wealth. What
32 we do have in place, and we've had this since the
33 beginning, is that no two permits go to the same
34 household. The State, on the other hand, has the no --
35 if you get drawn one year you can't put in the next but
36 they don't have a restriction on the number of permits
37 per household. And, for instance, this year 15 permits
38 were drawn in the State drawing, nine went to out of
39 town residents, two of those were in the same household
40 in Chugach or something. And I'm not complaining about
41 it but it's just -- we both have different mechanisms
42 in place to kind of distribute this, it's not like
43 we're doing nothing and we hear people and -- I hear
44 people and kind of take it personally when those
45 comments come about.

46
47
48
49
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With deer, we also are kind of back in
the good 'ol days since the crash that followed our
severe winter of 2011/12. The results from the

1 transects show back to normal deer numbers, so people
2 are starting to wonder what will happen this year with
3 our snow pack and it's too early to tell but we
4 definitely have a lot of snow down to sea level in the
5 Sound so we'll have to see how that plays out. But we
6 have been sitting quite well and harvest has been very
7 good in the deer field.
8

9 So mountain goats, there was one -- two
10 surveys were conducted, two units were surveyed in
11 Prince William Sound. We didn't have any goats
12 reported harvested as of yet in the -- well, I guess
13 it'd be over now, it went through February, no goats
14 reported harvested on the Federal side.
15

16 And then I talked about the salmon on
17 the Copper River Delta last year, the stranding event.
18 You know there was definitely effects from the low run
19 off. I won't go back into that. We're chasing down
20 harvest reports right now, we're at 89 percent or 79?
21

22 MR. PEARSON: We're at 79 percent.
23

24 MR. BURCHAM: 79 percent reporting rate
25 and so we're trying down with another mailing those
26 outstanding harvest reports for the Copper River Delta
27 fishery.
28

29 With that I'll pass it to Dave and
30 he'll tell you what's going on on the Kenai.
31

32 MR. PEARSON: I'm David Pearson in
33 Chugach National Forest.
34

35 On the Kenai, as we spoke last fall,
36 the moose season already concluded and three moose were
37 harvested.
38

39 The caribou season ended December 31st
40 and altogether two caribou were harvested, so after the
41 meeting last fall no other caribou were harvested. And
42 looking into the future we plan on having the same
43 agenda, to hand out permits. I'll still have a meeting
44 in Cooper Landing and Hope to hand out fisheries
45 permits and then in August, or late July I'll have
46 another meeting, two meetings in Cooper Landing and
47 Hope to hand out hunting permits. As Milo said, I'm
48 working on improving our harvest reporting on the
49 FFPW01, we're at about 80 percent, hopefully we'll get
50

1 to that 96 percent Jeff was at. I'm a little jealous
2 of that.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. PEARSON: So if you haven't sent in
7 your harvest report, a certified mailing is coming to
8 you soon.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. BURCHAM: And I believe that is
13 all.

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, any questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. BURCHAM: Okay, thank you very
20 much.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You did a good
27 job, no questions, that's good. Thank you. Thank you
28 much.

29

30 National Park Service, Wrangell-St.
31 Elias. Judy and Dave.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Their report is in ya'all's
34 supplemental folder.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep. Verifying
37 our agenda but you go right ahead Dave. Go ahead.

38

39 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you, Chair. Good
40 afternoon.

41

42 Yeah, starting out just a report for
43 the -- this is our Resource Stewardship and Science
44 Team from Wrangell-St. Elias has a short report in your
45 materials to start it.

46

47 The first one we -- as Karen had
48 mentioned, as a collaborator on this, we -- the Park
49 hosted a Copper River Basin Symposium of tradition,

50

1 science and stewardship. We hosted it February 18th
2 and 19th of this year at the Park's Visitor Center.
3 The purpose was facilitating knowledge sharing and
4 research coordination among those with an interest in
5 stewardship of natural and cultural resources of the
6 Copper River Basin. We had several presenters covering
7 topics from climate research and monitoring,
8 glaciology, hydrology, aquatic ecology, prehistoric
9 human occupation of the region, wildlife ecology and
10 management, human dimensions of research stewardship,
11 Copper River fisheries and linking of Indigenous
12 knowledge and Western science to adapt to climate
13 change.
14

15 We also submitted two different
16 subsistence related proposals. One was a collaboration
17 with Commercial Fisheries and Sportfish divisions of
18 ADF&G looking at genetic stock identification and the
19 harvest of Copper River salmon, of sockeye salmon. So
20 the State already has a genetic baseline of several
21 stocks of the Copper River area in their database and
22 this will be getting some information on patterns of
23 the stocks and harvest through commercial and also up
24 river fisheries. So that'll be a new one. We're
25 hoping, you know, it's been submitted, we're hoping for
26 funding for that but pending a decision.
27

28 Also a proposal focusing on river ice
29 conditions and winter subsistence access. Looking at
30 imagery through the years and changes in ice
31 conditions.
32

33 We've had an issue with, you know,
34 people cross -- you know, historic pattern of crossing
35 the Copper River in the wintertime and now with the
36 warmer temperatures getting access into the park land
37 for subsistence activities seems to be a changing trend
38 that's happening where it's more limited than it was in
39 the past.
40

41 And also for strategic planning, Park
42 Staff and collaborators from the region office and
43 USGS, they've initiated a project to develop a resource
44 stewardship strategy for the Park.
45

46 And that's the team's report.
47

48 Next would be the fisheries report
49 unless there are questions on that first part.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're good.

5

6

7 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Continuing with
8 the fisheries. Again, we -- I've informed you of the
9 weir history of the Park and we are currently waiting
10 on funding, a decision from the Fisheries Resource
11 Monitoring Program for the operation of Tanada Creek
12 weir, hopefully beginning this summer for a four year
13 project funding period. Again, that's pending the
14 decision.

14

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We also have another FRMP funded project looking at burbot population assessments in small lakes of the Upper Yukon River drainage within the Park and we have one more lake that we'll be targeting this summer for a mark/recapture population estimate on that, the lake has not been confirmed, exactly which one we're doing yet. It could be Ptarmigan but we have some factors to consider out with that.

For the Upper Copper River Federal subsistence fisheries, 2019 season summary. We issued 343 Federal subsistence fishing permits for the Glennallen subdistrict, 181 for Chitina, one for the Batzulnetas area. Tables 4 through 6 show historical reported and expanded harvest for the Federal fisheries in each subdistrict that are in your materials.

For 2019 the Federal subsistence harvest of both sockeye and chinook in the Upper Copper River district, so both subdistricts combined, is estimated to be between the five and 10 year average. And we have seen a shift where we're getting a little more harvest and interest in the Chitina, I believe it likely displaces harvest that would have occurred in the Glennallen subdistrict, however, -- and now may be occurring a little bit more further down stream but still in the Upper Copper River district.

So by regulation, you know, both Chitina and Glennallen and Batzulnetas are scheduled to open May 15th through September 30th, and in the past we had been restricting the Chitina fishing times to align with the State's personal use fishery there, however, we have departed that strategy now. 2019 was

1 actually the first year where we did not issue a
2 special action and I reported this in the fall but just
3 to recap this. So this is the first year that it was
4 open continuous through the time that it was as the
5 regulation states and we've -- as I said we've likely
6 had a few individuals that shift to Chitina
7 subdistrict. They may have difficulties getting
8 scheduled on a fishwheel and prefer to harvest by
9 dipnet and so it's allowed an extra opportunity for
10 those individuals but I don't believe it's really
11 equating to any additional harvest overall.

