

0001

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 8, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Greg Encelewski, Chairman
- Judy Caminer
- Ed Holsten
- Heath Kocan
- Andrew McLaughlin
- Michael Opheim
- Hope Roberts
- Diane Selanoff
- Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
329 F Street, Suite 222
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net

0002

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/8/2024)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning, everyone. Is everyone ready to go? We're missing one Council member, but he'll stray in here somewhere. We've got an all-points bulletin out for him, so we'll see if we can find him. Before we come to order invocation. We don't have Gloria anymore. Is there anyone that would like to lead us in an invocation this morning? Okay, I'll do it.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I've officially called the meeting to order. I think it's 11 after. Housekeeping announcement.

MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everyone. This is the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Nissa Pilcher. I am the Council Coordinator for this Council and the designated Federal officer for this meeting. I have a few housekeeping announcements to make before we get started. I'm going to skip a whole bunch of it because we went over it on the very first day.

I want to update current membership. There are three vacancies between resignations and the retirement of Gloria that went unfilled. So if anyone knows anybody that is interested in the Council. I have been attempting to get the word out as much as I can while arranging this meeting. Any help would be very appreciated. Let's put it that way.

For those wanting to address the Council on non-agenda topics there will be an opportunity for this later today after the Council gets to their action items. At that time the Chair will announce this opportunity and call on individuals who wish to address the Council. In order to do that the people in the room please fill out a blue card in the back of the room. If you are on the phone, you can press *5 to raise your hand and then we can call on you from there.

0003

1 That is it for my shortened version of
2 housekeeping.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very good.
5 Thank you, Nissa. Welcome, everyone. We're going to
6 do introductions. We have the Council up here. We
7 could maybe quickly go through the group here. It
8 doesn't matter where we start. Just go ahead and
9 announced yourself. Tell us about you a little bit and
10 then we've got some online, I think.

11
12 MR. PICHE: Good morning. Matt Piche,
13 fish biologist, Native Village of Eyak in Cordova.

14
15 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr.
16 Chairman. Members of the Council. I'm Greg Risdahl,
17 the subsistence program leader for the Forest Service
18 and Interagency Staff Committee member. Happy to be
19 there. Thank you.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: If everybody could one at
22 a time come up to the mic. We've got to get you on the
23 record and unfortunately that means you've got to come
24 up to the mic.

25
26 MS. COHEN: Good morning, everyone. My
27 name is Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias and I'm the
28 cultural anthropologist. Nice to see you all.

29
30 MR. GATES: Good morning. Ken Gates.
31 I'm the in-season manager for Cook Inlet and I'm based
32 out of Soldotna.

33
34 MS. KETRON: Good morning. I'm
35 Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist and
36 subsistence coordinator for the Glennallen Field Office
37 and I'm a Federally qualified subsistence user in
38 Gakona for about 10 years now.

39
40 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. I'm Dave
41 Sarafin, fisheries management biologist at Wrangell-St.
42 Elias National Park and Preserve. I've been a resident
43 of Tazlina since '99.

44
45 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. Amy Craver
46 with Denali National Park and Preserve. I'm the
47 subsistence coordinator and cultural anthropologist and
48 grew up in Talkeetna.

49
50

0004

1 MS. FLORES: Good morning. I'm
2 Victoria Flores. I'm from Ninilchik and I'm a
3 subsistence program analyst/cultural anthropologist at
4 the National Park Service.

5
6 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
7 members of the Council. My name is Scott Ayers. I'm
8 the Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the
9 Office of Subsistence Management and I'm here to help
10 out today. So I hope you have a great meeting.
11 Thanks.

12
13 MR. SANDERS: Good morning, members of
14 the Council. Andrew Sanders. I'm the subsistence
15 program manager for the Chugach National Forest. Thank
16 you.

17
18 MS. KEATING: Good morning, Council
19 members. It looks like I snuck in just in time. I'm
20 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence at Fish
21 and Game. Great to see everybody. I'm going to kind
22 of be bouncing back and forth between this and Kodiak,
23 but really good to see all of you.

24
25 MR. CASIPIT: Good morning, Mr.
26 Chairman and Council. My name is Calvin Casipit. I'm
27 a member of the Southeast Regional Advisory Council
28 representing Gustavus.

29
30 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, everyone.
31 My name is Cathy Needham. I'm Vice-Chair for the
32 Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Did we
35 miss anyone?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 MS. PILCHER: All right. For the
40 record, this is Nissa Pilcher. Could we have those
41 that have joined us on the phone. Let us know who you
42 are. There's only a handful, so I'm not going to go
43 down the list like I normally do. It is *6 to unmute.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 MS. PILCHER: All right. We don't seem
48 to be hearing anybody trying to introduce themselves,
49 so we're going to move on to number three, establish
50

0005

1 quorum. All right. Edward Holsten.

2

3 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, I'm Ed Holsten
4 representing the Cooper Landing area.

5

6 MS. PILCHER: I had trouble with your
7 guys's last names at the last meeting and now I've
8 hyped myself into a sense of nervousness about it, so
9 I'm probably going to mess them all up again. So my
10 apologies.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: Michael Opheim.

13

14 MR. OPHEIM: Opheim. Here.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Greg Encelewski.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I am here.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff.

21

22 MS. SELANOFF: Here.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: Dennis Zadra.

25

26 MR. ZADRA: I'm here representing
27 Cordova.

28

29 MS. PILCHER: Angela Totemoff. She has
30 an excused absence. She's got some family stuff going
31 on.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: Andrew McLaughlin.

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.

36

37 MS. PILCHER: Hope Roberts.

38

39 MS. ROBERTS: Here.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: Heath Kocan.

42

43 MR. KOCAN: Here.

44

45 MS. PILCHER: Judith Caminer.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: Caminer. Here.

48

49 MS. PILCHER: All right. With 9 of 10

50

0006

1 members present we have a quorum.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Nissa.
4 Alrighty. We're ready to roll. We established a
5 quorum. We did welcomes, introductions. I think
6 someone walked in the room here late, but they could
7 maybe introduce themselves. I'll open it up for review
8 and adoption of our agenda.

9

10 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion to
11 adopt the agenda.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
14 Michael.

15

16 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second -- this is
17 Diane. I'll second that motion.....

18

19 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

20

21 MS. SELANOFF:to adopt the
22 agenda.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We've got a
25 second from Diane and Ed, so whatever the record shows.
26 That's good. Any objections to the agenda? Any
27 additions?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify we do
34 have a catchall under Item 11(a) Follow up on Joint
35 Council action items. There was a couple letters that
36 I will bring up when we get to there that were either
37 drafted or half-drafted over the course of the last
38 week. You guys can choose to sign on or not sign on
39 accordingly. Some of them are in better shape than
40 others. So we can go over that at that time as well as
41 the proposed rule if you wanted to talk about that one
42 as well.

43

44 Just for the record, that was Chris
45 McKee from BLM that walked in, although I don't know
46 the gentleman that just walked in.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We've got
49 a motion. We've got a second. She pointed out some

50

0007

1 follow-up on Council items that doesn't change the
2 agenda. Is there anything else?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.

7 All in favor of the agenda as presented aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposed?

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We will
16 follow the agenda. Just a comment, just so we know, we
17 are on a very tight time schedule here. We've got a
18 lot of stuff going on, but we do have to vacate the
19 room at noon. They're going to set up for the next
20 group that's coming in here. So we don't have a whole
21 lot of time, but we'll highlight and we'll do the major
22 things we need to take care of.

23

24 Do you want to introduce yourself so we
25 could get you on the record, please.

26

27 MR. SPILINEK: Hello, everybody. My
28 name is Sterling Spilinek. I'm the wildlife biologist
29 at Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
32 Sterling. Now we're going to elect some officers for
33 this year. Nissa, you're the delegated Federal
34 officer, I'll yield the floor to you.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: All right. Hello. Nissa
37 Pilcher again for the record. We will now hold
38 elections for Chairman of the Council. I would like to
39 open the floor for any nominations for this. There is
40 no second needed for this part of the program.

41

42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll nominate Greg.

43

44 MS. PILCHER: Are there any other
45 nominations?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. PILCHER: So if there's no further

50

0008

1 nominations I'll declare the nominations are closed.
2 We have a nomination of Greg for the Chair position of
3 the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
4 Do we have a motion to appoint Greg as the Chair.

5

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.

7

8 MS. SELANOFF: Second.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: All right. The motion
11 was made by Andy, seconded by Diane. All in favor
12 signify by saying yeah.

13

14 IN UNISON: Yeah.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Assuming no nays. So,
17 Greg, I will pass the gavel back to you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's one of those
20 things you can't get out of, huh?

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm
25 honored and I'll continue to do the best I can as long
26 as I can. Thank you very much and we'll proceed with
27 great vigor and we'll hopefully have a great meeting
28 here.

29

30 Next item on our agenda is we've got to
31 have a vice-chair. So I'm opening the floor to
32 nominations.

33

34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I nominate Judy
35 Caminer. I've seen her do that position in the past
36 and it was fantastic.

37

38 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
41 and second for Judy. Is there any other nomination?

42

43 MS. SELANOFF: Move to close
44 nominations.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Motion to close
47 nominations. Is there a second?

48

49 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

50

0009

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Nominations
6 closed. Judy, you're Vice Chair. Thank you and
7 welcome back. Secretary/Treasurer nomination now.

8

9 MS. SELANOFF: I'll nominate Andy
10 McLaughlin for Secretary.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy's been
13 nominated.

14

15 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
18 Michael. Any discussion. Any other nominations.

19

20 MS. SELANOFF: Move to close
21 nominations.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Nominations have
24 been moved to close. Is there a second?

25

26 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
29 Michael for nominations. All in favor of closing, aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, that's you.

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Aye.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, I mean you're
40 Secretary/Treasurer. You can't get out of that one.
41 Alrighty. Number 7 on page 5 is next, review and
42 approval of the previous minutes.

43

44 MS. PILCHER: Those are found on page 5
45 in your meeting book. It's the really thin one with
46 the pinks on the cover.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does anyone want
49 to make a motion to approve them or correct them or

50

0010

1 make additions?

2

3 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to
4 approve the minutes of the last meeting.

5

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Michael. Is there a second?

9

10 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
13 Very good. Any discussion?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
18 in favor aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposition to
23 the record.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, the
28 minutes are approved. All right. We've got Council
29 reports. I guess we'll go ahead and we'll try to just
30 start around the table. Judy, if we could just go from
31 you and we'll come around. We'll give a brief report
32 and that would be appreciated. Thank you.

33

34 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Thank you, Council, for this unexpected honor. Mostly
36 I've been following what the Federal Board has been
37 doing as well as I was listening in on the Ketchikan
38 rural/nonrural determination public meeting. So just
39 trying to stay informed and involved with what the
40 overall Board is doing and how it might apply to our
41 region.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. HOLSTEN: Unlike what Judy was
46 doing, I spent most of the winter shoveling snow, like
47 most of you. It was a tough winter. A lot of snow, a
48 lot of ice. Seeing more moose down low. I'm sure
49 that's due to deep snow. Still a lot of hares. Still

50

0011

1 a lot of lynx. I'm surprised. It's been a number of
2 years that we've had lynx there.

3
4 This has been my first All-RAC meeting
5 and I really appreciated the opportunity. I only wish
6 there was at least one more day to kind of spread
7 things out a little bit more. It was kind of an ordeal
8 to stuff everything into four days. I really
9 appreciate all the work OSM put in for this meeting.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

14 Michael.

15

16 MR. OPHEIM: It was an interesting year
17 last year. Lots of wind. Lots of rain in Seldovia.
18 Berries weren't that good. It didn't seem like the
19 salmon return was great, but it wasn't bad. I think
20 people were able to get some fish. We had some folks
21 think that shooting bears in town was fun, so that was
22 kind of an issue for us this last summer. Some big
23 bears taken. It's been a while since we had big bears
24 taken. It was kind of nice to see.

25

26 I think, in talking to Jason Herman,
27 there was I think four goats taken this year through
28 the hunt there. I was hoping he was going to be here
29 to maybe update us on that. Had some moose on the road
30 again this winter. Not that much snow it didn't seem
31 like, but maybe up high there's enough or it's crusty
32 enough they're wanting to be on a road to make the
33 traveling easier.

34

35 We've got these swans that have been
36 coming back into the area. It started out with just a
37 couple. Before I left I counted 20 there in Seldovia.
38 So it's interesting to see that they're making the
39 winter habitat in Seldovia there. That's always fun to
40 see them out there.

41

42 I think that's about all I've got right
43 now.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,

46 Michael.

47

48 MR. KOCAN: Yeah, over in Cordova it's
49 been kind of wet, snowy. We've had these horrible
50

0012

1 cycles of snow that turns to rain, that turns to ice
2 and not a lot of fun. I've been fortunate enough I
3 haven't had to work this winter, so I've been out on
4 the water a lot. King fishing has been really -- a lot
5 of kings in the sound until about mid-February and then
6 it really died off.

7
8 It was interesting this year because my
9 neighbor was able to get all the tags. We get a lot of
10 hatchery fish. All my big fish have been hatchery
11 fish. Two of my biggest fish have all come from the
12 same hatchery. Vancouver Island -- I'm a big proponent
13 of hatcheries in Vancouver Island now. Hopefully it
14 will keep them going so I can keep catching big fish.

15
16 I've been putting my tanner pots out
17 and it's get a couple here and there, nothing great,
18 but there are some crab around. A lot of little
19 dungies. When I pull my pots up, they're just full of
20 tiny, small little dungies. So I don't know if it's
21 because of the otters. I know that's what people
22 around town say. The otters came and all the big
23 dungies went away. I know we can't get rid of otters,
24 but it would be nice to maybe find a balance where we
25 could get some dungies back in town.

26
27 Yeah, that's about it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Thank
30 you. Andy.

31
32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Prince William Sound area report. Winter came on
34 early. Currently three or four feet. Even at sea
35 level type thing.

36
37 So the deer population has definitely
38 got its challenges this year. Partially due to less
39 people in the community that I directly live in. The
40 harvest has only been one deer this entire winter,
41 which typically is six to ten for the year. So
42 something going on there in the deer population.

43
44 I can point out that people in Cordova
45 will be like, oh, there's nothing wrong with the deer.
46 Well, there's a very distinct -- during the
47 deer-pocalypse snow-pocalypse western Prince William
48 Sound has very different weather conditions than
49 Cordova area where there's a higher density of people.

50

0013

1 More rain over there, less deep snow. I think we're
2 closer to the Sargent Icefield on the western side, so
3 the deer get a little harsher, deeper snow on that
4 side.

5
6 Clam digging. A lot of people have
7 been going for clams saying there's less than usual. I
8 went myself and found a lot of little pock marks
9 everywhere where sea otters had already -- they dive
10 down and dig on the bottom. That's a function of a few
11 less people in the village. Specifically like three
12 different hunting families that used to get a lot of
13 sea otters are gone now, so the sea otter numbers are
14 up. There's just lots of them all over.

15
16 Have a lot of wintering cow and calf
17 humpback whales going on right now. I think they're
18 eating some schools of juvenile herring, but our
19 herring size does seem to be small. Not big, you know,
20 breeding type herring.

21
22 There's less halibut in people's
23 freezers than an average year. That's a function of --
24 last summer was the worst halibut fishing I've ever
25 seen in my three decades out there.

26
27 Berry picking was -- kind of came on
28 okay, but then the continual crop was like poor
29 pollination or something. There's been concern
30 literally for decades out there in Prince William Sound
31 about hatcheries increasing their production of
32 specifically humpies. Contrary to some comments at a
33 previous break-out session here, the hatcheries have
34 increased their production.

35
36 When I was involved with hatcheries, so
37 25 years ago, there was like 100 million fish. By 2015
38 -- that was before the year 2000. In 2015 it's like
39 200 million fish. So who puts a cap on these amounts
40 that the hatcheries are allowed to release if the State
41 is running that, which it is, because they run the
42 marine waters of Prince William Sound.

43
44 Something needs to give there. It was
45 nice going to a meeting here to find out that
46 scientists supporting -- is proving this larger -- or
47 the smaller size. They used to be larger fish.
48 There's competition for the same foods when these
49 hatcheries -- it's just a big aquarium out there in the
50

0014

1 Gulf of Alaska and the Pacific Ocean. When we dump
2 those fish in there, it takes effect on the wild stocks
3 that are out there. It may not be a function of what
4 people are seeing going to the Copper River, but it
5 certainly could be likely related to the Yukon River
6 and the remainder of Alaska.

7

8 We do know that our king salmon that we
9 trawl in the wintertime have been British Columbia
10 stocks of kings that kind of come up. That's been --
11 people have found that from scale and otolith analysis
12 a long time ago, I believe.

13

14 Anyhow, that increased competition for
15 marine resources is definitely -- I mean it's been
16 suspected, but it was great hearing scientists actually
17 talk about facts and numbers and proving. One thing
18 about the smaller size that people don't realize is --
19 or they're trying to put their finger on why. Why are
20 they becoming mature earlier.

