

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
March 12, 2020
9:07 a.m.

Members Present:

Tom Gray, Acting Chairman
Deahl Katchatag
Ronald Kirk
Lloyd Kiyutelluk
Leland Oyoumick
Charles Saccheus
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator -Tom Kron (Acting)
Karen Deatherage/phone

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Nome, Alaska - 3/12/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We have a quorum now.
8 I will call this meeting to order. We'll get through a
9 couple of issues before Jim and Art shows up. If he
10 doesn't show up, we'll just address the letter. One
11 issue is elections. I'm going to propose that we put
12 off elections until the next meeting because everybody
13 is scrambling trying to get out of here.
14
15 MR. OYOUMICK: Good idea.
16
17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So I'm going to
18 need a motion to do that if that's what the board wants
19 to do.
20
21 MR. OYOUMICK: I move, Tom.
22
23 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Leland moves to
24 postpone the elections until the next meeting. Is
25 there a second?
26
27 MR. KATCHATAG: Second.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a question.
30 Any discussion.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MR. KIRK: Question.
35
36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The question has been
37 called. All in favor say aye.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So we have put off
46 elections until our fall meeting. The next thing that
47 we need to look at is our meeting schedule. Those that
48 have the booklet in front of them it's page 36 and 37.
49 So right now for the fall schedule we are slated the
50

1 28th and 29th of October to have our fall meeting. Let
2 me look at my schedule because I think I'm in Mexico
3 then, but that doesn't mean we have to change it.
4

5 MR. KIRK: Will you be available the
6 28th and 29th, Tom?
7

8 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'm just looking at my
9 -- no, I'll be back. I'm gone the week before the
10 meeting, so I'll be able to be at that 28th meeting.
11

12 MR. SACCHEUS: Where are we going to
13 have the meeting at?
14

15 CHAIRMAN GRAY: On the calendar it says
16 Nome. Do you want to have it in Hawaii or what?
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 MR. KIRK: Tom asked if you want to go
21 to Hawaii.
22

23 MR. SACCHEUS: Nome or Hawaii, I don't
24 mind it.
25

26 MR. KIRK: That was Charlie. Yeah,
27 Nome sounds good, Tom.
28

29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So Nome, the
30 28th and 29th is our fall meeting. So our next meeting
31 that we need to slate would be our 2021 winter meeting.
32 What's on the calendar is February 14 to March 27. I
33 know I am gone probably March 2nd to the 8th and 18th
34 through 27th of March. My schedule gets so filled up
35 because of my business.
36

37 MR. KIRK: What's your schedule like
38 for 11 and 12?
39

40 CHAIRMAN GRAY: 11 and 12 are good for
41 me. March 11 and 12?
42

43 MR. KIRK: Yeah, that's good.
44

45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We need a motion to ask
46 for March 11 and 12 then.
47

48 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Make that motion.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: There's a motion. Is
2 there a second.
3
4 MR. OYOUMICK: Second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Any discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. KIRK: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The question has been
13 called. All in favor say aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we have a
22 meeting date and everything is good. Let me go back to
23 my agenda. Did I skip over anything that I need to
24 address. Go ahead, Tom.
25
26 MR. KRON: No, Mr. Chair. I think
27 you're good.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we have two
32 things left to do. One is Jim Menard was going to be
33 here at 9 and I don't see him yet. The other thing is
34 we have closing comments. If you want to go through
35 closing comments and try and let a little more time go
36 by so Jim might show up. With Jim we have to decide
37 what we're going to do with the letter to -- the crab
38 issue. So why don't we go through closing comments and
39 we'll go from there.
40
41 Do you have any closing comments,
42 Leland.
43
44 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah. I think -- I
45 don't know much about crabbing, but talking to the
46 locals that are not getting very much crab and they'd
47 like to -- that's part of what they like to do in the
48 winter. I guess we need to listen to them and close it
49 down is what I hear. I'd like for them to do some
50

1 testing in our ocean waters for any kind of
2 contaminants that come from Fukushima and Chernobyl or
3 wherever.

4

5 MR. RISSO: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yes, sir.

8

9 MR. RISSO: Pardon the interruption.
10 This is Chuck Risso with the Department of Fish and
11 Game in Anchorage. Jim is on his way.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, awesome. I'm glad
14 we decided to go around the table and have our closing
15 comments and give him a chance to get here.

16

17 MR. RISSO: I sent him a text message
18 and he responded that he was almost there.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Super. Thank you.

21

22 You've got the floor again, Leland.

23

24 MR. OYOUMICK: Anyway, I'd like to keep
25 tabs on those things. With the IRA at home they had a
26 meeting with us and they wanted us to identify places
27 where we thought there was PCBs or something left over
28 by the base and the White Alice and all that setup. I
29 took them to two places by boat on the river and both
30 of them tested positive for what they were looking for.
31 The outfit that did the testing was called Kentrack out
32 of Anchorage. If you need to talk to them, they're in
33 the phone book.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Ron, why don't
38 you go ahead and go.

39

40 MR. KIRK: Okay, Mr. Chair. I enjoyed
41 this meeting, but, yeah, I'm in favor of closing
42 commercial crabbing and leave it open for subsistence
43 crabbing. I enjoyed this meeting. It was very good to
44 see everybody. See you next fall.

45

46 Thank you. Do you want Charlie's
47 closing comments?

48

49 REPORTER: Yes.

50

1 MR. SACCHEUS: I hope we move forward
2 with the subsistence crabbing for the people of
3 Shaktoolik and Elim. I know we always like to eat
4 crabs wintertime.
5

6 Thank you.
7

8 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Thank you,
9 Charlie.

10 Elmer.
11

12
13 MR. SEETOT: Good morning. Not very
14 much other than that. I see the Federal government
15 still goes on even without our main coordinator. I
16 thank Tom for stepping in. Even the other Tom here.
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 MR. SEETOT: I think it went very well.
21 I think we should keep electing him as Chair because
22 the meeting went very fast or condensed in a way.
23 Other than that I think since five years
24 ago our waters or our bays are frozen to an extent
25 where it pretty much covers the entire Bering Sea
26 system, but I'm assuming that they're not very sick.
27

28 I know that in Grantley Harbor last
29 month someone tried to go smelt fishing over there just
30 with an auger. He didn't break through because it has
31 been very cold since middle part of December up to the
32 present where we had below zero temperatures. We
33 haven't had below zero temperatures in such a long time
34 that I hope that it helps the Bering Sea ecosystem
35 where we won't be able to see very many dead auklets or
36 dead fish floating around throughout the spring and the
37 summer.
38

39 Assuming that everything goes all right
40 in the weather patterns, it looks like we will go
41 through the seasons, a longer spring season. Hopefully
42 a good berry picking season because they talk about the
43 more snow, the more berries you'll have.
44

45 In the other ways with our weather
46 getting warmer, our waters getting warmer, most of the
47 species will probably be where they are at right now or
48 move further up. Per the scientists that observe these
49 things when they go on a cruise in the Arctic,
50

1 we'll have more frequent storms in the Bering Sea. But
2 they do miss our communities about 50 percent of the
3 time when they do forecast storms.
4

5 Other than that they're very good and I
6 thank everyone for coming.
7

8 Thank you.
9

10 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Doug.
11

12 MR. KATCHATAG: The only comment I
13 could say is that I hope we keep up with the climate
14 change. We have learned to live with it. We can't
15 just ignore it and forget about it because I expect
16 more fish and sea mammals to be washing up this summer.
17 It's cold now, but it's warming up pretty fast. Once
18 it warms up all the snow will melt and summer comes and
19 it's going to be really hot. With the sun beating down
20 on earth there will be no nothing, so we've got to
21 learn to live with that.
22

23 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay, thank you.
24

25 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Lloyd Kiyutelluk. I'd
26 like to thank Tom for co-Chairing our meeting.
27 Everything went well and I hope our word for the
28 crabbing issue subsistence will back Mr. Ashenfelter
29 and whoever it is we're writing the letter to.
30

31 Thank you all for coming to the
32 meeting.
33

34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you. Thank you,
35 guys. I guess my closing comments. This meeting went
36 really well and I really appreciate everybody that came
37 and interjected thoughts. The biggest thing I've heard
38 here is we're in a changing world and we need to adjust
39 and get used to new times and stay on top of issues.
40

41 I think that's the big thing that's
42 going on right now is that we are addressing issues
43 that we wouldn't be or haven't thought about addressing
44 10 or 20 years ago. You know, if we don't address some
45 of these things, I think it's going to affect our
46 subsistence users, our people and we really don't need
47 that.
48

49 So we're waiting on Jim. Go ahead.
50

1 You had something?

2
3 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. I would just --
4 since some of these people are going, what process is
5 in place in case we can't make it out of here? I'm
6 supposed to leave tomorrow. Is there a way to go
7 before the storm or do we have to kind of go with the
8 schedule? I'm assuming that the weather was supposed
9 to kick in tonight and then go out to Sunday, Saturday.
10 I'm not really too sure around the Bering Straits side.
11 It might be good there, but they had cancelled one
12 flight into Bering -- last flight, Bering Air flight
13 yesterday, but Ravn had made it. So, like I said, it
14 might have hit us, but then most of it would be on
15 Bering Strait.

16
17 One of the things I have a problem with
18 is if I don't make it and I have to go back to the
19 hotel, sometimes it takes me a while just to talk to
20 the personnel to stay another night or extend my stay
21 because of weather. Very rarely have we used weather
22 to stay in Nome another night.

23
24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. If you need to
25 stay in Nome another night because of weather, give me
26 a call. We'll have to basically get the approval
27 through or notify the travel agent. Again, we can do
28 that. You guys are volunteers and we want to work to
29 provide reasonable accommodations and transportation.

