

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING - TELECONFERENCE

MAY 4, 2020

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  
Brandon Ahmasuk, 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  
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Patty Schwalenberg

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(TELECONFERENCE, Alaska - 5/4/2020)

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Good morning,  
8 everyone. This is Ryan Scott with the Alaska  
9 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife  
10 Conservation. Thank you for joining us all this  
11 morning for our spring AMBCC meeting.

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It's obviously a little bit unorthodox  
14 compared to what we've done in the past and what we all  
15 are pretty much used to at this point as far as having  
16 to call in and do teleconferences and videoconferences.  
17 I appreciate everybody taking time for this this  
18 morning.

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For Patty, I want to say especially  
21 thank you very much for organizing this and putting all  
22 the documentation together and making it possible for  
23 us to get together. Cheryl as well with the Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service. Thanks for all the work on that.

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So I'd like to call the meeting  
27 officially to order. I have on my computer 8:41 a.m.  
28 Today is Monday, May 4, 2020. Now I'd like to take a  
29 moment of silence for folks that aren't able to join us  
30 and just to put some thoughts out there with all of our  
31 partners and our friends and our families in this  
32 trying time.

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35

(Moment of silence)

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: All right. Patty, I  
37 guess we're now to the roll call before we get to  
38 introductions. If you could call the roll, I'd  
39 appreciate that.

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MS. SCHWALENBERG: Certainly. Alaska  
42 Department of Fish and Game.

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Here.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
47 Wildlife Service.

MR. TAYLOR: Here.

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: North Slope Borough.  
2  
3 MS. HEPA: Here.  
4  
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Tanana Chiefs  
6 Conference.  
7  
8 (No response)  
9  
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Bristol Bay Native  
11 Association.  
12  
13 MS. HOSETH: Here.  
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15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Aleutian Pribilof  
16 Islands Association.  
17  
18 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine here.  
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20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Association of  
21 Village Council Presidents.  
22  
23 MS. HOOPER: Here, Jennifer Hooper.  
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25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sun'aq Tribe of  
26 Kodiak.  
27  
28 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.  
29  
30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak.  
31  
32 MR. AHMASUK: Hi, Patty. This is  
33 Brandon.  
34  
35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Brandon.  
36 Maniilaq.  
37  
38 MR. HARRIS: Hello. Cyrus here.  
39  
40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Ahtna Intertribal  
41 Resource Commission.  
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43 MS. STICKWAN: Here. Gloria Stickwan.  
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45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Chugach Regional  
46 Resources Commission.  
47  
48 (No response)  
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1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman, we  
2 have a quorum.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Great. Thank you very  
5 much. Thank you everybody. Moving down the agenda the  
6 next item is introduction of Council member staff and  
7 Pacific Flyway Council representation.

8  
9 Eric, do you want to start.

10  
11 MR. TAYLOR: Sure. Thank you, Ryan.  
12 This is Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
13 and I'll echo Ryan's appreciation for everyone's  
14 patience and tolerance and flexibility to attend the  
15 spring meeting by teleconference.

16  
17 All of us have incurred I'm safe to say  
18 substantive changes in our personal and professional  
19 lives. This is yet another example of where we're  
20 having to evolve into doing something differently than  
21 the past.

22  
23 Thank you very much.

24  
25 I'm glad to be here and I'm glad so  
26 many folks have been able to join us.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric.

29  
30 Gayla, are you on?

31  
32 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, everybody.  
33 Yes, Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association,  
34 Director of Natural Resources. Good to hear everybody.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Patty, do you have a  
37 list you want to run through or did you just need the  
38 three of us at this point?

39  
40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I think just the  
41 three of you is fine. I'm wondering if -- I can read  
42 off the names that everyone said and then if anyone is  
43 not on the list we could do it that way or if you just  
44 want to go through all the people.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, I'll just real  
47 quickly reintroduce myself and then I think if you take  
48 a crack at the list that you have, that might be a  
49 little bit more efficient for us. Folks who don't hear  
50

1 their names let us know when we get to the end.

2

3 Again, my name is Ryan Scott. I work  
4 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I'm down  
5 in Juneau. Thanks again for everybody's time. I look  
6 forward to seeing everybody in the spring and the fall.  
7 It's unfortunate that we are where we are, but we do  
8 want to be safe and we want to keep our families and  
9 friends and our communities safe. We're doing the best  
10 we can.

11

12 Again, thank you and good morning. So,  
13 Patty, let's go through the list that you have and  
14 people that we didn't catch there we'll just ask them  
15 to speak up when we get towards the end.

16

17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So I have  
18 Eric Taylor, Ryan Scott, Gayla Hoseth, Patty  
19 Schwalenberg, Brandon Ahmasuk, Coral Chernoff, Peter  
20 Devine, Cyrus Harris, Cheryl Graves, Rory Stark, Joanne  
21 Bryant, Liliana Naves, Nathan (Hile) -- I don't know  
22 your last name, the transcriber -- Karen Pletnikoff,  
23 Jennifer Hooper, Taqulik Hepa, Gloria Stickwan,  
24 Brittany Sweeney, Todd Sformo, Todd Sanders, Crystal  
25 Leonetti, Julian Fischer, Jim Fall, Bryan Daniels,  
26 Tamara Zeller, Dave Rippetto, Dave Safine, Heidi Kritz,  
27 Will (Wiese) -- and I didn't catch your last name, and  
28 Aaron Moses.

29

30 Those were the names I caught.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Nicely done by the  
33 way. Good job. Thank you. You got more than I did.  
34 So for everybody listening out there Patty just went  
35 through a list of names that folks had provided quick  
36 introductions and to let us know you're on the line.  
37 This will get clunky and I realize it, but I think if  
38 you didn't hear your name please let us know that  
39 you're on the line at this point and the organization  
40 that you're representing.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is  
43 Vince Mathews with Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if you  
46 called my name. This is Gloria.

47

48 MR. FROST: Hi, this is Chuck Frost  
49 with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird

50

1 Management from Anchorage.

2

3 MR. WIESE: This is Will Wiese. You  
4 called me but didn't have my last name Wiese,  
5 W-I-E-S-E, with Fish and Wildlife Service in Kaktovik.

6

7

8 As I mentioned earlier, Nora Jane Burns  
9 is not on the call right now, but would like to call in  
10 later when we get to the North Slope Borough eggling  
11 proposal. So I'll likely text her later and she'll  
12 call in later.

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MR. SIMON: Jim Simon with Tanana  
Chiefs Conference and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource  
Commission.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. I think I just  
heard somebody beep in.

MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. I  
accidentally hit the button again. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: No worries. I do it  
all the time. Thank you, Gloria. For Patty and folks  
listening, I think that given this is a large  
teleconference. Obviously we have a lot of  
participants. When we have the meeting notes done, we  
just want to pay attention to the folks that we have  
listed as attending to make sure we didn't miss  
anybody. I think we've got a pretty good handle on it,  
but it is challenging in the way we're doing this.

I guess a couple other things I'll just  
mention. Jason Schamber is on the line as well from the  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Todd Sanders  
indicated he was on the line, the Pacific Flyway  
Council representative. Thank you guys both for being  
there.

At this time do we have any other  
guests and members of the public that would like to  
just identify yourself and let us know you're there and  
that will help us when we get down a couple steps here  
to public comments so we don't forget anyone. So other  
guests and members of the public that haven't already  
identified themselves.

(No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
2 Patty, I think we're at item number five, review and  
3 adoption of the agenda.

4  
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's correct. I  
6 emailed that out to everyone so everyone should have  
7 it.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: So Council members I  
10 hope and make the assumption that you had a chance to  
11 look at the agenda. It's truncated by quite a bit in  
12 efforts to fit it into a teleconference context. If  
13 folks have any questions, if you'd like to do any  
14 agenda modifications, additions, deletions, things like  
15 that, this is the time. If not, we'll be prepared to  
16 adopt the agenda for our teleconference.

17  
18 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
19 Hoseth. I move to adopt the agenda.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla. Do  
22 we have a second.

23  
24 MR. DEVINE: Aleutian Pribilof, second.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. So we have a  
27 motion to approve the agenda. It's been seconded. Any  
28 discussion.

29  
30 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
31 Hoseth. If I could make an addition to the agenda,  
32 somewhere on the agenda, for AMBCC grants. Maybe that  
33 would be good right after new business or right under  
34 new business.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Sure. Okay. We will  
37 do that.

38  
39 MR. DEVINE: I second that addition.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you.

42  
43 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I think that  
44 would be E.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, I think that's  
47 accurate -- or is it D? We'll put it under new  
48 business.

49  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. I'm going to  
4 ask for unanimous consent of the agenda including the  
5 changes. All those in favor please say aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Patty, did you get all  
10 that?

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Normally I  
15 would say throw something at me if I screw something up  
16 or if I miss a step. Let me know when I do that. It's  
17 not a matter of if, it's just when, I'm sure.

18

19 Thanks again everybody for hanging in  
20 there with us. We're now to public comments. At this  
21 time if members of the public and any other comments  
22 that we need to include in the transcript please let us  
23 know. When you speak, please state your first and last  
24 name so we make sure that we capture who's speaking at  
25 the time. I'll open the floor to public comment.

26

27 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, please.

32

33 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon with Ahtna  
34 Intertribal Resource Commission and Tanana Chiefs  
35 Conference Hunting and Fishing Task Force for the  
36 record. I'd like to just touch on two different things  
37 as we begin the meeting. I wanted to point out that in  
38 2018 the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission pointed  
39 out an error in the regulations. Then, as you know, in  
40 2019 the regulations were not produced, so stickers for  
41 2019 were put on the 2018 regulations package and in  
42 reviewing the 2020 regulation package that error in the  
43 Ahtna Region is still presence.

44

45 In short, on Page 12 there is a note  
46 under the Upper Copper River region, which, by the way,  
47 includes Cantwell, which is not on the Copper River.  
48 The Copper River Basin communities listed above are  
49 also eligible to hunt in Game Management Unit 2 using

50

1 the Interior Region seasons. See page 8.

2

3 The closure of June 1st through July  
4 31st is incorrect. The interior closure is June 15th  
5 to July 15th. So that represents a continued dramatic  
6 curtailing of subsistence bird hunting in the Ahtna  
7 Traditional Use Territory. This has been identified in  
8 your previous meeting transcripts as well as Regional  
9 Council meetings.

10

11 So I'm hoping that that can be fixed  
12 finally. This error has always been in the regulations  
13 since they were first established and the Ahtna  
14 Traditional Use Territory communities would be very  
15 appreciative of this error being corrected.

16

17 The second comment pertains to the  
18 tribal consultation letter sent out by the U.S. Fish  
19 and Wildlife Service regarding ravens and the  
20 incidental take of migratory birds. For tribal  
21 consultation webinars that were to take place the  
22 following two days after that letter was posted and I  
23 would respectfully request the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service to provide more advance notification of such  
25 tribal consultation opportunities.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim.

30

31 Other public comments.

32

33 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
34 Hoseth. I just wanted to see if anybody knows why the  
35 error in the Ahtna Region wasn't fixed in the book and  
36 it's been like that since it printed. I know that we  
37 had some turnover in staff with Donna leaving. So how  
38 could we get that fixed.

39

40 MR. TAYLOR: Hi, Gayla. This is Eric  
41 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks. I  
42 tried to jump in there, but wasn't able to. Jim, thank  
43 you for pointing it out. I cannot explain why the  
44 error is still there. The regulations book did go  
45 through a pretty thorough review from everybody on the  
46 Council, but nonetheless the errors are still there.

47

48 We do have yet another printing coming  
49 out this summer and we'll make sure that that's

50

1 corrected. What I would like to do is make sure that  
2 when we get the corrected version that we get you on  
3 the phone to make sure that everything that you're  
4 concerned with is corrected.

5  
6 So thank you for pointing it out.  
7 We'll make sure it's corrected in the second printing  
8 here for the 2020 regulation.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric.  
11 Appreciate you looking into that. Jim, thanks for  
12 bringing it back to our attention as well. Any other  
13 discussion on this item.

14  
15 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
16 again. I was just curious why wasn't the raven  
17 conversation on our agenda? Kind of overlooked that  
18 this morning. I guess would that be in U.S. Fish and  
19 Wildlife's report?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Eric, can you respond  
22 to that.

23  
24 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. This is Eric Taylor  
25 with Fish and Wildlife Service. Gayla, that should be  
26 covered by Todd Sanders on his Pacific Flyway report.

27  
28 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Other public  
31 comments.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
36 We'll close public comments at this point. Obviously  
37 though if something comes up, folks just let us know  
38 and we'll make sure we get it on the floor for  
39 discussion.

40  
41 The next item we need to address is  
42 adoption of Council action items from our September  
43 2019 meeting. Patty, correct me if I'm wrong. We're  
44 just going to approve the notes, is that accurate?

45  
46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, all the  
47 actions taken at the September 18-19, 2019 meeting. We  
48 need approval of those. Thank you.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am. Thank  
2 you. Again this came out -- the notes came out in the  
3 packet that was emailed last Thursday. I hope folks  
4 had a chance to take a look at it. If there's any  
5 additions, corrections that we need to make, please let  
6 us know now.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
11 I guess we're looking for a motion to adopt the minutes  
12 from the September 2019 meeting.

13  
14 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes.

17  
18 MR. SIMON: This is Jim Simon. I'm not  
19 sitting in for Tanana Chiefs Conference, who is absent  
20 today, but I did want to bring to your attention as a  
21 member of the public that I believe that there is at  
22 least one typographical error in these actions from the  
23 2019 meeting and I believe that it pertains to you,  
24 Mr. Chairman, that you are not Mr. Dale, that you are  
25 Mr. Scott, and that would be under the motion to adopt  
26 spring action item per Emperor Goose Conservation  
27 Management Plan. It indicates seconded by Mr. Dale and  
28 I believe that would be Mr. Scott.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, unless Bruce  
31 called in from Mexico, you're probably right. Thanks,  
32 Jim. Good catch.

33  
34 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make a motion to  
35 approve the action items from the September 19, 2019  
36 meeting with the corrections so noted that it should  
37 read Mr. Ryan Scott.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. And I  
40 apologize, I don't recognize everybody's voice quite  
41 yet. The person making the motion to approve just so  
42 we get your name on the record, please.

43  
44 MS. HEPA: That was a motion by  
45 Taqulik. Good morning.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hi, Taqulik. Good  
48 morning. We have a motion to approve with the  
49 corrections noted by Jim Simon. I need a second.

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
2 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I second.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric. So  
5 we have a motion to approve the minutes and it's been  
6 seconded. I guess we'll call for a vote. Patty, I  
7 should have asked you this before. Do you want to do  
8 that, the roll call votes, or do we just want people to  
9 indicate yea or nay?

10  
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, we initially  
12 called this for an Executive Committee meeting, so  
13 actually we only need three votes.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Right. So I  
16 guess with the Executive Committee if you would please  
17 indicate your vote.

18  
19 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
20 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I approve, aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Gayla.

23  
24 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I approve.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: And I too approve.  
27 Okay. Item number 8 on our agenda is the beginning of  
28 our old business discussions. The first item is  
29 Council committee reports. The first one is the  
30 Technical Committee report by Julian Fischer. Julian,  
31 are you in a good spot to provide that?

