

VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
APRIL 5, 2019

Members Present:

Ryan Scott, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Priscilla Evans, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
Taquilik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow
Coral Chernoff, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Jennifer Hooper, Association of Village Presidents
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
Debra Lynne, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Crystal Leonetti (Acting)

Recorded and Transcribed by:
Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668 - sahile@gci.net

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/5/2019)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Good morning, everybody. The time is 8:40 and we're back on the record. Welcome everybody to day two. At this time I know that people have flights to catch. I just want to open it up to public comment for those who might not be here this afternoon to weigh in on any of our upcoming agenda items or if anybody has any public comment at this time.

Go ahead and come up to the mic, please, Tim. State your name for the record and where you're from.

MR. ANELON: Tim Anelon. I'm from Iliamna. I'd like to comment on our proposal that's coming up. The people that live out here in the rural villages and they move out here to the city, the grandparents and the family can't afford to hunt, so they send for their nephews to come out and hunt for them and nieces to come out and hunt. So they go out there and they don't ask for permission from anyone because everyone knows where they're at.

Like I said yesterday, we have 125 people that live in our village. To have family come out and hunt for them is a big deal because they can't afford to go out and hunt. I don't really know if they buy hunting tickets.

I've seen where a guy was being truthful on the caribou and moose hunt for the families and when he caught a moose or caribou and he wrote it down on his ticket, they came and took away his gun because he caught one for the father-in-law. But he was being truthful on the thing. He didn't know that he had to put that he caught that for his father-in-law.

You know what I'm saying? So it's kind of hard to see people -- you know, they don't have very much money out there. I'd like to see this pass.

That's my testimony.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
4 coming, Tim, and sharing your concerns. Tim is the
5 chairman for the Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council in
6 Dillingham. In English, Yaquillrit Kelutisti means
7 keeper of the birds.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 Anybody else for public comment.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Is there anybody
16 on the phone this morning?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I know people
21 will be calling in later. All right. I think we left
22 off with we were going to go onto 2020-04, change
23 fall/winter regulations to allow subsistence harvest
24 regulations from September 1st to December 31st.
25 Submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Management
26 Committee.

27

28 Taqulik.

29

30 MS. HEPA: Again, at our fall meeting
31 in Atqasuk that discussion was brought up and it's been
32 brought up a number of times throughout the years with
33 the AMBCC. At the wish of the committee or regional
34 management body, we submitted and drafted the proposal
35 and it reads: The Alaska spring migratory bird harvest
36 regulation would extend from 1 September to 31 December
37 for qualified areas and hunters. This will provide for
38 customary and traditional practices while reducing
39 chances of unnecessary law enforcement action.

40

41 When they set the date, I think it was
42 during the 1996 amendments with whatever group had come
43 to consensus. Those were the dates that they picked.
44 Not thinking that in reality there may be times that we
45 go past the August 31 timeframe, in particular on the
46 North Slope because it is a hunt that does currently
47 occur. I know that many people aren't aware that
48 they're switching from a subsistence hunt to a sport
49 hunt under the State of Alaska's hunting regulations.

50

1 In our view, the opportunity for us to
2 have a legalized hunt was to legalize our customary and
3 traditional practices. That's how we practice our hunt
4 and it's up for discussion. I'm not sure where it's
5 going to go, but I'm hoping at the end of this
6 discussion for this proposal we have a stratified
7 effort together with Fish and Wildlife Service, our
8 Native caucus and the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game on how do we want to address this, especially now
10 in times with climate change.

11

12 The birds are coming before the April
13 2nd deadline. What are the rules and options that we
14 have. What are things that we could do together to let
15 our voices be heard that we need to fix this. Our goal
16 is to make this a law-abiding regulation for our
17 subsistence people.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
22 that. If anybody wants to entertain a motion for
23 discussion for adoption on the floor.

24

25 MS. EVANS: I make a motion to adopt
26 2020-04.

27

28 MR. HARRIS: Second.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
31 and seconded. Now we'll have discussion on this. Let
32 me find my cheat sheet. I believe it's Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game.

34

35 MR. SCHAMBER: For the record, my name
36 is Jason Chamber, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
37 The Department did not render a biological opinion on
38 this proposal because the proposal falls outside the
39 limits of the agreements of the 1997 amendment to the
40 Migratory Bird Treaty Act and, therefore, we have no
41 further biological opinion at this time.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jason.
44 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Eric.

45

46 DR. TAYLOR: Eric Taylor. Julian
47 Fischer is not here yet, so I'll give an opinion on the
48 Service. As Jason Chamber said, this is outside the
49 purview of the Fish and Wildlife Service and my agency

50

1 because of the reasons that Jason cited. The 1997
2 protocol was specific in terms of the convention and
3 the amendment of the convention, and that the season
4 was between March 10th and September 1st for the
5 spring/summer.....

6

7 (Conference operator interruption)

8

9 DR. TAYLOR:subsistence season.
10 As an employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service, I
11 can't comment on this in terms of moving forward with
12 any recommendation because I'm bound to follow the
13 regulations of the convention.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I just wanted to
18 follow up with that, Eric. So you can't comment on
19 this because of the regulation. If we're able to move
20 forward to make changes, are you going to be able to
21 comment on that?

22

23 DR. TAYLOR: I can comment on the
24 interest of the councils and the regions in Alaska that
25 have migratory birds in their region that they would
26 like to hunt. I mean I can certainly comment on the
27 request by the various regions of the Council and their
28 interest in moving this forward. But from a regulatory
29 aspect or from a formal aspect of actually putting
30 something forward to the Department of Interior I
31 can't.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you
34 for that clarification. We had the report yesterday
35 from the Technical Committee analysis. Now we'd like
36 to open up for public comment on Proposal 04.

37

38 MR. SIMON: For the record, Jim Simon
39 with Tanana Chiefs Conference and Ahtna Intertribal
40 Resource Commission. This has been an ongoing
41 conversation since the beginning. I have personally
42 always found it very frustrating that, as I mentioned
43 on the record yesterday, there's never been sufficient
44 money to do the harvest monitoring of the spring and
45 summer migratory bird program.

46

47 Yet the governments have insisted on
48 further diluting the impact of those limited funds to
49 be able to capture harvest outside the purview of this

50

1 Council to document the harvest after August 31st, et
2 cetera, during the fall and winter seasons.

3
4 I appreciate that redirection of funds
5 to protect and conserve the bird species, but the whole
6 point from my perspective of the treaty amendment was
7 to authorize indigenous, meaning real Alaska Native in
8 our case, not just rural residents as was redefined by
9 Congress. They are customary and traditional ancestral
10 uses of migratory birds.

11
12 I don't understand why -- and with all
13 due respect -- why the State of Alaska and the Federal
14 government doesn't have the same concerns about
15 funding, backfilling the HIP program that is flawed and
16 doesn't work in Alaska. Money that comes to this
17 organization to do harvest monitoring is similarly
18 constrained by the regulatory authorities that this
19 Council has. Then why is that money going outside the
20 spring/summer season, which then creates more
21 conservation concerns that further challenges customary
22 and traditional ancestral uses of migratory birds?

23
24 So I guess what I continue to think and
25 the work that I do now is, as I mentioned in the
26 Caucus, do we need to go back for yet another
27 congressional fix? We already are being told now the
28 Federal Subsistence Program has nothing to do with
29 Alaska Natives and tribes in Alaska.

30
31 We're having all these challenges of
32 trying to implement on the ground what the treaty
33 amendments were in place for. The constant battle and
34 challenge of operating all these different regulatory
35 structures; halibut, fish and wildlife, birds, marine
36 mammals. Each commission.

37
38 It's overwhelming and there should be
39 some sort of practical-minded fix to address this issue
40 or at least a consistent government engagement with
41 you're monitoring all year or you're keeping within the
42 sideboards of your authorization, you know, because
43 then we'll have better data perhaps, if it's even
44 necessary anymore.

45
46 Again, referencing my comments
47 yesterday to continue this harvest monitoring and this
48 imposing on rural households to provide this
49 information. Anyhow, I'll get off my soapbox now.

50

1 Thank you.
2

3 DR. TAYLOR: Jim, thank you for your
4 comment. I want to make sure I'm clear on this.
5 Yesterday you questioned whether the necessity of the
6 subsistence harvest surveys, is that right?
7

8 MR. SIMON: Depending on what the
9 programmatic need is for that information. My
10 understanding is that was to identify that there was
11 not going to be an increasing trend of harvest and the
12 establishment of new traditions.
13

14 DR. TAYLOR: Okay.
15

16 MR. SIMON: Which seems to be the case
17 because of the actions that this Council has taken.
18 Like when the Delta Junction community started really
19 hammering in the spring and summer, non-Native people,
20 Healy Lake Traditional Council came to the Subsistence
21 Division and tried to develop the fix, which is then
22 how the State proposed to change the excluded area to
23 be more than just the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
24

25 So what's happening is the Native
26 organization participants are actually here having to
27 shut down their opportunities to protect the resource
28 such that they're not even able to access them because
29 of some edit that took place in the Protocol Amendment
30 in '97 redefining indigenous.
31

32 I'd like -- you know, you don't have
33 any anthropologists working with you and that's what I
34 am and I really wish that you guys would take a few
35 steps backwards to be able to see the whole history now
36 that we're so far into this program and reevaluate.
37

38 When you say we can't establish a
39 subsistence season because of the authorities of this
40 Council, well that same argument -- I mean I was the
41 one on the Harvest Committee and Technical Committee
42 saying why do we keep taking the money that isn't
43 enough to even deal with spring/summer harvest and now
44 we're trying to backfill the incomplete HIP, Harvest
45 Inventory Program. It just seems ridiculous from a
46 tribal advocate standpoint and now I'm a tribal
47 advocate I can say it. When I was a State employee I
48 couldn't.
49
50

1 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you. Liliana is way
2 better equipped than I am, but you mentioned yesterday
3 that the harvest survey had gone through several
4 reviews and the Fish and Wildlife Service contracted
5 with Colorado State University and two biometricians
6 there and statisticians to work with the Service, work
7 with the AMBCC and ADF&G to actually kind of step back,
8 like you recommended, and first identify the objectives
9 of the survey, which took a while to determine what
10 were the objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Service,
11 the Fish and Game and the Native Caucus to try to get
12 that harvest survey to do I think what all of us wanted
13 to do to accurately represent harvest.

14
15 You're correct. I mean there's always
16 compromises when a budget is involved and my agency is
17 largely the agency that funds the survey. I wish I had
18 unlimited budget, but in terms of this group I have
19 grants to regional bodies, I have AMBCC harvest survey,
20 I have supported the Department of Fish and Game and I
21 have salaries associated with it. So given the
22 constraints on that, you're right. I mean I can't, you
23 know, fund unlimited.

24
25 So between the objectives, which was
26 boiled down to a statewide survey, and that one of the
27 primary objectives of the Native Caucus was to make
28 sure that we continue to document the importance of
29 subsistence harvest so that someone in Illinois or
30 someone in Florida can say are these birds being used.
31 That was the primary objective and I think we're doing
32 a good job on that.

33
34 You might be aware of that, but I just
35 want you to know that we spent -- this group spent I
36 think three years in total going through the review
37 process to try to compromise and meet the best of all
38 those things; objectives, timeframe and money.

39
40 In terms of your question on the
41 fall/winter, we do collect data during the fall and
42 winter as Liliana said yesterday. Is it your opinion
43 that perhaps we should not do that? The compromise is
44 by collecting that data we can document subsistence use
45 during those time periods.

46
47 I'd probably refer my next question to
48 Liliana, but I want to ask you. You had mentioned that
49 perhaps we should not do the fall/winter time period
50

1 and use those funds, if those funds are available and
2 Liliana might correct me on that, to get a more
3 accurate estimate during the spring/summer. Is that
4 what you were relating to?

5
6 MR. SIMON: No, not really. I mean I
7 think historically this review has happened at least
8 three times as far as I know. This last one that you're
9 referring to, Eric, I'm not familiar with, but I was
10 involved in some of the other reconsiderations.
11 Originally, the methodology was designed to simply
12 provide statewide harvest. It's why these confidence
13 intervals for a particular species and estimates for
14 particular areas within a region end up being so
15 bizarre.

16
17 As one of the persons for the
18 Department of Fish and Game who was charged with going
19 out to work with tribal councils to authorize the
20 collection of the survey data and they would look at
21 the information. Tetlin had 11,000 birds taken because
22 of the way the model outputted data, but it was for the
23 Interior Region, that cluster.

24
25 I don't know what your method is now,
26 but it was very challenging to then take the statewide
27 perspective and then try at times to apply it in an
28 individual little area. Like Yellow-Billed loon
29 harvest on St. Lawrence Island. So you've got a tool
30 that's designed to do one thing and then you have
31 historically -- I don't know if it's still happening,
32 but then you apply that tool to do something very
33 discreet and unique in a particular area.

34
35 I'm just calling for consistency. If
36 you cannot even engage and provide technical details on
37 the proposal before you because it's outside the scope
38 of your authority, then isn't it inconsistent to then
39 take your money outside of that authority to do things
40 that is not your responsibility, but is your
41 responsibility, Eric, with the Harvest Inventory
42 Program, that for decades now has been known to not
43 work in rural Alaska. I don't think that the Bird
44 Council should be bearing the brunt of that cost when
45 you don't have enough money to even focus on what your
46 actual authority is in the spring and summer season.

47
48 I think that you've all done a fine job
49 trying to navigate through this system and do the right
50

1 thing for the resource and for the uses of those
2 resources, but I just would like to see consistent
3 justifications for why we cannot consider a proposal or
4 why we can consider a proposal and make sure that those
5 justifications are equitable when we're talking about a
6 different topic.

7

8 Hopefully that makes sense.

9

10 Anyhow, I'm done.

11

12 Thanks.

13

14 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

15

16 MS. HEPA: Going back to one point that
17 Jim did bring up is -- and we all know this -- that the
18 inconsistency of game management regulation throughout
19 the state of Alaska is so confusing. If we can't come
20 to some kind of strategy here to address this, because
21 we want regulations that work for our people and we
22 want to be able to explain to them in simple terms how
23 this works.

24

25 If we don't have consensus and we don't
26 have a strategy, it's not -- I'm just giving you guys a
27 heads up. If we go as the Native Caucus and we open up
28 this can of worms, it's not good for Alaska. It's not
29 good for co-management.

30

31 Just talking about these types of
32 regulations to our hunters. You know, Game Management
33 26 is broken up into three units managed by two
34 different regions because there's a lot of people in
35 ANWR that like to go and hunt there, so it's managed by
36 the Interior. We never see them or hear from them, but
37 yet we have people that live there.

38

39 Nuiqsut, you're hunting on two sides.
40 One side of the river you're 26A, the other side 26B.
41 Then you've got ice seal, marine mammals, bowhead
42 whales, migratory birds in different units again. When
43 I try to explain this to the people, they think I'm
44 crazy. When you go and explain this like at Arctic
45 Council meeting or interacting with different natives
46 at ICC, they think that we're crazy.

47

48 Something has got to change and all
49 we're asking is how can we come up together as a

50

1 strategy to help this co-management regime work. It's
2 not working for our people. If I go home and I tell
3 people after August 31 when the ducks are still flying
4 south you have to go buy a Duck Stamp, you have to
5 follow these new set of rules, they're very different,
6 it doesn't make sense to people.

7
8 I just wish we would think about the
9 people on the ground. How does this affect the people
10 because we want to be the conservationist to make sure
11 we can still provide for our families. That's what
12 it's all about. I really hope that we can help them
13 and it's up to us to make that happen.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.
16 Before I call on you I just want to - and thank you
17 for bringing that up because a lot of times we have to
18 go outside and have to submit proposals to the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game, Board of Game, as the
20 AMBCC Native Caucus and we have to do things by
21 ourselves as the Native Caucus.

22
23 One thing that we need to go back to
24 and review are our bylaws of AMBCC. If you turn under
25 Tab 10 in the fourth paragraph there, it says now
26 therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Migratory Bird
27 Co-management Council, hereafter referred to as the
28 Council, is created as a statewide body to develop,
29 implement and promote a co-management program between
30 Alaska Native, Federal and State governments in
31 recognition of the subsistence use and conservation of
32 migratory birds in Alaska.

33
34 The Council, in partnership and the
35 larger system of national and international migratory
36 bird management will provide approvals, advice,
37 recommendations and information regarding subsistence
38 use in the conservation of migratory birds in Alaska.

39
40 So, with our bylaws, I don't think that
41 that ties us. That we can make recommendations for a
42 change if we need to make a change with the treaty.
43 That's what our bylaws says, that we can do those as a
44 Co-management Council.

45
46 As we sit on here as a Council and just
47 like Mr. Simon to the Federal Subsistence Board, we
48 have our hats that we sit on as the State and the U.S.
49 Fish and Wildlife Service and us as Native Caucus, but
50

1 we're bound by our bylaws of this Co-management
2 Council. We do wear those hats, but we can do things
3 as an AMBCC and recommend changes and recommend a treat
4 revision.

5
6 I think that maybe at the fall meeting
7 we should look at our bylaws again. I don't know if
8 they've been visited since 17 years ago or when the
9 bylaws were written, but we need to remind ourselves as
10 we sit here as a co-management and the authority that
11 we do have because we're a management body.

12
13 MS. HEPA: I was just going to say --
14 and thank you, Jim and Gayla, for bringing that up.
15 The treaty was amended in the '97 amendments, right?

16
17 DR. TAYLOR: Correct.

18
19 MS. HEPA: What we're talking about
20 here today there aren't very many things that need to
21 be tweaked. It's the proposal that's before us and
22 probably the invitation because you were referencing --
23 our law enforcement was referencing the language that
24 he has to abide by. Those two take treaty action.
25 There's not much more beyond that. I don't see it. I
26 mean I haven't heard it. So there aren't a lot of
27 things that we need to focus on to say how can we fix
28 this. How can we address what are the big issues of
29 today.

30
31 I've never amended a treaty before, but
32 I understand it takes a lot of effort and time. We
33 have people like Ralph or Charlie or Myron, I think
34 Peter Devine was back there in the day, that have that
35 experience. What did it take? It would take
36 communication.

37
38 From my observations when they were
39 doing that, it also took a sense of a team. Whether it
40 was Fish and Wildlife Service or the person from Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game and the Native Migratory
42 Bird Working Group, they worked together as a team. I
43 would watch them, you know, just as a young person
44 trying to figure out what they were doing. They were
45 doing pretty big things and they did a lot for us.

46
47 Now it's our turn to make -- you know,
48 because sometimes when you put something in a treaty 20
49 years later it's not working, so it's our job to fix
50

1 it. So we need to think outside of the box, you know,
2 and put our guards down and go back and talk to your
3 bosses and say this is what we've got to do. We're not
4 asking for a lot, but we need some help here.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Karen.

9

10 Debra, did you have something to add?

11

12 MS. LYNNE: Yes. Debra Lynne. Thank
13 you, Madame Chair. This seems like you're wanting --
14 you asked the question is there any recommendation and
15 I would like to ask Jim if he could come back. Because
16 he's familiar with all the processes of going through,
17 he's seen these processes, I would just like to ask you
18 Jim if you don't mind coming back and responding to
19 give a recommendation of what is -- we're talking about
20 -- what would you recommend be the next step through
21 all the complications that I'm reading about these
22 recommends from the Interior that has happened, what
23 would be the next step that this body could take to be
24 able to find a solution to this?

25

26 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Debra, for
27 putting me on the spot. I really don't have a good
28 answer for that. The first place that I would start is
29 evaluating whether or not what we're talking about now
30 actually requires a treaty amendment or is it the
31 congressional ratification of the amended treaties.
32 Which nexus is it that -- you know, because there might
33 be an initial layer that's just with -- you know, with
34 the definition of indigenous, that did not happen by
35 the State Department. That happened by Senator Frank
36 Murkowski.

37

38 So I don't think mitigating that issue,
39 which is of course a huge issue for Sun'aq Tribe with
40 12,000 Coast Guard and other non-tribal members there.
41 That doesn't require a treaty amendment in all
42 likelihood. That just requires some tweaking of that
43 ratification process that Congress did to ratify the
44 treaty amendment.

45

46 So that would be my first step as far
47 as the seasons of what migratory bird subsistence
48 management, that may go specifically to the treaty
49 because of the prohibition, except for indigenous

50

1 happen, you know, which just the United States never
2 acted on.

3
4 Another option is actually for the
5 State of Alaska to recognize tribes and utilize the
6 State existing wildlife management system to provide
7 for September 1st and onward customary and traditional
8 uses for tribal members in the spirit of the treaty
9 amendments and go through and complete the subsistence
10 law portion in State law to determine whether or not
11 they're customary and traditional uses of migratory
12 birds.

13
14 One of the things that we just learned
15 with Chugach Regional Resource Commission, who I also
16 work for, at this most recent Board of Game meeting
17 there was a proposal to open up the hunt for Tundra
18 swans and that led to the discovery that there haven't
19 been any customary and traditional use determinations I
20 think on the Lower Kenai Peninsula, so there isn't that
21 recognition of subsistence utilization of migratory
22 waterfowl in that area, in that subsistence area.

23
24 So I think those are sort of three just
25 off the top of my head approaches of how to dive in to
26 address this. I mean I think there's been quite a bit
27 of discussions about the other issues that I mentioned
28 with the inadequacy of the Harvest Inventory Program.
29 That's outside of the purview of this group as I
30 understand it, but you are just being asked to cover
31 for that inadequacy with your limited funding.

32
33 I don't know if I have really anything
34 without giving it more thought and I have been out of
35 this for quite some time, so I'm not the expert here.
36 Thanks.

