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ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING - ZOOM

APRIL 5, 2021

Members Present:

Ryan Scott, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission  
Brandon Ahmasuk, Kawerak  
Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow  
Coral Chernoff, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak  
Jennifer Hooper, Association of Village Presidents  
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association  
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association  
Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs

Executive Director, Patty Schwalenberg

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(ZOOM - 4/5/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: . . . . Council meeting.  
Today is April 5th, 2021. My name is Eric Taylor. I'm  
with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Migratory  
Bird Management Program.

Before we get started, I would like to  
acknowledge the Dena'ina. The Alaska Native Athabascan  
group, the original inhabitants of Southcentral Alaska  
who moved here some 1,000 to 1,500 years ago. They  
were hunters and gathers and one of the only Alaskan  
Athabascan groups to live in the coastal estuarian  
marine saltwater environment probably because that area  
afforded dependable resources. The name Dena'ina means  
The People. They were hunters and gathers that I  
mentioned which seems appropriate for the next two days  
of conversations as we talk about migratory bird  
conservation.

I think today is the third virtual  
meeting that we've had in the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-  
Management Council and it's unfortunate. I know all of  
us would rather be together, sitting across the table  
from each other and having a cup of coffee and laughing  
about what's happened in the past. However, it does  
afford us the opportunity, we're sitting in offices,  
our homes across Alaska, and it gives us the  
opportunity to think about the cultures and traditions,  
the roles and the responsibilities of the individuals  
and the peoples that came before us and the importance  
in our responsibility in carrying on the tradition of  
conservation of resources.

So let's take a moment and think about  
the cultures and traditions and the peoples that came  
before us and our roles as temporary inhabitants of the  
lands that we currently reside on.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Next, I  
would like to ask Randy Mayo from Tanana Chiefs  
Conference to acknowledge a colleague and a friend that  
we lost in 2021. Randy, I believe you're on. I see

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1 TCC. Would you take the floor, please. Deborah, you  
2 may be on mute.

3

4 MS. LIND: I am. Randy has not arrived  
5 at the office. We had like a couple of feet of snow  
6 drop on us last night and then 17 below.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Deborah, sorry, I  
9 still can't hear you. Can anyone else hear Deborah  
10 okay?

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I can hear her. She  
13 said that they got two feet of snow last night, and I  
14 was there, and I know. I was able to fly home to be  
15 able to get here in time, but he has not arrived at the  
16 meeting yet. Deborah Lind is online waiting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Deborah,  
19 sorry, I'm having trouble hearing folks. Let me work  
20 on my speakers here. Patty, if you could step in and  
21 briefly go through the agenda that would allow me to  
22 see if I can hear some people.

23

24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, Randy just  
25 walked in. Randy, can you -- let's see if we can hear  
26 you.

27

28 MS. LIND: They're having a problem  
29 listening, hearing.

30

31 MR. MAYOR: Good morning.

32

33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I can hear you fine.  
34 Eric, can you hear?

35

36 (Off record comments regarding sound)

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, I think  
39 I'm back on so thanks everyone for their patience.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Well, Randy  
42 is online.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Deborah, I'm sorry, I  
45 didn't hear what you had to say. Can you repeat and  
46 let me know if Randy's on the phone.

47

48 MR. MAYO: I'm right here.

49

50

0004

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Randy, I  
2 think where I left off is I was asking you to talk  
3 about your colleague and friend who we lost in 2021.  
4 I'm not for sure if you are able to do that or not, I'm  
5 sorry.

6  
7                   (No comments)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Randy or Deborah.

10  
11                   MS. LIND: They want you to comment  
12 about Andrew Firmin.

13  
14                   MR. MAYO: Oh, where are we at on the  
15 agenda?

16  
17                   MS. LIND: They've already gone through  
18 everything, they're at the point of having you talk  
19 about Andrew.

20  
21                   MR. MAYO: Oh, okay, can everybody hear  
22 me?

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we can, thank  
25 you.

26  
27                   MR. MAYO: Oh, good morning. I had to  
28 fight my way across town, everybody's digging out after  
29 this weekend.

30  
31                   Yeah, I just wanted to say a few words  
32 about Andrew. He was -- it's quite a loss for us here,  
33 not only in this region, but statewide also. He was a  
34 true subsistence -- he lived the lifestyle out on the  
35 land but, yet, he took it upon himself to learn and  
36 participate in these processes, not only with Tanana  
37 Chiefs Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, but he  
38 also served on the Federal Subsistence Board as an  
39 officer, I believe, and also served with the State Fish  
40 and Game Advisory Councils for his area up in the Yukon  
41 Flats. He also served in his home community of Fort  
42 Yukon in many capacities. He was the city manager and  
43 he also sat on the board of the radio station and many  
44 other things. He was a leader. And we're going to  
45 sure miss him here. He was very vocal and understood  
46 the system and, you know, just lived his life out on  
47 the land. So he's going to be a loss here, he  
48 contributed a lot to our work here. And I don't know  
49 if anybody else had the opportunity to get to know him  
50

0005

1 and work with him.

2

3

4 You know I said this in our regional  
5 management body meeting last week at -- you know, he's  
6 going to be missed greatly, he went way before his  
7 time. But, you know, in the springtime of the year at  
8 -- I know there'll be renewal, I know he inspired and  
9 was a role model for the younger generation. I know he  
10 was a role model for his kids, his children. And  
11 somewhere, some how in the region, or statewide, you  
12 know, that even if it's one young person or kid that he  
13 inspired to encourage that, you know, somebody will  
14 come up behind him. Somebody will always come up  
15 behind all of us and take up this important work.

15

16 We left his seat empty here. He's with  
17 us in spirit and in our hearts and in our memory.

18

19 So out of respect we'll keep that seat  
20 open for him to be with us until his time passes a  
21 little while and then we will have his region make a  
22 selection to take up his work.

23

24 So I'd just like to remember him that  
25 way and as for myself, just to keep working within this  
26 partnership and in other areas, to advocate and ensure  
27 our way of life will continue.

28

29 So, thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.  
32 Well done. I would -- I'm not for sure if all of you  
33 had the opportunity to read Mr. Firmin's write-up in  
34 the Fairbanks paper, but he truly did lead a very  
35 impressive life for the 41 years that he was here  
36 shortly. So I would like to take a moment of silence  
37 to honor Mr. Firmin and the contributions that he made  
38 for the conservation and management of the resources in  
39 Interior Alaska.

40

41 (Moment of Silence)

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Jenny, I  
44 see from the chat that you would like to acknowledge  
45 the Tanana Athabascan Tribe. Would you like the floor,  
46 please.

47

48 MR. MAYO: Who?

49

50

0006

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Jenny Bryant.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Jenny, you may be on  
6 mute.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Well,  
11 Jenny, if you'd like to jump in at some point please  
12 let me know.

13

14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It has been kind of  
15 customary, I guess, for people to just type into the  
16 chat who's traditional lands they're on so we don't  
17 necessarily ask them to speak to it but if people are  
18 willing then they can put in the chat box who's  
19 traditional lands they're on and acknowledge that. So  
20 I think that's what Joanne -- I think that was Joanne,  
21 was trying to do.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, Joanne, I'm  
24 sorry, correct. Thank you. All right, thanks, Patty,  
25 appreciate the clarification.

26

27 All right. The next item on the agenda  
28 is roll call, so Patty I would like you to do a roll  
29 call for us if you would.

30

31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Let's see,  
32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Here.

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of  
37 Fish and Game.

38

39 MR. SCOTT: Yes, ma'am, here.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Aleutian/Pribilof  
42 Islands Association.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I saw Karen on the  
47 line, Karen do you know if Peter's going to be calling  
48 in?

49

50

0007

1 MS. PLETNIKOFF: He should be.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay.

4

5 Where am I, let's see, AVCP, Jennifer.

6

7 MS. HOOPER: Good morning, sorry I'm  
8 late. Thank you.

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No problem, we're  
11 glad you're here.

12

13 Bristol Bay.

14

15 MS. HOSETH: Here.

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Chugach region,  
18 Priscilla.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Maybe not here yet.

23

24 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission,  
25 is Gloria on the line.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. MAYO: Is there a quorum.

30

31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We'll see.

32

33 MR. MAYO: Are most of the people on  
34 the line?

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak, that is  
37 Brandon and Jack, is Jack on the line?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And I know Brandon  
42 will be about an hour and a half late, his doctor  
43 appointment was switched to today so he had to go and  
44 do that.

45

46 Cyrus is not going to be on the line  
47 either, he is running his dogs today because the event  
48 was postponed from the weekend.

49

50

0008

1 And North Slope, Taqulik.

2

3 MS. HEPA: Hi. Can you hear me?

4

5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, good morning.

6

7 MS. HEPA: Hi, good morning to you.

8

Good morning.

9

10 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, Coral.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Here. I'm here.

13

14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Good morning.

15

16 And Tanana Chiefs Conference, Randy.

17

18 MR. MAYO: Here.

19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So one, two,

21

three, four, six, we have Council members present.

22

One, two, three, four, six. Does that constitute a

23

quorum, I'd have to check the bylaws.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty, do you know if

26

besides Cyrus, are others going to join us, do you

27

know?

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Brandon said he'll

30

be joining in an hour and a half. Karen is on and she

31

said Peter should be joining but he is not on yet.

32

Gloria is not on, although I see Jim Simon on the line.

33

Do you know if Gloria will be calling in, Jim?

34

35 MR. SIMON: I'm in the process of

36

checking on that.

37

38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. And maybe if

39

we want to take a little break for people to get coffee

40

I can try to get a hold of Priscilla as well, would

41

that be okay?

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. That

44

sounds reasonable. How about taking a -- Patty, do you

45

think five minutes is enough. So it's 8:50, you want

46

to reconvene at 8:55?

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's fine.

49

50



0009

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, we will do  
2 that. So five minute break to get a cup of coffee.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 (Off record)

7  
8 (On record)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So it looks like Jim  
11 will try to get a hold of Gloria, but was unable.  
12 Patty, any other news from anyone else?

13  
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I was not able to  
15 get a hold of Priscilla or Peter.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. All right,  
18 according to my count we have eight representatives of  
19 the 12, if I remember, and I think a quorum can be -- I  
20 haven't had a chance to check the bylaws but a majority  
21 of members can be present to carry on a meeting.  
22 So.....

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Patty.

26  
27 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The bylaws state  
28 that it's -- the quorum is one State rep, one Federal  
29 rep, and 50 percent plus one of the regional reps. So  
30 we should have six regional reps online. Do we?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

33  
34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: One, two, three,  
35 four, five -- yep, we only have five.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Well, I have AVCP,  
38 Jennifer. Bristol Bay.

39  
40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yep.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gayla. Taqulik from  
43 North Slope Borough. Coral's from Sun'aq Tribe. Randy  
44 from Tanana Chiefs Conference. Is there anyone else  
45 I'm missing, so that is five.

46  
47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

48  
49 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, I guess through  
50

0010

1 Patty. Is Karen still the alternate for Peter?

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's what I was  
4 just going to ask. Karen?

5

6 MS. PLETNIKOFF: I am not. We've  
7 reached out to Peter so.

8

9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Hum.

10

11 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Let me reach out to  
12 his alternate.

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 MR. SIMON: Yeah, this is Jim. I have  
17 spoken with Karen Linnell, and she did mention that  
18 Gloria should be on the call but I have been unable to  
19 get my phone to get through to Gloria's number, even  
20 trying the new 907 issue. So hopefully she'll join us  
21 shortly.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
24 Jim.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: My suggestion is we  
29 hang on for a few minutes to see if we can get a  
30 quorum. We need one more person and then we can get  
31 underway.

32

33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty, does that  
36 sound reasonable?

37

38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I'm going to  
39 try to call Jack Fagerstrom since Brandon can't --  
40 maybe he can call in.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Is that you Gloria.

49

50

0011

1 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I can't -- there's  
2 no internet here, I have to call in.

3  
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, good, glad  
5 you're on the line. We now have a quorum, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7  
8 MS. STICKWAN: Good morning.

9  
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Good morning. The  
11 Chairman may have stepped away from the phone so we'll  
12 be starting shortly.

13  
14 (Pause)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So, Patty, were you  
17 going to be able to get a hold of Jack, do you know,  
18 from Kawerak?

19  
20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I got his voicemail,  
21 but Gloria is on the line so we do have a quorum now.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Terrific.  
24 Welcome Gloria.

25  
26 All right, well, thank you, everyone  
27 for joining us this morning.

28  
29 Next on the agenda is the introductions  
30 for Council members and Staff and the Pacific Flyway  
31 Council. So, Patty, I think it might be easiest for  
32 you to go through the current number of Council members  
33 that we have and ask them to introduce themselves.

34  
35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay, let's start  
36 with you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm  
39 Eric Taylor and I'm with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
40 with the Migratory Bird Management Program.

41  
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Ryan Scott.

43  
44 MR. SCOTT: Good morning, everybody.  
45 Thanks for having me. I'm Ryan Scott with the Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game down here in Juneau with  
47 the Division of Wildlife Conservation. It's great to  
48 see everybody and hear everybody.

49  
50

0012

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: AVCP.

2

3 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. This is  
4 Jennifer Hooper with AVCP. I'm not sure -- I kind of  
5 got the meeting information sent out late to our WCC  
6 Chairman, I'm not sure if he'll be able to join us but,  
7 anyways, here for AVCP.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Good morning, Jennifer.  
10 Martin here.

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, Martin.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: I just -- Mary -- Mary,  
15 our Secretary just got a hold of me and as soon as I  
16 got the information I went ahead and called in. Sorry  
17 I called in late but I just got the info now, minutes  
18 ago, so I just called in.

19

20 MS. HOOPER: Yea, great.

21

22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

23

24 Bristol Bay.

25

26 MS. HOSETH: Hi, good morning,  
27 everybody. Gayla Hoeseth, Bristol Bay Native  
28 Association in Dillingham.

29

30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Ahtna InterTribal  
31 Resource Commission.

32

33 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan,  
34 Glennallen.

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: North Slope Borough.

37

38 MS. HEPA: Hi, good morning. This is  
39 Taqulik representing the North Slope Borough.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sun'aq Tribe of  
42 Kodiak.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: Sorry, it took me a  
45 moment to unmute. Yes, this is Coral Chernoff  
46 representing the Kodiak Archipelago region.

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And Tanana Chiefs.

49

50

0013

1 MR. MAYO: Okay, Randy Mayo here  
2 representing the Tanana Chiefs region.

3  
4 MS. PLETNIKOFF: This is Karen. Patty,  
5 Mr. Chair. Peter has been trying to call in but the  
6 522853 passcode is saying it doesn't exist. Since  
7 Gloria was able to call in I don't know. I just tried  
8 it and it said it doesn't exist. So is there something  
9 else, maybe, that we could try.

10  
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Hum. Yeah, let me  
12 look into that as soon as we finish with introductions.

13  
14 MS. STICKWAN: Patty, could you email  
15 me things because I can't get on the internet. I can't  
16 see what's on the agenda or anything?

17  
18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Did you --  
19 oh, so you don't have the agenda because you can't get  
20 on the internet.

21  
22 MS. STICKWAN: I don't ha.....

23  
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I guess that makes  
25 sense.

26  
27 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, all on that Zoom  
28 thing and I can't get on.

29  
30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Yeah, I will  
31 try -- well, I can put the agenda on the scre -- oh,  
32 you can't look at the screen.

33  
34 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, thank you.

35  
36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'll just have to  
37 try to keep you -- explain everything as best as  
38 possible.

39  
40 MR. LACY: Hello, Patty, this is Will.

41  
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

43  
44 MR. LACY: If they're trying to call  
45 in, if they're calling in, they should be using a  
46 different passcode. They only use the 522853 if  
47 they're going to be using Zoom. If they're going to  
48 call in they need to dial the 1346248779 number that's  
49 in your email.....

50

0014

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. LACY: .....and use that longer  
4 passcode.

5

6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, okay. Karen, do  
7 you see that pass -- that message from Dave Safine in  
8 the chat box that has the passcode?

9

10 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah, I do. I'm  
11 sending it to Peter now, thank you.

12

13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Good.

14

15 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Will.  
16 Thank you, David and Brittany.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. We'll  
19 continue on with introductions. Let's go to Staff of  
20 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I think  
21 Liliana was on, so Lilly, can you introduce yourself  
22 please.

23

24 MS. NAVES: Hi, good morning. My name  
25 is Lilly Naves. I work for the Division of Subsistence  
26 of Fish and Game in Anchorage. And I coordinate the  
27 Harvest Assessment Program on behalf of the Alaska  
28 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. It's good to be  
29 here, thank you. Good morning everyone.

30

31 And I'm finding that this little waiver  
32 really works, it catches the attention of people on the  
33 screen good.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
36 Lilly. Laura, I see that you're on.

37

38 MS. MINGAK: Hi. Good morning,  
39 everyone. This is Laura Mingak. I work with Lilly  
40 Naves at the Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
41 Subsistence. Nice to see you all.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
44 Laura. Let's see, Jason.

45

46 MR. SCHAMBER: I'll continue with the  
47 waiving. Hello everyone. My name is Jason Schamber.  
48 I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
49 the Division of Wildlife Conservation and I coordinate

50

0015

1 the Statewide Waterfowl Program. Good morning.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Jason. Good  
4 morning to you. Let's see, Ryan, am I missing anyone  
5 here from your shop?

6

7 MR. SCOTT: I don't believe so. I  
8 think we've got everybody, I'll just do another quick  
9 run -- no, I think we're good. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks.  
12 So let's start with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
13 I think Todd Sanders was on, Todd, do you want to  
14 introduce yourself, please.

15

16 MR. SANDERS: Yes, good morning, I'm  
17 here. Hi, this is Todd Sanders. I'm with the U.S.  
18 Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Service's Pacific  
19 Flyway representative. Good morning.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning, Todd.  
22 Thank you. Let's see, and I'll go through our roll  
23 call here. I believe Julian Fischer's on. Julian.

24

25 MR. FISCHER: Good morning everyone.  
26 My name's Julian Fischer. I work for the U.S. Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service waterfowl section of the Migratory  
28 Bird Program in Alaska. Good to see you all.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Julian.  
31 Brittany reporting in from Kotzebue.

32

33 MS. SWEENEY: Good morning. (In  
34 Inupiat) This is Brittany Sweeney. I work for Selawik  
35 Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue, Fish and Wildlife Service.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning,  
38 Brittany. Let's see, I believe, Shawn Bayless, is that  
39 you?

40

41 MR. BAYLESS: Good morning, Doc, I was  
42 hoping you wouldn't call my name, but, yeah, Shawn  
43 Bayless Refuge Manager in Tok. I'm just a fly on the  
44 wall this morning so just listening.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Well,  
47 welcome Shawn, glad to see you.

48

49 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah.

50

0016

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Let's see, I believe,  
2 Dave Safine, are you on this morning.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, you're on mute  
7 Dave. Good morning, I see your waive. All right,  
8 we're going to jump to Will, Mr. Lacy.

9  
10                  MR. LACY: Good morning. I'm Will  
11 Lacy, Budget Analyst with the Migratory Bird Management  
12 here at the Regional Office.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And  
15 Joanne Bryant.

16  
17                  MS. BRYANT: Good morning. My name's  
18 Joanne Bryant, and I'm the tribal and (indiscernible)  
19 for Fish and Wildlife Service. Mahsi choo.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, good  
22 morning Joanne.

23  
24                  Let's see Ryan Daniels out on the Yukon  
25 Delta.

26  
27                  MR. DANIELS: Good morning. Ryan  
28 Daniels, Yukon Delta, home of the Yup'ik and  
29 (indiscernible) waterfowl biologist for the Refuge.

30  
31                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning, Ryan.  
32 Vince Mathews.

33  
34                  MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is  
35 Vince Mathews from snowy Fairbanks. I work for Arctic,  
36 Kanuti and Yukon Flats. Thanks.

37  
38                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
39 Vince. And Dana Olean. Dana.

40  
41                  MS. OLEAN: Good morning.

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Dana's a  
44 new pilot biologist with our program and is just  
45 getting underway with our shop for the Migratory Bird  
46 Management Program.

47  
48                  Chris Harwood.

49  
50



0017

1 MR. HARWOOD: Good morning. Chris  
2 Harwood with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge but I'm in  
3 Fairbanks. Thanks.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Welcome Chris.  
6 Crystal Leonetti.

7  
8 MS. LEONETTI: (In Native) Hello,  
9 everybody. (In Native) Crystal Leonetti. And I'm here  
10 in (In Native), or Anchorage, and the lands of the  
11 Dena'ina people.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Welcome, Crystal,  
14 thanks. And Chuck Frost.

15  
16 MR. FROST: Hey, everyone. This is  
17 Chuck Frost, I'm a biometrician with Migratory Birds in  
18 Anchorage.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hi, welcome, Chuck.  
21 All right, let me see here. Let me go through the scan  
22 real quick. I see some phone numbers that I may not  
23 know. Who is that. Anyone else from Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service.

25  
26 MR. SAFINE: Eric, I think my  
27 microphone might be working again.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Dave. All  
30 right, Dave, go ahead and introduce yourself.

31  
32 MR. SAFINE: Sorry about that before.  
33 Dave Safine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I work  
34 with the Migratory Bird Management Program in Anchorage  
35 and I'm a waterfowl biologist. Good morning.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Dave. And,  
38 Tamera, I saw you -- so Tamera could you introduce  
39 yourself.

40  
41 MS. ZELLER: Yeah, hi, good morning  
42 everybody. I'm Tamera Zeller. I work with Migratory  
43 Bird Management in Anchorage as an outreach biologist.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, thanks, Tamera.  
46 Gloria, I see you're screen is off, can you introduce  
47 yourself -- Gloria Stickwan from Ahtna.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

0018

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Perhaps Gloria  
2 stepped away. Let's see, USGS, I saw John Pearce.  
3 John.

4  
5                   MR. PEARCE: Yeah, good morning  
6 everyone. Great to be here. John Pearce with the U.S.  
7 Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center in Anchorage.  
8 I'm the program manager for our ecosystems research  
9 program.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And I  
12 think, John, another person from your shop is Ryan, is  
13 that right?

14  
15                   MR. PEARCE: Yeah, I think so.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Brian,  
18 could you introduce yourself.

19  
20                   MR. UHER-KOCH: Yep. I'm -- good  
21 morning everybody. My name's Uher-Koch. I'm a  
22 wildlife biologist at the USGS Alaska Science Center.  
23 I'm working on waterfowl and loons. Thanks for having  
24 me here.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Brian for  
27 joining. All right, I will ask others that I may have  
28 missed, particularly those folks that are calling in to  
29 introduce themselves on the phone that are on the  
30 meeting today. So can we go ahead and -- is there  
31 someone on the phone that I don't see that would like  
32 to introduce themselves.

33  
34                   MR. SFORMO: This is Todd Sformo,  
35 Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Welcome Todd.

38  
39                   MR. MARKS: And good morning. I'm  
40 listening in on the phone, this is Dennis Marks,  
41 Waterfowl Division with Migratory Bird in Anchorage.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks Dennis for  
44 joining us. Karen, I see.....

45  
46                   MR. DEVINE: Good morning. Peter  
47 Devine with Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.  
48 Mine's the 6190 number.

49  
50

0019

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, welcome.  
2 All right, Karen was successful. Karen, do you want to  
3 introduce yourself?

4  
5 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah. Thank you,  
6 Peter, for joining us. Sorry about that passcode.  
7 Good morning everyone. I'm Karen Pletnikoff. I  
8 support our Aleut representative, Peter Devine on the  
9 Aleut region AMBCC grant. Thank you. I think, also,  
10 perhaps joining me is my colleague, Environmental  
11 Health Services Coordinator, Connie Melovidov, are you  
12 here with us.

13  
14 MS. MELOVIDOV: Yeah, hi, good morning  
15 everyone. Connie Melovidov here. I work with Karen and  
16 Peter at the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.  
17 Good morning.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning, Connie.  
20 Welcome. Anyone else on the line.

21  
22 MS. KAYOTUK: Good morning. This is  
23 Carla Kayotuk with the North Slope Borough Wildlife  
24 Department just joining in to listen.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning. Anyone  
27 else.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, well,  
32 thank you. We probably did both the Council members,  
33 Staff, Pacific Flyway as well as guests and members of  
34 the public, I believe. I think we were able to click  
35 through the introductions.

36  
37 So the next item on the agenda is  
38 review and adoption of the agenda. And let's see,  
39 Patty, someone mentioned, maybe it was Gloria, that did  
40 not have an opportunity to see the agenda. Does  
41 everybody have the agenda or do we need to do some  
42 magic to try to get you a copy?

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I do have  
47 one recommendation on the agenda. I see that under old  
48 business we have a Technical Committee report, Julian  
49 Fischer's the chair of that committee, and I was

50

0020

1 wondering if it might make more sense to move that  
2 Technical Committee right before the consideration of  
3 the regulatory proposals. That way we would have the  
4 Technical Committee's report, we'd have a description  
5 of the proposal and the Technical Committee's review of  
6 the proposal and any considerations, and then we would  
7 be able to go right into the three proposals. If that  
8 made sense to others to move that Technical Committee  
9 report right before we have the regulatory proposals.

10

11 Patty, do you have thoughts on that

12

13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, that's fine.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So Julian will do  
18 his population and trends presentation and then the  
19 Technical Committee report and then the three  
20 proposals?

21

22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State

23

24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay, that sounds  
25 good.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Ryan,  
28 does that sound all right?

29

30 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir, it does. I think  
31 that's good thinking.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And  
34 Gayla.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Sounds good, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you.  
39 Any other thoughts on the agenda.

40

41 MS. HOSETH: I move to approve the  
42 agenda with the recommended change.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla. Is  
45 there a second.

46

47 MR. SCOTT: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Ryan. All

50

0021

1 in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And  
6 opposed, no.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. The  
11 motion carries, thank you. So we have an agenda -- an  
12 amended agenda with the change being that the Technical  
13 Committee report with Julian Fischer being the Chair  
14 will occur right before Item C under new business, the  
15 AMBCC regulatory proposals.

16

17 So thank you.

18

19 Invitation for public comments. Do we  
20 have any members of the public that would like to offer  
21 some comments this morning?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none, we'll  
26 move on. So the Executive Director report, Patty, I  
27 believe that's your responsibility.

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, it is. And I'm  
30 going to share my screen, I think. Can you guys see  
31 that?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. I see head's  
36 bobbing. Okay, so, Gloria, I'm really sorry you didn't  
37 get the materials, and I apologize to the full Council,  
38 as well as the guests, for the late issuance of the  
39 materials. We had a hard time getting attachments from  
40 Staff people and from our partners and that took quite  
41 awhile. I also had some personal issues this week as  
42 well as AMBCC meetings back to back so I wasn't able to  
43 get the packet to the Council members in a timely  
44 manner. I was hoping to get it to them a week before  
45 but my deadline obviously didn't work.

46

47 So I have the packet, sent it in one  
48 document to the Council members, and I am hoping that  
49 you shared that with your Staff and other members that  
50

0022

1 you thought may feel it relevant. But if you take a  
2 look at -- if you wanted to pull your own packet up,  
3 there's this little ribbon like banner thing on the  
4 left side of the screen, so if you click on that, all  
5 the tabs show up. So the tabs from 1 through 25 are  
6 all set in your packet document. So if you wanted to  
7 go to Tab 7, you'd press Tab 7 and it takes you there.

8

9 So I'm going to stop screen sharing  
10 now, I think.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. My palms are  
15 sweaty when I have to deal with technology so you guys  
16 have to bear with me, this is so nervewracking.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You're doing great,  
19 Patty.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So I'm just  
22 going to briefly go through my report and it's a six  
23 month report because we didn't meet, obviously, you  
24 know, we don't meet quarterly.

25

26 So the proposals that we submitted to  
27 the Service Regulations Committee that were approved by  
28 the Council last spring were approved by the SRC. And  
29 so those obviously have gone into effect at the start  
30 of the spring season this year. We did get three  
31 proposals for consideration during the open proposal  
32 period. As you know we extended the deadline to  
33 January 15th due to the pandemic. All three Proposals  
34 were received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
35 They are, what I consider, housekeeping proposals in an  
36 effort to improve the regulations booklet. So Julian  
37 will describe those more in detail when we get to that  
38 part of the agenda. But we did receive three proposals  
39 and they were sent to the regions for their  
40 consideration as well.

41

42 The update -- we will be providing an  
43 update on the book chapter later on in the agenda.  
44 Liliana Naves, Laura Mingak and I have been working on  
45 that. And the final draft is due in 2022. The first  
46 draft is due this month, I believe. So we have been  
47 busy working on that. I'm sorry, we're not going to  
48 talk about that later on the agenda, we're going to  
49 talk about the history and goals later on in the  
50

0023

1 agenda, and that's an associated project that was kind  
2 of a lead in from the book chapter.

3

4

5 Had an interesting thing happen this  
6 period. There was an individual who was cited for  
7 egging in an excluded area. She lives in Anchorage, in  
8 the professional, works here in town, and so part of  
9 her sentence included 15 hours of community service.  
10 Well, she asked if she could serve her hours with the  
11 AMBCC so I worked with her and she ended up indexing  
12 all of the Federal Register actions since the inception  
13 of the AMBCC as well as all of our proposals that have  
14 been passed by the AMBCC. So I was really fortunate  
15 that that kind of fell into our lap. We got a lot of  
16 work done and she had some suggestions to improve our  
17 process and was very interested in working with us in  
18 the future so that was a real positive result to an  
19 unfortunate incident. And associated with that, I have  
20 been getting requests and questions from people that  
21 live in the city and want to go egging. So that may be  
22 an issue in the future. I've had about three requests  
23 this year for that.

23

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The Emperor Goose Outreach will also be reported on a little bit later in the meeting. Tamera Zeller and I have been working diligently with the regions to share the outreach materials that were developed during 2020 and to gather information and input and answer any questions so we have been working on that over the past month, month and a half real diligently but have been working on materials since last August.

In a related matter, we did receive some feedback on some of the outreach materials from our Council members and we're really appreciative of that. We've taken these suggestions into serious consideration, and while it's too late to make some of the changes to the materials now because they've been sent out, we will incorporate these suggestions to improve the final product and our relationship with all of our partners.

I just wanted to acknowledge that.

The COSST. The Coastal Observation Seabird Survey Team based in Washington has partnered with Fish and Wildlife Service, as you know, for the seabird die-offs. They invited us to comment on their

1 code of conduct that they drafted and asked if we would  
2 look at the indigenous section, which we did. I  
3 collaborated with Brandon Ahmasuk and Dr. Gay Sheffield  
4 from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and we put  
5 together some comments, they incorporated, I believe,  
6 all of our comments. And that document is included in  
7 the meeting packet under Tab 4 if you want to take a  
8 look at it.

9

10 February and March were pretty much  
11 filled with regional management body meetings so we had  
12 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Southcentral, Northwest Arctic,  
13 the Aleutian Chain, Kodiak and the Upper Copper River,  
14 and the Interior all had their meetings -- actually  
15 that was this month. And in addition the Technical  
16 Committee, the Emperor Goose subcommittee and the  
17 Emperor Goose Outreach Committee met during this past  
18 six months as well.

19

20 Other meetings I attended representing  
21 the AMBCC we were invited to sit on a marine bird life  
22 panel. It was a marine bird life -- bird life marine  
23 program strategy workshop on seabird harvest. So I  
24 asked Liliana Naves to join me in my presentation. It  
25 went very well. There were indigenous people on the  
26 line but it really was like an international call so  
27 that was pretty interesting. We had Bird Life  
28 International, I should mention, is a global  
29 partnership of NGOs and they work on conserving birds  
30 in their habitat. So people on the call were from  
31 places like Greenland, Canada, United Kingdom, New  
32 Zealand and the United States. That was interesting to  
33 participate in.

34

35 We also participated in the  
36 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council meeting,  
37 which we don't generally attend the RAC meetings but we  
38 heard that there was going to be some questions about  
39 Emperor goose harvest and maybe fall/winter harvest.  
40 So Dave Safine from the Fish and Wildlife Service and I  
41 joined the call basically just to be there to answer  
42 questions. I felt that, after the meeting, I think the  
43 AMBCC would benefit from interacting with these  
44 entities that address subsistence issues, even though  
45 migratory birds are not under their purview, they still  
46 have questions. They're all subsistence species so in  
47 effort we would need to reach out to the Regional  
48 Advisory Councils as well as the Advisory Councils  
49 associated with the Board of Game or Fish.