30
31 Relative to transportation, if we
32 finish here in a half an hour, you can basically take
33 your ticket and go to the air carrier and essentially
34 they can let you on even if your ticket says that your
35 flight is later. If you want to change flights, I'll
36 have to do that through our travel agent. The easiest
37 thing to do is just take your ticket and the carriers
38 will accept the ticket for that earlier flight.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GRAY: These guys are going to
41 need a phone number that is reachable even at 10:00
42 o'clock at night so if they run into a problem and they
43 can't get through to somebody, they can keep calling.

44
45 MR. KRON: Yeah. Just to let you know
46 my home phone, I've got a land line at home, is
47 xxx-xxxx and my cell phone is not working here in Nome.
48 Apparently GCI doesn't have good coverage here or
49 something. My GCI cell phone is xxx-xxxx and my.....

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Sorry,
2 Tom.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Go ahead.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen.
7 xxx-xxx-xxxx is my cell phone. I'm in Fairbanks, but
8 I'll do whatever it takes to get you guys home safely.
9 I'll call the Aurora right now and let them know if
10 anybody in this group needs to stay late or stay over
11 later they can do so. I concur with Mr. Kron's
12 recommendation to get on the plan if you can to get out
13 of there before the storm.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 MR. SEETOT: Quyana.

18
19 MR. KRON: Thank you, Karen.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're still
22 waiting on Jim. I think while we're waiting for Jim we
23 might as well talk about this letter to the Scientific
24 Committee. The impression I got
25 around the table is there's a lot of concern about
26 subsistence crabbing in the villages and in the back of
27 my mind I'm thinking this letter is going to get
28 approved to be sent out.

29
30 I would like to throw a couple of
31 things out. I thought about this letter as I was
32 driving down here this morning. I was thinking that we
33 not only want to support the actions taken by the Board
34 of Fish and Charlie Lean and that entourage, but we
35 also want to state in the letter that we want
36 commercial fishing shut down until such a time that the
37 numbers come back enough that if commercial fishing is
38 started up again it will not affect subsistence
39 crabbing.

40
41 You know, I guess what I'm trying to
42 say is when we listened to Charlie Lean yesterday, his
43 thoughts are it's going to be two or three years for
44 this crabbing to come back and the action that's taken
45 to this point only goes to the end of this year. So I
46 think the letter needs to address further than the end
47 of the year if crabbing does not come back by the end
48 of the year.

49
50

1 Does that make sense to everybody?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Does anybody have any comments on this idea of sending a letter to the Scientific Committee?

7

8

9

Okay. Roy.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I spoke to it yesterday, but I'll try to remember what I said. I think the letter that Charlie and them -- I'm hoping that the letter would include the local biologists that have been setting the crab situation and I mentioned their names. Charlie Lean, Wes Jones and Scott Kent. Those are the three individuals who have spent time and effort to do the research out in the ocean to determine what crab is left.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

The other component in this since it's a year stay by the Board of Fish, which is really good, Charlie and them will be working on this. They're going to be doing a test fishery and there's also going to be an independent biologist -- and you heard this from Charlie yesterday. There's going to be an independent person to review the data to assure and remind Board of Fish and the North Pacific SDC Council that there's a very serious crisis here in regards to crab.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

So those are components that I see other than there will probably be more specific data so that the SDC reacts to the data that's helpful. As far as I know this intent is only to shut down commercial crabbing. There's no information as far as I know to delay or affect subsistence crabbing except that those that are subsistence crabbing for crab can expect a very poor take of crab or number of crab to bring home.

42

43

44

Anyway, those are kind of like reminders of what I heard yesterday.

45

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Thank you, Roy. For those online we just got Jim Menard in. Jim, we have been holding the meeting.....

49

50

MR. MENARD: We're going to try and do

1 a PowerPoint and a presentation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Whatever you
4 want. I do know that half of this room is trying to
5 catch a plane at noon, so hopefully we're not going to
6 affect that.

7

8 For those of you online, Jim and his
9 crew just came in and they're going to set up and
10 they'll have the floor and give us a presentation and
11 then we will summarize and get through the meeting
12 here. We're going to take a five-minute break and let
13 them get organized.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'm going to give Jim
20 the floor and we will hear him out.

21

22 MR. MENARD: Thank you, Tom. I think I
23 know a number of people here. Jim Menard. I'm the
24 area manager for Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game for the Norton
26 Sound/Kotzebue/Arctic area.

27

28 What we wanted to do was walk through
29 the crab. There was just a Board meeting. I'll go
30 over some of the new regs passed. We can break it up a
31 few times if there's questions so I don't put everyone
32 to sleep here. This is going to take maybe 10 minutes
33 here. We'll go through some of the stuff up on the
34 board there. We have an oral report.

35

36 You got the right one up, Justin?

37

38 JUSTIN: That's what I'm looking at
39 here.

40

41 MR. MENARD: You don't have 2020 up.

42

43 JUSTIN: I might have grabbed the 2015
44 report and saved it.

45

46 MR. MENARD: Yeah, but I thought you
47 copied another one.

48

49 JUSTIN: I grabbed the wrong one.

50

1 MR. KRON: Just give us what you've
2 got.

3
4 MR. MENARD: Yeah, this is not going to
5 be good if we don't have the right one. But the plane
6 has been cancelled, so we do have time.

7
8 JUSTIN: I can go grab it real quick.

9
10 MR. MENARD: I'll talk about the old
11 stuff here and then we'll get the more modern stuff
12 because things have changed a lot since.....

13
14 JUSTIN: This report has been updated
15 in 2020 for a lot of it.

16
17 MR. MENARD: Okay. Well, let's give it
18 a shot then. Unfortunately -- no, that's not going to
19 work though because I have to explain FMP and things
20 like that.

21
22 MS. BELL: Why don't I do.....

23
24 MR. MENARD: Jen does that.....

25
26 JUSTIN: I'll go get it with another
27 flash drive.

28
29 MR. MENARD: Do we have a flash drive
30 at the office? We're so scattered here. So this will
31 just be a friendly.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Just so we're
34 all on the same page, there is a noon flight and again
35 everybody going to Anchorage has changed their tickets
36 to go on the noon flight. The evening flight did get
37 cancelled.

38
39 MR. MENARD: I thought the noon flight
40 was cancelled.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: No, the evening flight.

43
44 MS. PETRIVELLI: The noon flight was
45 cancelled.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, it just cancelled?

48
49 MS. PETRIVELLI: It's been cancelled.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I will get on the phone
2 and find out then.

3
4 MR. MENARD: Do you want to take a
5 break and find out?

6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: No. Go ahead. You can
8 start. I'm going to call and make sure because I'm
9 supposed to be on that flight.

10
11 MR. MENARD: Okay. So what this is
12 actually -- this was, like you can see five years
13 ago.....

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MR. MENARD: We can chat a little bit.
18 This slide up here we were showing where the actual
19 fishing occurs in the winter. It's close to shore
20 because of the ice and that's the orange up there. In
21 the summer subsistence, you know, the crab move farther
22 out. We don't get much effort in the summer, whereas
23 in the winter we'll get 130, most is a little over 200,
24 permits issued.

25
26 Subsistence crab permits. It's
27 required to have a subsistence crab permit and it's
28 good throughout Norton Sound. It's not like Northern
29 Norton Sound, the salmon, where they're just in certain
30 areas. You've got to get one for the Nome subdistrict,
31 one for the Golovin.

32
33 Subsistence is open 365 days a year.
34 There's no limit as far as pots through the ice for
35 subsistence fishing. But if you were going to go from
36 a boat, then as a permit holder for your household then
37 you would be limited to five pots, but two permit
38 holders can be on the same boat, so it would be 10 pots
39 for a subsistence permit holder. That's in the summer.
40 In the winter it's kind of how many you want to put
41 out. Subsistence, most just put out one or two.

42
43 Somebody put out -- we were talking
44 about the ice going away and somebody who is
45 subsistence said they lost six so far. That's one of
46 the big things. We do lose a lot of pots sometimes
47 with this ice. Last year was probably the first year
48 -- we'll have a slide in the other presentation --
49 where we lost more subsistence pots than we did

50

1 commercial because last year the season started
2 February 25th for commercial and only about five permit
3 holders had actually started fishing. The ice went out
4 and they lost 32 pots. Subsistence, since you can fish
5 all the time, they lost 59 pots were reported.
6

7 You lose a pot you can get a
8 replacement tag if you're commercially. Now that's
9 changed. So we're going to go over the Board of Fish
10 regulations that changed. Then in the summer, of
11 course, the boundaries are farther out for the
12 commercial guys. They have to go 10 miles, 15 miles
13 out in the Golovin Hole. So where you see the yellow
14 is where the commercial fishery can occur, so they have
15 to be much farther out chasing the crab there.
16

17 Let's see what the next slide is on
18 this one. Historically they used hand lines and a lot
19 of switching to pot gear in the late '70s. As I
20 mentioned, it's open year round to subsistence fishing.
21

22 (Pause)
23

24 MR. MENARD: Okay. Well, I guess we've
25 got the presentation now and we can go back to this one
26 if we want. Actually that one did have some
27 interesting subsistence catch information. Okay, here
28 we go.
29

30 So this is the -- we give an oral
31 report to the Board of Fisheries to kind of try to
32 bring them up to speed because remember the Board --
33 some are new members and aren't -- well, who on the
34 Board is familiar with fishing crab through the ice.
35 Nobody is from up far north here. So we try to get
36 them so they understand what the proposals are that are
37 going to come at the Board of Fish.
38

39 Let's go here, Justin, to the next one
40 and explain. So Norton Sound is under a Federal
41 Management Plan called the FMP and the North Pacific
42 Fisheries Management Council sets what's called the
43 OFL, which is the over-fishing limit, and the ABC,
44 which is like allowable biological catch. Some people
45 say acceptable biological catch levels for red king
46 crab. They received reports from Federal and State
47 biologists that are on a crab plan team, the
48 statisticians, a lot of the statistics they run from
49 the trawl surveys.
50

1 So the crab plan team then comes up --
2 we have a model. We do this trawl survey every year.
3 We used to do it once every three years. Now they've
4 been doing it every year. We get a lot of support from
5 NSEDC, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.
6 We haven't been able to do the trawl survey since 2017
7 every year. We do have another one coming up in 2020.
8 The crab plan team recommends to the SSC, which is the
9 Scientific and Statistical Committee, then they go over
10 it.

