

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - Alaska
March 16, 2020
9:27 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alissa Rogers, Chair
Thomas Alstrom
John Andrew
James Landlord
Carl Maxie
Raymond Oney
Phillip Peter
Richard Slats

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/16/2020)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We'll go ahead and call this meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. I want to thank you all for participating in the Yukon Kuskokwim Federal Subsistence Advisory Council meeting. Today is the 16th of March, and we have some wonderful weather here in Bethel. We greatly would appreciate everyone's patience. And as Eva had already mentioned, before we started, if you're having difficulties, please let Eva know and then also if you would like to change out to a different type of land line or go to your council's tribal offices so you could hear better, please let us know before you leave, and if Council members, if you do end up going anywhere, please let us know, we want to make sure we maintain quorum at all times.

For this morning, I would like to ask any of our Council members for a prayer this morning, we'll go ahead and see if any of you guys want to go ahead and start us off with a prayer this morning.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, hearing none, Phillip Peter, did you want to do our morning prayer.

MR. PETER: Yeah, I'll do it in my Yup'ik way.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, sounds good to me, go right ahead.

MR. PETER: Okay.

(Prayer -- Yup'ik)

MS. PATTON: Quyana, Phillip.

MR. PETER: Yeah.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you so much, Phillip.

1 MR. PETER: Yeah.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Carl, was
4 that you joining us again?

5

6 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am. I'm at the
7 tribal office with the tribal Staff.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you so
10 much. Welcome.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, good,
13 perfect. Thank you for calling in, and I'm glad you're
14 able to meet at your tribal office.

15

16 I do want to say, Eva, if you could
17 relay and maybe draft a letter to let them know that
18 having a meeting this morning has had extreme
19 difficulties and a lot of technical difficulties that
20 have delayed our meeting to the time that's pretty much
21 a half an hour, it'd be greatly appreciated so that our
22 Federal government knows that having teleconference
23 meetings at this capacity is very cumbersome and
24 difficult. That we do not prefer to have these
25 meetings over teleconference, we prefer to have
26 meetings face to face and that just because we're
27 having a teleconference right now should not reflect an
28 actual leeway to continuously having teleconference
29 meeting or an alternative for having teleconference
30 meetings over having a face to face meeting for any
31 type of budget savings. I understand that it's really
32 important that we continue to have these meetings, but
33 our preference is that we'd like these meetings in
34 person so that it doesn't cause these type of technical
35 difficulties, and, also having meetings face to face is
36 a little more --it allows the public to be here and be
37 present and be heard in a personal matter rather than
38 just hearing them over the phone.

39

40 So if that's okay with you, just to
41 write a letter and let them know, to our government,
42 that having meetings over a teleconference is not
43 preferred.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
46 thank you. Yes, indeed, the meetings we always strive
47 to hold in person, both for the Councils and for public
48 hearings, due to the very unusual circumstances outside
49 of everyone's control, we did proceed by holding the

50

1 meetings by teleconference so that we didn't have to
2 cancel them. We wanted to ensure the Council was able
3 to meet in some capacity and to still hold the public
4 hearing.
5

6 We can definitely add that to the
7 Council's annual report, which we are going to be
8 discussing and that would be an excellent way to convey
9 that message to the Board as well.
10

11 And we would like to extend our
12 gratitude to all the Council members who have shifted
13 gears on very short notice to be able to call in this
14 morning, and for all the public and all of our
15 participants in the meeting. We really appreciate all
16 your efforts to be able to have this meeting and
17 connect with each other, and we'll just need to be a
18 little bit kind with everybody and try to help support
19 each other for this meeting.
20

21 Thank you.
22

23 MR. PETERS: (In Yup'ik).
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
26 We'll go ahead and call this meeting for roll call.
27

28 Ray Oney, do you have everyone's name,
29 if not, we can defer it to Eva to do roll call.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
34 I can go ahead with roll call.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That'd be
37 perfectly greatly appreciated. Thank you, Eva.
38

39 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, Kwethluk.
40

41 MR. ANDREW: Here.
42

43 MS. PATTON: Morning John.
44

45 Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.
46

47 MR. ALSTROM: Present.
48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tom.
50

1 James Landlord, Mountain Village.
2
3 MR. LANDLORD: Present. Here.
4
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.
6
7 Alissa Rogers, Bethel.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Present.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter, Sr.,
12 Akiachak.
13
14 MR. PETER: Present.
15
16 MS. PATTON: Carl Maxie, Sr.,
17 Napaskiak.
18
19 MR. MAXIE: Present.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney, Alakanuk.
22
23 MR. ONEY: I'm here.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray.
26
27 Robert Aloysius. I just spoke with him
28 this morning, he just returned from the hospital last
29 night, so we would like to extend our best wishes to
30 Robert. He's resting at home at his daughter's place
31 right now. So our thoughts are with Robert, and he's
32 with us here in spirit.
33
34 So Robert Aloysius is excused.
35
36 And Richard Slats will be joining the
37 meeting in two or three hours when he arrives back home
38 in Chevak, so we expect to have Richard a little later
39 this morning, or first thing this afternoon.
40
41 Madame Chair and Council. Our current
42 membership on the Council -- we currently have four
43 vacant seats so we have nine members, and we have one,
44 two, three, four, five, six, seven currently present,
45 so we have quorum. And, again, Richard, will join us a
46 little later this morning. So we do have quorum.
47
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
2 Greatly appreciate it.

3
4 All right, we'll go ahead and do
5 welcome and introductions. Eva, do you just want to
6 call people out as the roll call and then -- on the
7 roll call, is their names, and then we'll go ahead and
8 just have people introduce themselves.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Okay, welcome everyone.
11 We'll start with brief introductions.

12
13 For everyone on the Council, we will
14 have Council member reports coming up next, so a brief
15 introduction of yourself.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, would it be
18 possible that we could go down the roll call list with
19 everyone's name and then we can go from there. I don't
20 think we'll just start off, so if you can just call
21 them by their names and have them say their first name,
22 their last name, their affiliation and then I think
23 that would be a lot more quicker process.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 Yes, indeed, so a brief introduction and I'll just call
27 out Council members one by one so that you can chime in
28 and introduce yourself and your village.

29
30 We'll start with John Andrew.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, would you
35 like to briefly introduce yourself.

36
37 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you. My
38 name's John Andrew. I'm a Council RAC member from
39 Kwethluk. I'm listening in from my home and I'm
40 enjoying the weather over here and nobody else.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John.

45
46 Thomas Alstrom.

47
48 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, this is
49 Thomas Alstrom. I'm from Alakanuk. I was just

50

1 recently been selected to the committee here, so I'm
2 new to the committee and so I'm basically learning as I
3 go along. So all right.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas, and
6 welcome.

7
8 James Landlord.

9
10 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, good morning. James
11 Landlord from Mountain Village. I'm a RAC member and I
12 also sit on the tribal council. Good morning.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Good morning, James.

15
16 Phillip Peter, Sr.

17
18 MR. PETER: My name is Phillip Peter.
19 I've been in the community and the weather is really
20 good out there for hunting car -- look for bear dens.
21 (Indiscernible) to the back country to look for
22 ptarmigans and the bear dens. I was supposed to go
23 with them today but I called them yesterday that we're
24 going to have a Federal Regional Advisory Council
25 meeting this morning.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip. Thank
28 you so much for joining us, and by teleconference as
29 well. We wish we were all there with the nice weather.

30
31 Carl Maxie, Sr.

32
33 MR. MAXIE: Good morning, this is Carl
34 Maxie, Napaskiak. I scheduled my day today for the RAC
35 meeting. Good morning.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Thank you,
38 Carl.

39
40 Raymond Oney.

41
42 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva. Ray
43 Oney here from Alakanuk, currently the Secretary. And
44 I would like to also a little comment from Tom Salchan
45 to the Council for comments. Good morning everyone.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray. And
48 Alissa Rogers.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning.
2 My name is Alissa Nadine Rogers. I am the Chairman of
3 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Regional Council. And
4 I've been here pretty much all my life, minus six
5 years, when I went off to college.

6
7 My mom's side of the family comes from
8 Alakanuk, my dad's side comes from Hooper Bay. And
9 I've been here in Bethel pretty much my whole entire
10 life subsisting all over the place and being shipped
11 out to family to go meet -- because our family's so
12 huge, it's all over the place, so, yeah.

13
14 Other than that I greatly appreciate
15 you guys being here and thank you so much for having
16 this over the teleconference, and I apologize because
17 of the teleconference, I know we're going to have some
18 technical difficulties continuously throughout the day
19 but, please, be patient with us and forgive us for
20 having to follow through with procedure and having to
21 have our conferences be a teleconference -- our
22 meetings over teleconferences. It is definitely a
23 first we're having these type of meetings over
24 teleconference -- well, since a very, very long time.
25 So just go ahead and bear with us and I greatly
26 appreciate all of your patience for this time.

27
28 Thank you so much, I'll pass it over to
29 Eva. Eva, do you want to introduce yourself.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Good morning everyone.
32 Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim
33 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

34
35 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Madame
36 Chairman, and Council members. My name is Greg
37 Risdahl. I am the subsistence fisheries division lead,
38 and the Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director here
39 at OSM.

40
41 MS. KENNER: Hello. My name is Pippa
42 Kenner, and I'm the anthropologist for the YK Delta
43 Council, and I am here in Anchorage at OSM.

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: And I am Tom Doolittle,
46 and I am the Acting Assistant Regional Director for
47 OSM. And I just want to thank everybody for their
48 patience in a very unique circumstance and I appreciate
49 everybody being able to change schedules, and I'm

50

1 always willing to, of course, be able to answer any
2 questions that you may have either now or throughout
3 the meeting so thank you for accommodating the
4 teleconference call.

5
6 And if one thing I can leave you with
7 is nothing beats face to face, and to me, I did
8 everything in my power to try to get a face to face
9 meeting but it would not have been responsible to our
10 elderly and people that have other underlying health
11 conditions and as -- in many of our communities to have
12 a face to face meeting considering of what we know
13 today. And you will see a lot of our functions over
14 the next few weeks probably move to being telework
15 functions, and using a lot more of the virtual way of
16 communication until this thing passes.

17
18 So, again, thanks for your patience and
19 have a good meeting despite doing it via phone.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tom. And maybe
24 we'll take it back to the folks that have joined us on
25 teleconference. For folks that haven't already
26 introduced yourself, if you haven't introduced yourself
27 on teleconference yet this morning, you can please let
28 us know who you are and who you're representing.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. JONES: Patrick Jones, Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game here in Bethel.

34
35 TROOPER GUSSEY: Walker Gussey, Bureau
36 of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office, based out
37 of Anchorage today.

38
39 MS. MILLION: Good morning.

40
41 MR. JORDAN: Good morning -- oh, sorry.

42
43 MS. MILLION: Bonnie Million. Good
44 morning, Bonnie Million, Field Manager for the BLM's
45 Anchorage Field Office in Anchorage.

46
47 MR. JORDAN: Moses Jordan, Natural
48 Resource Director, ONC in Bethel.

49
50

1 MR. DECOSSAS: Gary DeCossas, fisheries
2 biologist, Yukon Delta.
3
4 MS. JALLEN: Deena Jallen, Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River summer season
6 assistant manager in Anchorage.
7
8 MR. OSTER: Keith Oster, Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game, assistant area wildlife
10 biologist.
11
12 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,
13 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
14 Management.
15
16 MR. SMITH: Hello everybody. Nicholas
17 Smith, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, area
18 management biologist for fisheries.
19
20 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg, U.S. Fish
21 and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Regional Subsistence
22 Coordinator.
23
24
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Mike Williams,
26 (Indiscernible), James Nicolai, and Bobby Williams from
27 Akiak Native Community.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris, fish
32 biologist OSM.
33
34 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Wildlife
35 Division supervisor, OSM.
36
37 MS. STICKMAN: Good morning everyone,
38 this is Danielle Stickman. I'm the network coordinator
39 for the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation
40 Cooperative based here in Anchorage.
41
42 MS. WATINE: This is Lauren Watine with
43 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, area wildlife
44 biologist out of Dillingham.
45
46 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman.....
47
48 MS. HOOPER: Jennifer Hooper.....
49
50

1 MR. ADERMAN:Togiak National
2 Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.
3
4 MS. HOOPER:AVCP.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry, can
7 you say that again, and then I heard Jennifer Hooper
8 right after, so can you say that one more time.
9
10 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Togiak
11 National Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Andy.
14 Go ahead, Jennifer.
15
16 MS. HOOPER: Thank you. Jennifer
17 Hooper, AVCP, Bethel.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
20
21 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning, this is
22 Mary Peltola.
23
24 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann
25 with.....
26
27 MS. PELTOLA: I'm with the Kuskokwim
28 River InterTribal Fish Commission.
29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann with
31 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon fisheries.
32
33 MR. NICORI: James Nicori, member of
34 the InterTribal Fish Commission, Kwethluk.
35
36 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born, Yukon
37 Delta Refuge in Bethel. Thank you.
38
39 MR. BARON: Good morning, this is
40 William (indiscernible) Baron, I'm an anthropologist at
41 University of Wisconsin in Madison and I've been
42 working in Akiak.
43
44 MS. ESQUIBLE: This is Janessa Esquible
45 working for ONC and I'm based here in Bethel.
46
47 MR. NICORI: Mark Nicori in Kwethluk.
48
49 MR. OLIK: Evan Olik from Kwethluk IRA.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Can you repeat your name
2 again, please.
3
4 MR. OLIK: Evan Olik from OVK,
5 Kwethluk.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
8
9 MR. NICOLAI: Evan Nicolai at Kwethluk.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, good morning
12 everyone. Anyone else on line who has not yet
13 introduced themselves. If you haven't spoken up yet
14 this morning and have joined us on teleconference.
15
16 MR. TULIK: Chris Tulik with the Yukon
17 Delta Refuge.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Chris.
20
21 MR. TULIK: Good morning.
22
23 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins with Yukon
24 River Drainage Fisheries Association is on the line,
25 Eva.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you Wayne.
28
29 MR. NICOLAI: (Indiscernible) Nicolai
30 in Kwethluk for the Organized Village of Kwethluk and
31 the Kwethluk IRA Council.
32
33 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, could you
34 please repeat your name again.
35
36 MR. PASTER: Good morning, Alakanuk
37 Tribe.
38
39 MS. PATTON: Can you repeat your name
40 again, I didn't quite catch it.
41
42 MR. PASTER: David Paster, Alakanuk
43 Tribe.
44
45 MS. PATTON: Good morning, thank you.
46
47 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madame Chair
48 and Council members, this is Glenn Chen. I'm the
49 Subsistence Branch Chief with Bureau of Indian Affairs.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Glenn.
2 Okay, well, it sounds like we've had introductions from
3 everybody who's joined us on teleconference. Just a
4 friendly reminder again to keep the background noise
5 down to a minimum, to mute your phones or hit star six
6 to mute, and then you just hit start six again to
7 unmute in order to speak. Especially for agency folks,
8 please don't put us on hold if you get an incoming call
9 because we get stuck on Muzak and nobody can hear then.
10 So it sounds like everybody's coming through loud and
11 clear.

12
13 Madame Chair Rogers, are you able to
14 hear everybody okay?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Ma'am, thank
17 you, Eva.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Okay,
20 we'll move on to review and adopt agenda.

21
22 Madame Chair Rogers, I will add we do
23 have a couple additions to the agenda, specifically two
24 special action requests that have come in. One for the
25 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and the fisheries special
26 actions. So we will be adding those to the agenda.
27 And as we walk through the agenda I can make a
28 suggestion where we'll include those on the agenda for
29 best timing and flow for the Council.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any Council
32 member have any changes, deletions, anything you want
33 to add or delete from our agenda at this time?

34
35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, and Council,
39 if I may.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

42
43 MS. PATTON: I would like to request
44 that we -- under Council member reports, that we have a
45 moment to recognize the late Harry Wilde, who was a
46 long time Council member and long time esteemed Chair
47 of the YK Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

2

3 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, Phillip.

4

5 Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.

8

9 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion
10 to accept the agenda and the two special actions
11 included.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
14 Phillip. Eva, do you want to go ahead and tell us
15 where you want to insert these in so we can follow
16 through with this motion.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
19 and Council.

20

21 We are recommending the Mulchatna
22 Caribou Herd wildlife special action actually come
23 early on in the meeting as the first item under new
24 business. So you'll see on Page 2 of your agenda,
25 under 10, new business, we would like to have a brief
26 update on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd from ADF&G
27 biologist Lauren Watine, and then Chris McKee is
28 available to provide an overview for the Council on
29 that special action request. And we are asking the
30 Council's recommendation on that special action. So
31 we'd like to put that at the beginning before we get
32 into all the fisheries discussion.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So I heard
35 you saying that No. 10 under new business, Item A is
36 going to be Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

37

38 Item B is going to be Fisheries
39 Resource Monitoring Program update.

40

41 Item C is going to be call for Federal
42 fish and shellfish proposal.

43

44 Item D will be review and approve
45 FY2019 annual report.

46

47 Can you restate the second item that
48 you wanted to add to this, I didn't quite catch that
49 one.

50

1 MS. PATTON: To the special action
2 request?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Ma'am.

5
6 MS. PATTON: So we're recommending --
7 Lauren Watine is on line as a biologist for the
8 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to provide the Council with a
9 brief update on the herd, and then Chris McKee will
10 present an overview of the wildlife special action.
11 And that's so the Council has the latest information to
12 consider when making a recommendation on the special
13 action.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you,
16 Eva. And what was the second thing you wanted to
17 insert into the agenda?

18
19 MS. PATTON: We have several fisheries
20 special actions that have been submitted that are all
21 combined under one public hearing tonight, so the
22 process will be, we're encouraging the Council to
23 participate in the public hearing tonight so you can
24 hear feedback on those fisheries special actions, and
25 then to add the special action discussion tomorrow,
26 likely in the afternoon after we discuss all of the
27 Kuskokwim updates. Around that, we're suggesting we
28 kind of rearrange a little bit the agency reports just
29 so that there's a cohesive dialogue so we have all the
30 Yukon discussions kind of in a linear fashion and then
31 have all the Kuskokwim River management discussions
32 together. We do have a couple tribal representatives
33 calling in to address the fisheries special action, and
34 so we're suggesting it might be helpful that we group
35 all of that Kuskokwim discussion together so that would
36 come -- you know, once we get down to the Kuskokwim
37 River InterTribal Fish Commission, some of our tribal
38 reports addressing the Kuskokwim, we do have some
39 updates from ADF&G on fisheries as well, that those
40 come together on the agenda, and then take up the
41 fisheries special action. Again, so the Council has
42 all the latest information prior to making a
43 recommendation.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Folks, if
46 you go to Item No. 11, and just at the top, we're going
47 to put Yukon River first and everything that has to do
48 with the Yukon River first, we're going to talk about.

49
50

1 And then for our second item we're
2 going to talk everything that has to do with the
3 Kuskokwim afterwards.
4

5 And then the third item is going to be
6 the special action recommendation.
7

8 Eva, do we have anybody on line who
9 could update us with the International Treaty for the
10 Yukon River?
11

12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
13 We do have Gerald Maschmann on line and he will be
14 providing an overview and discussion on the Yukon
15 River.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect, thank
18 you.
19

20 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anybody
23 else have any additional or changes that we need at
24 this time?
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
29 discussion.
30

31 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
32 Born.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, hi,
35 Ray.
36

37 MR. BORN: I'd like to -- good morning.
38 I would like to have the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game provide their wildlife reports prior to the agency
40 reports, at least for Yukon Delta, that way they cover
41 some of the items of interest for the RAC and I don't
42 need to cover them in my actual report. If that would
43 be acceptable.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So, Ray,
48 are you asking that we split out your report?
49
50

1 MR. BORN: I think I'm asking Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game do their report prior to
3 the Fish and Wildlife Service reports under agency
4 reports.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So for the
7 agency, our line would go, it will go ADF&G, U.S. Fish
8 and Wildlife Service, and then the Fish Commission --
9 oh, wait, no, it goes Tribal governments and then the
10 Fish Commission.
11

12 MR. BORN: Correct, yeah. And then I
13 would go -- after the tribal governments, Native
14 organizations and mine says Yukon River Drainage
15 Fishery Association, I guess after that I'd put ADF&G,
16 and then Fish and Wildlife Service and then BLM after
17 that.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.
20

21 MR. BORN: Thank you.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
24 Any further discussion.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Anyone else want
29 to make changes or adjustments at this time?
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, hearing
34 none, we'll go ahead -- oh, shucks, we had a motion on
35 the floor by Mr. Phillip Peter, but we didn't get a
36 second.
37

38 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord,
39 Council member. I second Phillip Peter's motion.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, James.
42 Let's see, so we'll go ahead and make the changes to
43 Item 10.
44

45 Our first item under new business is
46 going to be the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
47

48 Under Item 11, with agency reports.
49
50

1 We're going to start off with the Yukon
2 River, the Kuskokwim and then get into special
3 recommendations.
4

5 When we split off to the Yukon River
6 and the Kuskokwim River, the order is going to be that
7 ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service give their
8 reports to those rivers in regards to fisheries and
9 then tribal governments, and Fish Commission will come
10 after that, in those reports for both Yukon and
11 Kuskokwim.
12

13 And then I believe that's all the
14 changes that we had at this time.
15

16 Any further discussion, if not, can we
17 go ahead and get a question and vote on this.
18

19 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Question.
20 Ray Oney.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
23

24 All those in favor of accepting the
25 adoption of the agenda with the current changes that I
26 described go ahead and say aye.
27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
31 opposed, same sign.
32

33 (No opposing votes)
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none, the
36 agenda has been adopted.
37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted - music playing)
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Eva,
42 I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to you for
43 election of officers.
44

45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
46 there appears to be some music in the background.
47

48 (Laughter)
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Just a reminder to hit
2 star six to mute.

3
4 Madame Chair and Council. I would have
5 a recommendation, if the Council wishes, if the Council
6 would like to defer taking action on election of
7 officers until Richard Slats has joined us on
8 teleconference, so we have as much of the Council as
9 possible. It's at the wish of the Council.

10
11 (Music playing)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: For those of you
14 on line, please star six to mute your phones, we are
15 getting some music in the background. Go ahead and
16 star six to mute your phone, if not, if you're using a
17 cell phone, go ahead and hit the mute button on your
18 menu. It'd be greatly appreciated. We want to be
19 respectful to everyone who's trying to listen in on
20 this teleconference.

21
22 Thank you very much we'd greatly
23 appreciate it.

24
25 All right, is there anyone opposed to
26 holding off elections until Richard Slats gets on line?

27
28 (No objection)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: If not we'll go
31 ahead and move on.

32
33 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

36
37 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.
38 I move that we defer the elections until we get another
39 member, Richard Slats in.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John
44 Andrew. Can I get a second.

45
46 MR. ONEY: Second. Ray Oney.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray
49 Oney. All those in favor of holding off on elections

50

1 say aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.

6

Anyone opposed, same sign.

7

8

(No opposing votes)

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we'll

11

go ahead and hold off on elections until we get Richard
Slats on the phone.

12

13

14

All right, let's go ahead and review
and approve previous meetings minutes. Is there anyone
-- go ahead if you see any changes, if you haven't read
the meeting minutes already, go ahead and take a moment
to review them, make changes, additions, any
corrections, spellings, any names that need to be
fixed, anything that, quote wise, that you'd like to
have changed in regards to what you remember and what
you don't think was recorded correctly, go ahead and
review those meeting minutes, and if you find anything
go ahead and speak up and you can make those changes at
this time.

25

26

27

(Pause)

28

29

MS. PATTON: Again, those meeting

30

minutes are found on Page 5 of your meeting books.