50



0025

1                   As far as administration goes, Mr. Will  
2 Lacy's on the line and will be talking about the grant  
3 solutions, grants management platform. That's new this  
4 year. So some time was spent learning that platform  
5 and working with the regions to make sure that their  
6 documents were submitted in a timely manner.

7  
8                   And I've also just been writing  
9 reports, preparing for the spring meeting, working on  
10 our cooperative agreement, working with IT to make sure  
11 that we're all good on the internet with connectivity,  
12 et cetera, et cetera. And other than what I will be  
13 reporting on later on the agenda that is it for my  
14 narrative report, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Patty.  
17 Excellent report. Karen, I see your hand up, do you  
18 have a question for Patty?

19  
20                   MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 I think it's actually for the Service. APIA used to be  
22 thrilled to host some egg collections that came from  
23 restricted areas like airports in Anchorage but, of  
24 course, with our new situation we won't be accepting  
25 eggs and encouraging the public to come to our  
26 location, and if there are folks who are approaching  
27 Patty saying they are looking for Anchorage eggging  
28 opportunities, there seems like there might be  
29 something here. I don't have an immediate solution. I  
30 just wanted to point out that there's two complicating  
31 issues with urban eggs this year.

32  
33                   Thank you.

34  
35                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Karen. Yeah,  
38 I think you might be referring possibly to, and maybe  
39 you could clarify this, did it have to do with Canada  
40 geese and the problem with Canada geese in Anchorage  
41 area and urban areas particularly around, I guess golf  
42 courses or schools and parks. Is that the issue?

43  
44                   MS. PLETNIKOFF: It's a number of other  
45 species, too, including gull. We see a lot of gull  
46 eggs.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

49  
50

0026

1 MS. PLETNIKOFF: And there's a good  
2 tradition of wanting to use them but unfortunately our  
3 organizational, protection, is that we're not inviting  
4 the public to our space at this point. So we won't be  
5 that conduit for eggs to users.

6  
7 Thanks.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. If that's  
10 a topic that you would like to bring up we certainly  
11 could entertain a group from the AMBCC to start to  
12 address that.

13  
14 Other comments or questions for Patty's  
15 report.

16  
17 Gayla.

18  
19 MS. HOSETH: Yeah. In follow up to  
20 Karen, you know, through the -- for those of you who  
21 live in Anchorage there's the Elder Program there at  
22 Southcentral Foundation that I think the eggs come from  
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from the runways and  
24 throughout Anchorage area so if you guys do know of any  
25 elders there that would like some eggs, there's that  
26 Elder Program through Southcentral Foundation. I'm not  
27 sure what the enrollment requirements are for it but  
28 there is that system there.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.  
31 And I am unfamiliar with that so I've got to do some  
32 homework to better understand. So it's the  
33 Southcentral Foundation; is that right?

34  
35 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, through the Elder  
36 Program.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: And then they do a lot of  
41 -- they bring food boxes and traditional foods to  
42 elders that live in Anchorage and I know that there's  
43 some eggs that come from, I believe it's from Fish and  
44 Wildlife Service that get donated.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. All right,  
47 thank you, I'll look into that.

48  
49 Other questions for Patty's report, or  
50

0027

1 Patty.

2

3 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Just to thank Patty  
4 for making herself available and handling all of our  
5 many meetings back to back last week.

6

7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You're welcome.

8

9 MS. PLETNIKOFF: And APIA would also  
10 like to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and  
11 Fish and Game Staff who joined us. Thank you, very  
12 much Liliana and Laura, David and my apologies, Tamera.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, well,  
17 thank you, Patty. Excellent report. Really you've  
18 been busy over the past year. And, yeah, the technical  
19 challenges that we're all experiencing from me to Dave  
20 Safine to others calling in, if folks have problems  
21 just try to chat, text, email and let Patty or myself  
22 know and we'll try to get it fixed. We know it's a  
23 challenge and I am not totally optimistic for September  
24 here in a few months from now to have an in-person  
25 meeting but we'll see where this goes with the  
26 pandemic. So hang in there.

27

28 All right. Let's see adoption of  
29 Council action items. Patty, I believe that was part  
30 of your packet, if I'm not mistaken. And can you tell  
31 us, Patty, what tab that is under.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty, you may be on  
36 mute.

37

38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, I am. That is  
39 Tab 2, and I want to share my screen again.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Perfect.

42

43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So would the Council  
44 like me to read them or do you want to just take a  
45 minute to go through them?

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Let's let the Council  
48 go through them, I don't know if we need to read them  
49 over the phone. There's nine items totally, so if

50

0028

1 everyone could just take a peak at that over the next  
2 minute or so.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, any  
7 questions or comments on the nine action items from our  
8 meeting on September 29th, 2020.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none, I would  
13 entertain a motion to adopt the action items that were  
14 carried forward from our September 29, 2020 meeting.

15

16 MS. HEPA: So moved.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Taqulik.

19

20 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair, this is Taqulik.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Can I  
23 have a second please.

24

25 MR. DEVINE: Second.

26 Aleutian/Pribilofs.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Peter.

29 Any discussion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none, I'll  
34 call the question. All in favor say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Opposed,

39 say no.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, the motion  
44 carries and the action items from the September 29th,  
45 2020 meeting have been approved.

46

47 All right. Patty, I believe you're  
48 next and documented history and goals for the AMBCC.

49

50

0029

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, and this is  
2 the table of contents portion of the document that  
3 Liliana and I are working on as well as other people  
4 that we've asked for help with. Lilly, do you want to  
5 jump in and describe how the table of contents works  
6 with people?

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Or not. Maybe she's  
11 not on the line. So anyway, what we're -- when we  
12 started working on the book chapter we found out that  
13 there is a lot of history that the AMBCC has that we  
14 have not documented. And over the years since I've  
15 been the Executive Director people have been asking  
16 about things that have happened early on, even in, you  
17 know, five or 10 years ago and the documents are here,  
18 they're there, they're not in any one place and so we  
19 decided it would be a good idea to start trying to  
20 organize our AMBCC history and put it into a document.  
21 And so this is just a PDF so I can't really show you  
22 how it works. But these are the topics that we'll be  
23 putting in the book and I'm just going to read through  
24 a few of them for Gloria's sake since she doesn't have  
25 the document, and I apologize again for that.

26  
27 But there's an introduction and the  
28 objections. We'll be talking about the indigenous  
29 people in Alaska. Talking about local and indigenous  
30 knowledge, birds in Alaska Native cultures, the harvest  
31 cash mixed economy. Talking about western harvest  
32 management in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The  
33 creation of the AMBCC. How birds are shared. The  
34 AMBCC governance structure. Working together in  
35 cultural diversity, in other words, conservation  
36 through co-management. We'll talk about the  
37 regulations process. Our achievements. Any unresolved  
38 issues or current issues that we're working on. Lilly  
39 will write a section on the harvest assessment. And  
40 then looking forward, actions to achieve AMBCC goals  
41 and the people to interview. So Lilly and I have been  
42 working on finding funding to pay experts to provide  
43 information into this document. I'm already in contact  
44 with some of the AMBCC former Staff as well as Council  
45 members from the Native Caucus to help us put this  
46 document together. So obviously it's a work in  
47 progress and it's a long-term project right now since  
48 it's not funded, it's just an unfunded initiative that  
49 we feel that needs to be done.  
50

0030

1                   So if Lilly is back on the line she can  
2 add, welcome to add any other information. Otherwise I  
3 just wanted to share that with the Council.

4  
5                   Mr. Chair.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Patty. I  
8 believe Lilly is on the line, her computer froze up, I  
9 think. So Lilly, anything to add.

10  
11                   MS. NAVES: Well, I think that maybe  
12 one explanation is that this project started as this  
13 request for a book chapter and then we started looking  
14 through that and talk about the AMBCC and then the  
15 project -- yeah, we thought that for it to be really  
16 beneficial the project was beyond the book chapter.  
17 Looking at all the historical materials for the AMBCC,  
18 the book chapter is something with 10, 15,000 words,  
19 and when you look at for our needs at the AMBCC, we  
20 thought about that a more comprehensive work would be  
21 more beneficial for us all at the AMBCC. So we're  
22 moving forward with the book chapter as a quick  
23 overview of the AMBCC but the idea is to have a  
24 document that is accessible to all of us and even the  
25 contents of the document, I think it's, at this point,  
26 it's fluid and we will continue to evolve as we work  
27 together and identify the needs. So the idea is to  
28 really cover our local needs and to make this  
29 participitive project to where everyone is welcome to  
30 give input and contribute materials.

31  
32                   So we started looking at the AMBCC  
33 historical materials, and lots of those were reports in  
34 hard copy that you can only get -- we can only figure  
35 out that they exist with lots of research and they are  
36 only hard copies available on libraries such as ARLIS  
37 or materials that have received over the years for  
38 agency Staff that has retired. So an initial step was  
39 to compile all the material, scan materials and start  
40 to compose and structure a digital library. And from  
41 there to summarize those materials and make information  
42 in an easy to access way that would be helpful for us.  
43 So in the longer term, I think the idea is to have, for  
44 instance, training models for new and also existing  
45 AMBCC members and partners that is something that is  
46 easily accessible.

47  
48                   So we submitted a grant to NFWF asking  
49 for grant money for this project. Unfortunately we  
50

0031

1 didn't get that funding. We got seed funding for Phase  
2 I of it through a cooperative agreement with Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service from last year that was the Phase I to  
4 dive into the historic materials and make some sense of  
5 it and have some sort of draft, and so that's what we  
6 are wrapping up right now. So Patty and I have a  
7 standing meeting every week that we try to keep moving  
8 forward with this project and fit the work with other  
9 priorities that we have. So it has been a very, very  
10 affirmative process to look at all this and I have been  
11 learning a lot and I hope that the final product, or  
12 even the process will be helpful for us all.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Lilly. So if  
17 I understand it correctly, the topic is kind of being  
18 served for two purposes. One, there is a book chapter  
19 that I believe you and Patty and perhaps others are  
20 involved with and that's kind of the condensed version.  
21 And then this, the book that you just described is a  
22 more comprehensive approach to that same topic. Is  
23 that a fair assessment?

24

25 MS. NAVES: Yes, that's correct. And  
26 even because of the timeframes, too, the draft -- the  
27 first of the book chapter is due sometime now in April,  
28 and so it's going to be a brief overview of everything.  
29 I think that moving on a more long -- medium to, I  
30 don't know, long-term, I don't know the exact timeframe  
31 there, we would like to dive more into the actions that  
32 are needed to achieve AMBCC goals and such and I think  
33 at this time we don't have materials like that to  
34 include in the book chapter so.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks.  
37 Any questions for Patty or Lilly on either the book  
38 chapter or the overall book that they are working on?

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, is that Gloria?

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. I was wondering,  
45 are you guys going to interview some people that were  
46 on the AMBCC in the early years?

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Gloria.

49 Lilly or Patty, can you answer that?

50

0032

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, we are. Matter  
2 of fact I've already contacted Myron Naneng and Tim  
3 Andrew and they're both willing to participate. So  
4 yeah, and if you have any suggestions of people from  
5 your area, you know, make sure you get those names to  
6 me because we -- the more resources we have, I think  
7 the better the perspective -- or the better the  
8 document will be because we do want to include all  
9 perspectives from all partners.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good question,  
12 Gloria. And I know that at least from my agency, Doug  
13 Alcorn, and Fred Armstrong were some original signers  
14 of the AMBCC. Matt Tobias from the Alaska Department  
15 of Fish and Game was a key person. And, yes, there has  
16 been a turnover in Council members as well, so it would  
17 be really interesting to hear the perspectives of how  
18 the AMBCC evolved, some of the fits and starts, and  
19 then finding the common ground, and finally to get the  
20 Council up and running. So great effort.

21

22 Lilly and Patty, I was going to ask  
23 you, I just sent out a note relative to U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service tribal grants. And is there any  
25 potential or interest in applying for a tribal grant to  
26 help finish this project or is that relevant, or  
27 feasible?

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It could be  
30 feasible. Only -- I mean I guess the sticking point  
31 would be that only tribes -- Federally-recognized  
32 tribes are eligible to apply for the tribal wildlife  
33 grants and so we'd have to get a tribe to sponsor the  
34 project which, you know, isn't beyond the realm of  
35 possibility at all.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Lilly, any  
38 other thoughts in terms of potential funding for this?

39

40 MS. NAVES: I can talk with Patty about  
41 maybe having CRRC, maybe, as a potential sponsor, not  
42 wanting to put Patty on the spot there, but as she's  
43 already heavily involved with this project.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, and, again, it  
46 would have to be one of the member tribes of Chugach  
47 Regional Resources Commission. So there's a little bit  
48 of work to be done there but I think that, like I said,  
49 it's not insurmountable.

50



0033

1 MS. HOSETH: Eric, is there any funding  
2 leftover from any abundance supply of funds where we  
3 could allocate towards this from the funding that we  
4 receive?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You know not at this  
7 point, Gayla. In fact, when we get to our budget,  
8 particularly for next year, it's not looking good  
9 relative to the overall program for Migratory Birds.  
10 But there is -- if I remember correctly, \$6 million  
11 that are available for tribal grants and that's a  
12 resource that I don't believe the AMBCC has tapped into  
13 in the past and I think a project like this would be  
14 very competitive. So if we could get a tribe to agree  
15 to take this on, certainly the Service would help be a  
16 partner in this. I think that's a real potential.

17  
18 Any other questions or comments for  
19 Patty or Lilly relative to history and goals of the  
20 AMBCC? I certainly think it's a worthwhile and  
21 important project. Between Staff turnover and between  
22 documents that get, like Lilly said, they're either  
23 hard copies, and that's the only copy then Staff  
24 turnover occurs and they get shredded, anyway I think  
25 this is really important to capture this. So I  
26 certainly would like to see it funded and wrapped up.

27  
28 Other comments, questions.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing  
33 none, thank you Patty and Lilly for that report.

34  
35 Next on the agenda, the Coast Code of  
36 Conduct. There isn't a person that's responsible for  
37 that. Patty, do you know?

38  
39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I just -- again, my  
40 technology knowledge, I didn't know how to include an  
41 attachment that wasn't part of the agenda so I made it  
42 part of the agenda. So it's just the tab so that you  
43 could see the Coast Code of Conduct. And the same  
44 thing will go with like a couple of Lilly's tabs as  
45 well, and Lilly can navigate through her part of the  
46 agenda next. I didn't know how to include -- without a  
47 scanner I couldn't include multiple documents under one  
48 tab so I had to make a tab for every document. So your  
49 patience is much appreciated.

50



0035

1 number of regional bird council meetings and for the  
2 meetings that considered this topic, we passed a motion  
3 to adopt the -- the regional bird councils passed  
4 motions to adopt the harvest estimates for the 2019  
5 survey. And that includes Interior, YK Delta, and the  
6 Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, for the results of the mail  
7 survey for the Cordova harvest. I don't know about the  
8 status of the other three regions. And we can ask the  
9 regional representatives to see how they would like to  
10 move forward there.

11

12 But I think as for the agenda item here  
13 there will be a motion to adopt the harvest estimates.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lilly. So  
16 I would entertain a motion to adopt the 2019 harvest  
17 estimates.

18

19 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
20 adopt the 2019 estimates.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank  
23 you, Ryan. Is there a second.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And can I  
28 ask who that was, I just see a phone number.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Martin. Martin Andrew.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Martin.  
33 Sorry. I'll write your name down next to your number.  
34 All right, so we have a motion that's been seconded,  
35 any discussion on the 2019 estimates to Lilly.

36

37 MS. NAVES: Yes, please, I think that  
38 we need to touch base with Bristol Bay, North Slope,  
39 Bering Strait/Norton Sound. Those are the regions  
40 that, as I understand it, are pending a motion at the  
41 level of the regional bird councils, so maybe if we  
42 could see how we could move forward with those pending  
43 regions.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Lilly, could you just  
46 help me understand for those three regions what are you  
47 asking?

48

49 MS. NAVES: Because I think that those

50

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1 are the regions that didn't have a meeting before the  
2 AMBCC meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

5

6 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

9

10 MS. HEPA: Hi, thank you, Lilly. And  
11 so our goal is to have a meeting before June 30, and it  
12 will most likely be sometime in June, for the North  
13 Slope region.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Lilly, what were the  
16 other two regions that you were waiting for?

17

18 MS. NAVES: Thank you, Taqulik. And I  
19 will follow up with you so we are in touch for that.  
20 And the other ones are Bristol Bay and Bering  
21 Strait/Norton Sound.

22

23 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, yeah, this is  
24 Gayla. I mean we're going to be having a meeting, too,  
25 hopefully here before that June 30th. Possibly we're  
26 looking either later on this month or May. Things have  
27 just been backed up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
30 Gayla. And, sorry, Lilly, what was the third region?

31

32 MS. NAVES: Bering Strait/Norton Sound.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Bering  
35 Strait. Do we have -- I'm not too sure if we have any  
36 representatives from Bering Strait. Was Jack able to  
37 call in Patty?

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: He just called me a  
40 little bit ago and he is trying to call in right now.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Lilly, are you  
43 -- if I understand you correctly you're waiting for  
44 confirmation from North Slope Borough, Bristol Bay, and  
45 Bering Strait relative to their estimates for that  
46 2019, you're waiting to hear thumbs up, concerns or  
47 anything; is that right?

48

49 MS. NAVES: Yes, that's right.

50

0037

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. And right  
2 now it's my understanding from Taquik that the North  
3 Slope will meet in June, and Gayla stated that Bristol  
4 Bay will be meeting in June before the 30th. And then  
5 once Jack is able to join us we'll be able to  
6 understand when Bering Strait region will be able to  
7 meet. So then assuming those three regions are able to  
8 meet and okay the estimates for 2019 then we would be  
9 able to adopt those estimates. Is that what your  
10 thinking is?

11  
12                   MS. NAVES: Yes, I think so. Yeah.  
13 And so moving -- start to make the transition into the  
14 next item there, so we're talking about adoption of  
15 2019. So 2020 there was no survey. The Council has  
16 decided to not conduct an in-person survey or a mail  
17 survey last year. The 2020 survey was conducted as  
18 normal -- for the Cordova harvest it's a mail survey.  
19 So when all the adoption process is completed, what I'm  
20 planning for is to have a single report that says 2019,  
21 2020, the 2020 part of only being the Cordova survey,  
22 and then you have everything cut off there in terms of  
23 harvest reporting. And CRRC has already worked on  
24 their 2020. So I think it will be an efficient way of  
25 going about the reporting for these two years.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. So if I  
28 understand it correctly there is not a survey that was  
29 conducted in 2020 except for the Cordova survey and you  
30 would like to hold off and combine those two years,  
31 2019 and 2020 and have one report, and that being  
32 brought forward to the Council for approval at some  
33 point?

34  
35                   MS. NAVES: No, I don't think that that  
36 may require Council action, kind of combining the  
37 reports. The Chugach, Cook Inlet has already reviewed  
38 and moved to adopt both the 2019 and 2020 results.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. But it's  
41 my understanding you're still waiting for approval from  
42 North Slope Borough, Bristol Bay and Bering Strait; is  
43 that correct?

44  
45                   MS. NAVES: Yes, uh-huh. On that part,  
46 yes.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So any  
49 other -- any questions for Lilly relative to that  
50

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1 report.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you,  
6 Lilly. I think the next item, update on Emperor Goose  
7 Harvest Management Project.

8

9 MS. NAVES: Eric, just a moment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

12

13 MS. NAVES: There's a couple of other  
14 updates under the Harvest Assessment Program.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

17

18 MS. NAVES: It's three and four and  
19 five -- three and four on that one pager.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Did you want  
22 to go through that, you said there were additional  
23 updates?

24

25 MS. NAVES: Yes, please. So for 2020,  
26 I think there is some uncertainty yet on what the  
27 public health concern situations are going to look like  
28 for this fall but preparations to deploy an annual  
29 survey start usually in August, and in September those  
30 preparations are ready full on. So we have to make a  
31 decision on how to move forward with the 2021 survey  
32 around that timeframe of, say, no later than August  
33 this year.

34

35 The other item are brief updates on the  
36 Emperor Goose Harvest Management Project. This is a  
37 project being conducted by the Division of Subsistence  
38 with a grant, that's a PR grant, so that's 75 percent  
39 Federal funds, 25 percent State funds from the Division  
40 of Subsistence. We submitted this grant proposal a  
41 couple of years ago to try to close the gap on some  
42 information needs that were recurring in the context of  
43 harvest management for Emperor goose.

44

45 Thank you very much Patty for sharing  
46 the screen there.

47

48 So that project has several components.  
49 I will give a brief update on some of the main

50

0039

1 components that are ongoing now.

2

3

4 So we conducted a survey of fall/winter  
5 Emperor goose permit holders and together with that  
6 assessed data that is coming from the permit system.  
7 The draft report is available for that component of  
8 this project and it's included with the meeting  
9 materials.

9

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Another component of that project is  
Item B there on the one pager report. We conducted  
online surveys, expert opinion survey including  
managers, biologists and the conservation  
organizations, different organizations that interface  
in the realm of harvest management and conservation for  
Emperor goose, including Native, Federal and State  
organizations. Now the collection is completed for  
that we're now analyzing the data and writing a draft  
report. So the survey was conducted as a delphi  
iterative (ph) process so this is a survey with three  
rounds. There was a first round of questions, based on  
results from that we build a second round and a third  
round, so that's what delphi iterative process, it's  
not a one set and done.

Another component, Item C there, is a  
specific component to gather local and traditional  
knowledge in perspectives of subsistence users. We use  
different approaches to differentiate the groups of  
people (indiscernible) this means different groups of  
stakeholders. And for the subsistence users we thought  
that interviews would be the best way of reaching to  
those folks. Those interviews were planned to be  
conducted as (indiscernible) interviews tagged along  
with meetings of the original bird councils of the  
AMBCC but with the Covid we had to change that. So  
that was modified to be conducted as key respondent  
interviews. The interviews are being conducted by  
phone. We're working with AMBCC partners to develop the  
set of questions and those interviews are going on  
right now. There is a one pager about this work,  
together with the materials and we are really asking  
for help and input trying to identify potential  
candidates for the key respondent interviews. We're  
looking for people that are knowledgeable about birds  
and bird harvest in general, understand that Emperor  
goose is more of the scope but we're looking more  
broadly for people that know about birds in general  
including Emperor goose. We prepared a package that

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1 was sent in the mail for people interested in doing the  
2 survey, so before the interview they can see the  
3 interview questions, they have a little bit more  
4 information and then when they receive that package we  
5 touch base to do an interview over the phone. The  
6 interviews last about one hour. And we offer a \$100 in  
7 recognition of people's time as an honorum. And I  
8 really have been asking help to enlist people to  
9 participate in those interviews and we're having a  
10 really hard time getting candidates. We are looking to  
11 -- or hoping to interview between and five and 10  
12 people in each region within the Emperor goose  
13 distribution range. So it's not a one village only,  
14 it's scattered and we are hoping to capture different  
15 perspectives and contacts in the different regions.  
16 Because for instance the Northwest Arctic is on the  
17 edge of the Emperor goose distribution range; Kodiak,  
18 the context is going to be very different in the  
19 wintering areas. So it's really important for people  
20 to participate, even if your area is kind of like,  
21 let's say Northwest Arctic, that's more on the edge of  
22 the distribution range of the Emperor goose, so please  
23 help us enlisting people to participate in these  
24 interviews. And we're already trying to conduct those  
25 interviews for several months but it has been a major  
26 challenge to gather the interviewers, even with  
27 offering honorary and sending materials in the mail and  
28 such. So please don't be shy. Give us a call. Laura  
29 is scheduling the interviews. If you know someone that  
30 can be a good candidate, the phone number for Laura is  
31 267-2269. 267-2269.

32

33 And the interviews are happening now.  
34 Now is a good time to do it. When comes the spring and  
35 summer, people get busy with other harvests and it's  
36 going to get more difficult yet to find people so let's  
37 take action on this now because this is an opportunity  
38 to represent subsistence users perspectives in this  
39 whole package. The idea is to get perspectives of  
40 everyone and we're lagging behind there on the  
41 subsistence users. So thank you very much for your  
42 helping with that.

43

44 And the last component there for a  
45 brief update on the Emperor goose project is that we  
46 are now deploying surveys in 10 communities in the  
47 Kodiak and Aleutian regions. These are regions that  
48 have been considered unsurveyed generally for birds and  
49 also for other subsistence resources. They are not

50



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1 included in the coverage of the annual AMBCC harvest  
2 survey so it's a great opportunity to document bird  
3 harvest in those communities. The survey asks about  
4 all birds, not only Emperor goose, it's a classic bird  
5 harvest survey. And for instance we are reaching to  
6 St. Paul, was a place where the last bird harvest  
7 survey was in 1994, so it's a great opportunity to get  
8 another snapshot in time on how is bird harvest in  
9 those communities. So I list which communities we are  
10 deploying the bird harvest survey. So it's Akutan,  
11 Adak, St. Paul, Sand Point on the Aleutians area, and  
12 then Kodiak there is Larsen Bay, Port Lions, Old  
13 Harbor, Kodiak City, Womens Bay and we're trying to do  
14 Kodiak Station but there is a little bit of difficult  
15 access there to the bay so we may do Kodiak at large  
16 instead. We should do bird harvest surveys with in-  
17 person interviews but because of the pandemic we also  
18 had to change, so we changed the design of the  
19 interview for households to complete the survey on  
20 their own. There is a little plastic pouch with the  
21 survey form, a postage paid envelop and a raffle ticket  
22 that is a thank you for the participating households.  
23 The raffle prizes are binoculars and bird ID books, and  
24 we are working with local research assistants in each  
25 of the communities to hang a survey pouch on each  
26 doorknob and also they're helping with communication  
27 plans that's specific for each community. That's kind  
28 of a good way to spread the word on using local means  
29 of communication. So this is going on right now. And  
30 we're hoping to wrap up the data collection in a few  
31 weeks.

32  
33 So I would like to thank you very much  
34 for all the partners and the local research assistants  
35 and the tribal councils that have been so helpful  
36 deploying the survey right now under challenging  
37 circumstances. We really appreciate the people's  
38 participations.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Lilly. Great  
43 report. Any questions for Lilly on her report.

44  
45 Coral.

46  
47 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, thank you for that  
48 Lilly. I was wondering -- so this seems like kind of  
49 an awful lot of surveys going on. Can you tell us what  
50

0042

1 each -- like what is the main objective of each one of  
2 these surveys. It looks like there's the online  
3 survey, the three round delphi, the subsistence users  
4 LTK interviews, and the Kodiak/Aleutian bird harvest  
5 surveys; that seems pretty self-explanatory, but can  
6 you explain the -- like what is the main objective of  
7 each one of those surveys?

8

9 MS. NAVES: Well, the Kodiak/Aleutian  
10 harvest surveys collect harvest numbers. So that's  
11 numbers only. There is -- we also add in some  
12 questions about Emperor goose, for instance when it's  
13 available in the area, when people usually have access  
14 to it, but the main goal of the survey is to get  
15 harvest numbers.

16

17 The other three surveys, they are  
18 different approaches to reach out to different groups  
19 of people. We realize that a mail survey for the  
20 fall/winter permitholders for Emperor goose will not  
21 cover, or will not provide participation for the -- the  
22 subsistence users that harvest the Emperor goose mostly  
23 in spring, so it's for that -- that we designed another  
24 system to get perspectives of subsistence users because  
25 they are on a different context.

26

27 And the delphi, the online for the  
28 expert opinion, that is to reach to managers,  
29 biologists, people that have been actively involved  
30 with Emperor goose research, management and  
31 conservation. So the main difference there is that  
32 there are different ways to reach to different people.

33

34 Because one single survey would not  
35 adequately represent perspectives of different people  
36 involved.

37

38 So that's the difference.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. And the three  
41 round delphi process, has that already happened,  
42 because I think I did an online three part survey, was  
43 that that one?

44

45 MS. NAVES: Yes. Yes.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

48

49 MS. NAVES: Thank you for participating

50

0043

1 on that one. So that data collection is completed and  
2 we are now working on the results.

3

4 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

5

6 MS. NAVES: Thank you very much to  
7 everyone that took the time to participate on those  
8 surveys on the three rounds and that are engaged with  
9 other components now. So really appreciate your time  
10 answering the surveys. Our understanding is that not  
11 many people would be multiple of those groups so if  
12 there is an overlap there, thank you, double, very  
13 much.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Will we see the results  
16 of those maybe in the fall?

17

18 MS. NAVES: Yes, of course, uh-huh.  
19 And for the first one, the report is already attached  
20 to this meeting materials.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. Thank you.

23

24 MS. NAVES: Thank you.

25

26 MR. SCOTT: Lilly, this is Ryan. I'm  
27 just curious, when do you guys anticipate publishing  
28 the fall/winter Emperor goose harvest management paper  
29 report? When do you think that's going to get wrapped  
30 up, and, specifically what I'm kind of thinking about  
31 is, you know, with the Board of Game being postponed  
32 for awhile, I think this is a document that, given the  
33 interest in Emperor geese it would be good for the  
34 Board members to have this in hand.

35

36 MS. NAVES: Uh-huh. So the draft  
37 report is already available. And as I said this is a  
38 useable document. It has been through internal review  
39 at Fish and Game, that's the standard procedure for all  
40 the research that you do. First it starts with a round  
41 of internal review, then as peered where I send the  
42 report, to AMBCC partners and that ended a couple of  
43 weeks ago, and I got some comments from that, that I  
44 needed to include in the draft report, but there is not  
45 -- I don't think there is anything super substantial in  
46 those comments that, of course, we will fine-tune the  
47 report, but not dramatically change the results of the  
48 report, so I think that the report that you have right  
49 now is a working -- it's a usable document, and

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1 publishing it as a peer review article is just kind of  
2 wrapping up the report in process to go to the standard  
3 of having it as a peer review, but I don't see a  
4 problem in that report being used as needed until that  
5 happens.

6

7

MR. SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

8

9 MS. NAVES: If someone has a different  
10 opinion on that, please let me know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions for  
13 Lilly.

14

15

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing  
none, thank you Lilly. Let's see, the time is just  
about 10:30, we've been at this for two hours, folks  
might appreciate a break. So let's take a 15 minute  
break and pick it up again at 10:45. And you can stay  
on the line and just put your microphone on mute and  
turn off your video and then we'll pick it back up here  
in 15 minutes.

25

26

Thank you.

27

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(Off record)

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, welcome back.  
It's 10:45, and we'll get started again on our agenda.  
I think next item up is the Outreach and Communication  
subcommittee on Emperor geese, and I think this is  
going to be a tag team approach between Patty and  
Tamera. So, Patty, I think you are speaking, if I  
understand this correctly and Tamera might be running  
the PowerPoint; is that right?

40

41

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

42

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44

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So the  
floor is yours.

45

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48

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Tamera, do  
you want to share your screen.

49

50

MS. ZELLER: Thank you. I'm going to

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1 head that way.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay.

4

5 MS. ZELLER: Sorry.

6

7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So as you all recall  
8 at the last meeting we shared documents with you on the  
9 work being done by the Emperor Goose Education and  
10 Outreach Committee, so this is just an update on what  
11 has happened so far since we did that.

12

13 So as you know we have gone into the  
14 yellow zone with the population of the Emperor geese as  
15 we know it, you know, best information that we have,  
16 and the Council recommended increased outreach and  
17 education and then the ceasing of egging for this  
18 upcoming season. So we were tasked, we, meaning the  
19 Outreach and Education Committee were tasked with  
20 preparing and distributing documents associated with  
21 this graph, basically.

22

23 So we went with the five regions, I  
24 think it is, where Emperor geese are harvested and the  
25 goal was to try to customize the approach and identify  
26 the key villages to focus on in each community. So we  
27 really got good feedback from the regional  
28 representatives and I thank you for that. So we had  
29 phone calls and we had meetings with tribes and we  
30 really got a lot of good information from those that  
31 participated in how best to get the word out about the  
32 Emperor goose.

33

34 So you'll see from this slide that the  
35 products that were developed and the advertising  
36 campaign for the media included digital ads, video,  
37 cable TV ads, radio ads, social media and newspaper  
38 ads. And we also had letters and fliers. So these are  
39 the three fliers that were produced as a result of the  
40 work by the Outreach and Education Committee, the input  
41 from the Council, as well as the survey that was  
42 conducted last year by the contractor, the  
43 communications contractor that helped us in this  
44 process.