32  
33 MR. FISCHER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I am. I  
34 just want to make sure I am coming in loud and clear.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I can certainly hear  
37 you very well. Thank you.

38  
39 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Members of the Council. My name is Julian Fischer,  
41 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the current chair of  
42 the AMBCC Technical Committee.

43  
44 The Technical Committee is made up by  
45 one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee, myself,  
46 two Alaska Department of Fish and Game employees, and  
47 five Council members or their support staff and the  
48 Executive Director of the AMBCC.

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1                   The Technical Committee serves the  
2 Council by reviewing current regulatory proposals,  
3 identify aspects that require clarification for use by  
4 the entity that was submitting the proposal to address  
5 as desired and for the Council to discuss prior to  
6 voting. The Technical Committee does not provide our  
7 recommendations for or against a proposal. That  
8 authority lies with the Council.  
9

10                   The two regulatory proposals were  
11 submitted to the AMBCC in December 2019. The Technical  
12 Committee began their review of these proposals on 25  
13 February, 2020 and we met via teleconference to discuss  
14 the proposals on 17 March, 2020.  
15

16                   The discussion during the meeting as  
17 follow-up input from committee members was used to  
18 produce a Technical Committee report. That report was  
19 finalized and submitted to the Executive Director on 6  
20 April, 2020.  
21

22                   This oral presentation is a summary of  
23 that final Technical Committee report. I believe Patty  
24 sent out both the notes from the Technical Committee  
25 meeting as well as the final report with other  
26 materials for this AMBCC meeting today.  
27

28                   The first proposal was submitted by  
29 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission and the proposal  
30 seeks to amend the process by which residents of  
31 included areas can invite their immediate family  
32 members that reside in excluded areas to participate in  
33 the spring/summer hunting of migratory birds.  
34

35                   The current process for invitation was  
36 approved by the AMBCC in 2013 and it remains in effect  
37 to this day. The process requires the local village or  
38 Native council writing a letter to the AMBCC Executive  
39 Director authorizing an invitation for an otherwise  
40 ineligible hunter to assist an immediate family member  
41 residing in an eligible area in spring/summer harvest  
42 of migratory birds. The AMBCC Executive Director then  
43 informs law enforcement with names of authorized  
44 hunters.  
45

46                   Proposal 2020-01 seeks to amend that  
47 current process by providing an alternative method of  
48 invitation. Specifically, the proposed alternative  
49 procedure is to allow tribal council or their  
50

1 authorized tribal representative to issue a permit  
2 directly to an invited immediate family member without  
3 the requirement to inform the Executive Director of the  
4 AMBCC.

5  
6 The authors of the proposal state that  
7 the regulation should be adopted to reduce burden on  
8 Federal agency staff and to better fulfill the intent  
9 of a Migratory Bird Treaty Act amendment. Specifically  
10 by more meaningfully involving Alaska Native tribes and  
11 co-management and promoting tribal sovereignty  
12 regarding authorization of tribal citizens.

13  
14 In its review, the Technical Committee  
15 noted three technical documents that were specifically  
16 relevant to the proposal. Federal Register 50 CFR 92.5  
17 outlines who's eligible to participate in the  
18 spring/summer subsistence hunt of migratory birds.  
19 Part D, published in 2014, describes the current  
20 requirement for a resident from an ineligible area to  
21 participate. The document describes the current  
22 process for invitation.

23  
24 The second document Federal Register 50  
25 CFR 92.4 defines immediate family members as spouse,  
26 children, parents, grandparents and siblings.

27  
28 Third, the 1996 protocol to amend the  
29 1916 convention protection of migratory birds between  
30 the U.S. and Canada recognizes the importance of  
31 hunters to assist their immediate families in meeting  
32 their nutritional and other essential needs or for the  
33 teaching of culture. Further, it states the  
34 requirement of a permit from the village council to  
35 permit such activity.

36  
37 The Technical Committee identified  
38 eight items for the Council to discuss at the spring  
39 meeting. At its meeting on 17 March the Technical  
40 Committee reviewed the proposal submitted in December  
41 with applied statewide. Given that all regions were  
42 affected by statewide proposals, several issues in the  
43 Technical Committee we discussed reflected concerns by  
44 several regions about how the specific wording would  
45 apply to their region. Since that time the proposer  
46 has indicated that the Council can reduce the  
47 geographic scope of the proposal as it so chooses.

48  
49 The first item that came up is as  
50

1 follows: The Technical Committee noted that if the  
2 purpose of the proposal was to simplify the process for  
3 invitation, then the proposed locally issued permit  
4 option could replace the current procedure that  
5 requires a letter to the AMBCC.  
6

7 So one item that the Council should  
8 discuss is to decide whether to retain the permit  
9 procedure, number one, which is the current procedure.  
10 That's the item that requires a copy of the letter of  
11 permission to be sent to the AMBCC Executive Director.  
12

13 A second item that we discussed was  
14 that while the original proposal applied statewide, the  
15 proposer indicated on 18 March that they're open to  
16 keeping the proposal limited to their region only  
17 should the AMBCC prefer. The Technical Committee notes  
18 that three regions have sought amendments to the  
19 current process. So it might be appropriate for the  
20 Council to satisfy all the regions if a statewide  
21 proposal is desired.  
22

23 The third item was really a word choice  
24 issue. The proposal replaces the term village council  
25 with tribal council. The Technical Committee noted  
26 that for the proposal to be accepted statewide the word  
27 council may not be relevant in all regions and  
28 suggested governing body might be more appropriate.  
29

30 The Technical Committee sought input  
31 from the Department of Interior Solicitor's Office  
32 regarding the term village council, tribal council and  
33 governing body. Ken Lord, the Assistant Regional  
34 Solicitor, concluded that the terms village council,  
35 tribal council and governing body are all appropriate  
36 and could be combined for maximum flexibility. For  
37 example, the regulation could be worded in the  
38 following way. A letter of invitation may be sent by  
39 the tribal or village council or governing body,  
40 whichever is appropriate.  
41

42 The fourth item that the Technical  
43 Committee discussed was that it noted that authorized  
44 tribal representative is unclear and suggested that  
45 titles of individuals authorized to issue permits be  
46 specified, such as tribal administrator, tribal  
47 employee, regional management body representative, et  
48 cetera, or to limit the authority to tribal or village  
49 council or tribal governing body.  
50

1                   The fifth item that the Committee  
2 discussed was regarding the information that should be  
3 included on the permit. So in the proposal a draft  
4 template was included and the committee noted that it  
5 lacked the name and the relationship to the immediate  
6 family member that resides in the eligible area.

7  
8                   So the Technical Committee highlighted  
9 the need for the Council to determine which of the  
10 following items should appear on an invitation permit:  
11 name of invitee and address of invitee, the Federal,  
12 State or Tribal government issued ID number, issue date  
13 of the permit, expiration date of the permit, the name  
14 of immediate family member that's offering the  
15 invitation and their relationship to the invitee, the  
16 name of immediate family member that's offering the  
17 invitation and their relationship to the invitee, the  
18 name or tribal village council or governing body, and  
19 the signature of the authorizing official and the  
20 signature of the permittee.

21  
22                   The next item was that the committee  
23 identified a need for a term life on the invitation  
24 permit. The committee members suggested a one-year,  
25 two-year, five-year length just to put some ideas out  
26 there, but doesn't have an opinion one way or the other  
27 on the length that the permit should be for, but  
28 encouraged the AMBCC to discuss that.

29  
30                   Next the Technical Committee did not  
31 recognize a need for invitation permits to be formatted  
32 identically across the state as long as the permits  
33 included the minimum information that the Council  
34 approved. However, the Committee encouraged the  
35 Council to state whether a standard format was  
36 necessary and, if so, the Council should identify who  
37 would design and distribute to village and tribal  
38 councils and tribal governing bodies.

39  
40                   Lastly, the Technical Committee noted  
41 that the language and permit procedure one, referring  
42 to the Service's Co-management Council Coordination  
43 Office was unclear. Following the Technical Committee,  
44 the AITRC indicated that it was open to modifying the  
45 language to Service's AMBCC coordinator. So that last  
46 one is really just a simple clarification of a term.

47  
48                   For the second proposal, 2020-02, it  
49 was submitted by a resident of the village of Kaktovik  
50

1 and seeks to allow egg collection during the 30-day  
2 closure in the eastern unit of the North Slope Region.

3  
4 The proposal states that the current  
5 30-day closure dates do not coincide with peak egg  
6 laying for Common eiders, thus gathering of Common  
7 eider eggs, an important traditional food source for  
8 residents of Kaktovik could not be conducted legally in  
9 most years.

10  
11 The Technical Committee was unaware of  
12 any past proposals that have sought an exemption to the  
13 30-day closure and recognized two issues associated  
14 with exempting egg gathering from an annual 30-day  
15 closure.

16  
17 First, the U.S./Japan Treaty on  
18 Migratory Bird Conservation specifies that hunting  
19 avoid the principal nesting period and that nesting  
20 period was defined as 30-days in the Federal Register  
21 50 CFR 92(d) and that's in the general overview of  
22 regulations. That's the process that's happened in all  
23 regions since the beginning of AMBCC.

24  
25 Second, if the 30-day closure was  
26 eliminated and the spring/summer subsistence hunt would  
27 exceed the 124-day limit where the hunt is specified in  
28 the U.S./Mexico Treaty, that together with three other  
29 international treaties allows for the legal subsistence  
30 hunt in Alaska during spring and summer.

31  
32 So for these reasons the consensus of  
33 the Technical Committee was that the proposal is in  
34 conflict with the protection of birds and eggs during  
35 the principal nesting period season and season length  
36 requirements.

37  
38 While Proposal 2020-02 appears to be in  
39 conflict with the international treaties, the Technical  
40 Committee noted that the problem that it's trying to  
41 resolve will be met by a proposal that the AMBCC passed  
42 unanimously in spring 2019. That Proposal 2019-02  
43 sought annual flexibility in selecting the 30-day  
44 closure dates in the North Slope region that reflect  
45 current nest timing conditions with input from village  
46 residents.

47  
48 The regulation passed unanimously in  
49 the AMBCC. It was supported by the Pacific Flyway  
50

1 Council and the Service Regulations Committee and it's  
2 currently in the Federal Register and open to public  
3 comment for 30 days. The final rule is expected to be  
4 published this summer of this year.

5  
6 Mr. Chair, that concludes the summary  
7 of our Technical Committee report. If there's any  
8 questions, I'd be open to taking them at this time.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Julian.  
13 Good report and good information. Thank the Technical  
14 Committee for getting together on these two proposals.  
15 Is there any questions for Julian.

16  
17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman. This  
18 is Patty.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Patty.

21  
22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I just wanted to  
23 note that Priscilla Evans from the Chugach Region has  
24 dialed in, so she's on the line now. One point in your  
25 report, Julian, you said something about AITRC wanting  
26 to reduce the administrative burden on the agencies but  
27 it actually was to reduce the administrative burden on  
28 the tribal administrators. So I just wanted to make  
29 that point.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you for that,  
34 Patty. Welcome, Priscilla. Thanks for calling in this  
35 morning. Other questions for Julian. I'll just note  
36 that a little bit later on in the agenda we'll have an  
37 opportunity. We'll be taking both these proposals up  
38 for deliberation as well.

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
41 Hoseth. I just had a question. I wasn't at the  
42 Technical Committee when it met. I wasn't able to call  
43 in to that meeting due to conflicting meetings, but I  
44 was just wanting to know which members of the Technical  
45 Committee were present when discussing these proposals.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla. I  
48 think -- I'm scrolling rapidly back up to the top of  
49 the meeting notes that were provided to us and it says  
50

1 members present: Julian Fischer, Cyrus Harris, Jason  
2 Schamber, Jim Fall, Coral Chernoff, Patty Schwalenberg,  
3 Kelly Krueger and Todd Sformo.

4  
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And I believe  
6 Melissa Berns was also on the line.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Yeah, listed  
9 here it said members absent Gayla and Melissa, but if  
10 we need to correct that, we should do that.

11  
12 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
13 I don't have that document you're referencing. Is  
14 there a meeting packet that got sent out? I've been  
15 scrolling through my emails. Is there a big packet  
16 that got sent out or are these all separate  
17 attachments?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It looks like one.....

20  
21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I did not.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm sorry. I did  
26 not include the list of committee members, but the list  
27 of committee members are listed at the top of the  
28 Technical Committee report. Then I sent out after the  
29 Technical Committee meeting the Technical Committee  
30 notes. The people at that meeting were Coral, Kelly,  
31 Jason, Jim Fall, Cyrus, Todd Sformo, Julian Fischer and  
32 I.

33  
34 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Other questions for  
37 Julian.

38  
39 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
40 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. Julian, there  
41 was one correction I think toward the end of your  
42 report relative to the proposed regulation being in the  
43 Federal Register. I was notified on Friday that that's  
44 delayed. They were expected to be published on the 1st  
45 and they were not.

46  
47 So right now they are not in the  
48 Federal Register. I'm trying to get clarification.  
49 They are on the docket to be registered. They've been  
50

1 approved by the Department of Interior and the next  
2 step is for the Federal Register to get them into the  
3 actual publication. Right now they're not in the  
4 Federal Register, but we expect them to very, very  
5 soon.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thanks, Eric, for that  
10 clarification. Other questions for Julian.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
15 Moving down the agenda the second item under Council  
16 Committee reports, Outreach and Communication  
17 Subcommittee on Emperor Geese. Tamara Zeller. Are you  
18 online with us?

19  
20 MS. ZELLER: I am. For the record,  
21 Tamara Zeller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
22 Migratory Bird Management. Thanks for having me speak.  
23 Good morning, everybody. So I'm just going to provide  
24 a quick overview of what we've been doing in regards to  
25 Emperor Goose.

26  
27 Outreach efforts. As some of you may  
28 recall, in 2019 the Emperor Goose population index fell  
29 to a level that indicated we needed to consider  
30 additional conservation measures. In the fall of 2019,  
31 the AMBCC decided that they wanted to increase outreach  
32 and education efforts in accordance with the Management  
33 Plan. So I'm just going to provide an overview of what  
34 we've been doing.

35  
36 A group of us met late fall of 2019 to  
37 look at previous outreach and education plans for  
38 Emperor Geese. That team consisted of several members  
39 of the AMBCC, the State and Fish and Wildlife Service.  
40 So it's been a partnership from the beginning. We  
41 looked at the old plan and sort of redefined our goals  
42 and what we wanted to achieve. It came across that  
43 most folks were still happy with the current messages  
44 that were created in 2017 and we agreed to go forward  
45 with that.