37
38 MS. LYNNE: Thank you, Jim. I just
39 thought I wanted to provide more information as looking
40 for a direction and ideas. Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.
43 Karen.

44
45 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Chair.
46 This is Karen Pletnikoff with the Aleutian Pribilof
47 Islands Association. The State and Federal response of
48 we didn't even do a biological consideration because it
49 falls outside the purview brings up the bigger point of
50

1 what are your internal thresholds about when you will
2 also support revisiting the treaty because the treaty
3 no longer meets your mandates, your requirements for
4 optimal sustainable yield and conservation for
5 conservation and meeting the Federal trust
6 responsibility for subsistence access for Alaska tribal
7 members.

8
9 I think this body can ask that you guys
10 take it back to your bodies, your lawyers or whoever it
11 has to be to tell us by the fall what specifically are
12 going to be the triggers for you to start supporting
13 the need for this treaty to come into the actual
14 climate we're living in to be brought up to speed for
15 the access that we need.

16
17 Are we going to change the surveys to
18 start asking people how much pounds did you not get?
19 How many birds did you not get because of these wrong
20 seasons? Are we going to do the work that it takes so
21 we can show you that it's not just our concerns that we
22 are missing out on opportunities because of shifting
23 seasons, but we literally can show you the loss of this
24 access that you are obligated to offer us by your own
25 mandates.

26
27 So please consider taking that back to
28 your legal counsel, your bosses, whomever you need to
29 take it to so that you can tell us in the fall what
30 changes we need to make administratively to the survey
31 for us to find other ways of documenting this ourselves
32 to prove to you that you should get on board with the
33 treaty change that needs to happen.

34
35 There has to be some level of threshold
36 for you guys to acknowledge that it's no longer meeting
37 your mandates either. We just need to know what that
38 is instead of just delaying us, saying we'll never
39 consider it because of this treaty, which is a
40 completely changeable thing.

41
42 Many of us have argued for a long time
43 that it's simply a reinterpretation. That is all that
44 would be necessary for Alaska's Natives to be treated
45 with the kind of parity that they figured out for
46 Canada. Maybe it's only one of the bilaterals, you
47 know, and it's not the whole treaty, in which case
48 there's a number of countries who are interested in
49 working on bilateral issues with us right now for their
50

1 own reasons. So it's not like it's an impossible lift.

2

3 I can't ask that you guys bring that
4 information back to us for the fall, but I think you
5 guys can ask for them to bring that information. What
6 are their thresholds to get on board to change the
7 treaty.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Karen.

12

13 Any other public comment on Proposal 4.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: That brings us
18 into Council discussion. I wanted to say something.
19 This goes back to 2010, nine years ago, that we're
20 asking and the first proposal was submitted by Kawerak
21 to adjust the season dates. Then Kodiak in 2012.
22 Kodiak again in 2013. BBNA '14. BBNA '15. Now we
23 have North Slope Borough.

24

25 The time has come for us to do
26 something because this isn't working. I can't make a
27 motion as the Chair, but I would strongly recommend
28 somebody make a motion that we request a meeting with
29 the Department of Interior Solicitor's Office. That we
30 do write a letter, but we follow it up in that letter
31 that we want to have an in-person meeting with the
32 Department of Interior as AMBCC, all of us together.

33

34 Whoever can go can go to that meeting
35 and represent our needs in person and that this gets
36 done before the September meeting and then we could
37 have an answer at that September meeting of the things
38 that we can do. But I think that it's very strong that
39 it needs to come out of AMBCC that we do this as a
40 Co-management Council.

41

42 We spent a lot of time talking about
43 this. It's been in committee. I don't even know the
44 last time that our committee met for fall and winter
45 subsistence dates. We need to identify a Chair. We
46 need to start having our committee meetings as well.
47 So I would recommend somebody make a motion that we
48 start getting things done.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think we should
6 open the floor for further discussion if people have
7 further discussion. I mean that's just my
8 recommendation. I unfortunately can't make a motion as
9 the Chair.

10

11 MS. LYNNE: There's still a motion on
12 the floor.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, right. But
15 we could have further discussion regarding the fall and
16 winter dates if you guys want to talk about it further.

17

18 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes. Go ahead,
21 Courtenay.

22

23 MS. CARTY: Good morning. This is
24 Courtenay. My apologies for being late. For the
25 record, Courtenay Carty, Curyung Tribal Council. I was
26 working with the culture class at Dillingham Middle
27 School this morning for a while before I was able to
28 join you.

29

30 I just would like to make a quick
31 comment regarding Gayla's request that perhaps a motion
32 might be in order. In general, a meeting with the
33 AMBCC, I would like to encourage putting that out for
34 tribal consultation with councils throughout the state
35 since it is now a statewide issue. It's super
36 important so that we make sure that this issue could be
37 worked and as well documented as we can be to back up
38 Karen's comments earlier.

39

40 Thank you so much.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. Any
43 more discussion. Does anybody else want to weigh in on
44 this heavy issue?

45

46 Go ahead, Eric.

47

48 DR. TAYLOR: Gayla, one thing you
49 mentioned, and I'm looking at the fall/winter

50

1 Subsistence Harvest Committee, that indeed there is no
2 committee chair identified. The members on that
3 committee are Patty Schwalenberg, Jason Schamber, Mike
4 Peterson, Karen Pletnikoff, Eric Taylor, David Safine,
5 Brandon Ahmasuk, Jack Fagerstrom, Ken Lord, Peter
6 Devine, Jim Fall, Gayla Hoseth, Coral Chernoff and Sky
7 Starkey.

8
9 One positive step would be to ask for
10 someone to step up and be a chair and then call a
11 meeting. Like you had mentioned, we have not had a
12 committee meeting in quite some time. What I would
13 recommend, is anyone willing to chair that
14 subcommittee?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I mean I could
17 chair the subcommittee and we could talk about it in
18 the subcommittee, but we need to make action here
19 today. To call a committee and then to have action
20 later on in the year doesn't -- it's been nine years.
21 I mean we could definitely have a subcommittee meeting.

22
23
24 I think that we need to march forward
25 and we need to move forward and meet with the
26 Department of Interior to see what we need to do if we
27 need to amend a treaty or congressional -- how our
28 congressional delegation or do something through
29 protocols. We're not familiar with the process. We're
30 not attorneys here.

31
32 I think that to get direction here from
33 this meeting and we could have a report at our fall
34 meeting on what the next steps can be or what we can do
35 as a Co-management Council. I would be happy to chair
36 that subcommittee for the fall and winter dates, but I
37 don't want to leave it there.

38
39 MS. HEPA: So I know there's a motion
40 on the floor to approve the proposal and you also made
41 a recommendation that we make an amendment requesting
42 for an in-person meeting with the Department of
43 Interior to bring this specific issue -- to make an
44 awareness and to figure out how we could work with the
45 Department of Interior to correct it. Is that correct?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

48
49 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make an
50

1 amendment to the motion and this would be that -- how
2 would that be if we're not going to have consensus on
3 the current resolution and there's a motion on there,
4 should we.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Rescind it
7 or.....

8
9 MS. HEPA: I just want to make sure
10 that we're doing this correct.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We would vote on
13 the amended motion and we would vote on the amendment
14 of that motion and then we would vote on the final
15 motion.

16
17 MS. HEPA: Maybe if you state it and
18 then I'll say the motion.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MS. HEPA: I haven't had my second cup
23 of coffee.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead, Gloria.

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: I just think we need to
28 add congressional leaders like you said to meet with
29 them as well as the DOI.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Also we
32 know that this isn't going to pass here today. That we
33 would defer this proposal to the fall and winter -- is
34 it a subcommittee, Eric?

35
36 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The fall and
39 winter subsistence season dates subcommittee and it
40 will add to the other six that are in there. So we
41 would move it into -- it would go to that committee
42 because we know it's not going to pass and then a
43 motion for AMBCC to meet with the Department of
44 Interior and also reach out to the Congressional
45 Delegation to have our fall and winter subsistence
46 dates recognized.

47
48 MS. HEPA: I think it might be simpler
49 if we rescind the motion and then come up with a
50

1 different motion. Because we know it's not going to
2 pass, she could say that we could rescind the motion to
3 approve this resolution, put that aside and then we
4 could come up with a brand new motion suggesting what
5 you did. I think that might be easier.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So if
8 Priscilla does that, then did you second that, Cyrus?

9
10 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: And then you
13 would concur. So you would have to say that, that you
14 rescind your motion.

15
16 MS. EVANS: I rescind my motion.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Does the second
19 concur?

20
21 MR. HARRIS: The second concurs.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Is that formal
24 Robert's Rules of Order?

25
26 DR. TAYLOR: Sounds good.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So now if
29 somebody would like to make a motion of what we just
30 talked about, then we could vote on that. Did you take
31 the notes, Crystal, of what we stated and you can state
32 that and somebody can have the follow up.

33
34 MS. LEONETTI: I'll read my notes, but
35 I don't think I captured what Gloria added. So it says
36 request in writing a meeting with DOI solicitor in
37 Washington, D.C. and that the letter come from AMBCC as
38 the Co-management Council. We would need to add on the
39 topic of fall/winter subsistence dates.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: For further
42 Council discussion, there's no motion on the floor
43 right now, but as we're discussing, yeah, it's for fall
44 and winter subsistence dates. What do we need to do to
45 change this, whether we go with the treaty or can we
46 address it in a protocol to get this recognized.

47
48 MS. HEPA: Just for discussion, I think
49 it might be wise if the subcommittee met to investigate
50

1 those questions and to come up with a way forward but
2 before the fall meeting. The committee is a large
3 committee and it looks like it has a lot of
4 representation from all different groups in different
5 regions. So if we could meet like soon to come up with
6 a strategy that could be brought forth.

7
8 I'm just talking out loud. What do you
9 guys think of that or should we go with requesting a
10 meeting in person like ASAP?

11
12 MS. STICKWAN: I think you should meet
13 in person. The only way you're going to fix this is to
14 amend the treaty. DOI is going to say the same thing
15 they're saying. We can't do anything without an
16 amendment to the treaty. It can't be done.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: And our
19 subcommittee could still meet and of course we will
20 still meet on that and maybe formulate how we're going
21 to approach this, but having direction from this spring
22 meeting that hopefully by the time fall comes or we
23 could have an update that this is an ongoing process
24 that we are making change because the subcommittee is
25 not going to be able to make a change.

26
27 Those proposals have been sitting in
28 there for nine years. Nothing is happening. And each
29 year -- I mean we could look to see which region -- I
30 mean your proposal is statewide. We almost have pretty
31 much every region that has submitted and I would just
32 recommend that you guys submit a proposal in December
33 that we do this and every region has it. This is a
34 dire need that we need to get done and it's time for us
35 to get things done.

36
37 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. I'd like to
38 make a motion to that effect. The way that I
39 understand it is that the AMBCC is requesting a meeting
40 with the Department of Interior in D.C. to talk about
41 the fall and winter subsistence seasons to bring
42 awareness and to get feedback on how we could correct
43 the concern or the issue that's before the AMBCC in
44 order for us to properly manage the subsistence hunt of
45 migratory birds in Alaska.

46
47 That was a motion.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

50

1 So there's a motion on the floor.
2
3 MR. HARRIS: I'll second the motion.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Cyrus seconds.
6
7 Any further discussion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: So if this is for
12 the AMBCC as a whole for voting, do we want to do --
13 how do we want to vote?
14
15 You could call it, Crystal.
16
17 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. Native Caucus.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.
20
21 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service.
23
24 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.
25
26 MS. LEONETTI: State of Alaska.
27
28 MR. SCOTT: Yes.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion passes
31 unanimously. That will be great. In the subcommittee
32 we can work on drafting that letter and language.
33 Awesome.
34
35 Debra.
36
37 MS. LYNNE: Madame Chair. I would just
38 like to put on the record that Tanana Chiefs supports
39 this motion.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Great.
42 Now do we need to move this proposal to the fall and
43 winter subcommittee? I think that would be in order.
44 Otherwise, if we don't take action on it to move this
45 proposal into committee, that it wouldn't be passed or
46 it would fail.
47
48 MS. HEPA: I think if Patty was here
49 that she would help coordinate because she's really
50

1 good with that type of thing, to help coordinate for
2 this to happen. When we reassign committees, I think
3 that specific committee we should at least try to work
4 toward a timeframe of when we could meet, right.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yeah, but I'm
7 saying that this proposal, Proposal 4, that we would
8 make a motion to defer this proposal to the fall and
9 winter subsistence subcommittee.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Okay. I so move.

12

13 MR. HARRIS: Second.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
16 and seconded. All in favor of moving signify by saying
17 aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
22 same sign.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
27 That proposal will go into committee.

28

29 Before we get into our next proposal
30 let's take a five-minute break.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
37 everybody. Can those on the phone hear me better now?
38 I have a note to speak louder into the mic.

39

40 MS. CARTY: Right now you sound pretty
41 good, but other people around the room are harder to
42 hear. Eric and Karen were pretty soft. I could hear
43 Gloria alright but I said that earlier when you guys
44 first went to break so sounds better, thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So, we'll
47 just remind everybody to speak louder into the
48 microphones. With that we're going to move on to
49 proposal 2020-05 to rescind the Kodiak Island Road

50

1 Closure Regulation from the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

2

3 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. Before we
4 move to that I neglected to mention that in addition to
5 DOI it would be our Congressional Delegation as well.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So before
8 we move to that, are you wanting to go back to that?
9 Maybe we can just make an amendment so it's on the
10 record.

11

12 MS. HEPA: So as a friendly amendment
13 to the motion that was just passed, I'd like to just
14 add our Congressional Delegation as well.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. And does
17 the second concur? Cyrus, did you second that?

18

19 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Everybody
22 okay with that, with the Alaska Department of Fish and
23 Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

24

25 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay, so thank
28 you for that. That friendly amendment was made. And
29 now we will move on to proposal 2020-05 and I'll turn
30 it over to Kelly.

31

32 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you. Proposal
33 2020-05 is to rescind the Kodiak Island roaded area
34 closure. This is a three-year proposal to open up the
35 road system to migratory bird hunting and egg
36 gathering. It includes implementation of a special
37 registration permit to track the number of hunters, the
38 number of birds and eggs harvested and species
39 harvested. It also includes mandatory reporting for
40 all species harvested. This is because there is
41 currently a large data gap in subsistence bird and egg
42 numbers harvested in the spring/summer subsistence
43 season.

44

45 Currently the road system is closed and
46 so that is why we want to have the three-year trial
47 period. At the end of the third year we would talk to
48 the AMBCC and look at the harvest numbers and then
49 determine if we want to submit another proposal to open

50

1 up the road system following that.

2

3 We took all the Technical Committee
4 comments from 2017 into account for this proposal.
5 There were six main concerns from those Technical
6 Committee comments. I'll list those off quickly.
7 There's an accompanying proposal after this one, which
8 is 2020-06, which is for Aleutian Arctic terns. That
9 was one of the main concerns of both species decline in
10 Kodiak and Unalaska.

11

12 There was a concern about safety and
13 hunting on the road system and that education and
14 outreach would be needed for hunters on the road
15 system.

16

17 The third concern was the population
18 size of Kodiak. As of 2018 there was 12,410 people on
19 the road system.

20

21 The fourth concern was that there would
22 be non-traditional customary harvest by Kodiak
23 residents who are not Native.

24

25 The fifth concern was what I mentioned
26 earlier, was there is a large data gap because there
27 are no survey numbers. So that is why we implemented
28 the mandatory reporting and also the permit tickets and
29 actual hard data on the numbers harvested.

30

31 The sixth concern, which was also a
32 recommendation, was to have some sort of time limit or
33 sunset period from one to three years.

34

35 I would like to note that on the road
36 system there are Fish and Game managed sport hunts for
37 all other species that occur year round on the road
38 system. That includes deer, mountain goat, bear, fox,
39 ptarmigan, hare and also the fall/winter bird hunting
40 is allowed currently on the road system.

41

42 We did get Duck Stamp information from
43 2015-2017 just to get an idea of how many hunters are
44 currently harvesting birds in the spring/summer
45 subsistence season. That ranges from about 200-300
46 currently and that also is broken down on Page 6 of the
47 proposal by month. That kind of gives an idea of how
48 many people are currently harvesting.

49

50

1 I would also like to note that the tern
2 proposal will be discussed next, but currently in the
3 villages according to the publication from the
4 2004-2017 data book for subsistence harvest of birds
5 and eggs there were zero birds and zero eggs harvested
6 in both the villages and the Kodiak city and road
7 connected area.

8
9 In the villages, 27 eggs were collected
10 in 2006 and 13 eggs were collected in 2010. In the
11 city, zero eggs were collected both years. For Mew
12 gulls, which was a concern brought up, there were 15
13 eggs collected in the villages in 2017, but from
14 2004-2017 harvest estimates no birds harvested and no
15 eggs collected on the city and road connected areas.

16
17 Large gulls are what people would like
18 to collect for eggs and that is on Page 79, Table 74.
19 On that you can see is what people are really wanting
20 to collect which are the larger eggs. 2006 there were
21 344 collected on the Kodiak city and road connected
22 area and then 32 eggs in 2010, and in the villages
23 2,741 eggs in 2006 and 593 in 2010.

24
25 Kodiak people have had traditional and
26 customary harvest practices for the last 7,500 years
27 and this is our fourth time submitting this proposal to
28 the AMBCC so we are hoping we can come to some sort of
29 compromise to get the road connected area open to
30 harvest for the three-year trial period.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Kelly.
35 If we have a motion on the floor, to bring this to
36 discussion.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: So do I propose a motion
39 to adopt this proposal? Do I have to name it by
40 number?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yeah. And then
43 if you have any amendments to that, to the proposal,
44 you make it in the form of a motion with an amendment.

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: So I'd like to make a
47 motion to adopt Proposal 2020-05 and with the amendment
48 to exclude Emperors, Arctic tern, Aleutian tern, and
49 Mew gull for hunting and egg gathering.

50

1
2 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. There is a
3 motion. Do we have a second.

4
5 MS. HEPA: I'll second it.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It's been
8 moved and seconded with the amendment to exclude
9 Emperors, Aleutian and Arctic terns and Mew gulls. So
10 with that we will call on Jason for Alaska Department
11 of Fish and Game.

12
13 Thank you for coming up.

14
15 MR. SCHAMBER: For the record my name
16 is Jason Schamber. For the last few years the
17 Department has considered this issue when its been
18 proposed and the last time in 2017 when the Executive
19 Committee deferred this proposal to the newly created
20 sub committee to address the concerns that were raised
21 by the Technical Committee and during the Council
22 meeting, which the Department shared at the time.

23
24 We would like to recognize the efforts
25 of the Sun'aq Tribe in the last couple of years to
26 address these concerns. But the Department does have a
27 couple remaining concerns, but first we would like to
28 note that it is difficult for us to evaluate the impact
29 of rescinding the road closure on migratory bird
30 populations simply because we lack some of the
31 pertinent information necessary to do so.

32
33 That being understanding the number of
34 residents on the Kodiak road system that might
35 participate in the hunt, the species composition of the
36 harvest and the amount of harvest that may occur.
37 These are all important pieces to understand to make an
38 adequate evaluation of the impact on migratory birds.

39
40 However, that said, the proposal does
41 include for a permit system with a mandatory reporting
42 requirement that would help address these information
43 gaps. But the department would caution that a permit
44 system is only as good as its reporting. So that's
45 just something to consider if this were to be
46 implemented.

47
48 In hearing the current amendments to
49 the proposal that was just proposed, I still would
50

1 voice the concerns of the Department regarding Aleutian
2 and Arctic terns and Emperor geese. With Aleutian and
3 Arctic terns, as we've heard in the last couple of days
4 and even couple of years, there has been a severe
5 decline across the state of Alaska, including on Kodiak
6 Island. So they are a species of conservation concern
7 to the Department of Fish and Game.

8
9 We do recognize there is this
10 additional proposal and an amendment has just been made
11 to exclude Arctic terns and Aleutian terns from eggging
12 and harvest on the road system, but we did have
13 concerns that the option for eggging Mew gulls, which
14 nest in association with terns in their colonies, would
15 come with a confusion over misidentification of eggs
16 and potentially result in incidental egg take of terns,
17 which over time could translate into colony lower
18 impacts.

19
20 The second concern the Department had
21 was over Emperor geese, which we felt that easy access
22 by the road system to hunt Emperor geese that rely
23 heavily on days that are near the road system, coupled
24 with an unknown number of participants in the hunt,
25 could translate into detrimental impacts in what's
26 relatively a small wintering population of Emperor
27 geese.

28
29 I'd like to note that the Emperor goose
30 population across Alaska is currently under the
31 population level objective that was agreed to by the
32 AMBCC and the Pacific Flyway Council. In the last
33 couple years it's hovered just above the threshold
34 where might consider conservation measures.

35
36 Also to note that we are entering the
37 third year of a three-year experimental hunt, which
38 would allow us the opportunity to evaluate the impact
39 of this hunt that was open after thirty years of
40 closure on the Emperor goose population. So the
41 Department is in favor of continuing or maintaining the
42 current regulations, which would include continuing
43 their closure along the Kodiak road system until such
44 time we've had the opportunity to evaluate the impacts
45 of the hunt.

46
47 This concludes our biological
48 assessment.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Stay there.

2
3 Gloria.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: What's the percentage of
6 returns that you get from people that hunt out there,
7 the returns for their migratory birds permit? What is
8 the percentage that you receive back from reporting
9 from them?

10
11 MR. SCHAMBER: Are you referring to the
12 Emperor goose permit hunt during the fall/winter?