11
12 So what they did was -- then it goes to
13 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. There
14 is somebody from Nome on that, Simon Kinneen. Then
15 they end up setting that OFL and that ABC. The OFL was
16 like 290,000 pounds this year and that's what we can't
17 go over.

18
19 Then there's the ABC, which is called
20 the allowable biological catch. Usually they give a 20
21 percent cushion. Well, the crab plan team recommended
22 an additional 5 percent and then the SSC recommended an
23 additional 5 percent, so it was actually a 30 percent
24 cushion. So the ABC was down at 201,000 pounds.

25
26 So when the Department gets that, then
27 we set what's called the GHL, the guideline harvest
28 level, and so we set it below that ABC. So there's the
29 commercial in there and then we have to account for
30 subsistence and then we give about a 10,000 pound
31 cushion for subsistence. We have to kind of project
32 out what we think subsistence is going to catch based
33 on prior years. Then we give us a little cushion
34 because sometimes we go over in the commercial fishery
35 as we're trying to close it in the summer with the
36 boats.

37
38 So before 2016 there was no harvest
39 limit in the winter through the ice commercial fishery.
40 Now the winter commercial fishery they have to go
41 through the ice. Subsistence folks don't. If there's
42 no ice out there, they can go out in their boat and set
43 a pot. So, like I said, subsistence is open, but the
44 winter has to occur through the ice. There used to be
45 very few permits compared to what happened in the mid
46 teens. So there was no pot limit, anything like that,
47 in the winter fishery.

48
49 The GHL, that guideline harvest level,
50

1 was for the summer commercial fishery and based on OFL
2 and ABC levels we received from the North Pacific
3 Fisheries Marine Council in May. So then we would set
4 the GHL for the summer commercial fishery.
5

6 Now beginning in 2012 the winter
7 commercial harvest really took off. They went from a
8 yearly average of 2.5 percent of the total commercial
9 harvest to 20 percent by 2015. That has to do with a
10 big increase in the number of -- price of crab doubled.
11 So in 2016 the Alaska Board of Fisheries limited the
12 winter commercial crab harvest to 8 percent of the GHL.
13

14
15 So now the Council gets the numbers to
16 us in February and we will open up like -- this year we
17 opened up February 25th -- or 29th. The year before
18 was I think the 25th, the year before was March 3rd.
19 We'll open up the winter and we'll have the number.
20 We'll have like a GHL. This year it's 13,608 pounds
21 based on being 8 percent of our GHL.
22

23 Let's go to the next slide, Justin. So
24 I think we talked about this. This is just the
25 boundaries of where the fishing usually occurs. We can
26 go to the next slide here, Justin. What we've got is
27 the commercial crab fishery began in 1977 and this is
28 before what's called a super exclusive designation.
29

30 So at this time our fishery is open
31 access and it was then too, but it was not called
32 what's super exclusive. Now super exclusive means if
33 your boat fishes in another red king crab fishery
34 anywhere in the state of Alaska, you cannot come into
35 Norton Sound with that boat and fish.
36

37 When the fishery first opened up it
38 wasn't super exclusive, so we had boats coming up from
39 Dutch Harbor. They would fish it out in like -- you
40 can, if you've got a boat bigger than 125 feet you can
41 put 50 pots out, less it's 40 pots. We had vessels
42 that weren't from Norton Sound. Usually the fishery
43 would be over in a week or less. They'd come out and
44 lay their pots out and, bam, they'd get us.
45

46 Can we go to the next slide, Justin.
47 So here's what happened. There's the first year 1977.
48 We harvest about 500,000 pounds in that commercial
49 fishery. Then of course word gets out, hey, you can go
50

1 up to Norton Sound and go fishing and the next year
2 we're up at 2 million pounds getting harvested. The
3 next year we're almost at 3 million pounds.
4

5 Then, of course, we're going to come
6 crashing down. The next two years we're still over a
7 million. So pretty much we took care of the virgin
8 harvest commercially, the big crab. Then you can see
9 ever since '82 the crab harvests have been down about
10 500,000 pounds or less. That continues through today.
11

12 We can go to the next slide when we go
13 to what's called the super exclusive designation. Now
14 that switched in 1994. Because it's super exclusive,
15 remember those vessels that fish in any other crab
16 fishery, red king crab fishery down to the south, they
17 can no longer come into Norton Sound. So they're out
18 of the picture. It turns into more a local fishery.
19

20 There was a shift. First we've got the
21 smaller vessels. Those are a lot of Bristol Bay
22 gillnetters the guys use and gals. So what we still had
23 though was we had some Bristol Bay fishermen coming up
24 after the salmon fishery and they were catching maybe
25 about two-thirds of the harvest up until the early
26 2000s. Then what happened was the -- remember the
27 plant opened like 2001. We had a floater out there
28 that was working.
29

30 As NSEDC, their subsidiary Norton Sound
31 Seafood Products became the buyer, the board then
32 passed a regulation. The NSEDC board said they would
33 only buy from local Norton Sound residents. So this
34 shifted the fishery more. The season dates go longer
35 now unless we get the GHL, then we stop fishing. We
36 can start as early as June 15th. Usually we start
37 later in June. Sometimes we do extend past that
38 September 3rd date.
39

40 So it became a much smaller boat
41 fishery. The Bristol Bay guys came up some, but since
42 they couldn't sell locally they would have to get their
43 crab on the plane to Anchorage and it became much more
44 difficult for them and they sort of faded away in about
45 2006 and '07. So now it's just strictly anyone who has
46 fished up here has been local. I mean local as in a
47 Norton Sound year-round resident.
48

49 We can go to the next slide, Justin.
50

1 So now -- I mean those look like big bars, but remember
2 now we've dropped below 500,000 in the harvest. So
3 this is the super exclusive harvest here. The harvest
4 here is in thousands of pounds, so the 450 up there is
5 450,000 pounds, 500,000 pounds. So we do have a summer
6 harvest. The last few years has averaged about -- the
7 last 10 years I'll say.

8
9 That black line going straight across
10 up there, roughly we're looking at about a 350,000
11 pound average harvest in our commercial fishery. Last
12 year there was a huge drop to 75,000 pounds. As you
13 can see that 2019 where it drops off, that was actually
14 projected that we were going to have a big drop off in
15 this fishery. The OFL numbers, the ABC we're getting
16 from the council statisticians, they were not seeing
17 crab recruiting into the legal size.

18
19 So what happened was the GHF for 2019
20 was up about 320,000 pounds in the commercial fishery.
21 The next year, the GHF in 2019 that we released would
22 be 150,000. Some people expressed concern that this
23 was going to hurt them economically and we talked and
24 they wanted to write to the Council and see if they
25 could get it boosted. I said, well, they set the
26 numbers. It's showing us to be -- we're going to see
27 this drop coming.

28
29 The last time we saw a drop, we've had
30 19 years of pretty steady, stable fisheries. If you're
31 wondering, the purple up there on the top that's the
32 CDQ catch. Norton Sound and Yukon Delta, the
33 boundaries for crab go from Cape Romanzof north. So we
34 overlap two CDQ groups. We overlap the Yukon Delta
35 down there and we overlap with North Sound.

36
37 So the CDQ gets 7.5 percent of the GHF
38 by regulation. Usually Yukon Delta always will sign
39 their share over to Norton Sound, then Norton Sound
40 decides how they're going to harvest it. They can pick
41 the crab where they want to harvest. It's their
42 choice. So that's what the purple is on top there,
43 years of the CDQ fishery.

44
45 So the last time we really seen the
46 crash come like we've seen here was in the late '90s.
47 So like I say even though the GHF was half last year
48 compared to the year before, the GHF we let out in 2019
49 was 100,000 pounds lower than any other year in the
50

1 2000's. So the model did show this coming, this
2 expected downturn. Which was our big surprise was we
3 only got half of our GHL. We didn't see that coming.
4

5 We were going along really good and
6 then suddenly that was it. The fishermen couldn't find
7 the crab anymore they said, the guys who were out
8 fishing. They were scattered. They couldn't find it.
9 Some years when that happens they ask us to move the
10 line. We last relaxed the line in 2013. Other years
11 we didn't. '09 was another year. We just extended the
12 season a little bit.
13

14 So back in the late '90s the GHL went
15 from -- it had been at 340,000 pounds and then it
16 dropped those three years in the late '90s to 80,000
17 pounds. The first year in '97 when it was 80,000
18 pounds, we got about 90,000 pounds in the harvest. The
19 next two years we only got like 30,000 pounds. So what
20 happened last year wasn't unprecedented. We've seen it
21 before.
22

23 In '98 kind of things shifted. You can
24 see the triangle shows the number of permits fishing.
25 Well, when folks heard it was only going to be the
26 80,000 GHL in the late '90s, suddenly it pencil's out
27 not for them to go fishing. They aren't going to make
28 much money. Then in '98 there was only one buyer then.
29 Then in '99 there was no buyer. The fishermen just had
30 to be catcher/sellers or have some sort of direct
31 market. So that's what happened that thing.
32

33 As the crab get big enough and we call
34 recruit into the fishery, then the GHL jumped up. Then
35 we had a lot more get in it. The buyer came back
36 because it was going to be much more economical. You
37 can see the 300,000 there for GHL. So that was
38 projected. Like I say, we've been steady for 19 years
39 and now we're in the downturn. We do expect it to
40 swing back up in 2022 and 2023, the small crab they're
41 seeing recruiting into the fishery.
42

43 So we can go to the next slide, Justin.
44 So now we've put it all together. The blue is before
45 super exclusive and you can see just some of the
46 million pound catches that they got in the early years
47 and then how it shifted over to the other years. So
48 blue bars being the big boat fishery and the red bars
49 being the super exclusive fishery. The black line with
50

1 the triangle shows the number of permits fished. You
2 can see it really jumps up like in '95. That's the
3 second year of super exclusive as people start to get
4 in the fishery.

