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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Raymond Oney, Chairman
- Wassily Alexie
- John Andrew
- Norma Evan
- Robert Hoffman
- Walter Morgan
- Henry Parks
- Phillip Peter
- Alissa Nadine Rogers
- Richard Slats

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/8/2024)

(On record)

MR. PETER: (Gives invocation in Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Phillips. I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. The time now is 1:32 p.m., today being February 8, 2024. If you can do a roll call for us, Mr. Secretary.

MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Roll call for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council March 8, 2024. March 9, thank you.

Henry Parks.

MR. PARKS: Present.

MR. SLATS: Norman T. Evan.

MS. MCDAVID: Norma let me know she's running a few minutes late. She should be joining us in a little bit.

MR. SLATS: Okay. Thank you. John W. Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MR. SLATS: Walter A. Morgan, Sr.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. SLATS: Jacqueline K. Cleveland.

MS. MCDAVID: Let the record reflect.....

MR. SLATS: Jacqueline K.....

MS. MCDAVID:Jackie is absent and excused. Thank you.

MR. SLATS: Absent and excused?

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1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

2

3 MR. SLATS: Okay. Thank you. Our sixth
4 seat is vacant. Alissa Nadine Rogers.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Present.

7

8 MR. SLATS: Phillip K. Peter, Sr.

9

10 MR. PETER: Here.

11

12 MR. SLATS: Wassily B. Alexie.

13

14 MR. ALEXIE: Here.

15

16 MR. SLATS: Raymond J. Oney.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Here.

19

20 MR. SLATS: Myron P. Naneng, Sr.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. SLATS: Myron P. Naneng, Sr.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Myron is absent and
27 unexcused.

28

29 MR. SLATS: Robert J. Hoffman.

30

31 MR. HOFFMAN: Here.

32

33 MR. SLATS: Richard B. Slats is here.

34 Mr. Chairman. We have nine present and one is on the
35 way. Two absent, one excused and one unexcused.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. We do
40 have one online also, Wassily Alexie will be
41 participating with us online.

42

43 Okay. Next on the agenda is meeting
44 announcements. I'll go ahead and turn it over to
45 Brooke.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 First off I'd like to welcome everyone today to the
49 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

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1 meeting. Thank you to all of our Council Members who
2 have been here participating in this All Council
3 meeting all week. We're in the final meeting, so
4 you've made it through almost. And thank you to
5 everyone that's joining us here in person in Anchorage
6 on Dena'ina lands and who's calling in or joining us
7 virtually. We are having a hybrid meeting today, so
8 bear with us if there's some technical hiccups that
9 come up.

10

11 Folks that are joining online can find
12 the meeting materials on the OSM web page. That's
13 www.doi.gov/subsistence. And you can go to the
14 Regional Advisory Council tab and the Yukon Delta tab
15 where you'll find meeting materials.

16

17 Just a reminder for folks in the room
18 today, please sign in at the back of the room and we do
19 have interpretation today for this meeting. We have a
20 lot of Yup'ik first language speakers on this Council,
21 and we like to be able to have a bilingual meeting.
22 There are receivers in the back of the room. You can
23 set them to channel Number 1, and when our Yup'ik
24 speakers are speaking, you can listen to the English
25 translation over the headsets. And I'm sorry, for
26 folks online, I don't believe you'll be able to hear
27 that.

28

29 Also I wanted to note that there will
30 be an opportunity for public comment today. If you
31 would like to comment on an agenda item or a non-agenda
32 item, there's little blue cards on the table in the
33 back. You can sign your name and if there is a
34 specific agenda item you want to comment on, please
35 write a note about what that agenda item is. The
36 updated agenda is the screen copy that's in the back,
37 and maybe someone could actually bring one up for Cory,
38 our translator, please. Thank you.

39

40 All right. Were was I? If you would
41 like to give public comments and you're joining us on
42 the phone or online, you can press star, five on your
43 phone and that will raise your hand, or you can use the
44 raise hand function online and we'll be trying to keep
45 track of that. If for some reason we don't see a
46 raised hand and it's an opportunity for public comment,
47 just please say, excuse me, Mr. Chair, and we'll try to
48 recognize you. For folks online to unmute yourself,
49 it's star, six if you're on the phone.

50

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1 I do have a quick membership update for
2 our Council. Members Jackie Cleveland, Alissa Nadine
3 Rogers, Phillip Peter, Sr. and Wassily Alexie were all
4 reappointed for another term on the Council, so
5 congratulations, you all.

6
7 (Applause)

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for your
10 continued volunteer service to help protect subsistence
11 uses in your region.

12
13 We do have one vacant seat on the
14 Council, Member Landlord decided to step down and
15 resigned when his term ended -- up end of last year, so
16 if anyone's listening or here in the room that would
17 like to apply to be on the Council, those applications
18 are due at the end of next week. Next week. We really
19 would like to have that vacant seat filled. It's an
20 opportunity to have an additional voice heard from the
21 YKDelta region and represented on this Council. Those
22 applications can be found here at the back of the room.
23 They're on the OSM website. You can email me, shoot a
24 message on the chat, whatever works, and we'll get you
25 a copy of the application.

26
27 And the last thing I wanted to note,
28 which Mr. Chair will probably also note, is that we do
29 have time constraints today. This is a really
30 compressed meeting schedule. This Council typically
31 has three-day meetings and we only half a day today, so
32 we just ask everyone to please keep that in mind, keep
33 your comments to the point, hit the highlights. We
34 don't want to cut off important discussion, but we do
35 need to be mindful of the time.

36
37 And with that, I'll turn it over to Mr.
38 Chair. Quyana.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. And
41 again welcome to our winter meeting of the YKRAC. I'll
42 go ahead and let each of the Council Members introduce
43 themselves and say where they're from. We'll start
44 from Walter, go ahead.

45
46 MR. MORGAN: Good afternoon. I ate too
47 much I think. Too much gussuk food.

48
49 Well, this is my first year and it's a
50

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1 big learning process. I'm always asking Mr. Oney, you
2 know, what to do and where do we go and it's the
3 biggest learning experience for me, but I really
4 respect my elders over there and I'm learning lots on
5 this. I've got to keep my ears open, otherwise I'll
6 miss it, but, you know, it's really good to be on the
7 Council. I try to not be late for meetings or
8 anything. I put 100 percent in showing up, so that's
9 all I've got.

10

11 Thank you. Did you want my report
12 also? No?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: No.

15

16 MR. SLATS: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: I'm Richard Slats and I'm
19 the son of (In Native). I am the grandchild of (In
20 Native). My ancestors were from Kasunuk. I am
21 Chup'ik.

22

23 I am thankful for being here along with
24 these people that work here because we find it very
25 important to subsist. Just for that reason I want it
26 to be known that I am thankful for these. I am
27 thankful for my peers who are here, and to help each
28 other about our subsistence and our work.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You can interpret if you
31 want to.

32

33 MR. SLATS: Yeah. My given name is
34 Richard Slats. I am the son of the late Gregory and
35 Monica Slats, the grandson of Joe and Mary Friday and
36 Mary Slats. My forefathers are from Kasunuk and I am
37 Chup'ik.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you,
42 Richard. Before we go down to John, if you do speak in
43 Yup'ik, we do have translators, and if there's anyone
44 out there that don't understand Yup'ik, I'd appreciate
45 if you get headphones. Thank you.

46

47 Go ahead, John.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

50

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1 INTERPRETER: They call me John Andrew
2 and call me (In Yup'ik) in Yup'ik. When I was growing
3 up my parents used to tell me that we grew up in the
4 wilderness among wild things everywhere, but during
5 these times they tell us that they only have a subsist
6 in fish and it's for just a few fish, but they do say
7 that these management institutions, they will manage
8 us. They told us to cooperate. Because of that, we
9 struggle because they only have us open season for a
10 short time while we fish for our families. We fish for
11 support of our elders and our parents and those who do
12 not have people to subsistence.

13
14 Thank you. That is all I'm to say for
15 now.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
20 name is Alissa Nadine Rogers. I'm on the Yukon-
21 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council. I'm representing
22 Bethel area. I am a subsistence user and also
23 commercial fisherman on the Yukon River. I've been
24 here, attending these meeting since I was nine years
25 old. My first testimony on record was nine. And I've
26 been attending these meetings every year since then.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 MR. PETER: My name is Phillip K. Peter.
31 I come from the Kuskokwim River 18 miles above Bethel,
32 Akiachak is located on the river. It's only 32 miles.
33 And my dad is Edward Peter, (In Yup'ik) and my mom
34 Elizabeth Lomack, (In Yup'ik) and my grandmother Lizzie
35 Lomack, (In Yup'ik) and my grandpa Louie Lomack, but I
36 didn't see my grandpa except my grandma.

37
38 And I've been involved for five years
39 on the Federal Subsistence Board which Secretary of
40 Interior selected me to sit on the Yukon-Kuskokwim
41 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee and I'm
42 really proud that they selected me again for another
43 three years. I always do my best to represent
44 Kuskokwim and Yukon, trying to improve our way of life.

45
46 Quyana.

47
48 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. I'm Robert Hoffman.
49 I'm with the Bethel Kuskokwim RAC, and it's a wonderful
50

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1 thing to be on this Advisory Regional Council trying to
2 assist our regional people in what they deserve. They
3 deserve their way of life which is their subsistence
4 way, and I'm finding out we have to fight for that.
5 It's not a given thing. We have to fight and we have
6 to fight very hard. And the people that we have to
7 fight with are whom we call the regulators that tell us
8 when we're going to subsist, how long we're going to
9 subsist, with what we're going to subsist, and when to
10 start our subsist and when we're going to stop.
11 Subsistence way of life as I understand it in my book,
12 when you're hungry you go out and gather and fill your
13 stomachs of your family. But in reality what we really
14 have is we're regulated by the State of Alaska, told
15 when and what to do.

16

17 That's why I'm glad to be on this Board
18 to try to help our tribal members get their subsistence
19 that -- and is told that they have available and not
20 told when they can get it or how they can get it and
21 what to use to get it and when to start and when to
22 stop. That's not subsistence, that's something we are
23 told by whomever, the regulators.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 (In Yup'ik)

30

31 INTERPRETER: My Yup'ik name is (In
32 Yup'ik). I am Henry Parks and I live in the YKDelta.
33 I am from the (In Yup'ik) region.

34

35 MR. PARKS: Tundra Villages area and I
36 got two neighboring villages where I live. I'm from
37 Native Village of Nunapitchuk. That's where my birth
38 place and I was raised there and still living there.
39 And it's approximately located about 26 air miles west
40 from Bethel. And I'm a big time subsistence and
41 gatherer back home, and a trapper and I do all kinds of
42 subsistence activities.

43

44 Quyana. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And over here, Norma, go
47 ahead, just introduce yourself and where you're from.
48 Thank you.

49

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1 MS. EVAN: Can I give my regional.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: We give our reports
4 later from each of you. If you could appreciate --
5 introducing yourself and where you're from, because we
6 all have to give reports later from each individual
7 village, so if you could just introduce yourself for
8 the audience and where you're from. Thank you.

9

10 MS. EVAN: Norma Evan, Marshall.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And also we have Wassily
13 Alexie from Russian Mission, if you could introduce
14 yourself.

15

16 MR. ALEXIE: Good afternoon, everybody.
17 My name is Wassily Alexie. I'm from Russian Mission.
18 I'm part of our Iqugmiut Tribe and also I serve on the
19 YKRAC Board. And I'd like to congratulate everybody
20 who was re-elected on the Board.

21

22 I was listening in on the past days'
23 meeting. It was really interesting, a lot of good
24 reports and testimonies of what we need to try to do.
25 I was kind of feeling bummed because I didn't make it
26 in. You all know we had a lot of young people that has
27 passed away this past couple months. We had maybe
28 three within two months. So thank you all for
29 understanding and I'll be listening in.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. And
32 for myself, my name is Raymond Oney. I come from the
33 Village of Alakanuk on the mouth of the Yukon River.
34 Quyana for being here.

35

36 Next on the agenda we have.....

37

38 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. Okay. Can we
41 maybe have the audience introduce themselves. So where
42 you're from and maybe who you represent for the record.
43 If you could keep it short, appreciate it. If you
44 could come up to the mic. Thank you.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Hello, everyone. My name
47 is Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist for this
48 Council with the Office of Subsistence Management.

49

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1 MR. GRAHAM: Hi. My name's Cory Graham.
2 I live in Anchorage. I'm a Fisheries Biologist with
3 OSM.

4
5 MR. SANDONE: My name is Gene Sandone
6 and I'm representing the Yukon Delta.

7
8 MR. RANSBURY: My name is Shane
9 Ransbury. I work for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as
10 a Fish Biologist out of Fairbanks.

11
12 MS. ANDREW: My name is Tiffany Andrew.
13 I'm here representing Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
14 Association.

15
16 MS. KLEIN: Hello. My name is Jill
17 Klein and I work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service as their Regional Subsistence Coordinator, and
19 I live here in Anchorage.

20
21 MS. BROWN: Hi. Melanie Brown. I work
22 for Salmon State as the Outreach Director and I'm a
23 tribal citizen of Naknek Native Village, too, but I'm
24 not representing them.

25
26 MS. VICENTE: Therese Vicente with the
27 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission.

28
29 MS. JOHN: Hi. I'm Mariah John from
30 Shageluk. I'm just here as public.

31
32 MS. HOOPER: Good afternoon. I'm
33 Jennifer Hooper with AVCP from Bethel.

34
35 MR. MASCHMANN: Good afternoon. I'm
36 Gerald Maschmann with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
37 out of Fairbanks.

38
39 MS. RUSKIN: Hi. I'm Liz Ruskin. I'm a
40 Reporter with Alaska Public Media.

41
42 MR. FOLEY: Good morning -- or, no, good
43 afternoon Members of the Council. My name is Kevin
44 Foley, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
45 Subsistence Management and I live and work on the
46 traditional homelands of the Dena'ina people here in
47 Anchorage. Thank you.

48
49 MR. PETE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50

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1 Stanley Pete, Native Village of Nunam Iqua.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair. Edward Adams,
4 Sr., from Nunam Iqua.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I believe I
7 forgot to introduce myself earlier. I always do that,
8 I don't know why. Hello again, everyone. I'm Brooke
9 McDavid. I am the Council Coordinator for the YKDelta
10 RAC, also the Eastern Interior RAC and I'm the
11 Designated Federal Officer for this meeting. Although
12 that makes me sound very official, but I'm not that
13 official.

14

15 We do have a couple folks also joining
16 us online. I'll introduce -- we have Robbin Lavine
17 from the Office of Subsistence Management. She's the
18 Policy Coordinator and she's the LT, the Leadership
19 Team Lead for this meeting, so she might be chiming in
20 if we need some assistance.

21

22 We also have Keith Heron with Fisheries
23 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And then if
24 we could have Rose and Janessa quickly introduce
25 themselves.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. BENNETT: Rose Bennett with Calista
30 Corporation.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: It was pretty hard to hear
33 you, Rose, but we have Rose Bennett with Calista.

34

35 MS. ESQUIBLE: Janessa Esquible with
36 AVCP and I'm also a student at UAF. Apologies I have
37 to join online today. Hope you all are doing well.
38 Quyana.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: And there is one person
41 joining us by phone for a number ending in 3131, if you
42 wouldn't mind introducing yourself. Thank you.

43

44 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah, I don't know if you
45 can hear me, this is Evan Erickson at KYUK in Bethel.
46 I'm just listening in here.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, we got you. Thank
49 you to everyone who's also joining us online.

50

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1 Back to you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. You
4 had a comment. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. SLATS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 For the record, Norma T. Evan joined us at 1:50.
8 Wassily B. Alexie is with us telephonically, so we 10
9 present. Mr. Chair. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
12 Secretary. Next on the agenda we have review and adopt
13 agenda on Number 6.

14

15 And under 7 we have election of
16 officers, Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary.

17

18 8. Review and approve previous meeting
19 minutes.

20

21 9. Reports. That's when you'll give
22 your reports. That's why we wanted to just introduce
23 yourself, you know, just where you're from and then you
24 could give your report then.

25

26 And then Chair's report.

27

28 10. Action items. And, A, review and
29 approve FY' 2023 annual report will be done by our
30 coordinator.

31

32 B. Fisheries special action request,
33 FSA24-01, Yukon salmon.

34

35 And then, E, call for Federal fish and
36 shellfish regulatory proposals.

37

38 I. Introduction of draft Federal
39 fisheries closure review analysis.

40

41 And also Yukon area crossover proposal.
42 We have two, Eastern Interior, FCR23-05, closure to
43 subsistence harvest of all fish in the Delta River.
44 And the other one if FCR25-02, closure to subsistence
45 harvest grayling in the Nome Creek drainage of Beaver
46 Creek.

47

48 And under 2, consider development of
49 Federal fish and shellfish proposals. If that can be
50

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1 considered later on during our fall meeting, we could
2 take that up.

3

4 And under D, develop priority
5 information needs for FRMP selection of working groups
6 participants.

7

8 Under E, proposed rule, Federal
9 Subsistence Board membership.

10

11 And under F, future meeting dates.

12

13 And I'd like to introduce, if we can
14 move up, other business, which is under A, follow-up on
15 joint Council action items and put that down as 10.G.
16 We'll move that up because I feel that we need to see
17 if there's any feedback from all the requests that
18 we've given out during our recent report to the body.

19

20 And the next one is confirm fall 2024
21 meeting date and location. Two, selection of winter
22 2025 meeting date and location. And three, select fall
23 2025 meeting date and location.