45

46 So these are the materials that are  
47 currently available and I believe -- are there links on  
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service website for these, Eric,  
49 do you know, or Tamera.

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1 MS. ZELLER: Currently a few, and we're  
2 working on getting those up. We need to do some  
3 compliance as far as the videos are concerned and  
4 getting captions put on there so they will be shortly.

5  
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Because once  
7 you do that, then let me know and I can put them on the  
8 AMBCC website as well.

9  
10 So what the Fish and Wildlife Service  
11 is currently working on are infographs that include  
12 mostly biological information about the Emperor goose.  
13 And Tamera maybe you can describe these a little bit  
14 before I go into the next section of our presentation.

15  
16 MS. ZELLER: Absolutely. So these are  
17 going to be a series of four infographics, which Patty  
18 had correctly described. They are based on the biology  
19 of the bird, sort of getting where they are at in their  
20 natural history and why they're so different from other  
21 geese and why their populations are slower to rebound  
22 because I think that's one of the main things with  
23 Emperor geese, they just are slow growing. And so  
24 these are a draft, and, folks, after this meeting will  
25 -- the AMBCC representatives and others will be getting  
26 an email with a link to all these to provide as much  
27 feedback as possible to make these your voice and the  
28 committee's voice and I'll work -- I'll pass those  
29 along to the contractor who's working on these. So  
30 it's going to be really, really important for folks to  
31 provide as much feedback as possible to make these work  
32 for everybody. So those will be, yeah, coming out to  
33 you probably tomorrow.

34  
35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Tamera. So  
36 these are the messages that were developed over the  
37 past couple of years actually based on input from all  
38 of the partners. And they include hunting for the  
39 future, gathering Emperor goose eggs is closed  
40 statewide, consider harvesting other species, take  
41 fewer geese if possible, avoid taking entire family  
42 groups, target a single bird to reduce injuries and to  
43 harvest young birds in the fall, look for their grey  
44 heads instead of the adults. A lot of the main points  
45 that we are trying to get across to hunters.

46  
47 So I just wanted to add a little bit of  
48 time on to our presentation to talk about feedback.  
49 Feedback and Covid and survey fatigue and a lot of  
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1 different things.

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4 But when we tried to -- or when we sent  
5 the survey out we tried to identify key respondents to  
6 be surveyed about Emperor geese and we didn't get as  
7 many people to be interviewed as we had hoped. So I  
8 feel that our response was limited. Be that as it may,  
9 we continued to develop the materials and get the word  
10 out. We met with the Emperor Goose Outreach Committee  
11 and clearly we were not listening to everything that we  
12 heard. We had a meeting with one of the Council  
13 members last week expressing comments, expressing  
14 concern, maybe, about the information and how it was  
15 presented, but the real message that I got from the  
16 meeting was communication and our miscommunication, and  
17 from my perspective, not listening, and so there were  
18 some comments that were made during the meeting that we  
19 didn't take into account when we developed the flier.  
20 So we have definitely taken those into consideration  
21 now and what I really have taken seriously the -- even  
22 though we're doing four Zoom meetings a day or whatever  
23 it is, and no matter how tired we are of Zoom meetings  
24 and tired of surveys, we can't take each other for  
25 granted, we need to respect each other, we need to  
26 listen to each other. Crystal talks about Level 3  
27 listening in the Alaska Native Relations training, and  
28 I really think that's something that we should  
29 practice. So I just wanted to reiterate the importance  
30 of that, but also your feedback is very, very important  
31 and we are listening. We want to make these documents  
32 the best that they can be and we can't do that without  
33 your help.

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34 So thank you for all your participation  
35 in this outreach effort and we hope that it will be  
36 improved in the future, or maybe we won't even have to  
37 do outreach in the future if the populations rise.

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39 So thank you.

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41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks Patty and  
42 Tamera. Any questions from the Council relative to the  
43 outreach materials or what's planned or things that you  
44 feel would be helpful in your particular region.

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46 (No comments)

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48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you  
49 again. I appreciate the efforts of the committee, I

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1 appreciate the feedback that the committee has  
2 received, and I appreciate Tamera's efforts to get  
3 funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
4 to make this happen. So, again, please stay engaged.  
5 if you see something that you think needs improvement  
6 or could be clarified, please speak up. I think, as  
7 Patty said, we're certainly -- we want to make this  
8 effective to everyone in rural Alaska.

9

10 MS. ZELLER: Yeah, Eric, can I just say  
11 something to add to Patty's comments.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, go ahead.

14

15 MS. ZELLER: I mean I echo everything  
16 Patty said and I really genuinely appreciate the  
17 comments and the process of learning and I do want to,  
18 you know, really thank all of the folks that have been  
19 involved in this, and for Patty's -- you know, her help  
20 has been just instrumental, but, again, thank you for  
21 everybody who has made this effort better so.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
24 Tamera. Let's see next up is harvest of Emperor geese.  
25 Emperor Goose Subcommittee on report on fall/winter  
26 harvest of Emperor geese. Jason Schamber is the Chair  
27 of that committee. Jason, I think the floor is yours.

28

29 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah, thank you, Eric.  
30 I got a couple of slides to share with folks. I'll try  
31 sharing my screen here. Can everybody see that okay --  
32 all right.

33

34 So today I'll be presenting a couple of  
35 items on the topic of Emperor geese. As Eric mentioned  
36 this includes a brief summary of the proceedings from a  
37 recent Emperor goose subcommittee meeting, and I'll  
38 follow that with an update of the fall/winter hunt from  
39 this last season, 2020/21. And then a final note, I'll  
40 mention a couple of items that are related to the Board  
41 of Game meetings that were rescheduled for this next  
42 winter.

43

44 Okay, so I'll start with a briefing  
45 from the subcommittee meeting that convened on March  
46 26th of 2021. The nature of the meeting was discuss  
47 how to handle missing survey data that would inform  
48 regulatory decisions for the Emperor goose hunts. An  
49 agreed to approach may be needed this year if the

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1 summer survey is cancelled again, as it was last year.  
2 And we also discussed this as being a longer term  
3 solution that we might consider as part of the  
4 revisions to the management plans so that we provide  
5 explicit guidance to folks should this issue arise in  
6 the future of missing survey data.

7

8                   As a brief reminder, recall that  
9 according to the management plans we use current year  
10 status of the Emperor goose population from the summer  
11 survey to -- that's conducted by the Fish and Wildlife  
12 Service on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta breeding area to  
13 help guide decisions over regulations for the following  
14 year, so this is a graph that everybody's pretty  
15 familiar with. It's got the three regulatory packages  
16 that are color-coded, green, yellow and red, and we are  
17 currently in the yellow zone as I think Patty mentioned  
18 in her last presentation.

19

20                   So we use the summer survey that is  
21 conducted the year prior for current year regulatory  
22 decisions. So for example, the last survey that was  
23 conducted in 2019, if you can see my cursor, which  
24 dropped us into the yellow zone, is used to inform  
25 regulations for the 2020 season, so last year's season.  
26 But as everybody knows the summer survey was cancelled  
27 last year in 2020 due to the pandemic so the 2019  
28 survey was the last update on population status that we  
29 have, therefore, we didn't have the needed information,  
30 according to the harvest strategy in the management  
31 plan to help with regulatory decisions for the 2021  
32 season, this current year's regulations. The harvest  
33 strategy in the management plans don't provide explicit  
34 guidance for how to deal with missing survey data so  
35 the subcommittee had to meet last summer to decide how  
36 we would approach this problem. A few options were  
37 discussed. But ultimately we decided to use the 2019  
38 survey as a way to inform current population status at  
39 that time.

40

41                   At this last subcommittee meeting we  
42 revisited the options that we had considered last year.  
43 Eric Osnas is a biometrician with Fish and Wildlife  
44 Service led a review and discussion of the merits of  
45 these options as they might be reasonable approaches  
46 for surrogates to missing data. And those were using  
47 the most recent survey estimate, in this case it would  
48 be the 2019 estimate which was 26,500 birds; using a  
49 three year average, and so the most recent three years

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1 of surveys would be 2016 through 2019 so the average of  
2 those three years; and then finally a modeled projected  
3 estimate, so based on a State space survey -- or model  
4 that Eric and Chuck Frost of Fish and Wildlife Service  
5 had developed to project where current population  
6 status might be. So after some discussion and  
7 considering each of these options the subcommittee  
8 selected using a modeled estimate as the preferred  
9 approach to assessing population status if relevant  
10 survey data are missing. This approach has a couple of  
11 advantages. This is a graph of the summer survey  
12 that's conducted in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta since  
13 1985 and those are the pink dots that you see on the  
14 graph and then these blue dots at the end here are  
15 years where we're missing that survey information and  
16 so the State space model kind of fills those gaps. And  
17 the advantages that I mentioned are that the model uses  
18 all of the data across the survey, so 30 plus years of  
19 information to estimate these years where we lack  
20 survey information. Another advantage is that these  
21 estimates actually model the uncertainty associated  
22 with these estimates and so you can see there's some  
23 fairly wide confidence intervals or credible intervals  
24 around these estimates. And this allows us some  
25 certainty about our decisions. So, you know, if a  
26 large proportion of the estimated uncertainty is above  
27 the closure threshold, in the case of the 2020  
28 estimate, for example, 75 percent of the uncertainty  
29 was above that closure threshold, it gives us some  
30 confidence that a decision to keep the hunts open is  
31 reasonable. And these measures of uncertainty also  
32 allow the subcommittee to explore the idea of risk  
33 tolerance in the future. There's a member that  
34 expressed some interest in understanding what is the  
35 risk to making the decisions that we are based on these  
36 model estimates.

37

38 So having made this decision, the  
39 subcommittee plans to reconvene sometime in July or  
40 early August to discuss regulations for the 2022  
41 season. These discussions will be based either on the  
42 summer survey, if it is conducted this year, and if not  
43 we'll consider the model estimate results that you see  
44 here if the survey is cancelled again. And at that  
45 time the subcommittee will develop and submit a  
46 recommendation for next year's subsistence --  
47 spring/summer subsistence Council to consider out of  
48 cycle prior to the, you know, Pacific Flyway Council's  
49 meeting in late August, where they will be endorsing  
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1 subsistence regulations.

2

3 So that's all I had on this topic.

4

5 I'll pause here, if anybody has any  
6 questions before I move forward.

7

8 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, go ahead.

11

12 MS. PLETNIKOFF: This is Karen  
13 Pletnikoff with APIA. Why would the surveys get  
14 cancelled again this year, what is -- I mean I  
15 understand that it was kind of short notice to pivot  
16 and try to figure things out but this year, is it the  
17 Service's internal no travel guidelines or?

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Karen, Julian Fischer  
20 is on the phone and so if it's okay with Jason I might  
21 ask Julian to jump on in terms of give us a status on  
22 the Yukon Delta breeding bird survey that is used to  
23 estimate Emperor goose abundance. Julian, can you --  
24 you want to provide the Council an update on where the  
25 Yukon Delta breeding survey stands at this point?

26

27 MR. FISCHER: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
28 Julian Fischer. Thanks for that question, Karen, great  
29 question. At this point the survey has now been  
30 approved to go forward so we are planning actively to  
31 conduct the survey. But when we met with the Emperor  
32 goose subcommittee at the end of March it had not yet  
33 gone through a regional leadership review, and the  
34 review, of course has to do with mitigating risk of  
35 Covid19. So I'm happy to say we're planning on going  
36 ahead with the survey and unless there's some other  
37 unexpected event that would cause the survey to be  
38 cancelled we should have data for the Council's review  
39 this summer.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thanks so much.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Julian.  
46 Thanks, Karen. Any questions for Jason at this point.

47

48 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it's Ryan.

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1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Ryan.

2

3 MR. SCOTT: I just wanted to say,  
4 thanks to Karen also for asking that question and to  
5 Julian, that is great news to hear actually. And I  
6 think it's also -- it'll be interesting to, once the  
7 survey's completed, to compare it to the modeled  
8 abundance as well, you know, just kind of see how  
9 things fall out in that realm as well. So thanks you  
10 guys for getting after that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Ryan. You  
13 know, Julian didn't really expound upon the requirement  
14 to get projects approved. The Regional Directorate  
15 Team at Fish and Wildlife Service has developed  
16 guidelines and protocols for any field project moving  
17 forward or being proposed in 2021 to be reviewed as a  
18 two tiered system. But in essence, Tier II is an sort  
19 of travel, whether it's commercial or use of Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service aircraft requires Regional Directorate  
21 Team review and approval. That means review and  
22 approval by the Refuge Program, Office of Subsistence  
23 Management, Fisheries and Ecological Services, External  
24 Affairs, and ultimately our Regional Director and  
25 Deputy Regional Director. The forms are quite  
26 extensive to fill out, talking about testing and  
27 quarantine before a survey gets under way, upon arrival  
28 at a field site, or in this case, Bethel, again,  
29 quarantine and testing, and then also, obviously social  
30 distancing and the other aspects of being careful. But  
31 it's a pretty arduous process to go through so kudos to  
32 Julian and Heather Wilson, the pilot biologist, who  
33 actually does the survey, for getting that done. The  
34 Service Regional Directorate Team is meeting every  
35 Thursday to review projects, so every survey that we  
36 propose in the Migratory Bird Program is going through  
37 that Regional Directorate Team review. So, I, like  
38 Ryan, and Karen and others, were very happy to see this  
39 Yukon Delta -- we were very clear in our communication,  
40 this is the highest priority survey that the Migratory  
41 Bird Program does, both for Emperor goose and  
42 spectacled eiders, both are kind of facing a management  
43 decision at this point, and so it was very critical for  
44 us to move forward with that survey and the Directorate  
45 Team agreed.

46

47 So let's see other questions for Jason  
48 at this point?

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing none, Jason go ahead.

MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you. Okay so I'll provide an update on the fall/winter Emperor goose hunt from this last season, 2020/2021. I'll just start with a real quick background on the structure of the hunt itself.

It's administered using a registration permit across seven hunt areas. The permit has a mandatory reporting requirement and this allows us to track the harvest under the permit system pretty well. Each of the hunt areas has an individual quota that together would sum to the Federal statewide quota for Alaska at 1,000 birds. That's if we were operating under a liberal regulation package or that green zone if folks remember that slide on the survey. However this last season we were under a restrictive regulations package so the statewide quota was reduced to 500 birds and so each of the hunt area quotas also were reduced so you can see here that 25 birds were allowed in each of the northern regions and 50 or more were allowed in each of the southern hunt areas, up to 150 in Kodiak. And together these sum to 500 birds that are allowed for the state.

Let's see, okay, so a little bit about the hunt statistics from last year. I apologize for the tabular format of this but I'll kind of walk us through it.

A total of 393 permits were issued to resident Alaska, that's this column here, as well as 25 draw permits to non-residents. Of those permits that were issued, 202 residents participated in the hunt and 21 non-residents participated in the hunt as well. And then those that hunted, a total of 132 residents reported harvesting an Emperor goose as did 18 non-residents also reported harvesting an Emperor goose. And most of the harvest was focused in the Kodiak Archipelago region as well as Bristol Bay, but primarily focused in the Cold Bay area.

So there was a total of 150 Emperor geese that were reported harvested this last season and this is fairly consistent with the first three years of

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1 the hunt. This table down here is just a summary of  
2 the first three years of the fall/winter hunt and those  
3 total harvests were either at 150 birds or just under  
4 150 birds total. So the total harvest reported under  
5 the fall/winter hunt permit system remains fairly low  
6 relative to the overall statewide quota.

7

8 Then I'll just mention that this  
9 upcoming 2021/2022 fall/winter season, so this year's  
10 hunt, will also be administered using the review  
11 statewide quota of 500 birds and will have the same  
12 individual hunt area quotas that we saw last year.

13

14 So that concludes that update. Does  
15 anybody have any questions before I move forward.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. SCHAMBER: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Jason, I have a  
22 question for you.

23

24 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So looking at your  
27 first table, so 393 permits were issued to residents  
28 and of those about half actually hunted then, 202, is  
29 that correct?

30

31 MR. SCHAMBER: Yep, that's right.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Is that kind  
34 of -- so given that -- for other permits, for example,  
35 that the Department issues, is that -- do you know, off  
36 the top of your head about 50 percent -- if people get  
37 a permit, about 50 percent actually use it or not? Do  
38 you have any idea, or Ryan?

39

40 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah, that's probably a  
41 better question for Ryan, if you don't mind.

42

43 MR. SCOTT: Sure. Eric, can you just  
44 repeat the question, I think I got it all but I want to  
45 make sure I caught it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, I'm just  
48 curious that people go through the effort of applying  
49 for a permit, so 393 applied for the permit but then

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1 about half actually used it. So I was just kind of  
2 curious to see if that holds for other permits for the  
3 State?

4

5 MR. SCOTT: It really does. It's kind  
6 of amazing, it's about 50 percent. Some hunts are, you  
7 know, much more higher subscribed and the effort is  
8 higher, but if you look at it across the board 50  
9 percent is, it's right in there, so it's very  
10 consistent.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you.  
13 Other questions for Jason for this information on  
14 fall/winter Emperor goose hunts.

15

16 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, we did get a  
17 question about just addressing some of the Board of  
18 Game proposals and I think Jason's going to mention --  
19 has a little bit to say about that and then I can  
20 follow up along as well if there's additional questions  
21 on that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Go ahead,  
24 Jason, thank you.

25

26 MR. SCHAMBER: Okay, thanks. Yeah, so  
27 as Ryan mentioned, just as a final note, I'll address  
28 the decision by the Board of Game to reschedule the  
29 Central Southwest Region meeting from this last January  
30 to next January, I believe it starts January 9th and  
31 it's scheduled to take place in Wasilla. This decision  
32 was due to the Covid pandemic and some of the logistics  
33 involved in holding the meeting. And as a reminder,  
34 the Central Southwest Region includes GMUs 9, 10, 11,  
35 13, 14A, 16 and 17. And the Board also decided to  
36 reopen the call for proposals and that new deadline is  
37 May 28th of this year. So if folks are interested in  
38 resubmitting proposal -- well, not resubmit, but  
39 submitting new proposals to address regulations for any  
40 of these GMUs they can do so before May 28th.

41

42 Also as a reminder, the AMBCC has one  
43 proposal that was submitted to close the non-resident  
44 hunt of Emperor geese if we are in a restrictive  
45 regulation package and also there were 19 proposals to  
46 -- from resident and non-resident hunters to increase  
47 the number of non-resident draw permits for the Emperor  
48 goose hunt as well. There were a total of 80  
49 proposals, I think that were submitted, and many of

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1 them had similarities such that we could get 19 common  
2 proposals.

3  
4 And then finally I'll just mention on  
5 the Board of Game website you can find additional  
6 details about, you know, meeting information, you can  
7 review the proposals that have been submitted for the  
8 Board to consider, as well as submit comments to any of  
9 those proposals if you have any thoughts about those  
10 proposals. And this is the web link here,  
11 adfg.alaska.gov, where you can find another link to the  
12 Board of Game website.

13  
14 And so that's all I had for the  
15 Council. Ryan, did you have anything you wanted to add.

16  
17 MR. SCOTT: Just a little bit on the  
18 number of proposals. As Jason said we've got -- I  
19 think there were 87 total, and looking at the  
20 proposals, some of them were grouped into the Region 4,  
21 the Central Southwest Regional meeting, and some were  
22 actually moved -- were grouped into the statewide  
23 meeting so we'll be talking about Emperor geese at both  
24 the upcoming Board meetings and same thing will happen  
25 at the statewide meeting, we were able to lump some of  
26 those together because the themes are very very  
27 consistent.

28  
29 Yeah, I guess that's about it. So  
30 obviously if there's any questions or comments that we  
31 can help facilitate any of that, even for our fall  
32 meeting we're going to have plenty of time to give  
33 comments for the January Board of Game meeting.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you,  
38 Ryan. Thank you, Jason. Any additional questions for  
39 Ryan. Karen, I think your hand is up.

40  
41 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you. Is it  
42 typical when the permit use or the total sport use is  
43 at where we're at to increase the number of non-  
44 resident permits? I'm not asking for a specific  
45 prediction on what this Board of Game is going to do,  
46 but just is the pattern, that if they're not being used  
47 in-state that they will increase the -- that they tend  
48 to increase the access for out of state.

49  
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0057

1 MR. SCHAMBER: This is a unique  
2 situation for Emperor geese but Ryan do you have any  
3 thoughts or help with any past deliberations by the  
4 Board regarding another species?

5  
6 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Jason. Thanks  
7 Karen for the question. It is pretty unique what we  
8 are seeing right now with the Emperor geese.  
9 Specifically we've got some very prolific writers and  
10 people who kind of mounted a campaign to submit lots  
11 and lots of proposals, which is something I haven't  
12 seen before, to be honest with you. So there are other  
13 hunts that if there appears to be under utilized  
14 resources the Board will address allocation questions,  
15 meaning resident versus non-resident. But I think this  
16 one, frankly, is like outside of what most of us have  
17 seen and it's really based on a handful of people who  
18 mounted this campaign to submit all these proposals  
19 and, you know, our system provides an opportunity for  
20 people to do that. The good news is, Jason and I and  
21 some others, you know, read some of the proposals and  
22 they're verbatim almost so we were able to, you know,  
23 at least identify that this is an outlier and then  
24 ratchet them down to a manageable level. So we've seen  
25 it -- I guess just short answer to your question, we've  
26 seen it happen before with a few other things, as far  
27 as allocation being adjusted, but this one is a little  
28 bit different just because of that kind of writing  
29 campaign that I think happened.

30  
31 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah, thank you so  
32 much for that follow up Ryan, because that's what I  
33 thought, is this an intentional thing. And if that is  
34 the case, when you have those kinds of approaches, does  
35 -- I know from an environmental impact statement kind  
36 of process just a pile of identical documents doesn't  
37 necessarily sway the reviewers as much as the specifics  
38 of a discreet proposal such as the AMBCC's proposal in  
39 this situation. Because we're certainly not talking  
40 about an under utilized resource, this is specifically  
41 an allocation issue and the utilization is high  
42 actually, right, for what our conservation -- our  
43 shared conservation goals are. So we're looking at  
44 something that does have active and engaged users who  
45 are also making active efforts and sacrifice to get the  
46 biomass to where we all want it to be, right, so we can  
47 have that higher use levels while still balancing  
48 current need.

49  
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0058

1                   So is there some additional steps we  
2 should be thinking about with this kind of situation?

3  
4                   MR. SCOTT: Thank you, again, Karen. I  
5 think -- so first off I would mention that the message  
6 you just put out there is something that Jason and I  
7 are relaying to Board members and other Staff within  
8 the Department. And then as far as additional work, I  
9 would encourage the AMBCC or anybody on the phone, you  
10 know, it's a little tough to read through 87 proposals,  
11 but if you just read a few of them you're going to get  
12 the gist of what's going on and the AMBCC or individual  
13 partners should think about commenting on those -- you  
14 know, the other 86 proposals that are seeking to  
15 increase the non-resident allocation. And largely what  
16 you just said, Karen, I think would be appropriate for  
17 those.

18  
19                   MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Ryan.  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks Karen. Thanks  
23 Ryan. Any additional questions for Jason at this  
24 point.

25  
26                   (No comments)

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, I'm not  
29 seeing any hands, or hand waiving. So, Jason, thanks  
30 for the great report.

31  
32                   MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Next up is  
35 Headquarters briefing for Fish and Wildlife Service,  
36 Todd Sanders who's our Pacific Flyway representative.  
37 Todd the floor is yours.

38  
39                   MR. SANDERS: Great. Can you see my  
40 presentation?

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we can.

43  
44                   MR. SANDERS: Very good. Well, hello,  
45 I'm Todd Sanders. I'm the Fish and Wildlife Service's  
46 Pacific Flyway representative so thank you, Mr.  
47 Chairman and members of the Council for the opportunity  
48 to give a Fish and Wildlife Service briefing. So I'll  
49 be fairly brief but I just wanted to provide an update  
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0059

1 on game bird hunting regulations and issues and then  
2 also provide an update on other migratory bird issues.

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First of all the subsistence hunting regulations are set to start annually on April 2nd. Obviously the seasons have just begun. This does not depend on us publishing annual regulations anymore. We did remove the year specificity from our annual regulations so then we only need to publish regulatory changes when they are approved by the AMBCC and the Service.

As you know the AMBCC did support two changes last year and we're working through the process to codify those changes in regulations. You may recall those regulatory changes are to add a permit option for invitational hunting in the Upper Copper River region and also to close harvest of Emperor goose eggging statewide. So we continue to work through that rulemaking process and we do expect to have a final rule sometime later this spring.

In regard to general fall/winter hunting regulations, we did work with the Flyway Councils last year to establish hunting regulations for this year, much like the AMBCC process. We're currently working through the rulemaking process. We do expect frameworks and season rules to publish later this summer. Of course seasons don't take effect until September. There are very few changes to report in regard to general hunting regulations. For the Pacific Flyway we've removed some of the snow goose bag limit restrictions in Oregon and Washington based on the status of Wrangel Island snow geese.

Looking forward to hunting regulations for next year, the Pacific Flyway Council does have two meetings a year, they meet in March and then also in August or September. So they have already had their first meeting of the year. The Service Regulations Committee meets two times a year after those Council meetings to consider recommendations from the Councils but also the AMBCC. The first meeting of the Service Regulations Committee is tomorrow and then their second meeting will be in about October. My sincere apology for the overlap in the two meetings, obviously very difficult all the members of both groups together and make sure there's no overlap there. I will comment that at least for the Service Regulations Committee,

0060

1 the April meeting is primarily just to identify the  
2 issues for the year, most of the regulatory  
3 considerations happen at the October meeting. So  
4 that's when the SRC will consider both Flyway Council  
5 recommendations for regulatory changes to frameworks  
6 and also changes from the AMBCC. So far there are no  
7 proposed changes coming from the Flyways after their  
8 March meeting except for some restrictions for seaducks  
9 in the Atlantic Flyway.

10

11 The big issue in regard to hunting  
12 regulations are impacts from the Coronavirus pandemic.  
13 Some of our monitoring surveys are uncertain for 2021  
14 as you've heard. There's high level considerations and  
15 discussions, obviously guidance from the Center for  
16 Disease Control and discussions with Canadian Wildlife  
17 Service, State Department of Embassies to get access to  
18 Canada to complete the surveys. So there are a number  
19 of considerations there. We do have contingency plans  
20 for missing data and regulations and decisionmaking  
21 should we be unable to complete some of our surveys.  
22 So much like you heard for Emperor geese we will use  
23 models and long-term data series to make predictions  
24 about population status. Unfortunately when you're  
25 making predictions and especially if you have to make  
26 predictions two years out, the uncertainty around those  
27 predictions increases, such like you saw in Jason's  
28 graph for Emperor geese. And so although we can make  
29 those predictions, we don't necessarily have a  
30 framework for making decisions with that increasing  
31 uncertainty. And when that uncertainty increases  
32 there's greater risk of being wrong. So at some point  
33 to address that uncertainty we may have to be more  
34 conservative but ideally we would get population status  
35 data and not have to make predictions one or even two  
36 years out. So we're optimistic that most of the  
37 surveys will be able to go forward. Very pleased to  
38 hear that Alaska believes that they will be able to  
39 complete surveys to give us information on Emperor  
40 geese. The potential implications here, for at least  
41 general regulations, is that we may be missing data for  
42 mallards and that has impacts for our harvest strategy  
43 for the general duck season, but also for other species  
44 of concern including northern pintail, Scaup,  
45 Canvasbacks and some goose species, Emperor goose, as  
46 you've already heard, cackling geese and Dusky geese as  
47 well. So we continued consultations with, not only the  
48 AMBCC but also with Flyway Councils in that regard.

49

50

1                   Want to advise that we are working on  
2 the pintail harvest strategy revision. Pintail are a  
3 species of concern. We did develop a national pintail  
4 harvest strategy in 1997 after observing substantial  
5 declines in pintail numbers. That harvest strategy had  
6 been revised -- minor revisions over time but it was  
7 last revised in 2010. We now have 16 years of  
8 additional data. The revision process started in 2018  
9 and this is a major revision. We are taking a critical  
10 look at the goals for this harvest strategy, our  
11 regulatory alternatives and rebuilding models to  
12 predict pintail demographics. This is an evolved  
13 process, it's national in scope, not only the Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service but it involves all four Flyway  
15 Councils and two national working groups. So it is an  
16 involved process. We do expect that we will have a  
17 proposal for the Flyway Councils to consider this  
18 summer and we would consider any adjustments that  
19 Councils might suggest and then hopefully there'll be a  
20 final proposal in the spring of next year and then  
21 implementation from there. We don't yet know if this  
22 has any implications for changes to pintail regulations  
23 for the fall/winter general season at this point. So  
24 that has yet to be determined this summer.

25  
26                   Finally, we continue to work on the  
27 developing regulations to define the scope of the  
28 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The process started in 2015  
29 when we did scoping to develop a framework to authorize  
30 incidental take. Incidental take is also meaning  
31 accidental take or nonpurposeful take. We did receive  
32 new direction in 2017 with the new Administration. You  
33 may recall the Solicitor's Opinion that the Migratory  
34 Bird Treaty Act does not prohibit incidental take. We  
35 worked through the rulemaking process and the NEPA  
36 process in that regard. There was a final rule  
37 published January 7th with the effective date of  
38 February 8th. As you know there was some legal  
39 challenges. And then more recently with, again, the  
40 new Administration, there was a freeze on any pending  
41 regulations for additional review. The Service did  
42 publish a notice to extend the effective date of that  
43 final rule by 30 days so out to March 8th, and then  
44 opened a 20 day public comment period. The Department  
45 of Interior has announced that they rescinded the  
46 opinion and that they will issue a proposed rule to  
47 revoke the final rule, which is now in effect. We have  
48 not seen that proposed rule yet, I don't know what it  
49 will say, but we do anticipate that that will come out  
50

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1 and we'll, of course, keep you posted. It may be that  
2 we return to where we were in 2015 to continue to work  
3 on developing a framework to authorize incidental take.

4

5 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 I would be happy to answer any  
8 questions if there are any.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Todd.

11 Questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Todd.....

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: This is Patty, I  
18 have.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Patty.

21

22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: .....a question if  
23 nobody else has one. Todd, can you go back to that  
24 spring/summer subsistence slide.

25

26 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, I'll share my  
27 screen again in just a minute. All right, can you see  
28 the presentation again?

29

30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Okay. So you  
31 said that the Service removed the year specificity in  
32 annual regulations and then mentioned that the final  
33 rule won't be published until later this spring, so  
34 does that affect the Upper Copper River Region's  
35 proposal or does it automatically go into effect April  
36 2nd, as well as the Emperor goose egg closure?

37

38 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, so my understanding  
39 is that this is a change to the regulations. And that  
40 this proposed regulation has been supported by the  
41 AMBCC, it's been supported by the Service Regulations  
42 Committee, but now we just simply need to work through  
43 the rulemaking process to make it final and give the  
44 public a chance to comment. So we're working through  
45 that process now, it does need to be -- that change  
46 needs to be published as proposed and final.

47

48 And I don't know, Eric, if you want to  
49 provide any additional information or updates on that.

50

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1 But the annual hunting regulations do not need to  
2 publish annually now, given the administrative change  
3 that we made, but any changes that are proposed and  
4 supported by the AMBCC and the Service do need to be  
5 published as proposed and final before they take  
6 effect.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty, I can add a  
9 little bit more clarity to that. The proposed rule and  
10 comment period has ended. We received five comments on  
11 the proposed two changes, the permit option for the  
12 Upper Copper River region and the closure for Emperor  
13 goose eggs statewide. The comments we received really  
14 didn't have to do with those two regulatory changes,  
15 they kind of had more broader interpretation or  
16 addressing broader, either concerns or supports for the  
17 spring/summer subsistence hunt. I responded to those  
18 comments. They had gone through the Solicitor's  
19 review, so the final rule is in its final stages. As  
20 Todd mentioned it's gone through policy review, it's  
21 gone through regional approval, it's gone through our  
22 headquarters review in Migratory Birds, it's gone  
23 through our Solicitor's review and now it's in the  
24 final stages of going to the Department for publication  
25 in the Federal Register. So my expectation, as Todd  
26 said, he's got, I believe this spring, my hope is that,  
27 you know, the final rule will be published here in the  
28 next few weeks and later in April for sure.