46  
47 A couple of things that evolved were I  
48 was able to secure a National Fish and Wildlife  
49 Foundation grant. Our previous efforts for Emperor  
50

1 Goose outreach have been hampered by very little budget  
2 and staff capacity, so this grant will allow us to  
3 really give this effort -- you know, amp up our effort.  
4

5 So that grant is in place. It includes  
6 a lot of projects that involve youth and elders. A  
7 culture camp, doing interviews, creating products that  
8 would resonate with villagers, doing interviews. As  
9 you can imagine, given the current situation with the  
10 pandemic, things have had to be adjusted. I'm trying  
11 to currently figure out how to do everything without  
12 actually going to villages. Which, as you know, is  
13 really critical to actually talk to people and see  
14 where they're at. So I'm currently working through  
15 that.  
16

17 The other piece of the puzzle of the  
18 grant was to work with Audubon Alaska and Alaska  
19 Conservation Foundation to look at climate resiliency  
20 and other environmental factors around villages. We  
21 recognize that the apparent decline in Emperor Geese is  
22 due to many factors, environmental and biological.  
23

24 The only thing we can control is  
25 harvest, so that's why we're asking subsistence users  
26 to consider voluntarily reducing their take of  
27 Emperors, but recognizing that there are other factors  
28 involved, but we don't have any control over those.  
29 Hopefully with Audubon's help and other partners we can  
30 start looking at some of that as well.  
31

32 Then I've been also working with Yukon  
33 Delta Staff a lot. They've been great on getting some  
34 messages out. Part of the contract allowed us to hire  
35 a PR firm, International Data Systems, and they're a  
36 Native-owned, women-owned firm that specializes in a  
37 lot of media and I'm looking at messaging. So I've  
38 been working with them. They're currently doing  
39 interviews with folks across the state to try to really  
40 understand the points of views around Emperors and the  
41 cultural significance so that we can make this effort  
42 worthwhile for everybody.  
43

44 So that's in the process. Yeah, just  
45 trying to really adapt strategy given restrictions on  
46 travel. I will end it there. I think Patty has been  
47 heavily involved and some other folks on the phone, so  
48 if they want to add anything, please do. I'll pause  
49 now for questions.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Tamara.  
2 Other committee members certainly feel free to add  
3 anything that you'd like and other folks if there's  
4 questions about these efforts so far. I certainly  
5 recognize the challenges again of our current situation  
6 of getting boots on the ground in places and having  
7 those in person interactions which are extremely  
8 helpful and valuable.

9  
10 Anyway, other committee members or  
11 general questions for Tamara.

12 (No comments)

13  
14 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please, go ahead.

17  
18 MR. SIMON: Yes, thank you. Jim Simon  
19 with Tanana Chiefs Conference and Ahtna Intertribal  
20 Resource Commission. This may not be a question  
21 specifically for Tamara, but was wondering in the  
22 context of this discussion what is the status of the  
23 nonresident Emperor Goose hunt offered by the Alaska  
24 Board of Game.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I guess I'll respond  
29 to that, Jim. When we met with -- folks on the phone  
30 are likely aware that the AMBCC submitted an agenda  
31 change request to the Alaska Board of Game to address  
32 the nonresidents hunter Emperor Goose season. The  
33 Board did not adopt that ACR, agenda change request,  
34 last November, so there was no action. It's status quo  
35 as far as that goes. The 25 permits are available and  
36 they have been awarded.

37  
38 That said, a large portion of the  
39 fall/winter harvest occurs in Game Management Unit 9  
40 and 10. There are others as well, but that region is  
41 coming up for a Board of Game meeting in January of  
42 2021. Proposals are due to Board support by May 15th.  
43 I believe that information had been relayed to Patty.  
44 If not, then I apologize for that. We have time.

45  
46 If the AMBCC wants to submit a proposal  
47 for that Board of Game meeting, we just need to have it  
48 in by May 15th. I don't think it will be a huge  
49

50

1 undertaking to get a proposal into the book. That  
2 would be a good place for it because it's relevant for  
3 those Game Management Units. So that's where things  
4 are as far as I know.

5  
6 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To  
7 follow.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please go ahead, Jim.

10  
11 MR. SIMON: Yes, I'm wondering whether  
12 or not the Department of Fish and Game is doing a  
13 companion conservation education outreach with those  
14 nonresident hunters regarding the conservation concerns  
15 with Emperor Geese.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Certainly. Yeah,  
20 thank you, Jim. To date the answer would be no other  
21 than getting the word out in general. Me specifically,  
22 one of the things I bring up a lot when we sit down and  
23 talk about regular story questions and concerns and dig  
24 into the biology of it. I'm concerned about where the  
25 Emperor Goose is at and headed. We've recently been  
26 notified that there won't be -- we don't anticipate any  
27 surveys for the summer, which will hinder -- well, it's  
28 just going to complicate how we go forward.

29  
30 In essence, in answer to your question,  
31 no, there hasn't been any directed outreach to that  
32 group of hunters.

33  
34 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
35 Hoseth. I think that's really unfortunate that it's  
36 always put on us as the local users for conservation  
37 and education and really focusing on the rural  
38 residents and mainly the Native population. That same  
39 effort needs to go with the nonresidents that are  
40 coming here.

41  
42 I guess would now be appropriate to  
43 make a motion for AMBCC to submit a proposal for that  
44 May 15th deadline to submit a proposal for no  
45 nonresident hunting of Emperor Geese?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla.  
48 Yeah, I think that if there's a time to discuss that or  
49 adopt a motion, get a motion to develop a proposal for  
50

1 the Board of Game meeting it would be good to do it  
2 now. That gives us a little bit of time to get it  
3 drafted and into the book. Myself or Jason Schamber we  
4 can work with Patty to get that done. Patty, I don't  
5 want to volunteer you for everything, but I'm hoping  
6 you could spearhead that if that's the wish of the  
7 Council.

8  
9 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chair. I make a motion that AMBCC submits a proposal  
11 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Board of  
12 Game, May 15th deadline regarding Emperor Geese for no  
13 permits issued to nonresidents.

14  
15 MR. HARRIS: I'll second that.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. We have a  
18 motion to develop a Board of Game proposal for the  
19 January 2021 Region 4 Board meeting. The gist of the  
20 proposal sounds like it will be to eliminate the  
21 nonresident season essentially for Emperor Geese and  
22 it's been seconded.

23  
24 Discussion.

25  
26 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris here, Mr.  
27 Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Cyrus.  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MR. HARRIS: Yes, there can be some  
33 language in there on non-Federally qualified  
34 subsistence users. What's your thought, Gayla?

35  
36 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I agree with that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Other  
39 discussion around this.

40  
41 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Hi, this is Karen  
42 Pletnikoff with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands  
43 Association. I wondered if it's appropriate to -- like  
44 they're doing for -- like we are doing for our regions,  
45 do some education and outreach to the nonresident  
46 hunters about why we need to do this conservation  
47 effort.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I think it's  
50

1 appropriate. Yeah, I would agree with that. Other  
2 discussion. Patty, how are you feeling about putting  
3 together a Board of Game proposal?

4  
5 Patty, are you still with us?

6  
7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
8 must have put it on mute and answered and then took it  
9 off mute.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: No worries.

12  
13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I said that's no  
14 problem. I can do that and I'll probably have you  
15 and/or Jason take a look at it to make sure it's all  
16 good before we submit it.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Great. I guess  
19 we probably should vote as a Council on this. We have  
20 a motion that's been seconded. We've had a couple  
21 ideas or suggestions for language to be included in it.  
22 The details can be worked out with the proposal. Yeah,  
23 I would ask the Executive Committee then to -- yeah, I  
24 need somebody to call for the question.

25  
26 MS. HOSETH: This is Gayla. Question.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The question has been  
29 called. Patty, can you poll the committee.

30  
31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sure. Alaska  
32 Department of Fish and Game.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes.

35  
36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
37 Wildlife Service.

38  
39 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

40  
41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: AMBCC Native Caucus.

42  
43 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

44  
45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The motion passes,  
46 Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Perfect. I  
49 appreciate that. Thank you, Eric and others, for  
50

1 weighing in on that. Patty, after the meeting in the  
2 next day or so either I or Jason or maybe both of us  
3 will give you a call and we can help you walk through  
4 that.

5  
6 As I recall, having looked at the  
7 agenda change request last November, the majority of  
8 what we're going to need is probably already in there.  
9 It's been written up and we'll be able to help get that  
10 put in place.

11  
12 For members of the Council, just an  
13 FYI. The Board proposals are due May 15th. That's a  
14 change from most years where they're due May 1st given  
15 the pandemic situation. We're being a little bit --  
16 we're giving folks a little bit more time there. The  
17 meeting is scheduled for January of 2021 in Wasilla at  
18 the present time. So be looking for that in the near  
19 future.

20  
21 MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am.

24  
25 MS. HOOPER: Hi, this is Jennifer  
26 Hooper. I had a quick question. I was just wondering  
27 with the review of the ACR by the Board of Game last  
28 fall, did they give any indication why they were not  
29 going to support it and allow it to come forward in  
30 their process?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thanks, Jennifer. I'd  
33 have to go back and look at the teleconference notes.  
34 As I recall, there were two things. One was that they  
35 knew that they had a Region 4 Board of Game meeting  
36 coming and that an ACR is intended to take things out  
37 of cycle. Recognizing that we'd be dealing --  
38 addressing proposals for maybe the most appropriate  
39 region for the fall/winter hunt they felt like the  
40 timeline was going to work.

41  
42 The other question that comes up, and  
43 it's been something we've discussed as a Committee and  
44 a Council before, the total number of permits that are  
45 issues are 25. When we look at biologically the Board  
46 took that into consideration and didn't feel that 25  
47 was -- continued harvest of 25 birds would be a  
48 biological emergency, which is one of the factors that  
49 ACRs are considered on. So those are the two things

50

1 that I recall specifically.

2

3 MS. HOOPER: Thanks. I was just  
4 curious if there was anything any different.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: No, it was a good  
7 question. Thank you. Anything else on Emperor Geese  
8 outreach and communication as well as development of a  
9 Board of Game proposal?

10

11 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. Cyrus  
12 Harris here.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Cyrus.  
15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. HARRIS: Regarding the Emperor  
18 Goose Management Plan it's very unfortunate that we're  
19 unable to get a count in the spring due to the COVID-19  
20 pandemic I understand. Without those numbers it's a  
21 hard decision to try to make, but making an effort on  
22 the hypothesis that's been taking place would be a step  
23 on what we just discussed on the non-Federally  
24 subsistence users closure.

25

26 Just speaking my mind.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Cyrus. I  
29 think that very much so needs to be a part of that  
30 proposal making that very clear. I'm not sure where in  
31 -- and I don't know if we want to get too deep into  
32 this, but Emperor Geese are often -- at least since  
33 I've been involved, have been a fairly prominent  
34 discussion topic.

35

36 Eric, Jason, maybe Julian, I don't  
37 know, can one of you guys provide just a very quick  
38 synopsis on what folks are thinking as far as what are  
39 we going to do without a survey.

40

41 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
42 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. We've got the  
43 three people on the call today that will help steer  
44 that direction. Jason Schamber is the chair of both  
45 the Pacific Flyway and the AMBCC Emperor Goose  
46 Subcommittee. Julian Fischer is head of our Waterfowl  
47 Section for the Fish and Wildlife Service and Chuck  
48 Frost is a biometrician with our Waterfowl Section.

49

50

1                   So I know discussions have been  
2 underway. I'll let Jason chime in here, but I know  
3 Jason is trying to call an Emperor Goose Subcommittee  
4 meeting. Folks were not available prior to this  
5 meeting to meet, but I think Jason has proposed to hold  
6 that meeting later in May for the very discussions that  
7 I think were raised.

8  
9                   What are the options or alternatives to  
10 generate a 2020 population estimate for Emperor Geese  
11 knowing that due to the current Coronavirus pandemic  
12 the Fish and Wildlife Service has currently shut down  
13 all field work, including aerial surveys, one of which  
14 is the Yukon Delta Coastal Zone survey whereby we use  
15 that survey to produce an estimate or an index for  
16 Emperor Geese.

17  
18                   So I'll ask Jason or Julian perhaps to  
19 give an update other than what I've provided. Jason,  
20 any additional comments?

21  
22                   MR. SCHAMBER: Thanks, Eric. This is  
23 Jason Chamber, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I  
24 don't have anything in addition to what you've just  
25 mentioned other than we're awaiting three or four folks  
26 that have not responded to do the polls so that we can  
27 set a subcommittee meeting for later this month. So as  
28 soon as I receive a full complement of responses from  
29 the subcommittee, then I can go ahead and schedule that  
30 and alert folks to when that meeting will take place.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay, great. Julian,  
33 did you have anything you wanted to add as well?

34  
35                   MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 This is Julian Fischer, Fish and Wildlife Service. No,  
37 I think Eric covered it. I will add though that I  
38 think it's very important for the Emperor Goose  
39 Subcommittee to meet and discuss this as a committee  
40 rather than have other sub-plans developed before we  
41 meet as a co-management body.

42  
43                   There's all sorts of ways that you can  
44 come up with an estimate for the number of Emperor  
45 Geese this year if a survey is not done based on  
46 modeling. The management plans that were developed,  
47 the Pacific Flyway and then the AMBCC for Emperor  
48 Geese, do not specify how to deal with the situation  
49 when we don't have an estimate for the current year.

50

1                   We are in the process as a subcommittee  
2 moving towards updating the plan. Well, I guess the  
3 Coronavirus came one year too early, but it certainly  
4 highlights the need to come up with a plan that  
5 everyone agrees to in the event that a future survey  
6 might be cancelled.

7

8                   That's all. Thank you.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Julian.  
11 Yeah, it's one of the myriad of challenges we're all  
12 facing for sure. Okay. Thank you, Eric and Jason and  
13 Julian for just a quick update and kind of letting us  
14 know where things are headed at least. I guess it's  
15 likely we will hear from the subcommittee maybe not  
16 until next September. We can have some additional  
17 discussion on that or check in and see -- you know,  
18 there's a product of those meetings as they occur when  
19 they get wrapped up that we certainly want to share  
20 with the Council as a whole.

21

22                   I think that concludes old business.  
23 Patty, am I tracking still correctly?

24

25                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, you are.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN SCOTT: All right. So that's  
28 going to bring us to new business. I want to do a time  
29 check with folks and see if we're -- we've been going  
30 at it about an hour and 15 minutes or so. If anybody  
31 needs a short break or could we tackle maybe one more  
32 topic with Todd Sanders and then take a short break  
33 before we get into proposals. What's the wish of the  
34 Committee?

35

36                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Let's go one more.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. That works for  
39 me too. All right. Sounds good. Thank you,  
40 everybody. With that we will move into item 9 on the  
41 agenda under new business. The first topic is U.S.  
42 Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters briefing by Todd  
43 Sanders. Are you with us, Todd?

44

45                   MR. SANDERS: I'm here. Thank you, Mr.  
46 Chairman. Members of the Council. I am Todd Sanders  
47 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird  
48 Program at Headquarters.

49

50

1 I wanted to announce a new Director for  
2 the Fish and Wildlife Service since the last AMBCC  
3 meeting and then briefly talk about two issues. One is  
4 defining the scope of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and  
5 also addressing Common Raven conflicts. Then I'll  
6 briefly mention current hunting regulation issues.

7  
8 So first of all, yes, Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service does have a new director, Aurelia Skipwith.  
10 Aurelia was confirmed by the Senate in December and  
11 currently serves as our new Director and shares the  
12 same priorities as the Department of Interior.

13  
14 Regarding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
15 and defining the scope, the Fish and Wildlife Service  
16 has been working to define the scope of the Migratory  
17 Bird Treaty Act since at least 2015 and particularly  
18 related to incidental take. Most recently we published  
19 a proposed rule. We also published a notice of intent  
20 to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Both of  
21 those in early February.