12
13 And the Park's only received positive
14 feedback regarding this change in strategy.

15
16 And throughout 2019 the season -- well,
17 the salmon returned tracked above management objectives
18 through the year, and the season passage estimate of
19 just over a million fish for 2019 and that's above the
20 upper bound of the in-river goal for the season.

21
22 The 2020 preseason Copper River salmon
23 forecast from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
24 for 60,000 Copper River chinook salmon which is 20
25 percent above the recent 10 year average and it's for
26 -- wild production sockeye is 1.4 million which is 33
27 percent below the recent 10 year average. For the
28 total run they've got 1.5 million sockeye forecast.

29
30 In early -- well, yeah, for the State
31 fisheries we anticipate it's likely that they'll be,
32 you know, based on strength of the salmon abundances
33 and primarily it's the sonar estimates and fishery
34 performance so their usual management on that
35 strategies.

36
37 For Federal, unless there's some type
38 of in-season run abundance in the season that prompts
39 concerns for meeting escapement goals we anticipate all
40 fisheries -- Federal fisheries again to be open
41 continuously May 15th through September 30th.

42
43 So that concludes fisheries, if there's
44 any questions I'm open.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions. Go
47 ahead, Aaron.

48
49 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I'm a numbers and
50

1 charts guy, I guess, and this is probably something
2 that maybe you weren't even looking at. What do you
3 attribute in the Glennallen subdistrict, kind of the
4 precipitous decline of cohos and steelheads in the
5 harvest, is that just a season timing thing?
6

7 MR. SARAFIN: You know part of that,
8 I've gone through records, we do tend to have some
9 misreporting and through the prior years getting the
10 actual harvest reports to confirm it, what's matching
11 in the database has been difficult for me. I have
12 found -- I have made some corrections from past years
13 where I could confirm with harvest reports where they
14 were saying they were catching coho in Slana, which is
15 way above the range of which coho are harvested. So
16 there is some discrepancy there from accuracy in
17 harvest reports that's reflected in the numbers.
18

19 As we've gotten in more recent years
20 there's been more scrutiny put into what the species
21 actually was caught with confirmation from the user to
22 verify and get an understanding of that. I also
23 believe that, you know, perhaps there's also a trend of
24 lesser coho numbers maybe making it up too, because
25 some -- you know some users you get familiar with, that
26 you trust their reports, and could see some patterns
27 that you would trust more than others. But I think
28 there's -- some of those higher numbers, especially the
29 beginning of it, in the hundreds, are likely an error
30 in reporting that was not picked up on when it was
31 entered into the database. As we've gotten, you know,
32 beyond that the ones that are less than 100, how much
33 that's occurring or not it's -- I've tried to verify
34 what I could but I don't understand why it's gone to
35 zeros lately as opposed to 50s or something.
36

37 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Gotcha. I had one
38 other question but I'm brain farting on it.
39

40 Remind me where the -- is the line
41 between Glennallen and Chitina the same as the State
42 line at the ridge there?
43

44 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, it's the down stream
45 edge of the bridge.
46

47 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, that's what I
48 thought. Yeah, I answered my own question, thanks.
49
50

1 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah, I think for the
2 whole area, our area anyway, we go with the State's
3 description of their districts and subdistricts.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, any others.
6 Go ahead.

7
8 MS. STICKWAN: For the Glennallen
9 subdistrict, is there any way you could tell who's
10 fishing from a fishwheel and report that, and from a
11 dipnetter?

12
13 MR. SARAFIN: We do have -- that is a
14 field that gets reported, dipnet versus fishwheel.

15
16 MS. STICKWAN: Because I don't see it
17 on here, I just see Glennallen, I don't see dipnetting
18 anywhere unless I'm not understanding what I'm reading
19 here. I just want to be able to see the difference
20 between fishwheel and dipnets.

21
22 MR. SARAFIN: That would create a
23 bigger table, I could do that though for that but.....

24
25 MS. STICKWAN: I would appreciate it if
26 you could do that.

27
28 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. I could add a
29 supplementary table to this for separating that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

32
33 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I just have one
34 more kind of building on what Gloria was asking.

35
36 I don't know if there's a way to do it
37 between you guys and Mark Somerville, or Fish and Game,
38 but it'd be interesting to see the kind of trends in
39 where the people are moving around out there. We know
40 there's a lot more State subsistence dipnetting above
41 the bridge but, you know, what -- where exactly, you
42 know, the Federal fishermen are fishing with changes at
43 Chitina, you know, I mean there's been a ton of changes
44 with the fishwheel area not being accessible and, you
45 know, the dipnet thing going crazy so anyways, just a
46 suggestion more than a question.

47
48 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah, that's a I guess a
49 key difference where State has to choose between the
50

1 two subdistricts where the Federal user could get two
2 permits, one for each subdistrict and could, you know,
3 dipnet above or below the bridge if they were down in
4 that area but.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good.
7 Good questions. Good observation. I don't like zeros
8 either.

9
10 Go ahead, Judy.

11
12 MS. PUTERA: I am Judy Putera, wildlife
13 biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
14 Preserve. And I'm going to just give my wildlife
15 report first, followed by Barbara Cellarius' report.

16
17 First I'll report on the Chisana
18 Caribou Herd. We completed a composition count in
19 October 9th through 10th, 2019. We had a bull/cow
20 ratio of 43 to 100 cows and a cow calf ratio of 17/100.
21 There's a type there. It says 13 to 100 cows but it
22 should be 17 calves to 100 cows. This was higher than
23 in 2018 and these numbers are above the minimum
24 threshold set in the Chisana Herd management plan for
25 allowing a continued subsistence harvest. We plan to
26 deploy up to 50 collars this spring in the Chisana
27 Herd. Half of those will be GPS radio collars and half
28 will be the traditional VHF collars and we'll be
29 putting half out in the Alaska and half of them out in
30 the Yukon.

31
32 Moving on to dall sheep I'm reporting
33 on a special project that we've been doing in the Park.
34 This is part of a larger effort within the National
35 Park Service in Alaska. But we are conducting distance
36 sampling surveys for dall sheep in count areas three
37 and four west. From -- well, we've been doing it so
38 far in 2016, '18 and '19 and this should continue this
39 year in 2020 and that'll be our last year. Distance
40 sampling provides sheep detection probabilities and
41 estimates of precision for a statistically robust
42 population estimate. Just presented preliminary
43 numbers in Table 2. And there's also, in Figure 1,
44 that shows what area we're looking at so that's up in
45 the northern part of the Park, northwestern part of the
46 -- eastern part of the park from the Upper Copper River
47 over through sort of close to the Chisana River there.
48 So Table 2 just gives some of those numbers. And like
49 I said once we get the 2020 data we'll be able to, you
50

1 know, have some confidence intervals around those
2 numbers and compare those numbers with other Parks in
3 Alaska that may have sheep populations that are not
4 doing as well versus those that are doing better, for
5 comparison. Just pointing out in that table, it looks
6 like 2018 was not a very good for lamb production but
7 it looks like in 2019 we've rebounded quite well from
8 those low lamb numbers.

9
10 All right, moving on to brown bear. We
11 conducted a double observer mark/resight bear survey in
12 May of 2019. Our -- if we want to look at Figure 2
13 this is our -- the technique we use to -- so this is 32
14 kilometer square clustered into four so those are --
15 each one of those large squares is -- are four 32 -- 31
16 kilometer square units and basically we sent a plane
17 out to survey the block and then right after the first
18 plane was done we sent the second plane out to resurvey
19 that block to get an estimate of detection,
20 probability. And this figure shows which units we
21 double sampled, which ones we only singled sampled,
22 which ones we threw out of the analysis because they
23 were either in forested habitat or were up too high and
24 ice, so, anyway.