21

22 To me it's very similar like if you put
23 a certain type of plant under a understory of a forest,
24 that plant grows smaller. And, if you then stress that
25 plant, it forces it into a reproductive cycle because
26 it's stressed and it's like I better reproduce or it's
27 got issues. So it forces it to bloom and make seeds.
28 I believe there's a correlation between that type of
29 relationship in the plant world when it's stressed and
30 malnourished compared to what's going on with the
31 salmon out in the ocean.

32

33 The marine waters of Prince William
34 Sound still only have State jurisdiction and it's been
35 interesting to find out that other RACs have been
36 networking and listening to comments and other RACs are
37 having the same thing. One of the examples is Kotzebue
38 -- or not Kotzebue, Kuskokwim Bay. They are having
39 issues where they wish Federal had jurisdiction over,
40 but State has jurisdiction over their marine waters and
41 their subsistence needs are not getting met.

42

43 Anyhow, that's a report from Prince
44 William Sound.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's a good
47 report, Andy. I really enjoyed that Gulf of Alaska
48 report because that was great data that they put on.
49 It made you think a lot. Okay, we're going to go to
50

0015

1 Dennis.

2

3

4 MR. ZADRA: Good morning, everybody.
5 I'll reiterate what Heath said about Cordova. A lot of
6 snow early and then we had a false spring, I guess, in
7 early February where it warmed up and rained and melted
8 a bunch of the ice and then it turned around and snowed
9 again, it rained again. So ice was kind of the theme
10 for the winter.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

I guess I should have brought it up
agenda item came to my attention that NOAA is opening
up the national standards or whatever definitions that
apply to the Magnuson-Stevenson Act. Heather Bauscher,
who was at the all-council meeting might be showing up
here later and she can speak a lot more. She knows a
lot more about this than I do. I just found out about
it and started researching it.

This is a real big deal from what's
going on because the four guidelines they're going to
look at redefining are communities, so the possibility
of changing the language in Magnuson-Stevenson to --
change the definition of the communities could be in
our favor.

One of the other things they're doing
is bycatch and hopefully redefining that. So I'm just
touching the tip of this. If anybody has the
opportunity maybe just do a search on MSA and see what
this is about. Hopefully Heather has the opportunity
to show up here later and maybe enlighten us a little
more on that.

Other than that it's just been spending
a lot of time in meetings. Our Board of Fish meeting
for Copper River/Prince William Sound will be in
Cordova in December. So we're really trying to get
prepared for that.

Anyway, thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
Dennis. Diane.

MS. SELANOFF: Am I loud enough? Okay.
He said I'm not loud. I asked him to tell my husband
but he won't.

0016

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SELANOFF: Yesterday -- well, first of all let me start with the All-Council meetings. This is the first time I've been to one and that was phenomenal. I loved hearing the different perspectives of the different RACs and what they're doing and how they're going about it. A lot of it was put together very eloquently by the members of the different RACs.

I needed more time to listen. I think there was so much going on so fast. It was about late yesterday afternoon I went home -- went to the hotel and I slept till like 6:30. There was just so much to absorb, so much to think about, that I just had to shut down for a minute and regurgitate all that. But that's been phenomenal, so thank you for having that set up.

I also wanted to say too that I've heard about the trawlers and stuff in the Gulf and everywhere and how much devastation that they're causing. To me it was always kind of, you know, far away. So I realize it was happening. It was probably further away from my home than not.

This winter when I went out to the dock to -- I go down there and just breathe the fresh salt air in just to regroup myself. When I was doing that I looked down and moored next to me was a trawler. One that has been trawling in the Prince William Sound. I can't tell you how devastating that was and heartbreaking to see. You know, it's like it's not out there. It's in my front yard. I don't want them in my front yard. I don't want them at all.

I know it's big business. I know there's a lot going on. They're hard to just say stop, you can't do this anymore, but somehow we need to make it stop so they're not, you know, cleaning out my front yard, my refrigerator where I get my food from. My fear is that there won't be much left there anymore for some time. So anyway that was just what I wanted to -- what's bothered me the most this winter.

Like many of you, you want to talk about snow, come on over to Valdez. Our road has been shut down out of town at least four times this year for at least two or three days at a time. Which is kind of nice because you know nothing is coming over the

0017

1 mountain that you're not aware of because nothing is
2 coming over.

3

4

5 As a result of the amount of snow we've
6 had a lot of moose getting on the road, so people are
7 very active through social media announcing that they
8 came through, there's an abundance of moose, please be
9 careful. So people are just making everybody else
10 aware via social media when the moose are out because
11 of the amount of snow we've had. So that's always
12 appreciated.

12

13

14 Then yesterday afternoon there was a
15 session on co-management in the room next door. As I
16 listened to that it was more towards Bristol Bay area
17 and the problems that are going on with their rivers
18 and the amount of fish that are coming up or not.

18

19

20 I was thinking about that in
21 relationship to the Copper River and our meetings here
22 and how it always seems to be a battle between upriver
23 and downriver, you know, and all that fishing. I
24 thought we need to get on that page. We need to get
25 communicating with each other better so we can
26 together, upriver and downriver, better manage the
27 Copper River so that we all have an understanding that
28 both areas utilize the subsistence and the fish that
29 comes through there. It just has been tough this past
30 couple years, so I'm hoping that at some point in time
31 we can get to that.

31

32

33 The other thing, you know, with these
34 meetings we've talked a lot about fish, which has been
35 primary to me. I know there's been a lot of concern
36 about the caribou and I'm grateful that we can support
37 them with their subsistence, but when it comes to fish
38 there's a lot of information and a lot of good
39 presentations. You could look at the different graphs
40 and charts that they provide about who the users are
41 and how much they're using or not using and stuff. It
42 was all good information.

42

43

44 Thinking about the fish itself, which
45 has nourished us for thousands of years and has
46 supported us more than we have supported it so far, I
47 think it would be kind of interesting to look at a
48 chart or something that has the different impacts of
49 fish in our area, whether it be from commercial
50 fishing, whether it be from weather, whether it be from

50

0018

1 subsistence users, sports users, predators, hatcheries
2 or as a result of bycatch.

3

4

5 So it would be kind of interesting to
6 see how the fish is impacted because we look at it from
7 our perspective. I want to look at it from the fish's
8 perspective and what it's all encountering trying to
9 get back home to its spawning areas.

9

10 Our fish has been extremely low and I'm
11 embarrassed to say -- actually very embarrassed to say
12 the past two years in order for me to continue putting
13 fish up for my family I've actually bought it from the
14 cannery. That's where I've been getting my fish for
15 the past couple years. That's embarrassing for me to
16 say. We have an opening, you know, once a week when we
17 can go out and get our subsistence. I think that needs
18 to change too.

19

20

21 Anyway, you can let me get on my
22 pedestal. I could be here all day. So with that thank
23 you. It's been an excellent meeting.

23

24

25 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning. Hope
26 Roberts. I've had to spend a lot of time in Anchorage
27 this last winter, but I've heard a lot about the
28 avalanches shutting down the roads and stuff. With
29 natural disasters, I'm guessing it's a disaster, people
30 do need their subsistence food. Especially things like
31 marine mammals. I know that people like to focus on
32 one issue with the Marine Mammal Protection Act, but
33 without enforcing it -- like, you know, I've seen
34 pictures recently of killer whales in nets and a
35 slaughter of numerous sea lions in certain villages and
36 stuff and nobody being accountable for it.

36

37

38 On the first day I believe Chair
39 Christianson said something about not having enough
40 aunties and uncles to teach hunters, so there's no
41 hunters. Well, there's a lot of people out there that
42 are federally qualified to hunt marine mammals and help
43 you with your clam issue, which other things eat clams
44 too like octopus and starfish and things like that.
45 They're just a little slicker and they don't leave
46 footprints.

46

47

48 So, you know, if we can get out there
49 and teach people who are actually federally qualified
50 and still full-blooded Native to hunt these animals, we

50

0019

1 could come together to where people aren't slaughtering
2 sea lions but calling on the people of the village to
3 help them because they know each other and they work
4 together rather than trying to change a law when you
5 should be enforcing it because people should be held
6 accountable for all this marine mammal bycatch. Which
7 could feed people who are stuck from avalanches.

8

9 I mean, you know, but I just went on
10 with what you guys are all saying, but it has been a
11 wild winter. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Hope.
14 Well, I have a few comments here to make too. I think
15 they're probably relevant to some of the stuff that
16 we've talked about here. So I'm just going to hit on
17 them. I didn't really prepare a report much because I
18 had to give the report at the other one. That was a
19 whole separate one that Nissa did a great job in
20 helping draft it. I worked on that report so you heard
21 it already on that report from us.

22

23 I do want to report a couple things
24 from the Ninilchik area. We have a Federal moose hunt
25 down there and we did take about seven moose, a few
26 cows and a few bulls. That's been a real blessing. We
27 got C&T for moose. People don't think about that, but
28 it's a little help for the community to share and
29 opportunity.

30

31 The State hunt the moose were pretty
32 good down there this year, but not as good as they have
33 been in the past. We had to do a little Yup'ik hunting
34 and so on and so forth if you understand that.

35

36 Anyway, the fishing on the Kenai for
37 the red salmon was quite phenomenal. We have a Federal
38 net and we're one of the only recognized tribes in the
39 Cook Inlet area that has a net. We have a net on the
40 Kenai and we provide for the rural residents of
41 Ninilchik. We provided well over 4,000 fish. That's
42 Native/non-Native. The tribe operates the net. When
43 they bring them in then they call a person that's got
44 the permit and distribute them. So that's been a real
45 blessing. It's been good for quite a few years.

46

47 On the same note we have zero kings.
48 They don't let us fish kings anymore. The rivers are
49 shut down. They destroyed our streams years ago with
50

0020

1 hatchery fish. The Ninilchik River has been introduced
2 with hatcheries. There's nothing but small hatchery
3 kings. No adipose fins. My mom's not alive anymore,
4 but she would tell you they taste different and I agree
5 with that.

6
7 Anyway, we've also had to buy fish.
8 Like Diane, I had to -- you know, I smoke fish, but the
9 unbelievable thing is that I've always put up a lot of
10 kings for smoked fish and share them with the
11 community. I share them at all our Council meetings
12 and et cetera. But we can't get kings anymore, so we
13 buy them now and we've been buying them from Southeast
14 trawlers and stuff. It's unreal. To bring them into
15 the community. Silvers. Couldn't smoke silvers. I
16 had to buy them off a drift guy that drifts on the west
17 side of Cook Inlet.

18
19 There's reds, but the competition in
20 the ocean is real. The competition of hatcheries
21 taking a big portion of food. You know, I heard it
22 yesterday, 40 percent. You can only put so much in a
23 jar and the jar is getting full and it's all over in
24 the user groups. We've got trouble out there and we
25 need to look at it.

26
27 Anyway, I don't want to get off course
28 here, but we've got no clams either, but they decided
29 they were going to to open it up and give it a try. So
30 they opened it I think three days and they said they
31 could have 15 clams. Well, no one got much clams. I
32 was certainly opposed to the opening because they're
33 trying to rebuild the stock. A lot of them got nice
34 wet and dirty and they had fun and brought a lot of
35 people to the Peninsula, but they didn't get no clams.
36 A few got some. One local got his 15 clams, but he
37 knew all the good beds. Anyway, the smaller size is
38 real.

39
40 I want to just mention one thing about
41 NOAA here that basically Dennis touched on. I've been
42 heavily involved in some of that stuff because I sit on
43 the local AC and the local AC is kind of funny. It's
44 an advisory group that advises to the State on all
45 these proposals. Well, the State don't listen to you.
46 Most of those proposals that we support in Ninilchik
47 area we kind of get a laugh at. I don't think they've
48 ever supported us or very, very seldom do. They come
49 up with the most cock and bull type stuff I've ever
50

0021

1 seen.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

They've taken commercial setnetters now and shut us down for two years. Now they opened this so we're going to get to use a dipnet. Well, I'll tell you I don't know how you're going to dipnet in the Cook Inlet, but that's going to be something else. It's going to be quite amazing. Things are really kind of bad in the fisheries there.

But on the NOAA side there's -- they call it the EEZ zone out of Ninilchik. It's in the middle of Cook Inlet. It's beyond the three mile marker. It's regulated by NOAA. They are supposed to write the regulations. They're supposed to be in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They haven't been. The drift fleet had sued them. They won in the Ninth Circuit and they were forced to rewrite it. There's an Amendment 16. They've been rewriting the rules. They can't figure it out, so they turn it back to the State. The State continues to manage it.

Anyway, if you think about it, there's big old Cook Inlet there and in the middle there's this little zone at 12 miles out and the drifters do a lot of drifting in there. So there's a group of Cook Inlet tribes. There's eight tribes. I'm a member of. We all got together. We've had a fishery group for many years. We really kind of activated it and got really active in it. We participated and we made testimony at the NOAA meeting. We'll do it again at the one coming up in April.

Dennis is right. They are changing some rules. But we're putting in for a fishery for subsistence fishery in the EEZ zone. Ken is looking at me here. Anyway. That's a new project. It would be an opportunity for the other villages to get some fish and maybe distribute it. You know, they'd have to drift out there. So that's one opportunity coming up. So I know a lot about that and the rule there and I'd be glad to share it with you later. Anyway, it's the smaller size.

The rest of the stuff I think I kind of touched on, but there's a few more. The All-Council meeting. I know Judy was at the first one and I was at one before. I'm very appreciative of the All-Council meeting and the wisdom of all the people and all the

0022

1 stuff that was talked about. You heard me talking and
2 I asked for more time for the Councils to interact with
3 each other and I did that on the recommendation of a
4 lot of our members up from Ahtna and all over the
5 country here.

6
7 One of the things that I felt the
8 All-Council lacked and missed this year was more time
9 to discuss amongst themselves. That discussion is just
10 like our Council meeting here and we need it. We
11 really need that to understand that we're a lot more
12 connected than we think. We're all fighting for the
13 same resources basically in one way, shape or another
14 that affect us.

15
16 So I know some of these letters, and
17 letters don't always support things, but we're going to
18 review some of those later on in the meeting and we'll
19 see the outcome of that. Hopefully it will be good.
20 No, I really enjoyed the All-Council meeting.
21 Especially the presentation they did on the Gulf of
22 Alaska session.

23
24 Andy alluded to that. But that showed
25 without doubt -- I have no doubt that there's way too
26 many pinks being hatchery produced in the whole system
27 and being dumped in there and the competition. It's
28 been great for commercial fishing. It's great for
29 fish, but they're eating too. I'm like an orca and
30 orcas eat lots, but I'm like an orca. I like those
31 big, fat kings that are nice and juicy. Well, we don't
32 have them anymore, so I can't be an orca. I guess I
33 don't know what I've got to be, but anyway.

34
35 But that's what happens. So anyway
36 I'll get off my high horse here. I told you about the
37 Cook Inlet tribes and I told you about NOAA, I told you
38 about the local ACs, setnets, competition. Well, I
39 told you just about everything I want to tell you, so
40 thank you very much.

41
42 Judy.

43
44 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Just a quick question for you. Does the tribe still
46 have to do such an in-depth report to the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service about the net fishery in the Kenai?

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, you know,
50

0023

1 Ken has been real good to work with and we produce our
2 plan. We review it. They meet with us twice a year.
3 We still got to report as soon as you catch them.
4 We've got to call it in that day. So there is pretty
5 stringent reporting on it.

6
7 Just so you know we haven't taken any
8 kings in the Kenai. That was the big fear that we were
9 going to take the kings, destroy the kings. We've been
10 fishing that net for four, five years, but we've only
11 taken one king and reported it. So that's pretty
12 interesting. But the kings are real low.

13
14 Next item we have review and approval
15 of our 2023 annual report. Nissa is going to give it.
16 It's on 19 there.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
19 on Page 19 of your meeting book you'll find the draft
20 of your annual report. There are five topics that your
21 Council raised at the last meeting: To request an
22 ANILCA Section 804 analysis be started on the Nelchina
23 Caribou Herd; ongoing climate change impacts on ocean
24 resources including PSP and ocean acidification impacts
25 on shellfish and food webs; request the initiation of a
26 review and evaluation of the current customary and
27 traditional use determination process; jurisdiction on
28 subsistence shellfish resources in Prince William
29 Sound; and concern over lack of public involvement with
30 removal of delegated authority.

31
32 So as was explained at your fall
33 meeting, no additional topics can be added to the
34 report at this time, but if you do think of another
35 I'll gladly take it down and remind you of it in the
36 fall when we're doing this all over again. But if you
37 want to edit or update any of the language found within
38 this Annual Report, please let me know so we can get
39 those edits made and then we can get it finalized for
40 you guys.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If there's
43 any edits, I think you heard Nissa, we're not going to
44 change it, but if you've got any edits to the report,
45 let's do them now or suggestions. Otherwise we could
46 make a motion to approve it and we'll send that on and
47 then we'll prepare for the next report.