13
14 MS. STICKWAN: I'm not from that area,
15 so whatever hunt happens out there for migratory birds
16 what is the percentage of returns you get? Is it 100
17 percent, 90 percent, 80 percent return of permits that
18 you get back from hunters right now?

19
20 MR. SCHAMBER: For the fall/winter
21 permit hunt that we have open for Emperor geese, which
22 is one of two permit hunts that are available through
23 the state for migratory game birds. Our reporting rate
24 is around 80 percent initially and then we have some
25 follow up contacts. I think it's three after the hunt
26 closes to try and improve that reporting rate.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: Do you think that's a
29 good percentage of return?

30
31 MR. SCHAMBER: I think that's typical.

32
33 DR. TAYLOR: Jason, do the reminders
34 increase that percentage from 80 percent by any
35 significant margin?

36
37 MR. SCHAMBER: It increases it by 5 to
38 10 percent.

39
40 DR. TAYLOR: So your final reporting
41 rate then is somewhere between 85 and 90 percent?

42
43 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah.

44
45 DR. TAYLOR: Okay, thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Before I call on
48 you, Ryan, I just want to state that this is going to
49 be a different permit process than outside of Fish and
50

1 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife. This is going to be
2 something that Kodiak is going to do similar to what
3 Priscilla's region had done when we opened up that
4 subsistence hunt. So that's what -- this is a little
5 bit different.

6
7 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just thinking those
8 same people will probably participate in this hunt too.
9 So if there's a good return in that hunt, there will
10 probably be a good return in this new hunt that they
11 are proposing as well if it's 85 to 90 percent. To me
12 that sounds like a good percentage of return.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Good point.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 And Ryan.

19
20 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 Jason, do you have any information on the number of
22 hunters that are surveyed by the Fish and Wildlife
23 Service for migratory bird? Like I just got one the
24 other day. They do a random sampling. Is there any
25 information on specifically Kodiak hunters, like how
26 many people get surveyed and what kind of response rate
27 they get from that?

28
29 MR. SCHAMBER: You're referring to the
30 HIP survey during the fall/winter?

31
32 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

33
34 MR. SCHAMBER: I don't know that
35 specifically for the Kodiak region. I'm sorry, I don't
36 have that right now.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other
39 questions for Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
40 Jason.

41
42 Liliana. You could use one of the side
43 mics around the table.

44
45 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves, Division of
46 Subsistence. I'd like to talk about the reporting
47 system. We have a model that was implemented in
48 Cordova when the Cordova harvest was first authorized
49 in 2014. The Eyak Tribal and the people that were
50

1 proposing to open the harvest in Cordova, they
2 requested a monitoring system. They felt that was
3 important for them to have a post of the bird
4 (indiscernible) on the harvest and to cover the
5 different demographics that are in the area.
6

7 We helped them develop this system. We
8 worked closely with the Eyak Tribe and other partners
9 that were involved with the system in the area. That's
10 the subsistence program of the Forest Service there.
11 So there is households that wish to participate in that
12 harvest. They are required to register and it's a
13 household registration.
14

15 One registration for each household
16 where the registration lists all the members of that
17 household and then households that register, they
18 receive a mail-out survey in the mail later. We work
19 with the tribal councils, Chenega, Tatitlek, and
20 Cordova, the Eyak Tribe, to help with the registration
21 and the mail-out survey.
22

23 We just took that as work inherent to
24 the harvest assessment program of the AMBCC. We helped
25 them design the system and every year we send them all
26 the materials for the registration. If they need a
27 refresher on how to use the registration, we help with
28 that. Then they send us the permit, the registration
29 information, and we send the mail-out survey based on
30 that.
31

32 There has not been many households
33 registering in the Cordova harvest and it's a pretty
34 simple process to do. If Kodiak isn't interested in
35 doing that, we can do that also work in the same system
36 as we work with partners in the Chugach area.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead, Eric.
39

40 DR. TAYLOR: Liliana, can you refresh
41 me in terms of numbers of permits for the Eyak/Cordova
42 hunt that are issued each year?
43

44 MS. NAVES: At the beginning we had no
45 clue how many households would register for that at
46 all. So in the first year we geared out for 200
47 households and it has hovered around the 20-30
48 households a year. So that is the Cordova situation.
49 Kodiak may be different or not. But since we kind of
50

1 over-shooted it in the first year, it's not a big deal
2 nowadays.

3
4 DR. TAYLOR: Of the 20-30 permits that
5 are issued, how many are returned each year?

6
7 MS. NAVES: So we do the mail-out
8 survey with three waves. We send the first survey as
9 soon as the harvest season closes and then one month
10 after the first wave we send another one and another
11 one. A reminder and two months after you send a second
12 reminder. Participation is pretty high. It has been
13 between 75 and 93 percent per year with this
14 outstanding for mail-out survey. But that has lots to
15 do with I think the involvement of the Eyak tribe and
16 how they really took that as supporting the process and
17 informing their people with data. This is something
18 that is in their interest, so we think that is a key
19 part of it.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Kelly.

22
23 MS. KRUEGER: Lili, what does the cost
24 sharing look like for that? How much money does Eyak
25 put into it and how much money does Fish and Game put
26 into it?

27
28 MS. NAVES: Fish and Game do
29 everything. The Eyak, they don't do any money
30 contribution.

31
32 MS. KRUEGER: So that same method would
33 apply if we were to do this?

34
35 MS. NAVES: I'm speaking on behalf of
36 the Division of Subsistence that can take this work
37 load. We developed this system for Cordova so it's not
38 that there would be reinventing the wheel. We already
39 know how to do it. We already have our SOP that goes
40 with the materials every year. I think it would be
41 pretty easy to attack that and work in the Kodiak area,
42 so I'm taking the bullet.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
45 Jason.

46
47 Coral had something.

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess it just occurred
50

1 to me that there keeps being talk about confusion
2 between eggs. Is that perhaps a confusion between new
3 eggs, Mew gull eggs and the Arctic or Aleutian terns?
4

5 MR. SCHAMBER: That's what I was
6 referring to. It was the confusion between Mew gull
7 and tern eggs.
8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: That confusion would be
10 because of the color, the size?
11

12 MR. SCHAMBER: All of the above.
13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: They're the same size?
15

16 MR. SCHAMBER: They're similar.
17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: And the nests are the
19 same? Because I know nests can be very different so are
20 the nests the same, the same materials, the same size,
21 the same clutch?
22

23 MR. SCHAMBER: Maybe a seabird person
24 can help me out with that.
25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: I find it interesting
27 that it keeps coming up at this moment too, but then no
28 one knows that answer
29

30 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and
31 Wildlife Service. The question regarding confusion
32 between eggs of different species. So Arctic terns and
33 Aleutian terns are very similar in egg size and color
34 and the nest itself. The question of the confusion
35 between Mew gulls and the terns, there are differences.
36 The Mew gull eggs are larger and similar in size I
37 would say. The coloration and patterns on the eggs are
38 very similar. In terms of the nest contents, terns
39 often have very little nest materials, but sometimes
40 they do. And Mew gulls often have more nest material
41 than terns, but not always. So there is a lot of
42 variability.
43

44 Thank you.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Debra, Coral and
47 then Taqulik.
48

49 MS. LYNNE: So are all of these
50

1 confusions on these eggs, are they what you requested
2 to have excluded or not in the harvest? So it doesn't
3 matter because you're not going to be able to take it
4 anyway?

5
6 MS. KRUEGER: Yes, with our amendment
7 it would be excluded from the proposal for egg
8 gathering and harvest.

9
10 MS. LYNNE: Yeah, both of these that
11 they are concerned about you've addressed it and taken
12 it out of the equation.

13
14 MS. KRUEGER: Correct.

15
16 MS. LYNNE: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Coral.

19
20 MS. CHERNOFF: Pass.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Taqulik.

23
24 MS. HEPA: I was just going to say in
25 addition to that, I don't know how Arctic terns act in
26 your area but the (in Inupiaq) on the North Slope are
27 very aggressive and it's very hard to get to their eggs
28 anyway. A pretty good difference of gulls nesting and
29 Arctic terns nesting. So it would be kind of obvious
30 from my perspective but I don't know how they act in
31 Kodiak.

32
33 MR. FISCHER: My experience with Mew
34 gulls and terns on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is they're
35 both very aggressive and when you approach the general
36 area where they are nesting, they will lift off their
37 nests and they will start dive bombing you. They won't
38 necessarily be right near their nests anymore, at that
39 point they're just trying to get you out of there. So
40 if you were to approach a nest there is not going to be
41 a bird sitting on it that would identify clearly what
42 species it was that laid that egg. It would be an
43 unoccupied nest with a bird trying to peck a hole in
44 your head.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Cyrus.

49
50

1 MR. HARRIS: My observation with egg
2 hunting and we've been doing it all our lives is that
3 only aggressive gull that we see are the ones that have
4 eggs that have been their much longer than we'd like to
5 pick from, but as far as from the fresh eggs that's out
6 there they tend to be more calmer. We recognize the
7 ones that have been laying there for at least for a
8 week or so, those are the gulls that are going to be
9 more aggressive. But the (in Inupiaq) are going to be
10 aggressive right from the beginning to the end, but
11 that's my observation with the bigger gull. So there
12 is some difference.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. I
15 guess we'll go right into U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
16

17 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. So this
18 proposal has changed a lot over the years and I think
19 that reflects cooperation and a lot of meetings and
20 discussion that has elicited a lot of conversation and
21 debate. It was interesting being on the Technical
22 Committee for the first time this year and going
23 through this proposal and seeing and actually listing
24 out the different proposals that had come up relative
25 to this and how it has changed over the years.
26

27 I am veering away a little bit from the
28 biological assessment here, but I just want to
29 emphasize that I think that really reflects everyone
30 kind of working together on this and understanding what
31 each other's concerns are.
32

33 From the Fish and Wildlife's perspective, the
34 primary concern from a conservation perspective is --
35 well, there's three things that are interrelated. One
36 is the unknown question of how many hunters that do not
37 have a tradition doing this will participate. This is
38 an area that has a lot more people than other locations
39 in the AMBCC included areas, but particularly with the
40 road system.
41

42 So it's not uncharted waters but it
43 stands out and so that's where a lot of conservation
44 concerns came from. If you then say what are the
45 conservation concerns, the primary focus and concerns
46 for Fish and Wildlife Service were three species, the
47 Emperor goose, Arctic terns and Aleutian terns.
48 Particularly Aleutian terns and Emperors.
49

50

1 Something that came up at the technical
2 committee that also reflects Fish and Wildlife Service
3 concerns was this proposal that was before us did not
4 address those two species groups directly. They were
5 separated out. By including them, which if I heard
6 correctly there has been an amendment to exclude
7 Emperors specifically in this proposal as well as
8 Arctic and Aleutian terns and Mew gulls.
9

10 That alleviates a lot of the concerns
11 about potential local population level impacts on those
12 species. Incidentally Mew gulls are not a conservation
13 concern for the Fish and Wildlife Service right now.
14 The primary concern about Mew gulls was unintended
15 collection of Arctic terns that are nesting in and
16 amongst the Mew gulls.
17

18 I think the idea of incorporating a
19 registration hunt with this is a very good approach and
20 I understand that there has been some discomfort with
21 going down that path. What it accomplishes is it gives
22 all of us an understanding of who is participating and
23 in what numbers and how this might be changing through
24 time.
25

26 If there's consequences that we didn't
27 anticipate that is non-traditional hunters coming in
28 large numbers and taking advantage of an opportunity
29 that is entirely new that would have potential impacts
30 to subsistence hunters throughout the region. This
31 registration hunt will allow us to gauge that activity
32 and it will also tell us about what is being taken
33 specific area in this roaded area with a large
34 population of residents.
35

36 The other aspect of this proposal that
37 addresses conservation concerns that the Fish and
38 Wildlife Service has is the fact that it has a three
39 year sunset that will really give the AMBCC an
40 opportunity to pause, to look at all the available
41 information. Not just from a population impact level
42 because honestly measuring population change in
43 wildlife in a three year period is often very
44 difficult, but it might be possible.
45

46 We will definitely be looking at that.
47 All of us will be looking at that. It will allow us to
48 look at the participation from the public. And it will
49 also give the residents of Kodiak the opportunity to
50

1 determine if this is something they want to continue
2 having happen in their community. So that I think is a
3 real benefit.

4
5 The other part of this proposal that I
6 think is something we can all work on together is the
7 registration hunt gives an opportunity for outreach to
8 those people that are going to be participating. It's
9 an avenue to really connect with those folks that are
10 going to participate. I think that will provide an
11 opportunity to emphasize the conservation message and
12 emphasize the importance of subsistence.

13
14 That's all I've got.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
17 Julian.

18
19 Gloria.

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: The way our fisheries is
22 managed in the Copper River they know a set number of
23 people that are going to fish and they manage by the
24 average 10 years of how many people are going to fish.
25 They have a set number of who's going to fish because
26 every year it goes down a little bit, but they know
27 they base their management on that system.

28
29 Kodiak I'm sure also has a system where
30 they manage their system by how many people hunt. They
31 probably do the same average of each year, 10 year or 5
32 year average. So they know how many hunters there are
33 going to be and it's not going to be a big surprise.
34 To me, that is not a valid point. You have numbers,
35 you have data I would think from your Emperor goose or
36 whatever hunt you have down there that you can rely on.

37
38 So I don't buy this we're going to be
39 surprised by a large number of hunters. You have an
40 average of 400 you said, permits. To me that number is
41 going to stay the same. It's because the population
42 hasn't increased that much, it probably has decreased
43 because there's a lot of people leaving the rural areas
44 to go to the cities. So that number is going to
45 decrease, the number of hunters is going to decrease
46 over the years, so I don't think it's going to change
47 and I don't think you're going to get a large number of
48 hunters down there. It will probably be less I think.

49
50

1 MR. FISCHER: My only response to that
2 is you are correct. We have estimates of numbers of
3 individuals that purchased State Duck Stamps for the
4 fall/winter hunt. We do not have the same for the
5 spring/summer hunt in a roaded area. So if there
6 individuals living in the roaded area that are
7 attracted by the option of going out with easy access,
8 without a boat and hunting in the spring and summer,
9 there is a lot of people that live there and they might
10 take advantage of that and we don't know because it
11 hasn't been done in a roaded area before in recent
12 history. So we will see and that is what the
13 registration permit I believe will help us gauge.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Karen.

16
17 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Chair. We
18 haven't heard from enforcement yet but we can assume
19 enforcement is going to be able to make it to Kodiak
20 and make sure people get their permits from the tribe,
21 right. I mean it seems like there's an opportunity
22 that along with education and outreach that we will do
23 as partners to address that.

24
25 MR. FISCHER: I would defer to law
26 enforcement on that, but I would say if they would like
27 to come talk about that before they do and I think they
28 could re-emphasize this, one of the main goals of law
29 enforcement is outreach.

30
31 MR. STARK: Rory Stark from U.S. Fish
32 and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement. In response to
33 your question, we do plan to -- in any of these
34 regulations we do plan to have enforcement efforts.
35 Limited budgets and limited manpower makes it tough,
36 but we do make field visits. And right now we don't
37 have a refuge or law enforcement officer out there. We
38 usually do that, but we do fill in out there so we will
39 be making checks in the field.

40
41 MS. PLETNIKOFF: That's great to hear
42 that outreach is going to be a major part of it. I'm
43 sure that you guys could take advantage of the
44 opportunity to educate people about avoiding these
45 colonies and wherever they show up, every year. The
46 biggest thing I want is to recognize the willingness of
47 Kodiak to continue to work so hard to meet all of these
48 conservation concerns.

49
50

1 As the only group whose taken any
2 notable conservation action on these species of concern
3 in Kodiak. They're the only ones who are putting forth
4 proposals. They're the only ones who are doing what it
5 takes to try and acknowledge that there are disturbance
6 issues about these apparently very valuable colonies in
7 Kodiak. In fact, it seems like they may be the only
8 ones who know where the are. Thank you to the folks in
9 Kodiak for trying so hard.

10

11 It's not co-management to put the
12 burden of conservation solely on the backs of the
13 Native Caucus and the people's of Alaska who have been
14 depending on these species and managing these species
15 productively and wisely for so long. With all the
16 restrictions that are going to be on Kodiak with the
17 approach for this I think it's also appropriate to ask
18 that our partners are Federal and State management
19 partners look at the means that they have in front of
20 them to improve the conservation and reduce the
21 disturbance of these so that the people, the
22 traditional Kodiak hunters, are not the only ones
23 sharing this burden.

24

25 So I ask that our Federal and State
26 partners maybe even come back in the fall with some of
27 the steps that they are able to take to address these
28 so it's not just on Kodiak. I think the precedent here
29 is that the rest of us who have other species that we
30 have traditional attachments to and their shifts in
31 distribution or timing or otherwise. When there are
32 conservation concerns we all need to share in it. If
33 you guys have any response to that it would be real
34 welcome.

35

36 DR. TAYLOR: Karen, I agree. Certainly
37 with the outreach effort and with the survey method we
38 have two survey examples that were cited today both for
39 the Emperor goose fall hunt and for the Cordova
40 subsistence hunt. So we have experience in a permit
41 hunt that I am sure the agencies will share with the
42 Sun'aq Tribe. In terms of outreach there were
43 questions about the size of the eggs and the color of
44 the eggs and the size of nest bowls.

45

46 Our agency has developed a field guide
47 for those exact characteristics for use on the Yukon
48 Delta. We've been monitoring birds out there for well
49 over a decade so that sort of experience we will be

50

1 happy to sit down and share with in terms of fliers
2 because I think the comment that having a registration
3 hunt is an ideal opportunity for outreach is spot on.
4

5 It's an opportunity to talk to each
6 individual about the conservation concerns of the
7 agencies and the Native Caucus as well as the respect
8 associated with the customary and traditional hunt. I
9 can assure you the Service will be involved.
10

11 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Is it possible for you
12 to partner with refuge staff so that you can determine
13 where to conserve these colonies on an annual basis?
14

15 DR. TAYLOR: The Refuge biologist,
16 Robin Corcoran, has been monitoring those colonies and
17 certainly Robin will be involved with helping with that
18 outreach effort too. There's an Aleutian tern workshop
19 that occurs next week in two days in the regional
20 office and how to work with this effort will be
21 discussed at that time.
22

23 MR. STARK: Rory Stark for U.S. Fish
24 and Wildlife, Law Enforcement again. The law
25 enforcement officers will be involved with the
26 biologist as well and working on outreach. We'll make
27 sure we are involved with the tribe and cooperation on
28 this is the best thing and the outreach is the most
29 important part.
30

31 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 Karen, thanks for your questions and seeking that kind
33 of information from us and responses. So given all the
34 conversation we've heard here concerning terns
35 specifically, and I will have a lot more to say when we
36 get into Council deliberations on this, but we've
37 already begun actually to start to consider taking them
38 off the list, period. We have to weigh into that
39 pretty -- we have to be careful.
40

41 We want to try to -- it's a preliminary
42 discussion and there will be a lot of data collection
43 and a lot of information needed to weigh in on that
44 because it may not be necessary everywhere. And as
45 we've seen in the harvest program, in the harvest data
46 there are other places in the state that use them a
47 lot. We don't want to create an impact if there
48 doesn't need to be an impact. I want to assure you that
49 those conversations have already begun and will
50

1 continue.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

4

5 Any more questions for Fish and
6 Wildlife Service.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We reviewed the
11 Technical Committee analysis during the Technical
12 Committee report. Any public comment on Proposal 5?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: No. Okay. We
17 will move into Council discussion.

18

19 Ryan.

20

21 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
22 had a whole page of stuff to read through and to cover
23 but almost everyone in this room has done it, which is
24 awesome. A couple things, I'll just hit some of the
25 high points. I intend to support this proposal as
26 amended. I would as a point of order be sure to point
27 out that we need to adopt the amended proposal.

28

29 It became very evident very early on
30 when we started the other day that this was going to be
31 a big one. There was lots of passion and there was
32 obviously a lot of time and effort spent on this. I
33 want to recognize Coral and Kelly for bringing what you
34 did to this meeting and also sticking with it. The
35 Technical Committee as well wading through the
36 different pieces. And as we've heard this morning, I
37 believe our conservation focus concerns have been
38 addressed I think as good as we can. At this juncture
39 anyway.

40

41 The number of hunters that potentially
42 will participate, I agree with Julian, we just don't
43 know. We will see. But you brought data to help us at
44 least get an index of that with Duck Stamp numbers,
45 something to start with and build off of.

46

47 I appreciate Lili mentioning the permit
48 process they have in place for the Cordova area and I'd
49 also offer that we use permits out of the Southeast

50

1 region for a variety of things including harvest but
2 more often than not as a tool for outreach and to get a
3 handle on how many people are participating in a hunt
4 or where they are going, access points and things like
5 that. I think that's a great step and within a few
6 years it will give us a bit of clarity on participation
7 rates and it may highlight places that get jammed up or
8 you have regular conflicts.
9

10 To elaborate on that a little bit, I
11 believe we got two letters this time around. Neither
12 one of them supported this. I've had other
13 conversations with folks on Kodiak that support the
14 concept of doing this and getting it open, but one of
15 the biggest things that kept coming back is the number
16 of people. It's just that concern. I applaud you guys
17 with a tool or an approach to at least watch it and
18 collect that information.
19

20 I mentioned this last night, the three
21 year period is great but we can always remove a permit.
22 If we find that we don't have problems, we can come
23 back and have conversations about it and we can get rid
24 of it. I know a lot of times people feel like once
25 something happens, at least from the State side, that
26 it's really hard to undo it. So I like to think that
27 that's not necessarily true and if it's unneeded, then
28 ultimately we don't need to keep it necessarily.
29

30 I'd like to stop there other than to
31 say thanks again to everybody who has been involved in
32 this over the years. I'm the new guy, so I get to come
33 and see it kind of happen and play out a little bit.
34 I do appreciate the efforts and the discussions we've
35 had starting on Wednesday about this and landing here I
36 think is a real benefit to the people of Kodiak and to
37 have that opportunity and to get that back out there.
38

39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Ryan.
42

43 Coral.
44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess I just want to
46 say through all the comments that we definitely care
47 about the birds and the birds populations. That's a
48 concern for us also, but we do want hunting for all the
49 people, the original people of the island.
50

1 This has been a long process. We have
2 listened to everyone's concerns. Whether we believed
3 it was a concern or not, we tried to address it and
4 we've definitely made compromises on our side, adding
5 extra birds, the permit system. Things that in our
6 hearts that we think we shouldn't have to do, but we've
7 taken that on.