25
26 For our results, we detected 18
27 individual bear groups. Unfortunately only two of
28 those were seen by both survey teams. So our detection
29 probability was very low. The person who's helping us
30 with this study, the statistician decided to go ahead
31 and analyze the data using the detection probability
32 from other areas of Alaska in which they've used this
33 same technique. So essentially up in northern Alaska.

34
35 And if we skip over to Table 3, these
36 are our results. And he used two different models, a
37 constant model and a heterogeneity model, the constant
38 model assumes all bears have the same detection
39 probability and occurrence did not vary among the cells
40 the surveys -- the survey units. The heterogeneity
41 model assumes occurrence and detection varies. And I
42 guess I would look over at the -- for comparison to
43 other surveys that have been done in the state, look at
44 the third column density of adults, ranges from 10 to
45 16 bears per 1,000 square kilometers. And -- which is
46 sort of in the range of what we've seen in other bear
47 surveys. In particular 16.3 bears per square kilometer
48 in adult bears per square kilometer in Game Management
49 Unit 13.

50

1 All right, moving along to moose.

2
3 We had scheduled our three year large
4 GSPE moose survey for 2019 but due to a lack of
5 adequate snow conditions we weren't able to get that
6 done again for the second time. And I went ahead and
7 decided to at least get a minimum count done in one of
8 our traditional trend count areas. And this was in the
9 Upper Copper River area. And Table 4 is our results
10 from that trend count. And Table 5 actually is our
11 results from our GSPEs that analyze separately that
12 same area in the past, the Upper Copper River just for
13 comparison. But you can see that our calf/cow ratio is
14 very, very low this year in that trend count and our
15 bull/cow ratio was actually less than previous surveys.
16

17 So we actually put in a proposal to try
18 to figure out maybe different ways we can maybe get at
19 these moose surveys, considering that we keep having
20 really variable snow and low snow at the beginning of
21 the -- in early winter and it's sort of precluding us
22 from doing our moose surveys.
23

24 And that's the end of -- oh, well,
25 that's the end of my wildlife report.
26

27 Do you want me to move on to Barbara's
28 and then ask questions after or.....
29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That'd be great.
31

32 MS. PUTERA: Okay. All right, so I'm
33 going to give Barbara's report. She usually reports on
34 our Federal subsistence hunting permits.
35

36 We issued 194 Federal registration
37 permits for goat, moose and sheep hunts in Unit 11 and
38 for sheep and caribou hunts taking place primarily in
39 Unit 12. I'll just point out for the Chisana Caribou
40 Hunt we still have a harvest quota of seven bull
41 caribou. We gave out four permits, two people hunted
42 and only one caribou was harvested. For our Unit 11
43 winter moose hunt, south of the Chitina River, we --
44 our quota is still seven bull moose, we gave out a
45 total of eight permits and as of January 30th this year
46 one individual had reported hunting and no harvest --
47 with no harvest reported.
48

49 The next two pages just lists our
50

1 individual subsistence hunts with the corresponding
2 data. I'm not going to go through each one of those,
3 I'll let you look at them later.

4
5 And then on the very last page, Barbara
6 gives a little abstract of a number of traditional
7 knowledge, ethnographic and subsistence access projects
8 that she's currently working on. And I'll let you read
9 through those at your leisure.

10

11 So that's it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's
14 quite a bit.

15

16 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's for
19 Dave or Judy, either one.

20

21 Go ahead, Aaron.

22

23 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I got a couple
24 different unrelated ones.

25

26 Can you tell me again about the south
27 Unit 11 winter moose hunt, where exactly is that being
28 done now?

29

30 MS. PUTERA: It's basically south of
31 the Chitina River so it's all Park land.

32

33 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Hard to get to stuff.

34

35 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, hard to get to.

36

37 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah.

38

39 MS. PUTERA: So the thought is in the
40 winter, folks could access that area through
41 snowmachines crossing the Chitina River.

42

43 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Sure.

44

45 MS. PUTERA: But, yeah, I think if we
46 -- in Barbara's report, that's been going on since 2012
47 and, yeah, there's -- looks like about an average of
48 three moose per year have been harvest -- no, I'm
49 sorry, only one -- only one has been harvested since
50

1 2014, so I'm sorry, yeah, it started in 2014. And we
2 actually extended the season at one point so, yeah.

3
4 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I was just
5 curious. That actually gave me exactly the information
6 how.....

7
8 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

9
10 MR. BLOOMQUIST:many have been
11 harvested since it started, that's the middle of
12 nowhere.

13
14 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

15
16 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay. My other
17 questions are sheep questions. I know there's been a
18 little bit of disagreement as to whether or not these
19 kind of sheep surveys are valid between State
20 biologists and the Feds and stuff.

21
22 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

23
24 MR. BLOOMQUIST: In 2019, it looks like
25 you've got more than 50 percent lambs per ewe-like, are
26 you guys still defining ewe-like, basically as any ewe,
27 any year old ram, all the -- that just seems higher
28 than I've ever seen it anywhere on the planet?

29
30 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, I -- that's a good
31 question. I think I'm going to have to -- I have not
32 been doing these surveys, we've got a person from the
33 Fairbanks office who's been doing them. But it has
34 been the same person year after year. My understanding
35 is -- is that they've been taking, I think, high
36 resolution photos of each of the groups that they've
37 seen so I don't know if they've gone through -- yeah, I
38 apologize I probably should know.....

39
40 MR. BLOOMQUIST: No, that's fine.

41
42 MS. PUTERA:a little bit better
43 but, yeah, I will ask about that.

44
45 MR. BLOOMQUIST: The other red
46 flag.....

47
48 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

49
50

1 MR. BLOOMQUIST:I saw was just
2 the full curl rams.....
3
4 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.
5
6 MR. BLOOMQUIST:almost
7 tripling.....
8
9 MS. PUTERA: I noticed that too, yeah.
10
11 MR. BLOOMQUIST:in one year.....
12
13 MS. PUTERA: Okay.
14
15 MR. BLOOMQUIST:yeah, just a
16 question?
17
18 MS. PUTERA: Well, hopefully by next
19 fall I can -- I'll make a note of that and we'll have,
20 you know, this year's data from 2020 and I will ask for
21 a better understanding of how these numbers are
22 fluctuating and why.....
23
24 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Sure.
25
26 MS. PUTERA:you get such.....
27
28 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I'd appreciate it.
29
30 MS. PUTERA:a large -- but, I --
31 you know, I guess it's -- it is a good thing that we
32 have the same person, I think, that's doing the survey
33 every year and he's also involved in a lot of these --
34 a lot of the other Parks that are doing the same
35 project so at least the numbers, I think, are fairly
36 consistent.....
37
38 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Consistent to the
39 person.
40
41 MS. PUTERA:as far as.....
42
43 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I know.....
44
45 MS. PUTERA:to the person.
46
47 MR. BLOOMQUIST:it was.....
48
49 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.
50