5
6 When that many people are in the pike,
7 it's pretty thin, so then you do have that spike and
8 then it drops back down. You see where it dropped
9 again, like we say '97, '98, '99 where it's going to
10 only go to an 80,000 GHL. So a lot of people -- it
11 doesn't pencil out economically for them to fish even
12 though it was super exclusive.

13
14 I think we can go to the next one,
15 Justin. So we have the winter crab fishery. That
16 began following the summer of 1977. They used to start
17 January 1st, then for the longest time it was November
18 15th to May 15th, but there was no ice a lot of times
19 in November since the winter has got to go through the
20 ice.

21
22 In 2016 the Board changed, a proposal
23 was in. There was talk about we're losing crab pots if
24 we're going too early, people are pushing it. So they
25 went January 15th to April 30th. The kicker was that I
26 -- ADF&G determines when the start date is in the
27 regulations. It says it can occur on or after January
28 15th.

29
30 So we talked to the fishermen, the
31 buyers and when they want to get going. Usually we do
32 it in later February, try to get the ice to set up a
33 little stable. So that's why we set it open February
34 29th this year even though in regulation we can open as
35 early as January 15th. It also gives the subsistence
36 folks a chance to do it. It's through the ice only.

37
38 Like 2016 we mentioned it went to 8
39 percent of the GHL and then in '17 they limited the
40 crab pots commercially to only 20 per permit holder.
41 There tends to be high pot losses in years of unstable
42 ice when the ice breaks off. We'll talk about the pot
43 losses a little more here.

44
45 Next slide, Justin. So what we're
46 showing here is some of the trends that we see in the
47 winter commercial fishery. Sometimes we only had one,
48 two permit holders fishing in the winter fishery. In
49 the 2000s it was a pretty mellow fishery. As you can
50

1 see, the purple there is the CDQ. Norton Sound decided
2 to take the CDQ in the winter for the years 2016
3 through 2018. The CDQ is allocated 7.5 percent of the
4 GHL, like I mentioned, and you can see them jumping up
5 there.

6
7 So let's go to the next graph, Justin.
8 Okay. So here kind of shows you a little what happened
9 with the winter commercial fishery. It shows the
10 increased effort in the past decade. In the middle
11 years of the past decade the number of pots just
12 increased greatly. In 2017 there was this regulation
13 to limit pots to 20.

14
15 The increased effort in the mid teens
16 there was likely the result of the doubling of the crab
17 price. They went from 3-something a pound to -- we got
18 close to \$7 a pound. It was like 6.47, 6.91 one year
19 was the average price for crab.

20
21 So this touched off a real frenzy and
22 one of the issues became -- as you can see, like you're
23 looking along like this shows you the number of -- pot
24 loss means the number of times they pull up their pots,
25 but what we're trying to show is just how it just took
26 off in the teens there. '14 was a little ice problem
27 there, so they didn't pull as much, but you can see
28 like '16, '15, what's going on there.

29
30 Let's go to the next slide, Justin. So
31 what we want to show you is the pot losses in the
32 winter fishery. The red is subsistence and that has
33 stayed pretty stable. The only difference was 2019
34 where we had a lot more subsistence pot loss than
35 commercial. The commercial season started on February
36 25th. The season pretty much ground to a halt on March
37 10th when all the pots went out. The ice broke off
38 here. Totally unprecedented. Usually we break up
39 around here in May.

40
41 Let's see. What else. Now remember if
42 they lose their pot, they can get a replacement tag.
43 They can come in. Because it was limited in 2017 to 20
44 pots per permit holder, what we found out was --
45 remember I said open access fishery. You pay your \$225
46 and you can get in the crab fishery.

47
48 Previously crew members on somebody's
49 -- helping them out crabbing through the ice, they
50

1 became a permit holder because you don't have to buy a
2 commercial crew member license if you have a permit.
3 So suddenly we had the number of permit holders really
4 jump up in 2017, so they could all get 20 pots then.
5 We lost like 200 pots there in the commercial fishery
6 when the ice broke off, so we've got a lot of pots on
7 the loose there.

8
9 I think, Justin, we'll go to the next
10 one. I think we're just reviewing here to the Board
11 showing the harvest breakdown and it's noted. You can
12 see the red in the bottom there in the mid teens, that
13 red. That is the winter harvest. That shows you how
14 the winter harvest started increasing in the winter
15 fishery and then the Board put that regulation in 8
16 percent, although 2017 still shows them having a good
17 winter harvest. Half of that is made up at the CDQ and
18 now it's come down because they didn't take the CDQ in
19 the winter in '18.

20
21 I think we'll talk about some
22 proposals. We can go to the next one. There were four
23 proposals we had at the Board and we can talk about
24 that and how the proposals went. Proposals 273 and 274
25 were submitted by the Norton Sound Advisory Committee.
26 One was moving the season from the start of the season
27 from January 15th to February 1st.

28
29 Proposal 274 was not allowing a crab
30 permit holder if he lost his pot to be able to replace
31 his pot. You know, you lost it, you don't get a
32 replacement tag to continue fishing. If you lose all
33 20 pots, you're done as a permit holder. You can
34 assist somebody else, but you can't get any replacement
35 to go fishing.

36
37 One of the things was when it took off
38 was -- you know, you could go to the plant that was
39 selling pots for about \$225, so I think a lot of people
40 may have made a business decision to push that ice when
41 the price was high. So those were a couple proposals
42 put in by the Northern Norton Sound AC.

43
44 We've got a couple more. This was put
45 in by Wes Jones from NSEDC. He's their fisheries
46 director. They're trying to allow some Pacific cod
47 fishing 14 days before and after the season. If you go
48 commercial fishing for crab, remember you weren't
49 allowed to have your pots out 14 days before the season

50

1 and 14 after.

2

3 We'll have some questions on that and
4 then I can go over what the Board decided at the
5 meeting.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody have any
8 questions for Jim.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. MENARD: I can move to proposals
13 and what the Board decided.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GRAY: If you want to go on to
16 proposals and what the Board decided. I do have a
17 couple questions I'd like to have answered, but I'm
18 content on waiting.

19

20 MR. MENARD: Okay. The first proposal
21 the Board did was -- okay, then after we do our oral
22 report and the Department does all that, then there
23 comes public testimony and we had five from Norton
24 Sound. Charlie Lean, the chair of the AC, he speaks.
25 Jacob Ivanoff is the chair of the Southern Norton
26 Sound, he spoke. Charlie was in favor of -- the AC was
27 in favor of closing the commercial fishery for 2019.

28

29 Jacob spoke and they were in favor of
30 the closure of the winter season, the Southern Norton
31 Sound. Wes Jones spoke with NSEDC. He brought some of
32 the proposals forward. They talked about the crab
33 issues. Scott Kent spoke from NSEDC. Roy Ashenfelter
34 spoke. So those were the five from Norton Sound who
35 spoke with concerns with the crab fishery. Pretty much
36 it was recommended of closing things down commercially.

37

38

39 There was a letter sent in by Kawerak.
40 That goes in the Board book there. Board members get
41 that book. They read letters from the public. Not
42 everyone can afford to fly in to Anchorage and be at
43 the hotel and go over days of proposals and committee
44 work. There was also a letter from Eric Osborne was in
45 the record against closing the commercial fishery. So
46 the Board gets all that.

47

48 Then we go to what's called the
49 Committee of the Whole. It's like a New England town

50

1 hall meeting where they pass the microphone around and
2 people give their pros and cons. If they have any
3 questions, they'll ask the Department, but pretty much
4 it's just the people talking to the Board members and
5 what they think and they kind of explain things.

6
7 Then they get set for what's called
8 deliberations and that's when we start reading the
9 proposals in. We got going that morning and 273 was a
10 proposal to amend the season dates for king crab. Move
11 the earliest start date from January 15 to February
12 1st. We go over the current regulations and we give a
13 background that this has been going on for five years.
14 Four of the five years we opened after mid-February.
15 The earliest we ever opened was February 7th. So the
16 Department was neutral on the proposal. They ended up
17 tabling this proposal, so I'll come back to that.

18
19 So we went to the next proposal, which
20 was limiting the number of crab pots to 20 per permit
21 holder and we went over the proposal and the Department
22 was neutral on it. It did explain some of the issues
23 of when we went to 20 that people could still get
24 permit holders, but this one passed. So now a crab
25 fisherman cannot get replacement pot tags if he loses
26 it. This will come into effect the next season because
27 by the time they get the proposals ready and at the Lt.
28 Governor's office for the signature, it will be the
29 next season for that one.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is this both for summer
32 and winter?

33
34 MR. MENARD: Just the winter. Somebody
35 might lose one or two pots the most in the summer, so
36 it was more a winter issue. Thanks for that, Tom.