48
49 Actually we had some pretty good stuff
50

0024

1 in this report. I was going to bring it up and refer
2 to it, but we kind of covered it. One of the ones we
3 had about the evaluation of the current customary and
4 traditional use determination. That was talked about
5 quite a bit and we actually had it in our report for
6 the Federal Board.

7

8 I'm just waiting to see if there's any
9 comments or changes, Diane. If not, we'll approve it.

10

11 MS. SELANOFF: I'd just like to make a
12 motion to approve the report.

13

14 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
17 by Diane to approve the report as presented and
18 seconded by Michael. Any other discussion?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.

23

24 All in favor aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. That
33 carries. Thank you, Nissa. Next we have call for
34 Federal fish and shellfish regulations. Pippa, you're
35 going to present that, right?

36

37 MS. KENNER: I am.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and
43 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
44 Management. Cory Graham couldn't be here today, so I'm
45 going to present this for you. It begins on Page 37 of
46 your Council books.

47

48 First off I'd like to tell you that the
49 fish regulations from the 2023-2025 cycle are in effect
50 as of last Friday. Some of you may not know that it

0025

1 was taking a long time to get those regulations
2 published. The regulation books are being printed now
3 and an electronic copy is available on the Federal
4 Subsistence Management Program website. I also noticed
5 there's a couple of copies of the new book in the back.

6
7 So this is an announcement for the call
8 for Federal fishery proposals for the 2025-2027
9 regulatory years. The Federal Subsistence Board will
10 accept proposals to change Federal regulations for the
11 subsistence take of fish and shellfish in Federal
12 public waters including changes to seasons, harvest
13 limits, methods and means and customary and traditional
14 use determinations.

15
16 The window of opportunity to submit
17 proposals will be open for probably 60 days once it
18 opens, likely March into May. The Council may develop
19 proposals now and they will be submitted by your
20 coordinator during the comment period. The public may
21 also submit proposals to change Federal subsistence
22 fishery regulations by submitting them to the
23 regulations.gov website or by sending a hard copy to
24 the Office of Subsistence Management. A news release
25 describing this process will soon be available on our
26 website.

27
28 The proposals will be analyzed by OSM
29 staff and presented to the Councils during their fall
30 meeting, at which time the Council can make
31 recommendations to the Board on each proposal.
32 Proposal analyses and Council recommendations will be
33 presented to the Board for their action during the
34 January 2025 fisheries regulatory cycle, so in about a
35 year.

36
37 So that is the update on the call for
38 Federal fisheries proposals. Does the Council have any
39 questions or regulatory proposals to put forward?

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions for
42 Pippa.

43
44 (No questions)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If we come
47 up with proposals, we've got some time. Judy, go
48 ahead.

49
50

0026

1 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 guess for me personally it's a little hard to come up
3 with proposals. Many of you probably have ideas. One
4 thing that was done several years ago was OSM reviewed
5 the Cook Inlet regulations because a lot of them mirror
6 the State regulations.

7
8 I think, if the Council agrees, it
9 would be worthwhile to have OSM take a look at these
10 regulations and see if they provide a meaningful
11 preference and if it's possible to provide a meaningful
12 preference to bring those recommendations to us.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that would
15 be very good. I know they've done it on some. The
16 Federal lands are pretty slim that we get to use. The
17 regulations, how they interfere with us, is very
18 impacting. State regulations and other regulations.
19 Those need to be taken over.

20
21 Pippa.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Member Caminer. So that would kind of push us into the
25 next fisheries regulatory cycle because the next time
26 the Council meets the call for proposals will have
27 closed. But it's a worthwhile endeavor and I'm taking
28 notes on it, but it would kind of push us into the next
29 regulatory cycle to be able to do that.

30
31 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. Through the
32 Chair. I understand the timing, but I just wanted to
33 bring up now would be a good time to start and I guess
34 if we felt strongly about a proposal we could be ready
35 to submit that.

36
37 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Member Caminer.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Scott, we want
40 more fish.

41
42 MR. AYERS: Hi. Thank you. Again,
43 this is Scott Ayers. I just wanted to come up in
44 support of Pippa with any questions that you may have
45 related to the fisheries cycle that's going on right
46 now or any other ideas that you have related to
47 developing a team to look over the Cook Inlet and any
48 other fisheries regulations for your Council with the
49 ideas that Ms. Caminer had in mind. So we're here to
50

0027

1 help.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Andy.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 I, for one, definitely would support any type of review
7 process bringing to our attention any type of how
8 Federal aligns with the State regulations. I'm not a
9 big proponent of the State defending much with
10 subsistence.

11

12 So I believe the Federal system works
13 and I would like to see some information shared with us
14 about which ones are aligned. It seems like they're
15 always like we need to align the Federal with the State
16 and there's always these proposals from the State for
17 that, but they don't have to align and in many ways
18 they shouldn't align. So I would like to have that
19 information.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Absolutely.

24 Scott.

25

26 MR. AYERS: Yeah, thank you so much.
27 That's great information for us to have. I believe we
28 have two sets of -- two areas that are under the
29 jurisdiction -- two fisheries areas under the
30 jurisdiction of this Council, both the Cook Inlet area
31 and, if I recall correctly, the Prince William Sound
32 area. Would you be interested in the Council -- sorry.
33 Would the Council be interested in OSM reviewing both
34 of those sets of regulations?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I believe so,
37 Scott. I see some of them nodding their heads here.
38 The Cordova men say yes. Thank you.

39

40 Okay, Judy, did that clear up
41 everything we wanted to do on that today? I know we
42 were going to try and squeeze it in. It worked out
43 just perfect.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: I think so. I guess if
46 you need any help from the Council, I guess let us know
47 too and we'll do what we can.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Thank

50

0028

1 you.

2

3

MS. KENNER: Okay I move on?

4

5

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Move on.

6

7

MS. KENNER: Okay. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Before we move too far forward I would like to speak about a closure review that will be considered this regulatory cycle. So fisheries closure review 2305, that's on Page 23 in your meeting book. This was deferred from last cycle by the Eastern Interior Council. It concerns a closure to the harvest of all fish in the Delta River, which is just south of Fairbanks.

16

17

18

19

20

21

It is the Board's policy to review existing closures every four years so that Federal public lands and waters can be reopened when the closures are no longer necessary.

22

23

24

25

26

So last cycle this Council submitted a comment in support of rescinding the closure, but was concerned that only residents of the Yukon northern area have a customary and traditional use determination for fish in the Delta River.

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

So if the Council wishes, now is the time to submit a proposal requesting to add other residents to the customary and traditional use determination for fish in the Delta River. Is this something that Council members remember or do you need more explanation?

34

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The Council is looking pretty blank here. I don't know. We might need some more explaining. Thank you.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

MS. KENNER: So residents of the Yukon northern area, which is not Southcentral, have a customary and traditional use determination to fish under Federal regulations in parts of the Delta River that are Federal public waters. Residents of Southcentral currently cannot fish under Federal regulations in the Delta River because they are not included in the customary and traditional use determination.

48

49

50

So we're offering you an opportunity

0029

1 now because we heard your concern to submit a proposal
2 for all or some residents of Southcentral Alaska to
3 have a customary and traditional use determination in
4 the Delta River for fishing under Federal regulations.

5

6 Evidently this was something that was
7 brought up at your last Council meeting. It might not
8 have been a big point, but we're bringing it forward to
9 you now.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, you go
12 ahead.

13

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, just curious. I
15 hear conservation concerns. If there is no
16 conservation concerns, I definitely would be in support
17 of adding user groups that aren't C&T.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Great. Thank you, Andy.
20 Through the Chair. So you're talking about rescinding
21 the closure.

22

23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Correct.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Got it. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I have a question
28 in the audience here. I'm going to recognize Karen.
29 She wanted to speak to that a little bit. Maybe she
30 knows more of that area. My question is if we add
31 these to the user groups that don't have C&T, how does
32 that all work? I thought they had to have C&T.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Just to cover that
35 question. There's a little bit of confusion. One of
36 the things that Andy -- it's not confusion. Andy is
37 speaking to the closure. I'm not asking you to take
38 action on the closure itself. I'm just asking if
39 Council members have considered requesting to have C&T
40 on the Delta River based on comments evidently that
41 were taken at your last meeting. I just want to say
42 anyone can put a proposal in at any time.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

45

46 MS. KENNER: We're bringing it up to
47 you. Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure. Okay.

50

0030

1 Karen.

2

3

4 MS. LINNELL: I think that was former
5 member Gloria Stickwan's point in being able to hunt in
6 the Tangle Lakes drainage area, which is Ahtna's
7 traditional territory, and the Ahtna people have fished
8 that area for millenia and have been mistakenly left
9 out of customary and traditional use of non-salmon
10 species. Well, actually salmon go into there too in
11 that area. I guess this is the process, but that's why
12 Gloria brought it up last time. So thank you.

12

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
15 clarifying that. That makes it clearer to me what we
16 talked about there. Okay. You want to continue there,
17 Pippa, and tell us what we've got to do.

17

18

19 MS. KENNER: I was just talking with my
20 colleague, Scott Ayers, and he was reminding me that I
21 think out of respect for Gloria and the Council this is
22 being brought up to you, but any individual can submit
23 a proposal when the call opens. The Council doesn't
24 have to do it. We're just giving you this information.

24

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I see some
27 head shaking. Does people want to support it, want to
28 work on a proposal or do we want to just hold off for
29 now? Go ahead, Judy.

29

30

31 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you. Do
32 we need a formal motion requesting you to do this, I
33 guess is the question, or we can certainly vote on it?

33

34

35 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Member Caminer.
36 No, this is part of the development of the proposals to
37 change fisheries regulations and that call for
38 proposals is going to start probably within the next
39 week. So if the Council would like to submit a
40 proposal requesting to have customary and traditional
41 use determination in that area, it can. It can submit
42 any proposal, but this is one that was mentioned at the
43 last meeting.

43

44

45 MR. AYERS: If I may. What we need
46 from the Council is just the nuts and bolts on the
47 record and then your coordinator will work with you to
48 get the more fine detailed information at this point in
49 time. Partly because our call isn't open yet, so we're
50 just trying to make sure that we establish a record if

50

0031

1 the Council is interested in doing this.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The nuts
4 and bolts are we want to include those that were
5 adversely left out as referred by our past Council
6 meeting. How's that? I got good. So we're all in
7 agreement. Thank you.

8

9

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Members of the Council. I'll move on now. Okay. So I
11 would like to give you the Fisheries Resource
12 Monitoring Program update. This is not an action item.
13 It's just informational. There isn't any material in
14 your book on this topic.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The mission of the Fisheries Resource
Monitoring Program is to identify and provide
information needed to sustain Federal subsistence
fisheries. This is old information for people who have
been on the Council for a while, but we'll continue
with the description anyway.

The Monitoring Program also supports
meaningful involvement in fisheries management by
Alaska Native and rural organizations and promotes
collaboration among all the different agencies, tribes
and local organizations.

OSM is currently in the final phase of
the 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funding
cycle and the board met in early February and approved
the final monitoring program funding plan. With this
cycle coming to an end, it's time for the Councils to
begin developing priority information needs for the
2026 call for proposals.

Priority information needs -- you might
also have heard them called PINs -- these are an
important component of the Monitoring Program and they
outline knowledge gaps and local concerns related to
subsistence fisheries and guide what projects are
submitted for consideration for funding. These
projects gather that information for the Council so the
Council can make decisions on proposals.

We're asking for volunteers from this
Council to meet by telephone to identify these
knowledge gaps and information needed for management of
subsistence fisheries. The Draft Priority Information

0032

1 Needs that is developed by the volunteers will be
2 presented to your Council for final approval at your
3 next meeting in the fall.

4
5 Again, this is not an action item. You
6 don't have to make a motion, but we would like you to
7 identify a handful of volunteers, hopefully two or
8 three, to help us put together these priority
9 information needs for you to approve at your next
10 meeting.

11
12 Thank you. I can take any questions
13 and I can accept volunteers at this time. It's a lot
14 of fun. You know, these meetings they don't take a lot
15 of your time. They're an hour or two. If you want
16 another meeting after that to kind of settle on a few
17 things, we can do that too, but it's not a big time
18 commitment, but it's important.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Andy is
21 first. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Call me about anything with Prince William Sound.

25
26 MS. KENNER: Got it. Thank you, Member
27 McLaughlin.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I would like to
30 volunteer some of my fellow members, but I better
31 volunteer myself first for the Kenai, okay. Hope.

32
33 MS. ROBERTS: I'm willing to help out
34 if it's as fun as you say it is.

35
36 MS. KENNER: Well, you know I love this
37 stuff. So, yeah, I'll bring you into it.

38
39 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy, go ahead.

42
43 MS. CAMINER: It's kind of unfortunate
44 with Gloria not being on the RAC. We don't really have
45 a representative from the Ahtna Region, so I hope
46 members of this committee then maybe could reach out to
47 Karen or others just to try to find out a little bit
48 more what the information needs are perceived in the
49 Upper Copper River.

50

0033

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That could be a
2 good position for you. Do you want to do it?

3
4 MS. CAMINER: Sure. I'll help out.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There you go.
7 Okay. You've got four people. Very good. We've got
8 some people to work on that. Thank you.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
11 this is Pippa for the record and that's the end of my
12 presentations. Thank you very much for your patience.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It was very good,
15 Pippa. Thank you. Glad to get a heads up on what's
16 coming.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: Okay. So you guys
19 noticed the agenda is a little bit different than it
20 normally is. We're trying to get all the action items
21 done first. So right now we're going to talk about
22 future meeting dates. You guys do have your fall
23 selected. Starting on Page 63 is your guys's meeting
24 calendar. You have selected October 10th and 11th in
25 Anchorage currently. Does that still work for you?

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I see
28 everyone checking the calendar. I think it's going to
29 be my 54th wedding anniversary if I make it that long,
30 huh? Anyway, that's a good day for me to meet. How
31 about the rest of you?

32
33 MR. OPHEIM: That's still good for me.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone got
36 a conflict? Good, good, good. Okay, it looks like
37 that's going to work for us those dates.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Now it's going to
40 get a little trickier because nobody picked anything
41 for the next two meetings. So now we're looking at
42 winter 2025. The window opens on February 17th and it
43 closes April 4th. It does look like there's already
44 two that first week of February. There's only one
45 February 24th, so you guys could try that week.
46 There's none signed up currently for the week of March
47 3rd, 10th, 17th.

48
49 There's one at the end of the week on
50

0034

1 March 24th and nothing signed up the last week either.
2 So pretty much everything is wide open other than that
3 first week. Although, come to think of it, the second
4 week is Western Interior, which is mine, so if you
5 don't have one that week, that would be great because I
6 probably can't get to both. So I don't think you can
7 have it that week.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. I'm
10 okay March 10th or March 17th week. What's the
11 pleasure of the Council?

12
13 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, that will work for
14 me.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The middle of the week
17 is better for me.

18
19 MS. PILCHER: So you could get in on
20 Monday and home on Friday.

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So 11th and 12th or
23 12th, 13th.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that looks
26 good.

27
28 MS. PILCHER: So you guys went with
29 12th and 13th?

30
31 (Council nodding)

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Then where do you
34 want it?

35
36 MR. OPHEIM: It's been a while since
37 we've done Cordova.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We wouldn't mind
40 coming and tasting those kinds and see how they are.

41
42 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Nissa, isn't
43 there a list of communities that we're allowed in?
44 Maybe you could review that for us just to make sure
45 we're okay.

46
47 MS. PILCHER: Let me find it real
48 quick. I think Cordova is on that list, but I'll
49 double check.

50

0035

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you've
2 still got accommodations there, right?

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you've still got accommodations there, right?

MR. ZADRA: We do, but we're getting a harbor rebuild project and then we're getting a road project going out there, so there is talk of housing problems, but by this time I think that will all be figured out. We will need to coordinate that. How many -- with staff and all that, Nissa, how many people would we be looking at?

MS. PILCHER: I think we normally say 20 including Council members. That might be high.

MR. ZADRA: Okay.

MS. PILCHER: I did just find the list. Your hub communities does not include Cordova so we would need to ask. It is Anchorage, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Seward, and Wasilla. What I would recommend is if you guys did want Cordova, you could request Cordova and come up with an alternate. I just need to ask basically.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't think we did Palmer/Wasilla area either.

MS. PILCHER: I think it used to say anywhere on the road system you guys were allowed to meet. I imagine that's still the case. If you wanted to meet in Glennallen I would just have to ask.

MR. OPHEIM: Let's ask for Glennallen.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Karen. You've got a suggestion?

MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. Just because there is no Copper River representation it would be good to allow the members of the public to talk to you folks. If it was hosted in Glennallen, then they'd be able to have a voice and input into this. So I appreciate that. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for the comment.

MS. PILCHER: Up to you guys. We are planning another meeting. I'm asking you to plan out

0036

1 three meetings, so there's still another chance to pick
2 a location.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sometimes March
5 is still winter as you know. That makes it kind of
6 dicey.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: So it's up to you guys if
9 you want Cordova with alternate in Glennallen or
10 Glennallen alternate Cordova or whatever you want.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Cordova
13 with alternate Glennallen. Does that sound good?