1 MR. BLOOMQUIST:they did
2 something similar in Gates of the.....
3
4 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.
5
6 MR. BLOOMQUIST:Arctic.....
7
8 MS. PUTERA: Uh-huh.
9
10 MR. BLOOMQUIST:that was really
11 off the wall.....
12
13 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.
14
15 MR. BLOOMQUIST:as far as numbers
16 that the State had.
17
18 MS. PUTERA: Uh-huh.
19
20 MR. BLOOMQUIST: One last quick one,
21 where is your bear survey area?
22
23 MS. PUTERA: Well, if you look at that
24 Figure 2 there, it was basically -- it's kind of hard
25 to see from the figure but on the south end it was
26 basically the Kennicott River.....
27
28 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay.
29
30 MS. PUTERA:and then all the way
31 around to about the Nabesna River to the north there
32 so.
33
34 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay. Yeah, I just
35 couldn't -- it was too small for me to.....
36
37 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.
38
39 MR. BLOOMQUIST:see the.....
40
41 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, and I -- I guess I
42 should say on that survey last spring, I don't know if
43 you remember, but it was -- we had a really super early
44 spring, like very warm, really early spring and then we
45 were kind of freaking out and we were -- we were like,
46 ahhh, because we want to do this before leaf out.
47
48 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah.
49
50

1 MS. PUTERA: So we kind of intended to
2 go earlier, like about a week earlier than we
3 originally intended and luckily it kind of went back to
4 a normal spring, so it kind of cooled down and things
5 sort of slowed down but then when everybody got there
6 to start the survey we had like five days of, you know,
7 horrendous winds so we had -- we had another delay. So
8 I don't know what was going on with the bears, it's
9 hard to say, did they come out really early, and then
10 disperse or -- or what.

11
12 MR. BLOOMQUIST: There's no doubt the
13 bears were weird last year.

14
15 MS. PUTERA: Yeah. Yeah. So
16 unfortunately this was just one year money and we had
17 to spend it. But we didn't -- you know, we did not
18 have any leaf out so that -- at least that was one
19 thing I can say, there was, you know, no significant
20 leaf out, or leaf out at all. I think, you know, it --
21 it was kind of a test, I guess, using this method and
22 it might not have worked as well because we had -- you
23 know we were just -- our habitat here compared to the
24 north is just sort of more, maybe, heterogeneity and
25 more rugged, so.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria's got a
28 question for you.

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: When will you start
31 doing the new moose research, you said there's going to
32 be -- you're looking into new research to count.....

33
34 MS. PUTERA: Yeah.

35
36 MS. STICKWAN:moose, when will
37 you start doing that?

38
39 MS. PUTERA: Well, we -- we need to see
40 if we get it funded first but it will be probably at
41 least a couple years out before it gets started so
42 we're looking at infrared and different kind of things
43 like that, but, yeah, so.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
46 questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, thank
2 you.

3
4 MS. PUTERA: All right, you're welcome.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: BLM.

7
8 MS. LENHARTZEN: Hi. For the record my
9 name is Valerie Lenhartzzen. I'm the associate field
10 manager for the Glennallen BLM Office. And I just
11 wanted to say that we're happy to be here. This is my
12 first subsistence RAC meeting and Jill's. And there
13 have been some changes in our organization.

14
15 The first thing I wanted to say is that
16 our State subsistence coordinator, Dan Sharp, has moved
17 on and now we have Casey Burns in the back who's now
18 acting as our State subsistence coordinator. And since
19 last October, the meeting in Seward, Jesse Hankins has
20 moved back to Montana so our wildlife biologist is now
21 gone and we are -- we just finished with the job
22 announcement, it closed last Friday and we hope to have
23 a permanent position hired sometime hopefully before
24 June but in the meantime we're doing detailers and Jill
25 Lucero here is a detailer for us that's been on for a
26 month now, she'll be here until the end of April and
27 she comes from Montana and we'll have another detailer
28 after her most likely.

29
30 So anyway thank you for this
31 opportunity to become before you and we are going to
32 present a little short update on our subsistence.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. LUCERO: Hello, as Valerie just
37 said I'm Jill Lucero and I'm up here for about three
38 months covering in Glennallen Field Office. I'm the
39 wildlife biologist. And I -- does everybody have a
40 copy of the harvest report -- okay. I'm just going to
41 run through this quickly and then just take questions
42 if you have any.

43
44 I'll start with saying we have
45 cooperated this year, like in past years, with ADF&G to
46 monitor subsistence populations, including both moose
47 and caribou. So we contribute funds and manpower to be
48 able to monitor those populations. This year we issued
49 over 4,000 permits for moose and caribou out of the
50

1 Glennallen Field Office. If you look at the next
2 section on your Page 1 it talks about moose, so we'll
3 just talk about those five bullets and then that
4 corresponds -- if you flip the page to the table and
5 the charts on the next page, so we'll just talk through
6 that for a minute or two and then through caribou.

7
8 So some of these bullets are what Jesse
9 Hankins presented already last fall and the reason I
10 reiterated those is, I think it's important when you
11 look at the data from the harvest reports, to have that
12 in front of you. So if you look at the moose table on
13 Page 2 we had 1,244 permits issued, 458 permits
14 attempted, 70 bulls harvested and a success rate so far
15 of 15 percent. I just caution looking too hard at these
16 data because we only have 73 percent of the reports in,
17 and typically at this time we have over 90 percent. So
18 we have not done the same level of effort in terms of
19 PSAs and letters to-date, so we're going to be doing
20 that after the end of March to try and get that
21 reporting rate up.

22
23 We do have a lower than average
24 harvest, but it is up from 2018, and fewer permits
25 issued altogether, and that ties back to those bullets
26 that you see on Page 1, which, when I talked to Jesse
27 Hankins about why he thought that was the case, he said
28 it was the warm temperatures last fall, and some of the
29 poor conditions that we had. So that was what he
30 speculated. And it could be that that number -- the
31 harvest rate does go up after we get the rest of the
32 permits in as well.

33
34 So if you move down to caribou, there's
35 a number of bullets on the caribou and then, again,
36 there's a table and chart that goes with that. The
37 table and the chart does say the same thing, it's just
38 presented two different ways.

39
40 Earlier you heard that the ADF&G
41 estimates in July of 2019 for the Nelchina Caribou Herd
42 were 53,500, I do have an update on that I got from
43 Heidi Hatcher, the area biologist for ADF&G. Last
44 October they flew and got an estimate of 46,528
45 animals, which is still over the herd objective of
46 40,000 but -- but that did come down from the July
47 report.

48
49 I'd also like to mention just an
50

1 update, there is a couple of bullets there that are,
2 again, a repeat of what Jesse told you last fall, I
3 just -- it pertains to the actual numbers that you see
4 that were harvested. If you move down to the fifth
5 bullet, a portion of the herd, there is an update, that
6 a portion of the herd this year migrated, as always,
7 northeast to the Canadian border, but another portion
8 is wintering south of Mt. Drum toward Chistochina (ph).
9 And that, apparently, is a result and they have seen
10 that in the past as a result of when you get the larger
11 herd sizes they tend to separate in the winter.

12
13 We have a very low return date, of 16
14 percent reported, so I'm jealous of some of the earlier
15 people who have 40-some and 70 percent reports, but we
16 have 16 percent reported so far, we suspect that's
17 because people are still trying to hunt because last
18 fall the -- the area was closed, the subsistence area
19 was closed during the migration. So we think people
20 are just waiting to try and hunt in March.

21
22 To just go through the table on the
23 chart for a minute.

24
25 The permits issued for caribou were
26 2,775, 244 permits attempted and you can see how low
27 that is compared to the five year average of 1,490.
28 Again, we think that's because our return rates on our
29 reports are so low. And the harvest is only at a
30 quarter so far reported from past years. So it's hard
31 to predict what will come in because we're still
32 waiting for so many of the reports.