31

32

(Pause)

33

34

MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John Andrew, I

37

head you, go ahead.

38

39

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I move that we adopt

40

the minutes of November 6 through 8th, 2019.

41

42

MR. PETER: Second.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.

45

46

Call the question.

47

48

MR. MAXIE: I have a question, this is

49

Carl.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.

2

3 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, on the followup on
4 the 2020 meeting, the fisheries resource monitoring, at
5 this meeting we're going to have an update on it?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That is correct,
8 Carl.

9

10 MR. MAXIE: Thank you.

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I couldn't
13 understand him, what did he just say?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: He was asking for
16 an update on the Fisheries Monitoring Program from the
17 last update that we had last fall.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Yeah, good morning. Ray
26 Oney here again. Maybe if I can get an update on the
27 wildlife proposals that we submitted last year, how
28 many of them have been accepted or if they're any
29 changes on those proposals that we submitted as they
30 are or if there was amendments to the wildlife
31 proposals that we adopted last year.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
34 That's a really, really good question.

35

36 Eva, are we going to have a Federal
37 Subsistence Board meeting this year in regards to -- in
38 light of our current situation with this government
39 shut down, or Federal travel hold, et cetera, et
40 cetera.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
43 thank you for that action -- or that question. We have
44 Tom Doolittle here who can respond to that.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair, if I may.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Tom.
2 Thank you very much, greatly appreciate you being here
3 today.
4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. The Board is
6 having an emergency executive session tomorrow at 900
7 by teleconference, and we are looking at a go, no-go
8 for the meeting in Gakona, and we're looking at
9 alternative means such as teleconference and virtual
10 means to accommodate it if it's a no-go. So, you know,
11 the Board will look at it collectively and you'll see a
12 press release probably by mid-week about what the
13 decisions are. And the way things are rapidly
14 evolving, I think the decisions are going to be a
15 little bit more clear relative to -- but would need to
16 get a large gathering together -- but we also
17 understand full well what the economic impacts to not
18 having a meeting where essentially we've, you know,
19 booked all the lodging and we want to get ahead of that
20 by -- the meeting by almost a month, you know, so we
21 can give vendors and others forewarning if it is
22 decided to be cancelled.
23

24 Anyways that's -- you know what I know.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Tom.
29 So it sounds like we're going to have a wait and see
30 next week and hear from the press release on if we're
31 going to have a Federal Subsistence Board meeting and
32 then we'll be able to get some information and updates
33 on those wildlife proposals, Ray.
34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Madame Chair,
36 you're correct. And hopefully we'll have that
37 information to you this week.
38

39 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
42

43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We will
44 definitely be reaching.....
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
47 so.....
48

49 MS. PATTON:out to the Councils
50

1 as soon as we can with an update on that. And just to
2 let everybody know it is a long process, so that
3 wildlife regulatory Federal Subsistence Board meeting
4 was scheduled for that third week of April, so no
5 action has yet been taken on any of those wildlife
6 proposals that the Council's made recommendations on at
7 your last fall meeting. So usually those wildlife
8 Board meetings take place in the spring.

9

10 We can also -- maybe when we're getting
11 agency reports and updates tomorrow, too, the Council
12 did submit recommendations on a number of Board of Game
13 proposals, and if there's any updates that can be
14 shared there in terms of the final actions on -- from
15 the Board of Game on those wildlife proposals.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, sounds
20 good. Ray, did you want to -- Eva, do we have this
21 anywhere or can we take this up during a -- let's see,
22 maybe an Office of Subsistence Management agency report
23 where you guys can discuss the proposals since we
24 already have you on the agenda?

25

26 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely we can
27 provide that update, and I think that would be a good
28 place to do it at the tail end there since we have a
29 full agenda with all the fisheries discussion.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, I'm
36 going ahead and writing you in to give myself a
37 reminder.

38

39 Thank you, Ray.

40

41 Anyone else want to make some
42 additions, changes or anything to our current meeting
43 minutes, our previous meeting minutes in front of us
44 today?

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Question on the motion.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
49 Question's been called by Mr. John Andrew. All those

50

1 in favor of adopting the current meeting minutes say
2 aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
7 opposed, same sign.

8

9 (No opposing votes)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Our
12 meeting minutes have been approved.

13

14 All right. We'll go down to Council
15 member reports.

16

17 Eva, would you please go down the roll
18 call list and call them out by name so that we can make
19 sure everyone's been formally giving their reports,
20 it'll be quicker that way.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Madame Chair
23 and Council. We'll call Council members one by one to
24 provide your subsistence report for your community in
25 your region. And since we do have a new Council
26 member, Thomas Alstrom, on, we want to welcome him, and
27 just provide a little overview for the process. This
28 is a really important part of our Regional Advisory
29 Council meetings where each of the Council members
30 provides an update on subsistence activities and any
31 issues of interest and concern for their community,
32 their region, and their involvement with subsistence in
33 their region. So we really appreciate hearing from
34 each of the Council members and what you're seeing,
35 what you're experiencing in and around your
36 communities.

37

38 So maybe we'll start with our longer
39 term Council members first and we'll save the newest
40 for the last with Thomas there, so you have a sense of
41 the process.

42

43 We'll start out with John Andrew first.

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, this is John Andrew
46 from Kwethluk. For my subsistence report, I won't have
47 a very long one. But last fall, starting from our
48 moose season we did -- better than half of our hunters
49 over here did very poor because the water level was

50

1 really, really low so they didn't get to the hunting
2 grounds usually. So when the water did rise we had a
3 very late run of reds and cohos, they were catching
4 them all way to freeze up. When it froze up, the water
5 level to high, then -- higher than average, when it
6 froze up we couldn't set under the ice for whitefish
7 and pike in our usual places, there was too much
8 current and too much water. There was hardly no eddies
9 or calm water area where we set for whitefish. And
10 starting off in November we had very low -- weather was
11 mild, no snow all the way towards the end of December,
12 and then end of December weather got pretty -- really
13 cold, an almost normal winter, and a lot of snow,
14 everything. Fresh, good snow, heavy snow piles we've
15 seen in a really long time, 17, 18 years, something
16 like that.

17
18 And a lot of our hunters over here, the
19 younger guys they were hunting a few caribou, not too
20 much, but most of the hunters that do go up came from
21 other villages, all from Bethel area or further out,
22 who can afford to come in and hunt caribou until the
23 closure. Because most -- some of the people that do
24 hunt moose, if they're successful in falltime they
25 don't bother with caribou. A lot of the older guys
26 rarely hunt caribou over here now. They were concerned
27 with the low numbers of Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And
28 dog mushers were pretty happy because of a little too
29 much snow around here, a lot of the young guys have
30 seen snow and the older guys were pretty happy. When
31 you have a lot of snow and thick ice, we'll have a good
32 spring flood and it'll flush out the rivers and we'll
33 probably see some good drifting from up river and the
34 freshwater fish will be able to get through the lakes
35 to spawn and they're -- and reproduce in those lakes
36 and it's a good sign. Some of the older guys were
37 pretty happy with a lot of snow and the cold weather
38 this year.

39
40 That's all I got for now.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana, John.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
47 John.

48
49 And we will go to James Landlord.

50

1 MR. LANDLORD: We had same weather
2 pattern like John mentioned. It got cold right away
3 and the river froze up through December and there is
4 thick ice and that snow. People started checking their
5 fish under ice nets as soon as they were able to, where
6 it was thick enough for them to be on top of the river.
7 They were catching whitefish.

8
9 Right now people are -- people in
10 Mountain Village are ice fishing and they're catching
11 big pikes. Some of them are the size of kings. A lot
12 of big pikes right now.

13
14 In about December I think when there
15 was a patient traveling from Bethel to Scammon Bay, I
16 think, they looked out the window and they saw a big
17 pack of moose. They were estimating -- not moose,
18 wolf, they were estimating them to be around 15 or 17
19 pack moving towards the Northwest, or out on the
20 tundra.

21
22 (Indiscernible) and the guy's just
23 picking up for a possible high water someplace up river
24 but they don't know when the river -- the weather might
25 crash or kind of before, crash in April and ice just
26 turns to ice crystals so we don't know how it's going
27 to be yet.

28
29 People are catching ptarmigans,
30 northwest of here, they call it Volcano Hill, so
31 somewhere around that area and they were catching a few
32 ptarmigans.

33
34 And that's my report.

35
36 Quyana.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Quyana, thank you, James.

41
42 Then we have Phillip Peter, Sr.

43
44 MR. PETER: Good morning, this is
45 Phillip. Last year -- I will start off with fishing.

46
47 We got late run because of low water.
48 But some in my community didn't meet their quota for
49 king salmon and -- and in July we don't fish because

50

1 the bugs were a problem.

2

3 And the other animals, the moose, moose
4 hunting. We've got -- like John mentioned that we --
5 the weather's slow and we couldn't reach the good
6 hunting ground like Good Meadows where moose were
7 roaming and -- but when I go moose hunting this fall,
8 my (indiscernible) call that creek and we went over
9 there and we were -- beaver dam, we were going to run
10 the boat over and my brother-in-law told me, you know,
11 that fish were jumping in there in that dam. And first
12 time in my life I see a lot of reds went up and down,
13 went up and down, many of them. First time I see those
14 reds are in that creek up there. But we're good in
15 hunting this fall. The moose hunt -- moose.

16

17 One of the things, yeah, brought up --
18 those two items I want to talk about. In my community
19 subsistence, the fishermen, the hunters, they ask for
20 close the fish -- that special action request and
21 they're going to do like that for the rest of the
22 fishing seasons every year, we ask that that proposal
23 for fishing and long time ago we didn't -- we didn't
24 ask the State and Federal government to -- ask to fish.
25 Our elders used to tell us when the fish are here you
26 go fish but we got limits. Everyone knows the limits.

27

28 And the other one is whitefish net for
29 setnetting. And when all of them work on that, you
30 know, change that whitefish net to six inch or change
31 it to (indiscernible) net, 60 feet long, 35 mesh, we
32 need to start work on this problem seriously and with
33 the action on it.

34

35 (Telephone interference - participants
36 not muted - participant phone on hold)

37

38 MR. PETER: We've been talking about it
39 for a long, long time now, we couldn't go nowhere
40 because the Department's afraid to accept our -- what
41 we want. So our elders didn't make no mistakes because
42 they already done it a long, long time ago. They used
43 to set the net in spring for (indiscernible) fish and
44 big ones, we want -- we wanted to catch those big ones
45 because we don't want to take those small kings, you
46 know. That's a bigger problem, all 33 communities,
47 because we don't want to eat those small jack fish,
48 small kings for consumption. In spring they need the
49 (indiscernible) fish and the big king salmon.

50

1 We need to work on those two proposals
2 by 2020. We've been doing it for a long, long time and
3 we need to do something about it to, you know, do
4 something about it. I want a change, you know, change,
5 our subsistence -- we're getting so many -- the big
6 kings using that six inch -- I mean using that
7 whitefish net. And even though we fish with 5.5, the 6
8 inch for drifting when -- when we have opening, we
9 catch medium size, not those big ones, medium size king
10 salmon.

11
12 And so that's my report.

13
14 Because the people in my community keep
15 complaining and complaining to me that we need to
16 change those two proposals so I talk to them, I'll do
17 something -- I'll do something about it to fix it.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Quyana, thank you,
22 Phillip. Thank you for your report and your feedback
23 from your community.

24
25 And we'll hear from Carl Maxie next.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 MS. PATTON: Carl, are you on line with
30 us still?

31
32 MR. MAXIE: Good morning, yes, I am.

33
34 (Telephone participant interference -
35 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

36
37 MS. PATTON: Carl Maxie, are you still
38 on line with us, you can push star six to unmute the
39 phone in order to speak and we can hear your report for
40 your community.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Star seven, Eva.

43
44 MR. MAXIE: Eva, can you hear me?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Okay, maybe we -- oh, is
47 that Carl?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Carl, yes,

50

1 barely, barely hear you. I think that might have been
2 you but try to speak up a little more, I could barely
3 hear you.

4
5 MR. PETER: Philip Peter, and I'm on
6 phone.....

7
8 MR. MAXIE: Like Philip Peter
9 (Indiscernible - poor connection) and we get up to six
10 inch (indiscernible) on what we have here
11 (indiscernible) a lot of snow for spring season
12 (indiscernible) some day I would like to see
13 (indiscernible).

14
15 That's all I have but.....

16
17 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you very much
18 Carl. And I think I caught what you were saying there,
19 it was very difficult to hear, very quiet, so I don't
20 know, if you might be able to speak closer to the phone
21 next time when you're calling in, or speak a little
22 louder so we're sure to be able to hear you.

23
24 But I think I caught your discussion
25 there and we will be discussing the call for fisheries
26 regulatory proposals a little later in the meeting here
27 today so the Council does an opportunity to discuss
28 those proposals and to work with your communities to
29 submit changes to the Federal subsistence fisheries
30 regulations that you would like to see.

31
32 Thank you, Carl.

33
34 And moving on to Ray Oney.

35
36 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Eva. Ray
37 Oney here from Alakanuk.

38
39 Well, as you heard we finally had a
40 real winter in a long time with all this snow and cold
41 that we've been experiencing all winter. Finally have
42 a cold spell in a long, long time. We have a lot of
43 snow, the ice is almost three feet thick out there.

44
45 I've been getting a lot of reports from
46 people seeing moose in the village after the snow fall,
47 we've been getting a lot of moose from one end of town
48 to the other. There's moose everywhere in the village
49 because the amount of snow that's out in the country.

50

1 Also we've heard about wolves in the community too
2 chasing the moose. And I think yesterday or day before
3 yesterday a bear being in the village too.
4

5 People that I have been talking to say
6 fishing has been really slow with the under ice net.
7 People are out, out jigging for pike and I think
8 sometime last week they were fishing for sheefish too,
9 so they're slowly showing up.

10
11 Other than that just trying to stay
12 warm. That's all I've got.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you, Ray.
17 And we will move on to our new Alakanuk representative,
18 Thomas Alstrom.
19

20 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, this is Thomas
21 Alstrom from Alakanuk. Are you able to hear me?
22

23 MS. PATTON: Yep, can hear you loud and
24 clear, thank you Thomas.
25

26 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. This is Thomas
27 Alstrom from the village of Alakanuk. And basically
28 what Mr. Oney was saying there that, yeah, there's been
29 a lot of moose here in the village of Alakanuk within
30 the town. I usually -- every day or every other day I
31 have moose bedded down in the back yard of my house
32 here. And, yeah, there's been sightings and wolf
33 tracks around town that I heard about and, yeah, also
34 sightings of bear. And I remember last fall they had
35 seen or sightings of -- you know, we're having a lot of
36 brown bear problems with the community of Alakanuk
37 sightings, you know, the upper end of town and then
38 like how many days later the sighting was -- within the
39 town. We had a lot of brown bear problems this past
40 fall of 2019. And then as of now we're having problems
41 with wolves. And then I believe the wolves are in and
42 around town scaring the moose, and the moose are coming
43 into town to seek protection. So with the sightings of
44 wolves around the village of Alakanuk, they're like
45 bringing the moose into the village and I believe
46 they're seeking protection from the wolves by coming
47 into the village. But then, again, we do have some
48 loose dogs within the community of Alakanuk, and then
49 if the moose come too far into the village then we have
50

1 a problem with the loose dogs attacking the moose, so
2 if they come too far in then kind of the dogs push them
3 out and then if they go too far out of the village then
4 the wolves attack them, so I guess they're having
5 problems, either too far out of the village or too
6 close within the village.

7
8 Yeah, a lot of people been going out
9 jigging for -- or starting to go out jigging for pike
10 and sheefish.

11
12 But other than that, yeah, that's
13 pretty much all I got to say.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,
16 Thomas. And welcome.

17
18 And then last but not least we have
19 Alissa Rogers. And when Richard Slats joins us later
20 in the meeting we'll give him a chance to provide his
21 report for Chevak as well.

22
23 So we'll go on to Alissa Rogers.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Thank
26 you, guys, and thank you so much for hearing your
27 subsistence reports. I greatly appreciate hearing
28 what's going on in our region and within your
29 communities and what's going on out there. You are my
30 eyes and ears folks, and hearing from you guys and
31 hearing what's going on, it helps understand everything
32 that's happening within our region. And also let's me
33 know if there's anything that we need to know in
34 regards to changing the regulations or to changing
35 recommendations for types of management to help improve
36 our populations, our resources and protection of our
37 environments and our subsistence way of life and
38 honoring our cultural and traditions.

39
40 For my report, I just came back this
41 past weekend from Yukon and I've seen a huge increase
42 in ptarmigan, seeing, and sighting actual ptarmigan.
43 It's the first time I ever seen huge flocks like this
44 since I can't even remember when; when I was back in
45 high school, that was the last time I've seen something
46 this huge of -- in population, abundance and flocks
47 this big. So it's a huge increase.

48
49 Starting off from the last time that we
50

1 had met, going out fishing and hunting we had a pretty
2 -- we had some big pike and we had an odd run of
3 tomcods and whitefish juveniles. There was people out
4 there who were putting blackfish traps out near the
5 coast and in some of those stream areas around that
6 area and they were catching tom cods and baby whitefish
7 in their blackfish traps, and even in the land locked
8 areas we definitely had an increase in small juvenile
9 whitefish that were being caught in blackfish traps at
10 huge number of abundances. Especially around some
11 areas over here with these big lakes, we've definitely
12 had a huge increase in that.

13
14 Well, overall for blackfish traps, we
15 have a few usual things that we have seen. It's not
16 uncommon, what we call is overflowing and you could use
17 dipnets to dip blackfish right out of these lakes, or
18 right out of these streams or near beaver areas. There
19 was so much blackfish there that they were literally
20 coming up and like -- they looked like they were
21 boiling in the water so you could just scoop them out
22 of the water.

23
24 We did have some concerns of sea ice
25 that wasn't freezing. It was taking longer than
26 previous years to freeze. There was quite some concern
27 that for the safety of going out seal hunting, or going
28 out to the coast and going hunting, that the sea ice
29 wasn't freezing but when it really froze it surely
30 froze and it's the most sea ice we've seen in a long
31 time.

32
33 I want to reiterate, I had a snow geese
34 in my backyard this past fall. The most unusual thing
35 I've ever seen in my backyard, but, yes I had snow
36 geese in my backyard.

37
38 We definitely had a decrease in rabbits
39 this year compared to the previous years. I believe
40 we're coming off our seven year cycle with rabbits.

41
42 And then also one thing I did notice
43 this year is I haven't seen many buntings, those little
44 white snow birds around our area as much as we used to
45 back in the day. I did go out and kind of look for
46 them one time when they weren't showing up at their
47 normal times and I went out to a couple areas to go
48 take a quick peak where I usually see them and come to
49 find out, they were hiding in grass, and every time
50

1 they seen a bird fly over or anything they were hiding
2 inside the grass, which was the first time I ever seen
3 that before. But that was kind of cute.

4
5 When the ice actually froze over for
6 traveling, we did have a decrease in whitefish when we
7 put our ice fish net out. We had a decrease in
8 sheefish. Definitely noticed our eddies had shifted in
9 a lot of our areas that are really good areas we used
10 to have for putting out nets under the ice. We did see
11 an increase in chums and reds that were being caught in
12 our ice nets that were coming in pretty late.

13
14 Then we also seen a huge run of lush
15 fish this year coming through the late fall.

16
17 And what was brought to my attention
18 and I was really concerned about was these emperor
19 geese, there's a decline in the population estimates
20 that indicated some type of over harvesting or some
21 type of factor that was in the favor of the emperor
22 geese but when, I guess, they did their count, there
23 was definitely a decrease in the emperor geese which
24 made it concerning to me because I would like to make a
25 recommendation that we do a closure on emperor geese
26 until their numbers and population becomes healthy
27 enough again for us to harvest them. But honestly I'm
28 pretty worried about the emperor geese's population
29 since we finally just came out of a moratorium with
30 them and we just, finally, started having the ability
31 to legally hunt them. So I really want to keep my eyes
32 on those.

33
34 We did have huge concerns about caribou
35 this year. There was definitely a lot of unreported
36 harvest that had taken place. Reported through Native
37 hotline but nothing in certain. We definitely had a
38 decrease of moose on the Yukon River, especially near
39 the islands where everyone goes. Ever since the
40 caribou had shut down on this side there's been more
41 hunting activity on the Yukon to get meat up there.

42
43 There's been some reports of folks that
44 went out and didn't catch any moose and there's been
45 quite a bit of running into people a lot more, people
46 up there on the Yukon than there was in previous years.

47
48 But there's definitely a lot more moose
49 in our area. The moratorium is definitely working on

50

1 building up our population down here. We've got quite
2 a bit of moose that are running through town in Bethel
3 and that's very unusual. So we've had quite the number
4 of moose specifically on the highways and on standard
5 oil, coming across the river, up by the airport, and
6 up in Tundra Ridge crossing all over. So the moose
7 moratorium for the Kuskokwim definitely has improved.

8

9 And that is my report.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Eva.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alissa.

16 Wonderful reports from all, thank you.

17

18 MR. LANDLORD: Eva.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Oh, do we have a Council
21 member wanting to.....

22

23 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. Eva.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

26

27 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, this is James
28 Landlord, Mountain Village.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, James.

31

32 MR. LANDLORD: Yeah, I'd like to add
33 one more. I just received a text from the tribal
34 office that our gas station in Mountain Village had
35 broken down and we had no sale of gas for about a month
36 and that prevented people from going out to hunt moose
37 and members here in Mountain are asking if the moose
38 hunting season can be extended for Mountain Village.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. Thank
41 you for that report. And we can, we can work with the
42 Council or we can work with the community of Mountain
43 Village directly.

44

45 MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

46

47 MS. PATTON: To submit a special
48 action, given the circumstances there. And so that's
49 something that we can follow up with your community to

50

1 work on that request so Mountain Village can submit
2 that to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3
4 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. Gas sales just
5 opened up actually a couple days ago so we had no sales
6 for about a month. We had to go to St. Mary's to get
7 our gas.

8
9 Okay, thank you.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James, for that
12 report, on behalf of your community. And we can follow
13 up with your community probably after the meeting in
14 order to speak with them directly if they want to
15 submit a special action request regarding that.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. LANDLORD: Thanks.

20
21 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
22 Phillip.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
25 Phillip.

26
27 MR. PETER: You had mentioned moose
28 counting -- they going to start moose count -- are they
29 going to start moose counting, they've got plenty of
30 snow. I never heard any accurate numbers in our area
31 on Kuskokwim. So if they're going to do it, do it
32 right now before the snow melts.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana. As far
37 as I know U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently
38 conducting moose surveys. I know Fish and Game
39 had.....

40
41 (Telephone participant interference -
42 -- phones not muted)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:currently --
45 or Fish and Game was doing their moose surveys and then
46 as far as I know U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are
47 actively doing moose surveys -- excuse my
48 pronunciation, but moose surveys right not so I think
49 they're still doing moose surveys this week. Ray and
50

1 Patrick or, if you guys want to chime in here as for
2 agencies, if you guys know exact dates and when you
3 guys will have an update for us on the moose
4 populations.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray Born.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
11 If Ray isn't available right away to speak to that,
12 they will be providing updates tomorrow during their
13 agency reports as well so we'll get an update on that
14 if he's not on line at the moment.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

17

18 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born. I'm
19 sorry, I.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, no,
22 that's okay, go ahead.

23

24 MR. BORN:the question was.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born. Is there
29 a question for me, I had you turned down a little bit?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We're trying to
32 figure out -- Phillip had a question about your moose
33 surveys and when you'd have an update for us.