14

15 MR. OPHEIM: Works for me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: I'm just going to ask you
20 to do one more for fall 2025. Let me pull up the
21 calendar. Okay. So it looks like the window is going
22 to open up September 15th and nobody is scheduled until
23 the week of October 6th. There's already two scheduled
24 and one of those is Western Interior, so that week
25 would not work. Then the following two weeks, October
26 13th and October 20th are wide open. The last week
27 already has two scheduled, so that one would be out.
28 So the week of October 20th, week of October 13th and
29 any time in September.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about
32 October 14th, 15th, somewhere in there? When is AFN
33 2025?

34

35 MS. LINNELL: It's usually the third
36 week.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. So that's
39 why I was trying to do it the week before, the 14th.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: In Anchorage?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay.

44

45 MS. PILCHER: All right. That is an
46 action item, so if you guys would like to take action
47 on that. So that's leaving Fall 2024 as is, March 12th
48 and 13th in Cordova, alternate of Glennallen, and then
49 October 2025 the 14th and 15th in Anchorage.

50

0037

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You just
2 heard the dates. Is there a motion to adopt those
3 dates?

4
5 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Michael. Is there a second?

9
10 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
13 Any other discussion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
18 All in favor aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed. I
23 know that's going to make it tough for Andy, so we're
24 going to have to figure out how to get him in here.
25 Okay. It carries.

26
27 Go ahead, Judy.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Just a thought for future. Since winter travel by car
31 to some of these areas is tenuous, perhaps at some
32 point we could think about switching it and having
33 winter meetings in Anchorage and then the fall meetings
34 in the communities.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I agree. I
37 think we did some of that before. Well, we're going to
38 stick with this and we're going to be in global warming
39 anyway. We'll be warped up in '25.
40 Does that do your scheduling?

41
42 MS. PILCHER: That's what I needed for
43 that, yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We are now
46 going to take a break for 10 minutes and then we'll get
47 back here, get some coffee, get hydrated, water. Thank
48 you.

49
50

0038

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Are
6 we ready to go? All right. We're ready to get back
7 into it. The next item on our agenda we're going to
8 entertain public and tribal comments on non-agenda
9 items. So that includes anyone on the phone who would
10 like to speak to a non-agenda item. Public comment.
11 This is your time to speak or forever hold your peace
12 until the next meeting.

13

14 MS. PILCHER: I do see someone with a
15 phone that has called in ending with 4170. It doesn't
16 look like you are on mute anymore but we cannot hear
17 you in the room if you are trying to speak.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're not
22 hearing anyone. Karen, did you want to speak a little?
23 Come on up.

24

25 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 For the record I'm Karen Linnell, executive director
27 for Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission that
28 represents eight Federally recognized tribes and two
29 ANCSA corporations that serve on my board as the
30 landowners.

31

32 I want to talk about harvest this year.
33 As you all know, the Nelchina Caribou Herd is down to
34 around 7,000 animals. At least the last report was
35 8,000 and we've had another deep snow year. We expect
36 that number to be dropping significantly again.

37

38 One of the things that we're -- and
39 then it was also reported at the Copper Basin Advisory
40 Committee meeting that only 528 moose were harvested in
41 all of GMU 13. It's been averaging around between 800
42 and 1,000 animals taken. So the harvest of game meat
43 is really low, so the dependance and importance of the
44 salmon run and the ability to fill our freezers with
45 salmon is even more important in the coming year.

46

47 I've never seen it so low, that
48 harvest, and it's not for lack of trying. We talked to
49 even our biologist in the area about salmon and stuff

50

0039

1 and they tell us, oh, you're just not trying enough.
2 When you're only getting one or two salmon in your
3 fishwheel it's not enough. You have to let some go by
4 for spawning. That's the way I was taught.

5

6 I also was taught when you get too
7 much, you have to stop your wheel because you need to
8 let some go through. So it's been a lean, lean year,
9 especially at the headwaters. My fish camp is on the
10 north end of Copper River at Chistochina. There are
11 only a couple fishwheels north of me at Slana and at
12 Batzulnetas, so we're seeing low and late returns.
13 Again we're unable to harvest our meet, the moose and
14 the caribou, as we would normally do.

15

16 So that dependence on that resource is
17 so important. It's all intertwined. It's all
18 interconnected. When there's no fish, the wolves go
19 after the moose and the caribou. When you have high
20 snow, the wolves can run on top of that snow and the
21 moose and the caribou are just up to their bellies in
22 snow trying to get away from them.

23

24 We're just seeing the impacts of the
25 three years in a row now deep snow. We know that we're
26 going to have additional impacts to the moose and the
27 caribou. When we're seeing that we're more dependant
28 on other things. The fish feed the rivers. The fish
29 feed the land, you know, with the nutrients and things
30 to continue to -- the habitat, you know, where the
31 ducks go. It impacts the ducks. It impacts the
32 muskrat, the beaver, the willow that grows there. It
33 impacts everything when we don't have the fish that
34 gets up into those streams to provide the nutrients we
35 need.

36

37 There's such an interlaced
38 interdependent ecosystem that we work hard to try and
39 balance as the Ahtna people. You often hear don't take
40 more than you can use, don't take more than -- you
41 know, to take care of the land. It's ingrained in us
42 and it's in our DNA and they actually found that the
43 moose, the caribou and the salmon are in our DNA. It's
44 been studied. It's been done. We've been talking
45 about it. Somebody studied it, thank goodness, to
46 validate what we've been talking about.

47

48 So we're just asking when you look and
49 talk through these proposals -- and there will be
50

0040

1 proposals coming -- you know, there's calls coming out,
2 that interdependency on the resource and the land to
3 have healthy populations. It is one of the reasons
4 that AITRC was formed. Not just to fight for our
5 hunting and fishing rights, but to look at what can we
6 do to help maintain healthy populations of salmon,
7 moose, caribou. Those big four-legged animals.

8

9 There's got to be a balance and when
10 you take too much of one it creates an issue. It can't
11 be just on the Native people's backs to take care of
12 the land and the resources so that they're healthy. We
13 need to do this all together and do what's best for the
14 resource, not people.

15

16 I really encourage you when you're
17 looking and talking over proposals that come before you
18 that you do what's right for the resource so that it
19 will be here for generations and generations to come.
20 It's sad in this state that a lot of the management has
21 turned to people management and not resource
22 management. I just want to urge you folks to stick to
23 resource management. That's your charge, you know.

24

25 I just appreciate your time. I
26 appreciate the work and the thoughts that you folks put
27 into all of this. It's not easy and you get pulled
28 every which way. I know I can be one of those people
29 that speak strongly to resources and things. I
30 appreciate what you do and just want to thank you for
31 your time. I will work to get somebody on here from
32 our region. Copper River needs to be represented on
33 here.

34

35 Chin'an. Thank you for your time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Chin'an. Thank
38 you, Karen. Always appreciate all your wisdom and your
39 input. You've been very helpful over the years and
40 we've learned a lot about other regions. Agree 100
41 percent it is for the resource. So thank you very
42 much.

43

44 Sure. Question here.

45

46 MR. ZADRA: Hey, Karen. Thanks for
47 that. So, you know, I'm a commercial fisherman down on
48 the Copper and we get a bad rap, but we put over --
49 close to a million fish in that river this year,
50

0041

1 750,000 upper-bound of the sustainable escapement goal.
2 So, you know, there's 250,000 extra fish and to me it's
3 just so disappointing that where did they go. They
4 didn't make it to you. We felt good that there was a
5 lot of fish going up the river, but they didn't get to
6 you. Sorry about that.

7

8 MS. LINNELL: I got to say that Seattle
9 gets Copper River salmon before I do. Just putting it
10 out there. It's that early run that goes the farthest
11 and that early run needs to be able to get into the
12 river so that Chistochina and Slana can get the fish
13 and that's important.

14

15 We know we have to work together, but
16 if we're not getting wild stock in the river, you know,
17 it makes it difficult. We work with ADF&G in
18 collecting otolith samples and things like that. We're
19 looking at age, sex and length. We're collecting
20 scales. We're trying to look at what's getting into
21 the river.

22

23 As you know, at the last Board of Fish
24 meeting in Cordova they changed the range for the
25 chinook escapement to created a range, but that lower
26 bound is what kept them within their management goal
27 and kept it from becoming a stock of concern. That
28 kind of management so that they don't go into a stock
29 of concern is a way to deplete the -- you know, they
30 keep changing the goal so that they can say they're the
31 best in managing the resource. Changing that goal all
32 the time doesn't work.

33

34 We've seen it with the Nelchina Caribou
35 Herd. It used to be, you know, 75-80,000 animals and
36 they lowered the goal, they lowered goal and they
37 lowered the management objectives through intensive
38 management. Not through a caribou management plan but
39 through intensive management plans they lowered that
40 goal to the 35-40,000 range.

41

42 We saw one bad snow year and it went
43 from 54,000 down to 21,000 animals. Then, with that,
44 they turn around and we see -- you know, they still had
45 a hunt when they weren't within their management range
46 because people applied for permits. So they issued
47 permits. Then the next year we're down to less than
48 14,000 animals in the fall count. Now we're under
49 8,000 animals. That's not the type of management I want
50

0042

1 to see. We need to watch that kind of sliding scale.

2

3

4 The one thing that I haven't seen in
5 the Department is right sizing the numbers on the sonar
6 counts. The very first sonar that was out there was
7 300,000 fish, right? Technology changed and we changed
8 the sonar. It jumped up to around 600,000 or whatever.
9 Now we have the Aries sonar, which is more accurate and
10 can see more and it's up to the million mark, but they
11 haven't right-sized those counts from years ago.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So maybe it was nearly 1,500 -- or, you know, one and a half million fish getting up that river before. We don't know because they haven't right-sized those numbers to the technology. We don't know because they didn't correct those numbers. So I don't believe that it was only 300,000 salmon coming up that river. I believe it was closer to 2 million.

So, you know, we need to look at that and try to right-size things, those numbers. Correct those numbers to the new technology so that we can compare apples to apples, right. Those are things that run through my mind in these changes because they haven't changed them. And the only time that they look at averages over the long term is when they want to reduce it. They'll take in those 300,000 and compare it to the million and say the average is -- and that's why you end up with that lower bound.

And then when you look at -- you know, we end up with a sliding scale, right? The shifting baseline. The shifting baseline happens the last five years, the last ten years. You need to look at a longer term set, but those numbers from the longer term set need to be corrected with the technology.

Thank you.

MR. ZADRA: Thank you. I'll have a conversation with you afterwards. Thanks.

MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your advocacy with the State might be about run timing. Say if there's a hatchery that's got one month worth of

0043

1 salmon that it's going to grab. They grab a little
2 chunk of eggs from the brood at the beginning of the
3 run. It's run timings. There's different family, I
4 believe, genetic structure even within a run of fish.
5 It's not always just one big lump of escapement that
6 gets through. You need to time it.

7
8 With the State it would be who I would
9 advise you to advocate because they're the managers of
10 this fishery, according to the commercial thing, and
11 try to make more of these. Your knowledge about the
12 early stock is kind of like Kenai River with two runs
13 of kings. You advocate for those early fish to have a
14 larger number of those to come through the commercial
15 fishery to get up the river in my opinion.

16
17 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for that, Mr.
18 McLaughlin. It's taking now -- Gulkana use the Gulkana
19 hatchery. It's an incubation unit. It's not a
20 hatchery. They don't treat the water. They don't
21 chemical. It's not temperature controlled. It's run
22 by a spring. So it's an incubation unit. It's not a
23 hatchery. They don't treat the water. They don't
24 chemical. It's not temperature controlled. It's run
25 by a spring. So it's an incubation unit, not
26 commercial. You know, a hatchery like you have here at
27 Campbell Creek.

28
29 It's taking them longer to get their
30 roe. It used to be able to get it in July and be kind
31 of done. Now they're going into September trying to
32 collect enough roe to fill the hatchery. Even they've
33 seen changes there and that's something you can find
34 through PWSAC in their reports. It is taking a lot
35 longer to collect that.

36
37 We did have a flood in 2016 that
38 affected some of the spawning grounds in Gulkana River
39 and that's a project that we'd like to see fixed to
40 create a braid there again so that there's more
41 spawning grounds, but it is taking quite a bit longer
42 to collect that roe.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Judy,
45 go ahead.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Karen, I really want to commend you particularly and
49 all of the people involved in the Ahtna Intertribal
50

0044

1 Resource Commission. Looking at your report, you've
2 really brought the Council and others a tremendous
3 amount of information over the years. Really expanded
4 into being a very relevant and important piece of all
5 the resource management that's going on. So thank you
6 for all the research and hard effort and work that's
7 gone into this.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy.
10 I'll make a comment on that. We're getting a lot of
11 data from tribes and we're getting a lot of stuff
12 nowadays that we never had before. We had a gal in
13 Ninilchik, Amanda Lee, she was actually published for
14 her study and her thesis on her grad school and she got
15 it published actually. Some of you haven't seen it,
16 but it was about basically the need of the fish for the
17 indigenous people. It was food to their health and it
18 was really tied in. It was a wonderful piece of work.

19

20 One comment I want to make and I know
21 there's others that want to talk here, but, you know,
22 to me the science -- and we could argue back and forth.
23 On the Kenai they have an early run, they have a late
24 run. They've never met that early run of kings in
25 years. The late run they're adjusting it and playing
26 with it. Those kings are all small. They're getting
27 smaller and smaller. The big fish have been taken out
28 of the gene pool.

29

30 The natural -- people that could go,
31 look, we don't fish kings any more because there is
32 none. We used to have an educational camp. We can't
33 have it. There's no silvers anymore. So I don't need a
34 scientist to tell me the fish are gone in that area.

35

36 The reds are thriving. The reds are
37 thriving and they're over-escaping them. They shut
38 down the commercial and they let over a million fish
39 over their escapement goal in the Kenai. Over a
40 million up in the Kasilof. So it's all out of whack.
41 I mean the reds are surviving. You've heard it over
42 and over they're surviving. In other streams they're
43 surviving up north, but we're losing our fish that we
44 lived off of.

45

46 Our people, we've said it over and
47 over, we lived off of kings and silvers. That's a
48 priority fish. We don't turn down fish if we need it.
49 We're opportunists like Ralph Lohse used to say. When
50

50

0045

1 we're there, you know, we're going to take what we need
2 to survive and we're not going to overuse it. It's
3 very important.

4
5 I know one time in the Gulf he made a
6 comment, you know. I had to kind of laugh at him, but
7 he said that -- they were talking about all the
8 science, and it was good science. I thought it was a
9 good report, you know, and you could always question
10 it, but they had some data to back it up, but he told
11 them they could throw it all overboard, just like the
12 bycatch, because it was a bunch of B.S. because of what
13 he saw on the ground.

14
15 So now we recognize technical
16 ecological knowledge and that's a big part and we need
17 to focus more on that in the regions in my opinion.
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
21 thank you, Ms. Caminer. You know, I do have a really
22 good team and the work and the research. We worked
23 hard to bring that down to a few pages. There's so
24 much more information and work going on. They're doing
25 analysis now on the carnivore project and the results
26 that we're getting with that.

27
28 We're working with the Department of
29 Fish and Game. We have a data sharing agreement with
30 them. The reports will be co-produced following
31 analysis. I think they're meeting this week or next
32 week to finalize the variants that will go into the
33 analysis. So you'll have a good, peer-reviewed --
34 probably three or four reports come out of that
35 carnivore project that we did.

36
37 Then the sonar working with the Native
38 Village of Eyak on the Klutina River based on that
39 radio telemetry project that was done by the Native
40 Village of Eyak we found 33 to 54 percent of the
41 sockeye return goes into the Klutina River. So knowing
42 what's happening there is important.

43
44 We kept the sonar in an extra week and
45 a half, two weeks, and caught the biggest run ever on
46 one day of 6,000 fish on the nearshore. That was based
47 on that later run timing that we're seeing. So they
48 were able to capture that. Our hope is to be able to
49 expand that and get sonar on the other side of the
50

0046

1 river so we can capture the entire run.

2

3 That work and that science and that
4 data collection that we're doing is always to fill data
5 gaps and better inform management so that we know
6 what's happening on the land. So thank you for that
7 and thank you. I'll look for that report too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's quite
10 interesting. Okay. Thank you, Karen. We do have
11 another one.

12

13 MS. PILCHER: Is that Melanie Brown?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Melanie Brown, do
16 you want to come up?

17

18 MS. BROWN: Good morning. My name is
19 Melanie Brown. I work for SalmonState and I'm a member
20 of Naknek Native Village in Bristol Bay. I'm here
21 because I'm hoping that you'll elevate something to the
22 Federal Subsistence Board.

23

24 The communication would need to be
25 directed to a different department than the Department
26 of the Interior, but it's something that would marry
27 the land and the ocean space and hopefully help return
28 salmon to rivers that have been suffering from low
29 returns, especially king and chum in the Yukon and
30 Kuskokwim Rivers.