24

25 And under 11 we have public and tribal
26 comment on non-agenda items.

27

28 And under other business, Council
29 correspondence and correspondence policy update.

30

31 And C, 2023 Council charter changes
32 overview.

33

34 And under 13, agency and organization
35 reports.

36

37 Under A, salmon management updates.

38

39 And under 14, closing comments.

40

41 15. Adjourn.

42

43 Brooke, go ahead.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. Thank you Mr.
46 Chair. I just wanted to clarify something. Under Item
47 C, the call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals,
48 that first bullet, i, those crossover closures, those
49 are informational items that you can choose to take up
50

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1 at this meeting if you're interested in them. On the
2 Eastern Interior, they discussed them yesterday and you
3 will get to review them and actually vote on them at
4 your fall meeting, but we wanted to give you the
5 option. When we get to that you can make that
6 decision.

7

8 But that second bullet point, C.i.i.,
9 consider developing proposals, if you do want to
10 develop any fisheries proposals for the lower Yukon or
11 the Kuskokwim or the Coastal areas at this meeting, you
12 will need to put in those proposals at this meeting,
13 because the call for proposals will go out after this
14 meeting and it will close before you meet again, and
15 then at your fall meeting you would vote on any of
16 those proposals, or discuss them and vote on them at
17 the fall meeting.

18

19 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

22

23 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
24 Through the Chair. Can we have a hard deadline of
25 those proposal dates?

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: The call for proposals
28 have not yet gone out unfortunately. It hasn't been
29 published in the Federal Register yet, so we don't have
30 the date for members of the public to put something in
31 after this meeting, but this is the only meeting at
32 which the Council can put in a Council-sponsored
33 proposal.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: I'd like to make a
40 recommendation that we set up a teleconference meeting
41 to decide on suggestions for proposals.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: So, Alissa, unfortunately
44 that has to be done at this meeting. It was publicized
45 to the public that this -- in this public meeting that
46 would be the time you all would be developing the
47 proposals and that's what all the other Councils have
48 done. So I know it's a lot to think about, but if
49 there are ideas for proposals that you guys want to
50

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1 bring forward, it would need to be at this meeting.
2 After this meeting you could put in proposals as a
3 member of the public or with another organization.

4
5 Thanks.

6
7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

10
11 MS. ROGERS: Well, I can make a second
12 recommendation to that, that we take up proposals now
13 and then have another teleconference meeting where we
14 can develop more proposals if our Council needs, if
15 that's okay.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: We can't have any other
18 meetings outside of this meeting to develop proposals
19 if that makes -- I'm sorry about that. If you guys
20 wanted to meet on your own as members of the public and
21 submit something, you just couldn't submit anything as
22 a RAC after this meeting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Moving on. Is
25 there a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda.

26
27 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman. I so move.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion.....

30
31 MS. ROGERS: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion on the floor.....

34
35 MR. PETER: Phillip Peter.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion on the floor by
38 Phillip Peter to adopt the agenda as written, seconded
39 by Alissa. All those I favor signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
48 carries. Thank you. Next on the agenda we do have
49 election of officers. At this time, for the Chair I'll
50

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1 turn it over to our coordinator, Brooke.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Yes. So Council Members, at every winter meeting we do

5 do election of officers that will serve for the year.

6 And these officers serve an important role on the

7 Council. Our Chair's primarily responsible for

8 reviewing final versions of correspondence or letters

9 in our reports and approving the sign-off on them.

10 They're also -- they go to the Federal Subsistence

11 Board meetings if possible in person and represent the

12 Council -- or give the Council's recommendations on

13 proposals and different action items to the Board.

14 They often call into meetings and do that at other

15 times of the year.

16

17 And the Vice Chair typically serves to

18 fill in for the Chair when the Chair is unavailable.

19

20 So just know that those are important

21 roles when you're thinking about who to nominate.

22

23 So any one on the Council can nominate

24 someone else. You can also volunteer yourself if

25 you're interested in being considered for election.

26 And you don't need a motion to nominate someone, so you

27 don't a second. You can just say, I nominate so and so

28 and we'll write it down.

29

30 So to start off, I'll open the floor

31 for nominations for Council Chair.

32

33 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair. I will nominate

34 Raymond. Oh, for the record, my name is Henry and I

35 nominate Raymond for Chair.

36

37 MS. EVAN: Norma Evan, Marshall, I

38 nominate the same Vice Chairman we had the previous

39 year to be our Council. Thank you.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. So we have Ray

42 nominated. Are there any nominations for any other

43 individual.

44

45 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair. If there's no

46 more nominations, I shall move to close the

47 nominations.

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Henry.

50

0017

1 MR. ALEXIE: I'll second the motion.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Thanks, guys. We
4 don't have to have a motion, but I appreciate it. So
5 it sounds like had one nomination for our Council
6 Chair. And I would ask Ray Oney if you accept the
7 nomination as Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. I
10 do. I do accept the nomination. Thank you. Thank you
11 for your confidence in me in leading this Council for
12 another year. Thank you.

13

14 (Applause)

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: And, sorry, we should
17 vote. I will ask for unanimous consent. All those in
18 favor say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Any opposing votes same
23 sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none,
28 congratulations, Ray, for another term as Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And again thank you.
31 Thank you for your vote of confidence. Next on the
32 agenda we Vice Chair. The Vice Chair as you know was
33 Myron which he's not here. I'll go ahead and open the
34 floor for Vice Chair.

35

36 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, Walter
37 Morgan. I nominate Alissa Rogers for Vice.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion on the
40 floor by Walter to nominate Alissa Rogers for Vice
41 Chair. Any other nominations.

42

43 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair. I nominate
44 Phillip Peter, Sr. for Vice Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion on the
47 floor by Henry to nominate Phillip Peter. Is there any
48 more nominations.

49

50

0018

1 MS. EVAN: Norma Evan. I'll say Nadine
2 Rogers Vice Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You have to employ paper
5 vote now?

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: What is the will of the
8 Council. Are you comfortable doing an oral roll call
9 vote or would you prefer to write your vote on a
10 ballot.

11
12 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair. I have a quick
13 -- do we need to make a nomination -- I mean to close
14 out nominations, to make a motion? No? No. Okay.
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robert, you had your
18 hand up. Go ahead turn your mic on if you want to
19 speak.

20
21 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah. Can we have a piece
22 of paper for a vote?

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir. I'll pass
25 around sticky notes. One moment.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. The
28 vote is to close nomination. We do have two candidates
29 for Vice Chair. One is Alissa Nadine Rogers and
30 Phillip K. Peter. It will be a write-in vote.

31
32 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman. So in this
33 case we can put her name or 1 for Alissa or 2 for
34 Phillip or just their names.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe names would be
37 more appropriate. Thank you.

38
39 MR. PARKS: Okay. Yeah.

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: And for Member Alexie
42 online, if you're able to, you could.....

43
44 MR. ALEXIE: Ms. McDavid, I've got a
45 question.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Oh, go ahead.

48
49 MR. ALEXIE: If everybody's voting on a
50

0019

1 piece of paper, how do I vote?

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: That's what I was getting
4 ready to say. If you're able to, you could send me a
5 text message. Are you able to do that?

6

7 MR. ALEXIE: I can send text.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Yeah. Please send
10 me a text. Right now we're voting for Vice Chair and
11 the choices are Alissa or Phillip.

12

13 MR. ALEXIE: Okay.

14

15 (Ms. McDavid counting votes; Chairman
16 Oney double checking)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. For the vote,
19 Alissa has eight votes and Phillip Peter has two votes,
20 so our next Vice Chair is Alissa Nadine Rogers.
21 Congratulations.

22

23 (Applause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Next on the elections
26 Secretary. The Secretary position is now open for
27 nomination.

28

29 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Parks.

32

33 MR. PARKS: I nominate Richard.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion on the floor by
36 Henry to nominate Richard. Any more nominations. Mr.
37 Hoffman.

38

39 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair. This is
40 Wassily. I nominate Richard also.

41

42 MR. HOFFMAN: I nominate Henry Parks.

43

44 MR. PARKS: Thank you, but I decline.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more nominations for
47 secretary. Hearing none, is there a motion.

48

49 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair. If there's no

50

0020

1 more nominations, I shall move to close the
2 nominations.

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry moved to close the nominations. For the record it is a unanimous consent if I hear Wassily right. So it is unanimous consent to have Richard Slats as our Secretary. Congratulations.

(Applause)

MR. SLATS: Quyana.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Moving on, review and approve previous meeting minutes. You could find that in your meeting book on Page 5.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

MS. ROGERS: A correction on Page 7 to fix my name from Nadine Rogers to Alissa Nadine Rogers. Forgot my first name.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Let the record show that. Any more corrections to the meeting minutes of October 10 through 12, 2023.

MS. ROGERS: Motion.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion on the floor by Alissa Nadine Rogers to accept the meeting minutes of October 10 to 12, 2023. Do I hear a second.

MR. PARKS: Second.

MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair, this is Wassily. I second.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: With the corrections to have Alissa Nadine Rogers' name corrected. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

(No opposing votes)

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1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
2 carries. Thank you.

3
4 Next on the agenda we do have reports.
5 If we could limit our reports to three to five minutes,
6 if you could keep that in mind due to the length of our
7 agenda, and like our Coordinator said, due to time
8 constraints. We'd like to be out of here before, you
9 know, too late in the evening, guys. There may be some
10 other things that may be going on here, so if you could
11 keep your reports anywhere from three to five minutes,
12 I'd appreciate it. I'll go ahead and start with Norma
13 Evan from Marshall. Go ahead.

14
15 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
16 year in Marshall region we had a very abundant area of
17 all kinds of berries, especially salmonberries all
18 over, which is rare and at times skip a year, so some
19 years we get salmonberries and some years we don't.
20 The blueberries were very abundant also. We were able
21 to take a small percentage of summer chum, but the fall
22 fisheries were shut down for subsistence due to low
23 numbers compared to previous years. I'm glad to dry
24 summer chum.

25
26 I live -- I grew up 70 feet from the
27 Yukon River with my grandma. This year, the past few
28 years I have not seen any fry salmon swimming around in
29 the river front as I did in my youth.

30
31 We had so many berries in our region
32 and salmonberr -- in the Kuskokwim areas and that was
33 true sign. As of now we're still having shortages of
34 food in our stores where all the food aisles were empty
35 for weeks fall and wintertime.

36
37 Under set net we're showing signs of
38 high catch of whitefish mostly during warmer days.

39
40 There are reports of more ptarmigan
41 than last year. Willow grouse numbers seem to stay the
42 same or even less. I see high numbers of growth in the
43 smaller bird species like common redpole. The other
44 year we had three to eight feeding in our backyard.
45 Now we have over 40 as of today and two chickadees. 95
46 percent of the redpole are female, 15 percent of the
47 females look -- younger -- and the bigger birds. One
48 reason the redpole may have rebounded and growth may be
49 because last spring I told our tribal administrator
50

0022

1 every year during our annual spring clean up of the
2 community we found dead birds, swallows, robins around,
3 so I requested that they follow the ban of BB guns in
4 our community. We thought -- we're thought it was
5 youth were killing birds and just leaving them around
6 us, so stingy -- our swallow birds.

7

8 This year compared to other years on
9 each sandbar with aerial visual there are a high number
10 of moose. I had a transit fly from Devil's Elbow above
11 Marshall and to Pilot Station. Most of our sandbars
12 that were all sand 10 years ago are now 70 percent
13 covered with willows.

14

15 This year there's an increase of
16 rabbits and squirrels. Also with the price for
17 trapping that trapped for the marten in the past years,
18 there have been -- not been many trappers compared to
19 eight years ago when prices were higher. There seemed
20 to be an increase of martens.

21

22 People have been ice fishing for lush
23 and starting to catch more pikes at the beach front.

24

25 Marshall residents did get eels this
26 year, but not as much as other years.

27

28 Thank you. That's my report.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you Norma.

31

32 Walter.

33

34 MR. MORGAN: Hello. I'll make mine
35 brief and short, but Walter Morgan from Lower Kalskag.

36

37 Fishing's been okay this summer. I got
38 my 25 kings and I noticed they were a little bigger,
39 but some of them were pink, the inside of them were
40 pink and you could tell the wild summer are red, and I
41 got about 10 red type. You know, we call them wild
42 salmon and I call the other ones farm salmon because
43 they get soft right away. So I noticed that these last
44 few years. Dog salmon, we never seen hardly any. Red
45 salmon were plentiful. We had enough. And late in the
46 season we got a good run of dogs but I didn't target
47 them because I wanted them to pass.

48

49 And whitefish was good this year, but I

50

0023

1 noticed the increase of pike in Whitefish Lake where I
2 go get my whitefish. There's a lot of pike and they're
3 big Yukon pike we call them. We noticed, you know,
4 there's more and more over in the lakes and in the
5 streams, even the Aniak River tributaries there's pike
6 all over. And a lot of my colleagues fish with -- you
7 know, and my brothers and sisters were telling me
8 there's too much pike and we've been catching pike
9 right and left even during the silver salmon derby day,
10 you know, we put away a lot of freeze and, you know,
11 that's part of the derby we keep the fish and freeze
12 them.

13

14 What else. For birds, it was okay. I
15 got a lot of ducks, mainly black ducks and a few geese.

16

17 Our berry picking part was okay. We
18 had a lot of berries. I was surprised. There's a lot
19 of salmonberries, lots of blueberries. You couldn't
20 even walk, there was so much blueberries. And the
21 blacks were okay and some reds.

22

23 Overall we had a good, you know, season
24 as far as gathering, but not good enough for -- we had
25 no opening season for caribou so we're upset about
26 that.

27

28 And also a lot of the people in the
29 village were asking, you know, how come nothing said
30 about False Pass interception. And I go, yeah, we
31 always mention it and they don't come up to the table
32 and talk with, you know. They're hiding in the back.
33 I mean, we know they have a big impact on our salmon
34 but they're saying they don't and because we know their
35 reporting is not right, because Mr. Dollar speaks, you
36 know, so that's Kalskag's concern, you know. We know
37 they're intercepting but.....

38

39 That's all I got. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Walter.

42

43 Richard.

44

45 MR. SLATS: Quyana, Mr. Chair. Mostly
46 it has been, like the points we want to make exact;
47 we're still here. Even though, you know, we still --
48 we have Coastal issues. Climate change is affecting us
49 especially when we're not being allowed to fish. Storm
50

1 surges are common. The reason why I bring this up is
2 because, you know, like we're 17 miles inland and we're
3 in a fly zone for the migratory birds. And, you know,
4 when they migrate to their nesting grounds or when they
5 return back, those lakes and ponds are, you know, where
6 their drinking water is, and so they get diluted with
7 salt water when the storm surges occur. We were hit
8 hard by the tail ends of Typhoon Merbok. We lost all
9 of our fish camps and, you know, like our fishing gear
10 floated away. Or lost or.....

11

12 Consultations, you know, like, because
13 of this climate change, consultations or even those
14 executive orders for the agencies to consult with the
15 tribes need to occur mainly because when they hold
16 openings and closures, the people that are out there
17 are witnessing early spring, late fall. So they need
18 to adjust or, you know, make these openings and
19 closures because whenever they open it -- like the
20 opening when they're already flown away or, you know,
21 these things are occurring. So different seasons, but
22 like occurrences and opening and closures of fish and
23 game need to be consulted with the -- you know, they
24 need to consult with the tribes, because we're the ones
25 that are out there. You know, in the past after we've
26 not been allowed to fish, they conveniently open the
27 fishing at the end of September when fishing season is
28 -- camping seasons are over. So, you know, that's kind
29 of frustrating when you haven't really been allowed to
30 fish. And then whenever we do fish or catch anything,
31 it's really hard to dry the fish that we have hanging
32 in our racks mainly because we get wet summer, you
33 know, high winds and, you know, raining seasons, and
34 then all of these things that are occurring are
35 happening to us and we're the ones that get hit the
36 hardest.

37

38 So it was good to have Merbok bring all
39 the driftwood from the coast to our doorsteps, but then
40 it's, you know, like at the foot of our hill. So there
41 was a lot of wood, firewood, that got drifted in, but
42 then it's also that we still need to be able to hunt
43 and fish, especially to fish. So we need to be, you
44 know, consulted with the closures and openings because
45 we're having late falls and early springs and wet
46 summers. And then, you know, like traditionally we
47 used to pick berries at the end of August,
48 salmonberries at the end of August. Now we're picking
49 them in July. So these things need to be considered,
50

0025

1 and so mostly just that people that are out in the
2 Coast do not always have the ways and means to travel
3 to these things and be heard.

4
5 So that was mostly what I had to say,
6 but it's my plea to this Council to consider us and
7 make waves about us not being able to fish in our
8 traditional homelands.

9
10 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard.

13
14 John.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. And
17 thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is John Andrew from
18 Kwethluk.

19
20 Last spring we had spring floods from
21 middle of May all the way to middle of June. And then
22 the Refuge had the management of the river. They let
23 us fish during high waters and majority of the fishers
24 weren't doing well. On top of that they give us a slap
25 in the face and let us fish the first two, three
26 openings with little tiny whitefish nets. Back in the
27 early days when there was no restriction we used to go
28 out with one shackle, that's 300 feet of king salmon
29 gear. And over the years they keep down sizing the
30 mesh size, like earlier Phillip was telling us where
31 they would fish with six-inch gear. We still lose
32 those big female kings that is supposed to spawn our
33 river, they fall off our nets and die. And to make it
34 worse, they allow us to fish with a little padded 60-
35 foot four-inch whitefish nets and they tear up real
36 easy. They ask us to target whitefish and pike and
37 when they go out with those tiny little whitefish and
38 pike there's too much debris, they won't catch no
39 salmon or other fish. The slightly bigger fish than
40 for whitefish, because the whitefish don't get tangled
41 up, they fall off the river, half the time they're
42 dead.