34

35 MR. BORN: I think Alaska Department of
36 Fish and Game has a pretty good report on that during
37 their report, and then we can fill in some things, you
38 know, during the agency reports, you know, later on
39 tomorrow if that's acceptable.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Phillip, would
42 that be okay with you if we do moose report on agency
43 reports tomorrow?

44

45 MR. PETER: Yes, Ma'am.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
48 Phillip. All right, Eva, if there's no more further
49 question or discussions on subsistence reports, I'd

50

1 like to move on to.....

2

3

MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

6

7

MR. SLATS: This is Richard.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, good, quyana.

10

11

MR. SLATS: I walked in when Alissa was
12 doing her report.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, good, go
15 ahead with your subsistence report.

16

17

MR. SLATS: Okay. I don't have that
18 much to -- very much to report. It's just that I
19 wanted to start off by applauding the Department of
20 Interior with, you know, looking out for health, safety
21 and welfare with everything that's going around and
22 going on in the Globe.

23

24

Last time when we met in Bethel it was
25 starting to freeze up but then it was raining and then
26 there was all this concern about the Mulchatna Caribou
27 Herd, and that was after we met and then we got snow
28 this years so there's a lot more snowmachine travel
29 aside from, you know, being blizzarded out.

30

31

And then I just wanted to mention to
32 the Council that North Pacific Fishery Management
33 Council has fisheries ecosystem planning, and I got
34 appointed to the Local Knowledge and the Traditional
35 Knowledge Task Force, you know, so I wanted to ask, you
36 know, work with the rest of the Council about, you
37 know, getting their feel about how they -- well, their
38 knowledge too as well.

39

40

Also there is this Arctic Research
41 Consortium of the United States and then about a couple
42 of weeks ago I was appointed to the Arctic Indigenous
43 Scholars, so, you know, like I had a question for the
44 rest of the Council about how they feel about food
45 traditional knowledge and local knowledge into writing,
46 you know. So, you know, and then I've had reservations
47 about doing that and, you know, that has always been my
48 initial reaction.

49

50

1 Because of the climate change and the
2 rising temperatures and everything happening overnight
3 I have a lot of, you know, everything going on in my
4 mind as I'm speaking because it's really hard for me to
5 begin thinking what is really happening, you know, it's
6 either that or the news media is getting so far ahead
7 that it's -- you know, that we've never knew everything
8 that was going on in the world as it was happening.
9 But I also believe that I begin to think that we may
10 have to go or resort to the old ways with the things
11 that are going on. But the thing is that there are
12 unusual mortalities that are occurring to our
13 resources, even if we did that. So I'm just -- as I've
14 always tried to emphasize that the local subsistence
15 users need to be considered every step of the way while
16 we're doing all of this.

17
18 And then for, you know, the way we've
19 always done is to -- traditionally we've always tried
20 to hunt, fish and gather whenever we can and then store
21 them -- store everything and had ways of doing this
22 traditionally for the wintertimes.

23
24 And then when we're finally getting
25 snow I seen a ptarmigan right here in our town a couple
26 of weeks ago, so I haven't really gone out to go look
27 for, you know, where I've always went to go look for
28 the ptarmigan. But if I see a sighting there's got to
29 be others. I think, you know, like I hope -- I'm
30 beginning to hope that they're back in our area because
31 -- well, because they have the snow. And the willows
32 are still out there so, you know, they have -- they're
33 able to survive.

34
35 And then right now when we get our fish
36 and game we need to begin looking at keeping everything
37 we have to make them keep longer, you know.

38
39 So these are just some of the things
40 that have been going on in my mind. I didn't have my
41 prepared, you know, like that paper that I was starting
42 to summarize, my subsistence, in front of me, but those
43 are just words that are coming off of my head and I
44 wanted to thank the rest of the Council for being
45 diligent about the work that they do and I'm glad to be
46 here today.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 And I should have been put before
2 Alissa's report because I could never do a report as
3 good as her.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,
8 Richard. You joined us just in the right time as we
9 were getting to you under our Council member reports.

10
11 Madame Chair and Council, if I may.
12 Just to let you know, as well, wonderful Richard that
13 you were appointed to the North Pacific Fisheries
14 Management Council for their Traditional Knowledge and
15 rural community representative. We did have a request
16 for them to present to the Council, and they have
17 overlapping meetings this week so unfortunately were
18 not able to join us. I do have handouts that I will be
19 mailing to you now that we're not gathering together.
20 But they do hope to be able to join us at the fall
21 meeting if our meetings don't overlap.

22
23 Additionally, those ecosystem changes
24 that the Council was requesting to have some reports
25 on, we also had Jim Murphy with NOAA, National Oceanic
26 and Atmospheric Administration to present to the
27 Council but he had also slide shows that would have
28 been helpful for the information and given these sudden
29 changes decided that it would be best for him to
30 present to the Council at the fall meeting when
31 hopefully we will be all gathered in person.

32
33 So we are working to get those
34 additional agency reports that the Council had
35 requested. Those are two unfortunately we won't have
36 at this meeting today but hope to have those in the
37 fall.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. LANDLORD: Eva. Madame Chair.
42 James Landlord, Mountain Village.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

45
46 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I think you asked
47 Eva to do a profile on Harry Wilde, how long he's been
48 on the RAC Committee. He passed away last month. So if
49 Eva can say something about Harry.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you so much
2 James.

3
4 Yes, we heard from our other past
5 Council Chair, Lester Wilde, Harry Wilde's brother,
6 that he had passed away about a month ago now. And we
7 would like to remember Harry was one of the first
8 Council members appointed to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
9 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council after the Council
10 was created under Title VIII of ANILCA and he had
11 served for many, many years, only retiring, you know,
12 probably about eight years ago so he was on since 1993.
13 And served his community and the entire region, just a
14 real subsistence advocate and knowledgeable and warm-
15 hearted and we will miss him deeply.

16
17 And I don't know, perhaps, other
18 Council members who have served with Harry for these
19 past years, too, would like to speak to him.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. PATTON: Trapper John or Raymond
26 Oney, did you want to say any words for Harry.

27
28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. PATTON: Well, our best wishes go
32 out to his whole family and we wish them well and he
33 has been such a grace and warmth that has guided the YK
34 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for so many
35 years, so, Quyana, Harry.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you, Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MS. PATTON: Okay. Since we have
46 concluded the Council member reports and we do have our
47 Council member Richard Slats, who has joined us, we now
48 have eight of our nine Council members present and
49 everyone that will be joining us for this meeting.

50

1 If the Council wishes to go back to the
2 election of officers now that we have everyone on line.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
5 At this time I'd like to go back to election of
6 officers and I'll hand it over to you, Eva.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
11 thank you. And we will conduct the election of
12 officers. This is held every year at the winter/spring
13 meeting. And it's a little bit awkward, normally we
14 would do this in person, so that there's an opportunity
15 to do anonymous voting but we'll do our best here.
16 Perhaps given what the Council would like to do, either
17 we can do roll call vote or all in favor.

18
19 So we elect three positions for the
20 Council. The position of the Chair. The position of
21 the Vice Chair. The position of Secretary.

22
23 Currently Alissa Rogers is Chair.

24
25 Vice Chair was James Charles, who has
26 since retired from the Council.

27
28 And our most recent Secretary was
29 Raymond Oney.

30
31 And we start this, as the Coordinator,
32 I will start with the call for the Chair nominations,
33 and then once the Chair is elected, then the Chair will
34 resume conducting the meeting to call the other
35 positions.

36
37 A nomination for Chair doesn't require
38 a second, but we would like to open it up to the
39 Council for nomination for Chair.

40
41 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair -- I mean,
42 Eva.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

45
46 MR. ANDREW: I nominate Phillip Peter.

47
48 MS. PATTON: We have a nomination for
49 Phillip Peter.

50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. I nominate
2 Alissa Rogers.

3
4 MS. PATTON: And we have a nomination
5 for Alissa Rogers.

6
7 Any other nominations for Chair.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Move the
12 nominations be closed.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Hearing
15 no other nominations for Chair we will open up to
16 voting now. Maybe I'll just check in with the Council
17 if you would prefer to vote by roll call votes since
18 we're on teleconference.....

19
20 (Telephone interference - participants
21 note muted - participant phone on hold)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby Eva. It
24 sounds like we got put on hold. Somebody has us on
25 hold and they're beeping us.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Yeah, there has been some
28 beeping going on in the background. Unfortunately, the
29 only way that we can disconnect from being held on hold
30 is to disconnect the phone line and we don't want to
31 lose everybody. So if that beeping isn't too
32 disturbing or too distracting, maybe we'll try to
33 proceed with the meeting at this time and hopefully
34 they'll take us off hold. My concern is we did have
35 some difficulties with our connection before and we
36 don't want to lose everyone on line.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That sounds good,
39 thank you, Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Is everybody able to hear
42 okay over the beeping?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MS. PATTON: I guess for Council
47 members, in particular, right now.

48
49 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I can hear you.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you.
2 We'll proceed so we don't disconnect our whole
3 teleconference in order to drown that out.
4

5 Okay, so we have two nominations for
6 Chair of the YK Delta Council. Our first nomination
7 was for Phillip Peter nominated by John Andrew and we
8 will open up the floor for voting for Phillip Peter.
9

10 And just so we can tally votes, and I
11 apologize for a little bit of awkwardness over
12 teleconference, but if it's okay, we go ahead and do a
13 roll call vote so we can get a vote count for each of
14 the Chair nominations.
15

16 So for Phillip Peter, Sr., John Andrew.
17

18 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.
19

20 MS. PATTON: That's a yes for Phillip
21 Peter.
22

23 James Landlord.
24

25 MR. LANDLORD: Alissa Rogers.
26

27 MS. PATTON: A vote for Alissa Rogers.
28

29 Carl Maxie, Sr., a vote for Phillip
30 Peter or Alissa Rogers.
31

32 MR. MAXIE: Alissa Rogers.
33

34 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney.
35

36 MR. ONEY: Alissa Rogers.
37

38 MS. PATTON: Richard Slats.
39

40 MR. SLATS: Alissa Rogers.
41

42 MS. PATTON: Alissa Rogers.
43

44 Thomas Alstrom.
45

46 MR. ALSTROM: Alissa Rogers.
47

48 MS. PATTON: Okay. And then we have
49 our two nominations, Phillip Peter, Sr.
50

1 MR. PETER: Vote for Alissa Rogers.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Phillip.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful, thank you
12 everyone.
13
14 So we do have the majority of votes for
15 Alissa Rogers, reelected as YK Delta RAC Chair. Thank
16 you everyone and I will turn it back to Alissa to Chair
17 the meeting.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
20
21 At this time we're going to be taking
22 up Vice Chair. We'll go ahead and open up the
23 nominations. The nomination does not need a second.
24 The floor is open for nominations for Vice Chair.
25
26 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
29
30 MR. ANDREW: I nominate Phillip Peter.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: A nomination for
33 Phillip Peter.
34
35 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
38
39 MR. LANDLORD: I nominate Ray Oney.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Nomination for
42 Ray Oney.
43
44 Any further nominations.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,
49 Eva, can you do the same thing that you just did for
50

1 the Chair's seat on roll call.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Madame
4 Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, wait, someone
7 has to close it, sorry, Eva, I jumped the gun.

8

9 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. I move to
10 close nominations. This is James Landlord.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
13 Landlord. We'll go ahead and close the nomination.
14 Eva, can you now do roll call for Vice Chair.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 So we have two nominations for Vice Chair. We have a
18 nomination for Phillip Peter, Sr., for Vice Chair, and
19 a nomination for Ray Oney for Vice Chair. So,
20 similarly, if I go down by roll call vote, please say
21 which you would like to elect to Vice Chair.

22

23 John Andrew.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. PATTON: Again, this is nominations
32 for Vice Chair, and we have two people nominated, one
33 is Phillip Peter, Sr., and the other is Ray Oney.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PATTON: Maybe we'll reconnect with
38 Thomas on line. We'll go down to James Landlord.

39

40 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Okay, go ahead, Thomas.

43

44 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, I vote Ray Oney.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas.

47

48 James Landlord.

49

50

1 MR. LANDLORD: Ray Oney.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.
4
5 Carl Maxie.
6
7 MR. MAXIE: Phillip Peter.
8
9 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry was that Phillip
10 Peter?
11
12 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am.
13
14 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Just
15 wanted to confirm I heard you correctly.
16
17 Richard Slats.
18
19 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter.
20
21 MS. PATTON: And we go back up to
22 Phillip Peter.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MS. PATTON: Phillip, are you on line,
27 would you like to vote.
28
29 MR. ANDREW: Phillip.
30
31 MR. PETER: Do I have to vote for
32 myself, too, or what?
33
34 MS. PATTON: Pardon?
35
36 MR. PETER: Do you have to vote for --
37 oh, Raymond Oney.
38
39 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.
40
41 Ray Oney.
42
43 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Just to keep our
50

1 official level here with Kuskokwim and Yukon folks,
2 I'll go ahead and vote for Ray Oney.
3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alissa. So we
5 have one, two, three, four votes for Ray and four votes
6 for Phillip so we do have a tie, and when it comes to
7 election of officers we hold the vote again until we
8 can break a tie vote.
9

10 So we currently have an equal number of
11 Council members voting right now so we'll go back down
12 the list again to see if we can break the tie and elect
13 one for Vice Chair.
14

15 Okay, we'll start at the top again,
16 John Andrew.
17

18 MR. ANDREW: Phillip Peter.
19

20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John.
21

22 Thomas Alstrom.
23

24 MR. ALSTROM: Ray Oney.
25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas.
27

28 James Landlord.
29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Phillip.
31

32 MS. PATTON: Hello, James, I didn't
33 quite hear that, can you please repeat.
34

35 MR. LANDLORD: Phillip Peter.
36

37 MS. PATTON: Okay, Phillip.
38

39 Carl Maxie.
40

41 MR. MAXIE: Phillip Peter.
42

43 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.
44

45 Richard Slats.
46

47 MR. SLATS: Phillip Peter.
48

49 MS. PATTON: Ray Oney.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.
4
5 MR. PETER: I vote for Ray.
6
7 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray Oney.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. So now
12 the vote is now five for Phillip Peter and three for
13 Ray Oney. So Phillip Peter as Vice Chair.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: And we're going
16 to go ahead and move on to Secretary. I'll go ahead
17 and open the floor for Secretary.
18
19 MR. PETER: I nominate Ray Oney. This
20 is Phillip.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
23 Phillip.
24
25 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair. I move to
26 close the nomination. This is Richard Slats.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
29 Richard. If there is no more nominations we'll go
30 ahead and close it at this time.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, all
35 those in favor of Ray Oney go ahead and signify by
36 saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
41 opposed.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Ray,
46 we have you as our Secretary, congratulations.
47
48 MR. ONEY: Thank you.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome.
2
3 Okay.
4
5 We'll go ahead and open the floor up if
6 -- I feel like we should take a break but then we're
7 all on teleconference so we can't -- if you guys want
8 to -- what do you guys say, do you guys want to take a
9 quick five, 10 minute break and then come back or do
10 you guys want to keep going.
11
12 MR. ONEY: Keep going until noon.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, a
15 voice has been heard. We'll go ahead and keep going.
16 I'll go ahead and open the floor now for public and
17 tribal comment on non-agenda items.
18
19 Public testimony.
20
21 Go ahead and state your first name,
22 your last name, your affiliation so we can get you
23 correctly on record.
24
25 (Pause)
26
27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. This is Eva
28 Patton, Council coordinator. Just wanted to check in
29 with the public that's joining us on teleconference
30 today. So we do have, on both days, in the morning, an
31 opportunity to address the Council on non-agenda items.
32 So if there's anything that you would like to bring to
33 the Council's attention, anything to relay from your
34 community that's not on the agenda, at this time, you
35 can go ahead and alert us that you'd like to speak to
36 the Council. We would just need your name and who
37 you're representing.
38
39 (Pause)
40
41 MR. BARON: Hi, this is William Baron.
42
43 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.
44
45 MR. PETER: Yeah.
46
47 MR. BARON: Hello.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We heard a couple
50

1 people there.

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MR. WILLIAMS: This is Mike Williams
from Akiak.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mike.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. First of
all, I'd like to commend your recognition for our
friend Harry Wilde. He has been a tireless worker for
our subsistence hunting and fishing and gathering
rights here in the region. And I spent a lot of time
with him and it was good for him to give us advice and
guidance to our way of life out here. And it's a
public service that sometimes go, you know, he lost a
lot of family time and a lot of that. So our hearts go
out to his family and to all of you.

That's No. 1.

No. 2. Akiak Native Community has been
submitting special action requests for the Kuskokwim
River chinook salmon for the last five, this is our
fifth year, and we request the Federal Subsistence
Board to take up those SARs in April, early enough for
us to -- do not rush in May, and that is our
recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board, to
take up the Kuskokwim River special action requests
early enough so we can start planning for the summer
early enough. I know we have those preliminary numbers
right now. And that's No. 2.

No. 3. Our concern about the climate
change impacts and we applaud the Western Alaska
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives that have been
doing a lot of research in our fish and wildlife and
also the water and the air and the land. And I think
those critical information that is happening to our
communities with the climate change impacts, I think we
need to make sure that we be getting engaged in that
because it affects our fish, since we seen a lot of
dead fish on the river last summer with -- in regards
to the reds when we checked those fish, a lot of red
fish on the Kuskokwim River were floating down. And
every time we stopped by when those seagulls feed on
them, we checked and it was mostly over 90 percent reds
that were died from the heat, I think.

(Telephone interference - participants

1 note muted - participant phone on hold)

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: But, anyway, I think we
4 need to continue to do all of that research and to
5 support that.

6

7 But those are the only three things
8 that I kind of wanted to make comments on. But, again,
9 we're going to speak to our own special action request
10 for the Kuskokwim River later on.

11

12 Thank you very much.

13

14 MR. JORDAN: Hi, Alissa.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi.

17

18 MR. JORDAN: This is Moses Jordan,
19 Natural Resources for Orutsararmut Native Council.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Welcome, go
22 ahead.

23

24 MR. JORDAN: We have a letter to the
25 Federal Subsistence Board that we've come out with our
26 committee, Subsistence Committee. It says:

27

28 To the Federal Subsistence Board from
29 Orutsararmut Native Council, letter of recommendation
30 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The recommendation
31 from the Orutsararmut Native, ONC, Subsistence
32 Committee on the following Federal special actions 20-
33 01, 20-02, and 20-03 as follows:

34

35 ONC Subsistence Committee does not
36 agree with the ANILCA .804 recommendation.

37

38 A. Allow the State of Alaska to manage
39 the chinook salmon fishery based on the current 2020
40 preseason forecast for the chinook salmon estimates
41 with the range mid-point of 220,000.

42

43 B. Based on the current return
44 estimate, ONC Subsistence Committee understands the
45 conservative management directly for the subsistence
46 use under ANILCA .804 would be complicated and
47 difficult to enforce.

48

49 2. If chinook salmon return estimates

50

1 do not uphold current numbers based on the ADF&G
2 chinook salmon preliminary estimates, the ONC
3 Subsistence Committee recommends that ANILCA .804 be
4 enacted and Federal management will pursue until
5 chinook salmon estimates are met.

6
7 I also have Robert Lekander with me.

8
9 MR. LEKANDER: Hello, Alissa.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning,
12 Robert, welcome.

13
14 MR. LEKANDER: Good morning. Just like
15 Mike was saying, all those SARs, I hope they work on
16 them early and we all know that on the Kuskokwim we are
17 subsistence lifestyles, we've been on it all my life.
18 And I hope the Feds take over because there's so many
19 things going on, the global warming and I worry about
20 that and high seas fishing and maybe we ought to keep
21 getting those SARs out every year because just a few
22 years of good -- last year was good, but the fish are
23 so small and we ought to be cautious and let the Feds
24 go for it again.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
29 Robert. Do we have anyone else for public testimony on
30 nonagenda items.

31
32 MR. BARRON: Yeah, Hi, Alissa, this is
33 William (Ind) Barron. I'm an anthropologist.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi Will.

36
37 MR. BARRON: I've been working in
38 Akiak. And I just wanted to take this opportunity to
39 share some of what I've been learning so thank you for
40 this space.

41
42 So I've been conducting research in
43 Akiak since 2016 on issues related to fisheries
44 management and well being. So I just wanted to briefly
45 share a bit what that research looks like and then what
46 I've learned and make a broad recommendation at this
47 point.

48
49 So since 2016 I've spent about 14

50

1 months in Akiak and while some of my research had
2 involved individual and group interviews, most of my
3 research has entailed fishing with people, working with
4 youth, attending tribal council meetings and simply
5 learning what matters to people by spending time with
6 them in their day to day lives. I've also attended
7 numerous meetings of the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
8 Fish Commission as well as other fisheries management
9 related meetings in the YKDelta region.

10

11 Although drastically high rates of
12 morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples in
13 Alaska are not, at least to my knowledge, taken into
14 consideration by the State of Alaska and Federal
15 government when making fisheries management decisions,
16 I have found that people understand ways of living and
17 dying as related, at least partially to be effective
18 fisheries management on their well being. For this
19 reason, my research attempts to broaden a perspective
20 on what well being means to people that goes beyond
21 medical categories of disease and illness.
22 Specifically my research focuses on how practices
23 involving in fishing are also practices of care.

24

25 Thinking more broadly about while being
26 involved, thinking about how care occurs in ways that
27 are not just hierarchy, so relations of care in which
28 there is an uneven distribution of power between
29 caregivers and recipients of care, in many ways,
30 reflected the relationship between the Federal
31 government and Alaska Native peoples as well as the
32 State of Alaska and tribes. One way this relationship
33 plays out is in the context of fisheries management,
34 when, for example, Federal fisheries managers say that
35 they are giving people an opportunity to get a taste of
36 fish when the river is open for 12 hours or 24 hours.
37 This kind of regulatory gift, in my opinion, epitomizes
38 the way that the settler formula institution
39 historically present themselves as generous, and
40 benevolent and how they continue to do so. But what
41 I've learned through my research is that people want
42 far more than merely get a taste of fish, a taste of
43 fish does not just mean, as I understand it, tasting of
44 fish, people want the ability to take care of each
45 other on their own terms. Which, among other things,
46 means being able to regulate themselves instead of
47 being regulated.

48

49

50

So the care, the way that I see care

1 playing out is unique because, you know, it's also
2 harder to identify because it does not look like
3 clinical forms of care that pass between people
4 directly or how people would take care of each other
5 when somebody has the flu, for instance, instead no
6 care, as I see it, is occurring through a shared
7 concern for salmon. We can sort of imagine, or I would
8 like us to imagine, you know, how care is, in a way,
9 triangulated among humans and fish, rather than passed
10 only between humans. And one specific way this plays
11 out is when people use fish camp as interventions for
12 family members and tribal citizens who are struggling
13 with substance abuse or depression. This
14 responsibility to take care of fish brings people into
15 a network of relationships with fish and family and
16 this network fosters mental and social health.

17
18 So fisheries management is a
19 complicated process and I'm still learning a lot about
20 the many factors involved. But what I can say is that
21 for many people in Akiak, as they've shared with me,
22 well being means being able to care for each other in
23 ways that are socially, culturally and ethically sound,
24 which means fishing with family at the proper time and
25 in the proper ways.

26
27 So just to wrap up.

28
29 I've brought a recommendation at this
30 time, just to say that tribes need to be trusted to
31 count their own fish and to manage their own fishing,
32 and the Federal government, in my mind, has the ability
33 to instill this trust in tribes. You know fisheries
34 issues are more than about food security, it's about
35 sovereignty and we're on this teleconference and not
36 meeting face to face because of a public health crises
37 and I would encourage us all to see the issues that
38 we're talking about today, fisheries issues, is about
39 public health first and foremost and the health of
40 Alaska Native peoples.