31

32 There's an opportunity in lieu of the
33 Magnuson-Stevens Act, which is very cumbersome to
34 reauthorize because of the composition of the House and
35 Senate in D.C., but in lieu of that the National
36 Standards Guidelines, of which there are 10 --
37 basically they're lawfully-binding guidelines that
38 would have oversight over the Amendment 80 Fleet in the
39 Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

40

41 There are three national standard
42 guidelines that are under review right now. Guidelines
43 four, eight and nine. Four pertains to allocations,
44 eight pertains to bycatch and then nine to communities.
45 The hope is that new language will be drafted into
46 these guidelines that will create triggers, that will
47 reduce the rate of fishing and bycatch and hopefully
48 return fish to upriver communities on the Yukon and
49 Kuskokwim Rivers and improve people ability to have a

50

0047

1 relationship with salmon in coastal communities in
2 Alaska where they're experiencing diminishing returns
3 to the point where they can't even catch fish at all.

4
5 So the hope is that there will be
6 language triggers that will perhaps cause the Amendment
7 80 Fleet to stand down in times of low returns to these
8 river systems and other places that are experiencing
9 declines or the inability to fish and participate in
10 their salmon culture.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I do have a sheet here that provides a little more background on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process and the guidelines that are under review and some language that would hopefully make the changes that are necessary to return fish to the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and other river systems that are suffering from bycatch and ocean conditions.

If I may, I would love to give this to your coordinator so that your Council can review it and consider elevating it in your report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, certainly give it to her. A question for you. On NOAA, when are they going to review these standards? Is this an April meeting coming up?

MS. BROWN: Yeah. What we've heard is that at the MRAT meeting last week Jon Kurland mentioned that it's expected that all three of the guidelines, national standard guidelines, will be under review simultaneously. Which will be cumbersome and a lot to track, but at the same time this is a good thing timing-wise because the hope is that the review will happen under this Administration, which would potentially be more favorable than whoever is in power in the next presidential administration.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very much. Good information. Yeah, if you'd get that, we could get a copy for the Council members.

I'll make one more call. Is there anyone else out there for public comment on non-agenda items?

0048

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Hearing none, we're going to move on to old business and we're going to do some follow up on the Joint Council action items. I'm going to turn this Chair over to Nissa. She's going to talk about some correspondence and some letters and delegation of letters and follow up on the joint meeting, et cetera. So I'll let her dish it out.

MS. PILCHER: So first there was a couple letters that were discussed at the Joint Council meeting that your Council could choose to sign your names to currently or could also not. One of those was the bycatch letter. We just don't have the manpower to make the adjustments in real time to them get copies in front of you for the changes that were requested at that meeting.

Notes have been taken. The coordinator that's drafting that letter is very good at making sure what is wanted is conveyed. Because I don't have anything to put in front of you I also totally understand if you're leery of doing that. So that is one.

Another is the caribou letter, which is even less put together at this time. There was just a lot of information and there was not time to put a four or five-page letter together for everyone to review. So that's another potential letter.

There are two additional letters that you could also choose to look at. I do have them in copies in front of me. One is about concerns with correspondence in that the concerns are the timeliness of Board replies. Two, transmittal of Council correspondence. So when Councils submit correspondence and request it be elevated, the concern is that takes too long. Also the lack of replies to Council correspondence, both from the Offices of the Secretaries of Agriculture and with the Board.

So that is one letter that is in hard copy. I have it in front of me and I will pass it out along with another letter that is concerning compensation. It sounds like this is not a new topic, but YKDelta RAC has been requesting compensation for the last couple cycles and is probably going to

0049

1 continue chasing it and they have asked that other
2 Councils sign on to this request for compensation.

3

4 You guys get travel, but you don't get
5 honorarium. So this is saying that because of your
6 knowledge and there's a selection process for you guys
7 to even get on the Council, because of that, because
8 you are knowledge holders that should also make it so
9 that you guys could receive honorarium when you're at
10 Council meetings because we -- I mean I recognize that
11 currently you guys are volunteers. Like you're
12 volunteering to be here. Yes, your travel is paid but
13 your time is not. You're missing wages, you're missing
14 time with family.

15

16 I will go ahead and pass those out real
17 quick.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ed.

20

21 MR. HOLSTEN: Just a quick question to
22 Nissa. I might have missed something, but what's going
23 to become of the caribou in the bycatch letters? Is
24 there a timeline that those have to be submitted?

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think what
27 Nissa was suggesting is that we review them. We don't
28 have time to do edits on them here, but come back and
29 get them. I'll double check with her, but I'm pretty
30 sure that's what she's saying. Maybe we could pass
31 these two.

32

33 MR. HOLSTEN: Okay. Thanks.

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, that's for the
36 caribou and bycatch letter. There isn't a timeframe.
37 We're not burning up against like a deadline to get
38 those submitted to something for some reason. So it is
39 even something you could, to use the phrase, kick the
40 can because at some point they will be drafted and you
41 will be able to actually look at them. There are
42 copies in the back of the room of this or there were
43 last night. I didn't check this morning.

44

45 The top one is the one requesting
46 honorarium and the second page is the one with the
47 correspondence issues. Your Council, surprisingly
48 enough, does not generate a lot of correspondence or I
49 haven't found much in the last several years. So that
50

0050

1 might be less of an issue for you.

2

3

4 Just so you know that last page, the
5 very first day, I believe it was the tariff. The All
6 Council meeting referenced this House Joint Resolution
7 No. 22. So it was included in there if anybody was
8 interested, but I know nothing other than what is
9 written on that piece of paper.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The 22 we'll need
11 to talk about that when we get to it because I can't
12 see that -- anyway, we'll talk about it.

13

14 MS. PILCHER: So I guess the ask right
15 now is when you guys are done digesting the letters if
16 your Council wants to sign on to either/or, that would
17 be an action item.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You take
20 some time, take a look at it and let me know when
21 you're ready if you want to support these two letters.
22 A letter on the compensation and they write on behalf
23 of the Board here for public meeting response time for
24 correspondence.

25

26 Then House Bill 22 I think that one
27 will take some debate. I'm not sure. That's a joint
28 resolution to change the legislature vote to change the
29 constitution of the state of Alaska to read that
30 subsistence users of renewable resources sustained
31 yield. I think that's one for the State to take back
32 control.

33

34 Go ahead, Hope.

35

36 MS. ROBERTS: I just noticed on page 2
37 for the compensation that Council members who live
38 within 50 miles of where meetings must take place who
39 attend by teleconference don't receive per diem. But
40 50 miles is a long ways today from places like Palmer
41 because you know how traffic is, there's accidents or
42 things like that especially because meetings held in
43 the spring and the fall are adverse weather. That
44 should also be changed.

45

46 That they should have the opportunity
47 to have a hotel room as well so that they're not going
48 back and forth from like Wasilla or Girdwood or
49 something. They're actually risking their lives at
50

50

0051

1 that point, you know. So that's something that doesn't
2 seem to be in there, but it's in there.

3

4 MS. PILCHER: I believe that's a
5 Federal travel policy unfortunately. I'm not sure if
6 we would be able to change that. We can address it
7 because you are very true. We have some ways of
8 working with that and around that just to make sure
9 people stay safe. We could request that that does get
10 added in there because I mean the concern of people
11 having to do this because it is a very real thing
12 especially when you're traveling at dusk and in
13 morning. That is a long way.

14

15 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you. I think it's
16 worth addressing even if it is a Federal thing.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If you're
19 going to say it's a Federal reg and then you're going
20 to look into it, right?

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Uh-huh.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, I
25 mean it's a good point. I live 50-60 miles when we go
26 to Kenai and you've got to make round trips too, you
27 know, but they've been kind enough to offer me a hotel
28 room too. So that's worked out okay. But I know if
29 you get under 50 if I go to Homer, they don't give you
30 nothing.

31

32 Okay. Dennis did you have a question
33 there? Go ahead.

34

35 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I'm just trying to be
36 clear on this resolution. I believe what they're
37 trying to do I think they're trying to take -- right
38 now the Constitution says every resident of the state
39 is allowed subsistence opportunities in State
40 subsistence areas.

41

42 This is now giving that based on
43 customary and traditional use, direct dependants,
44 availability of alternative resources, place of
45 residence. So I think this is a pretty big deal. This
46 is going to keep all the Anchorage consortium of coming
47 down and using our fishwheels in the Glennallen
48 subdistrict, I guess.

49

50

0052

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I kind of took it
2 that way too, but I don't know. I know the State --
3 that's why we have a Federal program because they
4 didn't comply.

5
6 MR. ZADRA: Correct.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So what makes you
9 think that they're going to change their squats. The
10 definition of insanity is doing the same thing and
11 asking for a different result. Anyway, that's my
12 comment. Thank you, Dennis.

13
14 Okay. Have you had a chance to read
15 the first two letters? You guys want to make a motion
16 to approve them or to send them on?

17
18 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion that
19 we accept these letters.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There's two
22 there? Yeah. Thank you. Second.

23
24 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
27 Any discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hear no
32 discussion. All in favor aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
41 much. You see if you can get better compensation and
42 better communications. Thank you.

43
44 MS. PILCHER: I'm going to -- when the
45 bycatch and the caribou letters are drafted I will
46 bring them back before your Council. I'm not sure I'm
47 comfortable asking you to vote on something that I
48 can't physically show you.

49
50

0053

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

2

3 MS. ROBERTS: Just that last part
4 before the bycatch thing. We addressed the 50 mile
5 thing. Okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Nissa is
8 going to give you another proposal. We're going to
9 give you a little update on it and see what we want to
10 do on adding seats or whatever to the Federal Board.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So on Tuesday you
13 guys heard from Raina about the potential to add three
14 seats to the Federal Subsistence Board. I expect Scott
15 to jump up if I'm going to get this wrong or just in
16 general.

17

18 Us coming to this information is not --
19 we're not soliciting comments from you necessarily.
20 This is not something that's coming from OSM. It is
21 coming from the Department of Interior. But we will
22 gladly help you formulate your comments, draft them up
23 and get them submitted, of course. So you heard
24 Raina's presentation.

25

26 In the Federal Register they did ask
27 four questions specifically about this. They are
28 lengthy, so if you wanted I could read them and you
29 could see if you wanted to answer them. That's one
30 option. Another option is to just offer comments.
31 Another option is to not do anything with it. So it is
32 really up to you guys and I will support whatever you
33 guys would like to do.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I just
36 want to add a little bit for clarification there. They
37 did have a meeting with all 10 RAC Chairs, then they
38 talked about the Department of Interior taking the lead
39 to potentially seating three more public members on the
40 Federal Board and those public members would be
41 nominated by a tribe. So my response to some of them,
42 and you heard it in the meetings before, 223 Federal
43 tribes in the state of Alaska. That's going to get a
44 little cumbersome. I'm sure they're all going to
45 nominate someone. I know in our local area of our
46 eight tribes we're going to nominate. We're trying to
47 come together to nominate one person if this does
48 happen.

49

50

0054

1 You heard at the All-RAC meeting that
2 some of the Chairs and some of the people were talking
3 that some of those members be off of the existing RACs
4 because of their knowledge and so on and so forth. I
5 don't know if it's going to come to fruition, but my
6 comment when I met with the 10 Chairs was that I sure
7 as hell didn't want to be on no Federal Board, but I
8 would gladly love to be there just so I could make the
9 damn decisions for actions.

10

11 Anyway, I'm sure there's a lot of
12 people that feel the way I do, but I just threw that
13 out there. Anyway, whatever we want to do on this. If
14 there's other comments you want to give and then we can
15 submit them I think would probably be the right way. I
16 don't think it's all fair to not know how it's going to
17 work yet. That's my comment.

18

19 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 I'm not sure if I'm ready to make this comment yet or
21 not, but when people are elected from groups of
22 villages sometimes I noticed in areas that natural
23 resource departments are highly like led by maybe
24 corporations and stuff by money and things. I think
25 that if these seats were to happen they should be by
26 people who actually live in these rural villages and do
27 exactly what they do as rural people, not those who are
28 employed, you know, to say that they do it. You see
29 what I'm saying? I don't know if that's.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I get what you're
32 saying exactly, but I think they covered that because
33 these are tribal nominations. They are not
34 corporations. They're not working groups. They have
35 to come from a tribe and they have to be a rural
36 resident, a user of the resource, et cetera. I think
37 it's coming from the right people. Now how those
38 tribes go about selecting their leader or who they want
39 to represent them that's another story.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: That is one of the
42 questions that they did ask in the proposed rule is
43 where should these nominations come from. Should they
44 just come from tribes. Should corporations and other
45 entities also be included to nominate. So, yeah, you
46 could make a comment that you do not believe that
47 corporations should be involved. It should just be the
48 tribes.

49

50

0055

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We added a
2 comment that we think it should just stick to the
3 tribes what they intended to do. I think there's a lot
4 more to that story, but I think you all know it -- and,
5 Andy, I will get right to you -- is that when they did
6 their statewide groups and talking to them, a lot of
7 people felt that they wanted more representation on the
8 public side of that Federal Board. So that's why they
9 went to the Department of Interior and come up with a
10 recommendation, I believe.

11
12 Okay, Andy.

13
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 I'd just say it would be great if it was a Federally
16 qualified rural subsistence user requirement.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got
19 that comment. Is there any other comments we want to
20 add to that? I'm assuming we're going to probably hear
21 this back again. We've got Ed. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. HOLSTEN: Just a couple comments.
24 One, I'm all in favor of having more members on the
25 Board coming from the tribes. My only concern is the
26 expansion of the number of people on these committees.
27 In my opinion it just gets very, very cumbersome.
28 Decisions are harder to make. My only recommendation,
29 and it wouldn't happen, is to get rid of agencies and
30 Board members.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: He said it. Not
33 me.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You know,
38 I've heard that be debated. I thank you for that
39 comment. I don't know if you want to put get rid of
40 the agencies, but put the other part.

41
42 MR. AYERS: Thank you again. This is
43 Scott Ayers. I just wanted to remind the Council that
44 this is a proposed rule that's been put out there. It
45 has a 60-day comment window, which is open right now,
46 so there will not be another opportunity for this
47 Council to come back and speak to this again.

48
49 And to Member Holsten's comment, one of
50

0056

1 the things that this would do if we added three more
2 public members that were tribally nominated or
3 otherwise would be that there would be more public
4 members than Agency members at that point in time, so
5 it would shift that dynamic.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I wasn't going to
8 say that, but I was smiling about it. I knew the
9 numbers. Okay. That's a good point though. Go ahead,
10 Judy.

11
12 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 think this has been a good discussion. I certainly
14 support what's been said about adding tribal members
15 who are Federally qualified. I think it's also
16 important and it's not maybe really what we're being
17 asked, that Staff be provided to these new members, to
18 all the public members, because the agencies have their
19 own staff and can get briefed on a variety of
20 proposals, but other people on the Board need to be
21 supportive.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good point.
24 We'll add that. Hope, go ahead.

25
26 MS. ROBERTS: That was a great comment,
27 Judy. Thank you. To the concern of adding more
28 people. We heard Kenneth Nukwak from Manokotak the
29 other day about how his proposal almost passed, but if
30 I remember correctly I was there and it was a split
31 decision and there was a tie-breaker there that really
32 shouldn't -- there should be more people there so that
33 way, you know, if they're split that way it would be an
34 easier decision. It might have passed and he might have
35 gotten what he needed for his family and tribe.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good point.
38 Diane.

39
40 MS. SELANOFF: I just wanted to make
41 the comment that they were discussing a name come
42 forward from the tribes or a member come forward from
43 the RACs. I don't mind it coming forward from the RACs
44 because when you have a tribe who is in an area,
45 they'll focus primarily on theirs, but if it comes from
46 the RAC and you're aware of all the concerns of the
47 region, then I think it would be better representation
48 if that makes sense.

49
50

0057

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think it makes
2 sense. Okay. Thank you. Any other comments. Andy.

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 I would support what Ms. Selanoff said there. Coming
6 from a RAC they already kind of know the system.
7 There's been kind of a history and a knowledge of
8 ANILCA and there's other things that would be important
9 to bring to the table at that type of decision-making.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got
12 that. Any others. Michael.

13
14 MR. OPHEIM: I was just kind of echo
15 what Diane and Andy said. They've gone through the
16 vetting process if they've been on the RAC.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good point.
19 Thank you. Did we get everyone's comment in there? My
20 comment would be I encourage them to appoint Federally
21 recognized tribal members and consider RAC members
22 both.

23
24 Okay. I think we got that one. Very
25 good. What else would you like to comment on, Nissa.

26
27 MS. PILCHER: Let me look at Scott real
28 quick. Do they need a motion in order to get that
29 draft submitted?

30
31 MR. AYERS: They certainly can.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Can you guys make a
34 motion just so it's perfectly clear.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Only if you tell
37 us what you wrote down. Thank you.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Let's sum it up.
40 Tribal only, no corporations involved. Federally
41 qualified subsistence user. Staff be provided to the
42 public members. Then Federally recognized tribal
43 members or RAC members would be the ones that would be
44 supported. You'll be reviewing the comment before I
45 submit it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Am I done
48 with everyone?