22  
23 The notice identified specific  
24 information that we were seeking in the development of  
25 an Environmental Impact Statement. We also held four  
26 webinars for the public in March. The proposed rule  
27 included a paragraph to be added to our regulations  
28 that clarified the scope of the Migratory Bird Treaty  
29 Act. It was a very short paragraph that specifically  
30 said that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibitions  
31 apply only to affirmative actions that have as their  
32 purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their  
33 nest or their eggs.

34  
35 We suspect the next step in the process  
36 will be the publication of a Draft Environmental Impact  
37 Statement and that will have at least a 45-day public  
38 comment period. After that time then there could be a  
39 Final Environmental Impact Statement with the response  
40 to public comment. Then a Record of Decision could  
41 follow as early as 30 days after that and there could  
42 be some final regulations associated with that as well.

43  
44 At this point we just want to confirm  
45 that we'll continue to keep the AMBCC informed about  
46 any opportunities to provide public comments on the  
47 Draft EIS when it's available.

48  
49 The next issue has to do with ravens

50

1 and addressing conflicts associated with ravens.  
2 Ravens have increased in abundance in some areas in the  
3 western United States in association with anthropogenic  
4 changes across the landscape. Ravens are intelligent  
5 birds and they're able to exploit the additional  
6 resources associated with municipalities and  
7 agriculture.

8  
9 Increased raven abundance has resulted  
10 in increased complaints and concerns. Specifically  
11 there have been increased impacts to imperiled species.  
12 That includes Greater Sage-Grouse, the Desert Tortoise  
13 and even the Western Snowy Plover. Other impacts  
14 include human health and safety and also agriculture.

15  
16 So the Fish and Wildlife Service is  
17 working through a formal framework with stakeholders  
18 trying to address the conflict and develop a management  
19 strategy. We've held six webinars for stakeholders  
20 including the public and tribes in February and March.  
21 We've been requesting information to better understand  
22 the conflicts and management options. We've accepted  
23 information through an online portal through at least  
24 March.

25  
26 Our tribal liaisons have sent a letter  
27 to the tribes inviting government-to-government  
28 consultation. I know a few tribes in Alaska have  
29 responded and we're working through those consultations  
30 now. The core team responsible for working through  
31 this conflict with the Service will continue to gather  
32 and review information throughout this spring and  
33 summer with the goal to help inform possible management  
34 options.

35  
36 We recognize that it's a complex issue  
37 that may require short and long-term solutions and  
38 multiple scales. If the resultant effort and  
39 management strategy calls for any regulatory actions or  
40 changes that would be proposed for public comment and  
41 that may require development of an Environmental Impact  
42 Statement.

43  
44 So I expect this work will continue.  
45 It started in early 2018, specifically February, and my  
46 guess is it will continue for potentially at least a  
47 couple more years to work our way through this complex  
48 issue. Again, we'll keep the AMBCC informed about any  
49 opportunity to provide additional public comment.

50

1                   Lastly, I just wanted to mention a  
2 couple issues with the hunting regulations. We're  
3 currently working to publish our final regulations for  
4 the 2020 fall/winter hunting season. There aren't many  
5 changes from last year, but just a couple to mention.  
6 The most significant is in regard to Emperor Geese in  
7 Alaska and that's the quota has changed from 1,000  
8 Emperor Geese down to 500.

9  
10                   Also Scaup and Pintail are well below  
11 the long-term averages nationally, 28 percent below for  
12 Scaup, 42 percent below for Pintail. This has resulted  
13 in reduced bag limits. Bag limits as small as one or  
14 two birds a day for these species. These Scaup and  
15 Pintail restrictions however do not impact Alaska. It  
16 does apply to all other states.

17  
18                   Finally, is the Coronavirus impact. As  
19 we look forward to regulations for the outyear, that is  
20 for next year, you already heard some about this this  
21 morning, but because of human health and travel  
22 restrictions in the United States and Canada we are  
23 unable to complete some of our surveys this spring and  
24 summer. This includes the May Waterfowl Survey. It's  
25 a national survey. Also many or most of our surveys in  
26 Alaska.

27  
28                   This missing data will impact use of  
29 some of our harvest strategies for informing harvest  
30 management decisions for the 2021 hunting season. This  
31 impacts not only our general duck season also season  
32 for duck species of concern, like Canvasback and  
33 Pintail, but also the Emperor Goose season which you've  
34 heard about this morning.

35  
36                   In most cases we expect to be able to  
37 predict spring 2020 waterfowl abundance from long-term  
38 datasets and habitat information. We work with the  
39 Flyway Council and the AMBCC this spring and summer to  
40 identify ways to address this issue. So we'll continue  
41 to work together. I know the Emperor Goose  
42 Subcommittee is planning to meet as soon as possible  
43 and there will be continued dialogue with the Councils  
44 and we will provide information as that becomes  
45 available.

46  
47                   Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Council.

48  
49                   That concludes my briefing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Todd.  
2 Questions for Todd and the Service.

3  
4 MR. SFORMO: This is the other Todd.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Todd.

7  
8 MR. SFORMO: This is Todd Sformo, North  
9 Slope Borough. I was just wondering since the scope of  
10 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has been kind of  
11 redefined. I didn't get the language down, but  
12 affirmative actions related to hunting are only the  
13 ones that are going to be looked at by the Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service.

15  
16 What about the other action that may  
17 lead to decimating numbers of birds? Is that being  
18 examined by Fish and Wildlife in a different way or is  
19 this just going to be an exemption or it's just allowed  
20 and there's really no discussion of it?

21  
22 Thanks.

23  
24 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, Todd. So what I've  
25 provided was the language that's being proposed and  
26 this language is a short paragraph that would be added  
27 to our regulations that would clarify the scope of the  
28 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. That paragraph as proposed  
29 indicates that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
30 prohibitions apply only to affirmative actions. So  
31 those are actions that have as their purpose the taking  
32 or killing of migratory birds or nests or their eggs.

33  
34 So the Fish and Wildlife Service works  
35 with stakeholders and public in a number of different  
36 ways. Not only through regulations but also  
37 consultation through, for example, Environmental Impact  
38 Statements or environmental assessments and other  
39 consultation. What we try and understand impacts of  
40 actions on migratory birds so we can try to make  
41 recommendations through that process.

42  
43 We also have best management practices,  
44 so we try and identify the best management practices  
45 for a number of issues and we make that information  
46 available to the public. Those documents are available  
47 online and we continue to develop those.

48  
49 So there's a number of things here.

50

1 One is clarifying the scope of the Migratory Bird  
2 Treaty Act. Again, that's been a work in progress  
3 since at least 2015. The perspective has changed with  
4 the administration and we continue to receive guidance  
5 from the Department of Interior as we move along, but  
6 there are other ways that we can continue to protect  
7 and conserve migratory birds and I mentioned a few of  
8 those.

9  
10 If Eric or others want to offer any  
11 other information, please do. Thanks.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you for  
14 that, both of you. Anything else? Specifically Eric.  
15 You identified anything you want to add to that?

16  
17 MR. TAYLOR: No, Mr. Chair. Thank you.  
18 This is Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service.  
19 Todd, there was one addition to your report that I was  
20 wondering if you could provide an update to the AMBCC  
21 and while it pertains to the fall/winter season, it  
22 does include a change in how the regulations are set  
23 for our regions. It was a decision by the Service  
24 Regulations Committee just a short time ago. So I was  
25 wondering if you or Jason could just provide a quick  
26 update relative to that change.

27  
28 MR. SANDERS: Are you referring to the  
29 zone and split change?

30  
31 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I am. Sorry. I  
32 should have been specific. Go ahead.

33  
34 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, so that regulation  
35 would not take effect, but that allows the State of  
36 Alaska to make a minor change to their zone split  
37 configuration, but that would not take effect until  
38 2021 season. So we could talk more about that at that  
39 time. Essentially the change that we're talking about  
40 allows the State to split their season in the Southeast  
41 Zone, I believe it is.

42  
43 Jason, if you want to provide any  
44 clarification, please do.

45  
46 MR. SCHAMBER: No clarification, Todd.  
47 Thank you. This is Jason Chamber, Alaska Department  
48 of Fish and Game. As Todd mentioned, that allows us to  
49 have the option of selecting a split season for the  
50

1 Southeast Zone.

2

3 However, there is a step that we would  
4 have to go through before we were able to take  
5 advantage of that option, which is to go before the  
6 Board of Game at the Southeast Region meeting, which  
7 takes place in 2022. The earliest that that change may  
8 be implemented would be the fall of 2022.

9

10 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Jason. This is  
11 Eric.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, thank you, Jason  
14 and Todd, for a little bit more information on that.  
15 Any other questions for Todd Sanders.

16

17 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla  
18 Hoseth. I just had a recommendation or encourage  
19 people on the phone for your tribal councils to  
20 participate with the government-to-government tribal  
21 consultation. Our tribe ended up talking with our  
22 government-to-government consultation for about  
23 two-and-a-half hours on the discussion of ravens and  
24 how important raven is to indigenous people.

25

26 So I encourage tribal members to take  
27 advantage of the government-to-government tribal  
28 consultation and have a meaningful dialogue that --  
29 meaningful conservation in regards to ravens. So I  
30 just wanted to put that out there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla. I  
33 would second that. Not only on the raven discussion,  
34 but as we get a little farther into the Migratory Bird  
35 Treaty Act, refining it and changes in language, not  
36 only for us as a Council, I think we need to stay  
37 engaged in that, but as far as other regional entities  
38 as well. I encourage you to dig into that as well and  
39 provide information to the Service or to the AMBCC so  
40 we can incorporate that as well.

41

42 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I think it's  
43 really important to put out there. I think only two  
44 tribes have participated in the state of Alaska. So  
45 with the 227 Federally recognized tribes we have, it's  
46 important that we get that word on the record. We  
47 should probably put this on the agenda item for  
48 discussion if we can at our fall meeting.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, I absolutely  
2 agree with that suggestion.

3  
4 MR. SANDERS: I want to confirm, Gayla,  
5 that there was a document prepared by the AMBCC  
6 documenting the value of ravens. I know that the core  
7 team has received that information.

8  
9 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

10  
11 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
12 Taylor.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please go ahead.

15  
16 MR. TAYLOR: I was wondering if Crystal  
17 Leonetti is still on the phone. If Crystal could just  
18 kind of give -- given Gayla's point, which is a good  
19 one. If Crystal could kind of refresh all of our  
20 memories in terms of, at least mine, the schedule or  
21 process that if a tribe was interested in having a  
22 government-to-government consultation, how they go  
23 about doing that or if there's a schedule that's been  
24 preestablished already.

25  
26 Crystal, could you comment to that,  
27 please.

28  
29 (No response)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Crystal, are you still  
32 with us?

33  
34 (No response)

35  
36 MR. TAYLOR: It does not appear to be  
37 the case that Crystal is still on the phone. So what I  
38 will do is follow up with Crystal and ask her to  
39 provide Patty an update in terms of that process and  
40 then get it out to all Council representatives and  
41 perhaps we can increase the communication on that.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 MS. BRYANT: This is Joanne Bryant and  
46 I work closely with Crystal. She has an appointment at  
47 10:00, but she will get back on.

48  
49 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Joanne. That  
50

1 would be great. I'll try to alert her to the question.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MS. BRYANT: All right. Thank you.

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: We'll see where we're  
9 at when she gets back on, but towards the end of the  
10 day we'll have an opportunity for Council and Staff  
11 comments and that may be a good opportunity for that as  
12 well.

12

13

14

Any final questions of Mr. Sanders  
before we move on to the next agenda items.

15

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
That is going to bring us to the 2021 regulatory  
proposals that we need to discuss. At this point I  
would suggest maybe a 15-minute break before we get  
into these. I suspect quite a bit of discussion with  
the next two items. That's going to get us close to  
our stop time. Does that work for everybody, say 15  
minutes, and be back at 10:20?

26

27

28

29

MR. TAYLOR: Sounds good, Mr. Chair.

30

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay.  
MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chair.  
Everybody should just stay on.

34

35

36

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: If folks would just  
stay on the phone call, put yourselves on mute, and  
that way we'll try to avoid losing people and having to  
have everybody call back in. We're not going to be  
away for that long. Take 15, please, and we'll be  
back.

40

41

42

43

44

(Off record)

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Welcome back,  
everybody. It's 10:20 and we're continuing to work  
through the spring AMBCC agenda. So far we've  
completed up to the first topic under new business. At  
this point we will move right into AMBCC regulatory

1 proposals for 2021. The first proposal is 2020-01.  
2 Change in invitation regulation by AITRC. So I would  
3 entertain a motion to adopt the proposal and then we'll  
4 move into discussion.

5  
6 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
7 I move.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. We have a  
10 motion to adopt Proposal 2020-01. I don't think we  
11 need.....

12  
13 MS. EVANS: Second.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: .....a second at this  
16 point. Go ahead. I'm sorry. I stepped on somebody.  
17 Go ahead.

18  
19 MS. EVANS: No, I was going to second,  
20 but I think you were saying you don't need a second.

21  
22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Point of order. To  
23 get it to discussion you have to have a second.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. So we need  
26 that second.

27  
28 MS. EVANS: This is Priscilla Evans. I  
29 second the motion.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. From the  
32 Committee I guess I'll ask for unanimous consent to the  
33 motion and then we'll move into discussion. Any  
34 concerns with moving into discussion.

35  
36 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
37 You don't have to ask for unanimous consent. We just  
38 go right into discussion.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla. All  
41 right. To start the discussion we did hear from Julian  
42 on the Technical Committee report and I guess I'm  
43 curious. Do folks want to actually hear the proposal  
44 again for any clarification? Do we need that step?

45  
46 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
47 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I think it  
48 would be helpful to hear the proposal again, please.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Patty, could  
2 you read the proposal for us.

3  
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sure. Proposal  
5 2020-01 and it's proposed by the Copper River Migratory  
6 Bird Regional Council by Karen Linnell through the  
7 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission in Glennallen.

8  
9 What problem or issue are you trying to  
10 address? Federal regulations found in 50 CFR 92.5  
11 outline who is eligible to participate in spring and  
12 summer subsistence migratory bird hunting  
13 opportunities. Permanent residents of tribal  
14 communities and villages within eligible subsistence  
15 harvest areas are eligible to participate in the spring  
16 and summer subsistence migratory bird hunting  
17 opportunities.

18  
19 Immediate family members living in  
20 excluded areas as defined in 50 CFR 92.4 are also  
21 eligible to participate if they are invited by their  
22 respective tribal council to return to assist an  
23 immediate family member with meeting nutritional and  
24 other essential needs and for the teaching of cultural  
25 knowledge related to ancestral, customary and  
26 traditional bird hunting.

27  
28 The existing process for tribal  
29 councils to invite immediate family members however  
30 does not work well in some regions likely due to  
31 overburdened tribal administrative staff. This also  
32 likely explains why only two formal invitations to hunt  
33 have been submitted to the AMBCC throughout the history  
34 of migratory bird co-management in Alaska.

35  
36 The Copper River Migratory Bird  
37 Regional Council and AITRC seeks to more fully utilize  
38 the process outlined in letters of submittal ratifying  
39 the Canadian and Mexican protocols by amending 50 CFR  
40 92.5(d) to provide the option of utilizing a  
41 tribally-authorized and certified invitation to hunt  
42 permit issued by authorized tribal representative  
43 through the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

44  
45 This amendment will not change anything  
46 associated with the existing regulations regarding the  
47 process of certifying and authorizing Invite through  
48 letters of invitation, but would provide the additional  
49 option for a region or an individual tribe to utilize  
50

1 a tribal permit to certify and authorize an invited  
2 immediate family member to assist in providing  
3 nutritional, cultural and educational training  
4 regarding customer in traditional ancestral hunting and  
5 uses of migratory birds.