8
9 This feels like the furthest we've
10 moved on this. We've addressed a lot of things and I
11 just really appreciate I think everybody's comments.
12 You know, really talking freely about their concerns,
13 all the bird biologists and the bird managers. And
14 just to let you know we really have listened to you and
15 hopefully we've addressed those concerns that you have.

16
17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Coral.
21 I think that with you guys putting it in your proposal
22 it really emphasizes the Kodiak region and the Native
23 Caucus leading the charge for the conservation of
24 Aleutian and Arctic terns.

25
26 Any other comments for Council
27 discussion?

28
29 MS. LYNNE: This is Debra Lynne for the
30 record. As a new observer and an alternate to this
31 process, what I've learned and wanted to share I think
32 it would be important for everybody to kind of hear, is
33 that everybody here in this room that I've listened to
34 all have a connection to migratory birds, either from
35 social, cultural, or educational pursuits, but there's
36 something in everybodys hearts about migratory birds
37 and everybody has a value to that.

38
39 When everybody's value -- and
40 discussions are needed to see how everybody's values
41 line up. And I've watched the discussions go on with
42 everybody here and it's really nice to see how
43 everybody's values have lined up about all their
44 concerns. That's when you are united as a group and I
45 see that happening and I want to say thank you for
46 allowing me to witness this.

47
48 And we support this proposal.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Cyrus.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Northwest Arctic Region also supports Kodiak's proposal
5 here for the record.

6

7 MR. DEVINE: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes, go ahead,
10 Peter.

11

12 MR. DEVINE: Aleutian Pribilof Region
13 also supports this proposal. I find the goose concern
14 is not really a valid point because of a large number
15 of people that (indiscernible). Just in our region
16 alone in Cold Bay that's a hot spot for hunting birds.
17 They're only taking a third of our birds, you know, for
18 the geese. So I support the proposal.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: You're fading out
21 a little bit, Peter. We're going to try to make it to
22 where we can hear you. Are you still there?

23

24 MR. DEVINE: I was saying I don't find
25 Fish and Game's concern about the geese to be a valid
26 point because we were concerned with our goose hunt,
27 you know, bringing in mass amounts of people. In our
28 region we only took a third of our birds that first
29 year. I'm not there, so I don't know what the second
30 year results were. I would imagine those are down too.
31 One of the reasons I found out is there's no permits
32 available in Cold Bay.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. DEVINE: I lost you guys.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We're still here.
39 We're just trying to -- we're having a hard time
40 hearing you and trying to figure out what was said on
41 the record because we can't really hear.

42

43 MR. DEVINE: Okay. Just that we are in
44 support of the proposal. I find Fish and Game's
45 concern about Emperors is not really concerning because
46 that first year in our region we barely took a third of
47 what we were allowed. So it's not really an argument I
48 don't think. But we are in support of the proposal.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
2 Peter.

3
4 Karen.

5
6 MS. PLETNIKOFF: His other comment was
7 that we have major concerns in our regions about the
8 fact that the permits for the subsistence hunt aren't
9 made available in all of our communities and it's
10 preventing the actual desire for as many of those
11 permits and those subsistence hunts as would happen --
12 excuse me, sport hunts as would happen if we had access
13 to the permits as we should throughout the region.

14
15 There's no difference in our areas, so
16 some folks would be picking up a permit somewhere else
17 and it's a problem for us. So that's what he was
18 referring to. And I'll leave it there.

19
20 You know, it's an ongoing thing to have
21 such an international hotspot for sport hunters,
22 strictly sport hunters, non-traditional hunters coming
23 in, and it feels like we roll out the red carpet in
24 terms of permits, in terms of support, in terms of
25 high-fives at the airport literally with the guides and
26 the biologists.

27
28 It is a real tough feeling when we get
29 messaging that we're the ones that you need to be
30 afraid of, when we are the advocates, the stewards,
31 we're the caretakers of these species. So it's along
32 those lines that we want the opportunity to get our
33 subsistence hunt legalized and recognized as it should
34 have been back then and allowed to continue our
35 traditions in the way that we should be allowed.

36
37 Thanks.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think we can
40 make note of that and let -- hopefully Fish and Game
41 has heard to make those permits available. And I hear
42 the outcries of your region and especially the outcries
43 that when we were closed for 30 years and it to be open
44 for non-residents the following year after it opened
45 and it should have remained closed within our
46 three-year trial period. That's just something that is
47 a heartache that we all carry with that.

48
49 So we need to have permits available
50

1 for our local subsidence users who have to abide by the
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations starting
3 in September.

4
5 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 First I want to thank both Jason Schamber and Julian
7 Fischer for their reports from biological concerns.
8 Both were very well done and helpful. I also want to
9 thank the Technical Committee. Julian, Gayla, Cyrus,
10 Todd, Coral, Jim Fall, Jason as well as Patty, Melissa
11 and Kelly. I thought the Technical Committee's review
12 on all the proposals was very thorough and extremely
13 helpful in terms of in-depth analysis.

14
15 So getting to the proposal, I want to
16 thank the Sun'aq Tribe, in particular Coral, for
17 amending the proposal. It is certainly stronger and I
18 think really reflects co-management, as I think this
19 body was intended.

20
21 The proposal was amended to address the
22 conservation concerns of Aleutian and Arctic terns in
23 the colonies along that road system that, as both the
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Fish and
25 Wildlife Service have mentioned in their reports, have
26 been of continual concern in this consideration.

27
28 Also the amendment to include Emperor
29 geese and take them off of consideration addresses a
30 significant concern of the Fish and Wildlife Service
31 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 Finally, the addition of Mew gulls to
34 eliminate the harvest and eggging and thereby decreasing
35 the likelihood of disturbance in those colonies and
36 decreasing the chance of incidental or accidental take
37 of eggs between the three species. All are progressive
38 steps to make this proposal certainly a greater
39 indication of concern for all three partners; the
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife
41 Service and the Native Caucus.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Eric.

46
47 Any further Council discussion.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Hearing none.
2 You said that there needed to be a point of order on
3 the motion and I think that with Coral amending the
4 proposal when she made the motion on the floor
5 excluding Emperor geese, Aleutian and Arctic terns and
6 Mew gulls from hunting and gathering, is there anything
7 that you wanted -- or you said for point of order.
8 That would be what we would be voting on.
9
10 MS. LEONETTI: Do you want me to read
11 it?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.
14
15 MS. LEONETTI: The motion is to adopt
16 Proposal 2020-05 with an amendment to exclude Emperors,
17 Arctic tern, Aleutian tern and Mew gull for hunting and
18 egg gathering.
19
20 DR. TAYLOR: Call for question.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The question has
23 been called.
24
25 Crystal.
26
27 MS. LEONETTI: Native Caucus.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.
30
31 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
32 Service.
33
34 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.
35
36 MS. LEONETTI: State of Alaska.
37
38 MR. SCOTT: Yes.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Proposal passes
41 unanimously. Thank you, everybody. Great work. I'm
42 glad we were able to get to this consensus.
43
44 With the actions taken in 2020-05, I
45 believe there would be no action needed for 2020-06.
46
47 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair. I move to
48 take no action on Proposal 2020-06 due to the action
49 taken on 2020-05.
50

1 DR. TAYLOR: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's moved and
4 seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: All those opposed
9 same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
14 Before we get into 2020-07 let's take a five-minute
15 break.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The last proposal
22 that we have is 2020-07, amend invitation regulation
23 for urban residents. That is submitted by the
24 Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council of Bristol Bay Native
25 Association. That is our proposal, so I will introduce
26 it.

27

28 The problem that we are trying to
29 address is the participation by residents of excluded
30 areas needs to be addressed. Immediate family members
31 who reside in urban areas and are tribal members should
32 be able to return to their lands and help their
33 families harvest birds. Having a letter of invitation
34 from the village council to the executive director
35 system is not working. We have elders who rely on
36 their younger hunters to go and gather for them during
37 the springtime.

38

39 Going through the tribe to get a letter
40 is cumbersome and people are just not doing it. We'd
41 like to have a realistic regulation to allow for
42 immediate family members to return home and harvest
43 birds without being criminals for doing so.

44

45 How we would like this regulation to
46 read. This is how it was submitted: Immediate family
47 members who are residents of excluded areas may
48 participate in the subsistence migratory bird harvest
49 in the village's subsistence area with the proof of an

50

1 Alaska federally recognized tribal I.D. card to assist
2 eligible residents of included areas in meeting their
3 nutritional and other essential needs or for the
4 teaching of cultural knowledge.
5

6 This is a statewide proposal. And what
7 impact would this regulation have on migratory bird
8 population. We felt that the regulation shouldn't
9 impact the migratory bird populations any more so than
10 it does now.
11

12 How will this regulation affect
13 subsistence users? Subsistence users will be able to
14 practice their cultural and traditional hunting on
15 their traditional lands.
16

17 Why should this be adopted? The
18 current system is not working. Indigenous tribal
19 members who live in the urban cities should be able to
20 come home and assist their elders in the community to
21 provide migratory bird harvest with their families.
22

23 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.
26

27 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make a motion to
28 approve Proposal 2020-07.
29

30 MR. HARRIS: I'll second the motion.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It's been
33 moved and seconded. With that we will call up Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game for their staff analysis.
35 Jason.
36

37 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Chamber for the
38 record. The Department does not have any biological
39 concerns regarding this proposal at this time.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
42

43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
44

45 MR. FISCHER: Regarding biological
46 concerns, the only concern would be if this allows for
47 a greater number of people hunting in areas where they
48 don't normally traditionally harvest. This could occur
49 if it's written in a way that restricts it to immediate
50

1 families only and that's enforceable, then there would
2 not be any biological concerns. If that's not
3 enforceable, then it could be a biological concern.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

6

7 Julian went over the Technical
8 Committee analysis.

9

10 Public comment.

11

12 Jim and then Lauren.

13

14 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 For the record, Jim Simon with Ahtna Intertribal
16 Resource Commission and Tanana Chiefs Conference. I am
17 supportive of this proposal. We have been experiencing
18 challenges in being able to implement this portion of
19 the treaty amendments to provide these opportunities
20 for tribal members to return to their communities and
21 tribal communities of origin to be able to help family
22 members participate in spring/summer migratory bird
23 hunting for cultural purposes as well as nutritional
24 needs.

25

26 I am familiar with some anecdotal
27 information about the past and the invitation to hunt
28 process. My recollection is that it took quite some
29 time for the Council to actually move forward with how
30 this approach was. I was on the Invitation to Hunt
31 Committee of the Council for a number of years and we
32 never had a meeting actually that I recall.

33

34 I think that this proposal for the
35 tribal I.D. cards maybe could benefit from an amendment
36 to say or other form of identification. Because I
37 think that there are some tribal communities where they
38 don't have -- or some tribal members don't have BIA
39 I.D. cards. But I have heard about councils who
40 weren't real interested in having their relatives from
41 the urban areas come back.

42

43 Fortunately, I think in that particular
44 example that I'm not going to get into the details of
45 where, they eventually realized that they were engaged
46 in some internalized oppression by not wanting to send
47 out the invitation to hunt letter with a list of tribal
48 members living in excluded areas to come back.

49

50

1 I think when you look at this program
2 for spring and summer bird hunting in combination, as
3 what Taqulik has said earlier, with all the other
4 permits and regulations and different programs, it's
5 common in the Ahtna region to say in order to be a
6 subsistence user you need a surveyor and an attorney on
7 your hunting party because if you're going to
8 participate in subsistence halibut, you've got a whole
9 set of Federal regulations to deal with and programs.
10 Birds, another one. It just goes on and on.

11
12 So I think this Proposal 7 helps to
13 streamline, decrease some of the bureaucratic paperwork
14 process that tribal members -- tribal citizens, we have
15 to remember that, tribal citizens must navigate in
16 order to just be Native and practice their ways of
17 life.

18
19 So, I'm supportive of this proposal.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jim.

24
25 Lauren.

26
27 MR. PETERSON: Thank you to the members
28 of this Council for the opportunity for this public
29 comment and thank you for all your work and time put
30 towards these really important steps to look at how we
31 manage these important resources.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Excuse me.
34 Sorry, Loren. Just for the record if you could state
35 your name.

36
37 MR. PETERSON: Oh, yeah. For the
38 record, my name is Loren Peterson. My comments relate
39 to me as an Alaska Native from Western Alaska. I think
40 the idea of modernizing this treaty and looking at the
41 idea of consideration for the indigenous parties in
42 this agreement, it's important that we look at
43 sustaining the rights are preserved.

44
45 I do agree that there may be some
46 bureaucratic obstacles if members wanted to fly back
47 home and they didn't go through some of these steps to
48 get an invite from a family member or from a tribe. I
49 think there is some problems that may arise with some
50

1 villages. The tribal governments might not be serving
2 the full community, that sometimes happens, and so you
3 might have some individuals that may be left out.

4
5 The idea of using I.D. cards just seems
6 a little bit more practical. I know I heard some folks
7 say, well, the tribe would have to send an invite, or
8 one way to streamline this is to get all tribal members
9 to send in all their members' names to the agency so
10 that they're covered and that their hunters are not
11 getting out there and putting themselves at risk to be
12 in trouble if they're not following the regulation.

13
14 So I see this as that it's important
15 that we also recognize that if that process was
16 considered, like if we were to ask tribes to send in
17 the members to try and streamline this process, the
18 consideration of privacy of individuals would be
19 something to think about.

20
21 It doesn't sound like that is one step
22 that this Council is looking at, the idea of having
23 tribes send in all that information. But if we're
24 looking at different ways to try and streamline this
25 process and prevent hunters from violating any
26 regulations, because the truth of the matter is -- out
27 where I'm from -- a lot of hunters they do have some
28 apathy in terms of civic engagement and following
29 regulations. There is this feeling that there's no
30 trust in government. I think its just not in our rural
31 communities, but probably across the nation with what's
32 going on.

33
34 Going back to the mentality in our
35 communities, there is some apathy, there may be lack of
36 trust and there might be a decision to not participate
37 in some of these regulations for very good reasons.
38 That's because of some of these restrictions that were
39 placed on First Alaska Native peoples back in the day.
40 And in order to remedy this is to allow for the
41 efficient process and still allow the privacy of some
42 of these individuals.

43
44 That's why the conversation of sharing
45 tribal member names with the agency seems like a great
46 idea to try and protect all citizens, but then it made
47 me think about security breaches and names and
48 privacies of people that don't want their information
49 exposed.

50

1 So my focus was mainly on the
2 consideration aspect of revisiting this issue and
3 really consider the Alaska Natives when it comes to
4 this. Looking briefly at this treaty, it seemed like
5 it was back in the day when it was created in the '30s,
6 the dynamic between government and indigenous peoples
7 were a little bit different and we've changed a lot
8 today and I think that just removing that type of
9 paternalistic, bureaucratic regulation and allowing for
10 what Jim had said about using a form of I.D. or some
11 other form would satisfy that requirement.

12
13 Those are just my thoughts.

14
15 Thanks.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Loren.

18
19 Any other public comment.

20
21 Jim.

22
23 MR. SIMON: I did have another thought
24 based on what Loren has just said. I suspect we're
25 going to have a lot more discussion, but maybe I'll
26 just, instead of waiting for Gloria to tap me, I will
27 just speak now.

28
29 One of the tasks that I have been
30 trying to address with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource
31 Commission is really activating this Invitation to Hunt
32 Program because I have yet to find any utilization of
33 the letters.

34
35 At our meeting in September of the
36 Copper River Commission, I asked AMBCC staff at that
37 meeting is there a prototype, a template letter? How
38 does the region even get started to invite tribal
39 members back to participate in this and to participate
40 specifically in the culture camp that takes place.

41
42 So I developed a survey that I sent to
43 the Ahtna tribes with just nine questions about trying
44 to get at how many tribal members live outside your
45 tribal community. Of those, how many do you think
46 would want to come back to participate in spring bird
47 hunting, as well as other activities. This wasn't just
48 limited to birds.

49
50

1 The fact of the matter is such emails
2 and surveys get sent to the tribal administrators who
3 are already completely overworked. So we've sent that
4 survey out a number of times over the past three months
5 maybe. Still no responses. So what we were trying to
6 do was establish some of the baseline anticipated
7 levels of involvement in order to be prepared to speak
8 to any concerns about a dramatic increase in harvest
9 and the establishment of new traditions, et cetera, et
10 cetera.

11
12 So when I learned about this proposal
13 at the Board of Game meeting just the other week,
14 because it's impossible to find any information about
15 the AMBCC, current information about your meetings,
16 your schedules, where your meeting locations are, what
17 the proposals are that were before this. The only
18 thing on the website is from September 2018.

19
20 So fortunately I ran into Jim Fall,
21 who's on your Technical Committee, and he mentioned
22 that this proposal was coming forward, even though it's
23 actually a different proposal than what was represented
24 to me at that meeting. This is a great step forward in
25 fixing some of this issue.

26
27 I think that we need to mitigate some
28 of this bureaucratic hurdles, as I mentioned just a
29 moment ago, in order to give tribal citizens a
30 reasonable opportunity to participate and comply with
31 the regulations and the programmatic requirements to do
32 this. So this is a good step in that right direction.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jim.

37
38 Any other public comment.

39
40 People on the.....

41
42 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair. If there's
43 no more in the room, I'd like to speak.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Go ahead,
46 Courtenay, and state your name for the record.

47
48 MS. CARTY: For the record, Courtenay
49 Carty, Curyung Tribal Council. Overworked tribal
50

1 administrator.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. CARTY: Just kidding. So I guess
6 I'm going to try to get out everything that I want to
7 say about this proposal and try to hit on some
8 different points that were already brought up in the
9 conversation.

10

11 First I guess I'll start by just
12 agreeing with the Fish and Wildlife Service assessment
13 of this proposal in terms of potentially a biological
14 concern for opening up to increased harvest by
15 additional members. I feel like this harvest practice
16 is already happening and the letter of invitation was
17 an attempt to codify traditional practice, although its
18 been unenforceable and it's kind of not realistic for a
19 number of reasons.

20

21 I spoke on this last week at our
22 regional YKC meeting. I feel like I might be echoing
23 the same comment, but this is a statewide board and I
24 want to get out the same information that I represented
25 to our regional counsel.

26

27 From a tribal administrator
28 perspective, our council, Curyung Tribal Council, we're
29 the largest Federally recognized tribe in Bristol Bay.
30 We're a hub community for 31 different villages and as
31 the largest tribe in January, our tribal count was
32 2,741 living members and there's, one, no way we are
33 going to want to list everybody's name or provide our
34 tribal rule to the Feds, but at the same time we
35 shouldn't have to.

36

37 We've never done a letter of
38 invitation. We've not issued one, we haven't had a
39 request for one. It's just not happening. People are
40 coming home to harvest. That's happening. It's always
41 happened and it's going to continue to and we should
42 allow for that opportunity and try to get the
43 regulation as close to enforceable as we can, as
44 practical for the harvesters.

45

46 And those of us tribes who are
47 basically being gifted a workload from the management
48 structure by dealing with these letters, I will say a
49 tribal I.D. is much more realistic than a letter of
50

1 invitation. We issue tribal IDs every single day in
2 this office. I'm not certain that tribal IDs alone are
3 the only way to have identification coming from one of
4 these rural communities and being able to come back.

5
6 A BIA card with blood quantum saying
7 you are a descendant of someone, on the ANCSA roll or
8 an ANCSA corporation I.D. card. BBNC is our regional
9 and they issue us identification cards for shareholders
10 and descendants. So those are different ways we can
11 have identification that wouldn't just be limiting it
12 to tribal membership.

13
14 Because the fact of reality is that we
15 have people with BIA blood quantum cards that for one
16 reason or another do not have tribal membership. Some
17 people were removed from their communities and through
18 closed adoptions cannot establish the lineage
19 requirements that are required from the Council. Some
20 communities you have to be a certain blood quantum.

21
22 So I think some of the things that Jim
23 talked about earlier is we really have
24 compartmentalized ourselves and over-regulated
25 ourselves almost to the ability of not being able to
26 harvest our traditional foods and sustain our way of
27 life. The hub dynamic of our community of Dillingham
28 means that not all the Natives that live here and
29 return here are tribal members of our tribe.

30
31 So they might need a letter from our
32 tribe because this is the area of harvest or do they
33 need a letter from their own Federally recognized
34 tribe. It's just all a little bit too complicated with
35 the letter system. So I think moving towards some type
36 of tribal I.D., BIA card, ANCSA corporation roll card
37 would make it much more practical, much more effective
38 and really much more enforceable.

39
40 I think that's about all I have to say.
41 I guess one more thing I'll add that I talked about at
42 regional. I'm just looking back at my regional notes
43 from YKC last week. Is also about the tribal council
44 perspective and the burden of putting this work on us
45 at the council is that we're residents of these
46 communities, we're harvesters also.