37
38 The next proposal up was Wes's
39 proposal. What happens is Comm Fish starts off and
40 saying, okay, we're neutral on it. Then we go to
41 Subsistence, Sport Fish, but it goes through other
42 people. Enforcement had an issue against it. They
43 said it would be very hard to enforce a pot and what's
44 actually a pot excluder devices usually not to let the
45 crab in. So that was one of the deals there.

46
47 It ended up being opposed and we kind
48 of huddled up and we were talking and what would be a
49 compromise we thought. So then Wes then submits what's
50

1 called an RC and his RC was that -- we kind of agreed
2 and said, okay, let's go seven days before the season.
3 So we announced the season go seven days before and we
4 kind of talked to enforcement and they thought that was
5 fine. You could fish up to seven days subsistence
6 crab, all that, but if you're going to commercial crab,
7 then you've got to get your pots out.

8
9 Then on the back end there is a
10 regulation that if you sign out of crab fishing, got
11 all your pots out, you notify us that you're done, then
12 you can go. He pulled 276, the proposal on the back
13 end. So 275 was the 14 days before, so that was
14 changed to seven days before. It's now going to come
15 into regulation. On the back end you'll be able to go
16 pot fishing and whatever it takes to get your pots out
17 and say you're done.

18
19 Now we come back to 273 and that's
20 where it kind of became a little confusing for us. I
21 don't know if anyone was listening online, but that was
22 the -- I heard a few people out here got calls. When
23 it finally came to the Board vote, suddenly it all went
24 boo. Nobody heard what the vote was. So people called
25 and said what was the vote on that proposal.

26
27 So what happened there was a first
28 proposal came in by Northern Norton Sound AC, was that
29 RC-34, which was a multi-prong proposal which had a
30 number of things. We didn't really get a chance to
31 look at that much and we thought that was coming at the
32 tail end and all of a sudden the Board said we have
33 substitute language RC-34. As Department Staff we were
34 kind of looking at one another like deers in the
35 headlights, like wait a minute, what's going on here.
36 Then the Board said are you guys ready and we were like
37 no. They said, okay, let's have a five-minute recess
38 here and figure out what's going on.

39
40 So we get a chance to look at that and
41 we huddle up with the Board and say, wait a minute,
42 what's going on. So it was just this whole long
43 proposal of closing the crab fishery east of 167 and
44 west longitude. So this was the proposal by the Norton
45 Sound. Charlie is the chair. That was the proposal
46 that went in and then there was a number of things like
47 -- so there was all kinds of confusion.

48
49 Then, as we huddled up with the Board,
50

1 they replaced the RC. They withdrew this RC. Working
2 with one of the Board members, they came to RC-39. Now
3 this is what passed and that's why I put the map on and
4 things like that. So what they did was as they put
5 this on the change would be -- as you see number 2
6 here, that winter crab fishery is now going to open on
7 February 1st. This is no longer on or after. So each
8 year now coming up the winter crab fishery is going to
9 open on February 1st. So you'd have to have your pots
10 out subsistence fishing seven days before the season.
11

12 Then they closed the fishing season for
13 2020 from east of line 167. There was kind of a
14 discussion on this and one of the Board members said if
15 we could close 167, the commercial fishery, they could
16 put their pots -- and, you know, I'm kind of looking
17 like -- and so that's a case where you're not going to
18 put your pots out past 167 because there's no ice or
19 there's ice floating around. There was a little
20 confusion. Then our commissioner spoke and said
21 remember this proposal will not go into effect probably
22 35, 45 days after the -- so this wouldn't be in effect
23 for this winter commercial fishery.
24

25 So that's what's going on. Come this
26 summer the fishery is going to be closed east of line
27 167 longitude. So you can see on that map where the
28 fishery is going to be closed to the west, like St.
29 Lawrence Island area. There is a 10-mile zone of
30 exclusion around there. So they are going to close the
31 summer commercial season where almost all the red king
32 crab have been harvested.
33

34 Next year we come up again. The Board
35 is going to give us the numbers in February. The North
36 Pacific Fishery Management Council will give us the
37 numbers. We'll set the GHL again and we'll go fishing
38 again.
39

40 So that's what happened at the Board.
41 I also passed out the historical. You can look on each
42 side and that shows us some historical if we want to
43 get into questions and start talking.
44

45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I have one question
46 right off. Do you have the authority as the
47 front-runner, the key guy here in Nome, to shut down
48 the fishery because of the status of the fishery right
49 now?
50

1 MR. MENARD: At this time, no, I do not
2 as the Board has spoken. So I do not have that
3 authority to shut it down, the EO to close the winter
4 fishery.

5
6 MR. OYOUNICK: Being that crabs are
7 bottom feeders, do you notice any kind of weird thing
8 happening with them like diseases. Like some smelt and
9 some tom cods they're showing up with black spots on
10 the side toward the back fin. I'm just curious if you
11 notice anything about the crab that has some kind of
12 similar thing going.

13
14 MR. MENARD: No, we haven't noticed,
15 but of course we haven't been studying them. We're
16 just getting our reports from the subsistence fishermen
17 that they're catching the small crab. We got a few
18 positive reports of some folks catching the bigger crab
19 in certain area, but we haven't noticed any reports of
20 that at all. Especially out of Gambell we're getting
21 that people are catching a lot of female crab.

22
23 Maybe we could put that one slide up,
24 Justin. We do have a slide of what was interesting
25 here. Oh, I guess we'd have to switch computers. But
26 we have had reports of people catching a lot of female
27 crab.

28
29 Maybe Jen can talk a little bit about
30 what we've seen in the observer stuff, maybe answer
31 some questions there. Jen Bell. This is our research
32 biologist here in Nome. I'm the manager. I open and
33 close things based on research and what the fishermen
34 give to me and things like that, but Jen can speak to
35 this better than me.

36
37 MS. BELL: Okay. So here's some of the
38 numbers. We've been pretty lucky for the last 10
39 years. We've been able to put a lot of effort into
40 assessing different aspects of the red king crab. So
41 what you're looking at here, these are rough, but our
42 observer data. We sent out observers into the summer
43 commercial fishery on different vessels and they sample
44 at least five pots on each boat and they do a complete
45 census of whatever is in the pot and then they also
46 identify whether the crab is sublegal or legal.

47
48 If it's a male, they measure it and
49 then mark it as whether the fisherman kept the crab or
50

1 did not. Obviously with sublegals they're not kept,
2 but with legals they mark down whether the commercial
3 fisherman kept that crab or threw him back. Then for
4 females we take a length as well and then also assess
5 their level of maturity. We use the presence or
6 absence of eggs.

7
8 So what this graph is showing is the
9 orange bar -- correct me if I'm wrong, Justin, it's
10 hard to see these. The orange bar is the percent
11 mature and for females it's the presence of eggs. To
12 further define that for this particular instance it's
13 crab greater than 75 mm. Basically there's evidence
14 that suggests just about everything above that 75 mm we
15 would expect to have eggs. It's ready to be mature.

16
17 The blue line is those crabs that are
18 75 mm and greater and they're either empty or they have
19 a very small number of eggs. Red king crab can breed a
20 number of times. It tends to be that if you have
21 successful breedings you would have a higher number of
22 eggs and you'd have a larger clutch essentially this is
23 saying. The idea that this number from 2018 to 2019 is
24 jumping up that there's a high number of females that
25 are mature that are not carrying eggs.

26
27 There's a few things about observer
28 data to take into account. 2019, as Jim mentioned, was
29 a slow year. There are not nearly as many observer
30 trips as there was in previous years and there was a
31 limited number of boats. So when we're looking at '18
32 to '19 you have to be cautious because it's not
33 complete data.

34
35 We also acknowledge, and this is
36 through the whole crab process that Jim outlined, that
37 our observer data is biased towards large vessels,
38 which are the fishermen that can actually take
39 observers. This is a problem we're actively trying to
40 figure out how to solve it.

41
42 If you go to the next slide, Justin.
43 This is just numbers of females and males on each
44 observer trip through the years. You can see the
45 number of females that have been captured has been very
46 low in the early times. Our observer program started
47 in 2012 in earnest.

48
49 Typically we would say that where the
50

1 fishermen are fishing is not an area where you would
2 expect to find breeding females. One of the reasons
3 why the near shore closure happens is because we think
4 that that's where a lot of the breeding females would
5 be. So that's another thing that adds to the
6 uncertainty of observer data.

7
8 Having said all that, that's not to say
9 we want to minimize any of these problems, but those
10 are some inherent problems with our observer data. We
11 have seen this uptick of females in the last bunch of
12 years.

13
14 We go to the next slide. So that was
15 all observer data. This is our trawl survey data which
16 extends back quite a bit further than observer data.
17 This is 1976 when we did the first trawl survey all the
18 way to 2019. Trawl survey is always set up to be done
19 every three years.

20
21 From '76 to '91 it was done by NOAA and
22 then in '96 Fish and Game with assistance from NOAA and
23 NSEDC took over again with this idea we're going to
24 assess it every three years. Got a little balled up
25 there in the mid 2000s. We did one in 2002, then '06
26 and '08, then went back to the three years. Again in
27 2017, as Jim mentioned, we started in earnest trying to
28 secure funding to be able to do it every year.

29
30 The thing to note from the trawl survey
31 is this 2019. The red bar up there is females and this
32 is total numbers that we caught. I took 75 mm in the
33 trawl survey data and then we also included 50 percent
34 of the next earliest age class. Basically we're trying
35 to figure out how many possible mature females there
36 would be out there. You can see that the number of
37 mature females is way higher than just about any other
38 year in history.

39
40 So when we take these two pieces of
41 data together, the immediate thought is, oh, my
42 gracious, we might have a problem with breeding females
43 having eggs in them, but then we also look and you're
44 like, okay, we have so many more breeding females.
45 What's that doing to the percentage that could actually
46 be bred. We don't have a lot of male crab, so are we
47 exacerbating the situation.