41
42 So thank you for your time.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you. We might have
45 lost our Chair there for just a moment, and can I get
46 your name again please.

47
48 MR. BARRON: Yes, my name is Will (Ind)
49 Barron.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you
2 very much. Appreciate it.
3
4 MR. BARRON: Yeah, Quyana.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Eva, I got
7 disconnected.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thanks we got
10 you back on line.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry about that.
13
14 Would you be able to give a quick
15 summary of what he said, I lost him at the people are
16 -- Akiak -- Sir, would you be willing to do a quick
17 summary of what you said. I apologize that I got
18 disconnected. The last thing that I heard you say was
19 that the people of Akiak greatly appreciated sharing
20 their information with you and you found and then
21 that's when I lost you.
22
23 MR. BARRON: Yeah, well, sure, I'll try
24 to summarize.
25
26 (Pause)
27
28 MR. BARRON: People -- well, wellbeing
29 means for people, as I understand it, and how they
30 shared with me, is being able to take care of
31 themselves on their own terms. And Phillip Peter, Sr.,
32 we heard him share earlier today that, you know, people
33 have been regulating themselves for a long time and
34 they know how to count their fish and they know how to
35 manage their fish and the Federal government has the
36 ability to instill that trust in tribes. And rather
37 than having a hierarchy relationship of care, whether
38 there's an uneven power distribution between the State
39 and the Federal government and tribes, you know, people
40 are taking care of themselves by fishing together and
41 from the mental to the social, you know, people's
42 social and mental health.
43
44 Yeah, and the big point is that this is
45 about more than food security but about sovereignty and
46 I think this is a public health crises, or a public
47 health issue.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
50

1 MR. BARRON: Sorry if that's not -- is
2 that -- I'm happy to answer other questions. My
3 apologies if that's not a good summary for you.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, it's okay.
6 I'll get a review update from Eva, she's writing our
7 meeting minutes and everything and you're also being
8 recorded, so if any confusion, I'll go ahead and go
9 back and review the recording.
10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I would
12 suggest that Will email that to Eva and please share,
13 you know, if you have a written thing, because you're
14 cutting out, even up here.
15

16 Thanks.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's a good
19 idea. If that's okay with you, to go ahead and notify
20 Eva and be able to have her assist you distributing
21 that information.
22

23 MR. BARRON: Absolutely. I will send
24 that email to Eva now. I have it written down. Sorry
25 that I was cutting out.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No problem. We
28 have expected technical difficulties with a
29 teleconference.
30

31 All right. Anyone else in
32 teleconference land that has a public testimony.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
39

40 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, this is Martin
41 Nicolai in Kwethluk.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, good morning.
44 Thank you for joining us.
45

46 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, good morning.
47 Yeah, I've spoken about this before in the past and I'm
48 going to remind the Council again, and, hopefully, the
49 Federal Fish and Game, that gives us -- the weir is
50

1 going to be operated by the tribe here this year and
2 I'm going to push for, not only one opening for the
3 fish to pass through the weir but I wanted to see
4 another opening for the fish to pass through the weir
5 instead of -- instead of going back and forth for most
6 of the fist, that they would have less trouble passing
7 the weir. And I hope to see another opening sometime
8 either this year or in the future sometime if the -- if
9 the State or the Federal side is going to keep counting
10 the fish through the weir process during all of our
11 (indiscernible - poor connection).
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
14 U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service is going to be giving a
15 fish update on their agency reports and other -- I
16 believe, and, Ray, could correct me if I'm wrong, but
17 they're going to be giving also information on the weir
18 for their plans for 2020.
19

20 MR. BORN: This is Ray. That's
21 correct. We have a slide on the Kwethluk weir for the
22 agency updates. So, thank you, Alissa.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
25

26 MR. ALSTROM: Hey, Alissa.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, how are you
29 doing. Welcome. Thanks for joining us, go ahead.
30

31 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, this is Bill at St.
32 Mary's. I just got on and what is the public
33 testifying about?
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Anything you want
36 to testify about in regards to non-agenda items.
37

38 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, okay. I thought it
39 was specifically something else. Okay, thank you.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You can if you
42 want to if you have anything to report.
43

44 MR. ALSTROM: Well, not at the moment.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
47 you for joining us this morning.
48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you everyone.
50

1 And.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: At this.....
4
5 MS. PATTON:I do want to remind
6 folks, so we did hear from ONC, from Moses, and
7 just.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, we lost you.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Can you hear me now.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MS. PATTON: Alissa, are you able to
16 hear me.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are you
19 available.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Are you able to hear me
22 now.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry folks it
29 looks like we have lost our OSM folks up in Anchorage
30 so standby until they reconnect. I'm going to get a
31 hold of Eva and let her know.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Hi, Alissa, can you hear
34 me through this mic.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 MS. PATTON: Alrighty. I'm going to
39 text and we're going to try to fix our connection on
40 this end.
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 MS. PATTON: Hello, can I just check in
47 with any Council members who may be on line.
48
49 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Hi Ray. Thank you. I
2 think we're still waiting for a few others of our
3 Council members here. So we'll just standby for a few
4 more minutes while we wait for the remainder of our
5 Council together.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Hello, Thomas. Wonderful,
12 thank you.

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, do we have
17 Eva and Tina on line.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Hello, welcome Alissa.
20 Yes, this is Eva. And we do have a few Council members
21 on line, maybe we'll touch base and see who else has
22 joined us.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, that's great.

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 MS. PATTON: Let's see so far we had
29 Ray Oney and Thomas Alstrom. Do we have other Council
30 members who've joined back on line.

31
32 MR. PETER: Phillip Peter.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip.

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 MS. PATTON: Any other Council members
39 on teleconference with us at this time.

40
41 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord
42 from Mountain Village.

43
44 MS. PATTON: James. Thank you, James.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 MS. PATTON: Any other Council members
49 that have joined us on teleconference.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Let's see, we will give it
4 just a few more minutes here so we can gather the last
5 few Council members.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MS. PATTON: Okay. Just touching base
10 here again, do we have any other Council members that
11 have just joined us.

12

13 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Hello, Richard, thank you.

16

17 MR. MAXIE: Carl Maxie, Napaskiak.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Hello, Carl, thank you. I
20 can hear you better now.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. PATTON: Do we have John Andrew on
25 teleconference yet.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. PATTON: Okay, while we're waiting
30 for John Andrew to join us welcome, again, everyone.
31 It sounds like you can hear okay on teleconference land
32 there.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: Loud and clear.

35

36 MR. ONEY: Yes.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Okay. So this afternoon,
39 we were going to move right into the Mulchatna Caribou
40 Herd update from Lauren Watine, and the wildlife
41 special action submitted by Togiak National Wildlife
42 Refuge for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So that will be
43 coming up here just shortly. Do we have Lauren on
44 line.

45

46 MS. WATINE: You do, I am here. Can
47 you hear me?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Loud and clear, thank you.

50

1 And I'll turn it back over to our Chair to open up our
2 session and John Andrew can join us when he comes on
3 line.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
6 Thank you, folks, for coming back. We'll go ahead and
7 call this meeting back to order at 1:08 on this
8 beautiful 16th of March.
9

10 Under our new business, Item No. 10A,
11 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. We have -- I'm sorry, I forgot
12 your name again.
13

14 MS. WATINE: This is Lauren Watine.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
17 Lauren. I didn't want to butcher your last name.
18

19 MS. WATINE: That's okay.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, take it
22 away, it's all yours.
23

24 MS. WATINE: Well, thank you, Madame
25 Chair and thank you everyone for giving me this chance
26 to sort of speak out of order. I really appreciate the
27 opportunity, and I hope I can share some really
28 important information with you and answer any questions
29 you might have about the Mulchatna.
30

31 So I'm going to start with a bit of a
32 summary of what's happened since August before moving
33 into more of the update.
34

35 So we've been very busy collecting
36 information on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd since our
37 last meeting. But to summarize what has occurred,
38 since August 2019 when we changed the RC503 bag limit
39 for Mulchatna caribou from two animals to one animal.
40 So that decision was made based on our July post-
41 calving population survey that estimated the herd at
42 approximately 13,500 which is reduced by about 50
43 percent since the last population estimate conducted in
44 2016.
45

46 At that time we asked Federal managers
47 to match our bag limit reduction at which point a
48 special action request with a public comment period was
49 initiated. After about two months the Federal
50

1 Subsistence Board agreed to match the State reductions
2 and appointed the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge as
3 Federal in-season managers for the Mulchatna to allow
4 prompt action to be taken on Federal lands as the State
5 learned more about the status of the Mulchatna and
6 implemented decisions.

7
8 After many discussions with the State
9 and other parties, the hunt for the Mulchatna Caribou
10 Herd was closed on Federal lands at the end of
11 December. A decision that the State was in agreement
12 with, but which we decided to wait until we had a
13 chance to discuss the Mulchatna with the Board of Game
14 in Nome, which was meeting two weeks after that Federal
15 closure was initiated. That decision wasn't an easy
16 one to make but it was done because we wanted to ensure
17 that the Board fully understood the situation and why
18 we sought to close the hunt on this important herd.
19 And so with the Board's understanding and approval, we
20 made plans not just to close the hunt for the Mulchatna
21 for the remainder of the season, but we also began
22 rapidly working on a plan to communicate these
23 immediate changes with the public. So since January
24 31st, 2020, the hunt for the Mulchatna Caribou herd has
25 been completely closed on State and Federal lands.
26 Prior to and since that closure we've been monitoring
27 the herd with monthly flights for colored animal
28 survival and also to get a better understanding of the
29 herd's movement and dynamics on the landscape.

30
31 So as an update, just last week we
32 conducted three flights for the herd. Two flights
33 occurred in the western range of the Mulchatna and one
34 on the east. We saw fewer animals than we had
35 anticipated. Over the course of the whole survey out
36 west, and this is just the western part of the
37 Mulchatna's range we saw less than 2,500 caribou. The
38 largest group we observed was less than 600 animals.
39 We had 53 collared animals out west and we located 45
40 out of 53. And the eight caribou we couldn't find are
41 animals that have been missing since 2018 so we don't
42 know where those animals are, if they're alive, if
43 they're dead, if their collars died or anything like
44 that. But we still listened for them every time we go
45 out and conduct our surveys.

46
47 So next week we're going to begin our
48 captures for Mulchatna animals and we anticipate
49 collaring another 40 to 60 animals this spring. These
50

1 activities are going to be followed by our parturition
2 survey in May which will assess calf production in the
3 herd and we're, at that time, we're going to try to
4 capture close to 100 caribou calves and follow them for
5 survival through the fall. In June and July we will
6 conduct another post-calving population survey to get a
7 population estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
8 see where that population is sitting since our 2019
9 estimate of 13,500 animals.

10

11 Some other activities we're engaging in
12 with various partners includes greater education and
13 outreach with subsistence communities to help the
14 people of Alaska to understand what's occurring with
15 the Mulchatna and how they can help its recovery.
16 We're assessing range quality and evaluating the
17 predator control program in and adjacent to the
18 Mulchatna caribou calving grounds. And we are also
19 reevaluating current goals and population objectives
20 for this herd.

21

22 So I want to assure that everyone knows
23 we're doing everything possible to obtain a 2020 post-
24 calving population estimate for this herd. And
25 depending on what that estimate suggests for the
26 Mulchatna, there's a very real chance that the RC503
27 hunt for 2020 and 2021 will not open or be
28 substantially restricted if it opens at all.

29

30 We would all very much appreciate if
31 you could continue encouraging users to report on their
32 permits. Over 2,000 permits were issued prior to
33 closure and we've received 1,040 permit returns. From
34 the permit returns we've learned that 113 animals were
35 reported as successfully harvested so that would be 73
36 bulls and 40 cows. The rest of the returns were
37 unsuccessful or permittees did not hunt. Over half of
38 the permits that we still need reports on are from Unit
39 17 and the Bethel area. So, again, if you guys could
40 all help us by encouraging your friends, your
41 neighbors, your community to please report on their
42 hunts whether they hunted or not, we really, really
43 need that information.

44

45 So that's pretty much the bulk of my
46 update on the Mulchatna and if you have any questions
47 for me I'm more than happy to answer. There's probably
48 a lot more that hasn't been covered that you may have
49 questions about and I will do my best to answer those

50

1 questions, if you have them.

2

3 MR. NICOLAI: My name is Evan Nicolai
4 from Kwethluk. I'd like to have you address the
5 territory or where the herd goes, maybe you could do
6 that, I'd like to know that.

7

8 MS. WATINE: I will certainly do my
9 best. So when the herd is completely joined up for the
10 calving season they pretty much are in two different
11 areas of their range, and that's why we call them the
12 eastern herd and the west, even though they're all
13 Mulchatna animals. For western animals, they were
14 pretty much in the flats during our flight last week.
15 And they were pretty close to some of our villages,
16 like Quinhagak they were maybe 30 miles to the south
17 and east, so they're staying -- they're not very far
18 from our communities. So as people mentioned earlier
19 in the meeting today with all of the snow we had, we
20 were happy that we were able to close the hunt when we
21 did because otherwise it would have been very easy for
22 people to harvest animals, which wouldn't have been
23 great for this herd at this time. Especially given the
24 fact that they are ranging closer to communities with
25 these deeper snows right now.

26

27 MR. NICOLAI: Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
30 have any more comments or questions for her.

31

32 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is.....

33

34 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We have Peter
37 Phillip and then who is this.

38

39 MR. SLATS: Richard.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you.
42 We have -- go ahead Peter.

43

44 MR. PETER: Yeah, those caribous,
45 they're decreasing and what causes them to decrease,
46 those caribous?

47

48 MS. WATINE: Was the question what's
49 causing them to decrease?

50

1 MR. PETER: Yeah, what causes them.

2
3 MS. WATINE: So that's something we're
4 still trying to learn more about right now. Caribou
5 naturally go through a cycle where they increase quite
6 a bit, like we saw in the late '90s and early 2000s and
7 then they'll decrease back to their stable population.
8 For some reason, as the Mulchatna decreased it never
9 stabilized, it just continued to decrease, which is
10 outside of the normal pattern for caribou. So we're
11 not 100 percent sure why it's decreasing but it's
12 likely due to a combination of things. There's
13 probably not any one single factor that's causing that
14 decline. And that's one of the reasons why we want to
15 look at range quality because when we have so many
16 animals on a landscape in the '90s and 2000s that could
17 have degraded the available habitat for the Mulchatna
18 animals. So that's a possibility, or possible reason
19 why they're not doing so well. There could be added
20 human harvest pressure on the Mulchatna, there could be
21 predation issues. I mean it's -- we're not sure. It
22 could even just be the animals changing their movement
23 patterns and their dynamics. And so that's one of the
24 reasons why we're going to be putting forth more of an
25 -- a greater effort this year to collar animals so that
26 we can get a better understanding of what the animals
27 are doing on the landscape and maybe what's causing
28 this herd to continue to decline instead of stabilize.

29
30 MR. PETER: Is the -- another question,
31 you know, last year they opened it in August and then
32 it closed on the 31st of December last year, and I was
33 wondering how many permitholders catch in August and
34 December.

35
36 MS. WATINE: I'm sorry I missed that
37 last part. How many what?

38
39 MR. PETER: How many in December before
40 it closes, permitholders kill caribou.

41
42 MS. WATINE: How many were -- okay, so
43 in December -- in December the hunt was closed on
44 Federal lands but it remained open on State land. By
45 the end of December, we had about 90 animals reported
46 harvested. But that wasn't just on Federal lands, that
47 was including Federal and State lands.

48
49 MR. PETER: What about in August?

50

1 MS. WATINE: Back in August when we
2 reduced the limit -- so the hunt was still open in
3 August, the limit was two animals until mid to late
4 August when it went down to one animal. And I think at
5 that time -- I don't have the information in front of
6 me but that's not really a period when a lot of animals
7 are harvested, at the beginning of the season. There
8 might have been 10 reported harvested at that time but
9 most people don't start hunting until a little bit
10 after August and then there's that pause in October
11 during the rut before people start trying to harvest
12 animals again.

13
14 MR. PETER: And another question for
15 you, Ma'am, is that Unit 19A, which is up river in the
16 Holitna area, there's some caribous up there too in 19A
17 up river, Holitna area, and does anyone go up there and
18 kill caribou animals up there?

19
20 MS. WATINE: That's a great question,
21 and I don't have a great answer for you. Most harvest
22 doesn't occur in Unit 19. Most of it occurs in Unit
23 18. But I can certainly look that information up and
24 get it to the Board at a later time, if that's
25 acceptable.

26
27 MR. PETER: Okay, thank you.

28
29 MS. WATINE: You're welcome.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Do we have
32 any more further questions or comments.

33
34 MR. SLATS: Yes.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, I'm sorry, we
37 have Richard Slats. And then.....

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

40
41 MR. SLATS: Hi, this is Richard. I
42 believe Mr. Phillips may have asked this, during your
43 study when you're looking at the Mulchatna caribou,
44 during your studies have there been any like
45 (indiscernible - poor connection) or findings or
46 comments of their initial decline. I remember when we
47 were discussing this in October it was like half of the
48 population was gone and then at that time, when we were
49 moving between -- we were -- like weathered out, and

50

1 then rain, and then rain turned to ice and then we kind
2 of looked out the window and wondering whether -- if
3 the caribou is looking at these kind of weather
4 conditions, whether their eating habits, you know,
5 feeding grounds were being rained on and then ice
6 forming over them when it cooled off and then it gets
7 really hard for them. We're wondering if any of the,
8 like these kind of things have effect on what that big
9 decline was back in the day and then also was looking
10 at some of my readings about 200 reindeers being --
11 well, dying, in (indiscernible) a couple years before
12 -- well, two or three years ago, and then, you know,
13 these things are not always -- not always the leaders,
14 you know, (indiscernible) we're not taking half of the
15 population of the Mulchatna caribou, you know, so we
16 need to -- I think maybe that needs to be made clear
17 when we talk about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, that
18 it's not the subsistence hunter that's causing the
19 decline.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. And that's a
24 really important point. And if I wasn't clear when I
25 was talking earlier, I completely apologize, I don't
26 want anyone to think that we're saying our subsistence
27 hunters are the reason that the Mulchatna has declined,
28 because that is certainly not the case.

29

30 As we've seen in many other situations
31 there's never a single reason for these patterns that
32 we observe. There's many potential interacting factors
33 that can be affecting the Mulchatna and causing this
34 decline.

35

36 One of the things I did bring up
37 earlier was range quality and that can also very much
38 be affected by weather patterns. There could be really
39 good food on the landscape but if the Mulchatna animals
40 can't access it because of different weather events
41 that could certainly affect them. So I have spoken
42 with several people about the potential for these ice
43 events on the vegetation to affect the Mulchatna, and
44 it can certainly make it harder for them to forage
45 effectively, and so that could certainly be
46 contributing to their decline.

47

48 To your original question which was
49 what do we -- do we know any information on --

50

1 regarding the causes of this decline, again, no, we
2 don't -- we don't have any hard information right now.
3 We're still working on collecting information. You
4 know it's taken the Mulchatna a number of years to get
5 to this point, it didn't just happen over night and so
6 it's going to take us a bit of time to understand
7 what's happening to this herd. But we are looking at
8 all of those different factors that you've identified
9 as we try and determine the answer to what's happening
10 with Mulchatna.

11
12 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair. This is Carl
13 from Napaskiak.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Carl, go
16 ahead.

17
18 MR. MAXIE: I have a question regarding
19 the decline in counting. My question is do you count
20 wolf packs around the caribou. I usually go out
21 Napaskiak to Kwethluk and it was very odd that I seen
22 wolf packs and -- I mean wolf packs and I seen caribou
23 tracks going out to trees, I don't know if they were
24 separated from the herd or (indiscernible - poor
25 connection) that was my question in regards to wolf
26 packs, and I seen before from the past.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MS. WATINE: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear
31 you very well, you were going in and out with your
32 comments. Were you asking about wolf packs?

33
34 MR. MAXIE: Yes. Do you count caribou
35 at the same time -- count wolf packs in the area at the
36 same time you count caribou (indiscernible - poor
37 connection).

38
39 MS. PATTON: Carl, this is Eva, sorry
40 to interrupt here. I was wondering are you able to get
41 really close to the phone receiver, to speak loudly,
42 it's kind of fading in and out, it's difficult to hear.

43
44 MR. MAXIE: Does this sound better?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, much better, thank
47 you.

48
49 MR. MAXIE: Okay. My question was,

50

1 when you count Mulchatna Caribou Herd, do you count
2 wolf packs around the caribous, and area where the
3 caribous are roaming around and plus I'm seeing more
4 wolf packs than ever before from Napaskiak to Kwethluk
5 on the back trail and I'm seeing more caribou tracks as
6 well going down to trees out of the area, are they
7 separated from the herd or not and that was my
8 questions for -- if they counted wolves or wolf packs
9 when counting caribou herds?

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. WATINE: Thank you for repeating
14 your question and speaking closer to the receiver
15 because that helped a lot. And so you've asked a very
16 -- a great question. Normally we count our wolf packs
17 in winter because it's much easier to follow them and
18 also see them with good snow conditions. We count our
19 caribou in the herd in June and July when they're
20 grouped together trying to get away from the heat and
21 bugs. So it's kind of hard to see wolf packs at that
22 time so we don't count wolf packs and caribou at the
23 same time but we do have wolves collared in areas where
24 the Mulchatna calve and in areas surrounding the
25 calving grounds. So we do our best to keep collared
26 animals in these packs so that we can get an idea of
27 how close they're getting to Mulchatna caribou and also
28 maybe how often they're trying to hunt caribou and at
29 what times of year. And we use this information to
30 also get an understanding of how many packs are
31 actually in the area.

32

33 We've had some interesting reports
34 actually from our participants in the wolf control
35 program. We've been seeing -- not only have they been
36 seeing a lot of wolves on the landscape this winter, as
37 everyone seems to be reporting, but they're seeing a
38 lot of small packs. Now, what's causing there to be a
39 bunch of little packs we don't know but some people --
40 some previous work has suggested that in areas where
41 wolves are heavily harvested they don't -- they split
42 out into smaller packs or they don't group up into
43 large packs because they keep losing their members, of
44 the packs. So that's one of the things we're hoping to
45 evaluate with the wolf control program, which is, what
46 are some of the long term effects on wolf pack size and
47 structure in heavily harvested areas and are we really
48 meeting the goal of that program by harvesting wolves.
49 Is it actually helping to promote caribou calf

50

1 survival, which is the goal of this wolf control
2 program. Is removing wolves from the area in the hopes
3 that with less predators around these calves will have
4 a chance to be recruited into the population. But is
5 that actually being achieved.

6
7 So I hope that helps answer your
8 question.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
11 questions, Carl.

12
13 MR. MAXIE: Thank you very much.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have anyone
16 else.

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.

21
22 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew at
23 Kwethluk. In the years past when I used to do a lot of
24 hunting and trapping up in near the hills, some of the
25 years when -- way back in the '70s and early '80s, when
26 we have heavy snow, when the snow is deep the caribou
27 have trouble getting to their (indiscernible), the
28 moss, the tundra or the hills, when they're weak the
29 wolves will always sense that and they always hunt them
30 down, just kill them and leave them. One time I drive
31 that road -the hunters from Bethel and we found it --
32 we tracked one herd at the same time were going after
33 them. We counted 18 wolf kill in one morning. Not a
34 lot of them were eaten except the last two. And I used
35 to hear stories from those old reindeer herders that
36 passed on from my area, in the winters where they have
37 deep snow like this, and when in the winter they have a
38 rainy spell and freeze over there will be mass
39 starvation everywhere they -- in their migratory routes
40 and not just starvation sometimes they fell through the
41 ice in the swift waters, we don't see those because
42 we're not up there to observe them. And right before
43 they crashed in the 80s we noticed that the Mulchatna
44 animals, because we know them because we live with them
45 back in their migratory routes and they were showing
46 up, the big brown ones with collars on them, we call
47 them Mulchatna and the other one, Bristol Bay herd, is
48 like the big tall ones with the light tan colors, they
49 were -- they have some kind of sickness on them and
50

1 they have -- they looked like worms inside their
2 stomach. They're pink colored and they weren't eating
3 well and some of them were suffering from hoof rot,
4 that's mostly in the fall time, but in the winter they
5 were mostly -- even their females were just laying,
6 they weren't healthy, right before they crashed.