49
50

0058

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move as read.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy makes a
4 motion to accept.....

5

6 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
9 and seconded. We'll have discussion. Judy, we're open
10 for discussion. Go ahead.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. I was just
13 going to mention we could possibly also say former RAC
14 members.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That covers it.
17 Okay. We've got a motion on the floor. We've got a
18 second. We had a comment.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: Could I double check who
21 -- Andy, you made the motion or the second? You were
22 the second. Who was the motion made by?

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I made the motion.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Who seconded it?
29 Okay, thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Hearing
32 that, all in favor aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So carries.
41 Thank you. Okay, we've got that done. Scott would
42 have went just with the letter, but we got him covered
43 now.

44

45 All right. We're going to move on to
46 Council correspondence update. There's a few of them
47 here, so I'll let Nissa provide the comments to the
48 Board of Fish that we put before and then we're going
49 to get into -- after those comments we'll go to
50

0059

1 delegations.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SELANOFF: Excuse me. Before we move on the two letters that were sent out were talked about yesterday, the caribou and the -- are those going to be written up and then provided to us by email and when is time for action on those?

MS. PILCHER: It would probably be the fall just because we wouldn't be able to take action over email.

MS. SELANOFF: But we could get them by email in advance so they could be.....

MS. PILCHER: Yes.

MS. SELANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PILCHER: Okay. And then the correspondence update. At your last meeting you requested comments be sent to the Board of Fish on specifically Proposal 8. That was done. It is not in your packet as it should have been. We had a little bit of a SNAFU with our processing system, so I don't actually have -- I couldn't find the final version, but it was submitted. Michael was at that meeting and can attest that it got where it was supposed to go.

The other piece of correspondence that you guys requested that I do it was a letter about the delegation of authority in Unit 6. That letter is in draft form. It was at your table this morning on top of a much larger pamphlet. That pamphlet is all of the delegation of authority letters for wildlife and fish in this region that was requested as well for you guys to have.

If you wanted to take a look at that delegation of authority letter and offer any edits, I can incorporate that and then send it through OSM's internal review system so it can get finalized. Greg can sign off and it can get where it's going.

Another potential option is if people are comfortable with what it looks like now. You can also assign it to a Council member, say like Andy, to work with me on any potential additional edits or adjustments as well.

0060

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you guys.
2 I'll give you some time to review that delegation
3 letter and see if we've got edits to it. It's a letter
4 to Anthony Christianson. It's expressing concerns over
5 a delegation of authority letter within the region. It
6 refers to our meeting on October 3 and 4 in Kenai.
7 Please consider this our formal request to rescind the
8 delegation of authority letter in addition to the
9 written request the Council intends to verbally request
10 rescinding delegation of authority April 2024 Board
11 meeting. Is that correct?

12
13 It talks about specifically rescinding
14 Unit 6 delegation of authority. We would also like to
15 share with the Board our concern over the delegation in
16 general and the process in which they are created and
17 conducted and rescinded. Then we go into further -- we
18 go into quite a bit, so I'll let you guys read for
19 yourself. That was a refresh for me, so we definitely
20 wanted to rescind some stuff.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it was a deep dive
23 into your guys's minutes. So do take a look. Nothing
24 I put in here wasn't anything that I didn't find in
25 your minutes, but ideas or concerns could have changed.
26 I had to go many years in the past to look at multiple
27 conversations you had over the years.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we've had
30 probably half a rack meeting on this delegation of
31 authority a few times. So we did take a deep dive into
32 it and hopefully this letter captured it all.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. What's
37 your guys' thoughts on the letter here? Andy, I'm
38 going to ask you since you had a lot to do with this
39 specifically Unit 6. Thank you.

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The main crux to me
42 was the sunset clause provision was never followed.
43 Was never even brought forth to the Board from here and
44 that was something that we deliberated about for hours
45 and hours on end about the delegation of authority
46 originally in the first place.

47
48 In my mind, in this booklet of the
49 delegation of authorities that currently exist, was
50

0061

1 front page on page 1. This one should not even be in
2 effect because that sunset clause should have already
3 ended by now and not be in effect for the in-season
4 management of deer and moose in Unit 6.

5

6 MS. PILCHER: In part that's one of the
7 things the letter is conveying is this Council wants
8 that to be removed. I believe at your last meeting it
9 was explained that you could either do it in writing or
10 in person at a Board meeting and I think the Chairman
11 said he was going to go to that meeting and verbally do
12 it. So it would be in writing and verbally requested
13 to be removed.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. That would
16 be my main thing is the sunset clause wasn't followed,
17 wasn't even recommended and this should not even exist
18 right now.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is
21 everyone good on sending it? After the review I think
22 we're okay. Any objections to it?

23

24 (No objections)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Do we have to
27 have a motion?

28

29 MS. PILCHER: Cleanest that way, yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Would we
32 make a motion to say we reviewed the letter here and we
33 approved sending it to the Federal Board?

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Moved by Andy.
38 Is there a second?

39

40 MS. SELANOFF: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
43 discussion?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
48 All in favor aye.

49

50

0062

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: When smoke flies
8 I'm going to probably hear about it. Okay. Thank you.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PILCHER: The next bit ties into that letter. You guys, at your last meeting we requested you get copies of all of the delegation of authority letters, which you have in that big packet. You can take it with you. Do whatever you want with it.

What I would like is direction from the Council on further action because over the course while I was looking through all your transcripts you guys have requested at various times over the history of the Council to have some sort of review process for these on the Council.

I know the fisheries closures are reviewed periodically. So if you wanted to take a look and say -- first off, I don't know if you guys are concerned over just the wildlife delegation of authorities or both wildlife and fisheries and there are both. Both are in the packet.

Then also do you want to start instigating a process at one of your meetings in a cycle you review a specific number of them to ensure that they're still meeting the needs of why they were put on in the first place?

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to try and answer that. I think we did set that up as a review. We did want a review of them and we've asked for that many of times. We got them in bits and pieces. So I'm not sure what we all reviewed and what we haven't reviewed to be honest with you. So if you want to get it on the schedule it would be my suggestion that we do have a review process. We now have a booklet to read. We don't have enough time today to read through that and approve it, but we certainly can come back in a future meeting and review them in an orderly manner of some shape.

0063

1 Go ahead.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SELANOFF: I think we should add them to our schedule to review I think initially. It will seem like a lot because we're going through everything, but as we continue on in the years I think with the meetings they'll get smaller so they won't require as much time. We need to review them.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we need to review, but I think we've reviewed a lot of them. You might want to check on that. Okay. She's going to set us up with a schedule of review and we will review them. So if that's good enough, that's where we're landing. Thank you.

MS. PILCHER: We will make that happen.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Nissa is going to give us a current charter change review.

MS. PILCHER: This will be super fast. You guys did hear a bit about it on the first day of the meeting. The updated charter is in your meeting book. The change was that all councils were added a youth seat. It's on Page 77. On Page 79 under 12 membership and designation, that's where it has the language about the non-voting young leader member.

So it's still the representative member must be residents of the region. Must be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to the subsistence use of fish and wildlife. In addition to being a resident of the region represented by the Council, the one non-voting young leader member must be between the age of 18 and 25 and must participate in subsistence activities, be otherwise knowledgeable in matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife, or be engaged in a resource management-related field of study.

That language is in there because we didn't want somebody from say Copper Center to be going to school at Fairbanks and then ineligible to sit on the Council because they were residing in Fairbanks and not going to school in their home community. Because if they lived in Fairbanks, they wouldn't be eligible to sit on this Council. So that's the reason for that language in there.

0064

1 So it's in there. We were hoping to
2 get the Charters in time to start building a framework
3 of how the non-voting seats would be filled so we could
4 come to you guys to seek input and comments on that,
5 but we just got the Charters. So we didn't have time
6 to do that. In the fall we'll be coming to you with
7 more information on this. We're the government and
8 we're very slow.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It looks like you
11 covered it pretty well in your document here. Any
12 comments on that? I mean it's something we all wanted
13 and it's something that the Council is trying to get,
14 so it sounds like we're making progress moving forward.
15 Okay. It sounds like there's no action we could do
16 that.

17
18 Go ahead, Diane.

19
20 MS. SELANOFF: Where it says to be
21 engaged in a resource management-related field of
22 study, it could be a subsistence user who is in a field
23 of study, not necessarily resource management. So if
24 they were going to school for something and not
25 residing in the area, so can it be just a field of
26 study instead of specifying resource management?

27
28 MS. PILCHER: So the language is the
29 same across all Councils. I'm not super positive why
30 it is resource management-related field of study. I
31 imagine that can be a pretty broad statement. I can
32 take down that comment. You guys will be reviewing
33 your Charter again shortly. I can make a note to bring
34 that back up and maybe that could be adjusted.

35
36 MS. SELANOFF: I just want to make sure
37 that if somebody from like the Copper River was going
38 to school in Fairbanks but they were going to be an
39 accountant or something that they would be eliminated
40 from the process because of their field of study and
41 that they had planned to go back and work for their
42 tribe or whatever.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good
45 comment. Thanks. Any other. Andy, go ahead.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I think just the word
48 or in there means it could be one of those three things
49 that are separated by the commas.
50

0065

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anything else?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll move on to our next item on the agenda. That's consider developing State regulatory proposals. Go ahead, Nissa.

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PILCHER: This is just an agenda item that's on there as a catchall. So the Board of Game will be sending out a call for proposals for this next cycle which will include the Central and Southwest Regions, which is 9, 10, 11, 13, 14a, 14b, 16 and 17 and statewide regulations. The Board of Fish will be sending out a call for proposals for their next meeting cycle for shellfish. So Prince William Sound finfish and shellfish, Southeast Yakutat finfish and shellfish, and statewide shellfish.

This is mostly an FYI. There's a handful of you that are on your local ACs and can work through that process, but if the Council wanted to submit a proposal to either of these boards on any of those subjects this would be a time to do that and I can assist with that.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone got a proposal that they've thought about or want assistance with or want to submit it. I guess you can at any time once the call comes out, so it's not like it's the end of the rail. Hopefully they'll listen to your proposal, but anyone that's been to the Board of Fish knows how that goes. We shouldn't laugh about that, should I? Okay. It is a laughing matter though. Okay, thank you.

Okay, we got that. We considered it and we're going to continue to consider it. We now are going to go to agency reports. We had a thing on our agency reports that they're written unless a special report is requested by the Council. We did that because we knew we had a very short time this Council meeting and we've had a long week.

I know that one request -- maybe, Caroline, you could come up and give us a report on your caribou if you would. We'd appreciate that. I will take time for that. And any other agency that

0066

1 want to have a report we do have some time so we could
2 go ahead and take them.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

MS. KETRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
7 the record I'm Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist
8 and subsistence coordinator for the Bureau of Land
9 Management in Glennallen. Since you have copies of our
10 normal report I'll keep it pretty short.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

As you know, the Unit 13 Federal
subsistence hunt for caribou was closed this year
entirely. There were several different Wildlife
Special Actions kind of in sequence as we're
considering options. The end result was that there was
no Federal subsistence hunt in Unit 13 and all the
State hunts were closed as well.

The Federal moose harvest was lower
than normal. Let me look at my numbers here. We ended
up with 37 bulls harvested. If you look at our chart,
normally it's kind of between 50 and 80. So that's low
for us. We'll see what happens.

I have a quick update also from our
area biologist on the spring caribou and sort of
outlook for moose if that's something the Council would
like to hear.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

MS. KETRON: All right. So from our
area biologist in October they ended up with only three
calves per 100 cows going into winter. I believe the
objective is more like 40 to 100. There were 25 bulls
per 100 cows. Fish and Game deployed 16 collars on cow
calves, one collar on a cow yearling and 15 GPS collars
on adult cows.

Calf weights were below the long-term
average and in their sample size of 16 calves they
documented more pulled animals and more broken antlers
than they're used to seeing in addition to one curly
coat that may have been indicative of -- she's got
gestational dysmaturity, which I'm guessing is an issue
with calf development.

The Nelchina Herd chose to winter

0067

1 closer to home this year in the Mentasta Mountains and
2 the Tetlin Flats. Snow conditions out that way were
3 less than what we've been experiencing in the
4 Glennallen area, so that's a good thing. Maybe they
5 had a slightly easier winter.

6
7 Fish and Game has seen quite a bit of
8 early winter mortality from predation this season.
9 Wolf control is not an option on the Federal lands and
10 it's difficult for trappers to target wolves in areas
11 where caribou are wintering. So again from Fish and
12 Game they're hoping right now -- or the only hope they
13 have for an increase in herd size this spring is to
14 perhaps have a bumper crop of calves born and also live
15 through the spring rather than die on the calving
16 grounds or have caribou show up on the calving grounds
17 from somewhere else, which is not unheard of with
18 caribou.

19
20 So the short version is that we're not
21 sure yet. The numbers are still dire and we can expect
22 to have to continue to make some hard decisions this
23 fall. I guess any questions about that and I have
24 another short update on moose.

25
26 MR. OPHEIM: You mentioned the low
27 numbers for the moose harvested. Is that due to lower
28 numbers of people applying for those permits or
29 something else? Is that also maybe the backside of the
30 pandemic where we saw a bunch of people now wanting to
31 harvest and now maybe that's dropping off because
32 they're not having to rely on going out and doing
33 things?

34
35 MS. KETRON: Through the Chair. Yeah,
36 that's a great question. Our permit numbers from the
37 Glennallen Field Office for moose were about the same
38 this year. Slightly lower by maybe a hundred permits,
39 but in general we saw the same participation in the
40 moose hunt as far as folks getting permits. The
41 weather and people success rate may have affected moose
42 harvest. There were reports of leaves staying on the
43 trees until towards the end of moose season and reports
44 of people just not seeing animals moving around.

45
46 I have a little bit of information from
47 Fish and Game on the trends they're seeing in the moose
48 population, but as to the question of participation
49 people are getting their Federal subsistence moose
50

0068

1 permits for 13 and we just didn't see the harvest.

2

3

MR. OPHEIM: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, go ahead.

6

7

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

Is there still this projected -- considering the biotic potential of the herd that's projected two to three decades before the herd could recover back to what had just existed previous years, very recently?

9

10

11

12

13

MS. KETRON: For Nelchina Caribou?

14

Yeah, a more precise answer is going to need to come from Fish and Game, but, yeah, that's what's our conversation has been, sort of 10 to 15 to 20. The numbers are really low right now, so that's the conversation we've kind of all been having in our community. That sounds about right.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Just a little bit more about moose.

22

Again, this is from our area biologist in Unit 13. The Unit 13 subunits most relevant to Federal subsistence hunting for moose are 13B and 13D. Both of those units saw a declining trend in moose numbers this year and are below abundance objectives. Subunit 13A and 13C are doing pretty well in terms of Fish and Game's moose survey results, so they're within the abundance objectives for moose. 13E has shown a recent decline based on those surveys.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

So in summary based on their surveys the moose population is declining some, so that in combination with the weather conditions in this year's moose season may have affected harvest. So we'll see.

33

34

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The decline is weather and anything else?

38

39

40

41

MS. KETRON: I've got 13D for moose -- again, this is from the Fish and Game -- has been on the decline since approximately 2010. Fish and Game asked the Board of Game to add it to the wolf control area. Last winter regulatory year 2022 was the first year that Alaska Department of Fish and Game was able to activate wolf control in 13D.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

During 2023 moose surveys there was a small sample size, but they did have a high calf/cow

49

50

0069

1 ratio and it's the highest that's ever been observed in
2 that count area. So they're hoping that that's a good
3 sign that the wolf control is maybe being an effective
4 tool for them.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very interesting.
7 Good. We've done some in-house wolf/predator control
8 in Ninilchik and we've definitely seen some increases
9 over the years in the moose. We've lowered those pack
10 sizes.

11

12 Any other questions for Caroline?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
17 coming up. Good deal.

18

19 MS. KETRON: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there anyone
22 out there besides Ken that might want to give us a
23 little update on their report? Matt.

24

25 MR. PICHE: Good morning. Matt Piche,
26 fish biologist for Native Village of Eyak down in
27 Cordova. I'm going to be real quick. I just wanted to
28 state that the 2023 Copper River chinook salmon inriver
29 abundance estimate -- this is the amount of chinook
30 salmon passing through Baird Canyon -- was 49,308
31 chinook salmon. That's with a standard error of 5,540.

32

33

34 The way that that stacks up in terms of
35 total returning run size before any harvest takes place
36 is the 11th highest run size that we've seen over the
37 past 22 years, so it kind of puts us right in the
38 middle there. It is 14,006 chinook salmon higher than
39 the most recent 10-year average returning run size. So
40 just wanted to share that data.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Interesting data
45 on the kings. Questions for Matt anyone?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,

50

0070

1 Matt. Ken, I wasn't trying to put you on the spot, but
2 since you're from the Kenai I figured maybe I'd get you
3 to talk a little bit. We work with Ken pretty closely
4 and we've done good things on the Kenai. We still
5 don't have any kings, but that's the way it goes. Go
6 ahead, Ken. I'll let you give a little report there.