29

30 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, thanks Eric. Two  
31 additional comments. So a report I got back this  
32 morning from headquarters was that we hoped to have it  
33 moved to stage of publishing here within about two  
34 weeks. But it's a bit complicated because there's also  
35 a lot of work being done on the Migratory Bird Treaty  
36 Act scope, and so obviously a number of priorities is  
37 trying to get that done, but we're optimistic we can  
38 get it done in about a week or two.

39

40 And then I also wanted to comment that,  
41 you know, we've had a challenge to publish our  
42 regulations by the time the season start since we have  
43 moved the Service Regulations Committee meeting.  
44 Remember that that used to be in July, under the new  
45 process that's now in October, so that reduces the  
46 amount of time to publish subsistence hunting  
47 regulations by three months. We were challenged before  
48 to make sure and get regulations by April 2nd, and  
49 that's why we removed the year specificity from our

50

0064

1 annual regulations to make that easier and make sure we  
2 had the season start on time, but, still when we make  
3 other regulatory changes it's still a very tight  
4 timeline to get those regulations by the time the  
5 season starts on April 2nd. So we are working towards  
6 that process. We do believe that with the new  
7 Administration that things will become much more  
8 efficient. We've also had some key retirements in our  
9 regulation positions, not only for subsistence but our  
10 general fall/winter hunting regulations. We think we  
11 have new Staff in position that can help us move those  
12 regulations more quickly.

13

14 So, in short, we're optimistic that we  
15 will be able to publish regulations sooner moving  
16 forward.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty, does that  
19 address your question?

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, thanks Eric and  
22 Todd. But I would also, if I may, Mr. Chairman, ask  
23 Gloria Stickwan, from the Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
24 Commission, what we thoughts on how this will affect  
25 what they're doing in their region with this new permit  
26 system, or Jim, I'm not sure who's on the line right  
27 now.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I see Jim's got a  
32 question.

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: I have an agreement with  
35 the tribes to work with the tribes and to distribute  
36 permits for people that are -- that want to apply to  
37 hunt migratory birds from outside the region, that live  
38 outside the region, they would work with AITRC and  
39 AITRC will distribute the permit.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks Gloria. And  
42 then Jim Simon asked if the Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 would contact them once the final rule is published.

44

45 Eric.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, Jim, we'll be  
48 happy to do that. My recommendation is, like Gloria  
49 said, that you start to proceed with -- if there are

50



0065

1 invitation letters that people have submitted for a  
2 permit for people that are from excluded areas that  
3 want to hunt in the Upper Copper River region, my  
4 recommendation is that you would proceed with  
5 processing those permits.

6

7

Other questions for Todd at this point.

8

9

(No comments)

10

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you,  
Todd.

13

14

MR. SANDERS: Thank you.

15

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Let's see  
next on the agenda migratory bird populations status  
and trends. It's 11:40. Julian, do you have an idea  
how long your presentation might take.

20

21

22

MR. FISCHER: Oh, probably about 10  
minutes, 15 perhaps.

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Let's  
see, Karen, do you have a question.

26

27

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29

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31

MS. LINNELL: Yes. Sorry, I was trying  
to find my raise my hand thing. In regards to this --  
for the invitation to hunt then for the Copper River  
region then, will that be happening this year or are we  
going to wait -- end up waiting until 2022?

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No, I.....

35

36

MS. LINNELL: Because April 2nd has  
come and gone.

37

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41

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43

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, no, it's  
happening this year Karen. So I mean that regulation  
was approved and we're kind of right into the final  
stages of getting the final rule published. But it's  
gone through all the approval process including public  
review.

44

45

46

MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you.

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You're welcome. All  
right, Julian, the floor is yours.

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0066

1 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. Thank you  
2 very much. Mr. Chair, why don't you give me a thumb's  
3 up if you can see my presentation?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I do. We've got a  
6 nice picture of a Black brant there.

7  
8 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Let me put this on  
9 presentation mode. There we go. Okay, thank you, Mr.  
10 Chair, and members of the Council and guests. My name  
11 is Julian Fischer. I work for the U.S. Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Division in Alaska.  
13 I'm with the waterfowl section of the program. I have  
14 the pleasure of supervising the aerial survey program  
15 in this region for the -- my presentation will be  
16 brief, largely because most of you have seen these  
17 numbers before. I'm going to present the status and  
18 trends of waterfowl of commonly harvested species by  
19 subsistence hunters. And as we've talked about  
20 earlier, many of the surveys -- all, actually but one,  
21 were cancelled in 2020. So this will be a review. And  
22 we have a packed agenda for this two day meeting so I  
23 don't want to take up too much of your time.

24  
25 So with that, the purpose of our  
26 program we have several objectives but one of the most  
27 important objectives for our program is to help in the  
28 co-management of harvest of migratory birds, both for  
29 subsistence and for the general season in fall and  
30 winter. In our program we accomplish this by  
31 collecting data as is defined in many management plans  
32 and proposals by the AMBCC. We have three aircraft  
33 that are assigned to our program and in our waterfowl  
34 section we have several pilot biologists, trained  
35 aerial observers, and we're supported by two  
36 quantitative ecologists, Eric Osnas and Chuck Frost,  
37 who help process and present results.

38  
39 So the map on the right is North  
40 America and over that you'll see many transect lines.  
41 These represent aerial transects that are flown by  
42 survey biologists based all over the country. We are  
43 responsible for the Alaska portion and one small strata  
44 in the Yukon Territories. The results of this survey  
45 are presented in a national report called Waterfowl  
46 Population Status. This is updated annually. This  
47 report that's shown here, this is the cover page on the  
48 left, that was produced in August of 2020 and it's  
49 nearly identical to the one in the prior year because  
50

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1 most surveys were cancelled, but it does present some  
2 updated numbers. And so what I'm going to present  
3 today appears in that report and I've shown the website  
4 where that report and others can be found.

5  
6 So I'm going to start off with the  
7 dabbling ducks. So for each of these five species,  
8 these are all commonly harvested by subsistence hunters  
9 in Alaska. The graphs that you see represent a very  
10 long timeframe, starting in 1955 up to 2019. In  
11 general what you'll see here is there's a dashed line  
12 going through each figure. This is the mean number of  
13 birds estimated for that species. And so for some of  
14 these species there's a great deal of variability from  
15 year to year, largely related to water conditions in a  
16 given year which affects the productivity of that  
17 species, meaning they produce more or less young and  
18 then we see the results of that in the subsequent  
19 years. But for mallards, currently we're above the  
20 long-term average. For Widgeon we've been kind of  
21 teetering around a long-term average through this whole  
22 time period. Northern pintail experienced a  
23 significant decline from the '50s through the '80s and  
24 now we've been relatively stable but below that long-  
25 term average. Alaska, as a state, supports a  
26 significant portion of the North American pintail.  
27 Premium teal, we've seen a slow but substantial  
28 increase in the population through time and a similar  
29 pattern with shovelers, both of those latter two  
30 species above long-term averages.

31  
32 I'm going to touch on some goose  
33 species now. There's a lot of different geese to  
34 consider, a lot look very similar. I'm going to talk  
35 about the Canada geese and the cackling geese first.

36  
37 This map in the front here shows -- in  
38 the middle of that slide shows two subspecies of Canada  
39 geese. We have the Dusky Canada geese that breed in  
40 the Copper River Delta in Southcentral Alaska, and  
41 Lesser Canada geese that breed in Interior Alaska. So  
42 for Dusky's we've been monitoring the population on the  
43 breeding grounds since the mid-1980s. We were very  
44 concerned about a long-term trend downward but in  
45 recent years, since 2010, numbers have risen, we were  
46 unable to complete the survey in 2013 but the counts --  
47 the most recent count of 2019 was high and we are  
48 feeling good about the status of the population  
49 currently. For Lesser Canada geese, these species --  
50

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1 the subspecies nests in the Interior portion of the  
2 state, numbers are variable but relatively stable. The  
3 cackling geese, they're also a White Cheeked goose but  
4 these are the smaller bodied White Cheeked geese. We  
5 have three subspecies in Alaska, the Aleutian cackling  
6 goose that breed in the Aleutian Islands. The Cackling  
7 cackling goose, these are the minima subpopulation --  
8 subspecies that breed on the Yukon Delta. And then  
9 Taverner's cackling goose which breed in coastal areas  
10 throughout the state in pink here, North Slope,  
11 Northwest Alaska, and in coastal portions of the Yukon  
12 Delta, but not immediately on the coast. So there's a  
13 little bit of overlap with cackling cackling goose but  
14 not too much. Aleutians have really gone through the  
15 roof since their low point in the '70s following a  
16 reintroduction program, it was very successful in the  
17 Aleutians. Minima cackling goose from the Yukon Delta,  
18 the low point in the '80s was turned around with  
19 hunting restrictions in the Lower 48 states and  
20 significant sacrifice for subsistence hunters on the  
21 Yukon Delta in the mid-1980s which turned the  
22 population around really quickly and currently Minima  
23 cackling geese have been hovering around the population  
24 objective. Taverner's, I've got some estimates shown  
25 here starting in 2007, the population is relatively  
26 stable.

27  
28 I'm going to move on to White-fronted  
29 geese here. There's two populations of White-fronted  
30 goose. There is the Pacific White-Fronted goose, these  
31 breed in Bristol Bay and on the Yukon Delta and migrate  
32 down to the Pacific Flyway. And then there's a  
33 population of White-fronted geese called the  
34 Midcontinent population. These birds breed in Interior  
35 Alaska, Northwest Alaska and the North Slope. And  
36 they're also part of a larger population that breeds  
37 through Central Arctic Canada. On the left, the figure  
38 here shows the Pacific population that breed on the  
39 Yukon Delta primarily. And as you can see in the  
40 1980s, similar to the cackling geese, the numbers were  
41 very low, there was a closure on hunting for a period  
42 of time. The population grew and grew and now it's  
43 well above the population objective. For the  
44 Midcontinent population, I'm just showing here the  
45 numbers on the North Slope, since our most recent  
46 redesign of the North Slope survey in 2007, the numbers  
47 are quite abundant and they match the pattern that  
48 we've seen in other parts of their range in Canada. So  
49 very abundant population.  
50

0069

1                               We've seen numbers on Emperor goose so  
2 I'm not going to talk about this too much. But just  
3 suffices to say that numbers currently put us in this  
4 yellow conservation zone and we plan on conducting the  
5 survey now in 2021 and fingers crossed that birds will  
6 be abundant.

7  
8                               Black brant breed in various locations  
9 in Alaska. The former stronghold for Black brant was  
10 on the Yukon Delta with some birds breeding up on the  
11 North Slope. This figure on the top here shows the  
12 number of Black brant nests surveyed on the Yukon Delta  
13 five primary colonies. And this is a photographic  
14 survey that we've been conducting since 1992 and we've  
15 seen a long-term declining trend in nests from that  
16 survey. So that just represents five large colonies on  
17 the Yukon Delta. This is not a very encouraging sign  
18 for Black brant in that part of the range. However,  
19 we've noticed increases in the North Slope population.  
20 This figure here shows the Pacific population of brant,  
21 survey conducted in winter, so a survey is conducted in  
22 Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington,  
23 California and Mexico. So the winter survey is  
24 intended to count the entire population of Pacific  
25 brant and starting in 1960 through 2020, the  
26 population's been in the 150,000 bird range, roughly  
27 close to population objective. So the relatively flat  
28 trend here through time with the Yukon Delta declining  
29 trend indicates that it's likely that there is a  
30 greater level of success of these birds breeding in  
31 other locations such as the North Slope, Russia and  
32 perhaps the western portion of Canada.

33  
34                               Snow geese. This is a species that we  
35 have seen some substantial increases in in recent  
36 times. There's two populations I want to mention. The  
37 first is the Western Arctic population. These birds  
38 are wintering in various locations in the Lower 48  
39 states and in Mexico but, ultimately, they end up in  
40 Western Arctic Canada and a growing population here in  
41 our state of Alaska on the North Slope. These survey  
42 numbers just go back to 2007. And because these birds  
43 breed in colonies the estimates that we get from aerial  
44 transect surveys are imprecise, however, the numbers  
45 indicate that there's a large number of birds although  
46 our confidence around those estimates is wide, however,  
47 a molting survey in the Teshekpuk Lake region of the  
48 North Slope, going back to the '70s indicates that the  
49 numbers of Snow geese in that area has really increased  
50

0070

1 substantially particularly in the last two decades and  
2 so coupled with reports that we've had from subsistence  
3 hunters on the North Slope, we believe that the  
4 population really is increasing in that part of the  
5 state.

6  
7                   The other population of Snow geese I'll  
8 mention is the Wrangel Island population. These birds  
9 breed in Russia on Wrangel Island but they traverse  
10 through the Pacific Flyway and pass through parts of  
11 Alaska en route. The numbers counted on Wrangel Island  
12 were quite stable for many decades starting in the '70s  
13 but in the last 20 years we've seen -- in the last 10  
14 years we've really seen a huge amount of growth and the  
15 estimate in spring was approaching 700,000 Snow geese  
16 there. They had a very high productivity year so the  
17 number of birds and their young that left Wrangel  
18 Island last year were approaching one million.

19  
20                   Now I'm going to touch on two swan  
21 populations that we have -- Tundra swan populations  
22 that we have in Alaska. There's the Western  
23 population. These breed in Western Alaska, south of  
24 the Brooks Range. And the Eastern population that  
25 breeds on the North Slope and into Canada. The Eastern  
26 population is called that because they migrate in  
27 winter down to the eastern portion of North America.  
28 Our estimate of the Western population from our surveys  
29 going back to the 1980s is -- the index is roughly  
30 100,000, no large change over that long time period.  
31 And the Eastern population on the North Slope appears  
32 to be relatively stable as well.

33  
34                   That's what I've got for trend  
35 information that I'll share today.

36  
37                   But I just wanted to touch on seabird  
38 die-off in Alaska.

39  
40                   And earlier I noticed I saw Liz  
41 Labunsky from our seabird group on the call and I'd  
42 welcome her to correct any fumbles I have on these next  
43 two slides. But it just suffices to say that there  
44 is, as you all know there's been a seabird die-off  
45 situation for the last five or so years. Die-offs of  
46 seabirds is not uncommon in general, but starting in  
47 2015/16 the numbers that we observed were quite high.  
48 And the die-off has kind of changed in location and  
49 species composition. In '15 and '16 it was really  
50

0071

1 concentrated in the Gulf of Alaska on Common Murres.  
2 Later into the fall we were looking at numbers of  
3 seabirds showing up on the shores comprised of  
4 Puffins and Auklets, Shearwaters and Fulmars. Moving  
5 into 2019, the Bering and the Chuckchi we saw more  
6 birds in that area. The numbers of species again,  
7 Shearwaters, Murres, Puffins and Auklets. Moving to  
8 more recently in 2020, the Bering and Chuckchi again  
9 and Eastern Aleutians were reporting Puffins, Murres,  
10 Kittiwakes and Auklets. And this map slide shows like  
11 where these birds have been reported. The size of  
12 these circles represents the abundance of estimates, or  
13 the abundances of carcasses that were received through  
14 time so you can see where the largest reported die-offs  
15 occurred. And in 2020, what's notable here is just the  
16 size of the circles indicating that fewer birds are  
17 being reported.

18

19 A couple things that I want to mention  
20 here.

21

22 The thought at this point is that these  
23 die-offs are related to availability of food for these  
24 seabird species, and rather than a larger scale toxic  
25 spill or a large disease outbreak, this is really more  
26 related to starvation. The other thing I'd like to  
27 mention is that the way these are discovered and  
28 reported is through participation by local communities  
29 reporting this information and participating in the  
30 program. There's phone numbers and an email that  
31 anyone can send in information about sick or dying  
32 birds to, and you can also reach out to -- you can tell  
33 folks in your regions to reach out to you. I'm talking  
34 now to the Council representatives in the region, and  
35 then you can compile that information and send it on to  
36 us if it's easier to do it that way. So any details on  
37 date, time, location, numbers of birds, species of  
38 birds would be appreciated in any of that reporting.

39

40 Last slide here I just want to mention  
41 because we had some questions early on in the Covid  
42 pandemic about the risk of transmission of Covid19 to  
43 subsistence hunters if they were to consume a bird.  
44 There's no evidence to suggest that that is a way to  
45 contract Coronavirus, that is eating migratory birds.  
46 So we just continue to promote the following food  
47 safety guidelines listed here. I think, most  
48 importantly, do not eat or harvest birds that are sick  
49 or found dead. Clean your hands thoroughly, handle

50

0072

1 game appropriately, and cook them appropriately to kill  
2 any potential parasites and diseases.

3

4 And with that, I am happy to take any  
5 questions.

6

7

Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julian.  
10 Brandon, welcome, and you have a question for Julian,  
11 go ahead.

12

13

14

MR. AHMASUK: Hi. Can everybody hear  
me?

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yep, we can. Good to  
see you.

18

19

20

21

22

MR. AHMASUK: Okay, thank you. Yes,  
good to see everybody. Sorry I was late this morning,  
I had an appointment that I had to go to that was  
rescheduled from Friday.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Anyway, my question was so, Julian, you  
mentioned on the seabird die-off primarily due to  
starvation, has there been any -- I'm trying to think  
how to word this, is there an answer to why they're  
starving?

30

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MR. FISCHER: Am I on mute still, no, I  
think I'm good. The answer -- I cannot give you a  
clear answer as to why they're starving. The  
hypothesis out there is due to the heat wave that we've  
experienced in the Bering and the Chuckchi and the Gulf  
of Alaska over the last five years. Changes in  
temperature have pretty profound impacts on the species  
that can inhabit those waters. What's a little  
perplexing about this situation is that the seabirds  
that we're seeing die-off fall into a number of  
different feeding guilds, and when I say feeding guild,  
I mean certain seabird species feed primarily on small  
forage fish so certain feeding guild. Auklets are, you  
know, they're eating zooplankton and so -- and then  
there's other feeding guilds as well. So there's some  
birds that are diving deep, some that are feeding off  
the surface and we've seen large scale die-offs in, you  
know, at least three of those main feeding guilds. So  
we cannot really pinpoint it at this point to a  
specific shift in the number of, say, surface forage



0073

1 fish. It could be a pretty dramatic across the board  
2 shift of food for birds, a clean sweep across many,  
3 many different taxa (ph).

4  
5 So I'm really starting to speak out of  
6 my area of expertise and I think I -- I do not see Liz  
7 on the call anymore and she might be able to reach out  
8 on that.

9  
10 But, Eric, if you have anything to add  
11 to maybe update on research going into the seabird  
12 starvation questions, please add to what I'm saying.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No, I don't. Good  
15 question, Brandon. As Julian mentioned, our seabird  
16 biologist, either Cathy Conitz, Liz Labunsky or Robb  
17 Kaylor are not on the phone, we -- I think they had a  
18 conflict today but they will be on the call tomorrow so  
19 perhaps we can pull this question up again and have  
20 them address it. Because I know your region has been  
21 instrumental in providing us updates on die-offs that  
22 you have seen as well as Gay Sheffield. So I'll make  
23 sure that one of our seabird biologists is on the call  
24 tomorrow and we can address it. But I think Julian's  
25 right, change in sea temperatures have had profound  
26 effects on prey that seabirds depend on, whether it's  
27 invertebrates or small forage fish and for whatever  
28 reason they can't seem to adjust like other species  
29 perhaps, waterfowl, for example move to a different  
30 area and they seem to be traditionalists and land in an  
31 area and then by the time they discover that there is  
32 no food there they're in such a weakened condition that  
33 they're unable to leave. But, again, I'm -- like  
34 Julian, I'm out of my expertise but I'll have Liz or  
35 Cathy address your question tomorrow.

36  
37 MR. AHMASUK: Okay, thanks Julian and  
38 Eric. So if I could just make a suggestion for the  
39 Fish and Wildlife folks, for you guys to have a meeting  
40 with the National Marine Fisheries Service, in  
41 particular, I think his name is Lyle Britt, so he's  
42 presented during our Straight Science here, I think, at  
43 least a couple times. He does talk about the stuff  
44 that you're mentioning now but one of the things that  
45 he mentioned that hasn't been mentioned right -- I mean  
46 here this morning, so there's the Pacific cod and  
47 pollock that are moving in as well, you know, rather  
48 large fish. But it's my understanding from their  
49 reports that, in particular, the Pacific cod, they're  
50

0074

1 eating up everything. So, you know, they've come up  
2 north there, I think, at least as far as Diomede  
3 Island, you know, where these fish are showing up where  
4 they traditionally never were. But our waters out here  
5 are, you know, much shallower, more concentrated area,  
6 you know, the bottleneck, you know, so to speak. So  
7 you have this large, I don't know if you want to say,  
8 invasive species, but basically a species that was  
9 never here before.

10

11 So I did ask that question, is it  
12 really that the small forage fish aren't there or that  
13 the migratory birds, the seabirds, in particular, are  
14 just -- they can't compete with the larger fish that  
15 are down there.

16

17 So, anyway, just food for thought.

18

19 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. That's a  
20 great suggestion. So NMFS, and you mentioned Lyle  
21 Britt -- okay, thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, Brandon, Cathy  
24 has a slide that I have seen that the commercial fleet  
25 for commercial fishing is moving gradually north  
26 because fish are moving north, exactly what you had  
27 stated. So, again, I'll ask Cathy or Liz to maybe be  
28 able to put together a couple slides for the Council  
29 tomorrow. Good questions.

30

31 Any other questions for Julian.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julian, I have one.  
36 Snow geese. So you showed two populations, the  
37 population on the Arctic Coastal plain and as well as  
38 Wrangel Island. Both are showing or have shown  
39 increase, particularly the Wrangel Island is showing a  
40 substantial increase in the last couple of decades.  
41 What are your thoughts on why? Why, both for the  
42 Arctic Coastal Plain, we're seeing an increase of  
43 birds, and if you know anything about Wrangel Island,  
44 whether the two regions have the same reasons why we're  
45 seeing Snow goose populations increase?

46

47 MR. FISCHER: Well, so Snow geese are  
48 an interesting goose species. They are known to  
49 migrate early and arrive early. And from studies that

50

0075

1 were done with the Western Arctic population in Alaska  
2 headed by USGS -- and I might actually -- we have folks  
3 from USGS on today and they might be able to add to  
4 this, but they found that Snow geese are the first of  
5 the geese that they're nesting near to set up nests and  
6 then the young are hatching out first and so they might  
7 be out-competing other species in the area and their  
8 ability to arrive and nest earlier could be enhanced by  
9 a warming climate. So, you know, one hypothesis here  
10 is that Snow geese are increasing, they're winning out  
11 more quickly due to a changing climate in the Arctic.

12

13 And I guess I'll just leave it at that  
14 right now. If John Pearce is on, or Brian is on, I'd  
15 invite you to mention something about that. They  
16 weren't studying the Wrangel Island population  
17 specifically but they've been doing work on -- their  
18 office has been doing working on the Western Arctic  
19 population, and if they are -- and following them, you  
20 might ask Todd Sformo to comment on this question as  
21 well.

22

23 Thanks.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Julian. John  
26 or Brian, any additional thoughts on Snow geese on the  
27 Arctic Coastal Plain.

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, thanks. Just  
30 real quickly I guess I would say that so far we don't  
31 have any data that suggests that Snow geese are out  
32 competing any other goose species. That's something  
33 we'd like to work on as part of the banding efforts  
34 that we're doing to help Fish and Wildlife Service, you  
35 know, with banding efforts on the North Slope, but we  
36 don't have that data yet to suggest that Snow geese are  
37 out competing other species. But that's something  
38 we'll try to keep gathering in the future.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks.  
41 Taqulik, any observations that you or others have had  
42 up on the Coastal Plain relative to Snow geese?

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Taqulik,  
47 I don't know if you stepped away or if you've got it on  
48 mute right now.

49

50

0076

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, any other  
4 questions for.....

5

6 MR. SFORMO: Hello, this is Todd.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

9

10 MR. SFORMO: This is Todd. I don't have  
11 any other information either.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, sorry, Todd, I  
14 didn't know.....

15

16 MR. SFORMO: No, that's okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, thank you. Any  
19 other questions for Julian.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman, this  
22 is Patty.

23

24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Patty.

25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I had to step away  
27 for a couple minutes did anybody address the question  
28 in the chat box from Chris Harwood about Trumpeter  
29 swans?

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, I didn't  
32 see the chat box.

33

34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Well, here's  
35 the question. It says, can we ever expect a legal  
36 subsistence season for Trumpeter swans in Alaska.  
37 Pairs on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge in North  
38 Central Alaska have risen somewhere around 660 percent,  
39 30 to 227 between 1990 and 2020. And while I know  
40 statewide increase may not be that dramatic, the  
41 increase regionally has been robust nevertheless. Is  
42 there a minimum statewide abundance we need to reach or  
43 is a possible hunt more of a Flyway issue?

44

45 MR. FISCHER: Okay, I'll take a crack  
46 at that. So the most recent statewide estimate of  
47 Trumpeter swans in Alaska is 25,000 birds and we're  
48 really pleased to see that number because it rose  
49 significantly from where it was decades ago. The last

50

0077

1 proposal that almost came to the AMBCC was from -- I  
2 think it was the TCC, I think, maybe five or six years  
3 ago and then it was -- gosh, Eric, you'll have to help  
4 me out here, the Council member that considered  
5 bringing it forward and then after surveying  
6 communities in his region decided that there was not  
7 enough interest for it, can you remind me of that?

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, I think it was  
10 the Upper Copper River region. Gloria, correct me if  
11 I'm wrong, but I think at one point the Upper Copper  
12 River region had considered a Trumpeter swan  
13 subsistence season and you're exactly right, Julian, I  
14 think Gloria and others had talked to other villages  
15 and the decision was, no, that they felt like Trumpeter  
16 swans had a status, if I remember correctly, that they  
17 didn't feel it appropriate for subsistence hunt.  
18 Gloria, I think you still may be on. Could you correct  
19 me if I'm wrong, or Jim.

20

21 MS. STICKWAN: I'm not sure if I was  
22 serving on the committee back when you're talking.

23

24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: I think Joe may have  
27 been. But I do know we talked about it as a committee  
28 and I think you're right, they did say no at the  
29 committee meeting.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, Gloria, thank  
32 you.

33

34 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, I think it was  
35 Joeneal Hicks that had considered it and he had  
36 interviewed a number of subsistence hunters in his  
37 region and he came and reported to the AMBCC that there  
38 wasn't the interest in moving forward with the proposal  
39 at that time.

40

41 But to answer more directly, Chris  
42 Harwood's question, there is not a AMBCC management  
43 plan that would indicate when a -- what the appropriate  
44 population size is that would allow for a subsistence  
45 harvest of Trumpeter swans to open or close.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So Chris  
48 says thank you. Any other questions for Julian at this  
49 point.

50

0078

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing  
4 none. That gets us to a point where probably we should  
5 think about lunch. It's 12:15. The next item is  
6 actually bringing something forward from the old  
7 business, the Technical Committee so Julian's going to  
8 be on the floor again giving the Technical Committee's  
9 report on the three proposals for 2022. So let's take  
10 a lunch break, it is 12:15, let's take an hour and  
11 reconvene at 1:15. So we'll see everybody back at  
12 1:15.

13

14

Thank you.

15

16

(Off record)

17

18

(On record)

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So are there any objections to that  
approach, I think it may get us through this a little  
bit quicker and maybe provide a little bit greater  
clarity instead of having the entire Technical  
Committee report at one time.

(No objection)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any objections with

0079

1 that approach.

2

3 (No objection)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Julian, I  
6 believe, if you would like to take on, with your  
7 Technical Committee report on Proposal 2021, please do  
8 so.

9

10 MR. FISCHER: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair. First I want to thank my fellow Committee  
12 members on the AMBCC Technical Committee, Melissa  
13 Berns, Coral Chernoff, Cyrus Harris, Gayla Hoseth,  
14 Jason Schamber, Patty Schwalenberg and Todd Sformo.

15

16 The report that I'm about to present  
17 summarizes the analysis and discussion of the Technical  
18 Committee on three regulatory proposals for  
19 consideration. If approved, these proposed changes  
20 would go into effect April of 2022.

21

22 Let me pause here for a sec. The  
23 Technical Committee report is on Tab 11 of the  
24 materials that Patty sent out this weekend and the  
25 actual proposals are on Tabs 17, 18 and 19.

26

27 Okay. So the motivation for all three  
28 proposals was to better define boundaries of the  
29 excluded areas and the subsistence harvest areas of  
30 included communities in the Upper Copper River and Cook  
31 Inlet and Gulf of Alaska regions to ensure hunters have  
32 clear and legal access to hunt in the entirety of their  
33 defined traditional subsistence areas. So for this  
34 report I'm going to share my screen. There's some  
35 figures in the Technical Committee report but I'll just  
36 put those into a PowerPoint right now, it'll be a  
37 little easier to view.

38

39 Let's see.

40

41 Okay, Mr. Chair, can you acknowledge  
42 that you can see this first slide?

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, we're not  
45 seeing it yet, Julian, or at least I'm not.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: There you go, we've

50

0080

1 got it.

2

3 MR. FISCHER: Okay, thank you. All  
4 right. So Proposal 2021-01. A brief summary.

5

6 This proposal seeks to modify the Code  
7 of Federal regulations to specify that subsistence  
8 harvest areas designated for specific communities are  
9 open to hunting, including any portions that occur  
10 within an excluded area. And, secondly, to clarify  
11 language to defining excluded areas.

12

13 An expanded summary is as follows:

14

15 This regulatory language change would  
16 create an exception to the spring/summer closure within  
17 excluded areas for eligible subsistence hunters south  
18 of the Alaska Range for portions of their defined  
19 subsistence harvest area occur within such areas.

20

21 So for, example, looking at this slide.  
22 Eligible communities within the Upper Copper River  
23 region shown here in these white stars and over here,  
24 they identify Game Management Units 11, 12, and 13 as  
25 their subsistence harvest area when they originally  
26 petitioned to be included in the AMBCC. Those three  
27 Game Management Units are in these three sections of  
28 red here. So this is the Upper Copper River region's  
29 designated subsistence harvest area. However, a  
30 portion of Game Management 13 occurs within the  
31 Matanuska Susitna Borough excluded area. The Matanuska  
32 Susitna Borough excluded area is shown here with this  
33 black line. So there's an overlap where their  
34 designated subsistence area occurs within an excluded  
35 area. Similarly, in the Cook Inlet Region, the village  
36 of Tyonek, an eligible community, identified portions  
37 of Game Management Unit 16B shown in this red as their  
38 subsistence harvest area. However, a portion of that  
39 area also occurs within the Matanuska Susitna Borough  
40 excluded area, it's in this area. So Proposal 2021-01,  
41 if passed, would clarify that residents of those  
42 eligible communities in the Upper Copper River and Cook  
43 Inlet regions can legally harvest migratory birds in  
44 spring and summer within the entirety of their  
45 identified harvest areas.

46

47 The specific regulatory language change  
48 would appear in the Code of Federal regulations section  
49 on who is eligible to participate, which is in 50 CFR

50



0081

1 92.5, and the bold text in the proposal indicates the  
2 addition. So the new language would read -- this is  
3 how it would read:

4  
5 Excluded areas. Excluded areas are not  
6 subsistence harvest areas and are close to harvest,  
7 with the exception -- this is the addition -- with the  
8 exception of any portion of an excluded area that falls  
9 within a harvest area that has been designated for a  
10 specific community.

11  
12 Okay, so that is Part 1. That is the  
13 primary part of the -- the first part of the proposal.

14  
15 The second part of the proposal is a  
16 simple word correction. So this is to modify the  
17 description of excluded areas named in 50 CFR 92.5  
18 (b)(2) that describe the locations that are closed to  
19 spring/summer harvest of migratory birds. And this --  
20 the proposal would simply replace the words, village  
21 areas located in with the municipality of. So this  
22 slide shows the change these words would be removed and  
23 this would be replaced.

24  
25 This change will correct the mistaken  
26 addition of the term, village areas, in 2003 and would  
27 realign the CFR with the 1996 letter of submittal for  
28 the amendment to the United States/Canada Migratory  
29 Bird Treaty that describes what we now call excluded  
30 areas.