7

8 Those are just some of the factors we
9 have to look into.

10

11 And those old reindeer herders always
12 used to tell us that there's a difference between the
13 Mulchatna herd and the Kilbuk Caribou Herd, there's a
14 group of -- a herd up there, up in the (indiscernible)
15 Aniak and Kwethluk up in the higher hills, higher
16 mountains back there. They don't -- all of them
17 they'll get sucked along with the Mulchatna Herd when
18 they go by and some of those Mulchatna Herd they always
19 fall off on the trail. In the summer time we see a few
20 here and there back in our area when we're berry
21 picking. And it's a pretty complicated issue I think
22 for some, but very few know those, the biologists that
23 work with the herds.

24

25 Qu yana.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Thank you very much. And
28 you brought up something that -- I'm very happy you did
29 because we've been talking a lot about some of the
30 leftover effects of the Kilbuk Herd being, I guess,
31 consumed by the Mulchatna, and how the Mulchatna and
32 the Kilbuk had two different patterns and how they used
33 the landscape and how they behaved, and so what are
34 some of the effects of -- what are some of the effects
35 the Kilbuk Herd might be having on the Mulchatna's
36 movement and behavior and patterns. So that's
37 definitely something we are very interested in. And
38 we're doing our best to take into account, as we try
39 and tease apart what's happening on this landscape.
40 You know something you talked about earlier when you
41 were discussing the Mulchatna was these heavy deep
42 snows and starvation for the herd and, you know, we're
43 in some ways very happy to finally be having a real
44 winter for the first time in maybe six, almost 10
45 years, but at the same time the Mulchatna has had
46 several years now of really mild winters where they can
47 access food and forage and it hasn't been too much of a
48 struggle for them and now they're fighting a real
49 winter. So that could definitely have some really

50

1 negative effects on this herd moving forward. That,
2 again, we'll have to take that into account as we try
3 to figure out what to do with this herd and how to best
4 help it grow again.

5
6 You brought up some issues with disease
7 and I'm sorry part of your conversation cut out at that
8 point but it sounded like these were things you
9 observed before the herd started to decline last time
10 maybe in the '80s with worms and hoof rot. You know
11 hoof rot has been observed in the herd and I think Andy
12 might be able to -- Andy Aderman with Togiak might be
13 able to speak to that a little bit more maybe later,
14 but it is present in the herd and these worms aren't
15 unusual either. But I think it becomes a concern when
16 we see it -- see a lot of animals coming in that have
17 these worms. So far from people that reported
18 harvesting animals, they -- we didn't have any reports,
19 that I can recall, of worms, but I have heard of some
20 people cutting into the hide of their caribou and they
21 see worms just under the skin, it's not in the gut or
22 anything but it's just under the skin. But, again,
23 there weren't too many reports like that.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have anyone
26 else.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I
31 guess my question -- this is Alissa Rogers, I was
32 hoping to get a date or a timeframe when we could get
33 the next update on this caribou herd because I know
34 there's quite a bit of us that are watching this herd
35 fairly closely and so I haven't heard anything -- today
36 is my first update in a long time. So when should I be
37 looking for an update on this herd?

38
39 MS. WATINE: That's a great question,
40 Alissa. If you guys want more frequent updates,
41 please, connect with Eva and she can connect with me
42 and our liaison in Fish and Game to provide more
43 frequent updates. In some ways we chose to wait until
44 now to give an update because although we're actively
45 surveying the herd and working on it every single
46 month, to give you an update after every survey we do,
47 we wouldn't have too much to share, nothing very new.
48 And so I don't want there to be this fatigue of
49 information where you're hearing a lot from us but

50

1 you're not getting a lot of information.

2

3 So I mean we can certainly give you
4 more updates if that's what you would like, but up
5 until now this has been -- this is a pretty good time
6 to give a pretty good update with actual real
7 information of changes that have occurred and things
8 that we've learned. We're coming into our survey
9 season right now so pretty soon we're going to have a
10 lot of new information coming in. So we're going to
11 have new captures of animals and then we're going to
12 see our parturition survey being done which looks at
13 calf production and then we'll also be collaring calves
14 and looking at their survival. So after May we should
15 have some pretty good new information leading up to the
16 population estimate.

17

18 I won't be able to give you, I guess, a
19 full report on calf survival until the fall because we
20 try and write up all of that information after we feel
21 like -- if the calves have survived to a certain point,
22 they're probably recruited into the population and then
23 we can look back at all of those data points of animals
24 that survived or did not and come up with a good report
25 on calf survival through time for you. So that could
26 be coming in the fall if that's something you would
27 like a consistent report on, we can certainly work on
28 getting that information to you, for sure.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, that sounds
31 great. Thank you so much for that feedback.

32

33 Eva, would it be okay if you connected
34 her and get that information for us so we can keep
35 updated on this herd.

36

37 And my last question was since it
38 closed -- sorry, since we have closed the hunting down,
39 have we seen a decrease in the number of caribou go
40 down a bit, enough, or is it -- the closure -- I guess
41 that's what I'm trying to say.

42

43 MS. WATINE: Yeah, so are you asking
44 are we able to see more animals on the landscape right
45 now since closure or are we not seeing more harvested
46 animals on the landscape during surveys?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, I guess
49 what I'm trying to find out is, since we did the

50

1 closure and we're reducing the amount of harvesting,
2 I'm hoping that it's helping the population, at least
3 stabilize for now and that we're not seeing as much
4 dead caribou out there from hunting or elements or
5 anything like that. Every single caribou counts right
6 now to allowing this population to become abundant
7 again and reproduce. I just want to make sure that our
8 efforts and I want to make sure that our people know
9 that having this closure is to the benefit of the
10 population, but also acknowledging that -- and giving
11 respect to the people that because of their closure and
12 because we are not harvesting the caribou that in a
13 couple of years from now we're going to see a bounce
14 back of the caribou just like we did with the moose,
15 and I just want to give the appreciation to the people
16 because without their help, yeah, without the help of
17 them tightening the notches a little bit more and using
18 things to get harvest in their time of need, for this
19 population to grow so we can have more caribou down the
20 road.

21

22 I feel like the people need to be
23 acknowledged for that.

24

25 MS. WATINE: Absolutely. And I
26 completely agree with that. And so I won't have a
27 really great answer for you until we are able to get
28 our population estimate this coming summer. What I can
29 say is on my survey flights and on the law enforcement
30 flights that have been done, there have definitely been
31 -- from my understanding, less harvested animals on the
32 landscape. So people are getting the message. They
33 are not participating in the harvest activities. And
34 just so everybody knows, the entire hunt is closed on
35 State and Federal lands. So, legally, right now it is
36 -- so right now it's not legal to harvest Mulchatna
37 animals at all. And people are, for the most part,
38 following that closure. So it sounds to me like we've
39 gotten our message across but we need to continue to
40 make sure everyone is on board and understands why this
41 closure is necessary at this point.

42

43 I can't say right now, again, if this
44 closure is having the effect we want it to. At the
45 very least it's keeping things level, I would hope.
46 And I would hope at the very least, come June and July
47 when we do this next survey to estimate the population,
48 we do not see a decline in the population. I hope that
49 at the very least it is at 13,500 because that means we

50

1 have -- there are things we can do to help it grow and
2 that this action has done the bare minimum that we
3 needed it to, which is to stop the decline. And right
4 now that's the key is to just stop this decline and
5 then work towards determining why is it declining and
6 how can we cause it to increase again.

7
8 So I know that's not really the answer
9 you want maybe but that's the best answer we have right
10 now. And we can certainly keep you guys in the loop as
11 best as we can on what we're observing out there.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I
14 greatly appreciate the information.

15
16 Do we have anybody else that would like
17 to comment or have questions about the Mulchatna
18 Caribou Herd. If not, I'd entertain that we move on to
19 the next agenda item.

20
21 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
22 Born.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

25
26 MR. BORN: Yeah, I just want to echo
27 Lauren's appreciation for everybody's help in the
28 caribou with the closures happening. We've been
29 checking on it about once a week and we have not found
30 any kind of indication of any kind of tracks getting
31 close to the caribou so, again, thanks to everybody out
32 there for doing a great job of following the closure.
33 I really appreciate that support.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 (Telephone participant interference -
38 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
41 At this time, there's someone -- we're hearing some
42 background noise, can you please star six to mute your
43 phone or press mute on your phone.

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Press mute on your
46 phone.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I don't think
49 they can hear me.

50

1 (Telephone participant interference -
2 background noise overbearing -- phones not muted)

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Everyone just
5 want to check and look at your phone, star six to mute
6 your phone. Tina, is this a connectivity issue or is
7 this someone's phoneme, or do you have tha.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: You know, I think it's
10 background noise. So maybe we'll give a shout out to
11 everybody on teleconference, I know we've asked you to
12 get really close to the phone so we can hear everyone,
13 but mute your phone when you're not speaking and you
14 can do that if you have a mute button, or if you're on
15 a cell phone or just a regular phone that doesn't have
16 a mute button, just push star six and that will mute
17 it.

18
19 I'm not sure.....

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

22
23 MS. PATTON: Yeah, who -- is somebody
24 trying to address the Council?

25
26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MS. PATTON: Alrighty. Well, I'm not
30 sure we're going to be able to make a connection with
31 that person. If we might be able to proceed with that
32 background Everybody who's on teleconference right now
33 if you can please star six that will mute your phone
34 and that will help reduce the background noise.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, it seems
37 like it's getting worse.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Are people able to hear
40 okay. We've got Chris McKee who was going to address
41 the actual special action request regarding the
42 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Do you feel you can hear okay
43 for Chris to talk over the top.

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Don't you guys
46 have the ability to mute everybody?

47
48 MS. PATTON: Unfortunately we don't,
49 not with this teleconference system.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think we're
2 good.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Okay, great. Maybe we'll
5 go ahead and have Chris McKee, who is also on
6 teleconference, to provide an overview of the special
7 action request and we do have Togiak Staff on
8 teleconference as well.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Let's go
11 ahead and move on to special action with Chris McKee,
12 go ahead you have the floor.

13
14 MR. MCKEE: Okay, thank you. Madame
15 Chair and members of the Council. Again, for the
16 record my name is Chris McKee and I'm the Wildlife
17 Division supervisor at the Office of Subsistence
18 Management in Anchorage. I'm here just to give a brief
19 overview of the special action request WSA 20-04. At
20 this time the analysis is still in the early stages of
21 review and so I don't have an actual formal analysis to
22 present it to you at this time. But I wanted to give
23 you all a brief overview of what the request was so
24 that you can at least make an informed recommendation.

25
26 As was indicated earlier, this is an
27 action item for the Council and your recommendation
28 will be incorporated into the analysis that will be
29 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board on this
30 matter at a future date.

31
32 So Temporary Wildlife Special Action
33 Request, WSA 20-04 was submitted by the Togiak National
34 Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon Delta National Wildlife
35 Refuge and it requests that the Federal in-season
36 manager be delegated authority to open and close
37 seasons, announce harvest limits and set sex
38 restrictions for caribou in all or portions of Units
39 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B for the
40 2020/2022 regulatory cycle. The proponent states that
41 the summer 2019 population estimate for the Mulchatna
42 herd was 13,500 caribou, which represents a 50 percent
43 decline from the previous five years and is well below
44 the State's minimum population objective of 30,000
45 caribou. The proponents note that the 2019/2020
46 Federal and State seasons were shortened due to
47 conservation concerns and that this herd is not
48 expected to recover within the next year. The
49 proponents believe that this request will help conserve
50

1 and recover the herd and provide the flexibility needed
2 to make harvest management decisions in a timely
3 manner. They recognize that this request will reduce
4 harvest opportunity in the short run, but conserving
5 the herd now will increase harvest opportunity in the
6 future. The proponents also state that the harvest of
7 other resources, such as moose may increase in response
8 to this request.
9

10 So this has kind of been alluded to
11 previously, but just a little bit of a recent history.
12 In November of last year the Board approved Special
13 Action Request WSA19-07 with modification that
14 decreased the harvest limit for Mulchatna caribou from
15 two to one caribou across the range of the herd for the
16 2019/2020 regulatory year, and the modification
17 included closing Units 18, 19A and 19B to caribou
18 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
19 with the harvest limit of one bull caribou and
20 delegating authority to the Togiak National Wildlife
21 Refuge manager to open and close seasons throughout the
22 range of the herd and to set sex restrictions in Units
23 9A, B, C, 17A, B and C., for the 2019/2020 regulatory
24 year, and the Board approved the request due to serious
25 conservation concerns for the herd and support from the
26 affected Regional Advisory Councils and local users.
27

28 Following this action by the Board, the
29 acting Togiak Refuge Manager exercised his delegated
30 authority and closed caribou hunting on Federal public
31 lands across the range of the herd on December 31st,
32 2019 for the remainder of the season. And then shortly
33 thereafter in January of this year the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency order
35 which closed the RC503 caribou registration permit hunt
36 on January 31st, 2020. And ADF&G issued this emergency
37 order because of the population declines experienced in
38 the population.
39

40 So a lot of the other biology and kind
41 of the harvest questions were asked and answered by
42 Lauren in her previous presentation but I just wanted
43 to give you guys a quick overview about what was being
44 requested. We're also going to have public hearings
45 regarding this special action at a future date and
46 information that we get, any comments from the public
47 and other interested entities along with tribal
48 consultation will be incorporated into the analysis
49 before it is forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board for them to make a decision.

2

3 So with that that's all I had. If I
4 can answer any questions I'd be happy to do so.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
9 have any comments or discussion on this, if not we'll
10 go ahead and get a motion -- do you need a letter of
11 recommendation or a motion to support for this action
12 -- special action?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
15 this is Eva. Yes, the Board is seeking a
16 recommendation from the Council on this proposal. And
17 so, you know, standard to the Council's practice we
18 would seek a recommendation, you know, either in
19 support or oppose or support with modification and a
20 justification for that vote. And if I may, to have
21 Chris McKee repeat the special action request so it's
22 clear what is being asked.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: I move that we support
29 this special action request.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Is
32 this John.

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
37 Motion made to support a special action made by John
38 Andrew, can I get a second.

39

40 MR. PETER: Madame Chair I second the
41 motion. And I got a few comments I want to -- and one
42 question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, you
45 could.

46

47 MR. PETER: My question would be --
48 would it be from January all the way to March, all the
49 way to August, is it going to be a complete -- complete

50

1 closure, no fall hunting for caribou in Unit 18?

2

3 MR. MCKEE: So I can't really answer
4 that because I'm not sure what the determination the
5 Federal Subsistence Board is going to make. As I
6 indicated before it's just asking that the Federal
7 manager be delegated authority to open and close the
8 season, announce harvest limits and any sex
9 restrictions for caribou throughout the (indiscernible
10 - interruption)

11

12 (Telephone interference - participants
13 not muted - participant phone on hold)

14

15 MR. MCKEE: So I can't speak to what
16 the Board may or may not do or what the Federal
17 manager, depending on what the situation is during the
18 season.

19

20 MR. PETER: And it's going to be
21 completely closed for subsistence hunters and sport
22 hunters?

23

24 MR. MCKEE: Again, I can't answer that,
25 I don't know what the Board is going to do when it
26 makes a decision on the special action request or what
27 the Federal in-season manager might do once the season
28 comes around in August.

29

30 MR. PETER: Yeah, it looks like it's
31 going to be confusion on this subject, you know.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair, if I may.
34 One thing I forgot to add during my presentation is
35 that both the Western Interior and Bristol Bay Regional
36 Advisory Councils voted to support this special action
37 as submitted. So I forgot to add that into my
38 presentation but I wanted this Council to be aware of
39 that.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I
42 believe we had a motion on the floor to support this
43 proposal as is and it would have to rescind if -- if
44 anybody wants to make modifications, we'd have to
45 rescind the motion on the floor.

46

47 (Telephone interference - participants
48 not muted - participant phone on hold)

49

50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

4

5 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Ray Oney
6 for the record. Do you know if the other RACs
7 submitted any comments or are in support of this
8 special action request?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Could
13 we get a justification for both the RACs that have
14 supported this proposal, please.

15

16 MR. MCKEE: As I mentioned, both the
17 Western Interior and Bristol Bay Councils voted to
18 support the special action. They stated the herd
19 needed to be protected and there needs to be an in-
20 season manager for this herd to take action, if needed,
21 during the season. They both supported it for
22 conservation reasons. That's the Western Interior and
23 Bristol Bay Councils.

24

25 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Madame Chair, this is
28 Lauren Watine. Can I say something about this?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, you can.

31

32 MS. WATINE: So I just want to say that
33 Fish and Game supports a decision on an in-season
34 manager being allocated. If any -- if for some reason
35 this hunt does open in the fall, it would be very
36 beneficial for quick action to be taken on the Federal
37 side of things, which having an in-season manager would
38 allow rather than have to go through another several
39 months comment period to make any changes. And from
40 the State's position, we would support having Togiak
41 National Wildlife Refuge continue to be the acting in-
42 season manager. They have worked with us for many,
43 many years on the Mulchatna herd and they have insights
44 into this herd that maybe the other Refuges wouldn't
45 have. And we already have a very close working
46 relationship with them and are in regular communication
47 about the Mulchatna.

48

49 So, we, at Fish and Game, support this.

50

1 And thank you for letting me speak out of position,
2 give our thoughts on this matter.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.
5 Anybody else on our Council have comments or questions
6 towards this special action.

7
8 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
9 Phillip again.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
12 Phillip.

13
14 MR. PETER: I will support this caribou
15 closure but I want to insert the opening for Federally-
16 qualified hunters in the falltime. We go up there to
17 Kisaralik and Kwethluk, and the Kasigiluk, look for
18 caribou in falltime.

19
20 That's my suggestion. Thank you,
21 Ma'am.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Eva, would
24 that be a poll on the current motion on the floor, to
25 make that recommendation in or would it just be under
26 our justification.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
29 this is Eva Patton. Maybe just to qualify, and Chris
30 could read the special action request again. So right
31 now it's asking for the Federal manager to have the
32 authority to manage the herd and so that would give
33 them the in-season ability to make a decision whether
34 to open or close, and so supporting the special action
35 request would give the manager the authority. The
36 Council could make a request through the Federal
37 manager to have an opportunity for a hunt at that time.
38 That would be, you know, a modification to the
39 proposal, or those requests could be made through the
40 Federal manager once he has that authority, it wouldn't
41 have to go back through the Federal Subsistence Board
42 process.

43
44 And maybe we could have Chris McKee
45 just clarify again the exact wording of this special
46 action request and that might help clarify that.

47
48 MR. MCKEE: Sure. Madame Chair. The
49 request isn't asking for the season to be closed

50

1 explicitly. Again, the request is -- it's requesting
2 that the Federal in-season manager be delegated
3 authority to open and/or close seasons, announce
4 harvest limits and set sex restrictions for caribou
5 throughout the range of the Mulchatna herd for the
6 2020/2022 regulatory cycle. So it's not explicitly
7 asking for a closure in and of itself. That's a
8 possibility, but the request itself is not asking to
9 close the caribou season, as written.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Phillip,
12 do you understand what we're voting on right now?

13

14 MR. PETER: Yeah, I understand now,
15 clearly.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

18

19 MR. PETER: Okay.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. If there's
22 no more questions or comments we'll go ahead and follow
23 through with our motion on the floor. If there's no
24 more discussion can we go ahead and close it and take a
25 vote on it.

26

27 MR. PETER: I call for question, Ma'am.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been
30 called. All those in favor of supporting the special
31 action signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
36 opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Motion passes.
41 All right, did Togiak want to chime in on this
42 Mulchatna Caribou Herd or are we moving on to.....

43

44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:Fisheries
47 Resource Monitoring Program update.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may.

50

1 Thank you Council.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

4

5 MS. PATTON:for that excellent
6 discussion. And if we could just have a few words of
7 the Council's justification for support of this
8 proposal, for the Federal in-season manager.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
11 Would you be able to go down the list of names and call
12 people by their names so that we know what their
13 justification is and how they would like to see this
14 proposal -- their support.

15

16 MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair, the
17 Council did have good discussion and good questions and
18 so just a few Council members who would like to speak
19 to the -- to the vote, that would be -- that would be
20 sufficient to provide the Council's justification
21 clearly.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I'll start
28 by saying that I supported this proposal because the
29 Mulchatna Caribou Herd has declined over the past year
30 and we definitely have been keeping an eye on it ever
31 since it dropped past 30,000 and just continuously to
32 drop without a rebound or coming back up in the
33 population, and we definitely had tried to put in
34 proposals in the past and advocate on behalf of the
35 caribou herd to close the caribou herd, shut down
36 portions of it or reduce harvest or bag limits,
37 something to try to slow down the harvests and to -- to
38 save the population of this caribou herd. I believe
39 these are very good strides to rebuilding this herd.

40

41 And also if we could put under
42 justification from my personal comment that, that we
43 have some type of like a working group, or maybe a
44 Mulchatna Working Group, in regards to discussing this
45 with stakeholders, the people, tribal entities who are
46 heavily involved in it. And also from a technical
47 standpoint on a scientific basis.

48

49 That's my justification.

50

1 Thank you, Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4 And I'll just check, are there any other Council

5 members that would like to add to that.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you very much
10 Council. And a big thanks to Lauren Watine for joining
11 us this afternoon. I know she's headed on her way out
12 so thank you very much for those updates and, yes, we
13 will follow up and be in touch. The Council can
14 convene a working group or, you know, non-official
15 meetings to discuss information, share information, and
16 help keep those community connections.

17

18 And there will be public hearings
19 coming up on this special action request as well. They
20 have not yet been scheduled but there will be public
21 hearings as well and we'll be notifying everyone when
22 those do get scheduled and where they'll be held and,
23 of course, available by teleconference as well.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MS. WATINE: Thank you, Eva. And,
28 Madame Chair, for accommodating my schedule and letting
29 me speak with you guys. I really do appreciate it,
30 and, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any
31 questions outside of, I guess, our official meeting
32 times. So we're happy to share whatever information we
33 can as we can.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, well,
36 thank you so much. I greatly appreciate you guys being
37 here and being very patient with us on the
38 teleconference, it's greatly appreciated. Hopefully
39 we'll be able to meet in a face to face meeting here in
40 the future. And I congratulate you guys for all the
41 hard work that you're doing and continue to keep up the
42 good work. The more information that we get from you,
43 the better decisions that we could make on our end.