6  
7 The Canadian and Mexican protocol  
8 amendments and letters of transmittal to the U.S.  
9 Congress from the U.S. Secretaries of State include the  
10 following description of the process to authorize  
11 invited hunters: "In recognition of their need to  
12 assist their immediate families in meeting their  
13 nutritional and other essential needs or for the  
14 teaching of cultural knowledge to or by their  
15 relatives, Natives residing in excluded areas in Alaska  
16 may be invited to participate in the customary spring  
17 and summer migratory bird harvest within the designated  
18 subsistence harvest areas around the villages in which  
19 their immediate families have membership.

20  
21 Such participation would require  
22 permission of the Village Council and an appropriate  
23 permit issued through the management body implementing  
24 the protocol. Immediate family includes children,  
25 parents, grandparents and siblings." (Letter of  
26 Submittal regarding ratification of the Canadian  
27 protocol, Secretary of State Warren Christopher May 20,  
28 1996)

29  
30 The proposed regulatory change would  
31 bring Federal regulations into alignment Migratory Bird  
32 Treaty protocol amendments given that only federally  
33 recognized Alaska tribes are able to certify and  
34 authorize an invited hunter is a tribal citizen of said  
35 tribe with an immediate family member residing in the  
36 respective eligible tribal community.

37  
38 How should the new regulation read? 50  
39 CFR 92.5(d) would be amended as follows: (d)  
40 Participation by permanent residence of excluded areas.  
41 Immediate family members who are residents of excluded  
42 areas may participate in the customary spring and  
43 summer subsistence harvest in tribal communities  
44 subsistence area with permission of the tribal council  
45 rather than village to assist indigenous habitants in  
46 meeting their nutritional and other essential needs or  
47 for the teaching of cultural knowledge using one of the  
48 following procedures:

49  
50

1 (1) A letter of invitation may be sent  
2 by the tribal council to the hunter with a copy to the  
3 Executive Director of the Co-management Council who  
4 will inform law enforcement and the Service's AMBCC  
5 Coordinator within two working days. The Service will  
6 then inform any affected Federal agency when residents  
7 of excluded areas are allowed to participate in the  
8 subsistence harvest within their federal land; or

9  
10 (2) A permit may be issued by the  
11 tribal council or their authorized tribal  
12 representative to the invited hunter certifying that  
13 the permit holder is an immediate family member  
14 authorized to assist eligible family members in hunting  
15 migratory birds in the tribe's subsistence harvest  
16 area.

17  
18 To what geographic area does this  
19 regulation apply? The proposed regulatory change would  
20 apply for this region only by providing an alternative  
21 method of certifying and authorizing invited hunters  
22 living in excluded areas to return home to assist in  
23 migratory bird hunting. This proposed regulatory  
24 change could also be considered statewide by the AMBCC  
25 if they so choose.

26  
27 The intent of this proposal is to  
28 provide the option for federally recognized tribes in  
29 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory or the Upper Copper  
30 River Region as defined in 50 CFR 92.5(a)(2)(i), or  
31 some other region (if statewide), to issue tribal  
32 permits certifying invited hunters as immediate family  
33 members of permanent residents of eligible subsistence  
34 harvest areas rather than submitting letters of  
35 invitation to the hunter and Executive Director of the  
36 AMBCC that then must be further shared with Federal  
37 enforcement officers and land managers.

38  
39 What impact will this regulation have  
40 on migratory bird populations? The proposed  
41 regulatory change likely would have no impacts on the  
42 status of migratory bird populations or the subsistence  
43 harvest levels of migratory birds in Alaska. This  
44 regulatory change will not increase the extent of  
45 nutritional, cultural or educational needs of the  
46 eligible subsistence harvest areas given that invited  
47 hunters are only authorized to assist immediate family  
48 members who are permanent residents of eligible  
49 communities in fulfilling their needs.

50

1                   How will this regulation affect  
2 subsistence users? The proposed regulatory change would  
3 simplify the process of inviting tribal citizens living  
4 in excluded areas to return home to their tribal  
5 community to assist immediate family members in meeting  
6 their nutritional and other essential needs and for the  
7 teaching of cultural knowledge.

8  
9                   Invited hunters would simply have to  
10 carry their permit with them along with their hunting  
11 license rather than have to worry about whether the  
12 appropriate Federal land manager or enforcement officer  
13 had received the notification of their invitation by  
14 another Federal agency. A permit would also be smaller  
15 and less cumbersome to carry than a letter of  
16 invitation.

17  
18                   Invited hunters would not have to worry  
19 about whether State of Alaska enforcement officers or  
20 land managers would question their eligibility given  
21 that current regulations do not require notification of  
22 State of Alaska agencies regarding invited spring and  
23 summer subsistence bird hunters.

24  
25                   Why should this regulation be adopted?  
26 The proposed regulatory change should be adopted to  
27 provide alternative methods of authorizing invited bird  
28 hunters in addition to tribal letters of invitation.  
29 The proposed regulatory change would also reduce the  
30 burden on Federal agency staff and to better fulfill  
31 the original intent of the bird treaty amendments by  
32 more meaningfully involving indigenous Alaskan Native  
33 tribes and the co-management of subsistence migratory  
34 bird hunting and promoting tribal sovereignty and  
35 self-determination regarding the authorization of  
36 tribal citizens.

37  
38                   Please see attached draft permit  
39 template. During the development of this proposal it  
40 was suggested that the names of the eligible permanent  
41 residents of a tribal community in an eligible  
42 subsistence harvest area also be listed on the permit.  
43 However, in many cases the number of qualifying  
44 immediate family members makes the suggestion untenable  
45 given the available space on the permit.

46  
47                   Tribal certification and authorization  
48 that the permit holder is a qualified immediate family  
49 member and is invited to return home to help family  
50

1 members hunt birds in spring and summer should be  
2 sufficient given that existing letters of invitation  
3 processes do not require this level of detail.

4  
5 Then the proposer attached a draft copy  
6 of what the permit would look like. That's the end of  
7 the proposal, Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty. I  
10 apologize. Thanks for reading it all the way through.  
11 I don't know that, at least on the next one, we'll need  
12 all the detail, but thank you for doing that.

13  
14 So the Committee has heard the  
15 proposal. We also have consideration of the Technical  
16 Committee report. We'll open the floor to discussion.

17  
18 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. This is Gloria.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gloria. Go  
21 ahead.

22  
23 MS. STICKWAN: I was at a mandatory  
24 training for my job and I was not able to participate  
25 in the discussion when this proposal was discussed at  
26 the Copper River Migratory Bird Council meeting. Jim  
27 Simon was there, so if he could speak to this proposal.  
28 For me that would be good.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you,  
31 Gloria.

32  
33 Jim, do you have some comments.

34  
35 MR. SIMON: Hi, Mr. Chair. Thank you  
36 very much. Jim Simon for the record. I believe that  
37 the executive director of Ahtna Intertribal Resource  
38 Commission is on the line as well and I would like to  
39 defer to her comments. Upon her request, if there is  
40 additional information needed, I'm happy to get back  
41 on.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you, Jim.

46  
47 Karen, do you have some comments?

48  
49 MS. LINNELL: Yes, sir. I did submit a  
50

1 letter on April 29th to Patty Schwalenberg in answer to  
2 the Technical Committee's issues. Then I'd just like  
3 to remind this Council that AITRC does have a contract  
4 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist the  
5 Copper River tribes in their management of the  
6 Migratory Bird Co-management application.  
7

8 So in answer to the question brought  
9 forward by the Committee, village council versus tribal  
10 council, including both terms in the regulation would  
11 be appropriate for the reasons that were stated.  
12

13 Request to specify titles of  
14 individuals who are able to serve as authorized tribal  
15 representatives. The tribe's office already they're  
16 delegates. The tribal council president isn't  
17 necessarily the one that's going to be doing all the  
18 work. So the council is already designated as an  
19 individual, but we are looking at AITRC to be a  
20 designee and that could be done via the resolutions  
21 that have been already submitted that allow us to  
22 manage the migratory bird program or through a formal  
23 resolution if you so desire.  
24

25 And then to the issue requiring  
26 personally identifiable kinship or familial details on  
27 that hunt. There's already an invitation system under  
28 which the tribes can invite back a family member to  
29 hunt in order to meet eligible tribal members  
30 nutritional needs and to convey cultural aspects to it.  
31 This merely is a supplement to that system, creating a  
32 more formal administration for the Ahtna Regional  
33 tribes so that we can effectively out-source that  
34 invitation management.  
35

36 AMBCC should not need any information  
37 from this system that is not required in the invitation  
38 system that you already have in place. In other words,  
39 we shouldn't be required to provide more information  
40 than the letters of invitation already have. Nothing  
41 in 50 CFR 92.5 suggests that the letter of invitation  
42 must include any type of kinship information. Only  
43 that there must be an immediate family relationship.  
44

45 Invitation to the hunt permit length.  
46 We felt that it was a little more restrictive than the  
47 current letter of invitation. However, after  
48 consulting with our board, our co-management council,  
49 they agreed that there should be a term length and that  
50

1 term length should be two years only because people  
2 move and things change and we want to make sure that  
3 we're still in compliance. So we'll put an expiration  
4 date on those permits.

5  
6 And then as far as this being eligible  
7 to other regions, it's an option. If the other region  
8 should choose to get involved, they can.

9  
10 I just want to give an example of some  
11 of the things going on. I live in Glennallen. My  
12 father lives in Gakona. He's 85 years old, but I can  
13 go out and get, if invited through this permit system,  
14 I would be able to go and hunt for him and get him  
15 birds so that he can have that delicacy during the  
16 spring season. We were talking about it this weekend,  
17 but I can't go out and get it for him at this point  
18 because I live in Glennallen. I'll need this  
19 invitation to participate in that hunt with him.

20  
21 We also had an elder who recently moved  
22 to Anchorage for medical reasons. He has grandchildren  
23 that live in Chistochina and for him to be able to come  
24 back and pass down that knowledge to his grandchildren  
25 is a key component that his grandkids are going to be  
26 missing. So having this ability to issue that permit  
27 for him so that he might come home and share his  
28 knowledge with his grandchildren is an important part  
29 of this tradition.

30  
31 I'll just hand it back over to Jim  
32 because I'm fumbling over things. This is the first  
33 time I'm participating in your meetings. So the lingo  
34 and the vocabulary, the process that you have is new to  
35 me. I apologize for any fumbling that I'm doing.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Karen, no need to  
38 apologize. I fumble enough for all of us, so I  
39 appreciate the company.

40  
41 MS. LINNELL: Jim, did I miss anything  
42 or do you want to add to this?

43  
44 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Through the  
45 Chair. This is Jim Simon for the record. I do not  
46 have anything to add at this time, but will be happy to  
47 help address any questions. Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim.

50

1 Questions of Karen or Jim or other discussion.

2

3 MR. TAYLOR: Hi, Karen. This is Eric  
4 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you for  
5 summarizing the proposal and many of the points that  
6 the Technical Committee raised. I was just wondering  
7 in your own words how would the permit that's being  
8 proposed, the permit process, be less burdensome?

9

10 I know your proposal mentioned that the  
11 current process is burdensome both to tribal villages  
12 and also to Federal agencies. I'm just wondering in  
13 your thoughts why the permit process would be less  
14 onerous or more efficient than the invitation letter.

15

16 MS. LINNELL: Ahtna Intertribal  
17 Resource Commission works very closely with all of our  
18 tribes, but not only that we're intimately familiar  
19 with who lives in our communities. We participate in  
20 community events in our villages. We go to funerals  
21 and potlatches and we have kids that play ball  
22 together. We have community ball games where all the  
23 villages get together and participate in softball and  
24 things.

25

26 So we're intimately familiar with who's  
27 living in our communities and if not a simple phone  
28 call would suffice. At least the administrators have  
29 that time to answer a phone call. Not so much to draft  
30 a letter and pull things together and things like that.  
31 So we're not looking to -- we're just trying to  
32 simplify things as much as possible for both the  
33 invitee and the tribal councils.

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to say  
36 something here. Gloria Stickwan, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Gloria.  
39 Thank you.

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: I know for Tazlina as  
42 well as I'm sure in other villages we have high staff  
43 turnover. People change in the administrator. Because  
44 it changes it makes it harder for the new administrator  
45 to come on board and to be able to know who's on the  
46 list, who's not on the list, where the letter went to  
47 that was mailed.

48

49 Whereas AITRC is more -- they have

50

1 constant personnel working there and they would have  
2 this permanent letter from our village saying these are  
3 people that are tribal and they're allowed to hunt and  
4 their families can come back to hunt. It would simplify  
5 it for us in that way because of high turnover staff.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gloria.  
8 Thank you, Karen, as well. Other questions. I guess I  
9 have a few, but I want to make sure that we get  
10 everything out there.  
11

12 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Gayla.  
15 Thank you.  
16

17 MS. HOSETH: Hi. I wanted to thank  
18 Karen for her time and effort to put this proposal in  
19 and then also to advocate for the Ahtna people of how  
20 important it is for our tribal members and our extended  
21 family members living in urban areas to come out for  
22 bird hunting with our families that live here. It's  
23 really important.  
24

25 For things to be so stringent of what's  
26 required of this permit just seems -- I wasn't a part  
27 of that Technical Committee discussion. I had other  
28 meetings. But I just wanted to make that clear for the  
29 record that I was not at that Technical Committee  
30 meeting.  
31

32 We also -- Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council  
33 here at BBNA submitted a proposal last year for the  
34 invitation requirement and that went to committee, so  
35 that hasn't even been acted upon yet. I think it's  
36 important that we address these concerns for the  
37 invitation.  
38

39 Right now when we look on Page 3 of the  
40 Regulations Booklet it's very simply stated in there of  
41 what's required. We don't need to make this be a  
42 cumbersome process for anybody and to provide all of  
43 the information. I think all of the information the  
44 Technical Committee was suggesting. I would like to  
45 have us consider bringing this to the Invitation  
46 Committee along with the other invitation proposals  
47 that are in the docket waiting to be acted on.  
48

49 I know that BBNA has one and I think  
50

1 there's another one. Patty and I were trying to figure  
2 out which other region submitted an invitation  
3 proposal. If you have a proposal holding, let us know.  
4 I think there's two. If we can have an Invitation  
5 Committee meeting and then recess this meeting, not  
6 close on this meeting, because we have until August for  
7 the Pacific Flyway Council meeting to act.

8  
9 If we're able to have an Invitation  
10 Committee meeting, discuss all of these things and  
11 address all of these proposals that need to be acted on  
12 and then meet again here in May possibly to take action  
13 on these invitation proposals is what I would recommend  
14 so that we can address Ahtna's concerns, BBNA's  
15 concerns and also -- because right now the invitation  
16 -- the letters aren't being done and we want to make  
17 sure that people are not criminals for participating in  
18 our traditional lifestyle.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you for that,  
21 Gayla. Just to put a little on the record here too. I  
22 think we all want to see this work and for all the  
23 reasons that have been expressed this morning and  
24 moving forward, however we choose to do that, I'm very  
25 supportive in getting this sorted out for folks to  
26 where they're comfortable with it.