43
44 And during the summer, starting from
45 spring we had cold, wet summer all summer long, rainy,
46 windy with this climate change really hurting our
47 villages, all our villages. And the good side through
48 that is late in the summer people were picking berries,
49 going out to a place where they never picked before.
50

0026

1 They came back with all their little containers full.
2 Had one of the great, great grand nephew going to go
3 out, in one day they said they'd picked in about three,
4 four hours along with three or four peoples, all
5 together they picked 30 gallons of salmonberries in
6 three, four hours time. That was excellent. Instead
7 of finding bare tundra, they would see all kinds of
8 berries all together.

9
10 But for the gardeners, it was a little
11 too cold for them. Their produce didn't do well. They
12 were tiny and stunted in most places. But they grow
13 some enough to get by.

14
15 And during the moose season, it was
16 cold and wet and windy all that time. The water was a
17 little too high and they forced the moose way back
18 further in the hills. There were not too many on the
19 main stem or close by. You had to go a long ways to
20 harvest moose. And our season where I live, I figured
21 it lasted four or five days again. But on Zone 2 you
22 were allowed to hunt all the way through October 15,
23 but the majority of my people at the village don't have
24 no jet boats or bigger to go all the way up there.
25 Only people with jet boats or commercial operators.
26 They go quite a ways up in the shallow waters. And
27 majority of my people cannot afford to go that far.

28
29 And the other thing is that this year
30 we've had a lot of snow on our hills between the
31 Bristol Bay region and our region. Those hills is real
32 deep snow, and the winters been getting mild every
33 year. Lot of open water. When the caribou travel,
34 when they fall into the rivers, they can't get out and
35 the wolves are having a good time killing off caribou,
36 even moose. Trappers in my area that trap behind our
37 village. They've said they've seen wolf kills on
38 caribou, and wolf kills on moose. They're just simply
39 killing them off and the managers say that people are
40 doing it. No, it's the wolves are doing all the
41 killing out there. I know when they go after caribou,
42 they go on a killing spree, they don't eat them, maybe
43 one or two out of their kills. The rest they just kill
44 them and leave them. And the managers are pointing to
45 our hunters, they're trying to blame them for that.

46
47 And we see more and more ptarmigan
48 coming back, but not hardly any rabbit tracks or rabbit
49 tracks. For some reason, back in the early days when
50

0027

1 it used to be cold and dry, we saw lots of rabbits,
2 lynx, and even wild fur bearing animals. And the
3 caribou are having a hard time eating because most
4 areas further up, the ground is snow covered and
5 frozen. They can't get to the tundra to feed.

6

7 (In Yup'ik) Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.

10

11 Alissa.

12

13 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Through the Chair.

15

16 My grandparents are John and Alice
17 Hanson from Alakanuk and Fred -- or (In Yup'ik) and
18 Ella Joseph from Hooper Bay. And my grandpa (In
19 Yup'ik) family comes from the Nelson Island, the
20 Lincolns, so I get reports from different villages,
21 Alakanuk, Hooper Bay and Nelson Island, and including
22 Bethel where I live.

23

24 As for our weather -- so I have
25 different points and I'll make sure to label them. So
26 for our weather, we had a late winter. It was wet and
27 cold. We had more snow these past two months of
28 February and March, but the cold this year has been
29 staying a lot longer as you heard from Trapper John.

30

31 Our ice took longer to freeze over.
32 It's still not thick enough, not even fuel trucks want
33 to drive on it right now because it's still too thin to
34 get to our villages who need fuel and schools who need
35 fuel, and they can't get to them. We have more bigger,
36 larger open pockets of water throughout the watershed.
37 It is taking longer for the ice to freeze, and when it
38 does freeze we end up with more shell ice with people
39 falling through the ice than normal.

40

41 Moving on to moose, I'm going to start
42 with the Kuskokwim. This winter we've had lots of cows
43 and twins and families of three on the Kuskokwim River,
44 especially between Bethel to Tubungaluk and then
45 Tubungaluk to half-way across to the Yukon River. No
46 sign of bulls, but mainly cows and twins. I did not
47 see any triplets this time. We actually do have three
48 different families that live in my neighborhood.

49

50

1 Moving on to the Yukon River side. The
2 bulls on the Yukon River are pairing up and traveling
3 in groups of three to four. We saw more bigger bulls
4 with younger bulls traveling as companions. There's
5 definitely user conflict on the Yukon River as was
6 witnessed during the fall time and during this past
7 winter.

8
9 I did want to make a mention that the
10 proxy hunting under the Board of Game regulation is
11 working against subsistence users and subsistence proxy
12 hunters who are trying to get moose for those in need,
13 elders, widows, less fortunate who don't have ability
14 to go and get moose. And what's hurting them right now
15 is that currently as the regulation states in the Board
16 of Game that the monetary value, any type of monetary
17 value, regardless if it's gas, snow machine, sleds,
18 letting someone borrow your equipment, that's all
19 illegal. According to the State of Alaska, according
20 to the attorneys and folks who translated for our
21 wildlife troopers and our troopers have stated that any
22 type of form of money or bartering or trading of any
23 type if sort is considered enumeration which is
24 illegal. So regardless if your tribe gives you a gas
25 card or if your corporation gives you brand new sleds
26 and a snow machine to go do your work, that's
27 considered illegal. So we need to get that fixed in
28 order to continue our subsistence way of life and be
29 able to help those in need, because that is what we're
30 also here for, to help those in need who can't help
31 themself.

32
33 Moving on to fish. It's been reported
34 to me about the lush fish are skinny, their bellies are
35 half full and they're a lot smaller than they were in
36 the past years. They're not as plentiful and people
37 are having to go put their fish (In Yup'ik) somewhere
38 else, because they're not able to catch lush fish in
39 the areas or their traditional areas as the river's
40 changing.

41
42 For this winter the whitefish, there's
43 less whitefish that's being observed this year and
44 there also has been an increase in winter setnets from
45 Napakiak all the way up below Kalskag which tells me
46 that there are more and more folks out there that are
47 supplementing the loss of protein of not being able to
48 hunt moose or caribou with fish to help supplement the
49 loss of the overall protein take this fall.
50

1 And for ptarmigan, on the Kuskokwim we
2 are starting to see more bigger flocks which indicates
3 to me that we're on a rise or peak in the population
4 area as they do have a tendency of a five to seven-year
5 cycle. And as you heard from Ms. Evan that on the
6 Yukon they're starting to see ptarmigan in old
7 migration routes that they haven't seen in over the
8 past 12 years. So that is definitely good signs.

9
10 As for trapping, foxes, we have seen
11 more foxes this year, a lot more younger foxes, not
12 much more of the older foxes. They're definitely a lot
13 younger. You can tell the difference between an older
14 fox and a younger fox.

15
16 For rabbits, as you heard there's not
17 as many rabbits, and if you do catch rabbits, they're
18 smaller. They're way smaller, a lot more skinnier, and
19 they're not as plentiful.

20
21 And for musk ox, we have two herds
22 around the Bethel area. We have one on the airport and
23 one in Gweek. We're trying to keep those protected as
24 much as possible.

25
26 Moving on to caribou. It's been
27 reported to me that there's been guides and airplanes
28 that have been harassing our caribou, and those have
29 been forwarded on to the wildlife troopers. We are
30 really advocating that there's no hunting on the
31 caribou and we want to protect the caribou as much as
32 possible and to prevent illegal harvesting from outside
33 big game or guiding services.

34
35 I'm happy that our caribou moratorium
36 proposal had passed. This will help us advocating that
37 there is no hunting, and let people know that we are
38 really serious about rebuilding the Mulchatna Caribou
39 Herd as it is one of the last pristine -- Mulchatna
40 caribou herds on the Yukon-Kuskokwim side.

41
42 And moving on to wolves and bears.
43 Overall we've seen a lot more wolves and bears in our
44 region. They are coming closer to town, killing dogs
45 that are on leashes or chasing children through the
46 villages. There has been sightings out of people's
47 windows mistaking them for huskies, but they're
48 actually wolves just by how they compared a husky track
49 to a wolf track. Someone took a picture, sent it to
50

0030

1 me, and she said, I thought this was a husky. I was
2 like, no, that's a wolf.

3
4 And my last comment that I wanted to
5 make actually came from the Village of Hooper Bay. I
6 was out there in the Village of Hooper Bay for a
7 funeral. I talked with the elders and my family and
8 fishermen from that village who might be calling in
9 later on today to advocate that they are frustrated
10 with the closures that has happened, that the fishermen
11 and all the restrictions that have taken place had made
12 life in Hooper Bay and fishing for Hooper Bay a lot
13 more difficult than it should be. That the Bay is
14 unique as the salmon do not go to mill or to -- do not
15 go to mill or to spawn in the Hooper Bay area. It is a
16 rarity for salmon to come into the river unless there
17 is storms that hit at the perfect angle to have the
18 salmon come into the bay near the sea. But due to the
19 change of (In Yup'ik) and the area, these people over
20 the past two years have not had salmon are waiting --
21 have been waiting to -- and/or using whitefish nets to
22 sustain their salmon protein intake which they haven't
23 had very much whitefish over the past years and are
24 worried about depleting the whitefish population.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

29
30 Phillip Peter.

31
32 MR. PETER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. My report will be brief. I don't hunt much
34 nowadays, getting older, you know. Getting older. I
35 can't travel five and a half hours by snow machine to
36 get the moose from the Yukon. Five and a half hours to
37 get one bull or cow.

38
39 But last year first was -- there are a
40 lot of geese in springtime, ducks and all, and looked
41 like the swans were getting low to me and cranes are
42 the same, increase a little bit. And those snow geese
43 coming up to our place and some young men catch them
44 snow geese. They don't come around, but like the years
45 they come up and it look like they check on us, them
46 snow geese.

47
48 And summertime fishing was good even
49 though the chinooks were below average, and I see
50

0031

1 increase in sockeye. You know, our past elders tell us
2 when chums were crashed in Kuskokwim in '90s, and they
3 tell us there's going to be more Bristol Bay sockeye
4 coming into our river, Kuskokwim, and it's really true.
5 They predicted chums will be few, but sockeye will be
6 more. They're increasing in the Kuskokwim. I catch
7 this summer over 200 sockeye and 60 medium size kings
8 and chums I catch 22. 22 chums. Last year I catch
9 only two. And it looked like them -- on my observation
10 it looked like them chums were coming back to the
11 Kuskokwim. And cohos, we've been waiting for cohos for
12 five years or four years. And this year cohos increase
13 a little bit. I drift with my six-inch, 50 fathoms, 45
14 mesh, 50 fathoms, half an hour I catch 290 cohos. 30-
15 minute drift. Really big ones, they're fat. They're
16 shiny. But we don't fish much on cohos because it's
17 rainy season. And my wife like to share any, but even
18 though we share -- she share among, and she's the boss
19 and she's the boss and I ask him how many you left onto
20 share, and she told me that 40. Oh, that's good.
21 That's good.

22

23 And moose are increasing in the
24 Kuskokwim, even in the community they walk around,
25 especially on the -- near airport there are over 100
26 mixed moose in our airport area.

27

28 And last time I -- before I come I ride
29 to my grandpa's land, which is about 50 miles back
30 country to check it out, ptarmigan. And on the
31 northeast side there were quite a few flocks of
32 ptarmigan. And then I observed them and then I headed
33 toward northwest side and I see a bunch of flocks of
34 ptarmigan. Lot of ptarmigan. You know, when we have a
35 lot of snow in Kuskokwim, a lot of snow, those
36 ptarmigan are plentiful. But for my consumption I
37 shoot only two ptarmigans and return home. But I
38 usually hunt them in April for dried meat. There's a
39 proposal that was done by the State of Alaska
40 concerning about ptarmigan, the limits. The limits, 25
41 per day. 25 per day. Us, me and my fellow Natives,
42 the hunters, we're the hunters. Maybe I return home
43 less than 25 in springtime for dried meat. After that
44 I don't hunt them. We don't hunt every day to get the
45 -- we can't take over -- over 100 dry meat, ptarmigan.

46

47 But last year my first time in my life
48 when I go out for that dry wood for my stove, right
49 across from Tuluksak there's a big lake and I see a

50

0032

1 flock, 12-pack of wolves really close by, looked like
2 they're resting. Maybe they catch and eat and rest. I
3 see two white wolves, four black wolves, and three
4 coloring like brown, but they're really big. Really
5 big ones. And those three coming towards me, one
6 white, one black and a husky. I waited for them. I
7 got snow machine, 600S SkiDoo, waiting for them. And I
8 think if they get into the middle of the lake I'll
9 chase one, but that didn't happen. Maybe they read my
10 mind, them wolves.

11
12 Quyana.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

15
16 Robert.

17
18 MR. HOFFMAN: No comment, Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Do
21 you have anything to report for your visits or your
22 area.

23
24 MR. HOFFMAN: No, they've said most of
25 it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. If we
28 could go ahead and go to.....

29
30 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I already heard from
31 my area already. They're right.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. We'll
34 take that as your report too. Thank you, Robert.

35
36 Henry.

37
38 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Mr. Chair. I'm
39 going to try and make it fast. It's almost 3:00 right
40 now and we have a bunch of agenda to take care. So I'm
41 going to talk in Yup'ik real quick. Maybe some -- we
42 have interpreter right there. Quyana. Young man. So
43 anyways, (in Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Just now when it froze in
46 the fall in the month of October we used to set nets
47 under the ice because it is a richer descent to fish.
48 We would catch a lot of pike and also whitefish. When
49 we stopped using nets because when the ice would get
50

0033

1 thicker, we would use blackfish are diluted to catch
2 blackfish because we use those to subsist and because
3 we run short on money, these fish are food that we grew
4 up with. We try to subsist on them. But now after it
5 froze the weather was bad, it would tend to be bad on
6 top of that now.

7
8 Since it's been frozen the snow, it
9 would get too warm, it would have blizzards and
10 drifting snow and that affected our hunting
11 subsistence, but we try to sustain ourselves. We are
12 trying to subsist safe from the -- because we are not
13 starving, because we hunt sporadically for what we can.

14
15 The Federal and State agencies, we
16 thank them, that they allow us to hunt for these things
17 for our subsistence things. I am thankful to them.

18
19 Also, some time later if we come upon
20 it without anything, if God brings these things to us
21 and allows them to -- allows us to catch them. We are
22 hoping to fish with nets again on the Kuskokwim.

23
24 Also I will make this last thing.
25 After we have the meeting here, when I go back home
26 after they have the joint meeting in my home town or
27 have general meetings, they invite me and I speak to
28 them about the things that we have met about and what
29 we are using. Then especially interception down in
30 the points and down in the Bering Sea towards the ocean
31 for us. And the things that we talk about, that we
32 work on those things. I tell them in my home village
33 that we have a voice, but it's unfortunate for us now
34 because those things have not come to pass yet.

35
36 That is it for my report.

37
38 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
41 Parks. We do have Wassily Alexie online. Do you have
42 a report to give, Wassily.

43
44 MR. ALEXIE: I'll just make mine short.
45 Pretty much the same story as everybody does, but for
46 me is this spring, you know, we had high waters and we
47 flash flood, just like flash flood overnight. And
48 maybe the water came about 20 feet. And after the ice
49 was all out there was some people running around with
50

1 boats in the island. They found a lot of dead moose.
2 All the moose that were out in the islands were trapped
3 in the water coming up and it's going to make it kind
4 of -- see how it will be this coming fall.

5
6 Plus we were fortunate enough to go out
7 and get a few fish. We had pretty high water pretty
8 much all summer and it made it kind of hard, and we're
9 allowed only with dipnets. And there was a few people
10 that go out. Besides that pretty much everybody's fish
11 camps was destroyed from the high water and the ice.
12 We have like, oh, fish camps from right above Russian
13 to down below and they were all wiped out. So it made
14 it kind of hard for some of the people to go out and
15 try to get what they could.

16
17 And another thing is this fall we
18 finally got a few eels and we were pretty happy about
19 it. Didn't get much. There wasn't a very big run,
20 just maybe half-hour, 45-minute run.

21
22 And we had a late freeze-up. But I
23 noticed when we set the nets under the ice we were
24 catching a lot of big whitefish. Haven't see those for
25 a while.

26
27 And there's quite a few wolves running
28 around. Hardly anybody's been going out because it's
29 due to too much snow. I haven't gone out myself, too.
30 I usually go out pretty much several days when I have a
31 good snow machine.

32
33 I don't know how the moose is out right
34 now, but I heard some stories from people that there
35 are still a few running around or hanging around the
36 islands. We usually get lots of moose out right across
37 the village or down below, we call it Moose Island.
38 It's about a mile down below Russian, there's usually
39 about 20, 30 moose in winter time there.

40
41 And it made it kind of hard this last
42 fall because we had a lot of we call them trophy
43 hunters that come from out, they bring their own boats
44 from out states, I heard from Minnesota and Montana.
45 They drive all the way up to Nenana, drop off their
46 boats and they head down. We had like three or four of
47 them that's been hanging around last fall out here and
48 it made it kind of hard for some people to go out and
49 hunt for themselves because, you know, some of these
50

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1 people they use drones when they go out to look around.
2 And they don't respect our Native allotments. They'll
3 go out and go camp anywhere because there is no
4 enforcement. Nobody's going out and enforcing them to
5 stay off private lands or Native allotments.