33
34 So that's it for our report right now.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: Sometimes Jesse would
39 let me know, and I contact people to tell them to
40 report, so I'm always willing to help if you want
41 to.....

42
43 MS. LUCERO: Excellent, thank you.

44
45 MS. STICKWAN:let me know, I can
46 call people and email them to report.

47
48 MS. LUCERO: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Can you do that
2 in my area too?
3
4 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I'll do it in your
5 area too.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MS. STICKWAN: I had another question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.
12
13 MS. STICKWAN: You said over 4,000
14 permits were issued for moose?
15
16 MS. LUCERO: Moose and caribou
17 combined.
18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Moose and caribou.
20
21 MS. LUCERO: Uh-huh.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.
24
25 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, just a -- is it
26 normal to fly another caribou survey in October, that
27 seems like that's not what they've been doing in the
28 past?
29
30 MS. LUCERO: I don't know if that's
31 based on our funding we provided or if that's normal
32 because I've just been here a month.
33
34 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Gotcha.
35
36 MS. LENHARTZEN: We could probably get
37 back to you on that.
38
39 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I can ask Heidi
40 too about.....
41
42 MS. LENHARTZEN: Okay.
43
44 MR. BLOOMQUIST:that -- yeah, no
45 problem.
46
47 MS. LUCERO: Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I guess we're
50

1 good. You're going back to Montana you say?
2

3 MS. LUCERO: Well, Colorado, actually.
4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, okay, I was
6 hoping you'd run into Jesse, he owes me dinner and he
7 left.
8

9 (Laughter)
10

11 MS. LUCERO: I'll let him know.
12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: He actually told
14 me he was leaving -- in the Seward meeting I bought him
15 dinner, and he said I'll get you at the next one, and
16 then a couple breaths later he said he was leaving.
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 MS. STICKWAN: Just one more question,
21 do you have the break down for moose and caribou
22 permits?
23

24 MS. LUCERO: Yes, it's in that -- in
25 both tables. So it's in the third column in the tables
26 -- or no second column -- uh-huh.
27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
29 you very much, both of you.
30

31 Okay, we're going to tackle Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game.
33

34 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. The Council has
35 been provided with a subsistence report from ADF&G. I
36 am not sure if we have Ms. Keating on the line, I
37 believe she was going to call in and be available for
38 questions but there was not going to be a formal
39 presentation on that.
40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.
42 If you guys come up with questions we'll let her know
43 what we got.
44

45 I take it you're not on the line,
46 Jackie?
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, then we'll
2 move on.

3
4 OSM.

5
6 You look like you got your work cut out
7 for you.

8
9 MR. RISDAHL: Good afternoon, Mr.
10 Chairman. Members of the Council. My name, for the
11 record, is Greg Risdahl. I am the Subsistence
12 Fisheries Division Lead and currently the Acting Deputy
13 Assistant Regional Director for OSM.

14
15 I have just a half a dozen items that
16 I'd like to update you on from OSM, specifically
17 beginning with the Federal Registered notice concerning
18 Council meeting dates and by the way there is a hand
19 out over there for you for your records.

20
21 As most Council members are aware the
22 Office of Subsistence Management had to reschedule the
23 winter 2020 Council meetings until this March and early
24 April to assure compliance with the Federal Advisory
25 Committee Act, or FACA. Thank you all for your
26 patience and working with us to reschedule those
27 meetings. It was a big thing at the office, there was
28 a lot of gnashing of teeth but we got it done, so thank
29 you all for being patient and working with us on that.

30
31 The second thing I want to just touch
32 briefly on is the Council Charters. I know there's
33 been a lot of questions and I'm not going to go into a
34 lot of detail. There was a lot of effort by a lot of
35 people to see that those nominations eventually did go
36 through. The updated Council charters have been
37 included in each Council book, which includes a new
38 provision that allows Councils to have alternate
39 members. Unfortunately that didn't happen this year
40 but we're pleased that it did get signed, the charters,
41 by the Secretary of Interior and they are now valid for
42 two years, as typical, through December 2021.

43
44 The new Council member appointments,
45 similarly, last year the Federal Subsistence Board
46 received 63 applications to fill 46 vacant or expired
47 seats. The Board recommended to the Secretaries of
48 Interior and Agriculture to appoint or reappoint 42 of
49 those incumbents or new applicants to all 10 of the
50

1 Councils. Of these, 22 appointments were approved, and
2 arrangements were made for these individuals to
3 participate in these reschedule 2020 meetings. So if
4 you have questions about that we can talk later, but
5 some of that information is provided, too, in handouts.

6
7 OSM has been pushing harder than ever
8 with help from the Councils to recruit additional
9 Council member nominations and applications for the
10 current appointment cycle, plus the Council nomination
11 application deadline was extended through March 2nd.
12 So, again, we appreciate the Council member's help in
13 getting more applications.

14
15 You've also probably heard that we have
16 a new Assistant Regional Director here at OSM. Backing
17 up a little bit, Gene Peltola vacated the Assistant
18 Regional Director position in June 2018 and over the
19 last 21 months, Tom Doolittle, my boss, has done an
20 outstanding job of leading OSM as the Acting ARD for
21 OSM and we thank him very much. Things have gone very
22 smoothly and basically he started shortly before I took
23 the position as the Fish Division Lead, so Tom has been
24 really great to work with.

25
26 Ms. Susan Detwiler was recently
27 selected to be the new ARD for OSM, the Assistant
28 Regional Director. She expects to be here by the end
29 of March and Susan does have a lot of Alaska
30 experience. Looking at her resume she has over 25
31 years of experience working in Alaska with the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service primarily and secondarily
33 with the U.S. Forest Service. Interestingly enough
34 Susan first came to work for OSM and the Fish and
35 Wildlife Service in 1989 right when the Subsistence
36 Program was beginning so she has some early history
37 which is kind of interesting. She should probably
38 bring some very interesting perspective to the Program
39 as a result of her early, early experience. Back in
40 those days she was one of two people that worked for
41 subsistence. After leaving OSM in 2000, Susan went to
42 work in other areas with Fish and Wildlife, including
43 as the Congressional and Native American Liaison and
44 Endangered Species Coordinator in Alaska and next the
45 Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Division Chief in
46 Region 8, which is California and Nevada. Susan has,
47 in total, over 30 years of Federal experience. Her
48 education is a Master's Degree in natural resource
49 policy from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and a
50

1 B.S., Bachelor's degree in wildlife management from
2 Humboldt State University. Most recently, Susan is the
3 Director for the Alaska Operations Office for the U. S.
4 Environmental Protection Agency here in Alaska. Susan
5 has said that she enjoyed her time with the Subsistence
6 Program and is very happy to be coming back. And,
7 please join us in welcoming Sue when she does get here.
8 I'm sure we'll be seeing her soon.
9

10 Other details regarding Staffing.
11 Since the fall 2019 Council meetings there have been a
12 number of additional Staffing changes at OSM. Tom
13 Evans, one of our long time wildlife biologists
14 retired. While another wildlife biologist, Megan
15 Klosterman, a young lady, she took a position down in
16 North Dakota with the National Park Service. Our
17 budget analyst, Duran Tyler, took a promotion with the
18 new Joint Administrative Operations Division within
19 Fish and Wildlife. He's still here by the way in the
20 office and he has been helping us bring all of you
21 members to the meetings this winter cycle. Even in his
22 new position, as I mentioned, Duran has been helping to
23 arrange travel logistics for these meetings. OSM's
24 executive secretary, Pam Raygor, left for a promotion
25 at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
26 and our pathways anthropology student, you probably
27 remember, Christine Brummer, left to finish her
28 Master's degree. Jared Stone, a fisheries biologist
29 with the Fish Division he has recently taken a
30 promotion with the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service
31 Marine Mammals Program.
32