27  
28 Gayla, just to make sure I'm clear on  
29 your suggestion, the suggestion would be to table this  
30 discussion and then convene at an Invitation Committee  
31 meeting to -- and I'm going to insert a word -- to  
32 discuss this on a much larger scale rather than just  
33 Ahtna or BBNA. Would we look at it from all the  
34 regional councils? Is that the intent?

35  
36 MS. HOSETH: No. We have proposals --  
37 there's a number of proposals that have gone to  
38 different committees. We have like the fall and winter  
39 dates that we had in there for years now. For us to  
40 act on these proposals I want us to be able to act on  
41 -- it would be on the proposals that we have currently  
42 in there for invitation requirements.

43  
44 So if Ahtna was wanting to do a permit  
45 system, BBNA -- we were proposing for tribal ID cards  
46 to just be present. I don't think there should be a  
47 timeline on how long this invitation is for. People  
48 are coming back to their traditional homeland to  
49 participate to help immediate family members hunt

50

1 birds.

2

3 So it would be not to table this, to  
4 move these into the Invitation Committee for discussion  
5 with all of the invitational proposals that are sitting  
6 in there. When we get to the end of our meeting here  
7 today, that we do not adjourn, that we recess, and then  
8 we reconvene let's say at the end of this month or the  
9 first -- probably the first week in June would be best,  
10 and then we take action on these invitation proposals.  
11 Because we still have time in order for the Pacific  
12 Flyway Council in August.

13

14 So that would be my suggestion. I can  
15 put that in a form of a motion if we wanted to have  
16 more discussion.

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question. This  
19 is Gloria.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Gloria.  
22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering who's on  
25 the Technical Committee.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Good question. I  
28 wondered the same thing.

29

30 MS. HOSETH: Gloria, this is on the  
31 Invitation Committee. Maybe, Patty, you have that.

32

33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. The Technical  
34 Committee.....

35

36 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chairman. I think I  
37 can help.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay, one second.  
40 Patty, do you have something to add there?

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I was just saying I  
43 can look up the committee list if you want to know  
44 who's on the Invitation Committee.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I think at some point  
47 that would be great. We'll go ahead and continue the  
48 discussion. I apologize, I didn't recognize the voice  
49 of the gentleman who suggested they could help us here.

50

1 MR. SIMON: Yes, chairman of the  
2 Invitation to Hunt Committee, Jim Simon.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Jim. Thank  
5 you.

6  
7 MR. SIMON: Thank you. I recently in  
8 2019 was appointed to be the chairman of the Invitation  
9 to Hunt Committee. I previously served on the  
10 Invitation to Hunt Committee beginning in 2004. Those  
11 experiences, sending a proposal to the Invitation to  
12 Hunt Committee is the place where proposals go to die  
13 from my experience.

14  
15 I did try to call for an Invitation to  
16 Hunt Committee this past fall, but that was not able to  
17 happen, which is why the Ahtna Intertribal Resource  
18 Commission working with its regional co-management  
19 council for birds submitted this proposal as a step  
20 forward in the process.

21  
22 I'd just like to also remind the  
23 Council that beginning in 2004 with the Invitation to  
24 Hunt Committee process it took 10 years and two  
25 proposals from the Fairbanks Native Association to  
26 actually get the allowed Invitation to Hunt Program in  
27 regulation.

28  
29 I do not believe we can wait another 10  
30 years in order to make further advancement in this  
31 program given that the program has been in existence  
32 for 16 years and there are only two letters of  
33 invitation in the state.

34  
35 So while I support the intent of the  
36 discussions from the chair of the Alaska Native Caucus  
37 with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, I  
38 think that deferring and putting this to committee is  
39 likely, if we look at institutional history, will mean  
40 no further action.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim.

45  
46 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead.

49  
50

1 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please, Karen. Thank  
4 you.

5  
6 MS. LINNELL: I oppose waiting another  
7 month even. You have the whole week here that's been  
8 planned for a migratory bird meeting and that got --  
9 you know, it turned into this teleconference. If those  
10 committee meetings were to happen, the Caucus would  
11 have met the day before. We're not having a caucus  
12 today. This is somebody coming from the outside  
13 looking in. I'd rather have some sort of action or if  
14 you're going to postpone it

15  
16 As far as other proposals that were  
17 submitted, I believe I had heard of Bristol Bay's last  
18 year when we were writing this, but I didn't know that  
19 no action had been taken on it at all. So I'd much  
20 rather see some action myself and get this taken care  
21 of.

22  
23 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. This is Gloria,  
24 Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Gloria.  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 MS. STICKWAN: At our last meeting it  
30 was recommended that we write from the council Native  
31 Caucus, it's in the minutes as well, that they said  
32 they wanted this to be a regional proposal. So we went  
33 back and made it regional. Now they want to look at  
34 the three regions that submitted a proposal. To me, it  
35 sounds like now it's going to try and become a  
36 statewide proposal is what it sounds like.

37  
38 How's that going to change it for us?  
39 We're going to have to go back to our committee and say  
40 this was deferred and now we're going to -- this was  
41 changed or, you know, could be changed and now we're  
42 going to reconsider again and go back to our council.  
43 And we did what we're supposed to do when we made it  
44 into a regional proposal as the Native Caucus wanted.  
45 So I'd like to see this move forward.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gloria.

48  
49 Eric, do you want to weigh in here?  
50

1 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I think  
3 it's fair to say all of us want to reach a resolution  
4 to this. I'm appreciative of Gayla's comment that  
5 there are alternatives out there that have been  
6 considered for this topic that have been tabled.

7  
8 I'm certainly appreciative of Jim  
9 Simon's comment that it's difficult at times to call --  
10 for a chair to call people together. People are often  
11 busy. It can be a frustrating and unrewarding process  
12 to be a chair and trying to move something forward.

13  
14 And I understand Gloria's point that  
15 effort has been put in from her region to try to move  
16 something forward that mitigates or avoids perhaps  
17 frustration or delay.

18  
19 This is a complicated topic. I think  
20 it's probably fair to say that there's some regional  
21 differences among tribal villages and tribal councils  
22 on how best to address this. Speaking from my point of  
23 view it would be nice to adopt a statewide process  
24 that's consistent that we can all get behind. That is  
25 going to require a bit more discussion.

26  
27 I do think it's important to know who  
28 sits on the Invitation Committee to make sure that for  
29 those regions that are interested in weighing in on  
30 this that they have a voice at the table.

31  
32 Finally, I agree that this should not  
33 linger. I'm not for sure if a committee meeting could  
34 be pulled together like Gloria recommended perhaps in  
35 the next week, but I do agree that I think this could  
36 be done in the next month and in time for the Pacific  
37 Flyway Council to consider it.

38  
39 Substantive effort has been put into  
40 this by the Technical Committee and I applaud their  
41 five-page in-depth report. The Solicitor has been  
42 involved. All of you I think have had at least some  
43 say in this.

44  
45 So I understand the level of  
46 frustration. I understand the level of interest. My  
47 recommendation would be to put in the Invitation  
48 Committee. I would ask for Patty to refresh our  
49 memories on who sits in on that committee and get a  
50

1 commitment from those individuals so that if Jim sends  
2 out a poll or contacts people, that they give a  
3 commitment to attend and that's a priority.

4  
5 I think I can speak for Julian Fischer  
6 who chaired the Technical Committee and put a  
7 substantive amount of effort in. They too would like  
8 to see this reached to a resolution.

9  
10 So those are my thoughts, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric.  
15 Patty, do you have the list of folks that we could  
16 identify and continue this conversation along those  
17 lines?

18  
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, I do. The  
20 Invitation Subcommittee is comprised of Jim Simon as  
21 the chair with the following members: Jason Schamber,  
22 Rory Stark, Taqulik Hepa, Peter Devine, Gayla Hoseth,  
23 Gloria Stickwan, Randy Mayo and Coral Chernoff. We  
24 also have included Ken Lord and Anna Crary as the two  
25 legal advisors in case we ever need them.

26  
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty.

30  
31 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please go.

34  
35 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon. One of the  
36 challenges I experienced in the fall in trying to  
37 organize an invitation to hunt committee is that I  
38 don't have the contact information for the list of  
39 those committee members. So that would be helpful to  
40 get.

41  
42 Also I will take off my Ahtna  
43 Intertribal Resource Commission hat at this time and  
44 put my Tanana Chiefs Conference hat on now. This has  
45 been discussed by the Interior Regional Bird  
46 Co-management Council and we are 100 percent opposed to  
47 a permit requirement for the invitation to hunt  
48 procedure.

49  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you, Jim.  
4 Further discussion or questions.

5

6 MR. AHMASUK: Hi, Ryan. This is  
7 Brandon.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thanks, Brandon.  
10 Please go ahead.

11

12 MR. AHMASUK: So I'm going to have to  
13 agree with Gayla. There's easier ways to do this.  
14 Just like for the handicraft issue that we spent years  
15 on, you know, we came up with the regulation, just a  
16 tribal ID card. That's one way of going about it.

17

18 For our region, having a permit system  
19 in place and/or giving tribal council approval also may  
20 not work for our region. Some of our villages are very  
21 small. There could be disagreements amongst a  
22 community where a tribal member may not get permission  
23 to come back if they're on the wrong side of the  
24 argument.

25

26 So there are easier ways to handle  
27 this. For Kawerak right now I'd have to say that we  
28 wouldn't be in support of a permit system for our area.  
29 I mean if other areas are wanting to do that and I  
30 believe it was already spoken that it be a regional  
31 proposal, we'd be fine with that. Certain areas, if  
32 that's what they want to do, that's fine.

33

34 The other area, I'm going to have to  
35 disagree with Eric having a statewide. You know, how  
36 practical is this for other regions. So for the Bering  
37 Strait Region we have one U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service law enforcement officer from St. Michaels,  
39 Stebbins, Shishmaref, Gambell, to Unalakleet. How  
40 practical is this.

41

42 Anyway, those are my comments for now.  
43 Again, Kawerak, I believe we'd be against a permit  
44 system. We'd be more for having just a tribal ID card.  
45 Something easier for out here.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Brandon.

50

1 Other comments, questions.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell.  
4 So from the sounds of it other regions weren't  
5 interested in this. To move things forward, this is  
6 something that we're moving to get the ball rolling.  
7 This is not to preempt or to stop the tribal  
8 identification piece. If that ever happens, I'm sure  
9 our tribes would be more than happy to go that route as  
10 they do have tribal IDs. At this point, this is our  
11 attempt to get the ball rolling and it is a regional  
12 proposal.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Karen.

15

16 MR. AHMASUK: Ryan, this is Brandon.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Brandon.

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. AHMASUK: The one thing I forgot to  
22 mention was all of these harvest whatnot out here  
23 anywhere where we're highly dependant upon this, it was  
24 all originally set up for us in a customary and  
25 traditional manner. Permits, all this extra other  
26 stuff, you know, it's not customary and traditional.

27

28 Again, I'm not trying to take away from  
29 a regional proposal. Again, if that's what they want,  
30 that's what they want. I think we do need to keep that  
31 in mind when we're thinking about a lot of this stuff  
32 is -- you know, keeping it customary and traditional,  
33 but when you start adding stuff little by little you  
34 start getting away from that.

35

36 Anyway, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Brandon.

39 Good point. Appreciate you mentioning that.

40

41 MR. FISCHER: Mr. Chair. Julian  
42 Fischer. I have a question, please.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Julian.

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and  
48 Wildlife Service. So just in studying this proposal a  
49 little bit more and hearing the reading of it again, I

50

1 just wanted to note that it calls for a change to the  
2 current process as well as an addition of a new  
3 process.

4  
5 Specifically, the current process which  
6 involves a letter of invitation from the village or  
7 tribal council going to the Executive Director of the  
8 AMBCC, under this proposal that option would become  
9 optional. So it would be a change to the current  
10 process.

11  
12 I bring that up just so that if the  
13 Council decided to vote on this particular proposal, it  
14 would result in a change for the letter option for one  
15 region and not the others. So the other regions if  
16 they continued with the current process, they would  
17 submit a letter inviting a hunter to participate, but  
18 the Director of the AMBCC would not be informed with  
19 the exception of the one region.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Julian.

24  
25 MS. LINNELL: I don't believe it was  
26 our intent to change the other regions in the  
27 invitation letter. This is optional. Our region can  
28 do the permit or the letter.

29  
30 MR. FISCHER: This is Julian. The only  
31 thing I was pointing out is that the proposal submitted  
32 by AITRC called for a change in the letter of  
33 invitation being sent to the AMBCC. Instead it would  
34 just go directly to the invited hunter. That was  
35 written when this was a statewide proposal. I'm just  
36 curious if that would still remain in the revised  
37 proposal if it was just one region only.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Karen, do you want to  
40 respond to that?

41  
42 MS. LINNELL: The invitation letter  
43 goes to the individual invited to hunt. A copy goes to  
44 the AMBCC Coordinator, correct, as it is now?

45  
46 MR. FISCHER: That's the current  
47 process, but the wording of the proposal is it replaces  
48 the word will be sent to Executive Director and  
49 replaces it with may be sent to the Executive Director.

50

1 MS. LINNELL: That's not our intent to  
2 change any of the current process except for to our  
3 region.

4  
5 MR. FISCHER: Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, thank you,  
8 Karen, for clarifying that. Rory, are you still on the  
9 line with us?

10  
11 MR. STARK: Yeah, Ryan, this is Rory  
12 Stark with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hi, Rory. Thank you.  
15 I have a quick question in a broad stroke if you will.  
16 Are there issues that we're aware of as far as people  
17 taking advantage of the ability to be able to return  
18 home and hunt for others?

19  
20 I think I've heard just about everybody  
21 say that we're all in support of that and we're trying  
22 to work through the details and how to crack that, but  
23 I'm curious about are there actual problems that we're  
24 trying to fix here rather than some technical issues we  
25 need to work through.

26  
27 MR. STARK: Right. So as Brandon  
28 mentioned, we don't have a lot of enforcement officers  
29 out, especially currently. Things have -- you know,  
30 for a number of reasons we don't have as many field  
31 officers out as we used to. However, when we did have  
32 more and when we did do more field contacts, one of the  
33 primary violations we found in the spring hunt was that  
34 folks from excluded areas, i.e. Anchorage and other  
35 towns, would come out and hunt during the spring hunt.  
36 Many times those folks would not have immediate family  
37 members in those areas. So that was one of the -- when  
38 we were looking at past violations, that was one of the  
39 more prevalent violations.

40  
41 Did that answer your question, Ryan?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It does, yeah. Thank  
44 you very much. So I guess I -- you know, we definitely  
45 have some differing opinions on this topic and how to  
46 move forward. Gayla or Eric, do you guys have anything  
47 else to add? I'm probably going to be looking for some  
48 procedural help here to get us going again.

49  
50

1 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
2 I understand all sides that are coming at this. It's  
3 really difficult for us to have such a short timeframe  
4 to have discussions. Whereas if we were in Anchorage  
5 for the week, we would be able to have conversations  
6 with one another and actually have an Invitation  
7 Committee before our meeting to take action on this  
8 proposal.

9  
10 That's why I think it's really  
11 important that we -- this isn't going to be in effect  
12 until 2021, so there's no reason to rush to take action  
13 right now. I don't want it to die going to Invitation  
14 Committee. I think that we need to have an Invitation  
15 Committee discuss this proposal if it wants to be  
16 regionally for the Ahtna Region.