6
7 Another thing is, you know, I'm still
8 trying to push for stopping us from using four-inch
9 nets, because those are catching all our future stock.
10 All the whitefish, the little pikes, the salmon.

11
12 And we've been getting more red salmon
13 like everybody was saying, even in the Kuskokwim, too,
14 but I've been seeing more and more every year.

15
16 And that's pretty much all I have.
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you,
20 Wassily.

21
22 For me, for the Lower Yukon, as you
23 heard from everyone else, we had late freeze-up and the
24 way it froze up was that we had warm, freeze, warm,
25 freeze and it pretty much brought a lot of jagged ice
26 when it first froze up, and for the first time in my
27 life I haven't set an under ice net. I've been setting
28 net every year, every freeze-up I'd set net under the
29 ice and for the first I haven't set net under the ice
30 this year.

31
32 And as you heard from many of the
33 people, there's been a lot of abundance of ptarmigans
34 that we haven't seen that in a long, long time. So
35 very thankful that they're coming back. We usually
36 find them out in the tundra, but we've seen a whole
37 flock that are close to the village, even right across
38 from my pond there's a bunch of trees and you'd see
39 them hanging around under trees.

40
41 Moose was abundant this year. Due to
42 the high level of snow they're coming into the
43 villages. Just last week there was like five or six
44 moose that came right to my yard, right in between me
45 and my neighbor's yard. They hung around there for a
46 long time. And just recently we heard of our next
47 neighbor village of where a young lady got tromped by a
48 moose. So there's a lot of moose that are coming into
49 the village due to high volume of snow this year.

50

0036

1 I've been seeing very few under ice
2 nets, too, this year, but people have been reporting
3 they are catching sheefish, whitefish as you heard, but
4 we mainly go for sheefish, because, you know, potlatch
5 is an annual event and we usually gather sheefish for
6 those people that are dancing for the first time and
7 that's been very seldom seen. Now they're using moose
8 for potlatches because of the abundance that we have in
9 our area.

10

11 And we want to thank our people from
12 the south that provided salmon for our people, because
13 you've heard that we haven't fished for salmon for a
14 number of years, from Bristol Bay, that were fortunate
15 enough to supply fish for the Yukon people and we're
16 very thankful for that. This is from the people that
17 I've talked to and the elders and the (In Yup'ik)
18 people are very thankful.

19

20 I'll go ahead and end that there
21 because due to interest of time. Thank you for
22 listening to us and our reports for our YK area.

23

24 Moving on we are on Number 10. We do
25 have some action items. I'll go ahead and turn it over
26 to Brooke to bring us to. Brooke.

27

28 MS. McBRIDE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Your first action item on your agenda is to review and
30 approve your annual report for 2023. And the draft
31 report is in your Council meeting book starting on Page
32 20.

33

34 And as you know, we spent a lot of time
35 at the fall meeting including a lot of topics that were
36 really important for you all and concerning in your
37 region. Those included the AYK salmon crisis. We made
38 a lot of requests in this report for information and
39 action from the Federal Subsistence Board and the
40 Secretaries. The next item was Council Member
41 compensation. We also sent a letter to the Board that
42 they forwarded to the Secretaries about that. We also
43 have -- later in this meeting we'll be talking about a
44 joint Council letter requesting the same compensation.

45

46 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. You let the
47 Board know that you're still concerned about the herd
48 and that you put in a Board of Game proposal to request
49 a moratorium on hunting until a harvestable surplus can
50

0037

1 be achieved.

2

3

4 You let the Board know about the issue
5 of lead shot distribution. You also sent a letter to
6 V.F. Grace, that's the distribution company in
7 Anchorage, asking them to not distribute lead shot into
8 Unit 18 communities.

8

9 Donlin Gold is a concern due to the
10 potential impacts of subsistence. And you all wrote a
11 letter to the BLM on that requesting that they initiate
12 a supplemental EIS process because the information used
13 in the original EIS is no longer up to date due to
14 climate change and the declines in salmon and caribou.

15

16 You also included in the report your
17 feelings about the ANCSA D(1) land withdrawals and you
18 sent a letter to -- you actually commented on the draft
19 EIS in the form of a letter spelling out your concerns
20 to the BLM. And that was submitted during the public
21 comment period.

22

23 We brought up the issue of spring
24 flooding on the Kuskokwim. As Member Andrew pointed
25 out, that's been an issue with the timing of fishing
26 openers that's impeding their ability to actually
27 harvest fish during that time.

28

29 We also heard during Council Member
30 reports Topic 8 in the annual report, the four-inch
31 mesh size impacts, concerns about that and how it's
32 impacting salmon and other fishes.

33

34 Topic 9 was about leave no trace and
35 the need for there to be more outreach done about that
36 and making sure that people are picking up their trash
37 and keeping the landscape and the habitat clean.

38

39 Item 10 was about increasing
40 competition with non-local moose hunters and concerns
41 about trophy hunting of moose in the YKDelta region.
42 We also heard some about that during Council Member
43 reports. We did ask the Board if they have suggestions
44 on things that we can potentially do as a Council to
45 help reduce user conflicts during fall moose hunting
46 season.

47

48 Number 11, Member Evan had brought up
49 about the loss of cranes near Marshall due to a gravel
50

0038

1 quarry, so we included that for the Board's awareness.
2 And we asked the Board if there are any monitoring
3 projects being conducted for cranes.

4

5 Topic 12 was requesting that OSM work
6 to improve the technology used at Council meetings, and
7 trying to use Zoom and video at future meetings to
8 enhance the participation by folks who can't join us in
9 person. And just to let you all know, we are working
10 on that and hopefully we'll have some more options in
11 the future, maybe even at your fall meeting.

12

13 Topic 13 was about you had some
14 suggestions for improving outreach and presentations of
15 analyses and also a request for translation of certain
16 documents into Yup'ik.

17

18 So those are the 13 topics that you've
19 put in your annual report for last year that will go to
20 the Board. And the Board will review the final draft
21 at their work session this summer and they will make
22 replies to all these topics and try to follow up on any
23 of the items you've requested if it is within their
24 jurisdiction.

25

26 So with that, I'll remind the Council
27 we can't add any new topics to last year's report at
28 this time. So we are looking at this time just for
29 approval of this draft version or if there's any
30 significant edits that need to be made.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Motion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke.
37 Okay. The motion on the floor by Alissa to ask for a
38 question of the draft letter. All in favor signify by
39 saying aye.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Ray. We need a
42 second, yeah.

43

44 MR. ANDREW: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion by John to
47 second the -- first would be motion by Alissa and
48 second by John. Question -- excuse me. Discussion.

49

50

0039

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Question's been called.

6 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

11

12 (No negative votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion

15 carries. Thank you.

16

17 Next on the agenda is B, fisheries
18 special action request FSA24-01, Yukon salmon and OSM
19 will make this presentation. You could find it on Page
20 64.

21

22 Pippa, you have the floor.

23

24 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
26 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
27 Subsistence Management. I'm presenting fisheries
28 special action request, we call it FSA24-01, and the
29 request is found on Page 64 of your Council book.
30 Today we're requesting your Council to make a
31 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board
32 regarding this special action request, so this is an
33 action item.

34

35 This special action request was
36 submitted by the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
37 Commission. And the Commission is asking the Board,
38 this is from the proponent, the Commission is asking
39 the Board to uphold the conservation and priority
40 consumptive use provisions under Title VIII of ANILCA
41 and to uphold the Yukon River Salmon Agreement by re-
42 assuming management of Yukon River chinook, chum and
43 coho salmon throughout the 2024 season.

44

45 The proponent tells us what they mean
46 by this.

47

48 It's requesting the Board to do this by
49 closing Federal waters of the Yukon River drainage to
50

0040

1 the harvest of chinook, chum, and coho salmon except by
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users; and (2) to
3 require Federal subsistence fishing schedules,
4 openings, closures and fishing methods within Federal
5 waters be determined by the Federal fisheries manager.

6
7 And the proponent goes on with the
8 justification to help explain why they submitted this
9 proposal, this special action request. They say the
10 Yukon River chinook, summer chum and fall chum, and
11 coho salmon populations have steeply declined,
12 resulting in the failure to meet applicable escapement
13 goals and treaty obligations in recent years.

14
15 I'm going to continue and I'm going to
16 summarize their letter that you see in your book.

17
18 Subsistence opportunity for salmon has
19 been severely restricted and subsistence salmon needs
20 are not being met. Needs are unlikely to be met in
21 2024 based on pre-season forecasts and recent years'
22 run strength. Salmon runs have not improved since the
23 Board approved a similar special action request in
24 2022.

25
26 Any Federal management actions to open
27 or close subsistence fishing in Federal waters of the
28 Yukon River must uphold the provisions of ANILCA and
29 the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement. The
30 proponents stated they are very concerned with the
31 precedent set in 2023, this last summer, wherein the
32 actions of the Federal manager were solely reactive to
33 management actions by the State of Alaska, an entity
34 who as a matter of state constitutional law cannot
35 provide a rural subsistence priority.

36
37 The proponent goes on, preemptive
38 closure of Federal waters to non-Federally-qualified
39 users and uses and assumption of Federal management is
40 both warranted and required as necessary for the
41 conservation of declined populations of Yukon River
42 salmon while providing reasonable and sustainable
43 subsistence harvest based on ANILCA Section .815.

44
45 So there we have a summary of the
46 proponent's justification for submitting the special
47 action request.

48
49 And before I stop to answer your
50

0041

1 questions, I want to tell you that we're presenting
2 this request to all Councils with a customary and
3 traditional use determination for salmon in the Yukon
4 drainage. That's the Eastern Interior, Western
5 Interior, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula
6 Councils. Two of those Councils have met, Eastern and
7 Western Interior have both approved this special action
8 request.

9

10 OSM is in the process of scheduling a
11 public hearing and tribal consultations so the public
12 hearing is scheduled for March 20th from 5:00 to 7:00
13 p.m. It's going to be a teleconference and more
14 information will be provided to you in terms of the
15 press release when it comes out.

16

17 And then for the last step, the Board
18 will take up the special action request and we've
19 tentatively scheduled a teleconference meeting of the
20 Federal Subsistence Board to do that on April 15th, and
21 again you'll be getting more information about that.

22

23 So thank you for your time, Mr. Chair
24 and Members of the Council.

25

26 Again this is an action item. We're
27 asking you to make a recommendation to the Board to
28 either approve, reject or modify this special action,
29 or to defer the special action request to the next
30 fisheries regulatory cycle which is starting in a week.
31 Okay.

32

33 Just a reminder, this special action
34 request is asking to close Federal waters of the Yukon
35 River drainage to the harvest of chinook, chum, and
36 coho salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence
37 users in 2024 and requiring Federal subsistence fishing
38 schedules, openings, closures, and fishing methods
39 within Federal waters to be determined by the Federal
40 fisheries manager and not the State fisheries manager.

41

42 Thank you again.

43

44 We'll try to answer your questions now.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. Do we
47 have any questions for Pippa at this time in regards to
48 FSA24-01, Yukon salmon.

49

50

0042

1 MS. ROGERS: Motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Before we go into that,
4 I do have one person from the public if there are no
5 questions from the Council for Pippa at this time.

6

7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

10

11 MS. ROGERS: I have one itttsy-bitsy
12 error correction on Nissa's name, there's no A. It's
13 just says N-I-S-S. Nissa Pilcher, her name is missing
14 an A at the end.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
19 you for that, so we could note that.

20

21 If there are no question, I do have one
22 from the public. Stanley Pete, if you could come up to
23 the mic, your question to address FSA24-01.

24

25 MR. PETE: Yeah. Thank you for this
26 opportunity, Mr. Chairman and fellow Board Members.
27 For the record my name is Stanley Pete. I'm from Nunam
28 Iqua.

29

30 You know, I've read FSA24-01 and it
31 fails to go into description as to why they're
32 requesting that. You know, in the past when the
33 Federal Government delegated the State of Alaska to
34 manage the fisheries with the condition they protect
35 the subsistence resource of the people to give the
36 subsistence users a priority over urban or commercial
37 interests, whether it be sports interest or commercial
38 fisheries interest.

39

40 And it's going to be a very burdensome
41 summer. You know, we're already dealing with low runs
42 and we're going all the way down to the Kuskokwim and
43 all the way up north to Norton Sound to harvest salmon.
44 And I think that it's starting now and it's going to --
45 you know, we were very fortunate that Bristol Bay, the
46 Kuskokwim and the Norton Sound are accepting us with
47 open arms at this time, you know, as we are labeled
48 Federally-qualified users whether we reside on the
49 Kuskokwim or Norton Sound or Bristol Bay. And we're

50

0043

1 going to great extents to meet our subsistence needs.
2 So extreme as -- I'll give you one example. Going from
3 Nunam Iqua all the way to Kwigillingok, and from
4 Kwigilligok going and fishing at the mouth of the
5 Kuskokwim River to get our king salmon. And that's
6 almost 100 gallons round trip.

7

8 And it goes to show that people are
9 going to go the extremes to get their subsistence
10 needs.

11

12 There was a finding by the Ninth
13 Circuit Court that states if you take away the
14 subsistence of these people, you're absolutely getting
15 rid of their way of life. Their subsistence needs or
16 even their cultural needs are not going to be met.
17 You're seeing the absolute erosion of a lifestyle.

18

19 And, you know, this proposal was
20 submitted by Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council,
21 and those are the people that reside on the river and
22 they're saying, we don't want our (In Yup'ik) that live
23 in the city to come home and fish. Or we don't want
24 our -- whether it's brothers, sisters, or uncles. We're
25 trying to limit the pool of the amount of takers of
26 fish, because it's got -- it's so extreme that we may
27 not even be able to fish for the next seven years in
28 light of recent events. You know, this proposal may
29 not even do anything if we're going to be shut down for
30 a full life cycle of the king salmon. That means we're
31 going to go to the Kuskokwim, we're going to go to
32 Norton Sound, we're going to continue to work with
33 Bristol Bay to get fish into our region so we can try
34 to retain our lifestyle of being subsistence people.

35

36 It's not just a source of food. You
37 know, it's a healing agent, salmon. The only time we
38 see people gathering around a table and consoling one
39 another now is during a funeral. Before that when
40 salmon were in abundance, they used salmon as a healing
41 element. Whether they had differences with their
42 uncles or their brothers, they consoled each other and
43 forgave one another and had one purpose in mind was to
44 -- they worked together to get the salmon. They put
45 all their differences aside. And now it's being
46 replaced by the only time they can do this if they're
47 at a funeral.

48

49 Now this last summer we made a request

50

0044

1 to the State of Alaska, can we have some king salmon to
2 honor our -- a recently deceased member. Answer -- our
3 request was can we go fish for king salmon for our
4 deceased elder. No. We'll give you guys salmon. You
5 know, we weren't even allowed the honor of going out
6 there and going to get it on our own. We're basically
7 turned to beggars. I don't mean to say that there's no
8 pride in -- we're not a -- well, we're not humble
9 enough to ask, we are. But to be turned into a people
10 who have to beg for fish or wildlife under State
11 management and Federal management, we're ultimately --
12 when State does things, we're dead last, and we all saw
13 it in the Area M fisheries meeting. It's eroding a way
14 of life.

15

16 You know, I worry that my children, my
17 last child, she's never been in the boat during a
18 fishing operation. You know, she may never.

19

20 You know, I'm in full support of this
21 proposal just because it lessens the pool of people
22 that are allowed to go take salmon, but the really --
23 the real concern is the State and the Federal
24 Government, you know, I honestly, my opinion, they have
25 failed to protect a resource that we rely on heavily.

26

27 So, quyana, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Stanley Pete.
30 Any questions for Stan. Maybe I could turn it over to
31 Brooke or to Pippa to answer that.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure
34 that Stanley had a specific question for us. I think
35 he just wanted to share his thoughts and feelings for
36 your consideration when you decide to make a
37 recommendation on this.

38

39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
42 you, Stan, appreciate your comments.

43

44 Okay. At this time I'll go ahead and
45 ask for a motion from the Council for discussion
46 purposes.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: Motion.

49

50

0045

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion on the floor by
2 Alissa to accept Fisheries Special Action Request
3 FSA24-01, Yukon salmon. Do I hear a second.

4
5 MR. HOFFMAN: Second

6
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Robert
8 Hoffman. Discussion.

9
10 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

13
14 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. The question I
15 have is how will this affect the Hooper Bay, Scammon,
16 Chevak fisherman, in that area? I know they were just
17 recently added into the Yukon, but historically we
18 never had those villages included in the fishery
19 closure, so will this continue to close that area as
20 well when you do a complete fishery closure?

21
22 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question,
23 Member Nadine Rogers. So I think one thing to make
24 clear is that if you're talking about marine waters in
25 front of those communities, those will be under State
26 management. Our Federal Program only manages the fresh
27 waters of the drainage.

28
29 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Follow up, Mr.
30 Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

33
34 MS. ROGERS: Does that include Black
35 River?

36
37 MS. KENNER: The Black River is fresh
38 waters and it will be under the -- if this proposal is
39 adopted, the Black River will be managed by the Federal
40 manager.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robert, go ahead. Turn
45 your mic on, please.

46
47 MR. HOFFMAN: You know, this is what we
48 came for, to hear all these problems that the Yukon and
49 the Kuskokwim are having. And I look at you and hope
50

0046

1 and pray you're one of them that have come to help
2 these problems rather than just attend. I don't know
3 what your function is. I don't know what your
4 intentions are. But I hate to see you listening to all
5 these problems and nothing happens. These are very,
6 very drastic, important issues that they're having, the
7 problems they're having, but you've got a job. You've
8 got no problem. You got work. You're okay. What's
9 your intentions about these problems that this region
10 is having and how can you help? If you can't, let me
11 know. Maybe I won't come no more.