31  
32 Down in the lower part of the slide  
33 shows the protocol amendment letter. As you can see at  
34 the time it was written, areas that would generally not  
35 qualify for spring/summer harvest include the  
36 Anchorage, Matanuska Susitna and Fairbanks North Star  
37 Boroughs, the Kenai Peninsula roaded area and the Gulf  
38 of Alaska roaded area in Southeast Alaska. It just --  
39 it simply said the Anchorage, Matanuska Susitna  
40 Boroughs, so we're removing this village areas located  
41 in and just replacing that with the words municipality  
42 of.

43  
44 So that's the second part of Proposal  
45 1.

46  
47 We looked at the documents relative to  
48 this proposal, 50 CFR 92.5 who is eligible to  
49 participate, 50 CFR 92.31, region specific regulations,  
50

0082

1 and, third, the letter of submittal amending the  
2 U.S./Canada Treaty for Conservation of Migratory Birds.

3  
4 To the Technical Committee reviewed the  
5 proposal and recommended two additional sentences. We  
6 added to the background information for the proposal.  
7 Specifically, the Committee sought to define the limits  
8 of the proposal with the following text:

9  
10 Quote: This proposal will create an  
11 exception to the spring/summer hunting closure within  
12 excluded areas for those communities that petitioned to  
13 and were accepted by the AMBCC for inclusion as  
14 subsistence use areas. For all others the excluded  
15 areas will remain closed to spring/summer migratory  
16 bird hunting.

17  
18 But based on that input from the  
19 Technical Committee, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service, subsequently revised Proposal 2021-01 to  
21 incorporate the Committee's recommendation and it's  
22 within the section, additional information that  
23 supports your proposal. The revised proposal was  
24 submitted -- resubmitted to the Executive Director on  
25 22 March. The Technical Committee then requested and  
26 received confirmation that the Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service vetted the proposal with eligible communities  
28 in the Upper Copper River and Cook Inlet regions and  
29 had no other comments.

30  
31 Mr. Chair, that concludes the Technical  
32 Committee's report on Proposal 2021-01.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julian.  
35 Are there questions for Julian or the Technical  
36 Committee on their review of Proposal 2021-01.

37  
38 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is Ryan.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, Ryan go ahead.

41  
42 MR. SCOTT: Julian, thanks for walking  
43 us through that. Can you go back to the map you had  
44 showing the exclusion areas.

45  
46 So I'm just curious over on Western  
47 Cook Inlet around Tyonek, can you point out where --  
48 I'm having a hard time orienting myself. I think I  
49 know where like Palmer, Wasilla, and, you know, some of  
50

0083

1 those places are, but can you just run your cursor over  
2 that.

3

4

Okay.

5

6

7

8

9

10

So I'm just curious, was there any thoughts about conflict that we might have with folks hunting out of Tyonek in some of those areas with, you know, folks who live in the Mat-Su excluded area? Did that come up anywhere?

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

MR. SCOTT: I think you might be on mute.

16

17

18

19

MR. FISCHER: Excuse me, yeah, sorry, I was on mute that whole time. That line that I was pointing out here, that's the Susitna River.

20

21

MR. SCOTT: Right.

22

23

24

25

26

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41

MR. FISCHER: The issue of conflict with other users was not brought up in our review. There are other locations around the state that such a conflict could occur, for example, take the Gulf of Alaska region, for example. There are eligible and ineligible individuals that have been successfully practicing this harvest for the last couple decades, I'm thinking about Kachemak Bay, for example. You have Homer, a populated community of thousands of ineligible residents living in relatively close proximity to Nanwalek and Port Graham that are eligible and I'm unaware of conflicts that have been reported between those two groups. So I -- what we're proposing -- or, I shouldn't say what we are proposing because I'm representing the Technical Committee, but I guess I would say the proposal would technically allow hunting within the Mat-Su Borough, but my expectation based on where we've seen other uses like this, I would expect it to be pretty minimal conflict, if any.

42

43

MR. SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

44

45

46

47

48

MR. FISCHER: I might also say the village of Tyonek is relatively small, too, so there's few individuals that are actually participating.

49

50

MR. SCOTT: Great, thank you.

0084

1 MR. SANDERS: Hey, Julian, this is Todd.

2

3 MR. FISCHER: Yes, Todd.

4

5 MR. SANDERS: We also thought it would  
6 probably reduce some conflict associated with law  
7 enforcement so that they had a clear understanding of  
8 who could be on one side of the border there hunting at  
9 a time when others can't. So we thought it would help  
10 reduce some conflicts with certain groups.

11

12 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, thank you for that.  
13 Thank you for the reminder. You know the motivation  
14 for the proposal is to make as many as clear as  
15 possible and this was -- this proposal was written with  
16 that motivation in mind, was to make things as clear so  
17 everyone has a clear understanding of where it's legal  
18 to hunt and where it's not. And the Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service, when I presented this proposal to the  
20 Technical Committee really explained that the reason  
21 these three proposals were put out were -- resulted  
22 from their review of the maps to try to improve the  
23 public regulations booklet and found that there was a  
24 number of issues regarding the maps that were very  
25 difficult to answer with the current regulations and  
26 they were prevented from completing a really clear set  
27 of maps without actually addressing some of these gaps  
28 in the regulations. So this is an attempt to do that  
29 and it's also an attempt to recognize that these areas  
30 that petitioned to be included identified their  
31 traditional harvest areas and those traditional harvest  
32 areas were accepted and endorsed by the AMBCC and so  
33 this really will respect those designations and not  
34 close portions of them off.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks Julian. Any  
37 other questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julian, I have one  
42 just for clarification. You mentioned the Technical  
43 Committee requested two additional sentences to be  
44 added to the proposal and that you resubmitted the  
45 proposal to the Executive Director for consideration.  
46 My question is I know that you had coordinated with the  
47 affected communities, the Upper Copper River region,  
48 can you clarify whether the affected communities of the  
49 Copper River region are aware of those two sentences

50

0085

1 that were added? Because I think your discussions with  
2 them occurred before the Technical Committee, correct  
3 me if I'm wrong?  
4

5 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, so I can't say  
6 whether the Executive Director specifically forwarded  
7 the revised proposal on to all the affected  
8 communities. I know that what was resubmitted appears  
9 in the package that was distributed this weekend. I  
10 will say that the additional sentences do not change  
11 the wording that would actually go into the CFR in any  
12 way. That stays unchanged. Really, what it provides  
13 is a little bit more clarification in the background  
14 information stating that the exception to the closure  
15 and these overlapping areas is exclusively reserved for  
16 those individuals that reside in eligible communities  
17 that petitioned to be included in the AMBCC and  
18 designated that particular area as their traditional  
19 harvest area. And those that reside of that region  
20 don't have access to the excluded area to hunt.  
21

22 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question, this  
23 is Gloria.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hello.  
26

27 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question, this  
28 is Gloria, can you hear me?  
29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, go ahead,  
31 Gloria.  
32

33 MS. STICKWAN: Our area for Cantwell,  
34 we didn't get to meet to talk to them about their  
35 boundary area. Do we need to meet with them to  
36 determine where the boundary is?  
37

38 MR. FISCHER: So, Gloria, thanks. The  
39 boundary area -- there's no proposed change to the  
40 boundary area for the village of Cantwell. It will  
41 remain the same as it is. The proposal on the table  
42 here is just to ensure that this area is open to them.  
43 It could be misinterpreted by Cantwell that they're  
44 only able to hunt right next to their community in this  
45 little silver here, but when we met with you to go over  
46 this proposal another idea was presented for a future  
47 proposal which was to potentially include areas to the  
48 north of the current area and so that -- when we met,  
49 we talked about that, and potentially putting in a  
50

0086

1 proposal this upcoming fall to allow that. But that  
2 would, of course, require consultation directly with  
3 Cantwell to understand exactly their history and  
4 traditions of hunting in that area.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, thanks for the  
7 refresh because I forgot.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gloria.  
10 Any other questions for Julian or the Technical  
11 Committee.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you,  
16 Julian. Patty, I was wondering if you could put the  
17 language up for the proposal so that the Council could  
18 actually see the actual proposal, or maybe Julian you  
19 could. I'm not for sure what's easiest for that.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I can do that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, thank you.

24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Can everyone see it?

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we can. I was  
28 wondering if you could scroll it down just a little bit  
29 so I could actually see the actual proposal.

30

31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, where'd it go  
32 -- here we go.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: There we go.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank  
39 you. So I would entertain a motion for Proposal 2021-  
40 01 for consideration by the Council.

41

42 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, this is Gayla.  
43 I just had a question. We never had a chance to have a  
44 Native Caucus before these proposals and I know a lot  
45 of them are like housekeeping proposals, but I just  
46 wanted to know if Native Caucus wanted to go through  
47 and have a side meeting before we vote or what is the  
48 wish of the Native Caucus?

49

50

0087

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. I'll throw  
2 that open, Patty, how would you like to do that, would  
3 you like to poll the Native Caucus to see if the Native  
4 Caucus would like to meet on either this proposal at  
5 one time or all three proposals? Gayla what would you  
6 prefer, all three proposals at one time?

7  
8                   MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I mean if we could  
9 go through, I guess, maybe the three of them or -- we  
10 just haven't had a chance to get together as a group in  
11 quite awhile so -- and we haven't talked about these  
12 proposals, I just wanted to put that out there before  
13 we do go and vote. I know that we met extensively on  
14 the Technical Committee about these but not everybody  
15 was a part of that.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

18  
19                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Gayla, so all of the  
20 regional management body meetings that we've had so far  
21 I've shared these proposals with those, so that many  
22 Native Caucus members are aware of it. We did meet  
23 with the tribes with the affected proposals and got  
24 their blessing on (dog barking) sorry, my dogs -- on  
25 the maps and such that was in the proposal so I would  
26 suggest that if there are any Native Caucus members who  
27 would like to break out and discuss these proposals to  
28 please speak up now, otherwise I recommend that we just  
29 move forward.

30  
31                   (No comments)

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Hearing none,  
34 Gayla, are you okay with moving forward?

35  
36                   MS. HOSETH: Yes, I am. Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair. I just wanted to check with everybody. Thank  
38 you.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No, very much  
41 appreciated. So, again, my request is I would  
42 entertain a motion to bring forward this proposal,  
43 2021-01.

44  
45                   MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt  
46 Proposal 2021-01.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, by  
49 adopting.....

50

0088

1 MS. HOSETH: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. And who  
4 seconded, I'm sorry.

5

6 MS. HOSETH: Gayla.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, thank you,  
9 Gayla. All right, the proposal has been forwarded for  
10 a motion, is there discussion?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, are we  
15 ready for the question. All right, so the question is  
16 on the adoption of the motion, which is Proposal No.  
17 2021-01, which proposes to address Code of Federal  
18 regulations for Federal migratory birds subsistence  
19 harvest, who is eligible to participate. The proposal  
20 seeks to modify Code of Federal regulations specifying  
21 that subsistence harvest areas designated for specific  
22 communities are open to hunting and any portions that  
23 occupy an excluded area, and, 2, clarify language  
24 defining excluded areas.

25

26 All those in favor -- I'm sorry -- so,  
27 Patty, refresh my memory, do we go by the three  
28 partners for a vote, is that correct?

29

30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. So Patty would  
33 you like to call the three partners for a vote.

34

35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: State of Alaska.

36

37 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
40 Wildlife Service.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

43

44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the Native  
45 Caucus.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

48

49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Proposal 2021-01

50



0089

1 motion made is passed.

2

3

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.  
4 Okay, Julian, we'll go back to you for the Technical  
5 Committee on Proposal 2021-02. Defining boundaries of  
6 designated harvest areas.

7

8 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Patty, if I could ask you to stop sharing your screen  
10 I've got some other images to put up.

11

12 (Interference - participants not muted)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Could I ask folks to  
15 please mute your microphone if you can. Thank you. Go  
16 ahead, Julian.

17

18 MR. FISCHER: Okay, thank you.  
19 Proposal 2021-02 a brief summary here is that the  
20 proposal clarifies boundary definitions for subsistence  
21 harvest areas designated by Port Graham and Nanwalek  
22 within the Gulf of Alaska region, and Tyonek in the  
23 Gulf of -- I'm sorry in the Cook Inlet region. The  
24 current harvest area boundaries for these communities  
25 are incomplete or reference non-static landmarks with  
26 boundaries difficult for hunters and law enforcement  
27 officers to interpret.

28

29 A little background on this, the  
30 current boundary descriptions do not form complete  
31 polygons that surround a harvest area. This requires  
32 hunters and agency personnel to infer the borders  
33 without certain.....

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Hey, hello. Hello.  
36 This is Gloria. We don't have internet here, I was cut  
37 off. I don't know what you guys are doing now.

38

39 MR. FISCHER: Gloria, can you hear my  
40 voice?

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I can.

43

44 MR. FISCHER: Okay. And do you have --  
45 did you receive an email with Patty's packet for this  
46 meeting?

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I did.

49

50

0090

1 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So the whole  
2 packet has lots of pages. If you've got a print -- if  
3 you have an electronic copy of it you'll find the  
4 Technical Committee report that I'm presenting on Tab  
5 11.

6  
7 MS. STICKWAN: Tab 11, okay.

8  
9 MR. FISCHER: Yeah.

10  
11 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, got it.

12  
13 MR. FISCHER: Okay, great.

14  
15 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

16  
17 MR. FISCHER: Okay, so on my screen  
18 that I'm sharing has the images of the figures that are  
19 in the Technical Committee report. And on my screen  
20 right now is Figure 2 under the Proposal 2.

21  
22 Okay.

23  
24 So for example, the Kachemak Bay area,  
25 in the Kachemak Bay area the harvest area described  
26 currently is Game Management Unit 15C south of a line  
27 between the Homer Spit and the head of Kachemak Bay.  
28 So this description makes it very unclear what the  
29 status of this area, where this area is relative to the  
30 harvest area for these two communities.

31  
32 Okay, and then similarly in the Cook  
33 Inlet region, the harvest area is portions of GMU16B,  
34 over here but the boundaries of these portions refer to  
35 water bodies and glaciers that do not extend through  
36 the entirety of Game Management Unit 16B, which results  
37 in an incomplete description of areas that are open to  
38 harvest.

39  
40 So the proposed changes would allow  
41 publication of maps that are accurate and reproducible  
42 into the future and provide a clear definition of the  
43 harvest area designated for communities that hunters  
44 and law enforcement officers can interpret in the  
45 field.

46  
47 So let me go back one figure here.

48  
49 So here in the Kachemak Bay area, this  
50

0091

1 is the current -- this is how the Game -- the proposal  
2 -- the harvest area is currently shown. This is the  
3 proposed change. So this makes it clear that now this  
4 is the harvest area, not -- everything south of this  
5 line and west of this line, whereas this -- whereas  
6 this current figure really is quite vague, it's really  
7 difficult to understand with the current wording where  
8 the harvest area is. So the proposed language here is  
9 just a legal definition of this whole region, west and  
10 south of this dotted line. And I can read through that  
11 but it's just a legal definition of that area that  
12 identifies latitudes and longitudes and place names.

13

14                   And then for the Tyonek area, Tyonek  
15 has a -- the way they designated their harvest area was  
16 in two different time periods so they said our harvest  
17 area is within Game Management Unit 16B, the early part  
18 of the season they hunt west of the Yetna and south of  
19 the Skwentna and in the latter half of the summer south  
20 of Beluga Lake and Beluga River and south of this  
21 glacier. And as you can see in this figure, this point  
22 in the river doesn't actually go all the way across  
23 Game Management Unit 16B, it cuts south so it kind of  
24 makes the legal description incomplete, and it also  
25 references a glacier that's receding. So what the  
26 proposal calls for is a slight change to the harvest  
27 area, it just draws a line straight across and uses  
28 Portage Pass and Portage Creek as a legal description.  
29 And rather than defining Triambunt (ph) Glacier as a  
30 boundary it simply uses a line of latitude and goes  
31 directly across the Game Management Unit.

32

33                   So the Technical Committee requested  
34 and received confirmation that the U.S. Fish and  
35 Wildlife Service had vetted these proposals -- or this  
36 proposal with the representatives from the eligible  
37 communities in the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet  
38 regions and then found no other issues with the  
39 proposal that needed to be addressed.

40

41                   So that is the Technical Committee's  
42 report on Proposal 2021-02.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julian.  
45 Questions for Julian or the Technical Committee on  
46 Proposal 2021-02.

47

48                   (No comments)

49

50

0092

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank  
2 you, Julian. We'll move on to the Council  
3 consideration of this proposal. Is there a motion to  
4 bring this proposal, 2021-02 forward for consideration  
5 by Council.

6  
7                   MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
8 adopt Proposal 2021-02.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, we have a  
11 motion, is there a second.

12  
13                   MS. HOSETH: I'll second, this is  
14 Gayla. I was just waiting to see if anybody else  
15 wanted to make motions or second. I second.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Gayla  
18 seconds. We need to get some other folks in here, Ryan  
19 and Gayla are handling all the responsibility. Thank  
20 you both. Other discussion on this proposal.

21  
22                   (No comments)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gayla I see you --  
25 any questions from you -- no, okay.

26  
27                   All right, hearing none, I'll call for  
28 question on the proposal and Patty if you could pull up  
29 the proposal for me to read that would be appreciated.

30  
31                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Maybe, Julian, did  
32 you have slides for that one, too, maybe you can handle  
33 that.

34  
35                   MR. FISCHER: So, yeah, I just stopped  
36 sharing my screen, I think that, Mr. Chair -- the Chair  
37 asked to call the question on Proposal 2021-02 but I  
38 can pull up the proposal language if you don't have it  
39 right in front of you. I think I've got it on my screen  
40 over here, would you like me to share my screen with  
41 that.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, please.

44  
45                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Because I want to  
48 make sure everybody can see it. I know some people are  
49 having technical problems with packets and then I'll be  
50

0093

1 able to read it here.

2

3 MR. FISCHER: Let's see. Okay, can you  
4 see it?

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, I do see it.

7

8 MR. FISCHER: Let me make sure this is  
9 the right one -- oh, that's No. 3, excuse me.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yep.

12

13 MR. FISCHER: Okay. This should be No.  
14 2. So the proposed language change spans two pages so  
15 I'm going to scroll through this. Okay, so just -- so  
16 you know what you're looking at this is within 50 CFR  
17 92.31, region specific regulations, Gulf of Alaska  
18 region Kachemak Bay area. And, Mr. Chair, if you would  
19 like me to read it I'll go ahead and do that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, if you could,  
22 please.

23

24 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So the bolded text  
25 is additions and it reads as follows:

26

27 Kachemak Bay area, harvest area. The  
28 portion of Game Management Unit 15C west and south of a  
29 line beginning at the northern boundary of Unit 15C and  
30 mouth of Kasilof River at 60 degrees 23 minutes 19  
31 seconds north, 151 degrees 18 minutes 37 seconds west  
32 extending south along the coast line of Cook Inlet to  
33 Bluff Point, 59 degrees 40 minutes, 0 seconds, north  
34 then south along the longitude line 151 degrees 41  
35 minutes 48 seconds west to latitude 59 degrees 35  
36 minutes 56 seconds north then east to the tip of Homer  
37 Spit excluding any land of the Homer Spit then  
38 northeast to the north bank of Fox River 59 degrees 48  
39 minutes 57 seconds north 150 degrees 58 minutes 44  
40 seconds west and then east to the eastern boundary of  
41 Unit 15C at 150 degrees 19 minutes 59 seconds west.  
42 Eligible communities Port Graham, Nanwalek.

43

44 That's a mouthful.

45

46 The second part also makes a change to  
47 the Cook Inlet harvest area and the proposal reads as  
48 follows:

49

50

0094

1 Cook Inlet harvest area portions of  
2 Game Management Unit 16B as specified below, eligible  
3 communities Tyonek only. Season April 2nd through May  
4 31st, that portion of Game Management Unit 16B west of  
5 the east bank of the Yetna River south to the north --  
6 south of the north bank of the Skwentna River and south  
7 of the north bank of Portage Creek to the boundary of  
8 Game Management Unit 16B at Portage Pass and August 1st  
9 through 31st, that portion of Game Management Unit 16B  
10 west of longitude line 150 degrees 56 minutes west  
11 south of the north banks of the Beluga River and Beluga  
12 Lake and south of latitude line 61 degrees 26 minutes 8  
13 second north.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julian. I  
16 appreciate you going through that.

17  
18 So given that description, Patty, if  
19 you'd call for the vote.

20  
21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, we  
22 need a motion.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That was the motion  
25 that Julian read. We have a motion on the floor for a  
26 vote for Proposal 2021-02 it was seconded by Gayla.

27  
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. On the  
29 motion, State of Alaska.

30  
31 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

32  
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

37  
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the Native  
39 Caucus.

40  
41 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

42  
43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman, the  
44 motion carries.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty, and  
47 thank you Council. All right, Julian, Proposal 2021-03  
48 please.

49  
50

0095

1 MR. FISCHER: Okay. I'm going to share  
2 my screen again. Standby.

3  
4 (Pause)

5  
6 MR. FISCHER: Okay. AMBCC Proposal  
7 2021-03. A brief summary of this proposal is the  
8 boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula roaded area and the  
9 Gulf of Alaska roaded area are undefined. This  
10 proposal defines boundaries of those areas.

11  
12 Expanded summary of that proposal is  
13 the Code of Regulations CFR 92.5(b)(2) defines several  
14 excluded areas that are closed to harvest but the  
15 geographic boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula roaded  
16 area and the Gulf of Alaska roaded area are undefined.  
17 The lack of specific boundaries makes the development  
18 of hunt maps imprecise and open to interpretation by  
19 hunters, law enforcement officials and photographers.  
20 The proposed changes would allow publication of maps  
21 that are accurate and reproducible into the future and  
22 that are useful to hunters and law enforcement. This  
23 proposal will benefit subsistence users by improving  
24 clarity of harvest regulations and harvest maps.

25  
26 So this slide that I'm showing here,  
27 and I apologize Gloria but I'll just describe exactly  
28 what it says.

29  
30 This proposal defines boundary of the  
31 Kenai roaded area and the Gulf of Alaska roaded area.  
32 And the next slide shows Figure 4 in the Technical  
33 Committee report. The proposed definition of the Kenai  
34 Peninsula and Gulf of Alaska roaded area.

35  
36 So the proposed boundary for the Kenai  
37 Peninsula roaded area references Game Management Units  
38 and it also ensures that the harvest areas defined by  
39 Port Graham and Nanwalek are retained so they are not  
40 within the roaded area. So in this slide you can see  
41 this whole area that was defined by these two  
42 communities is not within the Kenai Peninsula roaded  
43 area.

44  
45 And the proposed boundaries for the  
46 Gulf of Alaska roaded area reference the incorporated  
47 city boundaries of two communities, two roaded  
48 communities, Whittier and Valdez. Those are the  
49 incorporated city boundaries. The proposed boundaries  
50

0096

1 do not exclude any communities that are currently  
2 eligible for participation in the spring/summer  
3 subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

4  
5 So the specific regulatory language  
6 will define the Kenai Peninsula roaded area and Gulf of  
7 Alaska roaded area and will be presented in 50 CFR  
8 92.5(b)(2). I am going to not recite the legal  
9 boundary of the Kenai Peninsula roaded area, unless  
10 requested, we can look at the printout in the packet,  
11 but I would be happy to read it if requested.

12  
13 The technical issues discussed in the  
14 Technical Committee. Essentially the Technical  
15 Committee just requested and received confirmation that  
16 the Fish and Wildlife Service vetted the proposal with  
17 representatives of eligible communities in the Gulf of  
18 Alaska region and found no other issues with this  
19 proposal that needed to be addressed.

20  
21 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. And can  
24 you tell the Council what communities you did vet this  
25 proposal with.

26  
27 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, so we met with  
28 representatives from Chenega Bay and Port Graham and  
29 Nanwalek, and actually, Patty, I don't have the list of  
30 all the individuals that were present at the meeting  
31 but we had two or three meetings that were organized  
32 through CRRC with your help and with the Executive  
33 Director of CRRC. Patty.

34  
35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, we met with  
36 Tatitlek, Chenega and I believe Nanwalek and Port  
37 Graham was a joint meeting.....

38  
39 MR. FISCHER: Right.

40  
41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: .....the  
42 communities.

43  
44 MR. FISCHER: Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julian.  
47 Questions for Julian and the Technical Committee on  
48 their review of Proposal 2021-03.

49  
50



0097

1 MS. STICKWAN: What did you say?

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Gloria.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: What was your question,  
6 I didn't hear?

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: My question was,  
9 Gloria, do you have any questions for Julian or the  
10 Technical Committee on their review of this proposal?

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Well, he covered the  
13 fact that we still need to meet with Cantwell, do we  
14 have until this fall to meet with them and is that the  
15 deadline or can -- or if we don't meet the deadline  
16 what happens this fall?

17

18 MR. FISCHER: Mr. Chair, Gloria's  
19 questions were referencing the first proposal that the  
20 Council just voted on. But, Gloria, do you have any  
21 questions about the Kenai Peninsula and Gulf of Alaska  
22 roaded areas proposal, Proposal 3 that I just  
23 presented?

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: No, I don't.

26

27 MR. FISCHER: Okay, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Any other  
30 questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julian, could you put  
35 the proposal up. I'm not going to ask you to read it  
36 in detail. What I would like to do is just read in  
37 essence what the proposal is doing in general.

38

39 MR. FISCHER: Yes, let me -- just give  
40 me a second to switch screens.

41

42 Okay, this is Proposal 3.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

45

46 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, this proposal  
47 addresses the boundary of the Kenai Peninsula roaded  
48 area and the Gulf of Alaska roaded area. The bold  
49 text is to be added, crossed out text is proposed to be

50

0098

1 stricken. And part of -- there's a fair bit of text  
2 that's actually included in the proposal and that's  
3 because the changes result in a numbering sequence  
4 change so I included even language that's not affected  
5 at all, but the number prior to the language changes so  
6 this is the first part of it and then I can -- when you  
7 ask I'll scroll to the next page.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Well, what I was I  
10 going to read was the paragraph -- yeah, what I was  
11 going to read was the paragraph under what problem or  
12 issue are you trying to address and I'll just read  
13 that. I think that summarizes what this proposal does.  
14

15 The Code of Federal regulations CFR  
16 92.5(b)(2) defines several excluded areas that are  
17 closed to harvest but for two of these excluded areas  
18 the definitions are vague. The Kenai roaded area and  
19 the Gulf of Alaska roaded are not defined with any  
20 specific boundaries. This proposal seeks to clarify  
21 the boundaries of those areas.  
22

23 So that's what the proposal does. We  
24 can provide details but I'm not for sure if that's  
25 productive at this point. Are there suggestions by  
26 Council members, if you'd like us to read this proposal  
27 in detail or is it understood enough at this point.  
28

29 Gayla or Ryan, any thoughts on that.  
30

31 MS. HOSETH: I'm okay with the  
32 proposal, Mr. Chair.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.  
35

36 Ryan.  
37

38 MR. SCOTT: As am I, Mr. Chairman.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So I  
41 would entertain a motion to bring Proposal 2021-03  
42 forward for consideration by the Council for a vote.  
43 Would someone make a motion, please.  
44

45 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, Martin  
46 Andrew here. I want to -- in regards to Proposal 2021-  
47 03, so moved.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Martin.  
50

0099

1 Is there a second.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: Second. This is Coral  
4 Chernoff.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Coral. So  
7 the proposal has been moved and seconded. Is there any  
8 other further discussion on this proposal.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: If not are you ready  
13 for the question.

14

15 MS. HOSETH: Call for question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: State of Alaska on  
22 Proposal 2021-03.

23

24 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

30

31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the Native  
32 Caucus.

33

34 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The motion carries,  
37 Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty, and  
40 thank you, Council. Thank you, Julian. I appreciate  
41 everyone's efforts on this, particularly Julian,  
42 Michael and Dave Safine as well as Patty all worked  
43 together to make these proposals as clear as possible  
44 and did a great job with coordinating with the affected  
45 communities and I think it was a great example of how  
46 proposals can be brought forward and worked with all  
47 three partners so thank you for making that happen.

48

49 MS. STICKWAN: I wasn't on the internet

50

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1 when you were talking about Proposal 1. I heard the  
2 last -- the end of the discussion. But we have until  
3 this fall to turn in a boundary for Cantwell, is that  
4 the last -- is -- we can't go any longer than this fall  
5 to submit a boundary? Is there a deadline is what I'm  
6 asking?

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, Gloria. The  
9 next round for proposals would be in November through  
10 mid-December, so you have the summer and fall to  
11 prepare that proposal and get it submitted for  
12 consideration for 2023.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You're welcome. And  
17 if you'd like some assistance with that in terms of,  
18 you know, if you'd like a map to be drawn and we can  
19 help you out with that or provide any other  
20 clarifications we'd be happy to do that, we're getting  
21 pretty good at it from our program with the maps that  
22 we have recently drawn. So we'd be happy to work with  
23 your region.

24

25 All right.

26

27 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, I just had one  
28 more thing to add. Does that go for all of the  
29 villages with the boundary issues because when we had  
30 our Technical Committee, is that for other villages  
31 that need to define boundaries or that invitation to  
32 define boundaries or was it just that village?

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julian, I may refer  
35 to you. The only issue that we found were the  
36 proposals that Julian brought forward, but are there  
37 other regions, Julian, where this may crop up?

38

39 MR. FISCHER: I'm not sure which  
40 proposal you're referring to. So Gayla with the  
41 particular situation with Cantwell, Cantwell is kind of  
42 wedged in between -- it's kind of -- it's separated  
43 from the rest of the Upper Copper River region and it's  
44 butt up right against an excluded area to the north and  
45 so there was some concern that the traditional harvest  
46 area for that particular community was being excluded.  
47 And so now that the Council has just passed Proposal 1,  
48 if the community of Cantwell can submit a proposal to  
49 AMBCC to define its harvest area, and it would have to

50

0101

1 go through, I guess, the Invitation Committee -- or not  
2 the Invitation Committee, it'd have to go through some  
3 committee, maybe Patty can give us some direction on,  
4 but there is a process for defining the traditional and  
5 customary harvest area, and then if that's redefined  
6 then it would automatically become part of the eligible  
7 hunting area for that community.

8

9 So it sounds like there's some details  
10 that need to be worked out, but that's perhaps  
11 something to discuss at the fall meeting.

12

13 But your question, Gayla, you said  
14 something about does this apply to all other  
15 communities and I'm not sure if I answered that  
16 question but I think Gloria was asking a question about  
17 a specific community.

18

19 MS. HOSETH: She was, thank you,  
20 Julian. I just -- when we were having that meeting a  
21 month ago I just didn't know if there were other  
22 villages that could potentially define their  
23 boundaries that haven't come forward yet so would we do  
24 that through a proposal process. I think last time we  
25 were talking about the Kenai villages when we had the  
26 Technical Committee but I just remember the comment  
27 came up and I just wanted to bring it up for  
28 discussion.

29

30 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, I believe there's  
31 always an opening for a community to make a proposal to  
32 be included that's currently not included. There's  
33 provisions in the revised Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
34 that would allow for that but there's a process that  
35 goes with it.

36

37 MS. HOSETH: Okay, thank you.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, Jim, go ahead.

42

43 MR. SIMON: Thank you. I just wanted  
44 to follow up with Gayla's question because I think that  
45 the Cantwell situation is relatively unique. I don't  
46 know that other communities need to worry about  
47 defining their boundaries. Cantwell originally did not  
48 have to petition to be included because of their  
49 geographic location, and originally the areas to the

50

0102

1 north of them were eligible areas but then early on in  
2 the AMBCC Program, based on requests from the Healy  
3 Lake Traditional Council the North Slope -- the  
4 Fairbanks North Star Borough, which used to be the  
5 extent of the excluded area was expanded to include  
6 those portions north of Unit 20, north of Cantwell to  
7 be an excluded area and what remains unclear as to  
8 whether or not that actually shut off spring and summer  
9 migratory bird harvest areas used by Cantwell  
10 residents.

11

12 So that was what Gloria was referring  
13 to that we need to follow up with Cantwell on to  
14 determine whether or not they were, unbeknownst to the  
15 Program, excluded from hunting in their tradition areas  
16 in Unit 20, which should have been, you know, 15 years  
17 ago when that excluded area was expanded to coincide  
18 with the State non-subsistence area.

19

20 So that's really why I think that the  
21 Cantwell situation is unique and that other communities  
22 probably don't have to worry much about this.

23

24 Thanks. Hopefully that clarified it.  
25 And hopefully we'll be able to have a face to face  
26 Native Caucus also so that these things are better  
27 understood before we actually come to a statewide AMBCC  
28 meeting.