33 With these departures OSM Staffing was
34 down about 40 percent.
35

36 The good news is that OSM has filled
37 four vacancies in this past month. Tina Baker,
38 formerly from the CGS, Contracting and General Services
39 Office, took a lateral transfer from JAO, to become the
40 OSM's administrative specialist. Michelle St. Peters,
41 we lost her for about a month, she went over to work
42 for the Wildlife Sportfish Restoration Program but we
43 brought her back, so she is upstairs currently working
44 on cooperative agreements for the FRMP program. And
45 we're really happy to have Michelle back, I don't know
46 what we would be doing without her, we hope to be
47 releasing those awards this Friday, depending on
48 whether or not our budget allocation comes through. We
49 also have two new administrative assistants, Sabrina
50

1 Schmidt and Catherine Avery. And Sabrina Schmidt
2 actually worked for us a number of years ago and she's
3 come back. Her husband was in the military and they
4 moved back to Alaska so it's nice to have her back.
5 Somebody that knows the program already and is ready to
6 jump in with both feet.

7
8 With the new arrivals, OSM is still
9 down about 35 percent, however, by the end of the
10 calendar year we hope to fill an additional three to
11 four vacancies. We're waiting on human resources at
12 this point in time for one of our fisheries biologist
13 positions to be advertised. I did work on that again
14 last week, and it's in their ball court so we're
15 waiting to see what happens. We are also hoping to
16 fill both the anthropology and Council coordination
17 supervisory positions. Those are two very important
18 positions for us here and the one, in particular, the
19 anthropology supervisor position has been vacant for a
20 very long time.

21
22 Anyway, that will leave us down about
23 28 percent. We are working hard to try to get those
24 positions filled.

25
26 That's the end of my report. If you
27 have any questions, I'll be happy to answer.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

30
31 MS. STICKWAN: I don't have a question.
32 I just thank you for a written copy.

33
34 MR. RISDAHL: You're welcome.

35
36 MS. STICKWAN: I always like written
37 copies.

38
39 MR. RISDAHL: You're very welcome,
40 Gloria.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Got off easy but
47 that was a good report. It sounds like you're running
48 a little light but thank you, Greg.

49
50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, thank you very
2 much. Yeah, the Staff is working very, very well
3 together with the folks that we have. Tom has done a
4 great job, so if you get a chance thank him.

5
6 Thank you much.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I did talk
9 to him, he told me when he gave me a little update but,
10 yeah, thank him from me too.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 We need to confirm our fall 2020
15 meeting date and location. We had it scheduled for
16 October 7th and 8th in Anchorage and we got a question
17 mark about Seward here. So, DeAnna, I'll let you lead
18 that discussion.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
21 Ms. Robbin LaVine mentioned to the Council earlier,
22 there will be a significant milestone in the nonrural
23 determination for the fall meeting. I know we've been
24 to Seward here recently and just wanted to throw that
25 out there if the Council felt it might be appropriate
26 to have its fall meeting in that area.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Comments.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Where do you guys
33 want to meet?

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: Is the dates still the
36 same?

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The dates are
39 still the same, correct, the October 7th and 8th?

40
41 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, those have
42 not changed.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, I'm
45 open to either or, I think people like this area too so
46 let's go ahead and talk a little bit.

47
48 Go ahead, John.

49
50

1 MR. WHISSEL: I just -- we're going to
2 be sort of wrapping things up, it's not sort of the
3 same level of need to communicate with people in that
4 region, we've done the talking so I'm more inclined to
5 have it in Anchorage to facilitate everyone else
6 getting there that needs to get to it than move it to
7 Seward. Unless some -- unless someone feels like we do
8 need to engage with the stakeholders in that area at
9 this meeting, it just doesn't seem like it's the same
10 as the last one when we went there.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're correct in
13 that, that we actually reached out and had public
14 meetings with them, so that's a good point.

15
16 Any other comments.

17
18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're not going
22 to get off with a short meeting next time so I know
23 that.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So you may as
28 well make it where you want to be.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What do I hear,
33 Anchorage?

34
35 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I'm for keeping it in
36 Anchorage.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's make
39 a motion to keep it in Anchorage then.

40
41 MR. WHISSEL: Move to keep the meeting
42 for October 7th and 8th in Anchorage.

43
44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

45
46 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Aaron
49 and seconded by Andy so any other discussion.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
4 in favor to keep the meeting in Anchorage.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're for it,
13 right.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: He said aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. DeAnna,
18 before I get into closing comments, is there something
19 that other -- that we need to discuss, take up, that we
20 missed?

21

22 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, we do need
23 to go ahead and pick the winter 2021 Council meeting
24 dates so if you'll look on Page 33 of your meeting
25 book, I would like to let you know that February 17th
26 and 18th have just been picked by Western Interior
27 Council, that is the only Council that has picked their
28 dates for that meeting cycle. So, again, we can have
29 up to two RAC meetings each week, so basically it's
30 wide open.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

33

34 MS. PERRY: So we need a date as well
35 as a place.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The date
38 is the first week of March, the place is the same -- go
39 ahead -- anyway just suggestions.

40

41 Go ahead.

42

43 MR. WHISSEL: I always have a conflict
44 with the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
45 Board of Director meetings in the first week of March.
46 This -- we're having a short meeting today so it's
47 going to work out but I have that meeting tomorrow as
48 well as this one. So I know it's hard, but if it were
49 Monday and Tuesday that might be easier than Tuesday

50

1 and Wednesday because the PWSAC meetings are fairly
2 rigid with a 45 member board. Or the second -- either
3 week on either side of it would be fine with me as
4 well.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Comments.
7 Other comments. We got that. For me, you know, I
8 still work full-time, failed retirement, so it doesn't
9 matter I'm going to have to take off, but I do have
10 spring break and granddaughters so that's important.

11
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Later February.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Later February
15 I'm hearing from Andy, February -- end of February
16 works for me, that's fine with me, so what's the other
17 thoughts -- end of February.

18
19 MR. BLOOMQUIST: That works.

20
21 MR. WHISSEL: Yeah, that would be
22 better, it doesn't conflict with like the start of the
23 Board of Game meeting either next year like we are
24 right now.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So am I hearing
27 early in the week end of February.

28
29 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, that would be
30 better.

31
32 MR. WHISSEL: That's fine, any days in
33 that last week of February would work for me.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

36
37 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry to
38 interrupt, we do have two travelers that it's a little
39 bit difficult -- more difficult to get here at the
40 beginning of the week than it is mid or later week, I
41 would just ask for that consideration.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: 24th and 25th.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we're good
48 with the 24 and 25th. Does that work for everyone.

49
50

1 (Council nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Let's make a
4 motion for that then, please.

5

6 MR. WHISSEL: Move to hold the winter
7 meeting February 24 and 25th, 2021.

8

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
12 and seconded. Did we include a place -- you don't need
13 to -- we need to -- you guys want to.....

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Cordova.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.

18

19 MR. WHISSEL: How about Cordova.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Cordova's
22 been suggested, that's fine with us, we'll put it on
23 there. Okay. Is there any objection to that.