12

13 You know, that's -- there's no sense in
14 coming if we don't have any people with authority to
15 come and change things. They say work together, work
16 together. We tried that already. We tried working
17 together, sending paper and they just drop them just
18 like that. Did you go visit? Check it off, yes, we
19 did. Did you let them talk? Yes, we did. Did you
20 learn a type of help that we need? We want somebody
21 with authority to say, I see your problem, I see your
22 hurt. We're going to try to allow you to fish or not
23 fish. And if you don't fish, how come you guys still
24 working? You know, I don't understand. It's all one-
25 sided. You guys got a job forever and ever, 24 hours a
26 day, and they can't even fish. And they're hungry.
27 You hear that.

28

29 You know, no offense on you, ma'am, but
30 I just telling you the truth what I observe. If they
31 close us down in the Kuskokwim, you guys might as well
32 quit working, because there's going to be nothing to be
33 working about. But, no, they'll work. Like I was
34 telling you guys earlier, it's all one-sided without
35 authority to change things as they hear the problems
36 and do nothing about. It's all one-sided. The only
37 ones that benefit in the operation are the employees of
38 whomever, the State of Alaska or the Federal
39 Government.

40

41 And that's my observation. And correct
42 me if I'm wrong.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Member
49 Hoffman, great questions. So this is a very painful

50

0047

1 part of my job. I hear a tremendous amount, I've just
2 been reading a lot of people in pain. This is not a
3 fun part of my job at all. I try to be, you know,
4 pleasant, but -- so one of the things to know about
5 this request is the InterTribal Fish Commission on the
6 Yukon wants the Federal manager to manage. They don't
7 say why, they just say, we need to do what ANILCA Title
8 VIII says. Neither the Federal manager nor the State
9 manager are going to make more fish come. It's about
10 who do you want to be managing, who do you want to
11 close it, who do you want to the openers from.

12
13 There is a consultation issue going on
14 where some of the tribes want direct consultation with
15 the Federal Government and the Federal Subsistence
16 Board. They don't want to be consulting with the
17 State. That's one side of it.

18
19 And to quickly answer your second
20 question. I'm your Staff. So what I do is we get
21 these request and then I look through all your
22 transcripts and I read everything that's written about
23 you and I try to -- we -- and I have coworkers with me,
24 colleagues, and then what we do is we try to bring the
25 information that you all need and that you've asked us
26 for so you can make this decision, and then your
27 decision goes to the Board and the Board generally
28 follows what you tell them to do.

29
30 But this special action request is not
31 going to have affect on whether the fish come back in
32 large numbers.

33
34 MR. HOFFMAN: And now you hit on the
35 button. Fish come back. In order for fish come back
36 somebody has to verify the count whether they come back
37 or not. Guess who they are? State of Alaska. Only
38 them. What about the 52 tribes have a counting system
39 just to get to verify.....

40
41 MS. ROGER: Point of order. Sorry.

42
43 MR. HOFFMAN: Point of order for what?

44
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Because we need to
46 address the letter. You're going a little too far on
47 this. I think what we need to do is consider the
48 letter and not tell a story. We need to.....

49
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0048

1 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm not telling a story.
2 I'm telling the truth. Mr. Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: As you heard from Pippa,
5 she's our Staff member and she's the one that put these
6 together for us to consider, and that's what she's
7 there for. We are not opposing her in any way. She
8 works for us. So does Brooke

9
10 Please understand. Please understand
11 this letter. Please understand.

12
13 MR. HOFFMAN: Forgive me Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Is there any
16 more questions in regards to this letter from the
17 Council.

18
19 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

22
23 MS. ROGERS: A personal recommendation
24 would be to add Number 3 to exclude -- or keep open
25 waters of Cape Romanzof communities of Scammon Bay,
26 Hooper Bay and Chevak as it is in Alaska Maritime
27 National Refuge, which I believe the Federal
28 Subsistence Board will have -- or, sorry, the Federal
29 fisheries manager will have authority to open or close
30 those areas that are currently within the boundary
31 line.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
36 Alissa, are you talking about fresh waters or marine
37 waters?

38
39 MS. ROGERS: Fresh waters, not marine
40 waters.

41
42 MS. KENNER: And was that modification
43 -- thank you. Mr. Chair. Was that modification again
44 to -- I missed it. Was it to keep it open?

45
46 (No audible response)

47
48
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions from
50

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1 the Council in regards to the letter.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Just a process.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, yeah, Brooke.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: If you would like to
8 modify the special action, we would need a motion to
9 add the modification and then you would vote on the
10 modification and then vote on the final with
11 modification.

12

13 Thanks.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

18

19 MS. ROGERS: I'd like to move to --
20 sorry. I'd like to make a motion to modify, adding in
21 Number 3 item to keep open the Cape Romanzof
22 communities of Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, and Chevak.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. You
27 heard the motion. Do I hear a second to.....

28

29 MR. ANDREW: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by John Andrew.
32 Can you restate your motion to amend the letter.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Through the Chair. Adding Item Number 3 to keep open
36 waters of Cape Romanzof communities of Scammon Bay,
37 Hooper Bay, and Chevak.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Any
42 more discussion on the amendment.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Just a point of
45 clarification so we make sure the intent is correct.
46 So we want to make sure that Scammon, Chevak and Hooper
47 Bay are included as Federally-qualified users in their
48 fishing areas?

49

50

0050

1 MS. ROGERS: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
8 did you bring it back -- excuse me, Brooke. This is
9 Pippa Kenner with OSM. Did you bring it back to a C&T?

10

11 (No audible response)

12

13 MS. KENNER: No. Okay. Great. So the
14 issue here is that these coast -- the fresh waters
15 around these coastal communities are now treated as
16 subdistrict 1 and so Alissa's asking that they -- that
17 they be carved out and left open while the rest of 1
18 may or may not be closed.

19

20 (No audible response)

21

22 MS. KENNER: Okay. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions from
25 the Board in regards to the amendment.

26

27 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

30

31 MR. PETER: I've got a question. You
32 mentioned about district. District 1 is -- where does
33 it located in the Yukon District 1. District 1, Y2,
34 Y1, Y2. Is it beginning from the mouth all the way up
35 to the whatever or reverse?

36

37 MS. ROGERS: Unh-unh, just the mouth.
38 Just the mouth.

39

40 MR. PETER: You mentioned about Y1,
41 where is it located?

42

43 MS. KENNER: This a great question.
44 Pippa Kenner for the record. Through the Chair.
45 Member Peter, yeah, so currently as the Yukon River is
46 managed when there are closures in Y1, that closure
47 includes all the fresh waters of the coastal area down
48 past Chevak.

49

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0051

1 MR. PETER: Okay. Thank you.

2

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MS. KENNER: Because there is thought that these fresh waters through sloughs connect to the Yukon River and that salmon entering the creeks and streams and sloughs around those three Coastal communities, those salmon are making it to the Yukon. That's the assumption. And so when Y1 is closed, it closes the fresh waters around those Coastal communities.

MR. PETER: Now I understand. Quyana. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard, go ahead.

MR. MORGAN: Clarify your closing from the mouth of the Yukon all the way to the mouth of the Kuskokwim.....

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Turn your mic on.

MS. MCDAVID: Could you use your mic on.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Turn your mic on.

MS. MCDAVID: Mic. Thank you.

MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'm getting confused here. You're closing it from the mouth of the Yukon all the way to the mouth of the Kuskokwim on the -- what is it, one mile out?

MS. KENNER: Unfortunately the map we have is not going to be helpful in this. However, Y1 and the Yukon drainage is considered from Cape Romanzof all the way down the coast to the Naskonat Peninsula which I think is right about there. So this is all considered Yukon.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, just for clarification, we're just talking about the Yukon in our area and including -- which would include the Coastal village of Hooper Bay, Scammon and Chevak.

MS. KENNER: That's correct. Thank you. Mr. Chair. This is Pippa with OSM.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard, go ahead.

0052

1 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats for the
2 record. Just for clarification these are in the event
3 of the fish coming back and limited opening and
4 openings limited to the Federally-qualified subsistence
5 users that because we vie for and been approved by the
6 Board of Fish for being customary and traditional uses.
7 That would mean that we've already done this, we didn't
8 need to do anything. We're already those communities
9 that have traditional and customary uses of the fish
10 that are swimming in our waters.

11
12 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner with OSM.
13 Through the Chair. Thank you for the question, Member
14 Slats. That is true. Under State of Alaska
15 regulations there is C&T for Yukon salmon that all
16 residents of the state are eligible including those
17 three coastal communities.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Richard, was that what you
22 were asking about the state C&T or were you asking
23 about the recent C&T for Yukon salmon that included
24 Chevak and Hooper?

25
26 MR. SLATS: Yeah. It was -- the reason
27 why we did the C&T was because the communities were not
28 included at that time and then we wanted to, you know,
29 in the event we were already closed. We're closed. We
30 couldn't fish, so we wanted in the event that the fish
31 return and then there's limited openings, limited to
32 those Federally-qualified subsistence users, then we
33 would have -- we vied for it so that we would already
34 have that in place. Am I making sense here?

35
36 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
37 OSM. Through the Chair. Great question. I think I
38 misunderstood your question, so, yes, you are
39 Federally-qualified to harvest salmon in the Yukon
40 River drainage, and you've got that now, so it can be
41 closed, but if it's open, you are Federally-qualified
42 to fish under Federal regulations. It's all good.
43 You're protected.

44
45 MR. SLATS: Yeah. Okay.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: So then just -- sorry, one
48 more point of clarification then. Do we need the
49 modification then because they're already included?
50

0053

1 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Yes.
2 This is Pippa. It's a meaningful modification.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions to
5 the amendment.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, is there a
10 question and then we could maybe hear the full -- maybe
11 third insertion that we'd like to put as Number 3, how
12 it's going to be read. I don't know who's taking
13 notes. We wanted to include an amendment to this
14 letter which Alissa had mentioned to include as Number
15 3 bullet point.

16
17 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. We needed to
18 make a vote. Have question called, vote on the
19 modification and then as a whole. We need to do the
20 modification first. I believe we have a second. We
21 just need a question and then roll call or all in
22 favor. Sorry.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: I think Ray was just
27 asking if we could repeat the modification so we can
28 vote on it, so if Pippa has it written. Thanks, Pippa.

29
30 MS. KENNER: Again, Pippa Kenner with
31 OSM. Through the Chair. So thanks for the question.
32 So the modification is that we'll have Federal
33 Management -- the Federal manager's going to close the
34 Yukon River drainage to the harvest of salmon except by
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And she is
36 going to be determining if there's going to be
37 subsistence opportunities. Now, the modification is to
38 then keep those fresh waters around those Coastal
39 villages open when District 1 is closed, to exclude
40 those fresh waters around those communities from
41 District 1.

42
43 The one issue is how far should that
44 exclusion be, and maybe, Member Alissa, do you have
45 some clarification or just the entire drainages that
46 drain into marine waters in that area should stay open
47 all the way up to their, you know, headwaters or
48 whatever.

49
50

0054

1 (Whispered conversation)

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. If you could share
6 that for record, please. For folks online, we're just
7 looking at a map identifying the rivers and we'll add
8 that to the record in a moment.

9

10 (Whispered conversation)

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MS. KENNER: I have a motion [sic].

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Okay. This is Pippa Kenner
19 with OSM. When District 1.....

20

21 (Whispered conversation)

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 MS. KENNER: When District 1 of the
26 Yukon River drainage is closed, it excludes fresh
27 waters draining into the Bering Sea between the Black
28 River to the Naskonat Peninsula.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MS. KENNER: So when District 1 is
33 closed, it will exclude fresh waters draining into the
34 Bering Sea between the Black River and the Naskonat
35 Peninsula which is the area around the three coastal
36 communities of Chevak, Scammon Bay and Hooper Bay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

39

40 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Henry.

43

44 MR. PARKS: I have a question. I'm
45 getting kind of confused right here now. You stated
46 Nelson Island area will be excluded, right? Excluded?

47

48 MS. KENNER: May I show you?

49

50

0055

1 MR. PARKS: Yes, please.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Here are the three Coastal
4 communities.

5

6 MR. PARKS: Uh-huh.

7

8 MS. KENNER: So when District 1,
9 wherever it is, when District 1 is closed it -- all of
10 this area -- all of this area is closed, this is Nelson
11 Island, we're talking about to the Naskonat Peninsula.
12 So when -- when District 1 closes, it closes all of
13 this, and not.....

14

15 MR. PARKS: Yes. And not -- not.....

16

17 MS. KENNER: Not -- okay, is that.....

18

19 MR. PARKS: Okay. Okay.

20

21 (Whispered conversation)

22

23 MS. KENNER: Is that -- that was the
24 only part of your question, right -- yeah, got it,
25 sorry, sorry I overanswered.

26

27 MR. PARKS: Okay. I got it. Thank
28 you, Pippa.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Question on the motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Question on the
33 motion for the amendment. All those in.....

34

35 MR. ANDREW: For the modification.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: For the modification.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Mr. Chair. We do
40 need a real quick justification for why we want to
41 exclude or keep those areas open if Member Slats or
42 Rogers could just say that briefly. Thanks.

43

44 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: After reports from the
49 villages of Hooper, Scammon and Chevak in regards to

50

0056

1 how difficult it was for them to go fishing and known
2 historical knowledge of how salmon operate -- not
3 operate, how salmon pass through and migrate and the
4 scientific data that acknowledges that salmon do not go
5 there to stay there or pass -- originally pass through
6 that area, that they -- that they shouldn't be held to
7 the closure when they have to -- there's fish that -- I
8 forgot how to say, but go ahead, Mr. Slats.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

11

12 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman. We are not --
13 Hooper, Scammon and Chevak are not intercepting the
14 fish that are going up to the Yukon. Does that make
15 sense?

16

17 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. Thank you. Thank
18 you.

19

20 MR. SLATS: And that it's been
21 established with, you know, our community public
22 meetings and things like this that we've had
23 discussions about this. We can, you know -- like our
24 community can differentiate between the Yukon chum
25 salmon and the chum salmon that fish in our waters,
26 because it's been said in one of the teleconferences by
27 some of the people on the Yukon that the chum salmon on
28 the Yukon are rich. That's why we trade with the
29 people on the Yukon with our fish. They have a
30 distinct taste. So I just wanted to point that out so
31 just to back up Alissa's motion.

32

33 Thank you Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. Is
36 that good enough.

37

38 MR. PARKS: That makes sense to me.
39 Okay, thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's
42 nothing else, is there a motion on the floor.....

43

44 MS. ROGERS: We had already had a motion
45 on the floor. We just need to vote.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY:for the
48 modification. Okay.

49

50

0057

1 MS. ROGERS: We just need to vote.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
4 on the floor. All those in favor signify by saying
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none. I believe
14 we go back to the.....

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, now we can vote on
17 the original motion on the floor by Alissa, seconded by
18 Mr. Hoffman, and that was to support FSA24-01 with the
19 modification that you just voted on.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is that the original
22 motion -- okay.

23

24 MS. ROGERS: Question. Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. We've got first
27 and seconded.....

28

29 MS. ROGERS: It is already.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: It's already.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR ONEY: Oh, it's first and
34 seconded already on a motion by Alissa. All those in
35 favor signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
44 carries. Thank you. Even though there's a bit of
45 confusion on this one it's to our understanding now.
46 Thank you. Appreciate it.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Do we need a five minute
49 break.

50

0058

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. I think we should
2 take a five minute break after all this confusion.
3 Thank you. Let's go ahead and take a five minutes
4 break.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If you could take
11 your seats, we could go back to the agenda. I'll go
12 ahead and call the meeting back to order. The time now
13 is 4:15.

14

15 Next on the agenda is call for Federal
16 fish and shellfish regulatory proposals. OSM.

17

18 MR. FOLEY: Yes. Thank you. Good
19 afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
20 Council. My name is Kevin Foley and I'm a Fisheries
21 Biologist with OSM. And also I'm accompanied with our
22 Interpreter, Mr. Cory Joseph. And I'll provide an
23 update on our call for Federal fisheries and shellfish
24 proposals. This is an action item for your Council.
25 Relevant materials for this presentation are located on
26 Page 54 of your meeting books.

27

28 This year is the start of a Federal
29 fisheries regulatory cycle. The Federal Subsistence
30 Board is currently accepting proposals to change
31 Federal Regulations for the subsistence taking of fish
32 and shellfish on Federal waters for the 2025 through
33 2027 regulatory cycle. The Board will consider
34 proposals to change seasons, harvest limits, methods
35 and means and customary and traditional use
36 determinations for Federal fisheries.

37

38 If the Council wishes to submit a
39 proposal, you will need to do so during this meeting.
40 The public may also submit proposals to change Federal
41 fisheries regulations. OSM will conduct outreach for
42 how the public can submit proposals in the near future
43 once the call for proposals is published in the Federal
44 Register.

45

46 Proposals will be analyzed and
47 presented to the Councils during your fall meeting. At
48 that time the Council will vote and make
49 recommendations on proposals. Proposal analysis and
50

0059

1 Council recommendations will be presented to the
2 Federal Subsistence Board for their action during the
3 January 2025 fisheries regulatory meeting.

4
5 This concludes my update on the call
6 for Federal fisheries and shellfish proposals. And
7 I'll turn it over to our interpreter to translate this
8 information before moving forward.