44

45 All right, we don't have anything else
46 on caribou I'd entertain that we move to Fisheries
47 Resource Monitoring Program update with OSM.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair

50

1 and members of the Council. This is Pippa Kenner and
2 I'm the anthropologist at OSM that usually works with
3 your Council.
4

5 It's really an honor to be here today
6 to talk to you about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
7 Program and give you an update. I'm really impressed
8 with the teleconference. I'm able to follow along and
9 hear everybody clearly and thank you very much. I'm
10 really glad that we're meeting even though we couldn't
11 meet in person.
12

13 Okay.
14

15 We're currently in the final phase of
16 the 2020 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal
17 Subsistence Board met on January 28 to 30 and made
18 recommendations about the final funding plan. Once the
19 Office of Subsistence Management, that's us, has a
20 final budget, the Assistant Regional Director will
21 approve the funding plan and all applicants have been
22 notified of the status of their submissions.
23

24 I have a list of the continuing and new
25 projects that were funded beginning in 2020. I did
26 hear a question earlier about the Kwethluk weir. And a
27 partnership between the Refuge, the Yukon Delta Refuge
28 and the community of Kwethluk has been funded to run
29 that weir for four years beginning in 2020.
30

31 Does anybody want to hear of other
32 projects that were funded or should I just continue?
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 MS. KENNER: Okay. So.....
37

38 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:
41

42 MR. NICOLAI: Are you able to hear me,
43 Madame Chair.
44

45 MS. PATTON: I can hear you on line.
46 Alissa, are you able to hear?
47

48 MR. NICOLAI: Yes, can you hear me, my
49
50

1 name is Evan Nicolai and I'm from Kwethluk.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yes, hi, Evan. Please go
4 ahead, I think Alissa might have gotten cut off there,
5 please go ahead.

6

7 MR. NICOLAI: Okay. On the question of
8 the funding for Kwethluk, would they be considering
9 just as Martin Nicolai requested, that there be another
10 opening so that there's not one opening for the fish to
11 go through the weir?

12

13 That's my question, thank you.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Again, this is Pippa
16 Kenner, and that's a really good question. The Office
17 of Subsistence Management is made up of different parts
18 and pieces, and the piece that you're talking about is
19 the regulatory aspect of what we do and we have
20 received three special action requests concerning how
21 the chinook salmon season will be managed, and we're
22 going to talk about that later in the meeting. It's a
23 really good question. Right now what we're talking
24 about is that the Refuge has entered into a partnership
25 with Kwethluk Native Community to run the weir with a
26 longterm aspect that eventually the Native community
27 would be the primary director of that weir. So we're
28 talking about they were awarded the funds to pay for
29 that.

30

31 Are there any other questions.

32

33 MR. BORN: So Madame Chair.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
38 Born.

39

40 (Telephone interference - participants
41 not muted - participant phone on hold)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, go ahead.
44 I'm sorry, I'm hearing a really loud beeping and it's
45 coming in and out of people talking. I don't know if
46 anyone else can hear it, it sounds like we were put on
47 hold again. So if you could talk closely into your mic
48 that would be greatly appreciated so that I could hear
49 you a lot better. Even though I have the phone to my

50

1 ear I've had -- I have iPods in and it's really hard to
2 hear so I greatly apologize for the inconvenience of
3 having a teleconference meeting but go ahead.

4
5 MR. BORN: Thanks very much. Just one
6 minor correction, you know, the agreement between the
7 Village of Kwethluk is actually with Kenai Fisheries,
8 they're the ones that put this agreement together and
9 they're the ones that are actually helping to
10 facilitate that.

11
12 And, Evan, that's a good question about
13 the second opening in the weir for more fish to get
14 through. That's been talked about quite a bit. And
15 right now based upon the science we've seen to date it
16 doesn't make that big of a difference, but as we move
17 more and more towards Kwethluk being the managers of
18 the weir in four or five years, that's a discussion
19 that, you know, the village will actually have the
20 opportunity to make the choices on. But for the next
21 four to five years, as we go through this funding with
22 FRMP, we'll be able to work together on that and
23 continue to do some great work as we transition more
24 and more to the village actually managing the weir.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Are there any more questions?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. KENNER: Okay. There'll be more
34 chances to ask questions.

35
36 So what we call the 2020 funding cycle
37 is nearing its end. That is projects we -- we know
38 which projects are going to be funded and they'll be
39 starting in the next couple of months.

40
41 And now it's time for the Councils to
42 begin the development of priority information needs for
43 the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program call for
44 proposals. And this is due out in November 2020. So
45 I'm going to talk a little bit about that.

46
47 Priority information needs, you might
48 also hear them being called PINS, which is that
49 abbreviation for priority information needs. They're

50

1 an important component of the Monitoring Program.
2 Priority information needs determine the type of
3 projects Councils for each region consider -- that
4 Councils for each region consider important and provide
5 a framework for evaluating and selecting project
6 proposals. So your Council covers two regions. One is
7 the Yukon region and one is the Kuskokwim region. So
8 the Eastern Interior and Western Interior Council have
9 already gone through this process.

10
11 We are asking for several Council
12 members to volunteer to meet by telephone over the
13 summer to identify knowledge gaps and information
14 needed for management of subsistence fisheries in their
15 region for the 2022 call for proposals. The
16 information needs the Council develops and a list of
17 what projects have been funded addressing information
18 needs will be given to the people at the meeting, they
19 will then discuss whether the Monitoring Program funded
20 projects have addressed the previous priority
21 information needs that were developed by the Council
22 and develop new priority information needs to address
23 issues the Council has identified. The results of
24 these telephone conferences will be presented to reach
25 respective Council, that's the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta,
26 Western Interior and Eastern Interior Councils during
27 their fall meeting to help jumpstart the discussion on
28 the topic. Councils will formally make a motion to
29 adopt priority information needs at that meeting and
30 start a whole new Monitoring Program funding cycle.

31
32 So this isn't an action item but we are
33 looking for a couple of people, Council members, who
34 are interested in forming this group to identify
35 priority information needs for your region, and this
36 would be an appropriate time to announce that interest.
37 Because the Kuskokwim Yukon Delta Council covers the
38 two drainages, it would be nice if we could have one
39 person from the Yukon area and another person from the
40 Kuskokwim area. Now, most of your Council members are
41 new so they won't have remembered this process. Rather
42 than going into a lot of details about the Fisheries
43 Resource Monitoring Program, I suggest that we just
44 move forward and they're going to be learning a lot
45 more about it in the fall when we give a presentation.

46
47 So right now I'm looking for at least
48 one person from the Yukon and another Council member
49 from the Kuskokwim who will meet with us telephonically
50

1 in the summer with their other partners from Western
2 Interior, and in the case of the Yukon, the Eastern
3 Interior Council.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
8 I greatly appreciate the info and I love hearing the
9 processes of it. I want to ask, who, if anybody right
10 now in our Council members who, one, express interest
11 in participating in this. It's a really great program,
12 you learn a lot and it's one of the programs where I
13 started out my fisheries career at.

14

15 So is there anyone on our Council for
16 the Yukon River.

17

18 (Telephone interference - participants
19 not muted - participant phone on hold)

20

21 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

24

25 MR. LANDLORD: In the past who was on
26 there from the Yukon?

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Pippa do we have
29 that record of information for this past but.....

30

31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
32 In the past Ray Oney was one of the representatives for
33 the Yukon River, and it doesn't have to be just one
34 individual. In the past we've also had the entire
35 Council participating because everyone was very
36 interested to weigh in. And we're seeking your
37 feedback from your community and your observations,
38 what are some of the subsistence fisheries research
39 that you see needs to be done and things that should be
40 investigated based on your observations and your
41 experience. So we're really, you know, seeking having
42 that dialogue with you and with the Council, and with
43 the other Council members too who live in other parts
44 of the Yukon River and in that case on the Yukon.

45

46 So it's open to everyone, anyone who is
47 interested on the Council. Of the currently serving
48 members Ray Oney had participated in our last
49 discussion.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's great.
2 Would I be able to recommend that we get two people
3 because it seems like it's really large and I feel like
4 since fisheries are such a huge part of our lives we
5 would be interested in maybe having two seats on the
6 Yukon and two seats on the Kuskokwim, would that be
7 appropriate to say?
8

9 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, thank you,
10 Madame Chair. Yes, that would be great, and especially
11 -- I mean both are very large rivers and so if we had a
12 little spread of representatives, people that are more
13 familiar with, you know, further up the river, or down
14 the river, that would be wonderful if we could get at
15 least two on both rivers if -- if folks are interested.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
22

23 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard. I'm
24 from the Coast and I'm kind of interested
25 (indiscernible - cuts out)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's great.
28 Maybe we could add a coastal seat on there too, Eva.
29

30 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Because this
31 program covers the entire YK Delta so that would be
32 wonderful to have Richard's input as well.
33

34 MR. SLATS: Thank you.
35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Richard.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray, are you
39 still interested?
40

41 MR. ONEY: Yes, Alissa, I'll go ahead
42 and volunteer my name, Ray Oney.
43

44 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you, Ray.
45 And anyone else on the Yukon interested to participate?
46

47
48 (No comments)
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Again, it's open to as
2 many as would like to participate or if you're just
3 curious or a new Council member and interested to see
4 how the process works you're welcome to join us in the
5 discussion too.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, Eva, would
8 it -- I feel like you can go down and just ask, because
9 we only have three people from the Yukon including one
10 coastal, would it be okay if we can have all three of
11 them on there?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Sure. James.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Can we -- are
16 you, Thomas.....

17
18 MS. PATTON: James.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are you
21 interested as well, and James Landlord, are you guys
22 interested in participating in this?

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. Yep. This is
25 James, yes.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Tommy.

28
29 MS. ALSTROM: Yes, this is Thomas.
30 Yeah, I could volunteer and participate in this.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful everyone.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: And then for the
35 Kuskokwim side, would John -- John Andrew are you
36 interested in this?

37
38 MR. ANDREW: Okay, I'll volunteer.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. If
43 Bob was here I'd ask him too because he's the farthest
44 up river. Anyone else from the lower river, Carl,
45 you're the farthest down the river, are you interested?

46
47 MR. MAXIE: Oh, yes, I'll be.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. What about
50

1 Mr. Peter, I know you're real involved in our
2 fisheries.

3
4 MR. PETER: Yeah, I'll do -- I'll do
5 that.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. And
8 you could add my name to the list. If there's anybody
9 else that wants to be involved in this just let Eva
10 know, and Pippa know.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you
13 everyone.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you very much.

16
17 MR. NICOLAI: This is Evan. Ms. Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, go ahead.

20
21 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, are any of the
22 parties that are involved in this including the tribes
23 given notice that that's also their option to volunteer
24 as well?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll defer that
27 question to Pippa and Eva.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Well, the developing
31 the priority information needs that will direct the
32 kind of proposals we ask for for the Fisheries Resource
33 Monitoring Program is one of the responsibilities of
34 the Regional Advisory Council. It's one of their, you
35 know, stated responsibilities, however, they can
36 request to hear from tribes and that's part of the
37 reason why we suggest we start the process with more of
38 an informal teleconference with interested people so
39 they can bring those points of views to the development
40 of the priority information needs.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Did
45 that answer your question?

46
47 MR. NICOLAI: Yes, thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

50

1 Another thing that works really well is go to your
2 nearest and local Regional Advisory Council member who
3 is going to be working on this as well, keeping tabs
4 and keeping in touch with your representative is really
5 key in making sure that we involve our tribes and our
6 people and people who want to participate in
7 subsistence activities.
8

9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
10 I would also like to add that this is an opportunity
11 for informal discussion, to really share information,
12 but all of the discussion then comes back to the public
13 through the Council meeting process in the fall. So we
14 have public participation and discussion on those
15 issues at the time.
16

17 (Pause)

18
19 MR. ONEY: Is that the end of Pippa's
20 report?
21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, yes. Unless
23 there were any further questions. Then we have Greg up
24 next to speak to the call for fisheries proposals and
25 the program updates.
26

27 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of
28 the Council. This, again, is Greg Risdahl. I am the
29 Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Division
30 leader and the acting Deputy Assistant Regional
31 Director. And I'm going to give you just a brief
32 update on the fisheries regulatory cycle.
33

34 Every two years the Federal Subsistence
35 Board calls for proposal to change Federal regulations
36 for the subsistence take of fish and shellfish on
37 Federal public lands and waters. The Board is now
38 calling for 2021/2023 regulatory cycle proposals. You
39 can find a flier in your RAC book starting on Page 15
40 -- did they get their RAC books by the way -- that
41 describes how to submit a regulatory proposal.
42

43 The Board will consider proposals to
44 change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest
45 limits, methods of harvest and customary and
46 traditional use determinations until April 20th.
47

48 There are a number of ways that you can
49 submit proposals.
50

1 If you have a fishery proposal that you
2 would like to submit as a Council or as an individual
3 you can discuss that right now. You can also submit
4 proposals to OSM through your Council coordinator, by
5 hand or by mail, and we can assist in drafting of your
6 proposals if you'd like. There's also an online
7 process outlined more clearly in flier in your book.
8

9 These proposals will be analyzed and
10 presented to the Councils during this fall meeting
11 cycle this year for Council recommendations. Proposals
12 and analysis and Council recommendations will be
13 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for action
14 at the January 2021 Fisheries regulatory meeting.
15

16 And that concludes the update on the
17 fisheries regulatory cycle.
18

19 Do you have any questions.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
24 If I may add just a little bit of context, too, for our
25 Council members. We do have a couple new Council
26 members who -- this is their first process of going
27 through a call for fisheries proposals.
28

29 We did hear a couple folks comment at
30 the beginning of the meeting that their communities had
31 relayed to them an interest in changing fisheries
32 regulatory proposals. The Council, at this meeting,
33 has an opportunity to submit proposals through the
34 Council yourself.
35

36 (Telephone interference - participants
37 not muted - participant phone on hold)
38

39 MS. PATTON: There is opportunity up
40 until the April 20th deadline for individual Council
41 members to submit proposals on their own or if you know
42 your community has a proposal that you would like to
43 try to work on, you can reach out to our office and we
44 are available to help draft a proposal.
45

46 So whether the Council submits a
47 proposal of their own today or not, all proposals will
48 come back to the Regional Advisory Council for your
49 recommendation at the fall meeting.
50

1 And so there's opportunity beyond
2 today, you know, if there isn't a particular proposal
3 that the Council was prepared to submit today, but
4 individuals had ideas about proposals for their
5 communities, there's time to work on those up until the
6 deadline on April 20th.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
11 At this time I'd like to entertain if anybody on the
12 Council has a fish proposal or a fish idea that you'd
13 like to change in our current regulations, go ahead and
14 speak up so we can get it and get it written.

15

16

17

(No comments)

18

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 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
Yes. And so the news release had just recently come
out a couple weeks ago. And it gets distributed by
email and there's also public service announcements on
the local radio stations and ads in the local
newspapers. But I will continue to reach out to the
tribes to make sure that they've received the notice
and are aware of it and especially for the Council,
since you're working directly with your own
communities, if you know there's an interest from your
community and your tribe or an individual would like

1 assistance with developing a proposal, we're here to
2 help with that -- Staff is here to help with that.

3
4 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, thank you. We
5 have a tribal council meeting in a couple days so I'll
6 try to put this on the agenda to see if any of the
7 Council members have any proposals in mind.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. This is
12 Eva again. And I did email digital copies to all the
13 Council members who have access to email and I can make
14 sure that -- you know, email or fax, that call for
15 proposals goes through to your tribal council as well,
16 to make sure they get it okay.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 And, Madame Chair, and Council,
21 again.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

24
25 MS. PATTON:as Alissa had stated,
26 this is open, you know, if you start thinking of
27 something tonight that you would like to develop or,
28 you know, as you're hearing the updates for fisheries
29 on your rivers and you have some ideas for a proposal,
30 we can take that back up again tomorrow as well, if the
31 Council has some ideas that you'd like to work on.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

36
37 All right, let's go ahead and move on.
38 If you guys decide you guys want to make a proposal we
39 have all the way until tomorrow to make a proposal, as
40 long as we have quorum we'll be okay.

41
42 We'll go ahead and move on to A, B, C,
43 D, Item E, review and approve FY2019 annual report.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
46 and Council. The Council will find your draft annual
47 report on Page 18. And, again, this is a draft and so
48 I had asked everyone to take a close look at it, see if
49 there are any edits or changes you would like to make

50

1 to this annual report.

2

3 There were quite a few topics that the
4 Council wanted to address the Board on. Many of them
5 regarding different aspects of climate change impacts
6 to subsistence, both to fish and wildlife habitat to
7 subsistence activities, travel and access to resources,
8 interest for request for continued research and
9 information to address and mitigate climate change
10 impacts to the YKDelta region, and adaptive management
11 strategies to respond to changing subsistence
12 resources, access and preservation of subsistence foods
13 in a changing environment.

14

15 So those were topics one through four.

16

17 Five. Ongoing concerns about seabird
18 die-offs and sick seals. So a request for more
19 information and updates on that.

20

21 Six. Concerns about observed songbird
22 declines in the YKDelta region.

23

24 Seven. Concerns about Donlin Mine,
25 potential impacts to subsistence.

26

27 Eight. The Council was concerned about
28 Council member travel and ample time for full
29 participation and sharing of traditional knowledge at
30 the RAC meetings, and a request to the Board to support
31 that.

32

33 Nine. The importance of appointing
34 more Yukon River representatives for balanced
35 membership on the Council and concerns the Council had
36 on recent Secretarial appointments, or a reduction in
37 the Council size.

38

39 So please do take a look and see if you
40 have any edits or additions. We did have a request by
41 Council Chair Alissa Roberts [sic] regarding holding
42 meeting by teleconference and the challenges of that
43 and we certainly can add that to bring that to the
44 Board's attention. It kind of falls in line with
45 Number 8 as well, about full participation and sharing
46 of traditional knowledge.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, can you.....

49

50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

4

5 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Madame
6 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney.

7

8 I remember hearing maybe at our last
9 meeting about someone giving a report on the Arctic
10 terns, the summer birds, there were no sightings of
11 them last summer, and I'm wondering if it's included in
12 this report. I'm sorry, I didn't get a chance to read
13 through all the reports, but that's my comment.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Madame Chair
20 and Council. Thank you, Ray.

21

22 I can add that, that wasn't
23 specifically addressed. But I can add that detail and
24 request for specific information on Arctic Terns under
25 the Council's ongoing concerns about seabirds. I'll
26 add that detail to the report.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 (Telephone interference - participants
31 not muted - participant phone on hold and excessive
32 talking on other lines not muted)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Would it be
35 possible that we can also add in there that we want to
36 recognize Harry Wilde for his years of service on our
37 Council. And see if it's possible that the Federal
38 Subsistence Board can recognize him as well in some
39 type of plaque or some type of way of remembering him.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Absolutely we can add that and would be happy to.

43

44 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Peter.

47

48 MR. PETER: I want to see on the coast,
49 like Richard, we need a Board member from the coast

50

1 like Quinhagak or (In Yup'ik) and Chefornak, Toksook
2 Bay people living on the coast there on the Bering Sea.
3 If we balanced that it would be good, three of us are
4 from -- I mean four of us from the river, in land, but
5 I want to see those people down the coast like Richard.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Peter. I totally agree with you 100 percent,
9 completely. If we could add that in, Eva, to
10 specifically say that we are requesting more
11 notification and more emphasis to our coastal villages,
12 that way we can have a full represented board from our
13 whole entire Unit 18 region -- I mean, sorry, Yukon
14 National Wildlife Refuge region.

15
16 My apologies.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
19 Absolutely. I will add that detail and discussion on
20 full representation from throughout the entire Yukon,
21 Kuskokwim and Delta region.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

28
29 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew. I
30 was scanning through our annual report, my biggest
31 concern is always the mining issues, No. 7. There was
32 another one we had discussions before, I don't remember
33 which Council, maybe at the State committee, but I
34 think we had discussions on some of these barges that
35 have never been cleaned up on our rivers. There's a
36 big one across the mouth of Kwethluk, a ways up river
37 from there, there's a big graveyard that has barged
38 through (In Yup'ik) and maybe there's a couple of
39 sunken -- one -- maybe one I can remember, sunken,
40 Tuntutuliak River and some fish camps there are family
41 fishing boats. Those have never been cleaned up, those
42 are something we need to look into too.

43
44 Yeah, Quyana.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, thank you,
47 John. You bring up a really good point and I know we
48 brought that discussion up and I think it was ONC that
49 had brought up -- sorry, someone's trying to call me

50

1 and I'm trying to decline it -- okay, I got it.

2

3 Yeah, Eva, would we be able to squeeze
4 that in there, somewhere in regards to the concern for
5 environmental factors, in regards to that.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely. And I
8 know the Council has had discussion on that before
9 so.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we have.

12

13 MS. PATTON:we can add another
14 subject matter to address the cleanup of sunken barges
15 and other abandoned boats on the river as well. So
16 I'll add that as another topic but it does add into
17 some of the details and concerns that are already
18 raised by the Council.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That'd be greatly
25 appreciated because I definitely know that at least
26 down here, that in our Steamboat Slough, there's that
27 barge that we've been trying to get rid of and get it
28 out but it's definitely a political -- it became a
29 political issue now and it's kind of been taken out of
30 our hands to get that thing removed. But it's causing
31 the red salmon to deter away from that. Usually people
32 are able to get a whole bunch of red salmon in that
33 slough but ever since that barge sunk it's rerouting
34 the salmon that's going through there and there's oil
35 condition, sheen, you can smell fuel, et cetera, et
36 cetera. So it's really not very pleasant for our
37 resources to have to endure human destructive activity.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Yes, I'll add
40 that detail to the report.

41

42 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
43 Born.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. BORN: This is Ray Born.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Hi, Ray, go ahead. I

50

1 think we might have just lost Alissa momentarily.

2

3 MR. BORN: Yeah, I have to jump off for
4 another conference call so I'll be off until about 4:30
5 or so. So if we could defer Yukon Delta reports until
6 tomorrow that'd be best, or maybe later today, whatever
7 works best. But I do need to get on to another call
8 right now.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray. And I
13 think the timing is that we would probably move on to
14 our Yukon River reports first, so that we have all of
15 the combined discussion on the Kuskokwim and also your
16 updates tomorrow most likely.

17

18 Thank you for the update.

19

20 MR. BORN: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, if we
23 don't have anything else for the annual report I'd like
24 to entertain that we move forward unless we -- Eva, do
25 you need us to sign off on a motion to submit this?

26

27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
28 That would be helpful to make a motion to submit with
29 the amendments as discussed and I'll make those changes
30 and get back with the Council for your concurrence and
31 then it'll get submitted for final editing to the
32 Board. But a motion is helpful just to clarify.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
37 I'd like to entertain that we get a motion on the floor
38 to submit with the current amendments that we just had
39 made.

40

41 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
42 Phillip. I make a motion to accept the FY2019 annual
43 report.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
46 Peter. We have a motion on the floor made by Phillip
47 Peter, can I get a second.

48

49 MR. ONEY: Second, Ray Oney.

50

1 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, this is
2 Richard. I second it.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana. We had a
5 second by Ray Oney.

6
7 If there's no further comments or
8 discussion on this we can go ahead and have a question
9 to be called.

10
11 MR. LANDLORD: Question.

12
13 MR. PETER: Question.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been
16 called. All those in favor say aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
21 opposed, same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
26 motion's been passed. Moving on to the Yukon River
27 agency report. We're going to have ADF&G will be the
28 first to speak in this order; we have Alaska Department
29 of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
30 tribal governments and then Fish Commission. So go
31 ahead take it away, ADF&G, for Yukon River.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
34 I think -- so for the Yukon River we have Gerald
35 Maschmann on line and typically they provide a joint
36 report or discussion on Yukon River fisheries. And
37 then it was my understanding that they were also
38 coordinating on the Kuskokwim fisheries and the report
39 with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

42
43 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
44 Gerald Maschmann with Fish and Wildlife.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
47 Gerald, go ahead.

48
49 MR. MASCHMANN: I think ADF&G is

50

1 listening in so if there's any questions I can't answer
2 they're there to jump in if they need to.

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm listening in.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: So it's a joint report
7 so I'll get started.