47
48 If someone is living in an urban
49 environment but still very much actively trying to
50

1 maintain their cultural ties and their traditional ways
2 by returning home to hunt, the reason people are living
3 in the city is for economic opportunity. That means
4 they are generally working a Monday through Friday 9:00
5 to 5:00 job and they're flying home on Friday night to
6 be on the bird grounds on Saturday morning. Sunday
7 morning they will hunt again and they will take the
8 evening flight home on Sunday back to Anchorage to be
9 back to work on Monday morning.

10

11 How realistic is it for them to call
12 their council? They're not going to be in Dillingham
13 that evening before council closes anyway to get this
14 letter. Plus, are we even going to be available with
15 climate change and the way the birds are migrating and
16 where they're laying down? You realistically have a
17 couple weekends a season to hunt. Does that mean that
18 we're stuck to our desks here waiting for people to get
19 a letter from us to come home to hunt? No, we're
20 probably going to be out harvesting ourselves.

21

22 So I think trying to streamline this
23 process and turning it towards some type of
24 identification card system with I.D.s that most Native
25 people have for one reason or another already, is much
26 more practical, much more enforceable and much more
27 effective.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
32 Courtenay.

33

34 Any other public comment.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Hearing no
39 other public comment we will now get into Council
40 discussion. I'll go ahead and start since this is from
41 our region. I'm also the Second Chief of the tribe
42 that Courtenay is calling in from. So I mean this is
43 something that is really important to our tribe and
44 especially with our location in the Bristol Bay region.

45

46

47 One thing that I want to remind
48 everybody here is that we are trying to make this
49 easier for our tribal members and the people of our
50

1 region. This is a statewide proposal as Alaska Natives
2 do migrate to urban Alaska. We already have enough
3 genocide that has happened amongst Alaska Native
4 people. We have lost a lot of our language and for us
5 to be connected back to our traditional ways of life as
6 much as we can bring people back home and get them
7 rooted in the lands that they're from is very important
8 to us.

9
10 If we have that opportunity to do that,
11 that is something that weighs heavy on my heart. Just
12 like how things are changing in the world. The one
13 thing that we want to change is we want to change and
14 bring our Alaska Native people back to their homelands
15 and for them to be able to participate in what our
16 people were sustained for for thousands of years living
17 a customary and traditional way of life. It is very
18 important to all Alaska Natives.

19
20 So I just want to remind everybody that
21 we have enough historical trauma that Alaska Natives
22 have faced. A lot of us don't talk about it openly and
23 it's just something that we just don't talk about. But
24 we do have historical trauma and a lot of that trauma
25 is from -- I mean we don't need to get into that here
26 and now, but just to remind everybody we are holding
27 onto the last strings that we can hold onto that
28 connect people back and bring them home.

29
30 So we're trying to make this easier.
31 Of course we're tied by this treaty language, the
32 letter of submittal, and in that -- as the Chair I'm
33 not able to make a motion, and as we have discussion --
34 I mean I want to have further discussion here on the
35 Council and have people weigh in on it.

36
37 But since we do have a motion from I
38 believe Proposal 4 to approach the solicitor, that we
39 add this when we do go to the Department of Interior
40 Solicitors's Office, that the definition of immediate
41 family member needs to be further identified and
42 further expended because right now the definition of an
43 immediate family member is it just says includes
44 children, parents and grandchildren and siblings. In
45 our customary and traditional ways, immediate family
46 members extend beyond that.

47
48 So I would like to have that, if
49 possible, added when we do go to the solicitors office
50

1 as the AMBCC that we address that there. We also have
2 an Invitation sub-committee of the Technical Committee.
3 When we go later on our agenda, those who want to add
4 to that I think that this -- we'll see where this goes,
5 but we do have an Invitation Committee that we could
6 also work on this.

7
8 So those are my thoughts, especially
9 coming from our region of submitting the proposal and I
10 open it up for further Council discussion.

11
12 Gloria.

13
14 MS. STICKWAN: I think this is a good
15 proposal. The eight Ahtna villages supported this
16 proposal. Like you said, I do have a concern about the
17 immediate family. It's more restrictive than what the
18 state is. They have a little better description of
19 what that is than this one. I have a concern about
20 that.

21
22 I have a concern about the regulations
23 saying that we have to have a letter. I serve as
24 present for Tazlina and we are not going to give out
25 personal information about our tribal members. We
26 respect their privacy and we're not going to give out
27 their phone numbers or addresses. Even BIA I believe
28 says that we are supposed to protect their privacy. So
29 we're not going to list their names, our tribal
30 members.

31
32 If we do, we are going to include
33 everybody and their immediate family, whatever that
34 definition is. We're not going to list their personal
35 information because that's something we protect. We
36 won't do that. That's a concern for me.

37
38 The other thing I think about is the
39 wording in this that says -- I'll just read it. We
40 will have designated subsistence harvest areas around
41 the villages in which their immediate families have
42 membership. To me it sounds like we're going to have
43 designated areas around our villages literally where we
44 can say we can hunt.

45
46 Is that just in Tazlina, little pieces
47 of Tazlina? Tazlina, you can't even hunt there. It's
48 a community and it would be very dangerous for people
49 to hunt there because there's so many people -- you
50

1 can't. I mean it would be -- there's a few places you
2 could probably shoot a moose, but you'd have to be real
3 careful around the homes. I mean most people wouldn't
4 do that.

5
6 So that concerns me about this wording,
7 designated subsistence harvest areas around the
8 villages. That needs to be researched further and a
9 good -- does it mean this book, Page 12, where it says
10 Copper River area -- I don't know what page it is, but
11 it has an area where we can hunt.

12
13 Is it this area where can hunt, this
14 whole area where our village of Tazlina says we can
15 hunt? Because it says tribes and we have eight tribes
16 in our area. I am going to have to go to Kluti-Kaah
17 and say, gee, can I hunt in your area in Copper Center?
18 Do I have to go down there and get permission from
19 them? Cantwell, do I have to get permission from them
20 to hunt up there? I mean, you know, just to me that's
21 the way I read this definition. I kind of have a
22 concern about that. It needs to be worked on by a
23 committee or something.

24
25 I am really opposed to us having to
26 give our tribal members' information out. I think a
27 card would be good if they can show it to them. You
28 know, just throw them the card and say this is --
29 because it would be them giving it out and not us
30 telling their personal information. They could show it
31 to an officer.

32
33 I think I want Jim up here to explain
34 better what I said. He probably could say it better,
35 do it better than I am.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think you
38 explained it good, Gloria. I think we got that. I
39 think that if I could call Rory up here and maybe Rory
40 could define to us what is current treaty language and
41 current regulations.

42
43 MR. STARK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Rory Stark from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
45 Office of Law Enforcement. Initially, just to answer
46 your question, that in regulation it is the subsistence
47 area, which is the whole area encompassed in that
48 region for subsistence hunting that you would be
49 qualified for with an invitation from that village.

50

1 But just to go back a little bit to
2 preface this, this is a pretty complex legal situation
3 with this and it's not as clear as it should be and
4 certainly the Solicitor should be the one talking to
5 you about this and not myself, but I will try to go
6 through it as best I can. I can't guarantee I'll be
7 completely correct, but there are a lot legal issues
8 involved.

9
10 One is the underlying treaty submittal
11 language which we sort of have to stick with. That's
12 just like the fall/winter season discussion that we had
13 and that is going to be another legal issue that has to
14 be addressed at a higher level. And then there's the
15 regulations that are currently in place and whether we
16 meet both of those requirements.

17
18 So currently, from my reading of it --
19 and Eric and I talked to our solicitor and from the
20 reading of it we do have to limit it to immediate
21 family members and make sure that that's somehow
22 included in that proposal. In the proposal that's
23 submitted, it's saying any Alaska tribal identification
24 enrollment. There will be no way to know that it was
25 an immediate family member. Expanding the immediate
26 family members again, that one is a legal issue that
27 will have to be elevated.

28
29 So what the treaty language says is
30 that there should be an invitation from a village and
31 then a permit issued. The idea behind that is that is
32 how you show that you are immediate family member of an
33 included resident. That's why that language is in
34 there. And just with an enrollment card we wouldn't be
35 able to distinguish if there was an immediate family
36 member or what the situation to meet the treaty
37 requirement. I know again this is just the legal
38 requirements.

39
40 And I can go into more detail if you'd
41 like.

42
43 Does anybody have any questions that I
44 can answer?

45
46 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I mean that
47 explains it and thank you for explaining that to us and
48 that's why we want to have it fixed because it is
49 unclear and it is so complex. This is something we are
50

1 trying to get resolved for our people.

2

3 Gloria.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: The other one I forgot
6 about was we have a new map that we made out for our
7 subsistence area. We took this map because it was
8 based on Fish and Game's boundary areas, but these are
9 not our traditional hunting areas. Is there an
10 opportunity to change these during this proposal cycle
11 because it doesn't include our traditional areas as
12 well?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: To address that I
15 think that your Regional Council would have to submit a
16 proposal for this December and then we would deliberate
17 on it next year, kind of like how we changed the
18 boundaries for the North Slope region.

19

20 Any other questions for Rory. Ryan.

21

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 Rory, I'm just curious. Obviously we're talking about
24 migratory birds and hunting and harvest here. Does
25 this also apply to big game animals in different types
26 of units or is there something similar for people who
27 want to come home and hunt in traditional areas? And
28 not just limited to the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm
29 curious is it also a Park Service issue or a Forest
30 Service issue or has somebody plowed this ground?
31 That's really where I'm trying to go.

32

33 MR. STARK: I mean we know that the
34 State has a proxy system that they use and not
35 necessarily -- and you would know this -- not
36 necessarily Federally related or subsistence related
37 where you can proxy hunt for your relatives. There are
38 other systems out there. The problem with this one is
39 whether the ground has been plowed or not. This is
40 restricted to the treaty language unfortunately, so we
41 have to try and work within those boundaries and the
42 current regulations.

43

44 So what applies right now is the
45 current regulation that's in the Code of Federal
46 Regulations. That's what we are going by. And the way
47 that was written, the idea behind that I believe, was
48 to make it less onerous to people to say all you need
49 is this letter instead of a permit, whereas in the

50

1 treaty it actually says you need a permit.

2

3 I think the idea behind the treaty was
4 that people that were invited would get a permit and
5 they would bring that permit with them when they went
6 to assist their relatives and then if they were to
7 encounter law enforcement, they would show them the
8 permit and there wouldn't be an issue. Law enforcement
9 or anybody wouldn't interfere with their hunt. I think
10 that with the idea of the treaty to make sure it was
11 limited to those people that were qualified under the
12 treaty.

13

14 MS. HEPA: Going back to your point
15 that obviously it's happening and they're not following
16 the current treaty language or what's in the Code of
17 Regulations. So I agree with you that this should be a
18 topic that should be included with the three proposals
19 before. That we get this addressed and explain that
20 the current practice, customary and traditional
21 practice that we have been doing, as people in urban
22 areas are going home and participating in subsistence
23 hunting of migratory birds.

24

25 It has been going on a long time and
26 it's been happening a lot. I mean, you know, it's a
27 common practice at least at home. So I would make that
28 recommendation because we could go around the circle of
29 trying to identify, well, this is what the language
30 says, this is what we're practicing, should it be a
31 card or a letter. I don't think that we are going to
32 come to a solution to address the issue.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think this is
35 going to take work and it's going to take time to get
36 this fixed. I know it's not going to get resolved here
37 today. So do we want to include that in the Department
38 of interior meeting and the letter then turn this over
39 to the Invitation Committee to work on this further?

40

41 Coral.

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I just have
44 a question. For Emperors there is an opportunity to
45 proxy hunt, right? And I don't know who to address
46 this to. I thought there was an opportunity to proxy
47 hunt for Emperors. Am I wrong about that?

48

49 MR. SCOTT: Through the chair. I'm

50

1 wrong. I was thinking in terms of big game animals and
2 that's limited to moose, caribou and deer. But Jason
3 is also available to answer questions, but he is
4 telling me that that is accurate.

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: That you can proxy hunt
7 for Emperors during subsistence season?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Coral. For rural
10 residents there is no proxy hunt during the spring and
11 summertime. When we go to the fall and winter
12 regulation under the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game, we have proxy hunting at that time.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, that's what I
16 thought. So I was just wondering how that system
17 works. What form of identification do you have to show
18 in the field, just to get an idea of how that works.
19 And who you're proxy hunting for is that you sign up
20 before that.

21

22 I'm not sure how that works.

23

24 I'm just asking.

25

26 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair, Member
27 Chernoff. It's a very simple process actually. There
28 is a documented template that folks bring into the
29 office and it asks name, address, contact information
30 and what species and/or unique hunt that they are
31 proxying for. The only other requirement is that it's
32 signed by both the beneficiary and the proxy hunter.
33 The intent is that both the beneficiary will have a
34 copy and the proxy hunter will have a copy while they
35 are out on the field.

36

37 In addition to that, the proxy hunter
38 is required to carry any licenses and tags that are
39 associated with the species or the hunt that belong to
40 the beneficiary. But it's a very quick, easy process.

41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: I have another question.
43 So in this book it says -- under required licenses and
44 stamps it says that the license requirements outlined
45 below are a matter of law. Waterfowl hunters over 18
46 years or older are required to have a State hunting
47 license and State Duck Stamp except disabled veterans,
48 those 60 years or older and those that qualify for a
49 low income license.

50

1 So, they're not required to have a
2 State hunting license. What do they have to identify?
3 Like if they're over 60, what kind of identification,
4 or they don't have to have anything, just a state I.D.
5 to identify that they are a hunter?

6
7 MR. STARK: Rory Start from the U.S.
8 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement.
9 Generally during the fall/winter season they will have
10 a permanent card that shows they are over 60. That
11 would be the same -- could be the same in this, though
12 since there is no requirement for that permanent card,
13 an I.D. would be sufficient.

14
15 MS. CHERNOFF: So a low income license
16 actually is a license that they would show you?

17
18 MR. STARK: Yes. Actually both of them
19 are licenses. There is a low income license you can
20 get for people that don't make that much money. It's a
21 much reduced price. Then there is the permanent, older
22 person I.D. which is a similar card the State gets and
23 it's a permanent card they get. That is what they show
24 us in the field.

25
26 MR. SCOTT: So Rory covered it. When
27 you turn 60, under State regulations you don't need a
28 fishing, hunting, trapping license, king salmon stamp,
29 things like that. You have that opportunity and it's a
30 one-time thing. You come into the office, fill out the
31 form, requesting it and letting us know when your
32 birthday is and away you go. The permanent I.D. card
33 comes out two or three weeks later.

34
35 In addition to that, we have licenses
36 for disabled veterans as well. That requires a
37 doctor's signature. Again another form with the
38 information and then certified by a physician and the
39 low income license is something that is available to
40 everyone as well, and it is a five dollar license. The
41 other thing that we're not necessarily talking about
42 but it falls into this category is a permit to shoot
43 from a boat and that again is based on a physician
44 statement and signature. All of those can happen.
45 They're very quick and they're available to everyone.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So what is
48 the wishes of the Council? I personally think it needs
49 -- we bring it to the Solicitor when we address the
50

1 other issue and then that we move the proposal into the
2 Technical Committee sub-committee for Invitation for
3 further work to get it because it's pretty complex.
4

5 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make a motion to
6 that effect to add this as an item to be brought back
7 to D.C. to discuss with the earlier topic as well as to
8 refer this to the Technical Committee and the
9 sub-committee for Invitation to address and to meet
10 soon.
11

12 MR. HARRIS: Second.
13

14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Would that be to
15 amend the first motion? We could vote on the amendment
16 and then we'll vote on the motion.
17

18 MS. HEPA: Yes, that is an amendment to
19 the motion.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Did you
22 second, Cyrus?
23

24 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Second.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We'll vote on the
27 amendment to that motion and then we will vote on the
28 motion after the amendment. So all of those in favor
29 of the amendment signify by saying aye.
30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
34 same sign.
35

36 (No opposing votes)
37

38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The amended
39 motion carries. Now we would vote on the motion with
40 that amendment. Do we need to have a roll call vote or
41 do you guys want to do a consensus vote on it since
42 we're moving it. All those in favor of the motion
43 signify by saying, aye.
44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
48 same sign.
49
50

1 (No opposing votes)
2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
4 Okay. So with that we got through all of the proposals.
5 Thank you all and I think that it's been a great time
6 having proposals and I'm sure that we do need to get
7 better outreach out there on the website and have the
8 proposals available for people to review. Also with
9 our meeting information.

10
11 Go ahead, Gloria.
12

13 MS. STICKWAN: We're not talking about
14 this right now, but for the committees, the Invitation
15 Committee, if Jim Simon is willing to, I'd like to add
16 him to the committee if we could do that.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. That is on
19 the agenda. We will go with that and we will pencil
20 him in now. With that it is 12:10 and we will break
21 for lunch and then return back. What time do you guys
22 want to be back here by? 1:15.
23

24 (Off record)

25
26 (On record)
27

28 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Good afternoon.
29 We're going to go ahead and get the meeting started
30 again after our lunch recess. Gayla will be back
31 momentarily, so I just wanted to take this opportunity
32 to say I got the gavel.
33

34 (Laughter)
35

36 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Do we have Peter
37 online or anyone else online that might be
38 participating just for acknowledgment purposes.
39

40 (No comments)
41

42 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: We'll check in with
43 them in a bit. We are down to agenda item 11(c),
44 consent agenda items. We have the 2020 regulations and
45 for each of the 10 different regions what is the wish
46 of the Council. Is there a motion to approve the
47 consent agenda items.
48

49 DR. TAYLOR: So moved.
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Second.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Motion by Eric.
4 Seconded by Cyrus. Any discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hearing none. All
9 those in favor of approving the motion say aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: All those opposed.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Motion is passed.
18 So on the next agenda item we have invitation for
19 public comments again. I think this is a really good
20 opportunity for anyone else that wants to say their
21 peace.
22
23 You have the mic, Gloria.
24
25 MS. STICKWAN: Yesterday we left
26 something out. We went right into proposals and we
27 took something off the table to do proposals.
28
29 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Gloria,
30 for that. What we'll do is move back to agenda item
31 11, going into the migratory bird population status and
32 trends. Julian or Eric, your presentation on that
33 topic.
34
35 DR. TAYLOR: Madame Chair. Julian is
36 not here at the present time, so I'd ask that until he
37 gets back that we move on.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: That sounds good.
40 Thank you. We'll recognize him when he gets in. Going
41 back to agenda item 12, invitation for public comments.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hearing none.
46 We're going to move on to Committee appointments and
47 assignments. I don't know if this was a handout.
48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: It is a handout. There
50

1 may be copies at the back table.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I would like us to
4 defer this agenda item until Gayla gets back. Since
5 Julian is here we're going to go ahead and have him
6 give his presentation. So she can have input on the
7 committees.

8

9 MS. CARTY: Courtenay Carty.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Good afternoon,
12 Courtenay. Peter, are you online?

13

14 (No response)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Just for your
17 information we called the meeting back to order. Gayla
18 is not here, so I'm going to fill in for her. We're
19 going back to item A, migratory bird population status
20 and trends. Julian is getting ready for his
21 presentation.

22

23 We have Coral with a question.

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: Melissa Berns is also
26 online.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Good afternoon.
29 Welcome, Melissa. Maybe while he's setting up, we just
30 went over an opportunity for invitation for public
31 comments. Is there any public comments for the people
32 who just got online or entered the room.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hearing none.

37

38 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair. I'm sorry.
39 This is Courtenay. I was waiting for the people in the
40 room go before I spoke up.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Okay. No one is
43 coming to the mic, so Courtenay.

44

45 MS. CARTY: Thank you so much. Madame
46 Chair, I just wanted to thank the AMBCC members and the
47 staff of all the agencies and tribes and organizations
48 that have been participating in these meetings this
49 week. Thank you guys so much for the opportunity to

50

1 participate telephonically. We're not always able to
2 travel, but still trying to maintain engagement as best
3 we can.
4

5 I did speak with Gayla over the lunch
6 break and just added some information about Proposal
7 07. So I think I'll be working through the committee
8 process for that.
9

10 Then lastly, if I could just urge
11 everyone to get on the record in whatever capacity they
12 work within their scope of work in their professional
13 world to make sure that we build a strong public
14 comment record for the Draft Environmental Impact
15 Statement for the Pebble Project. The next hearing
16 dates are April 9th in Dillingham, 11th in Homer and
17 16th in Anchorage.
18

19 This is really the last time we have
20 the opportunity to get on the record about that.
21 Thanks so much for having us participate.
22

23 We'll be standing by.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you,
26 Courtenay. I too thought it was a really good setup to
27 have folks participate online as an option. Minor
28 technical difficulties, but it was okay.
29

30 Any other public comments online.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hearing none. I'm
35 going to turn the floor over to Julian.
36

37 MR. FISCHER: Good afternoon. This is
38 Julian Fischer, Fish and Wildlife service. This is
39 great. I had absolutely no prep time for this this
40 afternoon. I had kind of written this off. I figured
41 that this was sort of moot since we went through all
42 the proposals already, so I didn't really think about
43 this. But that's all good. So, like I said, my name
44 is Julian Fischer. I kind of feel weird because
45 there's people behind me, so I'm speaking to the wall
46 here.
47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: We can turn it around
49 and turn you around. You don't have to look at that.
50

1 MR. FISCHER: That would be better.
2 Actually, maybe I will go over here.

3
4 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah, that's a good idea.