9
10 INTERPRETER: Quyana, Kevin. Mr. Chair.
11 Council. For the record (in Yup'ik) And also for the
12 record, any interpretations and translations that I
13 provide in this meeting for reference only and will not
14 be official until such a time official translations are
15 established and provided. With that out of the way,

16
17 (In Yup'ik)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: At this time I'll go
20 ahead and ask you if we could go ahead and skip this
21 and if there's any questions. Did I.....

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: Just a point of
24 clarification. I believe Ray is -- Mr. Chair is
25 meaning if we could -- he's giving permission to skip
26 the review of the fisheries closures for the Eastern
27 Interior Region because they'll come before the Council
28 at the fall meeting for you to vote on, and they are in
29 the Eastern Interior region, so you could wait and see
30 what the Eastern Interior might do about those at your
31 fall meeting. But perhaps we could turn it back to
32 Kevin and Alak -- Cory to consider developing Federal
33 fish and shellfish proposals.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Kevin, you've
36 got the floor.

37
38 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Through the Chair. Just to point out, the Eastern
40 Interior RAC met recently today -- yesterday -- I don't
41 even remember what day it is anymore -- and they did,
42 in fact, put forth a proposal for Delta Creek and they
43 have deferred on Nome Creek pending investigations and
44 research that's currently taking place within the
45 watershed.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Just to add to that, yeah,
48 they didn't feel there was enough data about fish in
49 Nome Creek to make a -- or the grayling in Nome Creek

50

0060

1 to lift that closure yet, so they're going to hopefully
2 wait and see if they're able to do more research there.
3 So you guys will hear presentation of these analyses
4 for these closure reviews at your fall meeting.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Is
7 there any questions. Mr. Peter.

8

9 MR. PETER: Where is that creek located,
10 the one that they're talking about? Is it, what you
11 call it, non-spawning tributaries, or tributary? For
12 spawning?

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: I believe our fishery --
15 the part of the Delta River that the closure refers to,
16 the salmon I believe don't go up that far, so it's
17 mostly just the non-salmon fish in that part of the
18 river.

19

20 MR. PETER: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's no
23 other questions we'll go down to the next agenda item,
24 consider developing Federal fish and shellfish
25 proposals. You've got the floor.

26

27 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Members of the Council. Once again this is Kevin
29 Foley, fisheries biologist with the Office of
30 Subsistence Management.

31

32 OSM is currently in the final phase of
33 the 2024 monitoring program funding cycle. The Federal
34 Subsistence Board met in early February and approved
35 the final monitoring funding plan. With the 2024 cycle
36 coming to an end, it's time for Councils to begin
37 developing priority information needs for the 2026
38 monitoring program call for proposals.

39

40 Priority information needs which you
41 might hear refer.....

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Kevin. Sorry to
44 stop you. I don't think the Council got the chance yet
45 to talk about if they wanted to develop any fisheries
46 proposals, so before we move on to FRMP, if that's
47 okay.

48

49 So, Council, just to repeat what Kevin

50

0061

1 and Cory shared with us, right now at this meeting if
2 you want to put in any Federal fisheries proposal for
3 the Kuskokwim or the Yukon that will go to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board, this meeting is the time to do that.
5 So if you have ideas for your areas for Federal fish
6 proposals, this would be the time to discuss them as a
7 Council.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So is there any
12 recommendation or any proposals that you'd like to
13 submit at this time.

14

15 Richard.

16

17 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I
18 was trying to point out, I probably, you know, said it
19 the way that nobody really would have understood, but
20 after all this time that we've been closed since 2020
21 when this first came on us, a lot of our communities
22 were in great anxiety and these things and we're doing
23 everything we can to protect our communities from this
24 thing that came on us. And which was a global
25 pandemic.

26

27 Now on or about the same time we're
28 being closed for fishing. Not just for salmon for all
29 fish. And we're only limited to four and a half.

30

31 So I wonder what the process would be
32 to, you know, like now that they've established we're
33 not the ones that are intercepting the fish, can they
34 do an emergency opening so that we can fish if the fish
35 are not there anyway and we're not the ones, you know,
36 intercepting the fish that are going up the Yukon.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Would you care to
39 respond. Would they consider that, something like
40 that.

41

42 MR. SLATS: Would they consider that,
43 something like that?

44

45 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead. Can you state
48 your name and.....

49

50

0062

1 MR. GRAHAM: For the record my name is
2 Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM. In
3 regard to emergency openings, the Federal fisheries
4 manager would be the one making those decisions if
5 there's opportunity that's provided on the Yukon. And
6 to see if they would consider that, I would suggest
7 contacting Holly Carroll, the Federal in-season
8 manager, to see what kind of opportunity can be
9 provided and what kind of gear types could be used.

10
11 I mean, that's kind of outside of the
12 proposal process. If you have a very specific
13 proposal.....

14
15 MR. SLATS: Okay. I had to ask that
16 because.....

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Use your mic, please.

19
20 MR. SLATS:when they closed our
21 fisheries, you know, in our traditional fishing
22 grounds, fishing rivers, their basis for -- the basis
23 for their closures were studies that were done in 1985,
24 you know. So that is, you know, unfounded cause for
25 closing us, you know. And I believe one of the things
26 that they mentioned was that throughout those studies
27 they only found one fish that was, you know -- so it's
28 really something that they need to go back and look at.
29 I'm not asking them to go back and study, you know, but
30 it's also something that they ought to consider because
31 it's -- you know, we're not the ones that are
32 intercepting the fish. We should be left alone.

33
34 (Whispered conversation)

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: While our Staff are
39 talking, Richard, I will share one other opportunity.
40 The Federal manager, the fisheries team with Fish and
41 Wildlife Service typically hold tribal consultations
42 every spring, and that might be a really good time to
43 -- I mean, your tribe and your community or your three
44 communities out there on the Coast could specifically
45 request to have a consultation with the Federal
46 fisheries manager. And if you would like her contact
47 information, we can give that to you. We also have
48 Shane here in the room with us. He works with Holly
49 and I'm sure he could pass that message along and we
50

0063

1 could get you all on contact.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

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could get you all on contact.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner, OSM. Just really quickly. So, Member Slats, you're talking about putting in a proposal to change fishery regulations so that the fresh waters around the Coastal communities stay open when District 1 closes; is that correct?

MR. SLATS: I'm just thinking that now that they've looked at us for not having to fish for three or four, five years, and there's still no fish that are coming in and we're not fishing, we're not the ones that are intercepting the fish that are -- once that is being established, then why are we not allowed to fish again?

MS. KENNER: Thank you again for the question. This is Pippa Kenner. Through the Chair. So through the FRM -- Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program we are funding people who are going -- who are doing test fisheries up around Kotlik and around the three Coastal communities, making determinations about where those fish come from and where they're going in order to answer this question. Currently there's not anything we can do through regulation. The Federal manager has authority from the Board to do emergency closures which she feels like when the viability of the run is in danger and that includes the Coastal communities. And taking that out of her letter of delegation probably isn't going to happen through the regulatory process.

That probably wasn't very satisfying but they are doing -- we are funding current research. And Fish and Game is funding current research to find -- to see if those fish are headed for the Yukon River.

MS. MCDAVID: Pippa, could I ask, do you know if that research also includes a TEK component?

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question. Through the Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

MS. KENNER: Yeah, it does.

0064

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Hearing none,
2 Cory, go ahead. Or if there's no other -- any
3 recommendation coming from the Council as far as
4 developing any proposals for our area, we could move on
5 to the next item.

6
7 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Mr. Peter.

10
11 MR. PETER: Is it pertaining to the
12 Yukon only?

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: No, it includes the
15 Yukon and Kuskokwim.

16
17 MR. PETER: Then I'd ask about making a
18 proposal, they want to change that in Kuskokwim the
19 drift net from below Johnson all the way to the mouth
20 of the river. They're using 50 fathoms. And then from
21 the mouth of the Johnson all the way up to Aniak, we're
22 using only 25 fathom fish net for drifting. And they
23 want to make it all even because we've been wasting a
24 lot of gas trying to catch fish. The gas is really
25 expensive in our area. \$7.00 a gallon. In Bethel six-
26 something. So when I use 25 fathoms I keep drifting.
27 They open it 6:00 in the morning and closes at 6:00
28 p.m. We're all fighting for trying to get fish. If we
29 open it up -- if we make a proposal to use all 50
30 fathoms from the mouth of the Kuskokwim all the way up
31 to Aniak it would be good.

32
33 Even though we -- when I was a
34 commercial fisherman, when they open up the whole
35 Kuskokwim for the commercial fishing, all of us are
36 using 50 fathom net, five and a half and six inches,
37 when we used to commercial fish chum. Some of us don't
38 catch lots if we're not lucky. And some catch only a
39 few chums. Six-hour opening. So they tell me to try
40 to make a proposal for Kuskokwim using 50 fathoms net.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
43 Peter. Maybe for clarification we could maybe ask
44 Kevin to at least give us what the current regulation
45 is for those areas that he's recommending proposal
46 changes to, from Johnson River using 50 fathom nets and
47 the recommendation is that if we can include 50 fathom
48 nets for the Kuskokwim River from there all the way up
49 to Aniak. That's my understanding.

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, so can the Council
2 put in a proposal to change the net length, or is that
3 not within what can be proposed?
4

5 MR. FOLEY: That's a good question.
6 I'll have to check with Staff. I don't have an answer
7 off the top of my head for you right now. I think that
8 if it is within our ability to submit that proposal
9 then.....
10

11 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair. Can I say
12 something about that. Walter Morgan. Right now we're
13 in conservation and to increase the nets would get more
14 fish out of our river and I'm deadly against it. I
15 think the 25 is good because we're in conservation
16 right now. We've been like that for a while. And we
17 had a hard time, you know, getting any openings, and we
18 want to keep it at 25 because we're in conservation
19 mode. You know, I can't see using 50 fathoms up there
20 by Aniak. It wouldn't make sense.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. Thank you,
25 Walter. I think that's what I wanted to hear. If
26 there's any more comments on this, Pippa, can you speak
27 on that if you can.
28

29 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Through the Chair. We're currently looking at
31 regulations and if that is something that is in
32 regulation or if that is an action that is implemented
33 by the in-season manager. So I appreciate the patience
34 of the Council.
35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37

38 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.
39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.
41

42 MS. ROGERS: It's in the Kuskokwim River
43 Salmon Management Plan on Board of Fish.
44

45 (Whispered conversation)
46

47 (Pause)
48

49 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. This is
50

0066

1 Pippa Kenner. Thanks, Alissa. We're trying to find
2 out if it's -- I'm not sure that's actually in our
3 regulations, the Federal regulations.

4

5 Okay.

6

7 (Whispered conversation)

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pippa.

14

15 MS. KENNER: We have found that it is in
16 regulation -- something like this is in regulation.
17 The regulation says you may not use an aggregate length
18 of set gillnets or drift gillnets in excess of 50
19 fathoms for taking salmon. So that's the entire
20 Kuskokwim area.

21

22 What happens in-season is sometimes the
23 Federal in-season manager reduces that net length above
24 the mouth. And the reason why is that wonderful -- the
25 elder that we had on our Council from Tuntutuliak, he
26 would always bring up that the mouth of the -- those
27 villages down by the mouth of the river, the river is
28 so wide they need more net to be able to harvest
29 anything even in times of conservation. So he limits
30 it above a certain -- probably above the Johnson River.

31

32 So the proposal is that you would like
33 there always -- it always be 50 fathoms limit on net
34 size; is that what the question was?

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, above the Johnson
37 River. Yeah.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Okay. So it's in the letter
40 of delegation so it's another question about -- it's a
41 little bit different though, so, yeah, sure. I mean,
42 it's not like -- this is Pippa again. The Council
43 isn't asking to take away the manager's authority to
44 close in an emergency. They're just asking to keep the
45 nets longer.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Well, just to keep us
48 moving along, Phillip, would that be something that
49 your tribe might be interested in to put in the
50

0067

1 proposal instead of the Council.

2

3 MR. PETER: Yeah, yeah. That's what
4 they.....

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Mic, please.

7

8 MR. PETER:that's what they told
9 me, they want to put something, in a proposal.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
12 Peters. We could go ahead and move on then.

13

14 MR. PETER: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead if you have a
17 comment, Mr. Slats.

18

19 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 This question might be -- and I apologize to the rest
21 of Board about -- I'm trying to stay on track, but it's
22 also that when we were here the last couple days, you
23 know, I was taking notes and all this stuff, and I
24 realized that I've been looking for loopholes to open
25 up fishing in those three communities. And remember
26 when we were -- when I was working on the traditional
27 customary uses, at one time the Kuskokwim River was
28 closed to fishing but then they opened up fishing to
29 the Akulik. They opened that up and I wanted to ask
30 what the avenue -- what the avenue that they used to
31 open up fishing for these guys. So if you could remind
32 me of what we were talking about that one time, and if
33 there's a chance that we could use that loophole or
34 that avenue to open up fishing along the Coast for
35 those three communities.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.
40 This is Pippa Kenner. Through the Chair. And you're
41 talking about in fresh waters?

42

43 MR. SLATS: No -- yeah, well, any kind
44 of fishing.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Mic, please.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Okay. I got it.

49

50

0068

1 MR. SLATS: And, you know, along the
2 Coast and there's some of our rivers that are small and
3 winding that go in and turn into, you know, clear water
4 that we can drink off of.

5
6 MS. KENNER: I understand what you're
7 saying now. Thank you for clarification. I think what
8 happens -- I think what you're referring to is what
9 happens on the Kuskokwim where it's been determined
10 that there's certain tributaries of the Kuskokwim where
11 salmon don't spawn. And those rivers stay open when
12 the rest of the drainage is closed to the harvest of
13 salmon, because it's believed there's no salmon in
14 those tributaries.

15
16 MR. SLATS: So it would have to be
17 rivers that are clear that the salmon use for spawning
18 and that's what they use for the -- is that what they
19 did for your communities?

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MR. SLATS: Okay. Would that be a good
24 avenue that we could use out in our three villages?

25
26 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. Through the
27 Chair. I think it's interesting that you were talking
28 about how you're looking for loopholes. Uh-huh. So I
29 think what's going on right now in that Coastal area
30 and around Kotlik is the researcher's are trying to
31 figure out if salmon spawn there. And one of the
32 reasons why they're going to rely a lot on TEK is to
33 ask people, do you see spawning salmon. Now if you and
34 people in your community and around you are pretty sure
35 that some of those drainages salmon don't spawn, and
36 you want to go put your nets up there for other non-
37 salmon fishes, a proposal with specifically what
38 creeks, streams, rivers you're talking about would be
39 appropriate.

40
41 MR. SLATS: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you.
44 Moving on. If there's no other recommendations for
45 research program needs, I think that's where we're at,
46 we could move on to next agenda item, which is D,
47 develop priority information needs for FRMP Fisheries
48 Research Monitoring Program, selection of working group
49 participants. OSM fisheries.

50

0069

1 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Picking up?

3
4 REPORTER: Yes.

5
6 MR. FOLEY: Once again this is Kevin
7 Foley, Fisheries Biologist. As we know, the 2024 cycle
8 is coming to end and it's time for Councils to begin
9 developing priority information needs for our 2026
10 monitoring program. Call for proposals which will go
11 out late fall/winter of 2024 and 25.

12
13 Priority information needs which you
14 may know of refer to -- heard referred to as PINs are
15 an important component of the monitoring program to
16 identify issues of local concern and knowledge gaps
17 related to subsistence fisheries. Priority information
18 needs guide the funding process by determining the
19 types of projects that are submitted for funding and
20 providing a framework for evaluating and selecting
21 project proposals.

22
23 We are asking for one or more
24 volunteers from the Council to meet by telephone this
25 summer to identify knowledge gaps and information
26 needed for management of subsistence fisheries in the
27 region. The draft list of priority information needs
28 that is developed by the volunteers will be presented
29 to the Councils for final approval during their fall
30 2024 meetings.

31
32 And if there's anyone on this Council
33 that would like to help develop priority information
34 needs for the next cycle it would be greatly
35 appreciated. Because this Council covers both the
36 Kuskokwim and the Yukon regions, it would be nice if
37 there was at least one volunteer from each region.

38
39 I'll now turn this over to our
40 Interpreter to help translate this information and
41 request.

42
43 INTERPRETER: Quyana. Kevin. Mr.
44 Chair. Council.

45
46 (In Yup'ik)

47
48 Quyana.

49
50

0070

1 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Cory. I'll now
2 ask the Council are there any questions or volunteers
3 to help develop priority information needs.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there any questions
6 or volunteers for what Kevin's looking for. Alissa, go
7 ahead.

8
9 MS. ROGERS: I'll do it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. We have one
12 volunteer. We need two more, if there's any from the
13 Council. Richard, you're volunteering? If we could
14 get one more from the Council if they want to.

15
16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I volunteer.

17
18 MR. SLATS: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Walter.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Wass maybe from Yukon.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. I see one half-
25 way up so I take that as a yes. So we've got three
26 here for you. Walter Morgan, Richard Slats, and Alissa
27 Rogers volunteer.

28
29 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair. Members of the
30 Council. Thank you very much. That concludes my
31 presentation.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
34 you.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Appreciate it. Go
39 ahead, Alissa.

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Real
42 quick. How do we change the language of legacy
43 projects? Instead of having legacy projects due every
44 two years in the funding cycle, that they return to
45 every four years in the funding cycle?

46
47 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. Council
48 Member Nadine Rogers, that's a good question. We can
49 look into making those changes.