24

25 (No objection)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Reluctant
28 Fisherman, here we come -- okay. It's been moved and
29 seconded to have the meeting the 24th and 25th,
30 February, in Cordova. All in favor aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael you're
35 coming to Cordova, good, thank you.

36

37 Any opposed.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
42 We're going to go ahead and do our closing comments so
43 we generally go around the Council and we let everyone
44 express their thoughts or anything that we need to be
45 more attentive to. I think we've done a pretty good
46 job myself. I'll reserve my comments to the end here
47 but we could start -- Michael, if you want to start
48 again on the phone I'll let you go ahead and start with
49 your comments.

50

1 MR. OPHEIM: All right, thanks. That
2 was a good meeting. I was taking lots of notes here,
3 all the commentary, all the reports. It's always good
4 to hear all that. Everybody does such a good job with
5 the reports. Lots of detailed information. Appreciate
6 all their time they put into making these reports. And
7 just thanks.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
10 Dennis, how about we start with you.

11
12 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Again, nice short
13 meeting, informative. I guess one thing that I think
14 should get on the radar somehow is more on line
15 reporting or timely reporting on a lot of these permits
16 and stuff, whether it's fisheries related and all that.
17 It seems like in this day and age, apps on your phone
18 and everybody having a computer, it should be much
19 easier to report on all of it instead of waiting for a
20 card to be mailed in. So, I don't know, I see that in
21 the fisheries side and all that and I don't know where
22 it's going to go but I think that's an important step
23 forward if we could.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.
26 Jeff, are you going to allow us to do that on the
27 Kenai?

28
29 MR. ANDERSON: It's not my choice.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I knew you was
32 going to say that -- okay.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anything else you
37 got.

38
39 MR. ZADRA: No, I'm good.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
42 Ed, how you doing down there.

43
44 MR. HOLSTEN: Doing good. Number 1, I
45 appreciate Gloria and Greg and Andy for stepping up
46 once again. And I really appreciate all the agency
47 reports. It's one of the -- for me, the most
48 informative parts of the meeting, finding out what the
49 agencies are doing, they're the ones on the ground
50

1 gathering all the data, et cetera, et cetera. So it's
2 one of the highlights of the meetings always for me.
3 Of course, I appreciate a short meeting. And, finally,
4 just everybody safe travels going home, there's some
5 slippery roads out there.

6

7

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

8

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Aaron.

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MR. BLOOMQUIST: Loved the short meeting. There was one thing I was going to -- I was kind of looking for a place to bring up that I didn't, but the State's looking at maybe, oh, they've termed it as a lot of things, but mandatory reporting for domestic sheep and goats coming into the State, we've been working on it through the Wild Sheep Foundation for a long time, to try to mitigate or quell the spread -- well, supposedly we have Movi now in Alaska but we don't know what the strains are or whether or not they're bad. It's probably something we should help support the State on going forward. You know, I don't know how urgent it is. There's a lot of stuff going on in Juneau now and there probably won't be a lot going on until the legislative session's over, but maybe at our next meeting, throw it on our agenda and write a letter of support to do that or at least talk about it. But that's about the only extra I had.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All right.

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Gloria.

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MS. STICKWAN: It's a good meeting, short meeting. That's all.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's great.

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50

Andy.

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thanks. First of all I'd like to thank the OSM Staff and all the agency Staff that bring their reports, and Milo, directly communicating to me often, and, Greg and Gloria for the executive stuff there.

45

46

47

48

49

50

I had the opportunity to come to town on my personal time and attend the Alaska Forum on the Environment and it seems like maybe an OSM Staff person

1 or somebody could go to that thing and bring a report
2 to us about that because there's an amazing wealth of
3 information there, actually very creepy about all the
4 stuff that's a common denominator, I hear a lot of
5 things people talk about, I can't get across the river,
6 things like that, harvest rates are probably going down
7 from climate change issues, migratory things, birds,
8 plant successional stages, there was just so much
9 stuff, exotic species, non-native 630 of them in
10 Alaska, plant -- everything changing. Kenai eventually
11 turning to a grasslands within 50 years type thing and
12 a lot of alarming things from marine survival of
13 salmonids to everything that's in these presentations,
14 really important information and we touch on it a
15 little bit here and there and it was always reminding
16 me of stuff that people were talking about, ocean
17 acidification and what not. So anyhow it would be cool
18 to have like a synopsis of that stuff brought to
19 everybody here so that these decisions that are getting
20 made in our regulatory processes could help contribute
21 to the most recent knowledge that's being gathered in
22 the scientific community.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
27 Good point. John.

28

29 MR. WHISSEL: Sure. You know I have
30 sort of similar concerns that Andy did, what's
31 impressed me over the last five years or so is how much
32 things seem to change from year to year.

33

34 You know, to use the Copper River, for
35 example, when I first started working on the Copper it
36 was pretty reliable, the river would start low and it
37 would gain water through the season and pretty high,
38 usually about the same rates and, you know, you go back
39 to last year and we've seen -- we saw the lowest water
40 we've ever seen and the highest water we've ever seen
41 all in one season and it came fast. It's not the first
42 time we've seen things like that. I think we all need
43 to sort of align our committees and these things sorts
44 of things that we do to establish the rules for the use
45 and conservation of fish and wildlife resources and be
46 mindful of how we approach these committees as the rate
47 and the pace of change increases. I think we do a
48 pretty good job of being nimble and being adaptive to
49 what's going on and I hope to see that continue and not
50

1 get stressed, you know, the Department's budgets are
2 getting cut, we don't know if we're going to have
3 funding and a lot of times we react to that by doing
4 less and I don't see any of the departments doing less,
5 I see more people -- or fewer people doing the same
6 amount of work and I really hope that can continue --
7 I'd love to see you guys get full funding, but from the
8 committee all the way down to the departments, great
9 work, you know, doing more with less, and it seems like
10 more of that's coming and I'm ready for it and I hope
11 everybody else is.

12
13 Thanks so much for the great reports
14 and the brief meeting, everybody was very informative
15 and it was really helpful for me to understand other
16 regions.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.

21
22 Okay, I'm going to get my comments in
23 and here's where I get lengthy and keep you guys for
24 awhile.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Actually I'll try
29 to be kind of brief, but I want to mention a couple of
30 things.

31
32 One, yeah, it was a brief meeting but I
33 do want to thank everyone for all their reports and in
34 these meetings like this that's where we have the
35 opportunity to take that time and understand that and
36 so it's good thing when we don't have a lot of
37 proposals that we're able to gather the information and
38 thoughts and come up with ideas that we need to address
39 and so that's very important.

40
41 I just want to reiterate, you know, the
42 Council, to me, the biggest part is the public
43 testimony of the people coming in and needing access to
44 the Federal fish and wildlife process and to be able to
45 have it. I will mention to you that in my other work
46 I'm involved with eight tribes in Cook Inlet that are,
47 for a lack of a better word, they're all mad as hell
48 over the fishery issues and they formed kind of a
49 fishery commission and what's happening is the State is
50

1 retracting on all the State fisheries and because of
2 the kings on the Kenai and so everything's getting
3 harder and harder and they actually take less than one
4 percent in the State and they don't have the access to
5 the Federal fisheries like Ninilchik's been fortunate
6 to get on the Kenai River and others up in the other
7 areas where you guys have some Federal fisheries. But
8 I know they're looking very hard to find a way to get
9 -- and so we've been trying to introduce them to the
10 Federal process where there's Federal land or whatever,
11 but if you see a big Indian uprising that's what's
12 going on.