7
8 MR. GATES: Thanks, Greg. Yeah, I
9 anticipated that. I already had it pulled up. It's
10 not in your booklet, but OSM has this report to the
11 Federal Subsistence Board, so they should be able to
12 get you the hard copy after I get done.

13
14 I'm the in-season manager for Upper
15 Cook Inlet Federal fisheries. The fisheries largely
16 comprise set gillnet and dipnet fisheries on the
17 Kasilof and then gillnet and dipnet fisheries on the
18 Kenai River. The dipnet fishery largely takes place in
19 the Russian River at the falls and then there's some
20 ancillary rod and reel activity that takes place mostly
21 under State regulation.

22
23 The big thing I want to point out to
24 the Council here is that our permits have grown every
25 year. The number of permits we issue. We're up to
26 about 481 right now. We'll probably break 500 next
27 year. We had a new community come on board, Moose
28 Pass. This last year was the first year they
29 participated in the fishery, so we'd anticipate the
30 number of residents from Moose Pass increasing in the
31 participation rate.

32
33 Last year we harvested roughly around
34 6,000 salmon. We're still receiving some permits from
35 individuals. Those are due by January 15th. This year
36 we actually have a large number of outstanding permits
37 that were not turned in, but generally speaking most
38 people are pretty good.

39
40 There's an in-season reporting
41 requirement as well to help us understand where we're
42 at, you know. I'll acknowledge firsthand that the
43 numbers we're harvesting are minute compared to the
44 other fisheries that take place in Cook Inlet and the
45 Kasilof/Kenai Rivers.

46
47 The one benefit to the permit system is
48 it allows me as a Federal manager to work with the
49 State and illustrate that we aren't targeting certain
50

0071

1 species or there's no need for us to take action at
2 certain times. Having the information at hand really
3 quiets them down a little bit when I get phone calls
4 and emails from their managers requesting that we
5 follow suit with their actions. So I just want that on
6 the record that the permitting system does benefit the
7 Federal user in that way.

8

9 So just to recap, as you all probably
10 know, the NTC with Ninilchik received permits to fish
11 gillnets both on the Kasilof, Kenai and, as Greg
12 mentioned, the bulk of the Ninilchik residents utilize
13 that fishery to receive their fish. Then the Russian
14 River is by the next largest fishery that takes place
15 and most of those are Hope, Cooper Landing and now
16 Moose Pass residents.

17

18 I'll just leave it at that or take any
19 questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. I
22 appreciate Ken. It's an example of management that
23 works closely with the village. He's able to say, you
24 know, we don't need to close the kings because you guys
25 aren't taking any. Common sense approach. I like it.
26 You know, but still allowing us that opportunity if
27 someone does go up there and get one without shutting
28 us down.

29

30 Go ahead, Andy.

31

32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 What methodology is used to try to collect these late
34 reports, harvest reports?

35

36 MR. GATES: So we do send out courtesy
37 emails in advance of the January 15th timeline to
38 request people to turn their reports in, if that's what
39 you're asking. But the methodology for them to report
40 they have several options now. They can mail it in
41 free of charge, they can take a photo of it and send it
42 via email, which is identified on the permit, or they
43 can drop it off at our office in person.

44

45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I might suggest not
46 just sending an email but also following up with some
47 type of mail or is that taking place?

48

49 MR. GATES: We used to do Priority Mail

50

0072

1 or Certified Mail and the results aren't any different.
2 We can certainly pursue that again, but it seems like
3 -- we have emails for every participant anyway, so it's
4 just an easier communication record because then they
5 can just easily respond to the email by taking a photo
6 of the permit and sending it back, which a lot of them
7 do prefer that method because they have a record of it
8 and then it doesn't cost them any money.

9
10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So how many
11 outstanding reports have not been turned in?

12
13 MR. GATES: I'd have to dive into the
14 database right now to look at that. I can tell you
15 what we had last year. There was 51 outstanding and 22
16 -- or 21 and then 35 last year, I believe.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: A follow-up phone call
19 might, you know.....

20
21 MR. GATES: We do call as well.

22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Very good.

24
25 MR. GATES: Usually we send an email
26 and then we obviously get a flurry of calls coming in
27 and then I do call the individuals that haven't
28 responded.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I know they've
31 sent letters in the past because I've got one.

32
33 MR. GATES: Greg and I had to have a
34 hard conversation one year.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got threatened
37 that they were going to cut off my rights.

38
39 MR. GATES: Put me in an awkward spot.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions
42 here for Ken? Yeah, Dennis.

43
44 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, real quick. Do you
45 have like any punitive things for not turning in your
46 permit like the State does where you're not eligible
47 for that permit the following year?

48
49 MR. GATES: Yes, we do, and it states
50

0073

1 it in the regulation and on the back of the permit. We
2 send a letter out with the permit as well to just kind
3 of -- we always re-emphasize like please turn your
4 permits in. We talk to the individuals. But, yes,
5 there's a stipulation in there that if we don't receive
6 the permit, that they would be ineligible for the
7 upcoming season.

8

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 It seems like one email only seems like not a due
11 process. Maybe a few other -- I mean if there's like a
12 little check-off, oh, made a phone call and an email
13 and sent a letter, then not eligible.

14

15 MR. GATES: Yeah, duly noted. I'll
16 just for the record also. The fishery largely takes
17 place in June, July and a little bit in August at the
18 Russian River Falls. There's several months that
19 generally pass between when you really have to turn a
20 permit in. You know, there's ample opportunity and
21 time to turn it in. But, yeah, duly noted.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ken, we do have a
24 daily reporting when we catch them, right?

25

26 MR. GATES: Yes. That's part of the
27 in-season management reporting requirement, yeah. So
28 we both receive it. As far as the gillnet harvest,
29 part of our agreement with NTC is the individuals
30 operating gillnets send me a daily report out on the
31 gillnet. I don't have the dipnet numbers, but I talk
32 to individual permit holders that call the dipnet in.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
35 Michael.

36

37 MR. OPHEIM: I was just curious. For
38 the reporting do you find that it's the new people that
39 are getting the permits or does it matter across, you
40 know, the timelines of how long somebody has been doing
41 it?

42

43 MR. GATES: Great question. To be
44 honest with you, a lot of times they're just repeat
45 offenders. I'm dead serious about it. So you go into
46 the record and look and it's not their first time. So
47 some individuals just have organization problems maybe.

48

49 MS. SELANOFF: How do you account for

50

0074

1 that with your numbers? So if somebody is not turning
2 in their permits, do you presume that they have taken
3 fish or not taken fish? How do you account for that
4 with your reporting?

5
6 MR. GATES: That's a great question
7 too. So Greg mentioned in-season harvest reporting
8 requirement and then we have the mail the permits in
9 and I'll just state that the official record of any
10 harvest that occurs comes from the permit being turned
11 in, the in-season reporting requirement we don't have a
12 mechanism to enter that into the database to track
13 harvest.

14
15 So if we were to just pull up a permit
16 in the database and say this is how many fish from this
17 community are being harvested, the only way we get that
18 is through the permit being turned in. So the
19 in-season reporting doesn't get entered into the actual
20 database. So I guess they go unaccounted for. We have
21 to assume it's zero. We can't guess at the harvest if
22 we don't get the permit card put in. If that answers
23 your question. So the only record of harvest is what
24 gets entered into the database through the permit.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Well,
27 thank you, Ken. I think that was a good update. Dave,
28 you want to -- Dave, before you start I think we'll
29 take a short break just to pause and then we'll have
30 enough stamina to make it through the last half hour.
31 So let's take five minutes and we'll come back and
32 finish up. Thank you, Dave.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (On record)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Dave, if
39 you want to come up that would be good. Go ahead.

40
41 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Dave Sarafin, the fisheries management biologist at
43 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Thanks
44 for the opportunity to talk after sitting through the
45 whole week of meetings. It's good to at least get on
46 record with some contributions.

47
48 I've prepared a fishery report that's
49 in your meeting book. I think it's on page 52. Just
50

0075

1 covering the key points on that briefly. Fish and Game
2 comes out with their pre-season forecast each season
3 for the Copper River. For chinook salmon they're
4 forecasting 47,000, which is 2 percent below the
5 10-year average. For wild stock sockeye 1,965,000 and
6 that's 13 percent above the 10-year average for wild
7 stock. The total combining with the Gulkana Hatchery
8 just over 2 million is their forecast.

9
10 During the 2023 season once again the
11 Copper River salmon run began weak but then increased
12 in strength as the season progressed. Miles Lake sonar
13 reported estimated season total passage of just under a
14 million salmon. That was 71 percent above their
15 management objective of 581,000. So the management
16 objectives, you know, it's designed to have enough for
17 the sustainable escapement and then harvest in the
18 other various in-river fisheries.

19
20 Historical Federal subsistence harvest
21 number of permits issued for last year -- these are on
22 Tables 1 to 4. I'd like to bring attention mainly to
23 Table 1, which is a good indicator for how the Federal
24 subsistence harvests have been. So for 2023 total
25 harvest, if we look at all fish combined, which is
26 mostly the sockeye, 21,468 salmon -- mostly salmon
27 harvested there. So that's between the five-year and
28 ten-year average.

29
30 The other tables get into details by
31 subdistrict and numbers of permits for each
32 subdistrict. One interesting pattern we're seeing in
33 usage goes back to -- I think it was maybe 2018-19 when
34 we changed our management strategy and no longer
35 followed the openings and closings of the State
36 personal use fishery. So that purveyed a lot of
37 opportunities to users that preferred harvesting by
38 dipnet.

39
40 We also have limited fishwheels where
41 many users have to know someone with a wheel and then
42 they have to deal with having a spot on the schedule of
43 using the wheel. So having this new opportunity in
44 Chitina there has been an increase in harvest by
45 dipnet.

46
47 Over to the right I've provided some
48 percentages where you can see last year it just went to
49 31 percent that actually were harvested by dipnet.
50

0076

1 Most of that will be out of the Chitina subdistrict for
2 the Federal users.

3

4 So, yeah, numbers of permits in the
5 Lower Copper River. That was 71 permits total
6 in-season reported harvest was 176 sockeye and four
7 chinook salmon. We are still receiving some
8 post-season or season end reports. I think we maybe
9 picked up another four sockeye that had not been
10 reported in season.

11

12

13 So I think there is still some
14 confusion that in-season reporting created. They're
15 used to the other Delta fishery where it's a season end
16 report and people feel like if they report in-season
17 they don't have to provide the post-season report, but
18 then we have no way of knowing if they actually fished
19 in addition to what was done in season.

19

20

21 Tanada Creek Weir, Batzulnetas. Last
22 year we documented 9,254 sockeye salmon. So that's
23 roughly one-half of our historical average at the weir
24 of 18,000. Since I've been coming here for so many
25 years talking about Tanada Creek Weir I'd like everyone
26 to know that I put a poster together that you could
27 view. I think they're downstairs in the main
28 conference room and you could learn more about the
29 project from that with some photos if you are curious.

29

30

31 I believe Matt Piche as well put a
32 poster together for his king salmon work in the river.
33 We also have a collaborative project going on with Fish
34 and Game Copper River salmon research on genetics. So
35 it's the second year of that, trying to get some
36 in-season genetic information to see if that could be a
37 useful tool in future management practices.

37

38

39 Last year it was kind of interesting
40 that from the earlier commercial harvest it did have a
41 higher composition of the upper river stocks. So if
42 they just happened to get disproportionately caught
43 early on in some of those openers maybe, but I don't
44 know if that somehow relates to the lower run we
45 observed at the Tanada Weir. So it's too early to
46 really want to speculate much on what's going on with
47 that, but we're trying to get a better understanding of
48 what could drive those changes and what it means for
49 how to apply it to management.

49

50

0077

1 So that's everything I have for you.
2 I'm open for any questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
5 Questions for Dave.

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: Just quick, Dave.
8 Where's most of the increased dipnetting occurring?

9
10 MR. SARAFIN: Most of it's in the
11 Chitina subdistrict and it would typically -- most of
12 it would be happening when the personal use is closed
13 because the crowd is not there, so it gives a -- you
14 know, you're not fishing with a big crowd, which I
15 always come to despise fishing when I can see someone
16 else.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
21 questions for Dave.

22
23 (No questions)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
26 Appreciate it. Okay, next.

27
28 MS. COHEN: Good morning to the
29 Council. My name is Amber Cohen also from Wrangell-St.
30 Elias National Park and Preserve where I work as a
31 cultural anthropologist alongside Barbara Cellarius.
32 We have a report for you that starts on Page 48 in your
33 meeting book. I'll keep it short and sweet.

34
35 We issued 209 federal subsistence
36 hunting permits for moose, goat, and sheep for Wrangell
37 St. Elias lands in Units 11 and 12 along with the
38 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. The most frequently
39 issued permit was our fall moose hunt in Unit 11. We
40 issued 140 permits for that hunt, of which 59 people
41 hunted and 10 moose were harvested. For all the hunts
42 that you see on Page 49 and Page 50 we have about 95 to
43 97 percent of harvest reports in.

44
45 The only ones we're really still
46 waiting for are our winter moose hunt, which the
47 harvest reports were due on January 20th. I have been
48 emailing, sending letters and calling our permittees
49 and hopefully we'll get that number back up to 95 or
50

0078

1 so. When I say 95 to 97 percent, that usually means
2 there's like one person that didn't respond. So we're
3 just waiting for them.

4
5 Along with our Federal permits we also
6 have a joint Federal/State permit, which is the RM291,
7 along the Nabesna Road for Units 11 and 12. We issued
8 297 permits along with Fish and Game, 72 people hunted
9 on that permit and 10 moose were harvested. All 10
10 moose were harvested by Federally qualified subsistence
11 users.

12
13 Another update I want to provide is on
14 our subsistence harvest surveys that we're doing in the
15 Upper Copper River. I presented that at the last
16 meeting in Kenai and the big update is that we finished
17 up our field work in Slana only about two weeks ago.
18 And we did our data review meeting in Chistochina, so
19 things are moving forward with our projects. A
20 technical paper will be probably done by 2025.

21
22 That last thing I want to point out is
23 the final paragraph on Page 48 about the climate change
24 resilient need project funding from the Inflation
25 Reduction Act. We actually have our Subsistence
26 Resource Commission meeting on March 14th and 15th next
27 week of which we're going to present this funding and
28 look for ideas that the SRC might be interested in.

29
30 We've also begun scheduling tribal
31 consultation meetings and we're going to be scheduling
32 community consultation meetings to figure out projects
33 with food security that our local communities might be
34 interested in. So Wrangell-St. Elias has about
35 \$1.3 million allotted for us for those projects, of
36 which you can see in that paragraph.

37
38 That is what I have for you and I'm
39 happy to answer any questions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a nice
42 chunk of change for you. That's good.

43
44 MS. COHEN: Very nice.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good to
47 see. Questions?

48
49 (No comments)

50

0079

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No questions.
2 You must have done a good report. Okay. Thank you
3 much.

4
5 MS. COHEN: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to comment.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Amber.
9 Okay. Is there anyone else that's got a report? Come
10 on up.

11
12 MR. SANDERS: Through the Chair. Thank
13 you for giving me the time to give my presentation or
14 my report in person. I'm glad to be able to get to sit
15 in front of you folks in person this time. I was on
16 the phone last time.

17
18 For the record, my name is Andrew
19 Sanders. I'm the subsistence program manager for the
20 Chugach National Forest and my report for you all is on
21 Page 44. I have a few small updates to the report, but
22 not a lot has changed since I submitted that to Nissa.

23
24 On big update is in our staff group.
25 So it was myself as a biologist and two technicians and
26 I'm happy to say that our Kenai Peninsula Zone
27 technician Heather Thamm has been promoted to a
28 subsistence biologist trainee position. So a little
29 bit more biological capacity over on the Kenai side
30 now.

31
32 We did carry out one temporary special
33 action in the past year closing the Federal subsistence
34 draw hunts for Dall sheep in the Round Mountain and
35 Crescent Lake hunt areas. We held a public meeting on
36 June 28th and no members of the public attended and
37 provided testimony for that temporary special action.

38
39 We're working on a new cost share
40 agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
41 to continue performing aerial population surveys of
42 wildlife in the Chugach National Forest area. So
43 that's been a long running relationship between Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service to
45 monitor those populations. They really bring a lot of
46 capacity that's difficult for us right now especially
47 in regards to aerial surveys. So we share the cost
48 with them and that's been very fruitful.

49
50

0080

1 We also have a new cost share agreement
2 with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission and
3 we're beginning that relationship by carrying on aerial
4 surveys of moose in Kings Bay. We're anxiously
5 awaiting the weather window that's going to allow that
6 flight to happen. It should be happening any day now.
7 I think we're all really excited to find out what they
8 see from the air.