50

0071

1 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. That's all, Mr.
2 Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you. If
5 there's no other question, we'll go ahead and move on
6 to E, proposed rule, Federal Subsistence Board
7 membership. OSM.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 just want to bring you back to the first day of our
11 meeting with all the other Councils when we heard from
12 Raina from the Secretary's office about the proposal to
13 add three more public member seats to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board to make the representation between
15 agency people and folks from rural Alaska more even.
16 And so that is a proposal that's coming from that
17 level, that higher level, the DOI and Department of
18 Agriculture. And so it's gone out for public comment
19 and so if you all would like to take -- make a comment
20 on that or a recommendation, if you think that that's a
21 good idea and you want to also submit some comments
22 about things like the types of like experience that
23 that person might have or should have to serve on those
24 seats or if there should be term limits, if they should
25 -- I'm just repeating some things I heard from the
26 discussion on Monday. If they should have experience
27 from being on the RACs so that they understand the
28 Federal process. Also if the Chair should have a limit
29 for their term, and if those nominations should be able
30 to come from any tribe in Alaska to nominate them or
31 just certain tribes.

32
33 So I have a copy of the Federal rule
34 that was published. It's a lot of words, but if you
35 want to look through it, you can. And just recall the
36 conversations from Monday and some of that discussion.

37
38 Thanks.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I'll just go
41 ahead and pass that out. Is there any comments coming
42 from the Council regarding this.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we'll go
47 ahead and move -- you could read through this and if
48 you have any recommendations or comment that you'd like
49 to see changes or you'd like to see recommended to sit
50

0072

1 on the Federal Subsistence Board.

2

3

4 As for me, I think as we heard at the
5 beginning, from the Staff, we have three that are
6 currently sitting there, and to add three more people
7 from our area that provide information to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board, I feel very strongly they should
9 come from the RACs in our area at least. And if there
10 is any recommendation coming from the tribes, then I
11 guess the tribes have that obligation to do so, too, a
12 recommendation if they want to submit any names to DOI
13 for consideration.

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So I would support adding three more seats to the Federal Subsistence Board that are from our areas, especially those that aren't really represented, especially for those areas that are, you know, being devastated by what we rely on. So think carefully about that and if you have any recommendations, you know, you could call in and make that. Or if you have any changes or like Brooke mentioned about term limits and whatnot and also include that also.

That's all. Thank you.

Brooke, go ahead.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you would like to submit a comment as a Council, you can make a motion to submit a comment that you support this proposed rule and then you could provide some, you know, like what you just said about some details that you think should be part of those seats, about like representation and things like that. So it would just take a motion and then I can submit those comments for you.

MS. ROGERS: Motion.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion's been called. It's been and seconded already. Motion to submit comments. Okay.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

MS. ROGERS: Just for the record

0073

1 purpose, I would say the discussion that we had prior
2 to the motion to be included into the justification.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So I did have that
9 you guys think it's important to have representation
10 from the different regions, that you think having
11 experience on a RAC is important. And I didn't hear
12 any discussion about term limits. Currently there
13 aren't any term limits for anyone on the Board. If you
14 think there, you know, should be a process for
15 applications every so many years or anything like that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any recommendation from
18 this Council as far as term limits.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we'll take
23 that as whatever the current regulations states.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: There's currently no term
26 limits mentioned so that's something they were looking
27 for feedback on.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Have you heard any
30 recommendations come from other RACs.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Good question, Mr. Chair.
33 I did. I heard from the Eastern Interior RAC
34 yesterday, and they felt like a five-year term limit
35 would be good. They think that the three-year term
36 limit like you have on the RAC, it takes a lot of time
37 to get those applications processed and you have to
38 reapply every couple years, and they thought maybe
39 extending that to five years for Board members, and
40 that that should also include the Chair.

41

42 Their justification was they thought it
43 would be fair to be able to give more people
44 opportunities to fill those seats and kind of have --
45 to be able to have different representation over time,
46 and so the same people being on the Board as long, you
47 know, as -- I'm not really sure how -- I'm not going to
48 speak to how it really works right now, because I'm not
49 prepared to do that, but that was what the Eastern
50

0074

1 Interior RAC discussed, five years for Chairs and the
2 public member.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe the question, will
5 this come back up again during the fall meeting for us.

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: No, it will not. There is
8 a public comment period that closes on I believe April
9 24th, so this is your only opportunity to make
10 recommendations to the Secretary. Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. That's what I was
13 thinking right off the bat when I heard term limits. I
14 thought three years was a little too short, too. And I
15 was just thinking five-year, too -- a five-year seat
16 for that positions, too. So that will give us
17 different areas to be represented on the Federal
18 Subsistence Board. If we could make that
19 recommendation I think it will give an opportunity for
20 different areas to sit on that Board like we do here,
21 but it's only three years, but we reach out and people
22 that get appointed to the RACs, you know, that bring in
23 good information that will help OSM and DOI and the
24 Federal Subsistence Board. So I'd like to include
25 maybe a five-year term also like I just mentioned to
26 give an opportunity for different areas to at least
27 input what they may be missing out, you know, from time
28 to time.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: I'm seeing nods from other
31 Council members. Does that sound good to everybody?
32 Recommended? Okay. Thanks.

33
34 And I apologize, I didn't get who
35 seconded the motion. Do you guys remember?

36
37 MR. PARKS: I second the motion.

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Member Parks.

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. It's been
44 seconded and the question has been called. All those
45 in favor signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

50

0075

1 (No opposing votes)

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CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion carries. So we'll submit comments for that rule.

Okay. Moving on to future meeting dates. You could find that for -- confirm fall 2024 meeting date and location, you could find that on Page 57 in your meeting book.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

MS. ROGER: Is the week of March 3rd through March 7th open?

MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Alissa. First we have to confirm the fall -- this upcoming fall meeting on Page 57. There you go. So you guys have selected August 27th, 28th and 29th to meet in Bethel, and so if you guys want to confirm that or you could change if you wanted to.

MR. MORGAN: Are you talking about location or.....

REPORTER: Mic.

MS. ROGERS: Push your mic.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair. Is that location or we agree to meet in Bethel. I don't remember.

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, you all agreed that you would meet in Bethel August 27th, 28th and 29th. You can change the location and/or the dates if you want to. The only restriction is you can't have more than one RAC meeting -- or more than two RAC meetings in a week, so if there's -- like the week of October 7th, you couldn't meet that week because there's already two RACs meeting, but if you're okay with the 27th, 28th and 29th of August, you could leave it, or you could change it.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'd like to have Jennifer, I think she raised -- did you raise your hand, Jennifer. Can you come up to the mic, please.

0076

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I'm sorry to kind of barge in here.

5

6 I just wanted to share that.....

7

8 REPORTER: Could you please identify
9 yourself.

10

11 MS. HOOPER: Oh, I'm sorry. Jennifer
12 Hooper, Bethel. At the last AVCP Convention the
13 delegates elected to hold our next convention a couple
14 of weeks sooner than they normally have and they've
15 chosen that same week so you just might have
16 competition, people having to compete for what they're
17 going to attend. Just FYI.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Jennifer, for
20 sharing that information with us. And also I will let
21 you know I did call the Cultural Center in Bethel
22 already and they're booked so that last place we met
23 was a little off the beaten path so I don't know if
24 another week might give opportunity for that to be
25 open.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: August 21st, 22nd, and
32 23rd. That way we're not running into the moose
33 hunting season.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's one
36 recommendation for August 21, 22, 23.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. So we could go
41 ahead and move our RAC meeting from August 27th through
42 29th to August 21 through 23. If there's no
43 objections, we could go ahead and move on.

44

45 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Mr. Parks.

48

49 MR. PARKS: Can I make a recommendation.

50

0077

1 If we are planning to meet on that certain week, we
2 know that time is always a factor to us, you know.
3 Like right now and in the past we always going, we
4 always rush and rush so if we approve this and then if
5 we do approve it, we will be traveling on August 20th
6 and then 21st, 22nd and then 23rd. I know that, you
7 know, our meeting goes long and long, so returning --
8 will it hurt if we return on Saturday, August 24th?

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Through the Chair. Member
11 Parks. You can travel on Saturday if you don't want to
12 go -- if there's no options to go back in the evening
13 on Friday. It's okay to travel from our point, but I
14 guess I'm asking are you saying you don't want to
15 travel on Saturday?

16
17 MR. PARKS: No, it's to the whole
18 Council members here. It's just a question, you know,
19 because we all get behind on our minutes -- our agenda
20 items here. Like, for example, right now, which it's
21 what, 5:00 already, and we're getting tired already and
22 even in the past, you know, we all get in a rush and
23 some of the members go home before even we adjourn so
24 that's what I'm saying.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

31
32 MS. ROGERS: Just for the record, a
33 clarification to saying that travel date on August 20th
34 to Bethel, have our meeting August 21st, 22nd, 23rd,
35 and then travel on Saturday 24th.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. So that will
40 set our fall meeting dates for travel date 20th and
41 meet 21, 22, 23, and return 24th. If that's all
42 agreeable we'll go ahead and move on to Number 2, set
43 winter 2023 meeting date and location. Or, excuse me,
44 winter 2025 meeting date and location. Find that on
45 Page 58.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. And I do have some
48 updates for you guys. The first two weeks that are on
49 the calendar, those are not available, so the week of
50

0078

1 February 18, the week of February 24 are not available.
2 Those are the only two weeks.

3

4 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

7

8 MS. ROGERS: I make a recommendation
9 that we have our meeting date travel March 3rd meeting
10 date 4th, 5th, 6th, travel date March 7th.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. You heard the
13 recommendation. Is there any objections.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Just.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Brooke.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. Just one point.
22 Sometimes the winter meetings are shorter because we're
23 not reviewing all the proposals, and usually you guys
24 can do a two-day meeting in the winter, but in the
25 falltime that's when we go really long.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Let's go ahead and make it
28 travel date on Monday, March 3rd, meeting 4th, 5th, and
29 then on the 6th make that a travel date.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any objection.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman. I have a
36 question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Parks, go ahead.

39

40 MR. PARKS: Okay. Where would the
41 location be?

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: I can say something to
44 that. So at the last meeting you guys reviewed your
45 approved hub communities and OSM has not made a
46 determination yet if they can add those additional
47 communities to your approved list. We don't currently
48 have a Director, we just have someone that's acting and
49 they would like to wait until we get the Director to
50

0079

1 make that decision. So right now your approved
2 communities, hub communities, are Bethel and St.
3 Mary's, but we know we can't meet in St. Mary's because
4 we tried to meet there last time. But you can always
5 request if you do want to meet in a rural community,
6 you can request that, and we can see if we can get
7 permission. But I know some of the elders on the
8 Council have also expressed that that travel can be
9 difficult. So it would just be up to you guys.

10

11 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, we'll go ahead and
12 make them -- Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead and make a
13 recommendation that we continue to stick with Bethel
14 until further notice.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. For the winter
17 2025 will be in Bethel. Any objections.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you.
22 We'll go down to the next item which is set fall 2025
23 meeting date and time. You'll find that in your
24 meeting book on Page 59.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
27 there are a couple weeks that are not available.

28

29 (Whispered conversation)

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: So the week of September
34 16th, the first one, cross that off. The week of
35 October 6th is not available and the week of October
36 13, Indigenous People's Day is not available. I know
37 it says Columbus on your calendar. So the 15th of
38 September, that week, the 6th of October, that week,
39 and the 13th of October, that week are not available.

40

41 MS. ROGERS: And, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

44 Sorry.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: I go ahead and make a
47 recommendation that we have our meeting travel October
48 27th, October 28th, October 29, October 30th, and
49 travel back on October 31st in Anchorage.

50

0080

1 MS. MCDAVID: So Anchorage is not an
2 approved hub community.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: You guys could request it.
7 What happens when you request a non-hub community, I
8 have to do a cost comparison about to see how much more
9 budget it will take, and then we have to ask for
10 approval.

11
12 (Whispered conversation)

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 MS. ROGERS: Make another
17 recommendation, travel -- well, we'll do October 1st,
18 October 2nd, and 3rd, travel date of October 4th. That
19 way we're not playing with our moose, because moose
20 season ends September 30th.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: So you want to travel on
23 the 30th and meet on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd? Is anyone
24 still going to be out there looking for their moose on
25 the 31st? Or the 30th?

26
27 MR. MORGAN: Well, sometimes they extend
28 the season because -- yeah. Mr. Chair. Sometimes they
29 extend the season like they did last -- the last hunt,
30 because some of us never catch moose, so that would
31 interfere with, you know, my moose hunting if I'm --
32 you know, I usually hunt moose and I don't like those
33 dates.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do you have
36 recommendations, Walter.

37
38 MR. MORGAN: Well, the 20th would work
39 for me.

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: Mic.

42
43 MR. MORGAN: The 20th would work I
44 think.

45
46 MS. ROGERS: Okay. Mr. Chair. I'll go
47 ahead and make another recommendation that October
48 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, travel date 24th.

49
50

0081

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Any objections to
2 those changes to the 2025 meeting date and location.
3 We need to continue looking at location also. Alissa,
4 go ahead.

5
6 MS. ROGERS: We'll go ahead and keep it
7 general in Bethel, but if the recommendation from --
8 these guys over here said Anchorage, so if they want to
9 go to Anchorage and Brooke approves it, we can.....

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: It's not my choice.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Any objections
14 for Bethel.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you.
19 That concludes our section for the winter, fall, and
20 winter meetings for 2024/2025 season.

21
22 Moving on we have 10.g, which is to
23 follow up on joint Council action items. As you know,
24 maybe at this time I'll ask Brooke if there's any RACs
25 that may have submitted any action items that we wanted
26 from different RACs at this time. Brooke.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
29 I'm not 100 percent sure if all 10 RACs actually signed
30 onto all these, but are other RACs that have signed on,
31 and so you could decide to sign on with them. And
32 there are six different letters that I'm going to read
33 and you could have one motion for all of them, to sign
34 onto all of them, and then you could talk through --
35 talk through them.

36
37 The first one is about bycatch.

38
39 MR. SLATS: Everything that we discussed
40 -- that they discussed in the meeting together
41 (indiscernible - mic not on)

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: I'm reading yeah.

44
45 MR. SLATS: Yeah, if you read through
46 where we're saying that we want (indiscernible - mic
47 not on)

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, Richard is -- Member
50

0082

1 Slats is asking if we can support all the different
2 motions for letters that were brought up in the first
3 day, and I have six -- Member Slats, I have six
4 different letters here that.....

5

6 MR. SLATS: Oh, I'm sorry.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: That's okay. I was just
9 going to tell you what they are.....

10

11 MR. SLATS: Yeah. Okay.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID:and you guys could
14 decide if you want to sign onto them to support the
15 cross regional issues.

16

17 MR. SLATS: Okay, okay.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: So I'll just go through
20 the six different one.

21

22 The first one was about bycatch.

23

24 The second one was about caribou.

25

26 The fourth one was about -- or the
27 third one, sorry, Council Member compensation.

28

29 And the fourth one was about getting
30 more timely responses on correspondence from the Board
31 and hopefully getting replies from the Secretary's
32 office.

33

34 The fifth one was about the D(1) land
35 withdrawals and the need for those lands to stay under
36 Federal protection for subsistence.

37

38 And the sixth one was about the need to
39 modify the national standards in the Magnuson-Stevens
40 Act to better protect subsistence.

41

42 So those were the six issues that
43 several other Councils agreed to write letters on.

44

45 MS. ROGERS: Motion on the floor to
46 support and approve the joint letters that have been
47 written -- sorry, read by Ms. Brooke.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you,

50

0083

1 Alissa. There's a motion on the floor to support all
2 the recommendations that Brooke read. Do I hear a
3 second.

4
5 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman. I second
6 Alissa's motion.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Second by Richard
9 Slats. Discussion.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MR. MORGAN: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Question's been called.
16 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. Sorry.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Just a tiny bit of
23 justification. Why you guys want to sign onto these
24 letters. If you just -- you know, do you think they're
25 important?

26
27 MS. ROGERS: Well, a couple of them are
28 ours.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

33
34 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
35 Through the Chair. These letters are very important
36 and they support the cause of subsistence, and we as a
37 RAC do support subsistence as our priority. And also
38 we've had -- we're the originators of some of these or
39 more than a majority of these proposed letters, and
40 supporting our cause, and all the other RACs who have
41 signed on to support our cause.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's no
46 other input on this, I think we're ready to call for
47 the question.

48
49 MR. PETER: Yeah, call for question.

50

0084

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: The question's been
2 called by Mr. Peter. All those in favor signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
12 carries. Thank you.

13
14 Brooke, go ahead.

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 just wanted to, Number 1, say thank you to members of
18 this Council for helping push forth some of those joint
19 letters and commend you on your hard work and the
20 networking that you've done with other Councils at this
21 meeting. So it's really exciting to see people getting
22 together about the issues that matter to you all, and,
23 yeah, it makes my heart happy. And I really like
24 working with you guys. So thanks for your hard work.

25
26 The second thing I wanted to say is we
27 will have final drafts of these letters that you all
28 are welcome to review before we're going to send any
29 out, so you'll just have to stand by a little bit and
30 wait for those. But thanks.

31
32 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Morgan.