48
49 We also have a lot of female crabs,

50

1 therefore the number of females that would actually be
2 bred by the number of males that are bred is actually
3 going to look different. Does that make sense? The
4 disparity there is going to be larger because now you
5 have so many females but you only have a small number
6 of males.
7 So looking at the trend in the observer data isn't
8 necessarily going to tell you the whole picture. We
9 may be as low as we've seen in history with males, but
10 we've never seen the number of females that we captured
11 in the last year.

12
13 One of the things that's happened is we
14 don't necessarily use a lot of the female data that we
15 collect. The model is a male only model, which means
16 that a lot of the female data that we've collected
17 hasn't been used. They're working hard to try and
18 change that, but there's a lot of people working on
19 this problem because it's not an easy problem to figure
20 out. So because of the uncertainty in the early trawl
21 data, I just took the later trawl data I believe from
22 2008 on.

23
24 Those are the only four graphs I had if
25 anyone has any questions. That was a lot of
26 information.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'll tell you this is
29 kind of daunting, all this information and how you all
30 put it together and stuff. Sitting here just thinking,
31 we have a high number of females right now and very few
32 males. So to me it's like in the reindeer industry, we
33 can squeeze -- a normal situation is a bull to every 20
34 cows and we can squeeze that out to a bull to every 100
35 cows. I wonder if this is the same type of formula
36 that we're kind of in right now is how effective are
37 the males with so many females.

38
39 MS. BELL: It's a good question that I
40 don't think I have a good answer to. That's one of the
41 reasons why it's tricky to use females. Say we have
42 100 females and half of them have eggs in them and half
43 of them are bred versus having 50 females and all of
44 them are bred, right? You may end up with the same
45 amount of eggs. There's some evidence that you're more
46 successful at carrying eggs the older you are, you're
47 more successful at breeding. The larger the female
48 crab is, the more experienced.

49
50

1 What we don't know is what attracts the
2 mating, if there's some selection, are they looking for
3 large females. I don't think we have a good
4 understanding of that. So it's tricky to just take
5 these numbers at face value because with this idea that
6 there's so many more females we don't know. Again, we
7 are dealing with a lot lower abundance of males.
8

9 So I'm not saying there isn't going to
10 potentially be some sort of reproductive outcome, but
11 we don't fully understand what that reproductive
12 outcome could be. But it looks like the females aren't
13 being bred because there's so many of them if that
14 makes any sense. It's a very tricky situation and
15 trying to bring female data into anything is
16 challenging and that's the reason why it hasn't been
17 done very successfully so far.
18

19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Maybe this is a
20 question for Jim. You guys have thrown out a lot of
21 information. To me, I look at all the females versus
22 the males and then I look at what's going on up here.
23 Guys have been trying to crab all winter long and we're
24 not getting anything.
25

26 The tool that you're using in your
27 toolbox to make decisions are tools that came from
28 other higher-ups so to speak. Your numbers you're
29 using to base the commercial fishery actually comes
30 from upstairs somewhere down to you and that's why you
31 can open it and there's no way for you to close that
32 fishery.
33

34 I can sympathize with the idea, yeah,
35 the Board just took action and the Board is God and
36 blah, blah, blah, but you would think the bottom line
37 -- and I know you closed the winter fishery because of
38 ice conditions and things like that in the past. You
39 would think that with the circumstances you have
40 options to open and close things until April.
41

42 MR. MENARD: Yeah, Tom. Maybe I
43 misspoke there. I was thinking of you asking me when
44 the Board said they would close the fishery for 2020.
45 We met with the Board and the discussion was, okay,
46 these regulations aren't going to take effect until
47 this time. We cannot issue an EO for that Board
48 decision and the Board was satisfied with that. The
49 Board said, no, that's fine.
50

1 The big driver is the trawl survey that
2 occurs every year. They estimate through their thing
3 how many crab were caught in the trawl survey. We have
4 to get at least 1.25 million pounds of crab out there,
5 legal male biomass, to have a commercial fishery.
6 That's the threshold we have to have.

7
8 They're estimating there's about 2.4
9 million, 2.5 million. So what they're saying is there
10 is a surplus that there's enough to go commercial
11 fishing and people say, well, the trawl survey the last
12 two years has been under the 1.25. That's just for
13 where they trawled.

14
15 So there is this program over the years
16 they've used. We would like to say that this did
17 project this was going to come roaring down. In the
18 last couple of years we were seeing the numbers and
19 that model seemed to show that. Now the surprise was
20 what happened last year.

21
22 This one page I handed out, the one
23 with the footnotes, and I want to look at 2019 and
24 what's happening also this year. This is my 20th year
25 of managing the crab fishery. If we look at 2001, if
26 you see the subsistence there in 2001, you're going to
27 see a harvest of 558 pounds. I remember people
28 screaming that year what the heck was going on.
29 Similar to this year, it was a very cold year 2001.
30 Ice didn't get out of here until June. We did not do
31 good in that winter fishery.

32
33 2019 was very strange with how warm the
34 water temperatures were and did the crab move farther
35 out to get cooler water. Where's the cooler water?
36 The bottom is supposed to be 4 degrees. So something
37 really goofy was happening that year. If you look at
38 the winter harvest the year before it was almost 12,000
39 pounds.

40
41 When you see the subsistence, the 100
42 to the right doesn't make much sense if we don't have
43 the summer subsistence numbers, but starting in 2004
44 we're actively starting to really chase people after
45 their permits and getting everyone permitted up. You
46 can always see we harvest a lot more in the subsistence
47 fishery in the winter because it's a lot cheaper to go
48 out. You don't need a boat. That's what we're showing
49 in the winter. We're harvesting a lot of crab. It's
50

1 reversed for the commercial fishery. They harvest in
2 the summer.

3
4 So that 558 I look at in 2001 and we
5 were not doing good in the commercial. So if you look
6 farther to the left in 2001, it says about 3,000 pounds
7 of crab we harvested in 2001. Look on either side of
8 that. That's almost 8,000 and almost 7,000 on the
9 other side. We did not do well in that winter fishery.
10 When the summer harvest came along and the guys get out
11 there with the boats, they do catch the crab. They
12 found the crab.

13
14 Winter can be a tricky thing is what
15 I'm trying to say. Last year you can see our -- if we
16 drop down to 2017, our winter harvest, the subsistence
17 was 4,000 pounds. Much lower than the year before, but
18 we didn't have a good feel. People were catching, but
19 it was that whole ice thing.

20
21 The big surprise came when we opened
22 the summer last year. Everything was going along fine
23 and then, boom, they couldn't find the crab anymore.
24 We projected the season was going to end like August
25 1st and then all of a sudden they couldn't find the
26 crab. The crab were scattered.

27
28 So what I want to say is the downturn
29 was projected. We thought we were going to get less
30 than half the GHJ compared to the year before. Maybe
31 the model is overestimating a little bit, but it would
32 be hard to say it was way off, that there wasn't a
33 surplus out there. So that's what we're looking at.
34 People aren't doing good subsistence. They're just
35 saying they're just getting small crab, which our model
36 does show.

37
38 We're going to have a lot of small crab
39 coming up for the next couple years. The model shows
40 this isn't going to change around until about 2022,
41 2023. That's what it's showing right now. We'll see
42 how this summer goes, but there isn't going to be much
43 harvest in the summer when they've closed it to 167 to
44 the east. So I mean they've taken action in the
45 commercial fishery.

46
47 I guess I would ask Tom are you asking
48 for a closure in the subsistence fishery or what are we
49 asking?

50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You know, this board
2 sitting here, our mission in life is subsistence and we
3 need to protect subsistence. I mean that's what we're
4 all about. We will pursue the avenues we need to to
5 protect subsistence. I guess one thing I'd like to ask
6 you, the State of Alaska, the bottom line is
7 subsistence. Before commercial fishing subsistence
8 comes up first.
9

10 Is there anything we can do as Federal
11 and State people to work together to ensure that
12 subsistence needs are being met? Right now they're not
13 being met.
14

15 MR. MENARD: This is a combination of
16 the Feds and the State. We do provide the subsistence
17 opportunity. Of course we don't guarantee the catch.
18 Like we say, you're able to subsistence fish 365 days a
19 year. The commercial guys, there's only two that are
20 actually registered to commercial crab right now.
21 There is no buyer. So these guys are going to be
22 selling crab locally. I would not see a dent from the
23 commercial fishery in the subsistence.
24

25 The dent is like more you're looking at
26 the summer where then they take, you know, the great
27 proportion of the crab is taken in that summer fishery.
28 The Alaska Board of Fisheries what they said was they
29 heard from the people and they closed the fishery. It
30 was kind of working like I say with representatives who
31 came from Norton Sound expressing their concern and
32 they did close the commercial fishery east of 167 where
33 the crab are -- well over 95 percent of our crab are
34 harvested. So I mean the Board did take that action.
35

36 We are under a Federal Management Plan.
37 They give the authority to the Department once they set
38 it up or what's called a Tier 4, which is the most
39 restrictive for commercial fishing. So there is that
40 combination of Federal/State and then they gave it to
41 us and then the Alaska Board of Fisheries then closed
42 down commercial fishing. So they have taken some
43 unprecedented action of closing where most of the crab
44 are harvested in the commercial fishery for 2020. So
45 there will just be that small fishery. That's what I
46 can say right now.
47

48 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So, Jim, I guess the
49 way Tom Gray looks at it is we have subsistence and you
50

1 have records here. Subsistence has been thousands and
2 thousands of pounds over the years. Just because the
3 State is offering opportunity, the bottom line is
4 subsistence ensures that locals will have crab on their
5 table. The idea of the opportunity is there, if you
6 can't catch them, too bad, that's not right.