5
6 MR. FISCHER: I will be Gloria. Okay,
7 I'm back. I work for Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird
8 Program and specifically in the Waterfowl Management
9 Group. I supervise the Waterfowl Survey Program. So
10 in that capacity I work with several waterfowl
11 biologist/pilots, a GIS specialist who does mapping
12 work, several folks that have expertise in identifying
13 waterfowl, designing studies, several statisticians,
14 and generally folks that have a background in waterfowl
15 biology.

16
17 Our goal in this whole enterprise is to
18 bring information to entities like you all here at the
19 AMBCC, and in the Pacific Flyway, Fish and Game and
20 other users of information about trends and status of
21 waterfowl for the purpose of making decisions.

22
23 So in this presentation I am going to
24 describe our program very briefly. This presentation
25 has been given numerous times to this body. Typically
26 it is focused more towards the fall meeting and we
27 spend more time focused on the proposals in the spring,
28 which is what we have just accomplished. Honestly,
29 there is not a whole lot of new information in this
30 compared to in the fall meeting with a couple of
31 exceptions.

32
33 So a benefit of doing it twice a year
34 is to reiterate any information and give you more
35 opportunities to ask questions and give me some
36 direction on other types of information you'd like to
37 hear about and then, of course, there are new members
38 here that this might be new to.

39
40 Anyway, I want to describe our program
41 real quickly. I'm actually not going to go into it
42 with more detail than I already have, but I'm going to
43 talk about our abundance and trend updates for species
44 that are commonly harvested during the subsistence
45 hunt. I'm not going to go into every species that
46 migratory bird management covers, but I am focusing
47 primarily on commonly harvested species and then I'm
48 going to open it up for discussion.

49
50

1 From there, here is the crew of folks
2 that I have the pleasure of working with and I
3 described some of their roles earlier. Our program is
4 principally an aerial survey program. We use airplanes
5 to survey habitat in the principal waterfowl production
6 areas around the state. We have three aircraft that we
7 use. They are all 206 Amphibius equipped aircraft.

8
9 Essentially the approach we take is we
10 have a consistent protocol for what's called breeding
11 pair surveys where the pilot positions the plane along
12 a pre-established transect line, flies at 125 feet and
13 observers on either side of the aircraft are looking
14 out 200 meters on either side. They are recording all
15 the birds they see into a microphone that is attached
16 to a computer that captures the geographic coordinates
17 when they see that observation.

18
19 They're trained in waterfowl
20 identification. We have an online program. Actually
21 if we were linked up to the internet I could show that
22 to you. Maybe I'll do that for the fall meeting. But
23 it is used as a training guide for aerial observers
24 both in species identification as well as flock
25 estimation.

26
27 After we land and get back on the
28 ground all the information is transferred on to a
29 computer and it is essentially a list of all the
30 observations, the species, the numbers and where they
31 were located.

32
33 This map of the state here shows the
34 primary areas that we work in. The colors correspond
35 to different surveys, so that there is one that is very
36 extensive across the state and it is conducted by one
37 crew and they move from one area to another as the
38 timing of the birds nesting evolves through the season.
39 It is a very light brush, so they are getting a very
40 broad picture of where birds are nesting, how many
41 there are, but there's not very many transect lines in
42 each of those areas.

43
44 In contrast, the Arctic Coastal Plain
45 in the Yukon Delta coastal zone are sampled with much
46 higher intensity because of the interest in the birds
47 in those locations specifically and also the density of
48 birds requires a greater sample to get a good estimate
49 for.

50

1 The first species I'm going to describe
2 is the Cackling Canada goose. This is the smallest of
3 the Canada geese. They breed exclusively on the
4 coastal zone of the Yukon Delta, so right along the
5 coastal fringe. They winter down in Oregon and
6 Southern Washington.

7
8 I'm not going to spend a whole lot on
9 each species, so afterwards if you have any questions
10 about any of these individual bird species, just let me
11 know and we can talk about it more.

12
13 Before I go into the Cacklers, I just
14 want to remind folks if they don't recall or if they
15 haven't heard this before, but the goose populations on
16 the Yukon Delta had undergone a really significant
17 crash in the '70s and '80s. By the early '80s
18 subsistence hunters in the region were well aware of
19 this and had requested help in identifying what was
20 going on.

21
22 Working with Fish and Wildlife Service
23 and Alaska Department of Fish and Game together
24 developed what is called the Yukon Delta Goose
25 Management Plan. Through that plan they worked with
26 the flyway states to understand what was going on with
27 fall/winter hunting in the Lower 48 and established
28 some thresholds for which birds would be closed to all
29 harvest and then reopened at certain population levels.
30 They also set some ambitious objectives for the
31 population to eventually get to.

32
33 So this next slide shows that. This is
34 a graph showing the numbers of Cackling Canada geese
35 from the mid 1980s through present. The horizontal
36 lines correspond to the agreements that were
37 established in the goose management plan. That red
38 line at the bottom was when harvest was going to be
39 closed and once the population started growing the
40 population -- the harvest was reopened and then it
41 continued to grow because the restrictions for the
42 fall/winter hunt in the Lower 48 states were kept in
43 place for quite a while and as you can see the
44 population responded pretty rapidly.

45
46 Once it hit that population objective
47 of the upper green line some of the restrictions for
48 the southern states were liberalized and the population
49 has been kind of hovering around that threshold ever
50

1 since pretty much.

2

3

4 Another species important to
5 subsistence hunters throughout coastal Alaska is the
6 Taverner Canada goose. It's another small-bodied
7 Canada goose, different subspecies, and they nest a
8 little bit further inland on the Yukon Delta, but all
9 along the coast of the Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue
10 Sound, Arctic Coastal Plain region.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

A little bit of a different story with
Taverners. They did not undergo the big decline in the
'80s, so they've been kind of bumping around the
50-60,000 mark ever since. This is just our estimate
within the state. There's not a management plan that
dictates thresholds for harvest, at least in the
Pacific Flyway at this time. There is some indication
that the numbers may have gone down some from historic
levels but not in a dramatic extent.

Pacific White-fronted geese, speckle
bellies as some refer to them, and I am sadly ignorant
in the Yup'ik name for Pacific White-fronted Geese.
Jennifer, any idea?

MS. HOOPER: I don't know.

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Anyway,
White-fronted geese nest generally in two populations.
There's a Pacific coastal-oriented group that goes down
the Pacific Flyway and they breed along the Yukon Delta
coastal zone and inland along the Yukon Delta and also
in Bristol Bay.

Then there is a Mid-Continent
population and those are the geese that are in the
center of the state and on the North Slope and I will
get to them in a few minutes, but they migrate down the
Mississippi and the Central Flyways. For the Pacific
Greater White-fronted geese, by the mid '80s they were
at really low levels and harvest was closed in
California and the birds responded pretty quickly and
they have been climbing. The numbers numbers went up
through 2010 or so and now they have been kind of
leveling off. Very healthy population.

Emperor geese, another goose species
that nests not exclusively on the Yukon Delta, but most
of them do. We think about 80 percent are breeding on

1 the Yukon Delta. These Emperor geese they breed there
2 and if they successfully breed, they raise their young
3 right there on the coastal zone of the Yukon Delta. If
4 they fail in breeding or if they are too young to
5 breed, some stay on the Yukon Delta to molt their
6 feathers there.

7
8 But there's also a large molt
9 migration. A large number of these birds head north
10 over St. Lawrence Island, sometimes over Seward
11 Peninsula and then use the estuaries off of Northern
12 Chukotka Peninsula in Russia to molt. They spend much
13 of the summer there then come back in the fall.

14
15 Then they all go down to Bristol Bay
16 for a while and fatten up on the food resources down
17 there along the coastal areas and then proceed to
18 winter down in Kodiak, Aleutian Islands. Then they
19 come -- late April they all start moving back up to
20 the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay region and then
21 eventually back to the Yukon Delta.

22
23 As most of you are aware, we updated
24 the Pacific Flyway Emperor Goose Plan a few years ago
25 and at the same time developed an AMBCC specific plan.
26 Both of those plans adopted the coastal zone aerial
27 survey as the primary metric that is used to determine
28 whether the species is increasing, declining or staying
29 stable.

30
31 Together we came up with these
32 threshold levels for which we would close harvest,
33 potentially put in some sort of restrictions and then
34 also above which there would be a traditional customary
35 harvest of Emperor geese. This is where we sit
36 relative to those thresholds. As you can see, the
37 population was slow to increase after it was shut down
38 for all harvest and then mid '80s.

39
40 But it kept going, about 1 percent a
41 year, and around 2015 we hit a level where harvest was
42 to be reconsidered. We opened it up and the numbers
43 have been bouncing around just above that threshold.
44 We're keeping our fingers crossed and hoping these guys
45 keep going. In 2018 we had an estimate of 30,000
46 Emperor geese on the coastal zone.

47
48 Okay. Just a summary on this. They're
49 currently open per the AMBCC Management Plan. In the
50

1 fall and winter they're open for a limited hunt as
2 well. There is a 30-day closure as with all migratory
3 birds during the spring and summer and that is
4 specified in the annual regulations, although we might
5 be moving to flexible dates. Certainly on the Yukon
6 Delta we already have flexible dates based on when they
7 start nesting.

8
9 This outreach message that each region
10 has developed specifically for their communities and
11 outreach messages that ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife
12 Service have all been getting out there emphasized that
13 the Emperor goose population was closed to harvest for
14 many years. We don't want that to happen again, so
15 we're all very vigilant about keeping our eye on the
16 health of this population and emphasizing that this is
17 a traditional and customary harvest and we want that to
18 continue.

19
20 The message in general is to move
21 slowly. Harvest, but encourage people not to
22 overharvest if that would happen in any particular
23 location. In other words, hunt conservatively now to
24 ensure that there's more Emperors to hunt in the
25 future.

26
27 The last goose population is Pacific
28 Black brant. They are a really unique goose. They're
29 considered like a sea goose. They're very tied to
30 coastal areas. The area in red there is around the
31 Izembek Lagoon, fall staging grounds where virtually
32 the whole population of Pacific brant come in fall and
33 fatten up on the eel grass beds there.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Where are they
36 coming from?

37
38 MR. FISCHER: If we just start in fall,
39 from there they head down -- well, most of them head
40 south ending up in Mexico. There's also some that stop
41 over in California. In small numbers in Oregon and
42 Washington and British Columbia. Increasing numbers
43 are choosing to stay in Alaska during winter, likely
44 because the habitat is not freezing over.

45
46 Come spring they head back up the
47 coast, come through Izembek, don't spend very long
48 there and then move up to the Yukon Delta. The
49 majority are nesting there. A number of them continue
50

1 to the Arctic Coastal Plain. Some move over into
2 Canada, although the numbers are relatively sparse
3 compared to Alaska and the small numbers are also
4 nesting on the Chukotka Peninsula of Russia. Those
5 breeding areas are in yellow. Vast area, but in
6 general low numbers compared to the Yukon Delta and the
7 Arctic Coastal Plain.

8
9 In fall the birds up from the North
10 Slope congregate in the Kasigluk Lagoon area. It's a
11 really important staging area. Then they slowly start
12 trickling down back to the Alaska Peninsula and get
13 back to Izembek.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Just curious. When
16 you say they stage at Kasigluk Lagoon, then we see some
17 -- I guess passing by Barrow they're not really
18 staging, but they do land and hang out. So do you guys
19 do surveys that time as well?

20
21 MR. FISCHER: We do not. There have
22 been extensive surveys done in the early '90s I think.
23 Steve Johnson with a consulting firm at the time
24 published a paper on the timing of staging of brant in
25 the Kasigluk Lagoon area.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: The reason I ask
28 that is because in the last 10 years lots of things
29 have changed in regards to geese on the North Slope
30 especially staging within the Utqiagvik area and along
31 down the coast. Well, it's for Black brant and
32 White-fronted goose. So how do you classify stage?
33 Because when they're staying around a certain area and
34 then one day they're all gone, is that staging?

35
36 MR. FISCHER: Yeah.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: So that happened in
39 the northern part, not just Kasigluk Lagoon.

40
41 MR. FISCHER: Yeah. So what I mean
42 there is an area of congregation where birds show up in
43 large flocks and the purpose is to focus on areas of
44 really high nutritious food so they can get enough
45 energy to proceed down to the next major jump in their
46 migration route.

47
48 Often there's areas that are called
49 spring staging areas or fall staging areas where the
50

1 birds are stopping over and really fattening up. Those
2 areas kind of emphasize where the food is really rich.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I don't know if you
5 guys have been in Barrow in the fall time, but this is
6 happening quite a bit in our area where they're there
7 for several weeks in between the houses, on the
8 outskirts of town, down the coast. Again, mostly
9 White-fronted goose, but Black brant is more down the
10 coast toward Peard Bay in large numbers. You could see
11 them all across the tundra.

12
13 How do we investigate that? Should we
14 put in a proposal to do a project? Do you think that's
15 important? Maybe we could talk about it with the
16 Department. I think the research a long time ago is
17 outdated and the patterns have changed. So I just
18 wanted to make that comment.

19
20 MR. FISCHER: No, that's an important
21 comment and it's a good observation. When birds or any
22 animal end up shifting their distribution or where they
23 show up and if there's areas that are really important
24 to them, then I think it's in everyone's interest to
25 understand where those areas are so they can be
26 protected. For instance, if there's some resource
27 there that is only there, then without it the bird
28 might be in trouble.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Jack.

31
32 MR. FAGERSTROM: I'm from Golovin and
33 that's right on the nose of Alaska and a lot of brant
34 pass through our area. When I was growing up there was
35 a lot. Golovin is an estuary. We've got an outer bay
36 and an inner bay and we've got eel grass there. Growing
37 up there was a lot of brant. The little ones would
38 come in first and the black ones a week later.

39
40 Growing up it was a \$1,000 fine to
41 shoot a swan. That's where a lot of the fear came from
42 from Fish and Game. I can remember a preacher. The
43 radio station had something called Village News. I was
44 in grade school in the '60s. The reason I remember it
45 is because the guy who was on the radio ended up being
46 the preacher in my village and he's talking to this
47 lady in Stebbins.

48
49 How was your Thanksgiving? Oh, it was
50

1 good. We had Eskimo turkey. What do you mean? Oh,
2 swan. Boy, that preacher changed the subject right
3 away.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. FAGERSTROM: But going back to
8 Golovin being a staging area, and I'm glad you said the
9 importance of staging areas, they stop in Golovin and
10 just looking after you pluck the bird, just looking at
11 the bird, you can tell where it came from. The one's
12 that come from Mexico you can see their breastbone, but
13 the ones that don't fly as far they've got fat on them.

14

15 Brant being something that I've kind of
16 paid attention to quite a bit. Chris Dau used to be
17 the bird man and I asked him, give me some information
18 on brant and he did. It was quite an extensive,
19 well-researched paper. But some of the brant go
20 directly from -- they go right across Alaska straight
21 to Taqulik's country, but some of the other ones follow
22 the coast.

23

24 They had tracking devices on them a
25 long time ago that showed one brant that eventually
26 ended up in Canada and they're different. That old man
27 told me those are different. They're smaller, shorter
28 beak and a little bit different plumage.

29

30 The brant, their numbers are not there
31 no more. I look at the population things and to me --
32 I mean the brant, when I was growing up, my dad would
33 take me out or my uncle or my auntie. I had a real
34 ballsy auntie. Excuse me for saying that, but she was
35 a real traditional lady. But the brant would pile up
36 for about a week.

37

38 We'd be sitting at camp and the brant
39 would keep piling up for like three days and then
40 pretty soon Dad would say they're going to take off
41 pretty soon. I said how come. He said, listen,
42 they're getting loud, getting noisy. Pretty soon you
43 could hear them take off like a jet. And then you see
44 this great big ball going up like that and, boom,
45 they're going to Taqulik. But we don't see those
46 numbers no more.

47

48 The importance of our staging areas
49 with regards to our warming, changing climate, I think

50

1 we have to be a little bit -- look forward to. I mean
2 to me we don't know what we have as far as the
3 importance of the staging area. We've got to protect
4 that. The more information we have now the better
5 prepared we are to protect something that we have
6 versus, oh, man, we should have protected that. I mean
7 you don't realize what you have until you lose it.

8
9 When you get to swans I'll shut up, but
10 brant was my thing.

11
12 MR. FISCHER: Thank you for that.

13
14 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yeah. But the
15 importance of the staging areas, you know, I really
16 want to emphasize that. Once we lose those it's like
17 saying bye to your leg or a toe or finger. Sorry for
18 being so long-winded, but brant have been a pretty
19 large part of our spring diet.

20
21 MR. FISCHER: Thank you for that.
22 Because brant occur in so many different places around
23 the state, the method that the Fish and Wildlife
24 Service has chosen to monitor the whole population as a
25 whole is through a winter survey, which is different
26 than some other species that we monitor. So this type
27 of approach requires a lot of input from a lot of
28 different partners.

29
30 There's main areas where these birds
31 occur that are predictable. Certain estuaries in
32 Mexico that have very healthy eelgrass beds, although
33 there's challenges to the habitat there. A number of
34 locations along the West Coast and then, of course,
35 Izembek Lagoon. So through coordination with several
36 other states and a non-government organization in
37 Mexico, we count the brant in winter in January when
38 the birds are not moving anymore.

39
40 So that's been done since the '60s and
41 this is kind of what it looks like. This was
42 identified as the method to monitor the bird. Back in
43 the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan days to use that
44 winter estimate. You can see it's jumped around a fair
45 bit, but in general it's been between 100-170,000
46 birds. Currently, the most recent three-year average
47 was about 150,000 brant. So numbers were up this year
48 from last year and they remain close to the population
49 objective, which is good news.

50

1 Now that's for the whole population
2 combined. When you start looking at differences in
3 individual locations around the state, things are
4 changing. This is a graph of the Yukon Delta brant
5 colonies. Since the 1990s we've been detecting a
6 decline in those five colonies. The different colors
7 on each bar are associated with different colonies.
8 Each bar is the sum of these five major brant colonies.
9 In whole, those numbers have been declining.

10
11 Now brant don't only nest in these five
12 colonies on the Yukon Delta. There's a lot of small
13 colonies that number in tens, twenties, as opposed to
14 these major ones that are thousands of birds. We have
15 ways that we've been tracking those smaller colonies,
16 but with not much precision. We believe that those
17 numbers are making up somewhat for the loss in these
18 major colonies, but not by enough to offset a regional
19 decline in the Yukon Delta.

20
21 Interestingly, on the North Slope, our
22 aerial surveys indicate an increase. This figure shows
23 counts from the mid '80s through 2018. There was a big
24 shift in about 2002. The numbers have been variable,
25 but generally increasing in that area. So this is a
26 survey that's done during breeding when the birds are
27 starting to nest in mid June.

28
29 The North Slope Borough has funded
30 aerial surveys for brant at different times of the year
31 as well. The one in the lower left shows numbers of
32 brant with broods and some colonies across the North
33 Slope. This dataset goes through 2012 and this also
34 corroborates what we were finding with the breeding
35 surveys. This indicates that birds with broods are
36 increasing as well over this time period.
37 Interestingly, the big jump kind of occurred right
38 around 2000, 2001, 2002.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I just wanted to
41 say too from timing we know the timing has shifted a
42 week here and there because between a week here and
43 there is the difference between people not out because
44 they're landlocked and when they're out. Now that the
45 timing is shifting and the brood -- our surveys are
46 happening, we're interfering with caribou hunting, so I
47 don't think we're doing this anymore because it was
48 just too much interference.

49
50

1 MR. FISCHER: I see.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I just wanted to
4 mention that because everything is shifting. Maybe I
5 could have Bryan send you guys an email to describe
6 that event. We didn't think it was us, but it was us.
7 People were complaining. It just happened to be our
8 surveyor.

9

10 MR. FISCHER: We usually get the call.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: We direct them to
13 you.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. FISCHER: That's good to know.
18 Interesting. I mean what it would suggest is that
19 there's fewer birds on the Yukon Delta but perhaps
20 they're being made up for with an increasing population
21 further to the north.

22

23 We talked a little about White-fronted
24 geese earlier from the Pacific Flyway that breed on the
25 Yukon Delta. These are Mid-Continent Greater
26 White-fronted geese. So same species but they breed
27 mostly north of the Brooks Range on the Arctic Coastal
28 Plain, but also birds from the Interior. They go down
29 the central portion of North America.

30

31 The area in that big block on the upper
32 left part of this graph is the waterfowl production
33 areas in Interior Alaska. There these geese are
34 nesting in boreal forest habitat. Very hard to detect
35 from an airplane and that's reflected in these really
36 variable counts that you see in this graph. The survey
37 is not intended to count the species of geese, but we
38 record them incidentally.

39

40 So we know they're continuing to breed
41 there, but primarily they're breeding further to the
42 north on the Coastal Zone and things have gotten
43 interesting up there and we've heard over and over
44 again in recent years numbers of White-fronted geese
45 are increasing on the North Slope and our aerial
46 surveys reflect that as well.

47

48 On a flyway, North American level
49 scale, the population is very healthy. For the

50

1 fall/winter hunt there's a population objective of
2 600,000 birds coming from Alaska as well as Canada.
3 Those birds are counted during fall and currently we're
4 close to a million birds in there. Also the proportion
5 of birds that are being harvested is relatively low,
6 below 6 percent.

7

8 So that population is in good shape.

9

10 Now this species is also in good shape.
11 This is a Lesser Snow goose. Lesser Snow geese have a
12 way of moving into an area and really multiplying
13 quickly. That was seen in Canada over the last few
14 decades where numbers have just gone through the roof.
15 The Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska has had much lower
16 numbers relative to anywhere else in North America, but
17 they've been increasing.