29

30 Thanks.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Jim. All  
33 right, thanks everyone. The next agenda item is Dr.  
34 John Pearce, Wintering Distribution and Abundance of  
35 Emperor Geese -- well, let me take it back, I stand  
36 corrected. We have the consent agenda items for 2021  
37 regulations; is that right Patty?

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

42

43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I don't know that  
44 we've ever really approved those, though, because  
45 they're standing regulations, there are no changes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. So we could  
48 assume that because there are no changes we do not have  
49 to bring that forward for a vote; is that a fair

50

0103

1 statement?

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you.

6 All right, John, did you.....

7

8 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, Gayla.

11

12 MS. HOSETH: Did we vote on that last

13 proposal?

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we did.

16

17 MS. HOSETH: Okay, thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It's not a problem,  
20 those were detailed proposals and I'm not for sure if  
21 the process I recommended made things better or worse  
22 but we made it through it so thanks for everyone's  
23 patience and endurance.

24

25 All right, John, I think you're up for  
26 Wintering Distribution and Abundance of Emperor Geese.

27

28 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, thanks Eric, I think  
29 Brian's going to give the presentation today.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, great,  
32 Brian.

33

34 MR. UHER-KOCH: Yep. Let's see I'm  
35 just going to share my screen here, I have a few  
36 slides.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yep, we've got it.  
39 Thanks, Brian, go ahead.

40

41 MR. UHER-KOCH: Okay, perfect.  
42 Awesome. So, again, my name is Brian Uher-Koch. I'm a  
43 Wildlife Biologist at the United States Geological  
44 Survey Alaska Science Center. And today I'm going to  
45 give a brief update on some research that we just  
46 completed on the wintering distribution and abundance  
47 of Emperor geese. And for folks that were on the  
48 Kodiak AMBCC meeting last week, they'll -- yeah, I gave  
49 this to that group last week so this will be a review

50

0104

1 for them.

2

3

4 So first I would like to touch base on  
5 what USGS is as an agency. And so although we are the  
6 United States Geological Survey, we do a lot of  
7 research, not just on geology, we perform research on  
8 water, we make maps, we have a branch that works on  
9 earthquakes and -- works with earthquakes and volcanos  
10 and then we also have an ecosystems branch, which is  
11 where John and I work and we perform research on a  
12 variety of wildlife species such as Emperor geese like  
13 I'm going to talk to you guys about today. And one of  
14 the roles for USGS is that we provide science  
15 information for Department of Interior management  
16 agencies and the public. And so we mostly conduct  
17 research but we are not a regulatory agency.

18

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So we have been conducting research on  
Emperor geese on the Yukon Delta since the 1980s and so  
these are some of my colleagues that you probably  
interacted with in the past, Joel Smutchz and Margaret  
Peterson and we've had long-term field studies out on  
the Yukon Delta from -- including at a field camp from  
1992 to 2017 looking at breeding success, brood habitat  
selection, annual survival and a variety of other  
factors. But then the breeding season is only like a  
pretty small portion of the annual cycle for Emperor  
geese and so really we wanted to get a sense of what  
happens to Emperor geese when they're not at their  
breeding areas and during the wintering season, and so  
in 2015 we initiated a new study to look at their  
wintering ecology and that's what I'll be talking about  
today.

And so as you guys -- everyone probably  
knows Emperor geese have a very wide wintering  
distribution in Alaska. They're a Bering Sea endemic  
species so, you know, breed on the Yukon Delta and  
Russia and a few on the Seward Peninsula but their  
wintering distribution range is from, you know, all the  
way throughout the Aleutians, from the Kodiak  
Archipelago all the way out to Attu essentially so it's  
a super wide distribution. And in the late 1990s and  
early 2000s, some of our colleagues at USGS put out  
some satellite transmitters on Emperor geese and what  
we wanted to do is we wanted to compare the data from  
those Emperor geese that we put out satellite  
transmitters on in the early 2000s with some  
contemporary data to see if there had been any changes



0105

1 to the wintering distribution of Emperor geese in the  
2 Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago,  
3 and then we also wanted to look at any potential  
4 changes in wintering populations at a few specific  
5 sites kind of throughout the entire wide range of the  
6 Aleutian Islands. And so we had three main study areas  
7 for our wintering study and so the green start you  
8 could see there is the Manokinak River site on the  
9 Yukon Delta where we perform studies on breeding  
10 ecology and then we had three study sites in the  
11 winter, Shemya Island, Adak and Kodiak that kind of  
12 spanned the entire wintering distribution of Emperors  
13 and so we conducted some research on all three of those  
14 sites. And I'll explain this more in a minute but we  
15 also ended up breaking the wintering distribution of  
16 Emperor geese into three different regions, the Western  
17 Aleutians, Eastern Aleutians and then Alaska Peninsula  
18 and Kodiak to compare the current wintering  
19 distribution with the satellite transmitter data that I  
20 mentioned before.

21

22 And so how did we determine their  
23 wintering distribution?

24

25 Well, so we ended up deploying some  
26 geo-locators on breeding geese on the Manokinak River  
27 on the Yukon Delta. And so the photo there is a band,  
28 and you can see there, these very small data loggers  
29 that capture the light levels throughout a day and from  
30 those light levels we can figure out when the sunrise  
31 and sunset times and then from that, essentially we can  
32 determine the location of those individual birds. And  
33 so we, in 2015 through 2017 we deployed a bunch of  
34 these geo-locators and we were able to obtain wintering  
35 locations from 58 adult female Emperor geese.

36

37 And so here are two figures, comparing  
38 the wintering distributions of Emperor geese from the  
39 two time periods that I mentioned. So the top figure  
40 are the satellite transmitter data from 1999 to 2004,  
41 and then the lower figure are the geo-locator data from  
42 2015 to 2017 and you can see really in the lower figure  
43 that there's quite a bit more birds using the Alaska  
44 Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago as wintering areas  
45 compared with 20 -- or 15 years prior.

46

47 And then, as I mentioned, we also  
48 wanted to look at some -- the population of Emperor  
49 geese at those three study sites during winter that I

50

0106

1 mentioned and so in the 1990s there were some historic  
2 surveys that were conducted by the Maritime Refuge on  
3 Shemya and Adak and by Fish and Wildlife Service,  
4 aerial surveys on Kodiak and so we wanted to replicate  
5 these surveys on these three islands to get a sense if  
6 the number of wintering Emperor geese had changed in  
7 any of these three places. And so these, the arrows on  
8 the figure just kind of illustrate the overall trend  
9 that we found between numbers from the '90s versus the  
10 numbers we saw from 2015 to 2017 replicating those  
11 surveys. And so Shemya we found the numbers -- using  
12 Shemya Island were almost identical between those two  
13 time periods. On Adak, numbers had gone down by about  
14 half the numbers of Emperor geese were using Adak  
15 compared to the 1990s. And then on Kodiak, there's  
16 been about double the number of Emperor geese using  
17 Kodiak that there were in the 1990s.

18

19                   And so this kind of led us to wanting  
20 to, you know, ask the question why might Emperor geese  
21 be changing their wintering distribution and so we kind  
22 of did a little post hoc analysis looking at, you know,  
23 how the winter temperature in the Gulf of Alaska had  
24 changed over time and so this is just a little figure  
25 on the winter temperature from -- so it's the mean  
26 winter temperature from December to March in the  
27 Northwest Gulf of Alaska from 1999 to 2017, which kind  
28 of represents the years between our two study periods.  
29 And so the trend over time is the dotted line, the  
30 black line is the mean winter temperature from December  
31 to March and then the grey line is a long-term mean  
32 winter temperature from 1926 to 1998. So you can see  
33 for the most part there's a little -- there's a slight  
34 increasing trend in most years, the mean winter  
35 temperature is higher than that long-term trend from  
36 1926 to 1998.

37

38                   So we kind of hypothesized that, or I  
39 guess we found that there are more Emperor geese  
40 wintering closer to breeding areas and we hypothesized  
41 that this increase is due to additional habitat  
42 becoming available because of warmer winter conditions  
43 and reduction in ice cover in the coastal lagoon  
44 habitats that are used by wintering Emperor geese.

45

46                   And then we're going to be continuing  
47 some analysis on Emperor geese. One of the things we  
48 want to look at are use those wintering locations from  
49 the geo-locator data and see if there are impacts of

50

0107

1 migration distance on things like breeding arrival  
2 dates or their prelaying interval or potential breeding  
3 success so just to try to look at if impacts of winter,  
4 or where Emperor geese winter carry over to the  
5 breeding areas. And then we're trying to wrap up a few  
6 analysis on the winter survival of -- or sorry, not  
7 winter survival, adult survival of Emperor geese using  
8 a long-term mark recite data set. We're also looking  
9 at some juvenile survival of Emperor geese using family  
10 group sizes, changes in family group sizes over the  
11 wintering period and then also look at the potential  
12 impacts of disease on Emperor geese and right now we're  
13 trying to -- we're focusing on blood parasites and if  
14 blood parasites might be impacting any demographic  
15 rates of Emperor geese during the breeding season.

16

17 And with that, thanks to all of my many  
18 collaborators and Fish and Wildlife Service and I'd be  
19 happy to answer any questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Brian. Great  
22 presentation. Any questions from the Council members.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none. I have  
27 one, and I've not kept up on the literature as much as  
28 I should but brant are showing a similar trend where  
29 we're seeing significantly greater numbers of birds  
30 wintering at Izembek. When I was there in the 1980s,  
31 you know, there were a few thousand and I can't  
32 remember, I think the last count -- Julian could  
33 probably rally it off the top of his head, but I think  
34 it was over 30,000 birds were now wintering in Izembek.  
35 So I'm not for sure but are you aware of any changes in  
36 either nest initiation or arrival on breeding dates or  
37 nesting success or breeding success of brant based on  
38 the larger segment of the population wintering further  
39 north?

40

41 MR. UHER-KOCH: Yeah, that's a great  
42 question. I'm not super aware of, you know, I think  
43 Julian might be able to speak more to that based on the  
44 Refuge random plots that are done on the Yukon Delta.  
45 But, you know, I think in general, you know, what we've  
46 seen at least with Emperor geese is the last -- well,  
47 not last year, obviously, but the previous few years  
48 the phenology seems like it's getting earlier on the --  
49 in terms of the breeding -- on the breeding areas, so I

50

0108

1 don't know if that answers your question at all. Yeah,  
2 I don't know if Julian wants to chime in about brant on  
3 the breeding area.

4  
5 MR. FISCHER: Well, so the plot survey  
6 that you're referring to, we really excluded sampling  
7 within the major colony so we don't really have a close  
8 feel for that. The University of Nevada-Reno probably  
9 have a better response to this because they work right  
10 in one of those colonies. But for those brant that we  
11 do find outside of those major colonies on that survey  
12 we've seen, like all the other geese, we've seen about  
13 a seven to 10 day advancement in nesting. Although the  
14 precision of that estimate for brant is much wider, or  
15 the precision is lower just because we find few -- so I  
16 can't give you a response with certainty. But, you  
17 know, if they're doing anything like cacklers and  
18 Emperors and White-fronts then they're certainly  
19 nesting a lot earlier than they used to.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Julian. Any  
22 other -- any questions for Brian that have come up.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Brian, I've got one  
27 more for you. It's almost like you're thesis defense  
28 here. So birds that winter farther north, so they have  
29 less migration for their wintering grounds, off the top  
30 of your head would you expect them to come back to  
31 breed areas in greater body condition with more fat  
32 than say a bird that has to migrate farther?

33  
34 I'm just -- I have -- you know I'm  
35 wondering is this a good thing, or are there other  
36 trade offs?

37  
38 MR. UHER-KOCH: Yeah, that's another  
39 great question and that's one of the things I'm kind of  
40 interested in pursuing, and, you know, with that last  
41 slide where I was talking about the impacts of  
42 migration distance. And the geo-locators aren't great  
43 for identifying like locations during migration,  
44 they're much better at identifying stationary locations  
45 like if a bird is just using one area over winter.  
46 And, you know, based on the satellite telemetry data  
47 that I've seen -- or that our colleagues collected, you  
48 know, the winter migration, so to the wintering areas  
49 was relatively slow so a bird might take, you know,  
50

0109

1 like a month or two to -- sorry -- so average wintering  
2 -- mean wintering date, or aver -- or, yeah, to arrival  
3 dates on Shemya are in December whereas arrival dates  
4 and wintering areas on the Alaska Peninsula are  
5 typically in September. And so it's a much -- it's  
6 like a slower migration on the way out and then a much  
7 faster migration back to the breeding areas from their  
8 wintering areas. And the arrival date, we did end up  
9 comparing arrival dates using the geo-locator data  
10 compared to the satellite telemetry data and, yeah,  
11 arrival dates are earlier and I would expect that, you  
12 know, the expectation is that, you know, you don't have  
13 to fly as far, there are benefits to birds wintering  
14 closer to breeding areas and that they'd arrive in  
15 better condition and that's, you know, one of the  
16 things that we'd like to tease out is, you know, look  
17 at those wintering locations and then, you know, do  
18 they impact like you said breeding success or arrival  
19 dates or prelaying interval, that kind of thing.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.  
22 Congratulations on your publication and thank you for  
23 taking the time to present to the Council today.

24

25 MR. UHER-KOCH: Well, thanks for the  
26 great questions and happy to chat at any point. Thanks  
27 for having me.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you.  
30 Let's see next Seabird Die-Off, Robb Kaylor and Cathy  
31 Conitz. I say Robb was on the call, and Robb I will  
32 tell you that Brandon had a good question and he's all  
33 ready for you so you better be sharp this afternoon.  
34 Brandon's been thinking of tough questions and he had  
35 one that Julian and I couldn't answer and so we're  
36 depending on you to get him the right answer.

37

38 MR. KAYLOR: All right. Well, I did, I  
39 heard -- I got some head's up to be prepared so I've  
40 spent most of the morning preparing. So I will share  
41 my screen. I understand that not everybody can have --  
42 will see it. Let me know -- all right.

43

44 So this is a presentation that I gave,  
45 actually to the Arctic -- well, it's a portion of a  
46 presentation that I gave at the Arctic Science Summit  
47 week at the end of last month. I was invited by Karen  
48 Pletnikoff as part of a -- we were talking about  
49 building networks and partnerships and so this is kind

50

0110

1 of a -- I think you all on the Alaska Migratory Bird  
2 Co-Management Council know that you're a key partner in  
3 responding to these die-offs that have been occurring  
4 in Coastal Alaska. So this is kind of just an update  
5 and summary. Of course my title slide here kind of --  
6 I'm Robb Kaylor, I'm with Migratory Bird Management and  
7 I work with Cathy and Liz. We're all seabird  
8 specialists. A lot of partners, of course, as I  
9 mentioned. The banner across the bottom highlights all  
10 the really helpful folks that have been helping either  
11 get reports or summarize those reports and report back,  
12 so -- and then fortunately I've included Brandon on  
13 this slide. He's been a key partner so hopefully he'll  
14 go easy on me with his questions.

15

16 And really this presentation is coming  
17 from -- I made a poster for the Alaska Marine Science  
18 Symposium based on this partnership. The poster itself  
19 was, you know, 2020 Bering Sea Seabird Die-Offs,  
20 Partnering in Search of Answers, and so this is a small  
21 slide, or a small image but I think Patty can send this  
22 out to you if you haven't already received it. But  
23 it's just a PDF. And so the folks that can't see the  
24 screen, hopefully Patty will share this, but it's just  
25 a summary of the poster and it kind of highlights the  
26 timeline, the maps of Alaska over the last years since  
27 2017, and then a table that summarizes the findings  
28 that we have so far. So I'll go over this in the  
29 presentation but you can refer back to this handout  
30 that I think Patty will be able to share with you.

31

32 And so this first slide is really the  
33 timeline. So in 2015 we had a very large die-off in  
34 the Gulf of Alaska and that was largely Common Murres.  
35 In this talk I'm going to focus a bit more on 2017  
36 through 2020 because that's where these events continue  
37 to occur since 2016 actually, in the fall of 2016  
38 COSST, Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team  
39 partnered with folks at St. Paul, the tribal government  
40 of St. Paul and kind of developed a quick and dirty way  
41 to quantify, you know, determine the number of birds  
42 that are washing up on your beach so that we have long-  
43 term reports that we can add into this bigger effort  
44 over, you know, a time series, this right now going  
45 back to 2015. And so the slide that I have up now,  
46 this is the four maps of Alaska starting with 2017 in  
47 the upper left. And this is just showing kind of the  
48 distribution. And the size of a circle indicates the  
49 number of birds that were reported and the larger the

50

0111

1 circle, the number -- the increase in the number of  
2 birds that were reported. And keeping in mind that  
3 when a bird dies at sea and washes up on a shore, and  
4 then is counted by one of you or somebody in your  
5 community, and then that report makes it back to us in  
6 Anchorage, you know, in the urban hub, you know, that's  
7 a lot more birds have probably died than we're actually  
8 getting reports so these are minimum. But these maps  
9 are compiled by our partners at the Coastal Observation  
10 Seabird Survey Team. It uses some of their -- their  
11 monthly surveys using citizen scientists, COSSTers as  
12 they're called as well as these other additional  
13 reports that we're getting from folks like you and  
14 people in the communities that might be making these  
15 observations. So this really helps us understand the  
16 magnitude, you know, how many of these birds are dying  
17 as well as the geographic scope, you know, from Point  
18 Hope south to the Bristol Bay and then overall just the  
19 number of birds. So if you see in 2019, we had a lot  
20 of Shearwaters die, so almost 9,000 birds were reported  
21 that year, in 2019, and a lot of it in Bristol Bay.

22  
23 And so this slide here is a table and  
24 it shows -- so the total number of birds that have been  
25 reported since 2017 to 2020, so at the top is total  
26 birds reported, so over -- since 2017 we've had a  
27 little over 12,000 birds reported washed up on beaches  
28 throughout the Bering and Chuckchi Sea and down into  
29 the Bristol Bay area. And so working with folks, we've  
30 been able to get fresh carcasses that have died, fresh  
31 meaning within 24 hours of dying, and getting those  
32 frozen and then sent to me in Anchorage and to -- me,  
33 or Liz or Cathy in Anchorage, and then to Madison where  
34 they do an examination to determine cause of death and  
35 disease testing. The first thing we want to do is  
36 determine whether the die-off event is associated with  
37 an infectious or a non-infectious disease so that's our  
38 -- kind of our first real objective is to determine  
39 what was the cause of death and if it was disease. But  
40 we've also been working with our partners at the USGS  
41 Alaska Science Center who are testing for harmful algae  
42 bloom biotoxins, and in this case saxitoxin. So on  
43 this table you see the AI, that's for Avian Influenza  
44 so we've had very few positive tests for Avian  
45 Influenza and also the test for saxitoxin, which is  
46 associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning, the B --  
47 the L in that table is showing that these are -- the  
48 levels are below detectible or detection levels so  
49 using their analytical equipment they have not been  
50

0112

1 able to detect saxitoxin with the exception of in 2017  
2 and that was a lot of Northern Fulmars and Shearwaters,  
3 but mostly Fulmars that tested positive for saxitoxin.  
4 But the main point of this table is that emaciation,  
5 for all the birds that were examined, or submitted to  
6 the National Wildlife Health Center and examined,  
7 emaciation has been the leading cause, almost 99  
8 percent. There have been a couple of other instances,  
9 bizgaurdtaxon\*, a bacteria that was associated with one  
10 of the carcasses, but in general emaciation, birds are  
11 not able to find food in the environment. And this  
12 might be -- other factors might be low levels of  
13 saxitoxin exposure that we're not able to detect, lack  
14 of food, competition increases, and different fish  
15 moving north because of the warmer ocean temperatures  
16 so increase competition with their food with cod and  
17 pollock for example. But right now birds are dying  
18 from starvation but we continue to look at how things  
19 like saxitoxin might be affecting them.

20

21 And as I mentioned, this is a  
22 partnership, so on this slide what I have listed are  
23 all the partners and many of you here on the AMBCC, and  
24 so you're key in getting what we -- you know we ask you  
25 to serve as that local point of contact that people are  
26 able to communicate to or, know who, you know, who's  
27 the person I go to and, you know, for example, Brandon  
28 or Gay up in the Bering Strait region. So we really  
29 appreciate the time and effort required of you to get  
30 this information as well as you also serve as the  
31 conduit to get information back to the communities,  
32 back to those individuals who provided those reports.  
33 So thank you very much for that.

34

35 And with that I think I have time for  
36 questions, and I think I'm ready for Brandon, so thanks  
37 a lot.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Brandon had his hand  
40 up immediately. Go ahead Brandon.

41

42 MR. AHMASUK: Thanks Robb. Can you  
43 hear me, everybody?

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yep.

46

47 MR. KAYLOR: Yes.

48

49 MR. AHMASUK: So I didn't have anything

50



0113

1 to add, my only question was if you heard anything from  
2 our Russian neighbors about the seabird die-off?

3

4

5 MR. KAYLOR: Oh, yeah, okay, you know,  
6 we've actually been having quite a few conversations.  
7 They are very -- I will -- I'm going to be very honest,  
8 they're very protective of their information and it's  
9 for nothing more than political reasons, and so I will  
10 say that later this week, actually, Cathy will be  
11 presenting as part of a larger Russia/U.S. seabird  
12 partnership. It's led by the Alaska Ocean Observing  
13 System along with World Wildlife Foundation. You can  
14 actually -- yeah, and I think we can share -- you have  
15 to register for it but it's 2:00 o'clock on Wednesday,  
16 but it is an opportunity to share -- and it's one of  
17 our first opportunities. Unfortunately being with the  
18 Federal government our communication -- and, you know,  
19 it's just like when we work with you at Kawarek, you  
20 know, the agency to, you know, basic -- sorry, the  
21 government to government exchange is really key so even  
22 in this case where we're using the World Wildlife  
23 Foundation and AOOS to hold this, you know, meeting and  
24 information exchange it's still, you know, it's not  
25 ideal because what we really need is that government to  
26 government exchange. But, you know, we -- so to be  
27 honest I haven't had a lot of direct reports from our  
28 colleagues in Russia on numbers of birds that have  
29 died. There was a Red Tide, I think there was a lot of  
30 stuff in the media, and, of course, Gay Sheffield is  
31 really super about being aware of what's happening in  
32 terms of the media and then there's also a couple of  
33 other folks that really mind the Russian media and then  
34 share out a U.S. -- or, sorry, U.S. -- an English  
35 translation of it. So I could put you in touch with  
36 them. But really there's not a lot of information  
37 coming out right now that I've seen, even in those like  
38 minding the Russian media but I think they're being  
39 very protective, you know, nobody wants their country  
40 to look bad, I guess, is part of it. And that's some  
41 of what I've been learning.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So any information that we hear from  
anybody, including Gay or you about what you hear  
across the Pond is super helpful and it helps us put  
dots on those maps, you know, working with COSST so  
even with COSST we are trying to look for ways to get  
standard observations of die-offs on the far East of  
Russia.

0114

1 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. So myself and I  
2 don't think Gay has received any reports on the Russian  
3 side, you know, we do share the same resource, you  
4 know, the birds going back and forth and what not. You  
5 know when you get closer to the Strait, you know, it's  
6 even, you know, that much closer so we can only imagine  
7 what's going on on their side in their waters. Gay and  
8 I have had numerous conversations on, you know, they  
9 have to be seeing it over there I mean there's no way  
10 that they can't. But I think to truly understand this  
11 you know to get the larger scale picture it will be --  
12 I don't know how you say it, essential, you know, to  
13 get that information from what they're seeing on their  
14 shores.

15

16 So, anyway, thanks, Robb.

17

18 MR. KAYLOR: Yeah, no, that's  
19 excellent. And we could use all the help out there,  
20 you guys, you and Gay, of course, have been really key  
21 in it and looking forward to other opportunities and  
22 that includes, you know, even the poster that we  
23 presented, you know, you were an author on that, even  
24 finding ways to make that available to our, you know,  
25 colleagues on the other side would be great. So always  
26 looking for opportunities. But thanks for those  
27 questions. It's a valid and important point.

28

29 All right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Any other  
32 questions for Robb. I think Liz posted -- Liz  
33 Labunsky, a seabird biologist colleague with Robb and  
34 Cathy Conitz posted on the web link for that conference  
35 with Russia that Robb referenced in his talk.

36

37 Karen, I see your hand up, go ahead.

38

39 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Chairman.  
40 I just wanted to thank Robb and his partners for  
41 working so well with us and with others, it really  
42 helps address a lot of these issues that are ongoing  
43 and allows us to find opportunities to provide input  
44 especially with our quickly changing ecosystem and our  
45 challenges with traditional survey methods and with  
46 pandemics and everything else. So it's great to  
47 partner with you and thank you for your work on that.

48

49 MR. KAYLOR: Yeah, we really appreciate

50

0115

1 the support. We could not do -- wouldn't have even a  
2 fraction of the information that we have without  
3 partners like you. Thanks a lot.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
6 Karen. Any other questions for Robb.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing  
11 none, Robb, thank you very much.

12

13 MR. KAYLOR: Yeah, thanks for  
14 everyone's time appreciate it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Let's see  
17 next up we've got Budget and Grants Management, Will  
18 Lacy, who's our budget analyst with our Migratory Bird  
19 Program. Will, I see you at your computer, are you  
20 ready to present. All right, thumb's up, go ahead.

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can you guys hear  
23 him?

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Will, we  
26 can't see your screen yet I don't think -- oh, there  
27 you go. We can't hear you, you have to take it off  
28 mute. Nope, still can't hear you. You're like I was  
29 when we started out this morning.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We could move on and  
34 you could try -- I'm not the technical wizard, I'm like  
35 Patty, my hands get pretty sweaty when I start pushing  
36 buttons on my computer with Zoom.

37

38 All right, you're going to exit and  
39 restart. Folks, do we want to take a five minute  
40 break, we've been at this an hour and 45 minutes, does  
41 5 minutes sound okay.

42

43 Okay, let's take a 5 minute biological  
44 break and then Will should be back and running.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

0116

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, well, it's  
2 3:00 o'clock, or just about so Will why don't you go  
3 ahead and share your screen and we'll get underway.

4  
5 MR. LACY: Do you see it?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, and we can hear  
8 you.

9  
10 MR. LACY: Am I good to go? Is  
11 everybody back?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, you're good to  
14 go.

15  
16 MR. LACY: Good afternoon. I'm  
17 Willard, Lacy, Budget Analyst, Migratory Bird  
18 Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And I'll  
19 be giving the budget and grants management update. The  
20 way my screens are configured I won't be able to see if  
21 anybody's raising their hand, so if anybody is just let  
22 me know and I'll pause to take questions.

23  
24 My topics are going to be the status of  
25 funds, grant solutions and grant terms and conditions.

26  
27 The FY21 budget that I'll be presenting  
28 is an updated version of the budget we presented during  
29 the fall conference in September.

30  
31 FY21 grant amendments. Our goal was to  
32 replenish funds up to the annual award amount. We did  
33 this based on the financial reports that were submitted  
34 in December. After reviewing these reports we  
35 determined that five regions and the Alaska Department  
36 of Fish and Game would receive funded amendments this  
37 performance period. Three amendments are in process  
38 and should be done by mid-April, if not sooner, however  
39 I'm awaiting requests from three other recipients and I  
40 will reach out to them this week.

41  
42 With that I'll go ahead and bring up  
43 the budget for review.

44  
45 I'm going to zoom in just to make sure  
46 everybody can read it. So for the administrative costs  
47 we're budgeting \$248,000.

48  
49 For harvest survey data collection,  
50

0117

1 \$414,000.

2

3 These are the regions that will receive  
4 grant funding. That total is \$150,000. The grant  
5 total for this budget is \$512,888.

6

7 This slide represents the balances that  
8 were on hand of each regions grant at the end of  
9 December 2020. That's the report closing period date.

10

11 Are there any questions?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. LACY: Okay, I'll go ahead and move  
16 on.

17

18 Grant solutions. I have two slides to  
19 cover grant solutions. As everyone's aware grant  
20 solutions is the tool that the Department of Interior  
21 is now using for awards, amendments and reporting.  
22 Within grant solutions there are two key roles,  
23 principal investigator and the administrative official.  
24 Of these contacts, these persons serve as our contacts  
25 for grant awards amendment and also for the annual  
26 report submissions. Currently I have contacts for all  
27 roles in all regions, and I really appreciate the help  
28 everyone provided during the annual reporting period.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It looks like -- did  
31 we lose Will?

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, I lost him.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, Will, we lost  
36 you. I still see you signed in but somehow we lost  
37 your presentation and lost your voice.

38

39 We'll give Will another few seconds  
40 here and keep going, if not, we will move on to  
41 personnel updates.

42

43 MR. FISCHER: And, Eric, just so you  
44 know he text that he's going to exit and restart.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, all right.  
47 Thanks, Julian.

48

49 (Pause)

50

0118

1                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: In the meantime I'm  
2 going to ask Randy Mayo or Deborah Lind from TCC. I've  
3 heard rumors that you folks go pretty substantive snow  
4 over the weekend. Randy or Deborah, any ideas of how  
5 many inches.

6  
7                   MS. LIND: Did we get 14 inches -- he  
8 wants to answer.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: What's that?

11  
12                  MR. MAYO: Oh, hello.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, Randy, how much  
15 snow did you get?

16  
17                  MR. MAYO: Too much.

18  
19                  (Laughter)

20  
21                  MR. MAYO: Yeah, a little under two  
22 feet maybe.

23  
24                  MS. LIND: TCC is closed. They closed  
25 off TCC for nobody to come into the office but your  
26 meeting was at 8:30 so we were here in our office ready  
27 to go and then they gave the notice nobody to go to  
28 work.

29  
30                  MR. MAYO: They shut down all the  
31 schools and they're trying to dig out, some of the main  
32 roads are open but a lot of the roads are still snowed  
33 in.

34  
35                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, geez, yeah,  
36 you're right. Any snow in April's too much but when  
37 you get two feet that's way too much.

38  
39                  MR. MAYO: So the next thing they're  
40 worrying about is the powerlines coming down.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, so you don't  
43 have any winds and it's just stacking up on the  
44 powerlines?

45  
46                  MR. MAYO: Well, the wind is blowing  
47 now.

48  
49                  MS. LIND: How cold did it get last  
50

0119

1 night?

2

3 MR. MAYO: But they're afraid of trees  
4 falling on the powerlines.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, yeah.

7

8 MR. MAYO: But the good news is it's  
9 going to get cold like 15 below tonight.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Wow, no. We're  
12 supposed to hit single digits in Southcentral here in  
13 Eagle River so I figured it's always -- once we get  
14 single digits you guys are well below zero.

15

16 Well, let's see, I don't know what  
17 happened to Mr. Lacy here, he hasn't been able to join  
18 us. Let me jump ahead on the agenda and I think the  
19 next thing is personnel updates.

20

21 I'll give a brief summary from Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service, let me turn on my video here.

23

24 So a key person that wasn't able to  
25 make the meeting, Dr. Wendy Loyla, is our new Assistant  
26 Regional Director for Migratory Birds and two other  
27 programs, Science Applications and International  
28 Conservation. Wendy had a trip planned for quite some  
29 time that she could not cancel and was unable to make  
30 the AMBCC meeting, otherwise she would have taken some  
31 opportunity to introduce herself. So, in essence,  
32 Wendy is taking the position that Pete Probasco, that  
33 many of you know, Pete was the Assistant Regional  
34 Director for two programs, Wildlife Sportfish  
35 Restoration and the Migratory Bird Program. So Wendy  
36 started about a month ago and she's very much  
37 interested in the AMBCC.

38

39 The other person introduced herself  
40 today early on, Dana Olean. Dana is a new pilot  
41 biologist with our program, is still in training but  
42 will start doing surveys here shortly. Comes with a  
43 lot of experience in terms of survey techniques and  
44 aerial survey methods and flight training. So we're  
45 really super thrilled to have Dana.

46

47 Finally, the AMBCC Program Manager, all  
48 of you know Cheryl, Cheryl took early disability  
49 retirement and has not been working for the past, oh,

50

0120

1 gosh, I guess about six months now and we have decided  
2 to refill that position but not until the new fiscal  
3 year, October of this year, October 21.

4

5 And let's see, I believe that's it for  
6 in terms of personnel updates from the Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service.

8

9 Ryan, I think I'll call upon you for  
10 any updates from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
11 Game.