35
36 MR. MORGAN: I would like to thank her
37 for all her hard work. I know it's a lot of work to do
38 that, so thank you.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Walter. I
41 appreciate it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah. Thank you again,
44 too, because I think you guys are right on track in
45 trying to bring this up to different RACs to get
46 support so I think this is the kind of unity we need
47 when it comes to devastation that we see that's
48 happening in our eyes, not only in our area, but
49 different regions of our area, Bristol Bay, Yukon-
50

0085

1 Kuskokwim, Interior, Western and all those RACs that
2 are sitting here, I'm glad they understood where we're
3 coming from and supporting this very important -- I
4 feel that it's history for us to come together like
5 this and to bring it out and get support from different
6 RACs and I thank you guys for your input and your
7 recommendations when we met. So thank you again.

8

9 Moving on to next item, we do have
10 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. I
11 believe we have a number of people that want to comment
12 to the RAC. First we have Edward Adams, Sr. if you're
13 here, can you come to the mic.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He left.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: He's not here any more,
18 okay, thank you. Next we have Melanie Brown, if you
19 could come to the mic. Thank you.

20

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you. My name is
22 Melanie Brown, I work Salmon State as the Outreach
23 Director. And I'm a tribal citizen of Naknek Native
24 Village.

25

26 And what I wanted to speak to today I
27 think is kind of duplicative considering the letters
28 that you just cited that you'll be crafting and
29 sending, but I'm here because I wanted to make a plea
30 for you to elevate these items to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board.

32

33 Yeah. And I was planning on talking to
34 you about D(1) lands and thank you for already
35 submitting a comment to the RAC during the comment
36 period that happened that ended on Valentine's Day.
37 And just stress the importance of the powers that be in
38 D.C. needing to hear from people about the importance
39 of D(1) lands and how they feed Alaskans. So I don't
40 think there's really much more I need to say about
41 this.

42

43 And I've already shared information
44 with Brooke in another RAC meeting, so I don't think I
45 even need to share this again.

46

47 And then I also wanted to speak to the
48 National Standards Guidelines and I have some sample
49 language here, and I think Brooke has already seen it.

50

0086

1 But the hope is that the language, if applied properly
2 in the new drafting of the National Standards
3 Guidelines that govern what happens in the ocean with
4 the Amendment 83, if the language is potent enough to
5 trigger certain curbing of activities or changing of
6 activities with the Amendment 83, the hope is that
7 salmon will finally return in greater numbers to the
8 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and to coastal communities
9 that have been suffering from lack of salmon.

10

11 But, yeah, I don't think I really need
12 to speak any further to this because of the activities
13 and the letters that you've chosen to write, so thank
14 you. I thank you for it. It makes me happy.

15

16 That's all I have.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Do we have any
19 questions for Melanie at this time while she's at the
20 table.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

25

26 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Thank you,
27 Melanie for everything that you have done. I do have
28 another question for you. What is the next step of
29 action items we can take as a Board at this point to
30 help support you?

31

32 MS. BROWN: Well, elevating a plea to
33 the Federal Subsistence Board to write to the
34 Department of Commerce about the National Standards
35 Guidelines because NOAA and NMFS operate under the
36 Department of Commerce. Janet Coit is a key person to
37 reach out to. And if you need other addresses or, you
38 know, people in high places to reach out to her, I can
39 make sure that I have those key addresses for you to
40 provide to the Federal Subsistence Board if they chose
41 to write to the Department of Commerce.

42

43 And then, you know, I'd be happy to
44 share this language for you to share with maybe your
45 tribal councils, too, when you return home, because
46 these departments need to hear from everybody. I think
47 the more that they hear from people, the more
48 likelihood that they are going to understand what these
49 lands and waters mean to the people of Alaska. They

50

0087

1 really need to be hearing from everybody, so think
2 about the other channels where you can be sharing
3 things out, you know. Yeah. So I hope I answered your
4 question.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. Thanks. I just
11 wanted to ask, Melanie, if you would be able to mail me
12 a digital copy, because I have a hard copy, but then I
13 could send it out to the Council members.

14

15 MS. BROWN: Sure. Do you have a card.
16 I think maybe we corresponded when the fall meeting
17 happened I called in requesting that your RAC send a
18 letter, but if I could have your card, that would be
19 helpful.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, I'll give you my
22 card.

23

24 MS. BROWN: Thank you so much.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
27 anyone else that may want to comment on -- from the
28 public that may want to comment on non-agenda items at
29 this time.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. We could ask
32 if anyone is online that would like to comment.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, anyone online that
35 would like to comment on non-agenda items.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: I'm not seeing any hands
40 raised or anyone speaking up.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you.
43 Moving on to next agenda item, other business. Is
44 there anything else there that we need to follow up on,
45 Brooke.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: I can just give you a real
48 quick bullet point on each of these.

49

50

0088

1 So for Council correspondence, I have a
2 little packet for you guys of all the letters that you
3 sent this past year. You sent more letters than any
4 other Council, I think, ever has.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: And, you know, Mr. Andrew
9 always called me a kid, but I'm going to have gray hair
10 before very long. So I'll give you guys a copy of
11 that. It's just for your reference. I like you to be
12 able to see the final versions. I know not everyone
13 uses email, so I'll give you that.

14

15 The correspondence policy for the
16 Councils was updated. That was in your joint meeting
17 books. You can look over that. If you ever want to
18 discuss it at a future meeting, we can always do that.

19

20 Also on the charter changes, Katya
21 mentioned in the joint Council meeting the exciting
22 news that the non-voting young leader seat was approved
23 for all the Councils so we'll just be waiting for some
24 guidance on how we can expect to fill those seats and
25 get people applying for that. So that's really
26 awesome. That's something else that you guys brought
27 forward, too.

28

29 And then lastly we did get a salmon
30 management update report, a written report from the
31 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, and I'll
32 be passing that out to you guys, too.

33

34 And, yeah, that's all I had.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. I
39 guess we could go ahead and move on.

40

41 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry. Alissa, go
44 ahead.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: No problem. There was a
47 request that we hear Mr. Gene Sandone in regards to his
48 -- he put in an application to be on the Board of Fish
49 and it was asked that he come and let us know what his

50

0089

1 intentions are. Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

4 Thank you, Gene, if you could come to the table. Thank
5 you.

6

7

8 MR. SANDONE: Well, that kind of caught
9 me off guard, I didn't expect that. But I worked for
10 the Department for 26 years and in those years I was
11 Regional Supervisor for AYK Region CommFish. I was
12 also the Regional Coordinator for Research for AYK. I
13 was Yukon area Research Biologist for eight years.
14 Prior to that I was a herring and crab Biologist. I
15 worked on the Su Hydro Project in Upper Cook Inlet.

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And after my retirement from Fish and Game I became a private consultant. I worked for two CDQ groups, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association and the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.

And I attended so many Board meetings. I attended the AYK Board meeting regularly. The Bristol Bay while I was a consultant for them. For AYK and for Yukon Delta and Bristol Bay, I attended the Area M meetings.

So I have pretty good experience in different areas of the state, wide-ranging. Also I worked when I first came up here in the Southeast.

My intentions on the Board is to represent all Alaskans and my priorities would be escapement and subsistence in that order. Of course, commercial, personal and sport would be my third priority.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any questions from the Council for Mr. Sandone at this time. Alissa, go ahead.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Sandone. That's exciting news. I did want to ask you how many years of work and service have you done for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region?

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1 MR. SANDONE: Well, I first start in '88
2 and I'm still continuing.

3
4 MS. ROGERS: (Indiscernible - mic not
5 on).

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. SANDONE: And one more thing. I
10 provided expert testimony and analysis for the Board of
11 Fish up until -- through the last Cook Inlet meeting.
12 And I also -- I think when I first started with Yukon
13 Delta I testified at the Federal Subsistence Board.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions for
16 Gene at this time from the Council. Go ahead, Alissa.

17
18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With
19 the years of expertise that we've had with Mr. Gene
20 Sandone providing for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and all
21 its greatness of the fishery and making sure that
22 subsistence is a priority and afloat, thank you for
23 your service.

24
25 Mr. Chair. At this time I'd like to
26 make a recommendation from the Yukon-Kuskokwim River
27 Subsistence Advisory Committee -- or Council to put a
28 letter of support in for Mr. Gene Sandone.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you,
31 Alissa. We will do that. We know Gene from my area,
32 working in our area for a long time. So thank you
33 again for your service.

34
35 MR. SANDONE: Thank you very much for
36 your support. I appreciate it.

37
38 MS. ROGERS: I believe we need a second
39 for the motion.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there a second that
42 we write a letter in support of Gene running for the
43 Board of Fish, Board of Game.

44
45 MR. PETER: Second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Mr. Peter.
48 Question -- I mean, excuse me, discussion.

49
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0091

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Question's been called.

6 All those in favor signify -- excuse me -- Brooke, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, guys. I just
10 need a little discussion because I can't write you a
11 letter in support if I don't know why you guys want to
12 support, so I know you said, you know, one thing, he
13 has a lot of experience in the region, but if you want
14 to add anything else.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
19 Sandone has given years of experience since 1988 to the
20 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta regional fisheries, and with his
21 expertise in both the State and Federal Government
22 agencies, knowing the process, policies and procedures,
23 and how to make those benefit for the subsistence uses
24 of the people in the YKDelta, along with his
25 knowledgeable networking, his great ambition to take
26 care of our people, and then also with the wonderful
27 relationships that he has created, good and bad, and at
28 the end of the day we still are friends and family.
29 And then also having the ability to have a deep
30 understanding in what it takes in both the Federal and
31 State side and how to balance with checks and balances
32 in that representation.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. Any
37 more recommendation come from the Council.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Would that be good
42 enough, Brooke.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Thank you.
47 Thank you for that recommendation. So we'll look
48 forward to supporting.

49

50

0092

1 Moving on to next item -- go ahead,
2 Brooke.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
5 would need a vote to close out that motion.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Sorry. Is there
10 a question.

11
12 MS. ROGER: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Question's been called.
15 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
24 carries. So we'll forward that letter of support.

25
26 MR. SANDONE: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Moving on to the final,
29 closing comments. At this time I'm going to ask any
30 Council -- rather than go through the line, I'm going
31 to see if there's anyone that would like to provide
32 closing comments.

33
34 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I'll go last
35 before your last.

36
37 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry, go ahead.

40
41 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Parks, Henry. First of all I'd like to thank God for
43 all His good works to us. He's taking good care of us,
44 giving us knowledge, wisdom and above all love. I
45 thank him for that first. And I thank all the agencies
46 here that are present, especially OSM people who are
47 doing all the hard work for us and all the other
48 agencies who are listening, and all my fellow Council
49 members. Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

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0093

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone else.

4

5 MS. EVAN: I'd like to thank Brooke for
6 all her hard work and bringing us together again this
7 year. Thank you, Brooke.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any other members want
10 to give a closing comment. Brooke, go ahead.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this is
13 Wassily.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, Wassily, I hear you.
16 Go ahead.

17

18 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. I'd just like to
19 thank all the Council member who putting all their
20 effort into supporting the YKDelta. It's my second
21 year and I'm still learning a lot of stuff, so thank
22 you all for your participation and efforts in doing
23 this for all the people.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Wassily.
28 Anyone else.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 know I'm not a Council member, but I hope you'll let me
36 say one or two things.

37

38 I do just want to thank you all again
39 for all your work this week. I know it was a really
40 long week and we had a lot of pretty long days, and I'm
41 pretty tired. I'm sure you're pretty tired, but it was
42 good work, so pat yourselves on the back. And I just
43 want to wish you safe travels back to your communities.

44

45 And also I have one request. We have a
46 young member of our Council who had a birthday
47 yesterday and we missed his birthday. And he has told
48 me that I am required to sing happy birthday to him,
49 but I'm going to ask everyone else to please join,

50

0094

1 because I'm a terrible singer. And that member is John
2 Andrew who is 79 years young.

3

4 (Applause)

5

6 IN UNISON: Singing happy birthday.

7

8 (Applause)

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Quyana.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Quyana. Thank you very
13 much, but you forgot one thing, my cake.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe we still have
18 a lot of cookies left over out there, so that will be
19 your cake for today.

20

21 Any other Council member want to
22 comment at this time. Closing comment.

23

24 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Walter.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: I'm still learning on this
29 process and, you know, I learn from my elders, those
30 guys over there, and all of you. You know, I always
31 learn something new when you go to the meeting. And
32 Mr. Peter always brings me up when I'm down.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. MORGAN: Excuse me. He reminds me
37 of my dad. It's good to have people like this.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Walter.

42

43 Anyone else.

44

45 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
46 thank all the Board members and Brooke. She always
47 call me whenever there's a question. And I'd also like
48 to thank Pippa.

49

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0095

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Who?

2

3 MR. PETER: Pippa.

4

5 (Applause)

6

7 MR. PETER: And all the rest of the work
8 members and Kevin. Kevin, too. Thank you for
9 supporting us. Thank you very much.

10

11 (Applause)

12

13 MR. PETER: Thank you very much.

14

15 Quyana.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone else from the
18 Council want to present closing comments. Richard, go
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. SLATS: Quyana. (In Yup'ik.)

22

23 INTERPRETER: Thank you for my fellow
24 members here. I thank you.

25

26 MR. SLATS: I want to thank everybody.
27 You know, it's always good to see friends. With all
28 the meetings, you know, I've been on for at least five
29 years now and, you know, it's always good to see the
30 same, you know, good to see everybody, and the work
31 that we do. We're all for the same cause. And then
32 throughout all of these times we didn't always agree,
33 but we also developed camaraderie. And then these are
34 the people that I can safely call my friends, you know.
35 I always tell people -- Brooke that I know there's more
36 work than meets the eye. It's always good to see
37 Pippa, you know, because we can always ask and count on
38 her when we have hard questions. And it's good to see
39 all of you, you know, for being and working with all of
40 us, so I thank everybody. Thank you, too, Alissa.
41 Yeah, happy birthday John.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard.
46 Anyone else. Alissa, go ahead.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, everyone.
49 Alissa Rogers for the record.

50

1 I would like to thank OSM, U.S. Fish
2 and Wildlife Service, and the Federal Subsistence
3 Board, all the wildlife, fisheries and all of our
4 subsistence folks who help us through all of these
5 meetings, getting us information, writing our books,
6 writing our analysis and I know how long those can
7 take, and thank you so much for all of your hard work.
8 I really do appreciate it, and please know that when we
9 get our papers we definitely read through them because
10 I know how much work you've put into it. So we
11 appreciate it.

12
13 And I also wanted to thank all of our
14 State agencies who have partnered with us and who have
15 continued to partner and continue to partner with us in
16 both wildlife and fisheries and subsistence issues.

17
18 I would like to thank you to all the
19 participants who came to our meeting. Thank you all
20 for sticking it out this long. I think there is quite
21 a bit of people in here that I've seen in other RAC
22 meetings. So thank you for being here.

23
24 And I would like to thank all of my
25 Council Members that are here and over the phone. Your
26 knowledge, your expertise, your experience, your
27 wisdom, your guidance and your ability to remind us
28 young folk why -- where we are, and I appreciate it
29 all.

30
31 I did want to mention today that one of
32 our historical, late Board Members Greg Roczicka's
33 birthday is today, so happy birthday, Greg.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. In closing
36 to finish off our YKRAC meeting, first of all I will
37 thank you all for voting me as your Chair for the next
38 year, your vote and confidence in me to move forward
39 this Council to the next level. And I look forward to
40 working with you, I look forward to collecting any
41 information that you may have that will elevate our
42 concerns. And also reach out to those that we need
43 support that we did here in this all-RAC meeting. And
44 it is very beneficial for us to gather like this. And
45 I'd like to see more of this happen in the future that
46 we come together in a timely manner because we need to
47 see things -- the outcomes of this regional meeting,
48 and to see how much we've gained as a result of coming
49 together like this. So I'd like to recommend to OSM to
50

0097

1 at least follow up on another regional meeting because
2 I'm sure there's many concerns as ones that we brought
3 up are being followed and the majority of them are
4 supporting us. And like I said, I'm sure there's other
5 RACs that may need our support, too. So that's the
6 reason why I ask if we could continue this regional
7 meeting on a timely basis.

8

9 And again thank you all for being here.
10 It's been a long week, and especially for Brooke for
11 setting up and being up at 6:00 o'clock in the morning
12 to come and set up this meeting. And also Pippa and
13 all the Staff that made very, -- very much work that
14 made this work happen. And it's been on a time that --
15 it's on the right time in my feeling that we're coming
16 to an end with all the RACs that are here today. And I
17 thank all the other RACs for their support, too.

18

19 Also the interpreter, I want to thank
20 you for being here with us, sitting down with us and
21 interpreting for our people that need that here. And
22 also our recorder, thank you, too, for being with us.
23 And the audience, and those that have traveled far to
24 come and be here with us today, especially those
25 friends I see from Nunam Iqua. Quyana for being with
26 us today. And those that may have come from far and
27 wide, thank you again, because we feel that this was an
28 important meeting.

29

30 I feel that it's a historic meeting for
31 getting support like this, and I thank you again for
32 being here and giving all your support to the Right
33 Care Act, and I look forward to this spring. You know,
34 it's a time of gathering and I want to pray that you
35 all have a successful spring, also spring hunting, and
36 be careful out there because we know the dangers of the
37 weather, what it can do when you're out there, so be
38 careful and I look forward to meeting you again in the
39 fall. And again thank you.

40

41 (Applause)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion to adjourn.

44

45 MR. PARKS: I so move, Mr. Chair.

46

47 MS. ROGERS: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Before we close maybe we

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0098

1 could go ahead and -- motion by Henry and second by
2 Alissa. We are closed, but before we go, I'd like to
3 end this meeting in a prayer if someone can lead us in
4 prayer to close it. Thank you.

5

6

Richard.

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MR. SLATS: (In Yup'ik)

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(Off record)

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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