17  
18 The one that is sitting in the  
19 Invitation Committee right now is a statewide proposal  
20 and maybe there could be ors that are added onto either  
21 a letter or a permit or a tribal ID. It just needs to  
22 have further discussion in committee. That committee  
23 is an invitation also for people to participate on  
24 these committees.

25  
26 But that would be my recommendation and  
27 that we come back and we recess our meeting and we take  
28 action on it because these aren't going to be in effect  
29 until 2021.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla.  
32 Eric, can.....

33  
34 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Oh, go ahead, please.

37  
38 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for that,  
39 Gayla. I would be okay with that, but should the  
40 committee not move forward by this June date, that I  
41 don't want things to get held up and stopped. Jim had  
42 said there's a history of it getting to that point and  
43 then it just stays there or doesn't move forward.

44  
45 So if we can say that for our region  
46 and our regional we agree to it that this is a regional  
47 proposal, that by that June meeting if the AMBCC  
48 Invitation to Hunt Committee does not meet, the Ahtna  
49 proposal will move forward as it is written with the  
50

1 exception of the clarifying language that we just had  
2 discussion on, that this won't change anything in the  
3 invitation to hunt at this point.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Karen. So  
6 folks who were listed on the Invitation Committee, I  
7 don't remember all the names and I apologize for that,  
8 but the lion share are on the line right now. Just  
9 thinking about your own personal calendars and what you  
10 have going, would that work to get a group together  
11 under the leadership of Jim in the next few days, I  
12 guess, or the next week or so so we can keep this  
13 moving.

14  
15 I am in 100 percent support of both  
16 Karen's and Jim's statements that we don't want to see  
17 this die and just languish there.

18  
19 I'll start with you, Jim. What do you  
20 think? Do you have time to call a committee meeting?

21  
22 MR. SIMON: I have only time available  
23 on Friday this week.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Well, that  
26 makes it pretty clear.

27  
28 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. This is Peter  
29 Devine, Aleutian Pribilof Region. I am available this  
30 week.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Peter.

33  
34 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral Chernoff.  
35 I'm available anytime.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Coral.

38  
39 MS. HEPA: This is Taqulik. I'm  
40 available, but any time after 10:00 a.m. on Friday. I  
41 have something earlier in the morning.

42  
43 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. I'm  
44 available after 10:00 in the morning on Friday.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay.

47  
48 MS. EVANS: This is Priscilla. I am  
49 after 10:00 a.m. Friday morning.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Perfect. Thank you,  
2 Priscilla.

3  
4 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. Maybe we could  
5 do a Doodle poll and if we could see what time works  
6 for everybody. I know that with all the COVID stuff  
7 that everybody is working on our schedules are pretty  
8 tight. I understand the importance of getting this  
9 done, but if we did a Doodle poll and if that was  
10 something we wanted to do, if we were going to recess  
11 this meeting and come back, we also need to figure out  
12 what date would work out best to bring this back.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, I agree. Very  
15 good point. Eric, your thoughts.

16  
17 MS. LINNELL: Well, just in listening  
18 to the conversation that just happened with a lot of  
19 the Committee members they said they're available  
20 Friday after 10:00. You know, I guess it would be just  
21 as to when the AMBCC is going to reschedule to resume  
22 the meeting.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, I agree with  
25 that. Eric, you were going to say something.

26  
27 MR. TAYLOR: Rory Stark sits on the  
28 Invitation Committee. I'll let Rory explain his  
29 availability or not.

30  
31 MR. STARK: Yeah, this is Rory Stark  
32 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement.  
33 I'm available on Friday after 10:00 or anytime.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. So I guess I  
36 feel like I've heard from the majority of the  
37 Invitation Committee members, including the Chair.  
38 Thank you, Jim. At this point I would make a  
39 suggestion that we -- and I don't want to mess up the  
40 wording here.

41  
42 I need to know do we actually need to  
43 table this discussion and then when we get to the end  
44 of today we would recess with a date certain that we  
45 need to figure out very quickly when to come back for  
46 this proposal discussion after the Invitation Committee  
47 has met.

48  
49 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. This is Peter.

50

1 I believe when something is tabled it cannot be brought  
2 back, so it would be just recess. I would suggest  
3 recess until Monday.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Peter.

6

7 MS. LINNELL: You can table to a time  
8 certain the end of this meeting. And then because this  
9 meeting is going to be recessed and resumed it would  
10 still be part of that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah. Eric and Gayla,  
13 how are you feeling about this course of action?

14

15 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
16 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm comfortable  
17 with that recommendation.

18

19 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Gayla and I am as well. We don't have to meet in June.  
21 We can meet sooner than June. I was just saying by  
22 June before everybody gets busy this summer. So if  
23 people are free to reconvene on Monday, that would move  
24 us to acting on this proposal. If we reconvene in the  
25 next couple weeks. It doesn't have to be June. I was  
26 just putting it out there that we don't want to go  
27 beyond June to bring it back.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I appreciate that very  
30 much. I think in the spirit of making sure that we do  
31 continue forward, we'll try to meet -- the AMBCC will  
32 try to meet relatively soon. I don't know that it  
33 necessarily needs to be Monday and potentially that's  
34 when I would think you're suggestion of putting a  
35 Doodle poll out or having Patty poll the Council to see  
36 when we can reconvene.

37

38 So this would be -- again, I apologize.  
39 I need some procedural help on this. Patty or whoever  
40 else can help us out here. I think we should leave  
41 this discussion that we're having and Jim, if you will  
42 call an Invitation Committee meeting for Friday, I  
43 would appreciate that. Then we will determine as a  
44 Council when we can regroup. We won't adjourn today.  
45 What we'll do is recess. I'm not sure what we need to  
46 do technically with this discussion, if anything, or if  
47 we just take a motion to do that.

48

49 Patty, maybe you could help us out

50

1 here.

2

3

MR. SIMON: Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, please.

6

7

MR. SIMON: Thank you. Jim Simon. I think it's important for the Executive Committee to actually charge us with a duty. My reading of it right now is to resolve the 16 years of effort by the Council and Invitation to Hunt Committee Friday afternoon or late morning. I don't know how any of those conversations will alter the desires of the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission where you can't do anything there without a permit. I do not see that changing.

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I'm pretty sure that the Ahtna Region has no interest in requiring this permit system to be implemented statewide. We've heard clearly there is opposition to that. We've heard clearly that the Fish and Wildlife Service keeps bringing up a statewide approach to this. That's not going to work.

25

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So I would like some clear delegation of responsibility and what it is you're charging the Invitation to Hunt Committee to achieve by the close of business on Friday.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: That's a fair statement, fair request. Again, Patty, any recommendations on how we leave this topic with the intent of time certain picking it back up?

MS. SCHWALENBERG: From what I understand the proposal by Bristol Bay Native Association or BBNA's migratory bird committee is still at the Invitation Committee level. Gayla, correct me if I'm wrong. We want the Invitation Committee to look at that proposal and see if it can be integrated into the Ahtna proposal feasibly.

As AITRC suggested, it could be either a region or statewide proposal. I'm thinking it would be -- it's people's choice or region's choice what they want to do, but we could work -- the committee would then work with the BBNA proposal and the Ahtna proposal

1 to see if there is some way to get both proposals  
2 passed.

3  
4 The third proposal that Gayla and I  
5 were trying to think of actually was not a proposal.  
6 It was a verbal issue identified by Tanana Chiefs and  
7 that was people that live in the urban areas that have  
8 been invited to go to a different community to hunt  
9 because their community is cost prohibitive to get to  
10 their own community. So that was another issue that  
11 was brought up. It was not brought up in the form of a  
12 proposal.

13  
14 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
15 Right when you asked me, Patty, my call dropped, so I  
16 missed everything you said. If you were directing a  
17 question towards me, I apologize.

18  
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I actually was just  
20 clarifying that we want the Invitation Committee to  
21 take the Bristol Bay proposal and see how it can be  
22 integrated into Ahtna's proposed regulation, is that  
23 correct?

24  
25 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I think that we  
26 should if we have invitation proposals that are sitting  
27 in Invitation Committee. I think there was a BBNA one  
28 and there was also another one that maybe there isn't.  
29 Maybe it's just this one. But if things have sat in  
30 this committee as Jim has stated and it hasn't moved  
31 anywhere, there's quite a number of proposals that are  
32 in different committees that aren't moving anywhere.

33  
34 I was just trying to say if we're going  
35 to make a regulatory change for an invitation  
36 requirement when we also have submitted a proposal that  
37 needs action as to whether or not it's going to be  
38 decided upon, I think that that is a fair process for  
39 all the regions across the state.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, both Patty  
42 and Gayla, for that.

43  
44 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.  
45 Gloria.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am.

48  
49 MS. STICKWAN: I'm kind of wondering  
50

1 about Mr. Taylor's concern about -- is it okay to have  
2 a statewide and regional proposal with a permitting  
3 process as well as a letter that's not going to stop if  
4 it's in the Committee? That's my question.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I don't think I can  
7 answer that very well at this point. It does occur to  
8 me as we've been discussing this and going back and  
9 forth on it, as an executive committee we can vote on  
10 this and see where it goes and then bring it back at  
11 another proposal time as well. Again, I definitely  
12 want to be cognizant of Karen's comments as well as  
13 Jim's comment.

14  
15 I also recognize we're asking a group  
16 of people to tackle a subject that has been lingering  
17 for many, many years. I don't know that that's fair to  
18 that group as well as all the other  
19 entities and individuals who have submitted proposals  
20 to address this topic and concern. It feels like we're  
21 trying to rush it a little bit.

22  
23 MS. STICKWAN: I guess you didn't  
24 understand my question. Is it okay with U.S. Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service for us to have a regionwide proposal  
26 as well as a statewide proposal? A regionwide to have  
27 a permitting process and for other regions to have a  
28 statewide if we so choose with different regulations.  
29 Is that something that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
30 and State of Alaska will agree to?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you for  
33 clarifying, Gloria. Eric, do you want to respond to  
34 that.

35  
36 MR. TAYLOR: Sure. Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair. Thank you, Gloria. You know, ideally, I think  
38 from an accounting standpoint it would be nice or  
39 preferable to have a consistent way for regions to  
40 invite members from excluded communities to participate  
41 in the cultural and traditional hunts of an included  
42 area.

43  
44 As has been pointed out by several  
45 individuals, that may not be possible with differing  
46 opinions among regions. I'm certainly aware of that.  
47 To answer your question, yes, Gloria, it would be  
48 possible for a region to have a different way of  
49 accounting and processing letters of invitation or a  
50

1 permit process.

2

3 So I'll ask Rory relative to law  
4 enforcement and trying to address the problem of people  
5 that are not following the letter of the current  
6 process to see if Rory has any thoughts on a regional  
7 approach that differs among regions.

8

9 Rory, could you comment to that,  
10 please.

11

12 MR. STARK: Sure, Eric. This is Rory  
13 Stark with Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement again.  
14 From an enforcement perspective the most important  
15 thing is being able to identify who is eligible  
16 pursuant to that familial requirements, i.e. has  
17 immediate family members in those included areas.

18

19 Our concern if we have a bunch of  
20 different processes for doing that would be that it  
21 would be very hard to vet the different procedures and  
22 find out who actually was eligible and who wasn't. A  
23 tribal ID card for instance wouldn't tell us if they  
24 had an immediate family member in that area and were  
25 eligible to hunt. That would be basically  
26 unenforceable for us.

27

28 Obviously the big concern here is that  
29 anybody who lives in an excluded area, Anchorage,  
30 Soldotna, wherever, these rural areas is for the  
31 benefit of the rural residents there and it might  
32 greatly increase the scope of the hunting there and be  
33 a resource impact on some of the different things; you  
34 know, Emperor geese, that sort of thing.

35

36 From a law enforcement perspective, a  
37 uniform and consistent process would certainly be the  
38 easiest for us and the least burdensome when we  
39 contacted people in the field to determine if they were  
40 eligible to be hunting because they had an immediate  
41 family member there.

42

43 That being said, the permit or letter  
44 or whatever it is I'm sure we could work on that where  
45 it wouldn't need to have information that would make  
46 people feel uncomfortable. If there was a way that we  
47 could vet that with some responsible village or tribal  
48 entity that was issuing those permits and there was an  
49 affiliation back to the management authority, which is

50

1 the AMBCC.

2

3

4 From my perspective, some uniform  
5 process that was as small a burden as possible on the  
6 hunters and on the village councils, but also allow for  
7 us to make a determination that people were eligible to  
8 be hunting would be the best if possible. So I think  
9 my take on it is if there's some way to make the  
10 process flexible enough and yet have it uniform  
11 throughout the state, it would certainly be easier for  
12 us to enforce that regulation.

12

13

MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

14

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am, please.

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Much like in Bristol Bay area it will  
be somebody that's assigned to the Bristol Bay area who  
is familiar with that process. Not one individual  
traveling from Anchorage out to all these different  
areas. So once the process is established then that  
office in the Bristol Bay area or up in the TCC area or  
here in Copper River will be familiar with the process  
that's in that area.

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Karen.

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MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, please.

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MR. SIMON: Thank you. Jim Simon for  
the record again. I think that this is an example of  
sending proposals to die. You know, the situation is  
we have records built that illegal, not invited hunters  
who may be eligible is a major enforcement problem in  
Alaska. The Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission has  
provided a solution to that problem for the Ahtna  
Traditional Use Territory.

48

49

50

With respect to the other regions who

1 are interested in simplifying this process, it has  
2 already been determined in the Technical Committee  
3 analysis of the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission's  
4 proposal that even having a permit does not require the  
5 information that enforcement wants, such that a BIA  
6 identification card will not be approved. Is that  
7 correct from the Fish and Wildlife Service's  
8 standpoint? Then I have a follow-up question.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim. Rory  
11 or Eric, do you want to respond to that.

12  
13 MR. STARK: Go ahead, Eric.

14  
15 MR. TAYLOR: I was going to defer to  
16 you, Rory, in terms of your experience relative to  
17 contacting hunters that are not eligible to be in  
18 areas. So could you comment on -- Jim has requested  
19 clarification that a tribal card by itself would not be  
20 sufficient relative to your office in terms of  
21 enforcing this regulation. Is that correct?

22  
23 MR. STARK: This is Rory with U.S. Fish  
24 and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement again. Did Eric  
25 phrase your question correctly, Jim?

26  
27 MR. SIMON: Yes, I believe so.

28  
29 MR. STARK: Okay. The problem with the  
30 tribal card, tribal affiliation it doesn't show that  
31 you have an affiliation or an immediate family member  
32 in the area. The transmittal letter is fairly  
33 restrictive and that it is just immediate family  
34 defined as parents, grandparents, siblings and  
35 children, that sort of thing.

36  
37 So there's no way from looking at a  
38 tribal affiliation card that we can get that  
39 information and determine if somebody is legal to be  
40 hunting there. That makes it more difficult and  
41 burdensome for everybody because then we have to vet  
42 through the process before we know if they're actually  
43 legally hunting pursuant to the transmittal letter and  
44 the treaty.

45  
46 Does that answer your question?