12

13 MR. SCOTT: Sure, thank you, Eric.  
14 Good afternoon, everyone. Pretty much myself and  
15 Jason, we introduced ourselves this morning.

16

17 I do want to put out there, though,  
18 we've hired three area biologist positions here within  
19 the last month or so, six weeks, and we're very excited  
20 to get those filled.

21

22 The first one was Nick Fowler down in  
23 Soldotna. That position was vacant for quite awhile.  
24 The previous area biologist Jeff Salinger was around to  
25 help out, but it's good to have Nick there and he hit  
26 the ground running. I talked to him the other day and  
27 he had been in the office a day and was headed out to  
28 fly moose surveys so that was good.

29

30 The other person, another one, is Brian  
31 Riley, he's the Dillingham area biologist and  
32 hopefully, Gayla, you've had a chance to meet him or  
33 talk to him, or I'm sure that'll happen before too  
34 long. That also has been vacant for quite awhile, and  
35 on top of Migratory Bird work there's a lot of other --  
36 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is a big topic for everybody  
37 right now so we're very excited that we got Brian out  
38 there.

39

40 And then last week it was announced  
41 that Kristie Osborne was hired as the Unit 23 area  
42 biologist in Kotzebue.

43

44 So those are three pretty key Staff  
45 positions we have and, obviously, they work with game  
46 species on the State side and then -- but also all  
47 those places have, you know, migratory bird interests  
48 as well.

49

50



0121

1                   So that's about it on the personnel  
2 side. You know along with everybody else, we continue  
3 to adjust to the current environment and largely we've  
4 been able to identify ways to conduct field work,  
5 whether that's banding birds up in -- or doing bird  
6 surveys up in Kachemak Bay, Jason just completed some  
7 of that, or getting spring moose surveys done, having  
8 options for hunters and interested parties, maybe not  
9 be in the office but we can accommodate their needs in  
10 a lot of different ways. So we're largely functioning,  
11 maybe not in the regular fashion but we've found ways  
12 to meet the needs of the public and the wildlife users.

13

14                   So I would just ask Jason and Lilly, if  
15 there's any additional Fish and Game personnel, or  
16 recent hires or retirements that I'm not thinking about  
17 right now.

18

19                   MR. SCHAMBER: This is Jason. None  
20 that I can think of Ryan.

21

22                   MR. SCOTT: Great. Obviously we all  
23 know Jim Fall's retired, and I don't know what the plan  
24 is for that position but Lilly might be able to fill us  
25 in.

26

27                   MS. NAVES: Hi.

28

29                   MR. SCOTT: Hi.

30

31                   MS. NAVES: It's Lilly for the record.  
32 Jim retired last December, this is right, I guess, it  
33 goes by so fast. And Caroline Brown at Fish and Game,  
34 Division of Subsistence Office in Fairbanks is acting  
35 Statewide Research Director for the Division of  
36 Subsistence and such she is my direct supervisor. I  
37 don't know of the dates of filling that position on a  
38 more permanent manner. And on the Division of  
39 Subsistence in the Birds Research Program, since June  
40 last year we have welcomed Laura Mingak who is  
41 attending this meeting too. Laura attended last AMBCC  
42 meeting in fall, which was a pretty good meeting too,  
43 so this is an opportunity to introduce Laura again and  
44 get the group to get to know her.

45

46                   MR. SCOTT: Great, thank you, Lilly.  
47 As a side note about Jim, I noticed he did a virtual  
48 program the other night for Sealaska down here in  
49 Southeast at the Sealaska Heritage Institute and I only

50

0122

1 caught bits and pieces of it but, you know, true to  
2 form he was very good at what he did.

3

4 So, anyway, Eric, I think that's it for  
5 us.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thanks,  
8 Ryan, appreciate the update. And thank you, Lilly.

9

10 Let's see, let's keep cranking. Poor  
11 Will's computer must have imploded or something because  
12 that's not like him not to call back so I got a feeling  
13 either his internet went out or his actual computer  
14 went out. Regulations book, a topic near and dear to  
15 Jim Simon's heart, who I see his picture on the screen  
16 here in front of me.

17

18 Hopefully all of you have received the  
19 revised 2021 regulations book. I want to acknowledge  
20 the efforts of Julian Fischer, Dave Safine, Michael  
21 Swaim and Tamera Zeller from our Program who invested a  
22 significant amount of time. It was kind of -- one  
23 thing led to another. Jim, with his eagle eyes caught  
24 some things that should have been fixed and we did  
25 finally fix them, and then once we started fixing them,  
26 then we discovered some other challenges. And we all  
27 know that the maps were -- you needed a magnifying  
28 glass to basically make them out, and so we spent  
29 substantive amount of time trying to make those  
30 clearer, more legible and ultimately it also led to the  
31 three proposals that my program brought forward that we  
32 just approved for this regulatory cycle for 2022.

33

34 So that said, nothing is perfect. I  
35 would like to form a committee and Jim has already  
36 agreed to serve on it based on a previous conversation,  
37 but I'm looking for several others, particularly  
38 Council members, that are willing to serve on the  
39 committee as we go through the regulations booklet. I  
40 still see some needed improvements in it and I'd like  
41 to hear from Council members on, you know, are the maps  
42 okay, are there regulations still clear, can a user  
43 pick this up and understand when seasons are open and  
44 when seasons are closed. What species are open, what  
45 species are closed.

46

47 MR. LACY: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, Will's back.

50

0123

1 MR. LACY: How long have I been talking  
2 to myself?

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Well, I don't know, I  
7 haven't seen your name up here on the thing, so, sorry.  
8 If you were there I didn't know it.

9  
10 MR. LACY: Julian sent me a message  
11 saying you're frozen and I'm like, what, what I'm on my  
12 last slide.

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Well,  
17 nothing like technology to make it -- all right, so do  
18 you want to share your screen Will and pick up where  
19 you left off.

20  
21 MR. LACY: I don't know where I left  
22 off.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I can tell you.  
25 Bring your screen up, you were at grant solutions and  
26 talking about administrative officers and something  
27 else.

28  
29 MR. LACY: Okay. Maybe my toggling  
30 back and forth was causing me to lock out. Maybe I'll  
31 do it in a different manner.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah.

34  
35 MR. LACY: Let's see, was I on.....

36  
37 MR. FISCHER: It was about 10 minutes  
38 ago, Will.

39  
40 MR. LACY: 10 minutes, oh, my gosh.

41  
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You were on the  
43 first slide of grant solutions.

44  
45 MR. LACY: Oh, the first slide of grant  
46 solutions, this is where I left off at?

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, correct.

49  
50

0124

1 MR. LACY: Okay. All right. Let me  
2 see if I can do this. And let me share my screen --  
3 okay. Can you all see my screen?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we can.  
6

7 MR. LACY: Okay. What I'm going to do  
8 is instead of toggling back and forth, I don't know if  
9 that caused the problem or not, let me give it a go.

10  
11 Okay, so screen, slide one -- grants  
12 solution slide 1. Can everybody see that okay?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yep, we can see grant  
15 solutions, slide one of two.

16  
17 MR. LACY: All right. So as  
18 everybody's aware, grant solutions is the DOI tool for  
19 managing awards, amendments and reporting. There are  
20 two key roles within grant solutions, one is the  
21 principal investigator and your administrative  
22 official. These people serve as the contacts for grant  
23 awards and amendments as well as report submissions. I  
24 would like to thank everyone, all regions, because I do  
25 have a complete list of all roles for all regions and  
26 that was key to us getting through this annual  
27 reporting period. But what I've included is a document  
28 within this presentation that describes the  
29 responsibilities of the PI and the AO, those are the  
30 abbreviations, so that you understand what authority  
31 you're giving these people. I just want to make sure  
32 that that's clear. So let me open that up. Hopefully  
33 I won't lose nobody. Okay.

34  
35 So your principal investigator. That  
36 person has the ability and the authority to submit  
37 financial and annual reports on behalf of the  
38 organization. They can only do it for the grants that  
39 they've been assigned within grant solutions and the  
40 bottom line description would probably best describe  
41 them as responsible for day to day operations. Your  
42 administrative official, the main difference is that  
43 they have grant acceptance authority. These are the  
44 people that are going to sign the amendments, sign the  
45 awards. They can do everything that a principal  
46 investigator, a PI can do, they also have access to any  
47 grant that's been awarded within their organization if  
48 they have the designation of ADO.

49  
50

0125

1 I want to now talk about reporting  
2 responsibilities. I'd like to share the  
3 responsibilities that the recipient has and the Service  
4 has when it comes to submitting reports.

5  
6 For the recipient. Timeliness and  
7 compliance as outlined by the grant terms is very  
8 important. It is one of the criteria that we use when  
9 we have to do a risk assessment for anyone that we're  
10 going to give -- that we want to give an award to. So  
11 ensuring that your timeliness and compliance are in  
12 order is, again, very important.

13  
14 For the Service. Our responsibility,  
15 we'll be looking at the annual and financial report to  
16 ensure that they're correct, they're accurate and  
17 performance and the annual reports support each other.  
18 For example, to give an annual report, a performance  
19 report that says no meetings were held and then I give  
20 a.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, it looks  
23 like we lost Will again. Julian, do you want to try to  
24 text Will and tell him we lost him.

25  
26 MR. FISCHER: I just text him.

27  
28 MR. LACY: I'm back. I'm back.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, you're back.

31  
32 MR. LACY: I'm going to keep on  
33 rolling.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

36  
37 MR. LACY: Sorry about this. I was on  
38 VPN so I disconnected, I didn't notice I was on VPN and  
39 that may have something to do with my connectivity.

40  
41 So I believe where I left off I was  
42 explaining what the Service's responsibilities are.  
43 We're to ensure correctness, accuracy of the reports.  
44 We compare the annual performance report to the annual  
45 financial report to ensure that they support each  
46 other. If I was to get an annual performance report  
47 that said no meetings were held and then I get a  
48 financial report that says \$10,000 was spent, it's  
49 logical for me to ask the question, why was money spent  
50

0126

1 if no meetings were held. Not only am I going to ask  
2 it, as you saw from the checklist that I -- oh, as  
3 you'll see with the checklist, the auditor will ask the  
4 same question. So what I've embedded in this  
5 presentation is a checklist that I think would be  
6 helpful for personnel in your region.

7

8 Is my screen being shared -- yes.

9

10 Can everybody hear me?

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, we can hear  
13 you, you're still on.

14

15 MR. LACY: Is my screen being shared?

16

17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, it is.

18

19 MR. LACY: Thanks. All right. So this  
20 document, this outlines everything that the Service has  
21 to look at when we accept reports.

22

23 For the financial report. One of the  
24 things we look at is the indirect cost that's being  
25 charged. So we'll verify that you all are charging the  
26 rate that we agreed to. Right here, No. D, we compare  
27 the performance report with the financial report to  
28 ensure that the expenditures appear reasonable and  
29 support the project activities conducted or completed.

30

31 Okay.

32

33 No. E. The report does not raise any  
34 issues or concerns that may require follow up with  
35 recipients such as an unexplained balance of cash on  
36 hand, funds drawn but not expended.

37

38 For the performance report. I'll just  
39 go to No. C. The report does not raise any issues or  
40 concerns that may require follow up with the recipients  
41 such as significant reduction of effort or project  
42 delays with no explanation of why or how the recipient  
43 plans to address the issues.

44

45 So this document is part of this  
46 presentation, it's my checklist, or our checklist, and  
47 it can serve as a checklist for your preparers of your  
48 reports.

49

50

0127

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Slide No. 2.

Report requirements.

Again, I refer you all back to your terms of your agreement. Performance reports must contain comparison of the actual accomplishments to the grant goals and objectives and needs to describe why goals were not met, if applicable, and the plan to address the issue. And deliverables need to be uploaded. So within our grant terms we talk about providing meeting announcements, summary minutes for us, minutes need to include the name or kind of meeting. You know, was it a regular board meeting or an annual board meeting. The date. Place. And time that the meeting began and ended. Names of the Chair, Secretary or their substitutes. Names of voting members attending and what their subject matter expertise was -- oh, excuse me -- name of voting members attending and whether a quorum was present or not, name of guests and their subject matter, whether minutes from the previous meeting were approved or corrected if applicable, motions made and we need you to record the exact wording of the motion, who made the motion and the results of the vote. Reports. Record the name of the report. The name of the member presenting it and the actions taken on the report. Other actions such as assign -- other actions, assignments and deadlines, resolutions, recommendations. These are all what we are expecting when we look at minutes. And this is already described in your grant. So it's in the notes of this, our presentation, but you should go to the grant to see what we expect, or what's required.

The Federal financial report. In grant solutions it's an e-form. It's going to have the previous balance and it's a pretty simple form. And there's an area to upload additional information, if necessary. And you want to use that to answer questions that might be raised. For example, if you have excess cash on hand, you know from the checklist I shared that I'm going to ask a question about it. What you can do is get ahead of that and just upload the supporting document because I'm still going to require it, an explanation of why you have the excess funds, you know, why you pulled them down, when you intended to use them, you know, what happened and what are you going to do with the funds. That needs to be

0128

1 explained. So you need to upload documents, as  
2 necessary, when you're submitting your financial  
3 report.

4  
5 With grant resolutions, all progress  
6 reports are now due annually based on the Federal  
7 fiscal year, so the report period will end 30 September  
8 of each year, reports are going to be due in December.  
9 However, your final report date, that's going to be  
10 based on the date your agreement expires. Right now  
11 that is 120 days after it expires, it's normally 90  
12 days, this 30 day extension was given because of Covid,  
13 I do not know if it will continue.

14  
15 Grant terms and conditions. One of the  
16 questions that we had to field -- a question that we  
17 had to field more than once last year was how can we  
18 use our money since you could not meet face to face,  
19 and so I'd like to share with you the process you need  
20 to take whenever you have this question. First you go  
21 to your grant and you want to see what the purpose of  
22 the funds was, in this case, for grants, it says funds  
23 under this award are to be used to help off set travel,  
24 administrative and associated expenses required to  
25 establish a Regional Migratory Birds Subsistence  
26 Program. So if the use -- the purpose meets this  
27 expectation -- so you know, hey, I'm using the funds to  
28 further the objective, if the answer to that is, yes,  
29 the next thing you want to ask yourself, is what I'm  
30 purchasing, be it equipment or service, is it allowed,  
31 and where you find that out is by going to the 2 CFR  
32 200. So we received that question, we received the  
33 question can we buy computers. Well, I researched 2  
34 CFR 200 and answer to that question is, yes, as long as  
35 the computers are under \$5,000. The next question was,  
36 can we buy internet service, you know, greater  
37 bandwidth. The answer to that was yes. Again, I put  
38 the reference for your convenience.

39  
40 But you still want to contact our  
41 office. I recommend you contact our office because you  
42 saw on the checklist, you know, we're going to look at  
43 it and make sure the purchases are reasonable. So in  
44 this case, if our grant says that you can pay -- the  
45 funds are to pay for travel for two people up to two  
46 meetings, it might not be reasonable to buy 500  
47 computers, so when the grant was only funding two  
48 people in the first place. However, it might be  
49 reasonable to buy four, depending on why you say you  
50



0129

1 need the four. So what you want to do is contact us so  
2 we could discuss it before you make that purchase. You  
3 just want to make sure everything is good. You will  
4 have the record of our conversation for your benefit  
5 and we'll have a record also.

6  
7 Okay.

8  
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So, Will, I have a  
10 question, are you still there?

11  
12 MR. LACY: I just came back on, Patty,  
13 go ahead.

14  
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So the Council  
16 members then will have direct access to you for those  
17 questions and anything relating to their cooperative  
18 agreements and budgeting?

19  
20 MR. LACY: Yes, I'm the POC right now,  
21 we're in the process of hiring, you know, a replacement  
22 for Cheryl. Until that occurs, yes, please call me. I  
23 worked with quite a few regions over, you know, the  
24 past few months and so, yes, please call me. And my  
25 contact information is at the end of this presentation.

26  
27 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

28  
29 MR. LACY: Okay. So, yeah, according  
30 to our terms, we expect you all to hold at least one  
31 meeting, preferably two, of your regional body  
32 meetings.

33  
34 Okay.

35  
36 Resolutions. This is a good thing,  
37 have standardized terminology. So for example, in the  
38 notice of award that you have it says that you need to  
39 submit a significant development report, SDR, to apply  
40 for an amendment, funding for your new performance  
41 period. But now the standard wording is you need to  
42 submit a SF424, so it won't matter what grant  
43 management official prepares the grant, the wording's  
44 going to be the same so that's going to minimize  
45 confusion all around.

46  
47 And with that I want to segue into  
48 SDRs. Like the name says they're significant  
49 development reports. They're done when you all face a  
50

0130

1 problem or delay or adverse conditions which prevent  
2 you from meeting the objective of the grant. And so  
3 this year I just want to remind you of that, and I'm  
4 asking that you inform us if Covid mitigation measures  
5 prevent you from meeting your objectives. And the  
6 reason why I'm asking this is, as you know, we're  
7 coming up to the end of our five year award, the five  
8 years will end 30 September 2022. And as the stewards  
9 of the Federal funds, we want to make sure we don't  
10 award more funds that can be used. If we get to 2022,  
11 the end of 2022 and you can't use all the funds because  
12 you weren't able to do everything that you thought you  
13 would do, those funds are lost. They (warbled) benefit  
14 the Service, of course, they don't benefit you, but we  
15 need every dime, so I'm asking that as soon as you know  
16 your plan, if your plan is going to be disrupted  
17 because of a Covid mitigation please let us know.  
18 According to the guidance, you know, we'll talk about  
19 it, and according to the guidance we would need that in  
20 writing and that will help us be better stewards of our  
21 public funds. And as soon as you find out that  
22 information, the sooner you tell us, the sooner we can  
23 plan for FY22.

24

25 Let's see.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Will.  
28 Jennifer's got -- Jennifer Hooper from Association of  
29 Village Council Presidents has got a good question.  
30 And her question is, are there standard items or  
31 expenses that are allowable, that you could produce a  
32 list, and I think it's safe to say that regions are  
33 going to continue not to be able to have face to face  
34 meetings, we're going to have virtual meetings like  
35 this and so is there any sort of list of what  
36 acceptable expenditures are that you could produce?

37

38 MR. LACY: Okay. So though I don't  
39 know the list, the 2 CFR 200 is a huge regulation. And  
40 I think it would be very time consuming to go through  
41 and try to find everything that I think might apply to  
42 what you want to do. That's why I wanted to share with  
43 you the test that you need to take, You know, you know  
44 what the objective of the grant is, is your purchase  
45 furthering that objective, and then if there's  
46 something -- I've already told you equipment --  
47 supplies, that's a common item, you can buy supp.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Well, we lost you.

50

0131

1 MR. LACY: Yeah, I'm back. And I  
2 apologize, I have the highest speed for internet but I  
3 don't know why today I'm having problems.

4

5 But like I said, you do that test.  
6 Supplies, that's a common expense, you know, travel,  
7 supplies, services, these are common. And unless you  
8 think this is off the wall it would be quicker for you  
9 just to call than me try to compile all the possible  
10 things that you might ask about.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks. I  
13 think what we'll do is we'll make sure that your  
14 contact information is available, both your email and  
15 your telephone so that if someone wants to get ahold of  
16 you they can do so.

17

18 MR. LACY: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other questions.

21

22 MR. LACY: And I will be.....

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

25

26 MR. LACY: .....I'm going.....

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Gloria.

31

32 MS. STICKWAN: So is the 2 CFR 200, is  
33 it too large of a document to the regional bodies?

34

35 MR. LACY: Yes, it is. But in this  
36 presentation I've included the link so all you have to  
37 do is click on it and it'll take you there. Did you  
38 guys hear that?

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, Will and Patty,  
41 has the presentation actually been sent where the link  
42 works to all the Council members?

43

44 MR. LACY: No, I haven't -- this -- I  
45 apologize, this presentation wasn't sent out in advance  
46 to Patty but I will send it to her and all the  
47 attachments that are included in it but right here,  
48 like if I was to click on this -- I think I'm still  
49 sharing my screen, if I click on this link it should

50

0132

1 take you straight to the -- right here, and the website  
2 will allow you to browse, you can search by word this  
3 whole document. But it's a huge document, it can't --  
4 it's too huge to download.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. We'll  
7 make sure that presentation and the link's available to  
8 everyone. Any other questions for Will on budgets.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I am not  
13 seeing any hands so thank you Will. Sorry for the  
14 technological challenges of bouncing off but appreciate  
15 your endurance to stick it out.

16

17 Let's go back to the regulations  
18 booklet. Let me ask folks to begin with, we mailed  
19 these out early and I'm hoping that you have received  
20 them. Is there anyone that has not or needs  
21 regulations 2021 regulations booklet?

22

23 MS. HOSETH: I haven't gotten mine, Mr.  
24 Chair, but I have it online here. I haven't been in  
25 the office.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: I haven't gotten mine  
30 either.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So both,  
33 I know Gloria and Gayla, I know I mailed boxes off to  
34 you folks. I can't remember the exact numbers of  
35 regulation booklets but it was at least 25 if not 50.  
36 If you check your post office and they're still not  
37 there could you send me an email and I'll resend them.  
38 I still have a supply at the office. I'll be in the  
39 office this week and I can drop them off in the next  
40 day or so and get them off to you.

41

42 Anyone else besides Gloria and Gayla  
43 that has not received regulation books, or that you  
44 know of someone that needs them?

45

46 MR. MAYO: Yeah, Eric.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Randy.

49

50

0133

1 MR. MAYO: Yeah, we haven't seen no  
2 regulation books here.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Yikes.  
5 All right.

6  
7 MS. KAYOTUK: This is Carla in Barter,  
8 we haven't seen any books either.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, I'm sorry, who  
11 was that?

12  
13 MS. KAYOTUK: Carla Kayotuk up in.....

14  
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Carla.

16  
17 MS. KAYOTUK: .....Kaktovik.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Okay.

20  
21 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, I received mine and  
22 I placed them in the city building and the post office.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Great, thank you,  
25 Peter. Gayla, let me ask you, how many copies would  
26 you like, I'll go back and doublecheck?

27  
28 MS. HOSETH: If we could at least get  
29 40 and I might have some in the office, I just haven't  
30 been in my office in about a couple of weeks.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, well, I'll  
33 hold off until I hear from you.

34  
35 Gloria, how many copies would you like?

36  
37 MS. STICKWAN: 20.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: 20, okay. All right.  
40 Brandon, did you get your copies?

41  
42 MR. AHMASUK: I was just about to chime  
43 in, so, Eric, I haven't been to my office in several  
44 weeks. I did get notice from one of the other workers  
45 that there was a bunch of mail parked below my door.  
46 So I'll have to get back to you on whether or not we  
47 have the books or not.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, sounds  
50

0134

1 good. Randy or Deborah, how many copies would TCC  
2 like?

3

4 MR. MAYO: Are you talking about the  
5 ones that, the little booklets that you used to mail  
6 out?

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, this thing  
9 right here, it should look like this, with an Emperor  
10 goose on it.

11

12 MR. MAYO: Probably like 20,000.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. MAYO: For all of the hunters.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, well, I  
19 can't do that, but I can -- I've got several hundred.  
20 How many people will come by TCC and pick them up, any  
21 idea?

22

23 MR. MAYO: How many do you think we  
24 need?

25

26 MS. LIND: I don't know.

27

28 MR. MAYO: We'll probably get back with  
29 you by email.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay, that sounds  
32 good. Julian, you have your hand up, go ahead.

33

34 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, I just pulled up  
35 the file that shows the number of booklets that you  
36 sent out to each of those regional offices. I could  
37 share that and people could comment on it right now if  
38 you think that's useful.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, that would be  
41 great, thank you.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: Mail -- mail is slow so  
44 maybe it's still coming to us.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, it has been  
47 slow. So this is the list that I mailed out and we've  
48 got -- I know the copies, boy they were sent a couple  
49 weeks ago. So take a peak at that and let.....

50

0135

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Eric, if they were  
2 sent media rate, which they probably were, that would  
3 be the slowest way to send.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, actually  
6 weren't, they were sent priority mail, and priority  
7 mail boxes, so they were sent in flat rate priority  
8 mail boxes so. Brandon, did you have.....

9  
10 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, this is Gayla.  
11 I just wanted to -- I put a link in there so people  
12 could see a copy of what the booklet looks like in the  
13 chat.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Gayla.

16  
17 MR. AHMASUK: Eric, the question I had  
18 was, have these books ever been sent out to the -- just  
19 the PO Box holder?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You know, no,  
22 Brandon. We decided that -- that was decided a year or  
23 so ago that we would not do that. It was decided that  
24 a lot of those ended up in the trashcan right away and  
25 so we felt like that -- the decision was to send them  
26 to the Regional Council representatives for  
27 distribution. We also send them out to the Alaska  
28 Department of Fish and Game offices as well as the Fish  
29 and Wildlife Service Refuge offices so, yeah, we  
30 stopped sending them out to folks, too many people were  
31 saying we don't -- why are we getting this thing and we  
32 don't want to receive it anymore and we heard comments  
33 that it wasn't really the most productive way to do it.

34  
35 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. So the reason I'm  
36 bringing it up, you know, in the past we have the books  
37 in the office, you know, I don't have -- other than my  
38 personal time, you know, I don't have the time to go  
39 door to door and drop off these books. So, you know,  
40 I'm just trying to brainstorm to try to think how to  
41 get these books out and available to people that want  
42 them. I suppose I could talk to the Nome Eskimo  
43 Community folks and, you know, see if we could get them  
44 distributed that way.

45  
46 So, anyway, thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, no, it's -- I  
49 understand. And I know what some offices are doing,

50

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1 they're setting up some sort of a kiosk outside, you  
2 know, an arctic entryway or something and sending out a  
3 note to their contacts saying books are available at  
4 Kodiak Refuge at the back door, for example, or at the  
5 Sun'ag Tribe or at the Department of Fish and Game, so  
6 yeah, we have to be creative to get them out there.

7

8 All right, so the book has been  
9 revised. There's new maps and a new format, but I  
10 still think improvements can be made and I would like  
11 to get some representatives on a small committee to  
12 take a look at this thing and also ask hunters in your  
13 area, when you pick this thing up, does it make sense.  
14 Do you know where to hunt, when to hunt, do you know  
15 what species you can harvest, are there any other  
16 questions about methods or means, would you like more  
17 pictures in it, are the maps acceptable. Anyway, what  
18 we have here is definitely not perfect so I'd like --  
19 Jim has volunteered, I know to serve on the committee,  
20 I would like someone from the Department of Fish and  
21 Game, so Ryan, do you have an idea of Jason, Lilly or  
22 someone else that would be able to have the time to  
23 help us look at this thing?

24

25 MR. SCOTT: Let me talk to Jason once  
26 we get wrapped up and I'll -- Jason and Lilly and we'll  
27 put our heads together and see what we can come up  
28 with. We'll get you a name, yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks.  
31 Anyone want to throw their hand in now.

32

33 Gayla, go ahead.

34

35 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'll go  
36 ahead and be on there. And I think that we formed this  
37 committee about two years ago, there might be a list of  
38 people that were on there originally but I would love  
39 to be on that committee.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Excellent, thank you,  
42 Gayla.

43

44 MS. CHERNOFF: Eric, this is Coral. I  
45 would like to be on that committee.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Coral. I had  
48 your name down, I was going to twist your arm to see if  
49 you could be on there.

50



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1                   Anyone else.

2

3

4                   And I don't think this is going to be a  
5 large effort, I mean I think we've got a good start on  
6 it but I would, you know, and we could put together a  
7 list of questions for people to start out with but more  
8 importantly, when you take it out in the field and you  
9 just hand it to someone and say find my region and find  
10 our region and tell me when we could start hunting and  
11 what species we can hunt and what methods we can use  
12 and when the closed period is when we need to protect  
13 nesting, and if they look at you like I can't make  
14 heads or tails out of this thing then you know that  
15 we've missed the mark and that's what we want to fix.

15

16                   MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gloria, go ahead.

19

20                   MS. STICKWAN: The group in our area  
21 said that Karen Linnell should be on the booklet  
22 committee.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. We'll add  
25 Karen. All right, well, listen I'll send out an invite  
26 list and we'll hold the meeting, I know, before -- want  
27 to get harvesting here pretty -- in the next few weeks  
28 so it may not be the ideal time but I'll put some  
29 calendar dates out there and we'll see when we can get  
30 together.

31

32                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman.

33

34                   MR. SFORMO: Eric, this is Todd, I had  
35 a quick question.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, go ahead, Todd.

38

39                   MR. SFORMO: It seems like each of the  
40 maps really doesn't maximize kind of the space that  
41 they have on each of the pages. I mean it seems like  
42 maybe some larger maps and maybe at times fewer rivers  
43 might help in clarifying, you know, some of the  
44 boundaries.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. That's exactly  
47 the sort of recommendation we want to hear. So we'll  
48 work with the committee and are you volunteering  
49 yourself, Todd, to be on the committee?

50

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1 MR. SFORMO: I think I just did my  
2 contribution. No, if you need me, sure I'm happy to  
3 look at it, yes.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. All right,  
6 you're on there. I'd like someone from the North  
7 Slope. All right.

8  
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

12  
13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I just wanted to  
14 share that I have been bringing this issue up before  
15 each of the regional management body meetings that were  
16 held this spring. And so I'd just ask people to think  
17 about it, if they're interested in serving they can  
18 contact us. I was talking mostly to the hunters, the  
19 Council members in the region so we may be able to get  
20 an extra set of eyes after, you know, the first draft  
21 of so, people are willing to look at it.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's a great idea.  
24 That's what we'll do. We'll get a committee together,  
25 we'll do a draft. I do have a contact at the National  
26 Conservation Training Center, Mark Newcastle is his  
27 name, he's very talented and will be able to help us  
28 turn this thing around really quickly this year to get  
29 it out before the started season started for once. So  
30 we're hoping to keep that as the standard now.

31  
32 All right, Crystal Leonetti, I think  
33 you are next on Alaska Native Relations Training  
34 overview.

35  
36 MS. LEONETTI: (In Native) Hi  
37 everybody. I'm going to share my screen I think, if I  
38 get myself together. Hey, are you seeing that?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Not yet, it looks  
41 like it's trying and there you go, you're there.

42  
43 MS. LEONETTI: Okay, awesome. Well,  
44 thank you to the Council for inviting this topic on  
45 your agenda. I know we're close to the end of the day  
46 so I'll make it as interesting as I can.

47  
48 I am Crystal Leonetti, the Alaska  
49 Native Affairs Specialist for the U.S. Fish and  
50

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1 Wildlife Service since 2010. And my family is from  
2 Bristol Bay, Dillingham, Aleknagik and Goodnews Bay and  
3 I grew up in Anchor Point with my parents and my  
4 siblings on a small farm and I've been doing this work  
5 for 26 years, but 10 years with Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service.

7

8                   So I'm going to talk about the Alaska  
9 Native Relations Treaty, which we've been doing since I  
10 came here to Fish and Wildlife Service. We started in  
11 2011. We have hosted 12, I believe, of these trainings  
12 through the years. They started small, each session  
13 only allowing 30 participants and five elders but  
14 they've grown now to be held twice per year and with up  
15 to 100 participants from all the Department of Interior  
16 Agencies and up to 10 elders at those large trainings.  
17 We've conducted the courses in partnership with the  
18 Chugach Regional Resources Commission with Patty being  
19 the trainer/coordinator by my side since 2014. In 2016  
20 the Regional Director made it mandatory for all U.S.  
21 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska employees, at the  
22 request of the top Federal Wildlife Officer, Jim  
23 Helmgren, and so now it is a mandatory course for all  
24 new to Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

25

26                   Initially we covered a fairly small  
27 number of topics and I'll read them for the folks that  
28 are on the phone that can't see the slides.

29

30                   We started out with cross cultural  
31 communication, law and Indian law, cultures, societies  
32 and spirituality, Alaska Native elders, Alaska Native  
33 organizations, subsistence, consultation, traditional  
34 ecological knowledge, and village protocol.