8

9 The 2020 Yukon River chinook salmon
10 season outlook is looking like a run similar to 2019 or
11 maybe smaller with a drainage-wide escapement of
12 between 144,000 to 222,000 fish. That's a wide range.
13 And a run size like this will require some subsistence
14 salmon fishing restrictions to meet escapement and
15 harvest sharing goals. Restrictions will be, you know,
16 more severe if we're near the low end of that goal and
17 they'll be less severe if we're closer to the top end
18 of that goal.

19

20 The summer chum salmon run is looking
21 like a run near 1.9 million fish and that should
22 provide for normal escapement, or for escapement,
23 normal subsistence harvest as well as additional
24 commercial, personal use and sportfishing
25 opportunities.

26

27 Our 2020 chinook salmon and summer chum
28 salmon season management strategies are still being
29 formulated at this time. We'll be consulting with
30 fishermen prior to the season, as well as this RAC, but
31 our strategies will likely include similar strategies
32 to those implemented the last few years. Fishing will
33 likely be restricted early in the season, possibly with
34 the use of selected gear to target chum salmon.
35 Fishermen should expect a combination of reduced or
36 cancelled periods and gear restrictions to limit
37 harvest of chinook salmon while allowing for harvest of
38 summer chum salmon. Subsistence fishing opportunities
39 should be spread out over the run to prevent
40 overharvest on any particular part of the run, and
41 should abundance indicate a run size similar to the
42 last few years and near that upper end of the goal,
43 some subsistence fishing opportunities with 7.5 inch
44 gillnet gear could be allowed.

45

46 Moving to the 2020 Yukon fall season
47 outlook. The run forecast is for approximately 827,000
48 fall chum to a little over one million fall chum
49 salmon. This fall chum salmon run size is expected to

50

1 be sufficient to achieve escapement objectives and
2 provide for a normal subsistence harvest with a surplus
3 available for commercial, sport and personal use
4 fisheries. This outlook will be revised as we usually
5 do prior to the beginning of the fall season based on
6 the relationship between the summer chum and the fall
7 chum salmon sizes.

8
9 Expectations for the 2020 coho salmon
10 run will be near average. Coho salmon are mostly
11 harvested during the second half of the fall chum run
12 and surpluses are expected to be available for
13 subsistence and other uses.

14
15 The 2020 fall season management
16 strategies, again, we haven't, you know, put anything
17 in stone yet but after we consult with you folks on the
18 RAC and fishermen at the pre-season meeting, we
19 anticipate a full subsistence opportunity during the
20 fall season. Commercial fall chum fishing is expected
21 to begin at that transition period between the summer
22 and fall season and will depend on the in-season
23 projection. A commercial opportunity will be dependent
24 on the run strength projected from the summer chum,
25 fall chum relationship as well as in-season indicators,
26 and managers are working with fishermen in Ft. Yukon
27 and up in Old Crow in Canada to advise on the Porcupine
28 River fall chum management strategies, as unfortunately
29 the Porcupine River stocks, particularly the Fishing
30 Branch stock up in Canada has not been performing as
31 well. So we'll be working with those folks to try and
32 figure out the best way to manage those stocks.

33
34 That's my report for the 2020 outlook
35 and unless you have some questions, that's it.

36
37 (Telephone interference - participants
38 not muted - participant phone on hold)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do you have the
41 International Treaty strategy?

42
43 MR. MASCHMANN: Oh, yes, before I.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

46
47 MR. MASCHMANN: The U.S./Canada Yukon
48 River Panel will be meeting April 3rd through the 8th
49 in Fairbanks and the Panel will be finalizing the

50

1 outlook and time will be allowed at this meeting for
2 public participation and testimony. So, no, we don't
3 have the final Panel agreed upon outlook yet, but what
4 I reported is probably pretty close. I would encourage
5 folks, if you can make it to Fairbanks, to participate
6 in that process, it's very interesting. You know it's
7 in the U.S. here in Fairbanks. So anyone who's
8 interested and can make it to Fairbanks, I would
9 encourage them to do so.

10

11 Additionally, I think YRDFA will be
12 reporting later, but the preseason fishermen's meeting
13 that YRDFA organizes will be in Anchorage on April
14 30th. And so, you know, I encourage Ray Oney and the
15 new Council members, Mr. Landlord and Thomas, if they
16 can work with YRDFA and their tribal councils, if they
17 want to attend that meeting, to work with those folks.
18 So, again, that's April 30th.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
21 have a preliminary number and did we meet expectations
22 for last year to our agreement?

23

24 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. We were
25 pretty close, if Deena's on line, I think our chinook
26 salmon were borderline, we may come in just a few
27 thousand short on our chinook salmon. Again, we made
28 what we're required to meet for escapement, but we
29 didn't put quite enough fish up for our sharing, our
30 border sharing obligations with Canadian fishermen, so
31 we may have been just a little bit shy on that. But we
32 didn't.....

33

34 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair.

35

36 MR. MASCHMANN:put enough.....

37

38 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair.

39

40 MR. MASCHMANN:for escap.....

41

42 MR. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is

43 Deena Jallen.....

44

45 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

46

47 MR. MASCHMANN:escape.....

48

49 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

50

1 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is
2 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3 We were about 1,200 kings short at the border of
4 meeting the harvest objective but we did meet the
5 objective -- the escapement goal but we didn't meet the
6 harvest share objective. We were a little bit shy on
7 that.

8
9 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: First name and
12 last name please.

13
14 MR. ESTENSEN: Can you hear me?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, I can hear
17 you, we need your.....

18
19 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. Okay.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:first name
22 and last name.

23
24 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, my name is Jeff
25 Estensen, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game, and I am the fall season manager, fall chum and
27 coho. There are two international agreements that we
28 have with Canada for fall chum. One is on the main
29 stem and that one was made this year. We also have
30 another one that is on the Porcupine River for the
31 Fishing Branch, that Gerald was talking about, that was
32 not achieved this year for fall chum.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. For
37 those of you that are -- since we are not on hold
38 anymore, for those of you that are working or answering
39 phones while we're in this meeting, we can hear a
40 beeping and it goes in and out of people when they're
41 talking, so if you need to take a call, please hang up
42 with us and then call us back after you're done with
43 your phone call. That will alleviate the disturbance
44 in the background.

45
46 All right, thank you guys.

47
48 Yukon folks, did you guys have any
49 comments or questions you would like to ask anybody at
50

1 this time?
2

3 MR. BUSTER: I got a question, Gabe
4 Buster from Alakanuk tribe.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gabe.
7

8 MR. BUSTER: Yeah. You know on the
9 salmon, you know, we -- for subsistence we eat them
10 over here and what about way, way, way up river on the
11 Canada side, do they -- are they edible or do they just
12 use them for dog food or -- that was my question.
13

14 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
15 Gerald.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.
18

19 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, they're edible up
20 in Canada and, you know, that's the fish they're used
21 to. So, you know, like some folks think Lower Yukon
22 kings are too oily and some.....
23

24 MR. BUSTER: Okay.
25

26 MR. MASCHMANN:folks in the Lower
27 Yukon would probably think they're too dry but, you
28 know, those are the fish they've been fishing for as
29 long as they've been fishing so, yep, they eat those
30 fish and, yeah, so the answer to your question, yes,
31 they're edible.
32

33 MR. BUSTER: Yeah. I got another
34 question, too, for you. You know the fishing, we've
35 been noticing different -- like last year, like the
36 sores and the different -- some of the sheefish, you
37 know, the insides of them they were kind of hollowed
38 out and you guys ever, you know, get in contact with
39 any company that -- like, you know, even with the
40 climate change and the nuclear plant over at Japan, you
41 know, those currents, you know, they come over on this
42 side because they were -- did you guys get any
43 information about that plant over there?
44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
46 Gerald.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.
49
50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, you know, we got,
2 I think maybe a few more reports of sores and pussy
3 fish last summer, you know it was pretty hot, I don't
4 know if people on the YRDFA conference are just getting
5 more used to reporting what they're seeing, and we're
6 getting more reports but it seemed like we got a few
7 more reports last year than we've had in the past. It
8 could have been due to maybe the hot weather was
9 exacerbating that issue, but we definitely encourage
10 folks on the YRDFA teleconference to report what
11 they're seeing and the quality of the fish and if they
12 can get pictures and post them to the Fish and Game
13 website, that's helpful too.

14
15 As far as I know from -- I don't know
16 if Deena has the latest report, they've -- there does
17 not seem to be any effects from the Japanese nuclear
18 accident reaching the Bering Sea, or infecting any of
19 the Yukon River salmon so I think for what we're
20 seeing, as far as sores and pussy fish maybe it was
21 just the warmer weather last year or folks are just
22 seeing a little more often and reporting it more.

23
24 But we definitely like to hear those
25 reports and if you're participating on the YRDFA
26 teleconferences this summer, we'd like to hear about
27 the quality of the fishing so keep those reports
28 coming.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. BUSTER: Thank you.

33
34 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is
35 Deena Jallen with the Fish and Game.

36
37 We did have a lot of concerns and
38 questions about the Fukushima radiation this summer and
39 there were some news articles that came out and there's
40 been some studies done on the Federal level, like the
41 North Slope Borough did a study where they looked at
42 samples from traditional foods, like seal and whales
43 and polar bears and there's some other samples, or
44 other tests that have looked at water, and while they
45 did find very tiny amounts of radiation, the amounts of
46 radiation found in water or in those foods was well
47 below the levels considered safe by the Food and Drug
48 Administration. So if you were to get, you know, beef
49 from the store, that may have a higher level of

50

1 radiation, and, you know, there's always kind of
2 natural levels of radiation that are present in our
3 environment just from natural processes. But the
4 levels that have been detected in food and in sea water
5 have been very low.

6
7 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

10
11 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
12 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney.

13
14 Gerald, maybe this was answered or
15 asked by Alissa already, but about the end of season
16 chinook salmon usage for the Yukon wide, if I can get a
17 report from someone as far as the chinook catch and
18 also the summer chum and fall chum for the Yukon area.

19
20 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
21 Gerald.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.

24
25 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I didn't plan to
26 report too much from 2019, but the 2019 preliminary
27 subsistence salmon harvest in Alaska portion of the
28 Yukon River drainage was estimated to be 48,400 chinook
29 salmon, which is the highest since 2007 and within the
30 amounts necessary for subsistence, this is above the
31 2014 to 2018 average of 20,500 fish.

32
33 Summer chum, 64,300 summer chum were
34 harvested in the subsistence fishery in 2019.

35
36 63,900 fall chum were harvested.

37
38 Both of these are nearly 20,000 fish
39 below their 2014 to 2018 averages. Whereas 5,800 coho
40 salmon were harvested in the subsistence fishery, and
41 this was below the 2014 to 2018 average of 11,300 fish.
42 So that change in harvest is likely related to good
43 fishing and drying weather during the chinook salmon
44 run and maybe the unusual lack of overlap between the
45 chinook and chum salmon runs, which meant for increased
46 chinook catch efficiency. So perhaps even the increase
47 harvest of chinook salmon meant fishermen did not have
48 to harvest as many chum and coho to make up for the
49 difference.

50

1 I don't have the commercial harvest.
2 The commercial harvest, that was reported last fall, so
3 I didn't prepare for those harvests.
4

5 So, Ray, I don't know were you looking
6 for commercial harvest?
7

8 MR. ONEY: No, I was just wondering --
9 asking about the subsistence portion of it.
10

11 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay. Yeah, thank you,
12 good question.
13

14 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.
17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Gerald and
19 Deena and Jeff. Oh, we got Alissa back here, any
20 further questions?
21

22 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.....
25

26 MR. PETER: This is Phillip.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:Peter -- Mr.
29 Peter, go ahead.
30

31 MR. PETER: Yeah, on the report, what
32 kind of driftnets are using in Yukon, six inch
33 driftnet?
34

35 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. I don't
36 have the regs in front of me, Deena, do you know the
37 dimensions of the dipnet.....
38

39 MS. JALLEN: I.....
40

41 MR. MASCHMANN:and the.....
42

43 MR. PETER: No.....
44

45 MR. MASCHMANN:size of the
46 dipnet?
47

48 MR. PETER: No, no, for drift --
49 drifting, you know, drifting.
50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Oh, drifting.

2

3 MR. PETER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MASCHMANN: On the Yukon, we allow
6 drifting with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Those
7 are typically targeting the king salmon. But in times
8 of conservation when we're conserving chinook we may
9 allow drifting with six inch or smaller, to, you know,
10 target chum salmon with allowing for some of those
11 smaller kings to be caught in that. And if we have to
12 restrict further we may limit fishing with -- for non-
13 salmon species with four inch mesh or smaller and we
14 may even limit fishing with dipnets.

15

16 MR. PETER: On your report you
17 mentioned about 7.5 gillnet, does it -- do you see
18 changes on those kings escapement -- changes on
19 escapements right on the king salmon, is it they are
20 increasing or decreasing? I'm talking about the
21 gillnets, if we use that kind of net, 7.5 is there
22 improvements on escapements for king salmon going up to
23 Canada?

24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
26 Gerald. We've been, for the most part, meeting most of
27 our objectives the last some years. You know we've
28 seen a dip in the chinook salmon run and we've had some
29 pretty severe restrictions. It appears like we've had
30 a little up tick in the chinook salmon run and, you
31 know, we're optimistic but, again, the fish come in as
32 they come in.

33

34 So I think we're holding steady for now
35 and with the runs the way they look like they might be
36 coming in there's an opportunity for folks to get some
37 kings but maybe not as many as they would like, but
38 there's also the opportunity for plenty of chum and,
39 you know, for -- I guess the run sizes are holding
40 steady but they're just not that good, not like we'd
41 want to see them.

42

43 MR. PETER: And what about them, on the
44 mouth of the Yukon, on the coast line, when they start
45 running, the Fish and Game opened the area when the
46 fish are coming?

47

48 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
49 Gerald again. Yeah, folks in, you know, Scammon Bay

50

1 and Hooper Bay, we call that the coastal district or
2 the southern coastal district, and we open and close
3 their subsistence schedule a little bit different from
4 District 1, you know, within the Yukon drainage.

5
6 The last few years they've had a little
7 bit more opportunity because fishing's a little bit
8 more difficult along the coast. You know folks in
9 Hooper Bay tend to fish more in the bay and they tend
10 to fish for a little more summer chum and fewer kings.
11 And folks in Scammon Bay kind of tend to come over to
12 the Black River in the Yukon, which is part of District
13 1 so we definitely keep an eye on the coast and make
14 sure they get, you know, their fishing time in. And we
15 like to talk with people from the coast, see how
16 they're doing, and they call our office and let us know
17 how fishing is and how they're doing.

18
19 So we definitely like to hear from the
20 coast and, you know, any reports on the YRDFA
21 teleconference are also valuable.

22
23 MR. PETER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Peter.

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Robert Williams
32 from Akiak Native Community. Just wanted to see if --
33 I got a question for your end. Do you have a count of
34 how many fishermen or ladies that complain about the
35 smell of maggots, purple dots, white dots, even in the
36 roe; do you have a count of up and down -- at least up
37 and down the Kuskokwim. Because I caught a few of
38 those and I let the Fish and Game bring them down by
39 the Y by the Kwethluk area. And I didn't understand
40 what they were telling me, I was hoping that they'd
41 email me, because I do go about moving my fish around
42 once -- once they're in the rack, and I have to take so
43 much of my fish out of the rack because they smell.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I can give you an
46 answer from just what I was told. I guess we're
47 shifting gears really quick, if that's okay with the
48 Council, to answer his question about these Kuskokwim
49 River fish that have a smell to them.

50

1 Due to the.....

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was just.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:we're
6 talking.....

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I was just wondering if
9 you had a count of, you know, from all the way from at
10 least Eek up all the way to Nikolai; I was just
11 wondering if you guys had a count on that one, you
12 know.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, there's
15 been quite a bit of reports that are coming in talking
16 about exactly what you're talking about and one of the
17 main reasons is because the river was so warm last year
18 that the fish were spoiling as soon as you pull them
19 out of the river. So that was one of the biggest
20 things that was causing the smell and the discoloration
21 of the salmon.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I caught one, you
24 know, it wasn't a maggot coming out -- coming out from
25 the meat.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: It's a worm.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: It's more fatter than
30 that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: A fat white -- I know I
35 gave those to the Fish and Game and I couldn't
36 understand what they were saying and I wished that they
37 had emailed me about those -- what kind -- that was my
38 question, and hopefully I can hear something from your
39 end.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we're going
42 to be talking about Kuskokwim River tomorrow morning, I
43 believe, because at this rate we might be just pushing
44 to 5:00 o'clock.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: But we'll be
49 talking about Kuskokwim River tomorrow morning.

50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, Quyana.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We're on the
4 Yukon right now.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Quyana.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, you're
9 welcome. I can get you in touch with Fish and Game,
10 some of them are on here right now but they'll be able
11 to discuss it a little bit more.

12

13 Switching gears back over to the Yukon
14 River, I apologize for the tangent. Was there any more
15 discussion on Yukon River strategies, what we're
16 looking at for next year.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I did want to ask
21 really quick, what did you say that the count was for
22 the fall chum? I got the upper end of one million, but
23 I didn't get the lower end of that estimate.

24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, Madame Chair,
26 this is Gerald.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.

29

30 MR. MASCHMANN: The run forecast is for
31 approximately 827,000 to 1.045 million fall chum. And
32 that will change as we finish the summer chum season
33 because there's a good relationship between what we see
34 with summer chum with the fall chum. So that's our
35 preseason projection. But as we finish the summer chum
36 season, that projection will change and, of course, as
37 we're moving through the season the project will change
38 based on the Pilot Station sonar and the Mountain
39 Village test fishery and the Lower Yukon test fishery.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
42 further comments or questions for Gerald for Yukon
43 River.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I did
48 have one more thing that just came to mind. We had
49 kind of a little chum scare this past summer, we

50

1 learned from this past season, do we have anything in
2 our toolbox that we're going to use in light that it
3 might happen again this year since we're predicting
4 what we're seeing?
5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
7 Gerald. I assume you're meaning that maybe the warm
8 temperatures and the chum salmon die-off that we saw,
9 is that what you're talking about?
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: When the chum
12 salmon weren't coming in and we were going to go -- we
13 were going to have a strategic plan in place and
14 restrictions. Are we still going to look to that
15 forecast of the chums coming in late as they did this
16 past summer?
17

18 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is
19 Gerald.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gerald.
22

23 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, again, I think
24 we're going to -- that was definitely an interesting
25 season. I think it's going to be on our minds and
26 we're going to watch for it and we're going to be
27 monitoring the temperatures, and we're going to be
28 talking with fishermen at the preseason meeting,
29 assuming we have it, and we're going to ask them what
30 they think we should be doing, if we see another late
31 run of chum or if we see high temperatures. So we're
32 definitely open to hearing what the RAC members think,
33 yourself, and particularly the folks who are
34 representing the Yukon.
35

36 Again, the management strategies aren't
37 set in stone, they're always flexible and we're always
38 wanting to know what's best for the fishermen, and
39 what's best for the fishery so.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
42 you.
43

44 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.
47 Thank you, Ray.
48

49 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
50

1 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney. Have you gotten any
2 reports from high seas trawling, what the bycatch may
3 be for chinook?
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, I don't
8 have any of those reports. I don't know if Deena or
9 Jeff have seen any of those reports. I'm sorry.
10

11 MS. JALLEN: Madame Chair, this is
12 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
13 Those numbers are available on line in various web
14 sites, I tried to look them up earlier and it's kind of
15 hard to dig through them. But they're also going to be
16 published in the Joint Technical Committee report, and
17 I'm looking that up right now to see what the numbers
18 were. And, of course, there's caps and stuff in place
19 so that fisheries are managed to make sure that they
20 don't get too many chinook and chum salmon bycatch.
21

22 I'm pulling up the table right now,
23 hold on.
24

25 So the chinook salmon bycatch right now
26 in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery
27 for all fisheries is 31,000 in 2019. And that's a
28 little bit above the number in 2018, which was 17,000
29 but below the numbers in 2017, and 2016. And chinook
30 salmon bycatch in the -- and that's for the A and B
31 season for all the fisheries, pollock, and all
32 fisheries.
33

34 Hopefully I'm looking at the correct
35 number but, yeah, those numbers, they get published on
36 their website and there's a NOAA website, a fisheries
37 NOAA website that those are available on, and I think
38 those may be -- yes, so, hopefully that helps. And
39 they'll be published in the Joint Technical Committee
40 report.
41

42 MR. ONEY: Thank you.
43

44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
45 this is Eva.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.
48

49 MS. PATTON: I also have reports that
50

1 were provided by Diana Stram who is the research
2 biologist for the North Pacific Fisheries Management
3 Council. Again, unfortunately she wasn't able to
4 participate in this meeting because they have
5 concurrent meetings this week. But she did provide
6 reports that I'm mailing to the Council, they were
7 going to be handouts, but unfortunately -- so they're
8 in the mail and they are on board for the next fall
9 meeting again and, hopefully, we won't have meetings
10 that overlap, so they are looking forward to reporting
11 to the Council directly as well.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, this is
16 Alissa. I was wondering, did we ever send a letter to
17 NOAA and to the fishery council that we wanted them to
18 retain a low bycatch number until our chinook salmon
19 increased. Did we ever get that letter sent out or can
20 we put a letter in as soon as possible to reduce the
21 bycatch number back to 17,000?

22

23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
24 Yes, there was a letter developed and sent by the
25 Council. That was a few years back now, so the Council
26 hasn't recently sent another letter regarding the
27 chinook salmon bycatch. The Council can develop and
28 make a recommendation to send another letter with that
29 request if the Council wishes.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I think it would
32 be very beneficial that we send this letter. If
33 anyone's up for it, to entertain with a motion that we
34 send a letter to the Fisheries Council to reduce the
35 bycatch numbers.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
40 If the Council would like to submit a letter, that is
41 something that does take a motion and a vote by the
42 Council and just a few words about what you would like
43 to have in the letter and addressed to who.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Did
48 anyone want to make a motion so we could send a letter
49 to the Fishery Council to reduce the bycatch number

50

1 back to 17,000?

2

3 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, this is
4 James Landlord. I make that motion to send that
5 letter.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: A motion has been
8 made by James Landlord to send a letter to the North
9 Pacific Management Fisheries Council in regards to the
10 chinook salmon bycatch, to reduce the numbers back to
11 17,000 because we're still in conservation mode and
12 we're still restricted, both the Yukon and Kuskokwim
13 Rivers, and subsistence is still being restricted,
14 commercial fishing is being restricted, our numbers of
15 chinook salmon have not returned to high numbers and if
16 we're being restricted on the river, the bycatch
17 numbers should still remain low.

18

19 Can we get a second.

20

21 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney, second.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Second by Mr. Ray
24 Oney. Any further comments or questions or discussion
25 to any -- do you guys want to talk more about -- in
26 regards to bycatch.

27

28 MR. NICOLAI: On the -- Ms. Chairman.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: First and last
31 name, please.

32

33 MR. NICOLAI: Evan Nicolai. Organized
34 Village of Kwethluk. In that letter can you include
35 the delay for the fishermen to allow for fish to escape
36 towards the drainages, or even the tributaries so that
37 the numbers of fish increase. That's one option that
38 allows for more fish to come up into the rivers, when
39 you delay the time that these trawlers have openings.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
42 Nicolai.