9
10 For an update on the permits and the
11 harvests our management is somewhat split between the
12 Prince William Sound part of the forest and the Kenai,
13 so that's how my report is structured here. I'll start
14 on the Prince William Sound side. For the 6C moose
15 draw we had 878 applications for a total of 44 moose
16 permits and 22 of the 24 bull tags were harvested and
17 19 of the 20 antlerless moose were harvested.

18
19 Having spoken with the folks who had
20 those permits, the folks who were not able to harvest
21 it was really situations of very new hunters that did
22 not have experience hunting moose before and kind of
23 struggled to get their feet underneath them. Folks who
24 had a family member who was also able to harvest a
25 moose somewhere in the state this year, so they were
26 less concerned with spending a lot of time out in the
27 delta going after moose.

28
29 For the folks who had some experience
30 and were motivated to get out there and spend a lot of
31 time hunting, it was a very successful hunt I would
32 say. Just for reference I've got last year's numbers
33 in there as well.

34
35 The deer season, we don't get harvest
36 reports for those and I don't have numbers from the
37 State at this time. So I don't really have a lot of
38 hard numbers to share with folks for the deer except to
39 say that when we did pellet surveys in the spring it
40 seemed that there was a moderate density of deer in the
41 Sound and I haven't heard from any folks in the
42 community that they've been especially frustrated with
43 the deer hunting this year.

44
45 We're continuing to work with ADF&G to
46 study black bears in the Sound. We've recently begun
47 working with ADF&G in a laboratory at University of
48 Alaska to analyze tissue that was taken from the bears
49 to look at what those bears have been feeding on in the
50

0081

1 Sound. So one of the questions of that is if the beach
2 bears that people harvest are distinctly different
3 bears from other bears in the Sound or if they're just
4 a random subset of the bears that happen to be on the
5 beach when a hunter is nearby.

6
7 So we'll be looking at the amount of
8 fish versus other resources that those bears have been
9 consuming and comparing that to the collared
10 information from the GPS collars to see if some of
11 these bears are really more sticking to berries and
12 plant material and some bears are truly beach bears,
13 fish eating bears. I think that will be really
14 interesting when we get that data back.

15
16 For the 6D mountain goats we issued
17 seven goat permits for Unit 6D and one goat was
18 harvested from RG242, which is in the Rude River area
19 close to Cordova. In 2022 four permits were issued and
20 two goats were harvested. So goat harvest is a little
21 down this year. I'm not really sure why that is.

22
23 The biggest change from what's in your
24 book to the current numbers that I have right now would
25 be in relation to the FFPW01 permit for the Delta
26 fishing permit. So I have in the book that 101 permits
27 were issued. I did find one more permit that was a
28 handwritten permit and it had not been entered into the
29 database, so we got caught up on that. Currently
30 there's 40 outstanding permits. I'm in the process of
31 reach out to folks. The reporting rate for that permit
32 has been fairly low in the past and I'm working on
33 getting those numbers up.

34
35 One thing I started this year as far as
36 getting harvest reports back for that permit is when
37 people come in to get a new permit, if we don't have
38 numbers from the previous year just asking them, hey,
39 did you fish last year and getting that in the database
40 before we issue this year's permit. I've sent out
41 emails. We don't have email addresses for a lot of the
42 users.

43
44 So I'm working on this coming year when
45 folks come in to get permits we'll be asking them if we
46 can get an email address, a current one, in the
47 database. Then, when I get back after this meeting
48 I'll be sending out letters because of the budget
49 issues with Congress I was not able to buy stamps until
50

0082

1 recently. Now I have stamps, so we can get the letters
2 out to everyone else and hopefully get those numbers
3 up.

4
5 The number of coho that were harvested
6 is the biggest change there. In the book it says 324.
7 Now that number is up to 439. But, as I mentioned,
8 there's still 40 more permits out there, so that number
9 may go up.

10
11 The number of sockeye harvested under
12 that permit hasn't changed with the more permits that
13 have come in since I've started reaching out to folks.
14 Also two Dolly Varden were reported on that permit this
15 year.

16
17 That's a few more people, 102, compared
18 to the last few years has been more in the 70s and 80s
19 for the number of permits issued. I think that's
20 related to the new Copper River permit. So we've got
21 folks that are coming in and they're interested in
22 dipnetting the Copper River, so they get their Delta
23 permit while they're there.

24
25 I think that also might be related to
26 our harvest reporting issues because I've received a
27 lot of permits where people had put both harvests on
28 the same permit or, as Dave mentioned, they do their
29 in-season reporting and then we don't hear from them.
30 So there is a fair amount of confusion with some users
31 over how to report the harvests from the two different
32 permits and get those in. So trying to clean that up
33 and make sure people are educated when they come in and
34 get their permits.

35
36 Over on the Kenai side, let's see. As
37 you guys are aware, Moose Pass is a rural community
38 these days and they also now have C&T for the Kenai
39 River fishery. So we held a number of community
40 meetings over on the Kenai in Hope, Moose Pass, Cooper
41 Landing and Moose Pass and Hope again to issue fishing
42 permits and hunting permits and provide information and
43 education on how the Federal subsistence program works,
44 how to get involved.

45
46 We did also have a public meeting in
47 Cordova going into the moose hunt to talk to folks
48 about the moose hunt and how those permits work, where
49 they can and can't use them, how to be involved in
50

0083

1 changing the process. Now that we're coming out of the
2 pandemic it is my great hope to be out in Chenega and
3 Tatitlek as I know Milo was in the past. So I've got
4 some big plans to get out there and make sure that the
5 folks in those communities are getting access to
6 Federal staff as well.

7

8 For the Dall sheep hunt, as I mentioned
9 earlier, there was a Temporary Special Action. We
10 closed that hunt because there was no harvestable
11 surplus of full curl rams. That hunt is mostly
12 entirely managed with State aerial survey data. Those
13 surveys happen somewhat infrequently. As always, there
14 can be challenges in sharing data and what is allowed
15 to be shared between the State and the Federal
16 government.

17

18 So we're working on improving the data
19 that we have about that hunt so that we can make better
20 informed decisions in the future and try to ensure that
21 the most possible opportunity with that hunt. So we
22 are collaborating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
23 to begin ground-based surveys. They had a pilot study
24 last year. We'll be joining them this year.

25

26 That will involve getting out in the
27 field, glassing sheep, doing vegetation surveys,
28 collecting fecal pellets and sending those pellets in
29 to have genetic data collected from them so we can use
30 genetic data to also get another estimate of the
31 population and also to look at what those sheep are
32 feeding on. We're also working on getting more
33 frequent and recent aerial data of that population.

34

35 For Unit 7 moose it was a record year
36 for moose harvest in Unit 7. The previous record was
37 three moose harvested on Federal permits in 2019 and in
38 2023 seven moose were harvested. Eighty-one permits
39 were issued.

40

41 Fifty-four caribou permits were issued
42 in Unit 7 and there was no harvest reported. In 2022,
43 74 permits were issued and one caribou was harvested.

44

45 For Unit 7 mountain goat that's a draw
46 hunt. There's three areas. They change around a
47 little bit each year in negotiation with the State.
48 This past year it was DG341, which is the Cecil Rhodes
49 Mountain. DG334 Mills Creek and DG338 Crescent

50

0084

1 Mountain two of the three goats were harvested.

2

3 In 2024, in cooperation with the State,
4 we'll be replacing 341 Cecil Rhodes with 339 Grant
5 Lake. Part of that is because Cecil Rhodes has a very
6 low population of mountain goats right now, so there's
7 not a lot of opportunity there even though the access
8 for the users is great. So it was our hope that Grant
9 Lake would be a nice substitute and still be very
10 accessible to the rural users of the Kenai while also
11 having a good population of huntable goats there.

12

13 You guys have already heard about the
14 salmon fishing over there that we cooperatively manage
15 those fisheries with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
16 It's right there on the border of Chugach National
17 Forest and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. So just of
18 the communities that are on the Forest we issued 222
19 permits and 58 of those were to residents of Moose
20 Pass. So that pretty much adds up with last year,
21 which was 185 permits without Moose Pass.

22

23 That concludes my report. I'm happy to
24 take any questions you guys may have.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right.
27 Questions for Andrew. Anyone? Right over here.
28 Dennis has one.

29

30 MR. ZADRA: Hi, Andrew. When will we
31 find out about the Federal drawing hunt on the Copper
32 River for the moose?

33

34 MR. SANDERS: For the moose? Oh, we're
35 expecting to hold that drawing next week. Everything
36 is ready to go in the system. I would have done it this
37 week except I'm here.

38

39 MR. ZADRA: Okay, very good. Thank
40 you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael.

43

44 MR. OPHEIM: I have just a comment.
45 I'm happy to see Moose Pass taking advantage of these
46 hunts. It's good to see.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
49 comments?

50

0085

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Andrew, I'm glad you had time to do that. Good report. Thank you. Look forward to working with you there.

6

7

MR. SANDERS: Thank you very much.

8

9

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Council members, we're in the eleventh hour. We have one more item. We are at noon. We do have closing comments. So we could briefly make our closing comment and we'll let the room go to the next users. Judy, do you want to start? You're the Vice Chair.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once again you run an excellent meeting. We're pretty much finishing on time and we did accomplish quite a bit. The All-RAC meeting I think was very good and I'm echoing what others said. We appreciate all the Staff time and probably RAC Chair time and others that went into this.

I'd just suggest -- since now we've had an exposure to issues beyond our region, if you look at Page 39, if you want to get on an email list that tells you about what's going on with the Federal program, it's worth doing it just to keep informed as to what is going on elsewhere in the state because sooner or later that might affect us as well.

Nice to see everybody and looking forward to what we can accomplish. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy. Great comments and good info. And congratulations. Ed.

MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As usual it was a good meeting. It looks like we might finish a minute early. This was my first All-RAC meeting. As I previously mentioned, I wish it lasted another day. It wasn't enough time to get one-on-one more with people throughout this meeting.

As I've always said in all our last RAC meetings, I especially appreciate agency reports. I think of some of all the information I get on these meetings is through agency and tribal reports. I thank

0086

1 you all for showing up.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

6 Have a good trip back. Michael.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Just kind of echoing what
9 was said already. Great meeting overall. I loved a
10 lot of the educational things that we were given during
11 this All-RAC. I do wish we had more time with the RACs
12 together. You know, bringing those ideas and issues to
13 each other like we did in the previous one at the Egan.

14

15 It's always great to have all the
16 information by the folks that come and present to us.
17 I really enjoy the educational. It makes sitting up
18 here making decisions a little easier when you have all
19 that good information. Yeah, thanks to the staff for
20 putting all this together and helping us get here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Thank
23 you, Michael. Heath.

24

25 MR. KOCAN: Yeah, I just really
26 appreciate the -- for me the training was really great
27 even though I apparently am up for reappointment.
28 With Covid we just didn't really get to meet. I think
29 this is only my third in-person Board meeting. So the
30 training was really good because it was just a lot of
31 stuff that I didn't know about and wasn't able to
32 really talk to anyone about. Hopefully we can do more
33 in the future.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great. Thank
36 you. Go ahead, Andy.

37

38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you.
39 Thanks to the OSM Staff and all the agencies for their
40 reports. The All-Councils meeting was so valuable. I
41 think they should just be regular at least every five
42 years for five days. We needed another day to just
43 network with other Council members from other RACs.

44

45 Quite a lot of things to say about the
46 bycatch trawl stuff, but there's a lot of disservice
47 happening with the North Pacific Fishery Management
48 Council. Things like black cod harvest exceeded -- in
49 2020 the black cod harvest exceeded by greater than 500

50

0087

1 percent of what was being allowed. The way the NPFMC
2 responded was then they just quintupled the limit in
3 2024. They just bump up the limit.

4
5 A lot of things like this -- it's kind
6 of like -- you know, they -- not to say advocate, but
7 they regulate deficiently to support any type of
8 subsistence of our salmon statewide. They also cut
9 halibut use by -- for all the other user groups. You
10 know, they rob Peter to pay Paul in order to get the
11 trawling more benefit all the time.

12
13 The harvest caps of 15 vessels in
14 pounds, pollock was like three million and some in 2010
15 and then now in 2024 it's capped at nine million six.
16 Rock fish 18,000-plus pounds was 2010. Now it's
17 48,000-plus pounds. The king salmon 1,455 pounds was
18 allowed in 2010. Now 3,845 in 2024. Squid the same.

19
20 All these are 2.6 fold increases across
21 the board exactly. They're not tailoring their
22 management to the population of each species. They're
23 tailoring their management as a percentage. That is
24 not accurate and sound management of our resources.

25
26 As a matter of fact in 2024, right now
27 -- I'm just looking this stuff up inspired by what's
28 going on at this meeting -- the Gulf of Alaska's
29 in-season so far, already in the first two months,
30 there's reported 4,677 kings wasted in the bycatch.
31 When people upriver aren't even allowed to fishwheel
32 one king. Why is this? It's atrocious what's going
33 on.

34
35 Anyhow, great meeting otherwise.
36 Learning a lot. Being able to network with people. It
37 inspires me to look up things. Wow, I'm going to learn
38 that. Little nuances about all these details that we
39 find out amongst these agency reports and everything.
40 It's just fantastic.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
45 Very good. We'll move over this way and Dennis.

46
47 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, my first All-RAC
48 meeting. Just like everyone else said, very
49 informative and all, but like drinking out of a fire
50

0088

1 hose. Too much information too fast. So I would
2 appreciate an extra day. Thanks everybody for showing
3 up and OSM for putting this on. Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
6 Dennis. Diane.

7

8 MS. SELANOFF: Just wanted to
9 congratulate three of you quickly with your positions
10 and also to say that these meetings are great. I would
11 like an extra day. Shorter days. Great meeting.
12 Thank you for having me.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hope.

15

16 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you. I wasn't
17 trying to be rude by coming back late during the last
18 break, but I walked into the talking circle next door
19 and there was an elder talking about how awful the
20 fishnet sizes were for where he was at and it was so
21 important to listen to because as old as he is maybe he
22 won't be able to come back next meeting.

23

24 It was that or this and I apologize for
25 being late. I didn't want to. But having to choose
26 between that and this I was going to choose what he had
27 to say until he had to pause because he's an elder.
28 He's an Alaska Native person and it was very important
29 to me to hear what he had to say because it was really
30 powerful.

31

32 But congratulations to your seats. I
33 really, really enjoyed this All-RAC meeting and how
34 secretary of TCC, Charlie Wright, was able to just take
35 hold of it and make it comfortable for everybody to be
36 able to speak directly to a RAC member rather than
37 whoever thinks they're running the meeting, but we
38 needed more time. I am absolutely sorry that I wasn't
39 over there listening to that elder talk about his
40 issues in his home village whether it has anything to
41 do with me or not.

42

43 Thank you, guys and ladies.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. I'll
46 make a few comments. It's been echoed here at least
47 one, two, three, four, five members about more time
48 needed with the All-RAC. So I hope the staff takes
49 note of that.

50

0089

1 I was around at the time of the first
2 one and the one thing was that I really miss was the
3 networking and individual talking and time spent with
4 the RACs. Out of the formal presentation, it would be
5 really good for us to sit down and learn what they're
6 doing, they learn what we're doing, learn where we have
7 unity, learn where we have differences.

8
9 The one thing that was very obvious to
10 me is there's a lot of trouble in paradise. We know
11 that. We have opportunities and we're blessed, but we
12 do have really rough roads ahead. The resource is
13 getting in peril. It's getting a lot of strain on it.
14 People are lacking their foods. We have to come up
15 with new ways and new things to deal with, you know,
16 this percentage of hatchery fish versus wild is
17 something that really bothers me. Pretty soon you've
18 got 40 percent hatchery fish.

19
20 Anyway, I want to thank Nissa for
21 putting together my talk and all the work she does here
22 because sometimes that goes unrecognized. And the
23 Staff for taking time for reports. It's been a great
24 Council meeting. I'm glad to serve another year as the
25 Chairman. We've got a lot of things to work on ahead
26 of us. We're not there yet, but we're getting there.
27 It was great.

28
29 One thing you mentioned 8:00 a.m. and
30 long days. We should never start before 9:00 a.m.
31 We've got to have breakfast and that just should be a
32 policy, but anyway. Otherwise we need everyone to
33 bring smoked fish and moose meat and some other stuff.
34 Barter. We need some goodies. We were lucky to get
35 coffee, but we need a little more.

36
37 Okay. But anyway, yeah, there's so
38 much to learn from each other. I'll tell you what.
39 That gulf presentation and the debate, when you really
40 hear from the hearts of the people. That's what is so
41 important here because they know. They're the people
42 on the ground.

43
44 I'm not kidding you when I tell you the
45 kings are gone in the Kenai, they're gone on the
46 Peninsula. We've got small kings now. We get a few.
47 No silvers. It's the same all over. We need to start
48 paying attention to that and see what we can do.

49
50

0090

1 Anyway, thank you. Don't give me any
2 more because we're going to adjourn. Got a motion to
3 adjourn?

4
5 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a motion to
6 adjourn.

7
8 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Motion and
11 seconded. We stand adjourned at the Council meeting.
12 Thank you very much.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