35

36                   We also incorporate a lot of activities  
37 and so throughout the week we do crafts and games. We  
38 do traditional Sugpiaq dart throwing, we do Athabascan  
39 beading and that's Mary Gilbert teaching me how to do  
40 two needle sewing there, we do Devils Club salve making  
41 and then in the middle of the week we have a potlatch  
42 that people get to try our Native foods and so we share  
43 muktuk and akutaq, seal oil, herring eggs, you name it,  
44 if it's a Native food we bring it and share it so  
45 people can have a taste. And we do dancing and singing  
46 so people can really feel that drumbeat in their chest.  
47 And elders, pictured here we have Bob Sam, Tlingit from  
48 Sitka, James Charles, Yup'ik from Tuntutuliak, Ralph  
49 Eluska, Sugpiaq from Akhiok and Anchorage, Pearl

50

0140

1 Goodwin from Kotzebue, Inupiaq, Wilson Justin who is  
2 Ahtna/Athabascan from Chistochina and Trimble and Mary  
3 Gilbert, Gwich'in/Athabascan from Arctic Village. And  
4 so they're there throughout the entire week all day  
5 long to offer their wisdom, advice and sentiments and  
6 the elders are a really big part of the training.

7

8 The esteemed Alaska Native Relations  
9 week long in-person training is now being offered  
10 online through a series of topic-focused classes and  
11 this is due to the pandemic. But for employees who  
12 have not yet taken the in-person week long course this  
13 is the adaptive approach to providing an opportunity to  
14 complete the required training. But it's also an  
15 opportunity for employees who have taken it to take  
16 individual topics as refreshers or deeper dives.  
17 There's enhanced learning as these classes are designed  
18 to offer stimulating instruction, group activities and  
19 individual learning through writing, reading and video  
20 assignments so we get to do a little bit more than we  
21 normally would in the week long course as well as  
22 discussion with elders.

23

24 I'm not going to go through the  
25 descriptions of each of the topic-focused classes but  
26 you have it in your packet and I'm not sure what tab  
27 that is. Patty.

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'll look.

30

31 MS. LEONETTI: But the description of  
32 each of these topics is in your packet. So there's  
33 Alaska Native societies history and spirituality. And  
34 introducing yourself to indigenous peoples. There's  
35 Alaska Native ways of life, or subsistence. We do an  
36 applied traditional ecological knowledge course. We do  
37 who is an Alaska Native elder. We do a session on land  
38 status and Alaska Native relations. There's a session  
39 on governments, corporations and other Alaska Native  
40 organizations. A session on Alaska Natives and  
41 American laws. A class on cross cultural  
42 communication. A class on village protocol. A class  
43 on tribal consultation. A class on co-management. And  
44 then a class on our Native American policy for Fish and  
45 Wildlife Service.

46

47 The teaching cadre is made up of, of  
48 course, the elders that I mentioned, we have had elders  
49 from every culture group and region of the state and we

50

0141

1 try to have a good diversity of cultures, geography and  
2 gender of elders at each session. Guest instructors  
3 include university professors, tribal court judges,  
4 book authors, tribal leaders, practitioners, et cetera.  
5 And the core teaching cadre who does all the behind the  
6 scenes preparation where curriculum development and  
7 teaching the main topics are Alaska Native individuals  
8 who are employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
9 National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, the  
10 Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Safety and  
11 Energy Enforcement, and we do a lot of -- and Patty.  
12 Can't leave Patty out, she teaches some of these topics  
13 as well.

14

15                   And here's a picture from 2017, you can  
16 see that even Eric Taylor took the class. We always do  
17 evaluations, we always ask for feedback and in the  
18 process of the last 10 years we've heard some pretty  
19 amazing comments about what the class has caused people  
20 to do differently in their jobs. These are just some  
21 immediate reactions after the week has come to an end.  
22 So I'll read a couple for the folks on the phone that  
23 can't see the slides.

24

25                   After almost 30 years in Alaska I now  
26 have a far greater knowledge, empathy, and respect and  
27 admiration for the peoples of Alaska.

28

29                   And then in addition to lots of  
30 comments, and also critical feedback we've received the  
31 teaching cadre consistently improve on the content, the  
32 methods and the format of the training over the years.  
33 But the immediate reactions really just the beginning.  
34 For some people it truly changes their perspective and  
35 the way that they do their job, and for some it doesn't  
36 make as a big of an impact but this is where we choose  
37 to begin as this training. And our colleagues who take  
38 the course, after having taken it, should come from a  
39 place of listening, curiosity and respect. And I'll  
40 read a couple of the quotes there too.

41

42                   In more than 30 years of Federal  
43 service this was hand's down the best training I've  
44 ever taken.

45

46                   Another person said this was not just a  
47 training, this was an incredible experience.

48

49                   And finally I just have to -- I can't

50

0142

1 end this without saying that we didn't start the course  
2 in partnership but the Chugach Regional Resource  
3 Commission began partnering with us in 2014 and I can  
4 honestly say that without Patty's heart and work this  
5 course would not be what it is today so just wanted to  
6 say thank you to Patty.

7

8 That's all I have.

9

10 I'm happy to take questions.

11

12 Also I just want to let everybody on  
13 the line know that because we're doing it online right  
14 now it is open to anybody to attend. So our partners  
15 at the State and all the Native Caucus members and  
16 regional bodies, anybody is welcome to attend those  
17 online sessions. All you have to do is email me and  
18 let me know that you're interested and I can send you a  
19 schedule of upcoming classes.

20

21 That's it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Crystal.  
24 Great presentation. Questions for Crystal on the  
25 training. Brittany, I see your hand up.

26

27 MS. SWEENEY: Hi, good afternoon. I  
28 just want to thank Crystal for all of her hard work. I  
29 would say in the time that she's been in her position,  
30 over 10 years, I've noticed a difference in some of the  
31 tone of the internal conversations in Fish and Wildlife  
32 Service and the awareness. But I'm curious to ask our  
33 partners, our Alaska Native partners, if you've noticed  
34 a difference, you know, now that our employees have  
35 this training, and if you're seeing any changes from  
36 your side.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. MAYO: Hello.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, go ahead,  
43 Randy.

44

45 MR. MAYO: Oh, yeah, I just wanted to  
46 comment on Crystal's presentation. And some time ago  
47 we presented at one of these trainings here and I just  
48 wanted to mention that, you know, since the land status  
49 is different here in Alaska, you know, due to ANCSA and

50

0143

1 the corporations it's kind of probably very confusing  
2 for new personnel, especially where communities that  
3 are surrounded by Refuge lands, like Stevens Village,  
4 but what I just wanted to mention is that our tribe  
5 created the Traditional Land Use Plan of our ancestral  
6 governance lands and in the early 90s the tribe  
7 conducted a secretarial election where the traditional  
8 lands was recognized and put in our tribal constitution  
9 and that has helped a lot in working with Yukon Flats  
10 Refuge and BLM and even the State of Alaska, DNR. And  
11 we've used it for a lot of different initiatives.

12

13 So I just wanted to mention that the  
14 land status could be very confusing for new people.

15

16 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah, thank you, Randy.  
17 We need to get you back involved in the course. I  
18 remember back when you and Dewey used to come and talk  
19 about that land use plan. But you're right, that's a  
20 great tool to work with agencies. Thank you for  
21 reminding me of that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions for  
24 Crystal.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I will say, Crystal  
29 showed a picture of me in one of the presentations a  
30 few years back and those quotes that Crystal had are, I  
31 think not only just outliers but I think they're  
32 certainly representative of people, Fish and Wildlife  
33 Service employees as a whole. The 25 Migratory Bird  
34 employees that have taken Crystal and Patty's class and  
35 all of them, without a doubt, have come back and made a  
36 very positive comment in their experience.

37

38 So it's definitely a class worth taking  
39 and it's more than a class, it's like someone said,  
40 it's an experience.

41

42 Other questions or comments for  
43 Crystal.

44

45 Brandon, do you have a question -- no,  
46 I see a hand up from Karen. Karen go ahead.

47

48 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
49 wanted to -- from my own perspective let Brittany know

50

0144

1 that -- I don't know how to attribute it to any one  
2 thing but definitely over the years I've found the  
3 working relationship with Fish and Wildlife Service to  
4 have improved and a lot of it is an interpersonal  
5 relationship you develop with folks over time and  
6 getting to know each others goals and limitations and  
7 being able to contact somebody that you know already  
8 always makes it easier to have these important  
9 sometimes difficult discussions, like this body. And I  
10 think the success of the folks here has, like that  
11 class, been influential in developing those  
12 relationships and keep moving in that direction.

13

14 So I want to thank everybody who I  
15 recognize here over the number of years, all their  
16 efforts too.

17

18 Thanks, Crystal. Thanks, Eric.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Karen. Other  
21 comments, questions for Crystal.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Crystal, do you know  
26 the schedule for the next class or classes that are  
27 open for people?

28

29 MS. LEONETTI: Actually I don't have  
30 them right in front of me but there are three classes  
31 coming up at the end of April and they are tribal  
32 consultation class, the co-management class, and the  
33 Native American Policy class. So if you're interested  
34 in any of those because they're coming up very quickly.

35

36 Thank you, Patty. She put them in the  
37 chat there. Yeah, if you're interested in those just  
38 email me and I can put you on the list.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Great, thanks.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, Gloria, go  
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: Patty, have you -- I  
48 mean, Crystal have you asked different regions about  
49 books that may have been written about their area?

50



0145

1 Just letting you know Ahtna has a good book about the  
2 Ahtna people, it's for sale to the public. It's all  
3 about our culture and our history, the way we used to  
4 live.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: What is it called, I  
7 don't know if I have heard of it.

8

9 MS. STICKWAN: You could see it on the  
10 Ahtna web page.

11

12 MS. LEONETTI: Great.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: For \$20 or something  
15 like that.

16

17 MS. LINNELL: It's the latest book by  
18 Bill Simeon.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: Other regions probably  
21 have books like that too.

22

23 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah, Patty and I have  
24 been meaning to put together a comprehensive book list  
25 that would be a reference source. So we need to do  
26 that. Thank you, Gloria, I'll look that up.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you,  
29 Crystal. Any other last comments or questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thanks  
34 again, Crystal. Let's see request for spring  
35 gathering, Patty.

36

37 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Hi, I'm back. Okay,  
38 so we had a spring gathering, Crystal Leonetti, my  
39 partner in crime, was the -- was acting Executive  
40 Director of AMBCC at the time, and we just felt like it  
41 was important for the partners to get together and hash  
42 out things we didn't agree on and figure out a path  
43 forward so that we could work together more  
44 cooperatively. So that was 10 years ago. And I have  
45 been thinking about it and I think it's time for us to  
46 do that again. Check back with all the partners and  
47 see how we're doing.

48

49 The Tanana Chiefs Conference -- Tanana

50

0146

1 Interior Region, however you want to put it, they're  
2 going through a planning process for their region,  
3 strategic planning in like August or something, and  
4 maybe the other regions are too. And I know the  
5 regions have bylaws for their committees, or at least  
6 most of them do. And so I just think it'd be kind of  
7 helpful for us to learn what each region, where they  
8 are and how their organizations work and is there a way  
9 we can help each other. I also thought that it'd be a  
10 good time to revisit the history and some of the -- and  
11 maybe identify the current issues, like the fall/winter  
12 subsistence hunt and those types of things. And maybe  
13 talk about the needs of the partners, either technical  
14 needs, and obviously probably funding needs, and, you  
15 know, maybe work on something like a vision statement.

16

17 I just feel like it's time for us to  
18 get back together again and make sure we're all on the  
19 same page.

20

21 So I would request approval or  
22 authorization by motion to have my work plan for the  
23 coming year.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.  
28 Questions for Patty on a spring gathering in 2022. So,  
29 Patty, I take this is a person to person meeting,  
30 hopefully by 2022 we'll be there. Any other details in  
31 terms of one day, two days, or any ideas and anything  
32 that's been thought out yet?

33

34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I was thinking about  
35 that and I think it will be at least a day and a half,  
36 if not two days. If people can pull away from their  
37 daily schedules for that period of time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. And so you're  
40 looking for a motion to put together a committee to  
41 start to flesh this out and put some details to it, is  
42 that what.....

43

44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, just authorize  
45 the Executive Director to work on it because it's not  
46 part of my work plan and I don't need authorization for  
47 a committee I'll just get help where I can from the  
48 partners, you know.

49

50

0147

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Work through it that  
4 way.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Are you  
7 looking for authorization from the Executive Council,  
8 the entire Council, from who, what would you like, what  
9 do you feel most appropriate?

10

11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, I would like  
12 to get full support for it so if the full Council, it  
13 would be wonderful.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So Gayla  
16 go ahead.

17

18 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
19 with that I'll make a motion that we start planning for  
20 a spring gathering for 2022 to go over all of the items  
21 Patty covered. I think that that is really important.  
22 And just to put a.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

25

26 MS. HOSETH: I'll wait for discussion.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: I'll second that, Mr.  
29 Chairman. Martin Andrew.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Martin.  
32 All right, further discussion.

33

34 Gayla, go ahead.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
37 I guess with that, you know, with some of those  
38 leftover funds that might be available with kind of  
39 what got covered in with what Will covered, is if, you  
40 know, there's some funding we could allocate towards  
41 this so it doesn't come out of our individual regional  
42 management body grants that we have, if there's any  
43 money available that this could be covered through  
44 that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. That's a  
47 year out from now so it'd be a new fiscal year, but,  
48 yeah, we'll look at that and see what kind of funding's  
49 required and that this is a separate meeting from our

50

0148

1 normal statewide meeting, and what's involved, so, yep,  
2 no budget's got to be part of it.

3

4 Other discussions. Questions.

5 Comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hearing none, I'll  
10 call for question.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing  
15 none we'll move to a vote, so Patty let's go around and  
16 the three partners and get a vote on the motion which  
17 is to move forward with a spring gathering in 2022 and  
18 put together a committee, an agenda, as well as a date  
19 and time and a budget, objectives for the spring  
20 gathering and the other details necessary for one and a  
21 half to 2 day meeting.

22

23 So, Patty, would you like to go around  
24 and go for a vote.

25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, please. U.S.  
27 Fish and Wildlife Service.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

30

31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of  
32 Fish and Game.

33

34 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Aleutian/Pribilof  
37 Islands.

38

39 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

42

43 Association of Village Council  
44 Presidents, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta.

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Bristol Bay.

49

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1 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Ahtna InterTribal  
4 Resource Commission.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak.

9

10 MR. AHMASUK: Yes.

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: North Slope Borough.

13

14 MS. HEPA: Yes.

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sun'aq Tribe of  
17 Kodiak.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And Tanana Chiefs.

22

23 MR. MAYO: Yes.

24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.

28

29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The motion passes,  
30 Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Let's  
33 see, housekeeping and request for ad hoc committee.  
34 Patty, I'm not for sure, I think you put that on the  
35 agenda. Do you know where we're at with that?

36

37 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Hold on one second,  
38 I got to pull the agenda up here.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. It's  
41 called housekeeping, Item No. L.

42

43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, bylaws.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Bylaws.

46

47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It's kind of a --  
48 well, sort of information. I don't need action today  
49 but I wanted the Council to know that I've been looking

50

0150

1 at the bylaws and probably at the fall meeting I will  
2 have more definitive information about looking at them  
3 and fixing some of the issues that I've identified so  
4 far. So I will be requesting a committee but not at  
5 this meeting. Just to give the Council a head's up and  
6 if anyone has any issues about the bylaws they can let  
7 me know.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Patty, is  
10 there such a thing as a bylaws committee?

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. So is your  
15 thinking to try to pull one together or are you just  
16 making a general request for people to spend some time  
17 looking at the bylaws or how would you like to do this  
18 because I'm trying to kind of.....

19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, this is just for  
21 information right now that I will be requesting a  
22 committee at the fall meeting but I need time to put  
23 together the documents for that request.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, got it,  
26 sorry. Thank you.

27

28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: But in the meantime  
29 if anyone has any issues with the bylaws they can let  
30 me know.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So the  
33 suggestion is to start looking at them and if you have  
34 questions start jotting down a list of what your  
35 questions might be and whether you might be interesting  
36 in serving on that committee that'll come up in the  
37 fall meeting.

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, perfect.  
42 Anything else on that?

43

44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
47 Patty. AMBCC Committees. Review of membership, Chair  
48 appointments and committee need. I think, Patty, you  
49 had sent out a revised list that nicely summarized the

50

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1 committees, the committee Chairs, and whether the  
2 committees were active and whether the committees  
3 should be, perhaps disbanded or not because of their  
4 inactivity, as well as membership of either retirees  
5 like Mr. Fall or other positions that were no longer  
6 funded.

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chair. Before I move on to that there was a question  
10 in the chat, will I be sending out the bylaws, yes, I  
11 will, and they are also on our website at  
12 [www.alaskamigratorybirds.com](http://www.alaskamigratorybirds.com).

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks.  
15 So Patty go ahead.

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: At almost every  
18 meeting when we go over committees we talk about has  
19 this committee met and a lot of times it hasn't and so  
20 I thought, after talking with Eric, it would be a good  
21 idea just to lay out all the committees, all the  
22 members, and with the recommended actions for each one.  
23 And I'm not going to go through this at this meeting, I  
24 just want to provide it to you so that we maybe can  
25 take action at the fall meeting.

26

27 So what I want to explain right now is  
28 just how I've laid the document out.

29

30 So like I said I'd like to put this on  
31 the fall meeting agenda so I listed all of the  
32 committees that the AMBCC has authorized. So first of  
33 all I would like the Council members, over the summer,  
34 and before the fall meeting, to take a look at your  
35 partners members and make sure that they still are  
36 willing to serve and they're up to date. And if  
37 there's any changes then you can bring them to the fall  
38 meeting.

39

40 The second thing is to look at the  
41 committee itself and it's mission or what it's been  
42 charged with and determine whether or not it should be  
43 retained.

44

45 So for example you can see Technical  
46 Committee it's got your current members, I have Jim  
47 Fall highlighted because in the membership changes  
48 section just below the member's names, I'm recommending  
49 to remove Jim Fall because he is retired, you know,  
50

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1 unless he wants to stay on. So that's kind of how I  
2 laid it out. The current membership, the membership  
3 changes, and then the next thing is my recommendation  
4 to the Council on what to do with this committee. So  
5 in this case of the Technical Committee I'm  
6 recommending to retain it as it is an active committee.

7

8 So again Emperor Goose management  
9 subcommittee, same thing, you got the current  
10 membership, the exclusion, the membership changes, and  
11 the recommendation.

12

13 So it's quite a lengthy document, we  
14 have a lot of committees. So like I said take the  
15 summer to review and then we can go over this in the  
16 fall and finalize the decision on the committees that  
17 we have before us.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Sound good, Patty,  
20 thank you for doing that. Any questions for Patty on  
21 that.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So the assignment as  
26 I understand it is for Council members to look at this  
27 document, look at the partners that you have. For  
28 example, I will look at what personnel from Migratory  
29 Bird Management sit on what committee and I'll make  
30 sure that, one, they're still interested and two,  
31 they're available. And then also the request is look  
32 at the committee itself and Patty has made  
33 recommendations, retain, or disband and be ready to  
34 voice an opinion on that, to say, yes, I agree with  
35 that or, gosh, no, just because it hasn't met doesn't  
36 mean we shouldn't get going, let's get going on it  
37 again. So over the summer please take a look at this  
38 and then be ready to voice your opinion and we'll clean  
39 it up once and for all and have an active committee.

40

41 Julian, I think your hand was up.

42

43 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, just a question for  
44 Patty. Looking at this list I noticed that there is  
45 several subcommittees under the Technical Committee  
46 although they really seem like stand-alone committees,  
47 is there a reason for that structure or is that just a  
48 recommendation that I could maybe make to change the  
49 structure of all these committees, that's a little

50



0153

1 confusing?

2

3

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, you can make that recommendation. That was just how they were set up when the committees were set up. We set them up as subcommittees under the Technical Committee and I think it was just an organizational or how to organize the committees kind of an issue but yeah we can reorganize that during this process as well.

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Julian. Thanks, Patty. Any other questions for Patty on committees and what we're asking folks to do.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing nothing we've got our assignment. Thanks, Patty.

Let's see invitation for public comments. Do we have anyone from the public that would like to make a comment, thoughts, perspectives, requests.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, hearing none, I do have a request, because I'm looking at phone numbers and before people escape, I'd like to know who's associated with what phone number. So I'm going to read out your phone number and could you please tell us who you are.

So 907-306-8491, who might that be?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It's got to be somebody. 306-8491.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, we'll move on. 907-386-6190.

MR. DEVINE: Yes, that's me, Mr. Chair. Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,

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1 Peter. Let's see the next number 907-640-4317.

2

3 MS. KAYOTUK: Yes, Carla Kayotuk with  
4 the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Carla. Let's  
7 see, uh-oh, the numbers are changing on me here. 907-  
8 757-2096.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, that's  
11 Martin Andrew calling in from the AVCP region here in  
12 Kwethluk.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thank you,  
15 Martin, and thank you for joining the Council. And  
16 let's see, finally, maybe 907-852-0350.

17

18 MR. SFORMO: Well, that could be me,  
19 Todd Sformo, I'm not sure.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yeah, we got to come  
22 up with a way.....

23

24 MR. SFORMO: I'll take the number.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Todd, you're  
27 incognito there. We got to come up with a way to put  
28 names with the phone numbers. Did I forget anyone that  
29 just called in and I didn't identify your phone number?

30

31 MS. LINNELL: There is a way to put a  
32 name to a phone number through Zoom. If you go to  
33 their name, there's three dots in the upper righthand  
34 corner, you can rename them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, man, all right, I  
37 did not know that Karen. We're going to do that next  
38 time that no one will stay in disguise.

39

40 MS. LINNELL: Right.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, excellent.  
43 I learned something. All right, thank you for that.

44

45 Council and Staff comments.

46

47 So, Patty, it might be easiest for you  
48 to go down the list. We're at 4:30, we thought we  
49 could do this pretty quickly, I'd like to hear

50

0155

1 everyone's perspectives on how things went. Patty, can  
2 you go down the list.

3

4

5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I had to  
6 unmute myself first. Okay, let's see let's start from  
7 the bottom and go to the top, Randy, Tanana Chiefs.

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MR. MAYO: Yeah, can you hear me?

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yep.

MR. MAYO: Yeah, I'd just like to thank  
everybody for participating and it was a good meeting.  
And, hopefully, the next meeting we'll all see each  
other in person. So, thank you everybody.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.  
And thank you for your heroic efforts to make it to the  
meeting, you and Deborah with your two feet of snow, we  
appreciate that. All right, Patty.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, Sun'aq Tribe of  
Kodiak.

MS. CHERNOFF: Hi everybody. I just  
want to say thank you to everyone who provided us with  
reports today. I think it was a great meeting. Sun'aq  
is up and running with our Kodiak roaded permits,  
issuing those. We ran into a little bit of trouble  
about how to get them to people so Kelly Krueger with  
Sun'aq, who's now with Fish and Game, did a great job  
at getting those up online so if you wanted to -- well,  
I guess you can only see so far, if you go to  
Sun'aq.org those permits are up there. So people sign  
in, it's really simple, and within a day she responds  
and I think she -- I'm not sure, I think she was going  
to send packets out but everyone I know so far that has  
done it receives them online and you just print out  
your copy so it's a really simple process. We're  
excited about having the option to hunt on the road  
system. I haven't been out yet, so I guess I'm looking  
forward to this springtime. And going through this  
process really highlighted to us some -- a few things  
in the book and finding out about regulations but we'll  
get to that when we talk about the book.

So I guess I want to say thank you to  
everyone for all your reports and attending the meeting  
and all the knowledge that's attained when I attend

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1 these meetings. And everybody have a great week, I  
2 think. I'm not sure what -- I'm not sure if it's the  
3 week or the weekend, but, anyway, thank you all.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Coral. And,  
6 yes, I'll echo thanks to Kelly's efforts and, in fact,  
7 several people, including yours to get the Kodiak road  
8 permit up and running, and the Covid pandemic put the  
9 brakes on having that in person, being able to do those  
10 permits in person but we were able to get them up  
11 online and I think the system -- I've tested it  
12 multiple times and it does work pretty seamlessly. So,  
13 thanks.

14

15 All right, Patty, who's next.

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Taqulik, but I got a  
18 chat saying she's trying to call in. Did you get back  
19 online Taq?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I see there's five  
24 numbers. If not, we can move to Brandon in the Kawerak  
25 region and maybe catch Taqulik after.

26

27 MR. AHMASUK: No, I don't think I had  
28 too much to add. Again, apologies I was late this  
29 morning, I did have an appointment this morning. I  
30 really wish I could see everybody in person but it is  
31 great to see, at least on video, the camera, to see  
32 everybody's doing okay, even for the folks on the  
33 telephone, it's good to hear them. You know it's  
34 always good to know that everybody's doing okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Brandon.

37

38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay, next we have  
39 Gloria Stickwan with Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
40 Commission.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you. It was a  
43 good meeting. Hope to see you in the fall and hope you  
44 have good summer and safe summer and keep safe.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Gloria.

49

50

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1 Gayla, next, Bristol Bay.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Hi, good to see everybody,  
4 hear everybody. I think it was a really good meeting  
5 and I think that we're all getting used to this, it's a  
6 long day to be in front of the computer but I'm glad  
7 that we got it done in one day so that makes it nice.  
8 Our meeting was good and I think that having the  
9 committees before the meetings also helps and then the  
10 regional body meetings.

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The only thing I wanted to say is that all of those pending proposals that we have that are in Technical Committee, like our fall and winter proposals, I see that we lost our legal representation on that list that you just shared, Patty, with our committees so that just concerns me a little bit as we're going to move forward but maybe having that spring gathering in 2022 could help us kind of see into the future in what we can do. But I know that -- I don't know how many numbers of proposals we have that people have submitted that we haven't taken any action on yet and that's something that I don't want us to forget about. So maybe at our fall meeting we could kind of have an overview of those and see what next steps we could take to try to get some of those proposals addressed.

I'm happy to hear that the surveys will be done this year. I think that was a big question that we had when we had our Technical Committee review. So I'm glad that the surveys will be done and it will help us with the bird population numbers.

Good to see everybody. Miss having lunch with you guys during our breaks and our little conversations. This is one of our favorite Council meetings so thanks everybody.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay, and next is Martin Andrew with AVCP.

MR. ANDREW: Hello, good afternoon. I'd like to thank everyone, you know, it was a real good meeting, very informational. I just wanted to, you know, wish everybody out there for the coming spring and summer, you know, stay safe, stay healthy

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1 and let's all have a good summer.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

6

7 And Peter Devine.

8

9 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Patty.  
10 Good to hear everybody on. Good reports. And glad to  
11 hear everybody's here this spring and looking forward  
12 to the fall meeting where we could all get together. I  
13 know our community is pretty much vaccinated so  
14 hopefully the rest catch up soon.

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Peter.

17

18 And then we'll move to our State  
19 partner, Ryan.

20

21 MR. SCOTT: Thanks, Patty. I apologize,  
22 I'm having some internet challenges. I've got a couple  
23 teenagers who are busy with school stuff and I think  
24 that's sucking up some of the internet stuff.

25

26 You know I got to tell you guys, I'm  
27 pretty excited today, actually, not only to see  
28 everybody and to hear everybody, but several things  
29 really hit home for me and most have been mentioned but  
30 I'll just highlight a couple of them.

31

32 To Coral and Kelly, getting the permits  
33 online for the Kodiak road system, that's great. The  
34 fact that that hunt is happening, you know, being a  
35 really pretty newcomer to this Council, that was a --  
36 those were long kind of tough conversations and I am  
37 super excited that that's off the ground and I'm  
38 looking forward to seeing how that goes.

39

40 I was also intrigued, our discussion a  
41 little bit earlier about AMBCC members talking with the  
42 RACs around the state. I think that's very good. I  
43 actually kind of, in the back of my mind, throughout  
44 the afternoon, been thinking, you know, a little bit  
45 more of a holistic approach/though process with, you  
46 know, not only this Council but the RACs and the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board and maybe the Board of Game  
48 and State Advisory Committees were mentioned as well.  
49 And I really appreciate some of that thought and that

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1 process that's going through.

2

3 And, finally, I guess I'll say that,  
4 you know, I hope we can get together in the fall. I  
5 realize we have challenges to overcome and many of us,  
6 you know, have concerns that are ongoing and certainly  
7 in our organization I mean most of us have been asked  
8 to work from home and we're transitioning in and out of  
9 the office, things like that, but, you know, we're  
10 moving forward to trying to get back to kind of the  
11 normal schedules and things like that.

12

13 But, yeah, I gosh I hope everybody is  
14 safe this spring and summer. I hope it's a very  
15 prosperous summer for everybody and we can get out and  
16 utilize the resources that we all depend on.

17

18 Thanks for today.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Ryan.

21

22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That leaves you,  
23 Eric.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, thanks,  
26 Patty. I echo what many folks said. I know we've been  
27 having virtual meetings for over a year now and I'm  
28 sure all of us are tired of Zoom and Teams. Many of us  
29 are on the computer all day long. I've made you sit  
30 through eight hours of meeting today and I appreciate  
31 your endurance. Like all of you, I'm hopeful in the  
32 fall meeting we'll be in person because I miss the  
33 interaction with individuals.

34

35 I thought it was a productive meeting.  
36 I thought it was pretty face-paced. I hope I didn't  
37 make it too face-paced for everyone.

38

39 I appreciate the efforts that Julian,  
40 Michael, Tamera and others put together some proposals  
41 to improve the clarity for both hunters and subsistence  
42 users as well as law enforcement and the public on  
43 where those areas are. Future improvements need to be  
44 done to the regulation books and thank you to those  
45 individuals that have stepped up to serve on that  
46 committee.

47

48 All of you know that we have a new  
49 Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, an American Indian,  
50

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1 first American Indian to serve on the cabinet of the  
2 United States, pretty impressive. And a little  
3 reminder that we have the only Migratory Bird  
4 Subsistence Program in the United States, so I'm very  
5 hopeful that the Secretary will perhaps even pay us a  
6 visit someday or at least acknowledge the importance of  
7 this group. It's a unique opportunity with the  
8 Secretary in place and I look forward to perhaps  
9 highlighting the great things that we do.

10

11 So thank you.

12

13 The last thing is date and place of the  
14 next meeting. I'm not for sure if place is probably  
15 maybe a little bit premature to pick until we watch  
16 what this pandemic is doing but date we can certainly  
17 take a stab at that.

18

19 Patty, refresh my memory, I want to say  
20 it's like the third week in September or so that we  
21 typically hold the fall meeting; is that right?

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
24 And I did not include calendars in the meeting packet  
25 so if you just want to leave it to me to send out a  
26 doodle poll I can certainly do that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I think that's a  
29 great idea. I think that's probably easier for  
30 everybody to get back and take a look at their own  
31 calendars and see what fits best.

32

33 Okay, anything else for the good of the  
34 order that I might have missed or that people thought  
35 of at the last minute.

36

37 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks. I just  
42 wanted to thank all of the partners. I, for those of  
43 you that don't know, I retired as the full time  
44 Executive Director of CRRC a year ago and retained the  
45 AMBCC role in a half time basis. When I was the CRRC  
46 Executive Director I could easily spend a lot of time  
47 on the AMBCC and it was okay, but now that I'm half  
48 time it's very difficult to get everything done with  
49 just half a day so I've really had to rely on the

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1 partners for getting the mission, the objectives of the  
2 AMBCC met. And, Eric, and his shop have really stepped  
3 up, especially with Donna being gone, and I appreciate,  
4 you know, the participation by the State and Federal  
5 partners in all the regional management meetings. And  
6 the Native Caucus, you know, I've been bugging them  
7 individually, we haven't been able to have an actual  
8 Native Caucus meeting but there's regional meetings and  
9 committee meetings and surveys and general questions so  
10 I thank you all for committing the time that you do to  
11 the AMBCC because I think it's really a worthy program  
12 and much needed so appreciate your support.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.  
17 Yeah, I think this works only because all of us throw  
18 the effort into it. So we certainly appreciate your  
19 efforts given the pandemic and your personal  
20 challenges.

21

22 So with that I will entertain a motion  
23 to adjourn.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Motion to adjourn, Mr.  
26 Chairman. Martin Andrew.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Martin. A  
29 second.

30

31 MR. DEVINE: Second. Aleutian/Pribilof  
32 Islands.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.  
35 Devine. All right, all in favor.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, folks,  
40 have a good summer, be safe and we will see you in the  
41 fall.

42

43 MR. SCOTT: Bye everybody.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Bye-bye.

46

47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Take care.

48

49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

50

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)  
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 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 20th  
 day of June 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Salena A. Hile  
 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
 My Commission Expires:9/16/2022