7
8 I'm a little bit concerned that,
9 granted, we can go through 2020 with no commercial
10 crabbing, but you, yourself, has stated it's going to
11 be '22, '23 before crabbing comes back and maybe we can
12 get into the commercial crabbing again. In the
13 meantime, one of the things we're going to talk about
14 after you're done is, subsistence, what does this mean
15 to us.

16
17 I'm so glad that you provided us with
18 some numbers. I'm sure that all the numbers aren't
19 there and maybe I need to clarify some of this. You
20 know, I'm seeing 27,000 pounds to 4,000 pounds in a
21 winter subsistence fishery for the last 20, 30 years.
22 We've got a year, this year now, it's going to amaze me
23 if we get 500 pounds through the winter. To me, that's
24 not offering opportunity for subsistence.

25
26 Our people have gone thousands of years
27 eating these crabs and we need to manage the crab so
28 these numbers that we're seeing are still there for the
29 people. Anyway, I don't want to get in an argument or
30 theories and all that stuff. You guys are doing your
31 best. Life goes on. We'll make it work in the end.

32
33 Elmer.

34
35 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 When you do your bottom water trawl survey, are you
37 taking water quality measurements or are you testing
38 the water quality? It seems with the small egg
39 clutches it has something to do with the water
40 environment. Pretty much like land animals that abort
41 during pregnancy. You have to kind of look at it the
42 same way that these bottom creatures are living even
43 though we don't know much about them.

44
45 Every living thing has a way to do it
46 and I think that one thing is environment. It seems
47 with the small egg clutches something in the water is
48 keeping them from producing large egg clutches. You
49 hear about the algal blooms in late summer, you hear
50

1 about -- or I've seen low ice coverage during the
2 winter. Possibly that produces the feed for the bottom
3 dwellers. Some people talk about micro-plastics being
4 in the water now. They're eating that in some places.
5 For me as a subsistence person, I have to look at all
6 aspects of what makes things go, what makes things die.
7

8 I would assume that algal bloom, no ice
9 conditions, a lot of marine traffic that goes between
10 these communities has something to do with it. You
11 look at the seal lesion that seals had a couple years
12 ago. Something in the water that is producing that.
13 We're so close to Russia. Radioactive material,
14 nuclear, whatever is falling out from over there, it's
15 going to have an effect.
16

17 We ingest medicines that says,
18 directions, if you take this, you can't do this and
19 that. Pretty much certain things you look at to help
20 keep us healthy. I think the overall picture is pretty
21 much just water quality is producing some of these
22 things that we're talking about.
23

24 Overall what we've learned from the
25 elders is that the fish are going to go and then pretty
26 much anything in the water that has sewage, sewer
27 runoff from these communities, you know, or oil
28 discharge from these passing ships, miscellaneous
29 activities done by us humans without regard to keeping
30 the environment clean, we're doing that at a rapid
31 pace.
32

33 Hopefully the rebound of these
34 resources will be pretty much like we were talking
35 about -- like they talked about False Pass salmon.
36 Many of these things are kind of water related.
37

38 For you to get an accurate assessment I
39 think you have to look at the overall picture. Ask
40 Federal agencies what happened to the wildlife, what
41 happened to the seals. What happened to the seals is
42 going to happen to anything in the marine waters. I
43 know that our water is very contaminated even though we
44 don't like to think so. But I know it's out there.
45

46 Thank you very much.
47

48 MR. MENARD: Thanks, Elmer. I'm going
49 to defer to Jen. She's out on the trawl survey quite a
50

1 bit. She can answer the temperature questions. I know
2 when I get out there usually I'm providing bait to the
3 fish as I throw up over the side.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MS. BELL: Thank you. So I can tell
8 you I don't like to give the impression that I'm like
9 any kind of oceanographer. The water has warmed up and
10 because we've been sampling for '17, '18 and '19 the
11 water in those years is warmer than average. The
12 average being -- I think I took from 2002 to 2014 was
13 the years that we had consistent trawl survey
14 temperature data.

15

16 So we are in warmer waters and I did
17 read an article -- this is not with red king crab, this
18 is not specific to red king crab, it was a different
19 species of crab -- they were suggesting that male sperm
20 regeneration is less in warmer waters and their warmer
21 waters weren't like 3 degrees to 15 degrees. It was
22 like 8 or 9 degrees to 12 or 13 degrees. So it was a
23 very small temperature change. Red king crab males
24 breed several times in the course of the mating season,
25 so if the water is warmer and they're not able to
26 generate sperm as quickly, maybe that has an impact.

27

28 I totally agree with you that
29 environment is playing a role. This has happened so
30 quickly for this region that we're struggling almost to
31 make sense of what it all is. Everybody is at that
32 same level. It's not like somebody has this, wow, we
33 know exactly what's going on and we're not sharing it.
34 I think everybody is like, wow, what's happening.

35

36 We're used to this being a cold water
37 system, we're used to it being relatively clean. I use
38 that in quotes. I think we're all struggling with the
39 same idea is what impacts are all these changes having
40 throughout the food web. It's not just a very
41 localized we're focusing on this. That's what I can
42 tell you from what we collect on an annual basis.

43

44 We also do salinity and salinity has
45 decreased. Norton Sound tended to be getting fresher,
46 but then you look at our snow loads over the last
47 couple of years and it has been really high, so the
48 precipitation '17 and '18 -- this year is not so bad,
49 but we had a ton of snow in those two years.

50

1 How much is that changing. I haven't
2 been here but 11 years, so I'm not trying to even talk
3 about the history of it. I just know what I'm
4 monitoring. All these things, yes, all interconnected.
5 How they're interconnected and how they're affecting
6 everything, that's the trick.
7

8 MR. SEETOT: On other thing I forgot.
9 You mentioned salinity of the water. I notice that
10 when there's fresh water, when you're hand lining
11 they'll let go when they reach fresh water.
12

13 The other thing is that you mentioned
14 something about the -- Jim mentioned something about
15 being under the Federal system in a way where it's
16 regulated. Even though it's pretty much Norton Sound
17 the State still regulates blue king crab. That's how
18 come I have to get a permit for Port Clarence Bay area?
19

20 MR. MENARD: Elmer, it's a requirement
21 then, yeah, for all -- anywhere in Norton Sound to get
22 a subsistence crab permit. They're free. You know,
23 you call us up toll free. We mail it out to you.
24 We're just trying to get a feel for what the catch is.
25 Remember there's no limit when you're subsistence
26 crabbing as far as your catch. There's a difference
27 with the commercial guys. They have to have the
28 4.5-inch rings on their pot or their mesh has to be 6.5
29 inches or greater so the little crab can walk out.
30

31 Yeah, we just want to get your numbers.
32 Like we say, there's no limit when you go crabbing
33 subsistence-wise. There is the limit on the commercial
34 that even if -- you know, they have to take 4-3/4 or
35 greater their crab in size across the shell and they
36 can't keep any for personal use unless they're greater
37 than that 4-3/4 or greater size. So they can't keep
38 the small ones.
39

40 You can keep the small ones. You can
41 keep the females. Commercial cannot keep the females.
42 So you can keep what you catch. Like we say, the
43 permit is free. We're just trying to get the
44 information and we can look at the numbers and see
45 what's going on.
46

47 MR. SEETOT: Even if I didn't get the
48 permit and someone turns me in, will there be any legal
49 action by Department of Fish and Game such as enforcing
50

1 their policy that is in place if you're not reporting
2 your catch, if you're not doing your permit, stuff like
3 that. I know that many of these are experimental.
4

5 MR. MENARD: Usually you get a lecture
6 from us about the importance of having a permit. I
7 lecture people. People come up to me when I'm in the
8 village collecting the salmon permits and I ask them
9 did they go fish and I say, well, let me get you an
10 after-season permit here. We just fill something out.
11

12
13 It's a little different with the
14 troopers though. They come through. I know Elim they
15 made a run through and they were citing people. They
16 want to call up and holler to me and I say, guys, I've
17 been down in the village, I've been telling you you've
18 got to get a permit. People get mad because they
19 didn't -- you know, you've got to have the 18 inches,
20 the cotton twine and that. Troopers are pulling pots
21 and they don't have them. Then people want to call up
22 and holler at me. I say come on now. So don't holler
23 at me if you do get caught, Elmer, but we would like to
24 get your information.
25

26 (Laughter)
27

28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I need to apologize.
29 We jumped right into questions and I wasn't sure if you
30 guys were done.
31

32 MR. MENARD: Yeah, I think we're done.
33 We threw a lot at you, but we wanted to show you the
34 Board process, what happened and how public testimony
35 worked. There was one difference. The public
36 testimony there did make a difference to close the crab
37 fishery, so it does work. There is an advantage
38 probably if you're there, but like we say you can write
39 and it works. So the Board took in the public's
40 account.
41

42 So we are done, but you can always give
43 us a call. We have a toll free number. We'll try and
44 answer the questions. Sometimes people holler that I
45 don't listen to them. Of course in the other ear I'm
46 getting the other person telling me lots of fish, lots
47 of fish, let's go fishing and the other one is going
48 there's no fish out there, close it down.
49

50

1 But if you need questions, we try to
2 answer them the best we can. It is very important to
3 get feedback because sometimes it just takes one person
4 out there. Teller called me up one time about
5 something about closure and something I didn't
6 understand. Especially when you're coming in fresh to
7 this it really helps out, your feedback out there, so
8 we do appreciate it.