18

19 On the right you see a map of the route
20 the birds take. There's three population in that
21 Western Arctic. One is on the Arctic Coastal Plain and
22 then two smaller areas further to the east. Up on the
23 North Slope those stars show where the major colonies
24 are. These are aerial surveys in June and the numbers
25 just kind of kicked off in the early 2000s. They
26 seemed to have stabilized a little bit in the last few
27 years, but there's definitely potential for them to
28 grow further.

29

30 I'm going to keep moving and we can
31 talk about Snow geese a little bit later if folks have
32 specific questions, but I want to get to Jack's
33 species, the Tundra swan. So two major different
34 populations of Tundra swan in Alaska. There's the
35 Western population and the Eastern population. The
36 Eastern population is breeding on the North Slope but
37 then it's called the Eastern population because they
38 head to the East Coast for winter.

39

40 Here's our best estimate of the numbers
41 of birds as they've changed since the mid '80s for the
42 Western population. They've grown a little bit.
43 Currently they're above the population objective. Our
44 three year running average through 2018 is about
45 133,000 Tundra swans in the Western population. Most
46 are breeding in the Yukon Delta, but Kotzebue Sound,
47 Seward Peninsula also have a significant number of
48 birds breeding.

49

50

1 I'm interested to hear about swans
2 every meeting from you, Jack, because -- remind me when
3 you're seeing the highest numbers there. Is it during
4 the breeding season or having them come through in high
5 numbers in spring and fall?

6
7 MR. FAGERSTROM: Kind of both. All
8 three I guess you'd say. There's more breeding spring
9 and fall. There's a whole bunch of bullies out there
10 all the way across the bay. There's a lot more than
11 when I was growing up. Everybody will pretty much say
12 that. By next fall I'll have some pictures showing
13 that. I missed it by three days. I was lucky enough
14 to get a helicopter ride. We had to do a reburial. I
15 said, hey, go give me a ride up there. I'm going to go
16 check them blankety-blank swans out. They said they'd
17 gotten a good westerly wind that day and they took off.

18
19 But all three. I jump in the airplane
20 and go from Golovin to Nome. Hmm, a swan down there.
21 Kind of a small lake. But there's a lot. We heard
22 reports of people concerned maybe they're laying two
23 clutches a year. Late fall you see signets with still
24 down. You can see them a long ways away, the parent
25 and the young.

26
27 There's a real noticeable increase and
28 by next fall or this spring I'll take some pictures and
29 go from there. I get concerned. You know, I brought
30 up the staging area earlier and the fact that swans are
31 bullies. I've seen them scare a whole flock of Brant
32 out. One swan chase a whole flock of Brant out of a
33 real choice feeding area.

34
35 Fall time they go to Golovin and it's
36 white up there. Sometimes you watch them and they go
37 to Koyuk, which is about 60 miles away. There's
38 another bay there and they go feed there, then fly back
39 to Golovin. For about a week you can sit there with
40 binoculars and watch flock after flock take off. I
41 really think there's more than that.

42
43 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, these counts are
44 birds counted during the breeding season. We don't do
45 fall staging surveys or spring staging surveys in that
46 area, so we have no estimate. Your estimate is
47 probably the best estimate for that time of year.

48
49 MR. FAGERSTROM: Just for the sake of
50

1 clarity and everything, I wish every staging area would
2 be visited by the Department. Not only the Department,
3 everybody that's affected by the route the birds take
4 because those are important areas for those birds.
5 They give us an opportunity to harvest some protein.
6 We've got to protect that. We don't know what we have
7 until we lose it.

8
9 The funny thing about it is the less
10 there is, the better it tastes.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. FISCHER: Is that why swans don't
15 taste as good as they used to?

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Eastern
20 population, kind of a similar story. Growing
21 population size on the North Slope and it's been kind
22 of steady. I don't know if that's consistent with what
23 folks in your region are observing or eating. Are
24 swans tasting less good now than they used to?

25
26 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I was just going to
27 look at this, but just like Canada, I think it was the
28 '70s, we were not able to harvest them, so that stuck
29 in people's minds, so not very many are harvested. I
30 think that's probably what happened there. A handful
31 of people still do.

32
33 MR. FISCHER: So do you think that's
34 the perception from regulations or has it become
35 tradition to stay away from them?

36
37 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: In the 1970s there
38 was a lot going on with law enforcement, caribou, the
39 swans, bowhead whaling, so people were just afraid and
40 that's how I grew up. When the plane came you had to
41 go in the tent and just sit down and not say nothing
42 kind of thing. I think that mentality still today
43 people are a little bit are they legal or not because
44 there was never a big announcement it's open season
45 now, they're good, they're healthy. It's just stuck in
46 our mind.

47
48 Like when we harvested one incidental,
49 my dad did in the '70s, we hid it. It was a pretty
50

1 scary thing because they were giving citations and they
2 were landing with airplanes. So I think that fear is
3 still there and just not knowing how healthy they are.
4 Some people do.

5
6 Not that many.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Coral.

9
10 MS. CHERNOFF: Just to build on that I
11 think that what I have mentioned several times when it
12 was prohibited what happens is there becomes this fear
13 and you remember running in the tent. What happens is
14 we lose a generation of hunters too. I always think
15 that's an important thing to remember because it's very
16 important in our culture to be able to feed ourselves.
17 So when we prohibit these indigenous people from
18 hunting, we lose out culturally.

19
20 MR. FISCHER: Swans are open for
21 harvest as soon as the regulation passes.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Jack.

24
25 MR. FAGERSTROM: Sorry to keep butting
26 in. What's going on with the proposal to increase the
27 swan harvest limit? I think Montana or one of them
28 states out there was trying to liberalize something. I
29 don't know what's the latest on that.

30
31 MR. FISCHER: When this presentation is
32 complete, then my colleague with the Fish and Game will
33 give you an update on that. Jason. He's more in line
34 with that.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Coral.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: So when you're talking
39 about these staging areas and with each species -- I
40 don't know if every one you had a staging area on the
41 map. Is there one map that has all the staging areas
42 in it? I guess I'm looking at environmental things
43 that happened that might be nice to pull together into
44 one map just showing all the migratory birds stage
45 areas on one map if there's not currently one.

46
47 MR. FISCHER: There's not one that I
48 put together for the purpose of this presentation, but
49 that's a great idea. I'll try to put that into an
50

1 updated one.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 DR. TAYLOR: Coral, that's a good
6 question. There's one for the State of Alaska put
7 together by Audubon Alaska and it's called important
8 bird areas. That map shows like molting area, breeding
9 areas, staging areas that have been identified for the
10 exact purpose that you have recommended. So if a
11 proposed oil and gas development either onshore or
12 offshore or a pipeline or a road or an offshore
13 development that agencies and others can use that
14 information to say this is not a good spot to put a
15 pipeline for example. We will get copies of that.

16

17 I don't think Natalie is here. Natalie
18 Dawson is the new vice-president/executive director of
19 Audubon Alaska and she would be -- I'll send her a note
20 and I'll try to get copies of that.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I just wanted to
23 say in looking at the 2017 report -- and I know we're
24 supposed to be looking at these numbers from a
25 statewide perspective, but six were reported and 44 was
26 estimated for the North Slope.

27

28 MR. FISCHER: Okay. Spectacled eider is
29 not an important species for subsistence, but I wanted
30 to mention it because it's a listed species and one of
31 our obligations as an agency is to monitor threatened
32 and endangered species. If you're not familiar with
33 Spectacled eiders, they're a very unique species in
34 that they spend their winter -- it's a sea duck and
35 they spend their winter in the middle of the Bering Sea
36 or they did until recently.

37

38 In the center of that map you can see
39 an orange blob and that's an area that's generally ice
40 free, what's called a polynyas, and there's generally
41 an opening in the ice there and the whole world
42 population of Spectacled eiders congregate there in the
43 middle of the winter. There's really abundant clam
44 beds at the bottom and it's relatively shallow and it's
45 a great feeding ground for these birds.

46

47 So Spectacled eiders from the North
48 American population, both the Yukon Delta and the
49 Arctic Coastal Plain head out there and they're joined

50

1 by the larger Russian population. After winter they
2 separate again and return to their respective breeding
3 grounds.

4
5 On the Yukon Delta, just the figure on
6 the top, the numbers have increased pretty steadily
7 over the last 20, 25 years. The North Slope is a
8 little bit different story. It's been less
9 predictable, a lot of variation and there's no
10 indication they're going up or down. That's really
11 clear at this point. The reason is unknown why there
12 would be a difference between those two populations,
13 but that's what we're observing.

14
15 The Russian population is extremely
16 remote and difficult to monitor. The way it's been
17 accomplished in the past is simply by doing a winter
18 survey in the Bering Sea every 10 years. There was an
19 attempt to do that this year and it was cancelled
20 because the sea ice was so sparse. There was no
21 concentration of birds. There was small
22 concentrations, but there was no confidence that we had
23 that we would be able to get any kind of reasonable
24 count in that area. I think that's all I'm going to
25 say about that right now.

26
27 Just touch on this briefly. The AMBCC
28 brought up a concern about the Black scoter. A number
29 of years ago in the early 2000s actually harvest was
30 high in western Alaska, particularly the Yukon Delta.
31 WCC members there asked us about the status of the
32 birds. So we set up a specialized survey for Black
33 scoters and it was a statewide survey. They're
34 relatively concentrated in the Yukon Delta, Bristol
35 Bay, Seward Peninsula and some near Selawik. So we
36 established a survey that was timed just for them.

37
38 I don't have any numbers to show here
39 because we just completed the survey last summer and
40 we're developing a whole different way of analyzing
41 these data. We're incorporating aerial detection rates
42 using a novel approach. The biometricians in my shop
43 are very strict about releasing numbers before they've
44 gone through them with an absolute fine-toothed comb.
45 Good for them.

46
47 But I can tell you that initial
48 preliminary results suggest that the population is
49 healthy and it's stable. So there's no indication that
50

1 the most recent survey had results that were far
2 different than what we saw five, ten years ago. I will
3 have those results in the fall meeting. I did release
4 something to Jennifer at the WCC meeting, but those are
5 preliminary and that came with that caveat.

6
7 Anyway, I'm going to finish up with a
8 few Dabbling duck estimates. Ducks are an important
9 subsistence food throughout the state. These birds are
10 generally monitored through what's called the North
11 American Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat
12 Survey, which is a North American wide survey done by
13 aerial pilot biologists in Canada and Northern U.S. all
14 the way up into Alaska.

15
16 Again, there's major production areas
17 that are sampled and we get an index to the overall
18 population size. This table here just indicates that
19 the numbers in 2018, which are in thousands, so
20 Northern Pintail, for example, the estimate for North
21 America was 651,000. To the right of that it says
22 percent change compared to the long-term average. That
23 just means it was not a significant difference. So
24 compared to average these four species are stable.
25 That's the easiest way to think about it.

26
27 There's a number of species I covered.
28 There's many more out there. I'd like to know if
29 there's particular species groups, areas, topics that
30 you'd like us to bring to share with you in the fall
31 meeting when we might have a little bit more time. So
32 I'm open to any of that before talking more about
33 swans.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Julian.
36 Any questions or comments on the presentation in
37 addition to the ones that were already asked.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: If not, I think you
42 are going to be welcome to all our regional management
43 body meetings to provide the same presentation.

44
45 Coral.

46
47 MS. CHERNOFF: Someone may have said
48 something on the phone.

49
50

1 MR. DEVINE: That was me.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hi, Peter. We're
4 going to put the mic closer to the phone. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. DEVINE: Yes, this is Peter. I
7 just wanted to make a comment on the Emperor goose
8 population. The Emperors in our region are doing
9 really well. I was across the bay (cutting out) first
10 or towards the end of January we had about 80 to 100
11 come and stage in one of our local bays right in front
12 of town. They stayed up until the last of March and
13 took off. Those birds were leaving a lot sooner than
14 usual.

15

16 That's the only comment I had on the
17 geese.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: You were very faint
20 in your discussion. I did hear a couple times you
21 stating that the populations were looking okay or good.
22 You might want to just speak up a little bit more. We
23 could barely hear you.

24

25 MR. DEVINE: They're nice and healthy,
26 but they seemed to be moving about three weeks earlier
27 than usual.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Okay. We got you
30 that time. Thank you.

31

32 MR. FISCHER: Thank you very much.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you. We can
35 either call for a quick break before we go on to the
36 next -- oh, we have another -- I'm sorry, Jason.
37 Welcome, Jason. So Jason from Alaska Department of
38 Fish and Game is getting his presentation ready and
39 we're working on the PowerPoint projector to get it up
40 and running. There we go. So he will be giving a
41 similar presentation as Julian.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you. So in answer
46 to your question, Jack, which I think was where is the
47 proposal status to increase the bag limit for the
48 permits of Tundra swans. I looked into the data a
49 little bit more closely since we spoke last and having
50

1 some difficulty in understanding how we might justify
2 that based on some of the data from our permit hunt
3 that we've collected over the years.

4
5 And that's the data that I am
6 presenting here, which is these couple of graphs for
7 the last 11 years, I believe, of our permit hunt across
8 the four regions where we have the permit hunt in
9 place, which is Units 17, 18, 22 and 23. There's 1,300
10 permits allowed across these four regions a year and
11 three swans are allowed per permit currently.

12
13 So these graphs, there's a little bit
14 of data going on here. The left-hand graph, which is
15 labeled permits, shows the number of permits on average
16 across those 11 years, the number of hunters that
17 reported hunting for swans and then the number of
18 successful hunters that actually took a swan that got
19 permits. Across those 11 years, on average, 166
20 permits were issued per year. These are across all the
21 four regions.

22
23 The hunters that reported hunting using
24 a permit for swan were 72. Of those 72 individuals
25 that went hunting, 26 of those reported being
26 successful during those 11 years. And that's average
27 per year. So of those successful hunters, 47 percent,
28 just under half, took one swan. And 26 and 27 percent
29 were 2 and 3 swans. All total on average, 48 swans
30 were taken per year across those 11 years.

31
32 So what this suggests to me anyway is
33 that the demand for hunting swans is low. And those
34 that are hunting swans, they aren't filling their bag
35 limit. They aren't getting more than one swan
36 essentially. A few of them are. 27 percent of 26
37 hunters is just a handful of hunters that are actually
38 getting more than one swan essentially.

39
40 So the data would suggest that raising
41 the bag limit would not be necessary based on the data.
42 So it would be difficult to justify raising the bag
43 limit with the Pacific Flyway Council relative to what
44 our data is telling us.

45
46 MR. FAGERSTROM: Growing up, I stated
47 it earlier, it was \$1,000 fine if you caught one of
48 those swans. It was interesting. People have said you
49 lost an entire generation of harvesters and that's what
50

1 happened in the Tundra swan. There's a lot of meat on
2 that bird, but people are very hesitant to catch one.

3
4 We've noticed an increase and they're
5 competing with other species in the staging areas. It
6 was just something that was brought up. Hey, what's
7 going on with these birds. Competition from other
8 birds and to us Brant is more -- I shouldn't say more
9 important than a swan, but just look at the harvest and
10 it is.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Brandon.

13
14 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you. My name is
15 Brandon Ahmasuk. I'm the subsistence director for
16 Kawerak. I just reviewed some of the harvest data from
17 Lili and I believe it does show that there is a need
18 for more either higher quota and/or eliminating the
19 quota.

20
21 Again, I'm sorry, I don't remember the
22 exact numbers, but you were saying something like
23 40-something swans were harvested average a year. Her
24 data is showing 300, 400, 700 swans taken throughout
25 the year. Of course that incorporates into the fall
26 time, but it also shows that there is a drop in harvest
27 during the fall time.

28
29 To me, I attribute that to people just
30 not wanting to get the permit. They just don't want to
31 be burdened with it. So, we've been bringing this up
32 for three, four years now. In the essence of
33 conservation, yeah, we don't want to eliminate these
34 birds but, the population data shows that this
35 particular species is no longer of concern. The
36 numbers are high enough that it can sustain more
37 harvest. There's lost opportunity for harvest with the
38 more birds on the landscape.

39
40 I mean I don't see a problem with
41 either upping the quota or even just eliminating the
42 permit. I mean it isn't necessary. To me its
43 burdensome to our people out in the villages who are
44 going to have to go back to wherever just to get the
45 permit. Again, the harvest data does show there is a
46 drop in harvest during the fall and, again, I'm not
47 just attributing that to the permit alone, but the
48 numbers in the springtime varies from region to region.

49
50

1 I was looking at one of them. There's
2 like 6,000-something swans harvested in the
3 spring/summer months. Another region, 700, 800, 900
4 swans again during the spring/summer months. But then
5 come fall time when they have to switch hats, the
6 harvest does drop off. But even with the current
7 harvest the number is still growing. Every year
8 there's more and more swans. So is it really necessary
9 to have this permit system in place?

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. SCHAMBER: Brandon, your point is
14 well taken. With the low amount of harvest that we are
15 demonstrating with the permit would suggest that
16 harvest is low enough that we are allowed 3,300 swans
17 if we were to fill our 1,300 permits at 3 swans per
18 permit. We are well under that.

19

20 However, when it was agreed across the
21 flyway to establish a swan hunt in the few states that
22 are allowed to hunt Tundra swans, it was agreed that we
23 would track their harvest through a permit system
24 because swans are not represented on the harvest
25 information survey, which is a nationwide survey of
26 harvest.

27

28 And so I think if we were to ask the
29 Flyway to eliminate the permit requirement for Alaska,
30 we would have to demonstrate that there was a way we
31 were tracking harvest for swans in the absence of the
32 permit system.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Brandon.

35

36 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. Fully
37 understanding that there is this permit requirement in
38 place through the Pacific Flyway Council, I still don't
39 see the reason why the quota can't be raised five,
40 eight, whatever, higher than it currently is. Again,
41 to me, there's lost opportunity for harvest. You've
42 heard in the past, as well as this meeting, the regions
43 that really do have large numbers of swans are
44 increasing all the time.

45

46 Having side discussions with Bristol
47 Bay, AVCP, Maniilaq, I think even North Slope in the
48 past, there's more and more swans all the time. So
49 again I don't see an issue with raising the quota.

50

1 they're filling the bag on those permits, I would think
2 that is justification enough for increasing the bag
3 limit because that is a demonstration of need.

4
5 MR. AHMASUK: Is there a cost for
6 getting the swan permit?

7
8 MR. SCHAMBER: No, it's free and I
9 actually have some information in a following slide. I
10 broke down this same information for all units
11 individually. So if anyone is interested in seeing
12 that for their unit, I can certainly bring that up.
13 This last slide has a little more information on the
14 regulations of the swan hunt in the state, which is
15 there is one permit allowed per hunter per season and
16 that regulation in and of itself is certainly one that
17 can be easily adjusted. The hunt period is September
18 1st through October 31st.

19
20 To obtain a permit the hunter simply
21 needs to contact their local Fish and Game office and
22 it's a very easy process. They will just take down
23 some of the hunter's information and mail them a
24 permit, but essentially by calling you're registered to
25 hunt for a Tundra swan.

26
27 I've listed the numbers for each of the
28 units, Fish and Game offices, and a hunter can also
29 contact the Anchorage or the Fairbanks office to obtain
30 a permit as well. This has been somewhat of an
31 internal issue for a number of years, but we're trying
32 to automate the permit system as well so folks can go
33 online to register for a permit and they can just print
34 it out at home. We're trying to make that effort as
35 well.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you. Gayla,
38 I just wanted to make one point about the harvest
39 numbers and how we use them. I think we had a
40 discussion earlier that the harvest data collection is
41 based on a statewide estimate and we need to be careful
42 how we use even down to the regional information and
43 correct me if I'm wrong.

44
45 A good example is in 2017 we had two
46 inland communities, so our coastal hunting estimate for
47 the North Slope was low and that was brought out
48 because we had Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass. So the
49 purpose of us doing a statewide survey was not to break
50

1 it down by the regions, so we shouldn't be using it for
2 management.

3
4 Correct me if I'm wrong, but this is
5 something that the Harvest Committee needs to address.
6 It gets a little bit dangerous because we are relying
7 on these numbers broken down in the handout here when
8 its supposed to be reported at statewide level.

9
10 Gayla.

11
12 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 I'm sorry for the delay in getting back. I just had a
14 question. Brandon asked how we could change it. Would
15 we do it through the statewide Board of Game meeting to
16 get this changed or through this process for the
17 Flyway? And then just to follow up, do swans mate for
18 life and, if so, why would there be a bag limit of
19 three and not four or two and not four?

20
21 MR. SCHAMBER: Swans do mate for life,
22 yes. As for the reason why the bag limit is three, I
23 really can't answer that. It was put in place long
24 before I got involved with the Flyway. I am not sure
25 what the history is there, Gayla, and why it was set at
26 three and not four or two.

27
28 Oh, the process. The process would
29 require an amendment to the Pacific Flyway plan to
30 adjust the allowance for that three bird bag per
31 permit. Either in all states that are hunting Tundra
32 swans in the Flyway or more specifically just Alaska.
33 And then it would be a proposal that was submitted to
34 the Pacific Flyway Council and then approved by the
35 SRC.

36
37 MS. HOSETH: So, in follow up, could
38 that be something that we review at the fall meeting is
39 our management plans because we're going to be
40 reviewing the Emperor Goose Management Plan. Then that
41 could be something that we review at our fall meeting
42 to look at those. And especially if the swans mate for
43 life, then we should look at that bag limit so people
44 are getting three and then there's one bird left out
45 there.

46
47 And I know that Jack has been saying
48 for years about the swans in his region and that should
49 be something that we look at.

50

1 will stay on all the committees I'm on.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Would it
4 help, Peter, if I named who's on the committees for you
5 on the phone? I know you're on the Emperor Goose
6 Management Committee.