13
14 So, anyway, we're going to meet in
15 Sutton the 30th of March and if you see smoke coming
16 this way that's what's happening.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, like I
21 said the public testimony is very important.

22
23 DeAnna, I want to thank you for your
24 coordination and all your help, you do an awesome job.
25 We all miss Donald but you're doing great so that's
26 good.

27
28 And if I cut anyone short at any time,
29 you know, let me know, I want to be -- and this is a
30 public process and it's a public process also -- I
31 always remind us, we are the ones with the local
32 knowledge, we're supposed to bring the institutional
33 knowledge of what's in our areas so we share, we hear a
34 lot of reports and we hear a lot of surveys and I like
35 surveys too but a lot of them I disagree with, I could
36 tell you anecdotal information that I've run on all the
37 Native lands and thousands of acres in Ninilchik and my
38 information from all the people I got in the field is a
39 lot different than the States, but anyway, as an
40 interesting point.

41
42 So if I missed anything we'll get it in
43 the fall. Okay, have a good spring.

44
45 Is there anything else, go ahead,
46 DeAnna.

47
48 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
49 to know if the Council would feel it would be of
50

1 benefit to have a quick wrap up. I know previous
2 Council member Judy Caminer was really good about doing
3 a quick wrap up of the Council's actions at the end of
4 the meeting. I'm prepared to do that if everybody
5 feels that might be of benefit, but if you're ready to
6 go I'm all right with that as well.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm fine with a
9 quick wrap up. There was very little action items but
10 the things that we did act on, that's very important to
11 reiterate, so go ahead, please do that.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Okay. And it also gives
14 the Council an opportunity if I have it a little wrong
15 they can correct me.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

18
19 MS. PERRY: As far as Fisheries
20 Resource Monitoring projects, Council member Gloria
21 Stickwan and John Whissel will talk with OSM this
22 summer and exchange information regarding possible
23 priority information needs on the Fisheries Resource
24 Monitoring Projects to be presented to the Council for
25 consideration in the future.

26
27 Denali SRC. The Council appointed
28 Justin Lang Mason in the ViceDementi seat on the Denali
29 Subsistence Resource Commission.

30
31 This Council will address the recent
32 resignation of Jeff Burney in the fall meeting and will
33 look forward to appointing a representative to fill Mr.
34 Burney's seat at that time.

35
36 Federal jurisdiction. The Council
37 entertained an additional agenda item regarding Federal
38 jurisdiction. This Council would like its coordinator
39 to seek OSM's assistance and guidance to explore
40 options available to address concerns of Federal
41 jurisdiction inadequacies particularly if a customary
42 and traditional use determination can be an avenue for
43 changing the jurisdiction of marine waters in Prince
44 William Sound and I also have of note, this will be
45 included as an annual report item for next year's
46 annual report.

47
48 Special Action WSA20-01 on Unit 13
49 caribou. There will be a public meeting on this
50

1 special action after the Board meeting in April. At
2 this meeting the Council made a formal recommendation
3 on WSA20-01 based on the information provided to the
4 Council by OSM at this meeting. This recommendation
5 was to support WSA20-01 as modified and stated in the
6 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
7 comment letter dated February 27th. That was to
8 support the portion of the request that would change
9 the harvest limit in Unit 13 remainder to two caribou,
10 changing the limit from bulls only to any caribou, will
11 provide additional subsistence opportunity. This
12 recommendation opposes the elimination of the closed
13 season from October 1 to October 20 which overlaps with
14 the rut.

15
16 Annual report. The Council approved
17 the drafted annual report with the addition of two
18 items. Concerns with the Executive Order entitled
19 evaluating and improving unity of FACA committees and
20 also an item effects of ocean acidification to include
21 a focus to address the impacts on both species. I'll
22 draft language based on the Council's discussion on
23 these two topics. I'll have the Chair review it before
24 it's finalized and submitted to OSM.

25
26 One question I did have, Council Member
27 Gloria Stickwan expressed an interest in also sending a
28 letter to the Secretaries to bring this concern to
29 their attention and provide specific concerns on the
30 record. Would the Council like for me to draft a
31 separate correspondence or would the Council feel that
32 adding this request to our annual report that goes to
33 the Board, if that is sufficient. So I would like
34 further clarification on that intent.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: I said to go to the
39 Federal Subsistence Board and ask the Federal Board to
40 write a letter to the Secretary of Interior.

41
42 MS. PERRY: Thank you for that
43 clarification.

44
45 Lastly the dates of the next meeting in
46 the fall will be October 7th and 8th in Anchorage and
47 for the winter meeting I have February 24th through the
48 25th in Cordova.

49
50

1 And that's all I have. Are there any
2 corrections to my notes?

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, you did an
5 outstanding job, good, I think you captured it well.
6 The only thing that I know we didn't discuss in great
7 detail but you actually captured it, was the FACA
8 situation and the appointees of the Committee -- I mean
9 the members of the Council. I know we're vacant. So
10 go ahead, Gloria.

11
12 MS. STICKWAN: By October we have to
13 have that special license to -- do we have to have that
14 for Cordova, to travel to Cordova, do we have to have
15 that by October?

16
17 MS. PERRY: Yes.

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Does everybody have
20 that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It looks like the
23 Council members will be there.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. PERRY: Yeah, when I.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're good.

30
31 MS. PERRY:mentioned that when we
32 were planning this meeting we were going to allow some
33 Council member time to try to take care of that but it
34 seemed like most people had already taken care of that
35 and there was no interest to take Council time to do
36 that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that'll be
39 interesting.

40
41 Andy wants to keep going.

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Just one more quick
44 thing, that customary and traditional use thing about
45 Federal jurisdiction of marine waters in Prince William
46 Sound, I'm very sure that any type of .804 analysis
47 could be run, guaranteed it's going to prove that
48 marine resources are utilized by the rural subsistence
49 users there.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Pat.

2
3 MS. PETRIVELLI: I think there's two
4 issues getting mixed up and I hate to make your meeting
5 long, but I'm just going to say when you -- when they
6 come back in the fall, I think you might be a little
7 bit disappointed but if you put it in the -- and I
8 don't think you put it in the annual report, but when I
9 worked here at OSM, when someone does a customary and
10 traditional use determination it's for the use of
11 Federal public lands or Federal public waters. And so
12 what's going to -- they're going to come back and tell
13 you in the fall is, is to define what the Federal
14 public waters are in your region and then when you have
15 a clear idea of what those are, then you could see if
16 you want to look at different customary and traditional
17 use determinations. But we could ask them to come back
18 and tell you where are the jurisdictions, because in
19 some regions like in Kodiak/Aleutians, they're marine
20 jurisdictions, they're leftover from Statehood, but I'm
21 currently not aware of areas in your region but OSM can
22 do the research and tell you in the fall. But they
23 won't investigate C&T determinations until they figure
24 out where they have jurisdiction. It's two separate
25 things. You can't use the determination to establish
26 jurisdiction. That's something beyond our program,
27 it's established by other means.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we kind of
30 knew it was a complicated issue but we were trying to
31 take a short cut, okay.

32
33 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn if
34 there's nothing else.

35
36 MR. WHISSEL: Move to adjourn.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's moved to
39 adjourn.

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded.

44
45 All in favor, we stand adjourned.

46
47 Thanks very much. Thanks everyone.

48
49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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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 for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 4th day of March at Anchorage, Alaska;

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 23rd day of March 2020.

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