43

44 Did any of the Council members like to
45 entertain that addition?

46

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
2 discussion on this with Council members?
3
4 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: Just a question. Can't we
9 just simply ask them to (indiscernible) from their
10 website -- or to get that info?
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.
13
14 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome.
17 All right, any further comments or questions or
18 discussion on stuff you want to add into this letter.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
23 hearing none, can we go ahead and close this motion and
24 take a vote on it.
25
26 MR. LANDLORD: Question.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been
29 called. All those in favor of writing a letter to the
30 North Pacific Management Council to reduce the bycatch
31 number from 31,000 to 17,000 for chinook salmon signify
32 by saying aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those opposed
37 same sign.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
42 motion's been carried.
43
44 Eva, do you need anything else on that
45 or do you got it?
46
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 This is Eva, no, that was good. We have the basic
49 intent and then I can work with the Council on
50

1 additional details and language before we submit a
2 letter so we'll be working with you to finalize it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. All
7 right, do we have any Yukon tribal governments that
8 want to speak on the fishery for the Yukon River.

9

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. We
15 have the Yukon River InterTribal -- wait, do we have
16 the Fish Commission for the Yukon River on the agenda
17 today, Eva?

18

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MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
We did not get any confirmation for participation from
the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission. And,
actually the Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council
wasn't available for this meeting either. So we'll try
for both of them again in the fall meeting.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, sounds
good, well, thank you Eva.

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
Association.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Madame Chair, I'm
here.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you for
being here and being patient with us, I greatly
appreciate it. Go ahead, you have the floor.

MR. JENKINS: Well, first I think you
guys are doing an admirable job under very challenging
circumstances, so tip of the hat to your Staff and to
the Council members and everybody joining in.

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and
members of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
Council. Thank you for this opportunity to present to
you. I am pleased to represent the Yukon River
Drainage Fisheries Association. My name is Wayne
Jenkins and I am YRDFA's Director.

1 First off I would like to introduce to
2 you our new Executive Director, Serena Fitka. Serena
3 is on the line. I will be stepping into retirement
4 over the next several months. I hope that everyone
5 will have an opportunity to meet Serena in the near
6 future, on the river this summer perhaps, or at one of
7 the upcoming meetings. We regret not being able to be
8 there with you in person today. But we are very
9 excited to be working with Serena and we look forward
10 to her efforts working with the YRDFA Board and the
11 RACs and other stakeholders.

12
13 And, Serena, can you just share a few
14 words with the Council if you're on the line.

15
16 MS. FITKA: Yes, good afternoon, Madame
17 Chair. My name's Serena Fitka. And I grew up in St.
18 Marys. And I look forward to working with the people
19 of the Yukon River.

20
21 MR. JENKINS: Thanks, appreciate that.

22
23 I want to begin our report with an
24 update on our Fisheries Resource Management Program
25 projects and then update you on some of our other
26 related activities. I'm not sure which handouts we
27 were able to get to you, I was planning on bringing
28 them with me but maybe Eva was able to get them printed
29 up and to you.

30
31 The first FRMP project I want to speak
32 to is our in-season community surveyor project, which
33 our -- which Catherine Moncrieff, our anthropologist,
34 that's one of her projects. We're just wrapping up the
35 four year cycle that began in 2016. Our final report
36 is in its last stages, we expect to distribute it
37 around the end of March. We were able to train and
38 hire 19 surveyors over this four year project period
39 and we're proud of this number because it reflects our
40 retention rate and capacity building efforts at the
41 community level. We were able to keep most, or many of
42 our 10 surveyors from year to year and we have some
43 surveyors who have worked on this project for over 10
44 years and they are our leaders and our mentors to our
45 new surveyors as new ones come on line. In the 2019
46 fishing season, our surveyors conducted 377 interviews
47 with 142 fishing households over a 13 week period. They
48 participated in 10 teleconferences. In Ruby, Tanana
49 and Eagle, all participating fishers reported meeting

50

1 their subsistence needs last year and most also did in
2 Alakanuk, Marshall and Ft. Yukon.

3
4 We have just received notice of our
5 2020 funding for this program. The new funding cycle
6 begins April 1st and we'll begin by rehiring our
7 surveyors and holding our surveyor training event in
8 Anchorage in late April, which will be associated with
9 the YRDFA Board meeting and the preseason. More on
10 those meetings in just a bit.

11
12 Next I want to share with you just a
13 few snippets from our in-season salmon management
14 teleconferences. We're also just wrapping up that four
15 year cycle of FRMP funding. In the 2019 season we held
16 13 in-season teleconferences. And some of the
17 important topics that were discussed between the
18 fishers and managers and others on the call were the
19 recordbreaking hot temperature, both in the Bering Sea
20 and on land. High water temperature. Poor chum flesh
21 quality. Sores on some fish. Also the dead, unspawned
22 salmon kill on the Koyukuk River. Discussions were
23 held over providing for the subsistence harvest in the
24 face of all this. We had more Canadian and First
25 Nation peoples on the calls this year and that led to
26 some very good discussions. And there was also
27 surprise at the high number of chinook salmon counted
28 at Pilot Station and yet barely making the escapement
29 goal for Canadian origin chinook and not meeting the
30 apportionment for First Nations in Canada, which is
31 part of the agreement, the Yukon River agreement.

32
33 We also have received notice of the
34 2020 FRMP funding for this project, and YRDFA would
35 like to thank the YKDelta RAC, your OSM Staff and all
36 other supporters of these two outreach and
37 communications projects for Yukon River fishers, the
38 managers and the stakeholders on the river. We feel
39 like that these two projects have become a very
40 important part of the ongoing conversation and
41 cooperation that takes place on the river. And from
42 the looks of it we're going to need to work even closer
43 together over the coming years as we move into periods
44 of climate disturbance and other challenges.

45
46 The last FRMP project I'd like to
47 update on is the local and traditional knowledge of
48 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with a focus on the
49 Draanjik Basin. This project is just beginning it's
50

1 final year. It ends March 31st of 2021. Tasks that
2 remain include biological field work, which were
3 postponed last summer due to fires in the area and
4 other delays. We had it planned for this spring,
5 summer and fall, look for coho, chinook and chum salmon
6 in the area. Community meetings which will take place
7 in the fall. Catherine will present the preliminary
8 results and gather feedback at those meetings and our
9 final report should be out about one year from now.
10 And basically this one starts with interviews with
11 elders to try to identify important spawning areas and
12 other river reaches important to the fish that will
13 then get checked on the ground and hopefully in time be
14 added to the State's anadromous fisheries catalog.
15 That ensures greater protection for those river
16 sections for salmon species.

17
18 Other Yukon River fisheries activities
19 I want to inform you about includes the YRDFA annual
20 Board meeting. This was planned to take place in
21 Anchorage on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28th and
22 29th. The Yukon River preseason planning meeting, the
23 big planning meeting with agency personnel and
24 management staff was to take place the day after the
25 YRDFA Board meetings, that's Thursday April 30th. Due
26 to the Covid-19 virus situation, we're working with our
27 partners to figure out the best way forward for having
28 these important meetings. It may be teleconferences,
29 it could be using Zoom or other tools on the internet,
30 but it's too early how that's going to shake out or how
31 quickly we'll get past this period of dealing with the
32 virus. We're certainly going to be cautious about
33 convening people, especially with the ages of many of
34 our constituents, so stay tuned and we'll let everybody
35 know how things are moving forward once we have those
36 plans in place.

37
38 And, finally, I'd like to tell you
39 about the work that YRDFA's been doing, or continues to
40 do as far as Pew Charitable Trust support for outreach
41 to communities and tribal governments as far as BLM's
42 Resource Management Planning process, which continues.
43 We have, since 2014, assisted tribal governments in
44 communities to engage with the Bureau of Land
45 Management as they make these long range plans. There
46 are two, the Bering Sea Western Interior and Central
47 Yukon. Agencies are formulating their 20 year resource
48 management plans for millions of acres in those
49 regions, and, of course, those plans can affect many of
50

1 the communities and local people in those areas.
2 Though tribal councils and communities have clearly
3 explained to BLM their concerns for protecting
4 traditional subsistence use for the harvest of these
5 vitally important foods in those areas, BLM appears to
6 prefer mining and development of the land by opening up
7 over 90 percent of their managed areas in what is
8 referred to as their preferred alternative. This is
9 included in the Draft EIS for the Bering Sea, Western
10 Interior area. And this is not acceptable to the
11 communities and the people who could be most affected
12 by the decisions and development on these BLM lands.
13

14 In response over 20 tribes in the
15 Bering Sea, Western Interior region have formed a new
16 organization called the Bering Sea, Western Interior
17 Tribal Commission -- InterTribal Commission for
18 standing together and for pressing their concerns. In
19 a recent meeting in Anchorage with Alaska BLM Director,
20 Chad Padgett, the Tribal Commission heard that a new
21 alternative was being formulated by BLM. It remains to
22 be seen if it supports the Commission's request for
23 protection of critical traditional use areas, which are
24 necessary for cultural and nutritional needs of local
25 people living there. The Western and Eastern RACs --
26 oh, I'm sorry. The YKDelta RAC might consider sending
27 letters of support to the Federal Subsistence Board
28 sharing their concerns on these issues and showing
29 support for the Bering Sea, Western Interior
30 InterTribal Commission.
31

32 I hope that Eva was able to share with
33 you a letter, which we refer to as the 20 Alaska Tribe
34 comment letter. This was sent to BLM, Alaska District
35 Manager and Field Manager provided -- hopefully
36 provided to you as a handout. It's fairly lengthy and
37 covers a lot of the issues that they are dealing with
38 and are concerned about. There's a long list of how
39 the trust relationship between the Federal agency and
40 the Federally-recognized tribes has not been upheld by
41 BLM, and how the NEPA process has been mismanaged.
42

43 We have just learned that BLM is
44 reviewing the present draft alternatives and may be
45 creating this new one, and it is hoped that this new
46 one will reflect BLM addressing the requests made by
47 the tribes individually and collectively.
48

49 And with that, that is the end of my
50

1 report. I would gladly accept any questions that you
2 might have.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you so
5 much, Wayne. It's bad news to hear you going but
6 congratulations on your retirement, and we welcome
7 Serene Fitka to our meetings and we look forward to
8 working with you in the future.

9

10 Do any of our Council.....

11

12 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do any of our
15 Council members have any comments or questions for the
16 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

17

18 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

21

22 MR. ONEY: Thank you. Madame Chair.
23 For the record, Ray Oney. Thanks, Wayne, for your
24 report. And, again, I want to say thank Serene Fitka
25 on board as an Executive Director for YRDFA, welcome
26 aboard.

27

28 When you mentioned earlier that there
29 wasn't enough fish that wasn't going into Canada side,
30 has the YRDFA Board come up with any strategy as far as
31 what they'd like to look at as far as trying to get
32 more fish into Canada.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. JENKINS: Through the Chair. Mr.
37 Oney, thank you for that question. The YRDFA Board has
38 not come together to discuss that yet. That's
39 certainly on the agenda for the proposed Board meeting
40 at the end of April. It will certainly, I think, be a
41 part of the preseason meeting discussions. You know
42 with the high count in the lower river and those low
43 numbers crossing over at Eagle, you know, it asks the
44 complicated question where -- what happened to the
45 fish, right. Did we catch too many. Did we lose a lot
46 of fish due to the temperature situation but we just
47 really didn't see their bodies. Did they go up other
48 drainages. Is it a combination perhaps of all of
49 these. But I think it points out a real challenge for

50

1 the managers and for subsistence users on the river.
2 In times like these when we are thrown curves, like
3 last year, you know, were we too over confident, you
4 know, it's just a really tough call when things are
5 looking really good and then late in the season we find
6 out, well, they're not that good for the folks in
7 Canada. So, you know, people all up and down the river
8 may want to ponder, what do they have to have, how they
9 may substitute even when things look good, maybe we
10 need to remain in conservation mode in our minds and in
11 our practices, thinking about those folks further up
12 that may not have an opportunity to catch fish.

13
14 So it just seems like it's a very
15 volatile situation and, you know, it's not -- I don't
16 know that it's important to find any blame, I think the
17 question is how do we all work more closely together to
18 try to address the challenges of our times.

19
20 And certainly the YRDFA Board will be
21 discussing it.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Wayne.
24 Maybe I -- I know the Yukon River is one long river to
25 manage and it's pretty hard to satisfy everybody from
26 one end of the river to the other. But they've been
27 doing their part as far as trying to make sure that
28 fish are taken all along the river, all up to the
29 border. So I'm hoping that they're still able to do
30 that as long as that run is strong, as far as the
31 chinook salmon. We will see how it'll work out this
32 summer.

33
34 So thank you for your report,
35 appreciate it.

36
37 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, through the
38 Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anyone
41 else.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
46 hearing none, well, thank you so much, I greatly
47 appreciate it. Wayne, once again hopefully we'll cross
48 paths.

49
50

1 MR. JENKINS: Yes. Yes.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.
4
5 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
8 you, Wayne.
9
10 All right, let's.....
11
12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:see.....
15
16 MS. HOOPER: Madame Chairman.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.
19
20 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Alissa, sorry, this is
21 Jennifer Hooper at AVCP. I was just looking at the
22 agenda and I think I walked in as you were possibly --
23 I think we missed our call on the agenda and wondered
24 if this was a good time to give a quick update for
25 AVCP.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So, Jennifer.....
28
29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
30 I was just going to suggest that if you were on line.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, we had to
33 change around our agenda to accommodate this
34 teleconference so that we're not jumping around and
35 getting people confused. But if we're all done with
36 Yukon River fisheries, that's what I was just about to
37 ask you, Eva, if we're all done with Yukon fisheries at
38 this point.
39
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. That
41 was it for our Yukon specific points. And so I was
42 actually going to just check on teleconference and see
43 if Jennifer was available to provide the AVCP.....
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect.
46
47 MS. PATTON:update. Thank you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Perfect. All
50

1 right, thank you. Go ahead, Jennifer, you have the
2 floor.

3
4 MS. HOOPER: Okay, thanks. Sorry if I
5 jumped the gun. We don't have a whole lot of updates
6 so it should be pretty quick.

7
8 And I'm sorry I missed the fall meeting
9 and so I'm not quite sure what John shared with you
10 all. I think we've kind of gotten into the routine of
11 just doing a high level overview of big things that
12 we've been focusing on and, you know, have on our
13 radar.

14
15 And so just real quickly as we're, you
16 know, approaching springtime. We've had our regional
17 migratory bird WCC meeting and I appreciate your
18 comments from this morning on the emperor geese.
19 That's also, you know, a concern of everyone. And
20 there should be a lot of energy spent here between now
21 and the next several weeks into spring hunting on
22 developing some education and outreach materials on,
23 you know, conservation messages and things like that,
24 statewide.

25
26 Here recently, obviously with
27 everything kind of frazzled and things cancelling land
28 postponing, within AVCP we've had a halt on any out of
29 region travel, and so anything beyond, you know, Bethel
30 and the villages are on suspension right now and so
31 just kind of going in line with how everyone else is
32 approaching the situation and either cancelling or
33 postponing things.

34
35 We're working on trying to develop some
36 forestry related hazardous fuels reduction projects in
37 a couple of the villages. We're in talks with --
38 contact within the Fish and Wildlife Service on some
39 potential communities and then Paige is also working on
40 developing a partnership with the Campfire Alaska
41 program and looking at ways to get fire safety
42 information out to the villages.

43
44 We're still heavily involved with sort
45 of some Bering Sea Coalition groups and efforts trying
46 to address issues with shipping traffic and then how to
47 utilize and maximize the potential with the different
48 task forces and committees that the North Pacific
49 Fisheries Management Council have put into place in the

50

1 last year. I know Richard mentioned this morning his
2 involvement with the subsistence and local knowledge
3 traditional task force, there's also a climate change
4 task force and then a community engagement committee
5 that was scheduled to kind of wrap up our work with a
6 meeting next month in April but that's been cancelled,
7 along with the April Council meeting. And so depending
8 on how things go the next couple of months, those will
9 hopefully will be rescheduled and made available for
10 people. The community engagement committee was
11 actually going to be held here in Bethel along with a
12 sort of a 101, quick course, on the North Pacific
13 Council process, and, you know, short training for the
14 public, you know, people who are interested in learning
15 more about the Council process. So hopefully we'll be
16 able to continue, keep the location, you know, as
17 Bethel, and just, you know, at a later time but still
18 provide that opportunity for people out here to learn
19 more about the Council process.

20

21 We're working on a couple of large
22 scale projects with ICC Alaska, Inuit Circumpolar
23 Council of Alaska. Some food sovereignty and food
24 security projects. And we've got several efforts going
25 on with that.

26

27 And just like everyone else, it's nice
28 that it's warmed up and the weather is just amazing now
29 and I know we're all looking out our windows wishing we
30 could be outside.

31

32 But other than that that's a quick
33 summary of what AVCP's been looking at and kind of what
34 our efforts are going to be here.

35

36 Another -- the last big, I guess for
37 the -- bit project, is we're going to be rolling out a
38 survey tool specifically for the Natural Resources
39 Department, requesting feedback from the tribes and,
40 you know, public people from the region, what their
41 areas are -- priority areas of concern are and
42 questions and issues to be provided, you know, back to
43 us to help provide a little more focus to where we
44 spend our energy with just a Staff of three. I'm sure
45 we've relayed it before to you all that, you know, we
46 kind of jump from one thing to the other as the fires
47 increase, and looking for ways to get a little more
48 focus, direct, straight from the tribes and the region
49 on areas that we, you know, maybe should be spending

50

1 our energy and focus on. So that will be coming out
2 here. Hopefully by the end of the month we'll work on
3 a large scale roll out, we've got, you know, Facebook,
4 a Facebook page and I think our communications
5 department has Twitter and I'm not sure what else along
6 with the website. But that will be coming out here in
7 the next couple of weeks. So I hope everyone sees it
8 as a useful tool and helps to provide us some good
9 feedback and focus.

10

11 Well, that's it, Quayana.

12

13 (Telephone interference - participants
14 not muted - TV noise)

15

16 MS. HOOPER: I hope I wasn't just
17 reporting to myself.

18

19 MS. PATTON: No, thank you, Jennifer.
20 I think we might have just lost Alissa for a minute
21 there. This is Eva.

22

23 MS. HOOPER: Okay. Okay.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you very much
26 Jennifer for your report and I know you guys are
27 working on so much there at AVCP and spread across a
28 broad region and all subsistence resources, so -- and
29 always with so few Staff, so thank you for taking the
30 time for the meeting and all the good work there.

31

32 MS. HOOPER: Thank you. Yeah, I should
33 be on line the rest of today and tomorrow in case
34 people have any questions or suggestions for us.

35

36 Thank you, Eva.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thanks Jennifer. And any
39 questions for Jennifer from the Council.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Jennifer,
42 it's Alissa. Sorry about that, I got disconnected
43 again. I did have a couple of questions.

44

45 Were you guys in any capacity helping
46 to get those barges removed or at least get that barge
47 removed in Steamboat Slough?

48

49 MS. HOOPER: I do not -- not myself.

50

1 We have an environmental program here that may be
2 working on that, I would have to check with them
3 though. But I can see what I can find out.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. And really
6 quick, at your guys' Migratory Bird Council meeting,
7 did you guys -- could you tell us the final decision on
8 emperor geese?
9

10 MS. HOOPER: Well, there really was no
11 decision to make. Right now the Fish and Wildlife
12 Service is -- the population threshold is in that
13 yellow, sort of cautious, conservation mode, and so
14 last fall at the Alaska Migratory Bird CoManagement
15 Council meeting, the group decided that they were not
16 going to implement any further formal restrictions or
17 bag limits or anything like that, but that they wanted
18 to work on a larger scale, you know, education and
19 outreach program throughout the State, to help, you
20 know, bring more awareness of the -- you know, the
21 species and their life history, population, biology and
22 then start with that and see how that works out. But
23 there was no formal approval or, you know, non-approval
24 or any decision that our group, you know, was asked to
25 make.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. All right,
28 well, thank you so much. Is there anybody else in the
29 Council that might have questions for Jennifer at this
30 time?
31

32
33 (No comments)
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
36 hearing none, thank you so much, Jennifer, I greatly
37 appreciate for your time and patience for being here on
38 the teleconference with us.
39

40 MS. HOOPER: Yep, thanks.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. It
43 looks like it's 4:00 o'clock. Eva, what time did you
44 want to go until?
45

46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
47 I would suggest that we begin wrapping up for the day
48 at this time so that people have an opportunity to get
49 a dinner break prior to the special action public
50

1 hearing tonight for the fisheries special action.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

4

5 MS. PATTON: We are encouraging all the
6 Council members to participate in that meeting which
7 will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by
8 teleconference. And before we convene I'll provide
9 that teleconference number to everyone here on line.
10 It is a different teleconference number than the one
11 you're calling in to this meeting.

12

13 So, again, we were hoping to break so
14 everyone would have enough time for dinner prior to
15 getting back on a teleconference this evening for a
16 couple hours.

17

18 And then we are hoping to reconvene
19 tomorrow morning and start back up again with all the
20 Kuskokwim reports. So we do have a couple tribes that
21 wanted to speak directly to the special action request
22 plus the regular Kuskokwim reports from both the Fish
23 and Wildlife, and Fish and Game in-season fisheries
24 managers, the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission
25 and then some of our partners who work on the in-season
26 fisheries as well. So our hope is to have all of those
27 Kuskokwim discussions in the morning after the
28 Council's had an opportunity to hear from the public
29 this evening.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

32

33 MS. PATTON: And I'm going to grab that
34 teleconference number, and do let me know if the
35 Council has any questions on that.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Okay,
40 so it sounds like we're going to go ahead and -- right
41 after Eva gives us our number to call in again at 6:00
42 o'clock tonight for the fisheries special actions,
43 again, that's at 6:00 o'clock tonight.

44

45 Let's see, Eva did you have that phone
46 number readily handy, I don't have it here.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Yes, I do. And in case
49 anybody misses it I had also emailed it to all the

50

1 Council members and also in a broad public
2 distribution, and it's also available on line if you go
3 to the OSM website under fisheries special actions.
4 But for everybody that's on the teleconference now and
5 public participating and for our Council members, the
6 teleconference number to call in tonight, the public
7 hearing will be starting at 6:00 p.m., and running
8 until 8:00 p.m. Teleconference number, toll free, 1-
9 888-566-1030. And, again, that number is 1-888-566-
10 1030. And then the passcode is 3344290. So again
11 that's 3344290, and that's the passcode.

12
13 And for Council members, if you have a
14 challenge getting through to that teleconference,
15 please, do text me on my personal cell phone because
16 then I can help you get connected, or if you need that
17 number again.

18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What is your cell
20 phone number.

21
22 MS. PATTON: So we do have a work cell
23 phone number, is 907-444-4851, and then the Council
24 members have my personal cell phone number.

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 MR. ONEY: If nothing else I move to
29 recess.

30
31 MR. PETER: Second.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we
34 have a motion on the floor to recess before this
35 evening. We'll be coming to our 6:00 p.m., meeting for
36 this special action hearing, and we'll convene -- we'll
37 reconvene our meeting at -- is it 9:00 o'clock a.m.,
38 Eva?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. So 6:00 to
41 8:00 p.m. for the public hearing tonight with this
42 teleconference number that I just reiterated. And then
43 same teleconference number that you've got in your
44 meeting books, on your agenda, that you called in
45 today, 9:00 a.m., tomorrow, we'll reconvene our RAC
46 meeting.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll hear from
4 you guys tomorrow, 9:00 a.m.
5
6 MS. PATTON: And we'll hear everyone on
7 line tonight at 6:00 p.m.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: After you eat a
10 good meal.
11
12 MS. PATTON: Yes. Get a good meal,
13 give your ears a break. Wonderful job, everyone on the
14 Council, I know this is difficult straining to hear for
15 so many hours, and, again, tonight. So get some good
16 rest, have a good dinner and we'll be on at 6:00 p.m.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
19 thanks, Eva. Bye.
20
21 MR. ONEY: Thanks, Eva.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Bye.
24
25 (Off record)
26
27 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
28
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