7

8 MR. DEVINE: No, I know who the
9 committee members are.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
12 Peter. We'll go to the Exclusion Committee. Is that
13 something that needs to stay on there? Does anyone
14 know what that is?

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Gayla.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

19

20 MS. CHERNOFF: On the Emperor Goose
21 Management Sub-committee, I would like to be added on
22 there.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. That
25 sounds good. Exclusion, do you know if that committee
26 ever met? We'll just keep it as it is then. Peter,
27 you're on that committee. The Invitation Committee, I
28 would like to be added.

29

30 MS. HEPA: I'd like to know, and with
31 the blessing of Gloria, if you think having Jim on this
32 committee would be good based on his active
33 participation in the discussions.

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I wanted to add
36 him. I said that this morning. And I'd like to stay
37 on there too.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral Chernoff.
42 I'd like to be added, please.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. You want
45 to be on there, Eric?

46

47 DR. TAYLOR: No. I'd like to add Rory
48 Stark, please.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, okay. And I
2 think it would be good -- I talked with Courtenay
3 during the lunch break and as a tribal administrator
4 and a tribe being involved, if we could appoint her to
5 that committee and then she could give a perspective
6 from a tribal council and how that would work with the
7 tribe. Is that okay with everybody? Her name is
8 Courtenay Carty.

9
10 The Kodiak Road Sub-committee stays the
11 same.

12
13 MS. KRUEGER: You can add me and Lili
14 said she was still on it too.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Liliana. Okay.

17
18 MR. SCOTT: I'd like to be on it as
19 well.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Ryan.

22
23 DR. TAYLOR: Could you please add me.
24 Do we know if -- Kelly, is there a chair on that
25 committee?

26
27 MS. KRUEGER: I was the chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Oh, good
30 idea. We should identify chairs for these meetings.
31 For the Invitation, who would like to be the chair of
32 the Invitation Committee? Gloria, do you want to be
33 chair of the Invitation Committee?

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: No. I nominate Jim
36 Simon.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Jim, do you want
39 to be chair?

40
41 MR. SIMON: I guess I can. If that's
42 what Gloria wants, Gloria gets.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jim.
45 Moving on to the Harvest Survey Committee. I think
46 there was addition to add Jim Simon to that one as
47 well.

48
49 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. I'd like to
50

1 remove Michael Peterson and add Carla Kayutuk. She's
2 taking over our harvest ducks project.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Can you spell her
5 name, please.

6
7 MS. HEPA: Carla, with a C, and the
8 last name is K-A-Y-U-T-U-K.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Anybody want to
11 chair that committee? Lili, you're temporary chair of
12 the Harvest Committee in place of Mike. I think you
13 were going to call the next meeting for the Harvest
14 Survey and then if you wanted to schedule that and then
15 in that meeting if you wanted to remain chair or if
16 someone else wanted to volunteer.

17
18 Standard Operating Procedures
19 Committee. Brandon, you're on that one. Long-Term
20 Goals and Objectives Committee. Oh, for the Standard
21 Operating Procedures Committee, identifying a chair,
22 Eric just leaned over and said he wants to be chair.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 DR. TAYLOR: Lesson learned on that
27 one.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Long-Term
34 Goals and Objectives Committee. Bruce Dale is no
35 longer here. Ryan, did you want to sit in his place?

36
37 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, I think that wherever
38 he shows up I can just do that.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Flyway Council
41 Service Regulations Committee. The primary is rotating
42 and I think it just stays that way, but the primary was
43 Mike Peterson. Jennifer, did you want to move to the
44 primary spot, you were alternate?

45
46 MS. HOOPER: No. You were there before
47 me.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I'm alternate.

50

1 Does somebody want to be the primary to the Pacific
2 Flyway Council. What time are the meetings usually?

3

4 MS. HEPA: It's during AFN.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, and SRC,
7 yeah. I am heavily involved with AFN.

8

9 MS. LYNNE: I could be as long as Patty
10 promises to keep going.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: You want to be
13 primary and then we can have an alternate?

14

15 MS. HEPA: I'll be an alternate.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. And then
18 the rotating one will be rotating and Patty will reach
19 out to us.

20

21 Law Enforcement Committee. Brandon,
22 you're chair on that one. There's an asterisk by your
23 name. That means that you're the chair.

24

25 MR. AHMASUK: Nobody told me this.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Anybody else want
28 to be on that?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Budget Committee.
33 We do need to have a budget meeting. We should
34 probably have that. It would be a good time to have a
35 Budget Committee in the fall, but we need a chair for
36 that Committee. And Mike Peterson is on that. Did you
37 want to replace Mike with Carla or who do you want to
38 put for Budget?

39

40 MS. HEPA: I can.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: And Bruce Dale
43 will be replaced with Ryan?

44

45 MR. SCOTT: Yep.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Eric will be
48 chair. That's perfect. Handicrafts Committee. Todd,
49 you're chair. Outreach Committee. Christopher Tulik.

50

1 Is that the RIT from.....

2

3 DR. TAYLOR: Can we take Rory Stark
4 off, please.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. And then
7 we have our temporary committee's working groups.
8 Government-to-Government consultation. The same?

9

10 MR. SCOTT: I'll replace Bruce.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, okay.
13 Co-management principals.
14 We need a chair for the Government-to-Government
15 consultation. I would nominate Patty to do that one.
16 Co-management Principles. Patty is chair. Indigenous
17 Inhabitant Definition. We still need to work on that.
18 Who wants to chair? Indigenous Inhabitant, we'll leave
19 Patty on that. I'm going to have to leave to go on my
20 plane. Fall/Winter Subsistence Harvest Survey Season.

21

22 DR. TAYLOR: Would you add Rory Stark,
23 please.

24

25 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. We're going
26 to replace Michael with Todd Sformo.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We need a
29 chair for this meeting. I could chair this committee
30 when we need to have a meeting. Executive Director,
31 who do we want for Mike? We probably just need to get
32 rid of that one and just Patty. We could probably just
33 delete that temporary committee. Compacting
34 Contracting. Karen Linnell is on from your region,
35 Gloria. Should we keep her on there?

36

37 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. All right.

40

41 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. We talked
42 about through the proposal we did for identifying
43 closed season protocols a temporary working group and I
44 am going to nominate Todd to take the lead in
45 identifying who will represent the North Slope Borough,
46 ADF&G, Fish and Wildlife Service, WCC and
47 representatives from the Native Caucus. He will be
48 reaching out to each of our respective leaders.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It's a
2 Closed Season Working Group?

3
4 MS. HEPA: Uh-huh (affirmative). For
5 the North Slope protocol.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Do we need
8 to have a motion to approve this or it's just been
9 consensus?

10
11 DR. TAYLOR: (Nods affirmatively).

12
13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. With that
14 I'm going to turn it back to you, Taqulik. Are we
15 done?

16
17 DR. TAYLOR: Council and Staff.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, yeah. So for
20 Council and Staff comments I'm going to have to leave.
21 I need to be there in 15 minutes at the airport. I
22 just wanted to say this was a really great meeting and
23 thank you guys all. It's really good to see everybody
24 and we will see you guys in the fall. For the next
25 place and date of meeting if we could please have it on
26 a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. I think that was
27 voiced in our Native Caucus meetings.

28
29 I think it was a really great working
30 group session that we had and a really good meeting on
31 our proposals and I'm looking forward to working with
32 everybody and moving forward to get things done with
33 the Department of Interior and work on amending
34 whatever needs to be amended so we can have our
35 customary and traditional harvest.

36
37 Thank you. I'll turn it back over to
38 you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Gayla.
41 Safe travels. Good job chairing.

42
43 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: I'm going to turn
46 to agenda item 14, Staff and Council comments. We'll
47 start with Staff. Do we have any Staff closing
48 comments for the meeting.

49
50

1 Seeing none. Oh, okay, Crystal.

2

3 MS. LEONETTI: I just want to say
4 thanks everyone for helping me through what Patty
5 normally does and that I really miss Patty for the
6 record and recognizing Patty's great knowledge and
7 history of AMBCC was really missed and let's all just
8 keep her in our thoughts and prayers for her fast
9 healing.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Crystal
12 and thank you for filling in in her place. It was very
13 comforting to know that you were there. Thank you.

14

15 Were going to start with our regional
16 management body closing comments. We will start with
17 Coral and go around and the last will be us.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I just want
20 to say thank you to everyone who supported us on our
21 proposals and thank everyone for really listening with
22 an open mind and keeping co-management in mind. It has
23 been nice experiencing your spring to winter to spring
24 weather here.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: And I enjoyed Natural
29 Pantry shopping. I guess I'm looking forward to just
30 continuing. We had our local meeting and I am chair
31 for the next two year. We are sort of getting
32 organized at home, which has been really nice and I
33 think it's helped in the success of our proposals that
34 we've worked on.

35

36 We thankfully have had Kelly join our
37 team at Sun'aq and she's just been amazing. I'd like
38 to thank you. It's an honor to be on here and thank
39 you everyone.

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say it
42 was a good meeting. I think this co-management works
43 when we all meet and talk about the Kodiak proposal
44 last night. That was a good discussion. I think it
45 really helped just to talk among ourselves and work
46 together to get this proposal passed. I think that's
47 what co-management is all about.

48

49 And I want to thank Crystal for

50

1 stepping in for Patty. I do miss Patty when she's gone
2 because I didn't make it the first day because I didn't
3 know that we were going to have a Native Caucus in the
4 morning. Patty would have emailed me the day before
5 and I didn't get the message, so I missed that.
6 Crystal did do a good job though.

7

8 I'd just thank everyone for a good
9 meeting.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Jennifer.

12

13 MS. HOOPER: Thank you. I'D just echo
14 the comments. I think the way we handled the meeting
15 and the topics that we had on the table, maintaining
16 professionalism and understanding and open-mindedness
17 really helps to showcase what real co-management is and
18 I completely concur with Coral and Gloria's comments.

19

20 And also thank Crystal for stepping in
21 and helping to fill that gap. I hope everyone has a
22 great spring and safe travels back home.

23

24 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks to Staff.
25 Thanks to Eric. You guys put up with quite a bit of
26 contention. Going to these meetings over the last few
27 years we've had our differences and everything, but in
28 looking back at the Emperor geese that was how many
29 years in the making. You guys stick to your guns and
30 eventually it will work out. It's always good to have
31 a different point of view because everybody should
32 learn from everybody else's point of view.

33

34 We all worked together and hats off to
35 everybody. There were some issues there that looked
36 insurmountable pretty much, but all you guys did pretty
37 good. Go from barking at each other to almost hugging
38 each other and that's commendable. Just don't turn
39 into a swan. Thank you.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. HARRIS: Another great meeting.
44 First of all I'd like to welcome Ryan into this group.
45 I didn't recognize who he was when I first got in, so I
46 had to make an opportunity to go and meet with him to
47 understand more where he's coming from. You know, he
48 came from a long Alaskan lifestyle I understand and
49 jumping from big game to waterfowl. I guess this is

50

1 going to be one of your most interesting meetings here.

2

3 Anyway, I attend a lot of other
4 meetings regarding something similar to this, but
5 otherwise with caribou, seal, polar bear, you name it,
6 you know, and the question normally is co-management.
7 When the question comes around that area I always give
8 examples of the Alaska Migratory Co-management Council
9 is a great example on how co-management should work.
10 The way I see it is we are taking the lead on
11 co-management and it's great steps to take for other
12 meetings.

13

14 I pretty much thank everyone.

15

16 I thank Crystal, Taqulik, Eric, Gayla
17 for running a good meeting this spring and will look
18 forward to seeing you all next fall.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. LYNNE: Madame Chair and Council.
23 This is Debra Lynne with Tanana Chiefs. I would like
24 to thank you for allowing me to sit here and be able to
25 participate and watch how a co-management works
26 successfully. You are taking the lead. I think you
27 are correct.

28

29 I think you're taking the lead in a
30 statewide demonstration on how successful different
31 organizations can collaborate and come together and
32 keep discussions going until you are able to find where
33 everybody's values are agreed upon so everybody is able
34 to pass a proposal. I think you've done some really
35 good wordsmithing in your crafting to get these
36 proposals to a place that everybody can say that their
37 value of conservation or whatever their concerns are
38 are met.

39

40 I think that's the key is you kept the
41 discussions going even if it meant hours after the
42 meeting to be able to listen to each other's concerns.
43 Not just speaking, but you were listening to each
44 other's concerns. So I saw that that's how this
45 process was working and how you were able to come to
46 these proposals that everyone felt good about.

47

48 I was glad that I had the opportunity
49 as Tanana Chiefs to be able to bring their support to
50

1 this meeting so that I'll be able to go back and report
2 what are the concerns and things we accomplished here.
3 This is a great example again of a co-management and
4 thank you for letting me participate.

5
6 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 I do want to thank Gayla for being the Chair of this
8 meeting and also for Taqulik for stepping in and also
9 for Crystal stepping in for Patty. It's always a
10 challenge when you step into a position at the last
11 minute.

12
13 We did miss one committee and I've
14 called it the Review and Edit Committee and I've
15 nominated Jim Simon to be chair of that because Jim is
16 -- in all seriousness, thank you for pointing out
17 errors in the regulations book and the website. We are
18 aware of some of those, but I do appreciate you
19 pointing out and assigning the extra work.

20
21 I will be looking for help in all
22 seriousness. It was interesting to hear some comments
23 about the regulations book could be improved. I've
24 kind of made that suggestion kindly to the dear person
25 that worked in our shop for quite some time and people
26 are very busy and sometimes it's tough to -- you know,
27 when you have something and it's easier to go with
28 status quo.

29
30 Anyway, I'm going to look for some
31 input because I think there's ways to make that more
32 user-friendly, clear, easier to find things. So be
33 ready, Jim.

34
35 Presentations. Thanks to Julian and
36 Liliana and Jason for taking the time and coming up and
37 presenting the information. It's always good. It's
38 always fun to listen to the status and trends and
39 particularly hearing from individuals from regions.
40 It's really interesting to hear new observations like
41 Taqulik's observations of geese that have not been
42 staging at the North Slope Borough and now they are.
43 So those are important things.

44
45 Coral's request for important bird
46 areas is a great example of information we need to get
47 out. Jack's point about once you lose it -- you never
48 know it until you lose it, it's a really key message.
49 Whether it's a staging area or a molting area or
50

1 breeding area, I think all of us, if we stay cognizant
2 on it, we can have a lot of power here to protect those
3 areas to make sure that not only you enjoy them but
4 your children and your children's children can enjoy
5 them.

6
7 Thank you for your patience in terms of
8 the regulations booklet challenge on the website and
9 the Federal Register notice, which just got published
10 the day before the season opened. All those things
11 were -- you know, the 30-day furlough or 35 days we
12 were off work and then the two weeks of earthquakes
13 that we weren't allowed in our regional office
14 building, then Donna's retirement put me into a bit of
15 a challenge, so thank you for your patience. We will
16 do better assuming we don't have anymore earthquakes or
17 furloughs.

18
19 Thanks and welcome to Ryan for stepping
20 in. You did a great job for your first meeting. I'll
21 end with saying this has been a productive meeting.
22 There's been fits and starts along the way and
23 sometimes when people have passion about a topic, like
24 we all do, otherwise we wouldn't be sitting here for
25 three days. That's going to be a normal part of the
26 process. Sometimes it's important to realize that.
27 Debra mentioned a good point. It's always good to
28 listen. I'd commend all of you for doing that.

29
30 Thank you very much.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. Short and sweet. I'm very happy to be here and
34 thankful and humbled as well. As I mentioned earlier
35 there's some emotion and passion and those are all good
36 things. Certainly it creates some very interesting
37 moments, but those are okay too.

38
39 Everybody in this room actually that
40 contributes to this process that's an amazing thing to
41 do. It does show where your interest and your passion
42 and your efforts are frankly. Waterfowl needs that.
43 All of the people of Alaska need that. The other
44 species need it and the lands need it.

45
46 So my hat's off to folks who dedicate
47 their time and energy to representing the regions as
48 well as in the different agencies and everybody who's
49 involved. And the folks who hung out for the whole
50

1 thing that's pretty cool.

2

3 Anyway, thank you very much. I'm going
4 to follow Gloria's lead and I'm going to nominate Jason
5 Schamber to every committee and he can just figure that
6 out.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 I talked to Bruce a couple times during
11 the last couple days and he wanted me to pass on hello
12 to everybody and let you know that he misses you very
13 much and that this was truly one of the highlights of
14 his time as Director with the Division of Wildlife
15 Conservation.

16

17 If there's anything I can ever do for
18 any of you, whether it be wildlife or whatever, I'm
19 pretty easy to find. I'm in Juneau and I'm pretty
20 flexible. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you.

25

26 I heard you say that.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: We have a Board of
31 Game meeting coming up in the fall next year.

32

33 MR. SCOTT: I will be there.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Hi, Peter. Your
36 turn.

37

38 MR. DEVINE: Sorry. Wish I could be
39 there. It was a really great meeting in Kodiak. Your
40 perseverance on keep pushing this. I know it takes a
41 long time. It took a lot of people for them to get
42 this through. Five if I recall. It all started with
43 Herman, then Rick, then George, then Melissa and then
44 Coral gets to go home and hopefully get a standing
45 ovation or at least a big welcoming committee like
46 she's bringing home the state trophy. This has taken a
47 while.

48

49 They've got some pretty good staff

50

1 there to keep rewording it and sending it back. I'd
2 like to commend them on that. The geese population is
3 early. Everything is early. Our salmonberry bushes
4 are starting to sprout. Songbirds showed up on March
5 25th along with the Herring gulls and so we are well
6 into spring over here.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Thank you, Peter.
9 Just in closing I don't want to take too much time. I
10 again thank Gayla for the wonderful job she did in
11 chairing the meeting. I just want to personally thank
12 Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and
13 Game and our Native Caucus regional managers at the
14 table for the hard work they did and congratulate each
15 of us for allowing the co-management process to work
16 for managing the subsistence take of migratory birds
17 for Alaska.

18
19 There's some really tough topics that
20 came up in proposals. We made progress on all of them.
21 I'm really proud to say that. It's just understanding
22 where we're all coming from. Someone made the comment
23 that we're all working toward the same thing and when
24 we put our minds together and the barriers that keep us
25 divided sometimes that we really will do a good job for
26 protecting the migratory birds, our access to them and
27 I look forward to our meetings coming up to talk about
28 some of these tough things. Rolling up our sleeves and
29 figuring out how can we better co-manage subsistence
30 take of migratory birds.

31
32 Those are the challenges that we're
33 faced with and our leaders before us did a really good
34 job of breaking the trail for us. They allowed us to
35 have this forum to discuss those issues and we've got
36 many years of good work together to look forward to.
37 It ain't gonna be easy, but there's going to be some
38 good memories and hopefully some good outcomes to show
39 the people in our agencies that we can do it together.

40
41 Before we leave I just want to thank
42 Karen and the owners of this building facility APAI, I
43 think, for allowing us to have our meeting here. It's
44 a wonderful facility, great location.

45
46 I also want to give my sincere thanks
47 to Julie and Jason and Liliana for all the work that
48 you did, your presentations that you came to the table
49 with. Very good information and it's much appreciated.

50

1 Safe travels, good luck spring hunting
2 and summer hunting. I'm going to turn the floor over to
3 Eric before we sign off.
4

5 DR. TAYLOR: Madame Chair. You have
6 one more responsibility before you head north. That is
7 you get to pass the gavel to my distinguished colleague
8 to my left to then discuss the date and location for
9 the fall meeting.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: Should we tell him
12 what the initiation is?
13

14 (Laughter)
15

16 DR. TAYLOR: Hit him on the head?
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 MR. SCOTT: Where's the door?
21

22 (Laughter)
23

24 ACTING CHAIR HEPA: We do have one more
25 agenda item, date and time of next meeting. As always,
26 I think we'll leave it up to Patty to communicate with
27 each one of us on what week and hopefully September
28 would work best.
29

30 At this time I'm going to turn over the
31 gavel and the responsibility to the Alaska Department
32 of Fish and Game.
33

34 Thank you.
35

36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, ma'am. So,
37 being new to this, I'm not sure how -- it happens in
38 September, correct?
39

40 MS. HEPA: (Nods affirmatively)
41

42 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Is there a better time
43 of the month? I mean is there a typical week that we
44 choose?
45

46 MS. HEPA: Definitely, I believe
47 historically it's been around the third or last week of
48 September. It needs to happen before September 30th,
49 before the grant ending period ends.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. I remember
2 Gayla had asked that we focus early on Tuesday,
3 Wednesday, Thursday. So September 17th, 18th, 19th or
4 24th, 25th, 26th.

5
6 Coral.

7
8 MS. CHERNOFF: Usually our RAC meetings
9 are typically between the 19th and the 26th of
10 September for Kodiak Region. I guess if it's not an
11 issue with anyone else I would request earlier in the
12 month.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Anybody else have
15 thoughts on dates and times. I'm very flexible that
16 time of year, so whatever works.

17
18 MS. HEPA: Last fall it was the second
19 week of September if I remember correctly. It was
20 earlier this year than it had in years past. So I
21 think you communicating with Patty on throwing out some
22 dates for us would work.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Does that sound okay
25 to the rest of the Council members? Does that work?
26 I'll be sure to include a note in there concerning the
27 Kodiak RAC.

28
29 MS. STICKWAN: We have RAC meetings too
30 and the SRC. I sit on that too.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gloria.
33 I'll be sure to talk with Patty about that as well.

34
35 MS. HEPA: Move to adjourn.

36
37 MR. HARRIS: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you everybody.
40 Safe travels and good hunting. We're adjourned.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