9

10 Yes?

11

12 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I got -- what do
13 you call it? Anyway, I turned 60 and I got a license
14 from the State. I don't have to buy a hunting,
15 trapping or fishing license. Can you include that in
16 your crabbing thing for us? When you get an elder,
17 that's what happens. You can apply for a license and
18 you don't have to buy a license no more. Can we just
19 be permanently on your list to do what we need to do?

20

21 MR. MENARD: For the hook and lining
22 when you're fishing, because you don't need a fishing
23 license up here, if you're hook and lining, then you
24 would not need to have a license. However, if you are
25 putting out a subsistence net, then you do need the
26 permit. So if you put out a net or you're going to
27 seine them, dipnet them, that does require the permit.
28 For crabbing you would need the permit too. There's a
29 difference because that fishing, hunting, trapping, the
30 fishing is only what's considered hook and line or
31 sportfishing.

32

33 Sportfishing you're allowed to get six
34 legal male size crab a day. So if you put out your pot
35 or something, you could do that, but you do need a
36 sport fish record. So it's either the permit or the
37 record. You need to get that from the office. So
38 anything for crabbing you would need to contact us, but
39 if you're just going to hook and line for fish, salmon,
40 herring, anything like that, you wouldn't need the
41 license, but any sort of net fishing or crabbing you do
42 need a permit.

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: I was just wondering
45 about my license here I've got it in my wallet issued
46 by the State.

47

48 MR. MENARD: Yes, that allows you to
49 hook and line so you can drop a line in any State of

50

1 Alaska waters using a fishing pole. You can do that.
2 But crabbing is a little bit different animal. You do
3 need either the subsistence permit or the sport fish
4 record and those are both free too. We just try to
5 keep track of the crab. So you do need something for
6 crabbing. For fishing, you only need it if you're
7 going to use a net, like finfish we call them.
8 Crabbing we call shellfish.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
11 -- oh, Doug, there we go.

12
13 MR. KATCHATAG: With the ocean water
14 warming up and the sea bottom is contaminated, have you
15 considered checking for the north and see if the crab
16 are moving north like the other species of fish that
17 are moving up?

18
19 MS. BELL: It's a great question. For
20 the last couple of years in response to the warming of
21 the region NOAA has conducted a bottom trawl survey and
22 they not only do Norton Sound, but they also go as far
23 as Bering Strait and as far east as the Russian border.
24 They have not been able to locate any large pockets of
25 crab indicating that something would have moved out of
26 Norton Sound and is finding either colder or deeper
27 water at this point.

28
29 My understanding is they are trying to
30 get monies and funding in place to go into the Chukchi.
31 I don't think it's been secured. They may be doing it
32 as part of a bigger plan. I'm not super certain what
33 their schedule is to try and go further north and be
34 consistent about it. But we do have beyond Norton
35 Sound and there doesn't appear to be any large mass
36 migration out of Norton Sound.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Very good. Does anyone
39 else have any questions, concerns.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Speak now or forever
44 hold your peace. I sure appreciate you guys coming in
45 and enlightening us. Good luck on the closure. I hope
46 you don't get beat up too bad.

47
48 Thank you again.

49
50

1 MS. BELL: Thank you.

2

3 MR. MENARD: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Let's take a few
6 minutes you guys and then we'll come back and finish
7 the meeting up.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We have one more thing
14 to talk about which is do we want to write a letter and
15 I'm not sure where I put that -- to the Scientific
16 Committee and this is a committee that works on
17 formulating numbers for Fish and Game to create or work
18 with numbers to create the commercial fishing.

19

20 So anyway the question is do you want
21 to write a letter addressing this commercial crab
22 fishery or do you want to just let it go. We've talked
23 about it a little bit and my opinion we need to write a
24 letter and we need to put things in this letter that
25 talks about subsistence and subsistence needs. If you
26 look at this one page she handed out it goes from 1990
27 to 2019. If you look on the right side there's a
28 summer and winter harvest.

29

30 The summer harvest has probably half of
31 the years from 2004 till 2018 as numbers and they jump
32 around from 155 crab to 6,000 crab in the summer. In
33 the winter, the numbers jump from a couple thousand to
34 -- I'm seeing 27,000 crab. I think this is in pounds.
35 Yes, in pounds. If you got a nice big king crab,
36 you're talking three, three and a half pounds. So a
37 27,000-pound harvest is 9,000 crabs. A 2,000-pound
38 harvest is not very many crabs.

39

40 Anyway, I got a little frustrated a
41 while ago when Jim says, yeah, the crabs are there. If
42 the people can't catch them, that's too bad. The
43 subsistence is available anyway. You know, to me
44 that's not a good answer to how can we work together to
45 make sure subsistence is available to our people in
46 this region.

47

48 Anyway, if you guys want to write a
49 letter, let me throw a couple things out. I think the

50

1 letter needs to address numbers. We need to interject
2 the numbers that he has given us. This is where it's
3 been, this is what our people have caught in the past,
4 so on and so forth. Also the crab fishery has been
5 basically shut down for 2020. I think our letter needs
6 to address subsistence until there's a sustainable
7 surplus of crabs that will satisfy the subsistence
8 needs in our region and have enough crabs to have a
9 commercial crab fishery. That needs to be in the
10 letter.

11
12 I don't think 2020. Jim himself said
13 it's going to be 2022 or 2023 before things come back.
14 So we need to capitalize on that and maybe even quote
15 Jim in the letter what he said and we must have it on
16 record.

17
18 Anyway, I'm going to let somebody else
19 talk. If you want to create a letter, I need a motion
20 and we'll go from there.

21
22 MR. KIYUTELLUK: I make the motion for
23 the letter.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a second.

26
27 MR. OYOUMICK: I second.

28
29 MR. KIRK: Second, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is that Charlie?

32
33 MR. KIRK: Ron, Ron Kirk. Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, Ron Kirk. Oh,
36 you're still here. Man, I take my hat off to you guys.
37 Holy cow. Your battery on your phone must be dead,
38 huh?

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So there's a
43 second. Again I think we need to have Karen or
44 somebody with OSM work with Charlie and Scott and Wes
45 Jones to make sure the right ingredients are in
46 this letter so when it goes forward it's all there.
47 There's a motion and a second. Is there any more
48 discussion on the letter.

49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. SEETOT: Question.
4
5 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The question has been
8 called. All in favor say aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Motion is carried.
17 Now we were going around the table when Jim and them
18 came. I think we finished going around the table, eh?
19
20 MR. SEETOT: Pretty much.
21
22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Is there
23 anything else we need to address before we go? I'll
24 tell you what, I've got a feeling all these guys are
25 stuck here. So somebody needs to make sure that these
26 guys are taken care of.
27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yes.
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
33 Deatherage. I've already called the hotel and let them
34 know that one of two things can happen, either there'll
35 be an early check out for those who can get out or that
36 we are approving any extended stays if people have to
37 stay beyond this evening.
38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40
41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Super. Okay.
42
43 Tom.
44
45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
46 follow up and kind of make sure we've got all the
47 paperwork. So if anybody has taxi receipts or anything
48 like that, please get them to me so we can include it
49 with your vouchers for your payments that will be
50

1 processes. That's all I have.

2

3 Again, thank you for hanging on, Karen,
4 and listening to the discussion. The request here, and
5 I'll help, but the request is for you to take the lead
6 in putting this letter together. I heard from Tom
7 yesterday that he's going to help a lot with the
8 editing.

9

10 Anyway, that's all I've got to say.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Have the
15 meetings date for the next meeting cycle been selected
16 because I was having to take off?

17

18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yes, it has been
19 decided and the whole group here said we're going to
20 make Karen justify us going to Hawaii for a meeting.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think you'll have a
25 better time getting in and out of Honolulu, so I
26 concur.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We can all set up tents
29 on the beach. That's fine.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: I like it. I like it.
32 We just need a phone line for Tina.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Let's make sure Karen
37 has the dates.

38

39 MR. KRON: I've got them.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Why don't you
42 tell her what they are.

43

44 MR. KRON: The dates that were
45 discussed are October 28th and 29th in Nome. The date
46 for a year from now would be March 11th and 12th again
47 in Nome. Karen, if you could make sure that's what
48 they talked about, but that's what I heard. If you
49 could send the note out so the other coordinators can

50

1 get it on their calendars so we don't conflict with
2 schedules.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Tom Kron.
7 Through the Chair. So I have October 28th and 29th in
8 Nome and then I have March 11th and 12th in Nome for
9 the winter cycle of 2021.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You got it.

12

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

14

15 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay.

16

17 Elmer has a question for somebody.

18

19 MR. SEETOT: My question is Federal
20 subsistence -- I mean they're putting out nominations
21 to be on the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
22 Council. Have you received any applications for the
23 vacant seats?

24

25 MR. KRON: Karen, do you have those
26 numbers? I understand Katya was going to update it,
27 but I haven't seen the latest numbers.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 If you give me a few seconds I'll look that up. I do
31 have that information. There were three applicants,
32 including incumbents, of the Seward Pen Council for the
33 2020 cycle, one of which is a new Council applicant.
34 We do have four vacancies. Despite efforts to reach
35 out to the region we did not receive enough
36 applications to be able to fill all four vacancies that
37 will be on the Council, but we do have three members.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I nominate Roy.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
46 have anything they want to throw on the table before we
47 adjourn.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I thank all of
2 you guys. I don't know if Mark is still online or who
3 else other than Karen. I thank all of you that signed
4 in on teleconference for bearing with us and being
5 patient. I thank this group for being here to be a
6 part of us and I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

7
8 MR. SEETOT: So moved, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a second.

11
12 MR. KIRK: Second, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All in favor say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Have a safe
23 journey home everybody and I thank everybody for being
24 here.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
27 for taking over the meeting. Very much appreciated.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered _____ through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 12th day of March at Nome, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of March 2020.

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