47  
48 MR. SIMON: Yes, Rory. Thank you.  
49 That is my point, so why I question the encumbrance of

50

1 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory's proposal with the  
2 BIA identification card.

3  
4 My follow-up question is, okay, there's  
5 like a dozen or so Fish and Wildlife Service staff on  
6 this call. You have an enforcement problem, you have a  
7 current letter of invitation procedure that is  
8 obviously not working if you have this enforcement  
9 problem. What is the Fish and Wildlife Service's  
10 proposed solutions to this generational problem?

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 MR. STARK: This is Rory again. I  
15 think this is probably better answered by Eric, but I  
16 can just opine. That's sort of why we're looking for a  
17 more -- you know, something that's flexible and simple  
18 and uniform so that we can address the problem  
19 consistently throughout the state instead of having a  
20 hodge-podge of different processes throughout the  
21 regions. We're hoping to make it easier for everybody,  
22 but obviously that may not be possible.

23  
24 I think the idea would be if we get  
25 together in the Invitation Committee we can talk  
26 through this and come up with some ideas that might be  
27 flexible and simple enough and give us the required  
28 information that this process can work more or less or  
29 with slight variations for every region.

30  
31 That's my thought and I'm more than  
32 happy to be called into that discussion on the  
33 Invitation Committee, but I do think it takes maybe a  
34 little more discussion before we just give up entirely  
35 on the idea that there might be some process that works  
36 maybe with slight variations for all these different  
37 areas instead of having every single one have a  
38 different process.

39  
40 That being said, certainly we do try  
41 and put enforcement officers who are familiar with the  
42 area in each area, but we are still limited in staff  
43 that sometimes we have different people going out to  
44 different areas and consistency for hunters and for law  
45 enforcement officers would certainly be very helpful.

46  
47 That's my take on it. Maybe.....

48  
49 MR. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

50

1 MR. STARK: I'll just defer that to  
2 Eric now. Thank you.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah. I'll come back  
5 to you, Karen.

6  
7 Go ahead, Eric.

8  
9 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jim  
10 brings up a reasonable point is that we have a process  
11 in place that for whatever reason, be it outreach and  
12 education that people are unaware of it, be it that  
13 it's too onerous to the person that wants to hunt in an  
14 area that they have a direct family member or due to  
15 individuals that just do not want to follow regulation.

16  
17 It's difficult, Jim, for me to answer  
18 that question. I'm not a social scientist and it's  
19 difficult in terms of trying to provide you an answer  
20 on any regulation whether it's exceeding the speed  
21 limit down the Glenn Highway in Anchorage or not  
22 following the letter of invitation to allow you to  
23 carry on a traditional hunt.

24  
25 It's a question worthy of discussion.  
26 As Rory said, that would be yet another topic for the  
27 Invitation Committee to say why isn't the current  
28 process working. Furthermore, I would like to  
29 understand if it's a document that's being asked to be  
30 completed, what the difference is between a permit for  
31 example and a letter of invitation? They're both  
32 documentations.

33  
34 So, Jim, I can't answer your question,  
35 but I do think it's worth discussion both by the  
36 Invitation Committee and then also to bring forward a  
37 recommendation on how to improve the process. Whether  
38 it's to keep the regulation in place that we have and  
39 do a better job at outreach and education or request  
40 that law enforcement try to do a better job in terms of  
41 determining people that should not be in an area  
42 hunting or whether it's a revised process of the  
43 current letter of invitation or whether it's an  
44 alternative or whether individual regions -- something  
45 works better for one region than another.

46  
47 So that's a long answer, in essence,  
48 that I can't provide a specific reason why the current  
49 regulation is not being followed.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric.  
2 Karen, did you have a comment?

3  
4 MS. LINNELL: Yes. This cookie-cutter  
5 approach that we're trying to put forward doesn't work.  
6 Being at the Department of Fish and Game you know that  
7 there are multiple permits and approaches to wildlife  
8 management across the state. For moose you can have a  
9 registration hunt, you can have a draw permit, you can  
10 have a Tier II and it works in those specific areas for  
11 those specific resources. It could be because of  
12 resource concern.

13  
14 Here it's a way to address the  
15 permitting process. So it's not that difficult to  
16 include that in your book that says in Copper River  
17 region that you'll be -- you would need an invitation  
18 if you are not Federally qualified yourself or from one  
19 of these communities that you would need the invitation  
20 to hunt or permit. For the other regions you can have  
21 it in there this is what it takes.

22  
23 So, again, I don't buy that  
24 cookie-cutter approach of the Ahtna Traditional Use  
25 Territory. It's the size of Ohio. Bristol Bay is  
26 different than Copper River Basin. TCC region is  
27 different than our region. Even though part of their  
28 region is our neighbors they're still different than we  
29 are. So to assume that you're going to get one  
30 approach and have one line item fix that is I think  
31 dreaming.

32  
33 I think that this is an approach to fix  
34 something in the Copper River area. We're not  
35 preempting other regions from trying what we're doing  
36 or putting in a proposal to address their concerns and  
37 dealing with it in another way. I'm sorry that the  
38 other regions' permits have been stuck in limbo-land  
39 for 16 years or however long it's been, but this is an  
40 attempt for AITRC to address an issue for the Copper  
41 River region.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Karen.  
46 Well spoken. We have been on this topic for a long  
47 time and I think that it speaks to how complicated it  
48 is, the different aspects to it. I appreciate all the  
49 background given as well as far as how these proposals  
50

1 have been around and had some challenges moving  
2 forward.

3  
4 I recognize there's been a couple  
5 recommendations on what to do next. I also want to  
6 acknowledge that -- you know, Gloria mentioned that  
7 Ahtna went back and did what they were asked to do and  
8 came to us with a regional proposal.

9  
10 I would also recognize too that coming  
11 from the State of Alaska perspective, Karen is  
12 absolutely right. We use different tools for different  
13 situations. We would find it difficult if not  
14 impossible probably to apply one system across the  
15 state versus looking at different regions, different  
16 species and, frankly, just different needs of the hunts  
17 that we can talk about.

18  
19 So that said, I think we need to -- you  
20 know, I think we do need to move on. We had  
21 entertained an idea of trying to get the Invitation  
22 Committee to jump and address, as Jim so eloquently put  
23 it, a problem that's been around for 16 years in the  
24 span of just a few days. I think that's asking a lot.

25  
26  
27 So I kind of think we should address  
28 the proposal head on as presented to the Council.  
29 Gayla or Eric, if you guys have some thoughts on that,  
30 I would appreciate that.

31  
32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Can I just interrupt  
33 for a second, Mr. Chair. This is Patty.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please, Patty.

36  
37 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I just want to  
38 clarify. The Invitation Committee was established in  
39 2004 along with all the rest of the committees. They  
40 didn't meet because they didn't have anything to  
41 consider. When we got the first invitation proposal in  
42 2012 or 2013 we met.

43  
44 Thinking that this is already in  
45 regulations in the protocol, it shouldn't be a big  
46 deal, but Office of Law Enforcement told us, no, you  
47 have to have a regulation in place. That's when the  
48 process started to try to figure out what's the best  
49 way to let law enforcement know that these people that  
50

1 are being invited have actually been invited.

2

3 So it was not 16 years or 13 years or  
4 10 years. I just wanted to clarify that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty. I  
7 appreciate that.

8

9 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Eric.

12

13 MR. SIMON: This is Jim Simon. I  
14 appreciate Patty's comments on that. You know, Patty  
15 is -- very few of you were around in those days. Patty  
16 was one, Randy, Jim Fall. I'm very interested if Jim  
17 Fall might help us with some of his wisdom.

18

19 (Background noise)

20

21 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
22 Taylor. I was wondering if they could put their phone  
23 on mute, please.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: It's not me. I'm not  
26 sure who it is. Okay.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Let me just rephrase. So I  
29 appreciate Patty's comments. I respectfully disagree.  
30 Having been on that committee starting in 2004  
31 timeframe. It was chaired by the U.S. Fish and  
32 Wildlife Service. There were repeated requests to hold  
33 the meeting in order to establish this process. As I  
34 said earlier, eventually that did happen in 2013-2014  
35 timeframe.

36

37 The issue here I believe is that we  
38 need the Fish and Wildlife Service to be proactive in  
39 solving their enforcement problem and to come up with  
40 solutions to this ongoing issue rather than this issue  
41 being kicked down the road until another regional  
42 co-management body which exists to provide  
43 regionally-specific regulations.

44

45 I'm quite concerned with the repeated  
46 request for a statewide one-size-fits-all. Is the next  
47 thing going to be that the actual seasons in each  
48 region have to be made uniform across the state. We're  
49 talking about the core essential feature of the

50

1 co-management of migratory birds here.  
2 Regionally-specific, based on the recommendations of  
3 those regional co-management bodies.

4  
5 You have a viable proposal in front of  
6 you that with some tweaks I'm sure the Council can come  
7 to agreement to pass this proposal. If necessary,  
8 perhaps the proposal should -- and I have not reviewed  
9 this with the Ahtna Region, but perhaps there should be  
10 a sunset on it. Let's try this as an experiment to see  
11 how it works in the Ahtna Region. Then Gloria, myself  
12 and others can report back to the Technical Committee  
13 group.

14  
15 That will also give the Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service with all of your vast resources and  
17 staff that are available for this call to be able to  
18 put your heads together and come up with some  
19 recommended solutions to this instead of just relying  
20 on the regions themselves to fix this co-management  
21 problem.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim. Eric,  
26 Gayla, any additional comments on this.

27  
28 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
29 Taylor. The Technical Committee went through a great  
30 amount of effort trying to get clarification and  
31 they've asked the Council to discuss the points they've  
32 brought forward. I realize that we're pushing up on  
33 12:00 o'clock, but I would like at least a better  
34 understanding in mind before I would be asked to vote  
35 on this proposal. Jim mentioned the proposal would be  
36 tweaked. I'm not for sure what that means at this  
37 point.

38  
39 There are two points. I would like to  
40 go through the Technical Committee's concerns to make  
41 sure those are addressed before the Executive Committee  
42 is asked to vote on this.

43  
44 MR. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. Did you not  
45 get my -- did he not get my letter in response to all  
46 this?

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Karen.  
49 Your letter was included in the packet that went out  
50

1 last week.

2

3 MR. TAYLOR: This is Eric Taylor again.  
4 Yes, I did read your letter. I guess I would like to  
5 make sure that everyone is aware of the concerns that  
6 were brought forward or the discussion points that we  
7 make sure. And I guess I would like to also ask Jim  
8 what he means by tweaking the proposal at this point.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair. Would you like  
11 me to respond to that?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Sorry, Jim. Yes,  
14 please.

15

16 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I think that from my  
17 assessment -- and, again, this is where I really need  
18 to hear from Fish and Wildlife Service. From my  
19 assessment the last remaining issue is the familial  
20 information included on the permit. I appreciated Jim  
21 Fall's comments in the Technical Committee meeting as  
22 reflected in the notes. That is very likely necessary  
23 if that is to be included that it should be the list of  
24 eligible immediate family members in the village that  
25 that invited hunter is eligible to do.

26

27 I don't know, so you'd have to ask the  
28 Technical Committee, but from my reading of the  
29 information and the ongoing dialogue, that seems to be  
30 the remaining concern. There's been a lot of  
31 discussions about the original proposal being statewide  
32 in intent. The only aspect which sort of surprises me  
33 because the intent of the proposal was to add the  
34 option in the statewide regs to be able to have a  
35 regionally specific permit proposal.

36

37 So that was the only intent, as Gloria  
38 has characterized, from the last Native Caucus and  
39 discussion about the other regions' resistance to  
40 having such a permit requirement and would rather stay  
41 with the letter of invitation or strive for some other  
42 alternative way of ensuring regulatory compliance with  
43 the Invitation to Hunt Program.

44

45 So the tweak I think is negotiating  
46 what the Service will agree to be the fields on that  
47 permit. I know Karen is ready to speak to what she  
48 feels is confidential information that is not  
49 specifically required, but I think that is the

50

1 remaining issue to be addressed in what I referred to  
2 as some final tweaks.

3

4                                   Hopefully I answered your question.  
5 Thank you.

6

7                                   CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Eric, do you want to  
8 respond or anything to add?

9

10                                  MR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Jim. I think Jim  
11 raised up the point that the only thing that has to be  
12 decided is that what information is on the permit. Is  
13 that correct? I think you were going to ask Karen to  
14 speak to that. Am I right in that, Jim?

15

16                                  MR. SIMON: Yes, I believe. I don't  
17 know if Karen is willing to have those names on the  
18 permit within their proposal, but it's something that  
19 -- and one of the points that might help to clarify  
20 that is the kinship information defining what the  
21 immediate family relationship currently included on the  
22 two letters of invitation that exist in Alaska  
23 presently. I've never seen those, so I don't know  
24 that.

25

26                                  If those are currently required, if  
27 that information is currently required in the letter of  
28 invitation, then that at least sets a precedent that  
29 any other alternative invitation to hunt procedure  
30 should provide that same level of information. The  
31 perception is that the Service is now requiring  
32 additional information beyond that required in the  
33 letter of invitation and only the Service or the AMBCC  
34 Staff can address that point.

35

36                                  Thank you.

37

38                                  CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Karen, are you at a  
39 point to respond to some of that or would you like to  
40 hold off?

41

42                                  MS. LINNELL: Well, I'd like to know  
43 what's on the current letters of invitation. Do they  
44 list the family members or do they list all that  
45 information? Our tribes believe that's their sovereign  
46 right to say that they are inviting these people and  
47 that they are qualified. They're saying that these  
48 people are invited to hunt.

49

50

1 To ask that of another government or  
2 their agent I think is not necessary. We're saying  
3 it's true and we should be taken at our word. Until  
4 you see some abuse, there's no reason for this type of  
5 language. It's assuming that there's going to be  
6 abuse. So that's where we're at with this. I'd like  
7 to know if this information is on the current letters  
8 of invitation.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Eric or  
11 Rory, could you guys respond to that.

12  
13 MR. STARK: This is Rory with U.S. Fish  
14 and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement. I  
15 think I'd have to defer to Patty on that. I don't have  
16 copies of the letters. I think Patty may have copies  
17 of the letters.

18  
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Like I stated  
20 earlier we received two letters early on right after  
21 the regulation was published. One was just a letter  
22 written by a tribe that listed the members that they  
23 said were eligible to come back and hunt. The other  
24 letter was a form letter that was drafted by the AMBCC  
25 and it did include the name of the person inviting and  
26 the relationship.

27  
28 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. My question  
29 is.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Karen.

32  
33 MS. LINNELL: .....if the enforcement  
34 doesn't have the letters, how are they enforcing it?

35  
36 MR. STARK: This is Rory Stark with  
37 Fish and Wildlife. I just don't have them in front of  
38 me right now. I'm sorry. I'm pretty sure Patty did.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Well, thank you, Karen  
41 and Rory and others who have continued to comment on  
42 this. So I guess I'm going to ask the Executive  
43 Committee members again what is your desires as far as  
44 this proposal. We have heard several suggestions. I'd  
45 like some input from that. I think we've got to get  
46 going on some additional things here.

47  
48 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
49 If we wanted to move on this proposal, I mean we could  
50

1 do that. We haven't had a chance to have a Native  
2 Caucus and I would poll the Native Caucus numbers if  
3 they support this proposal and then that would  
4 determine the vote for Native Caucus.

5  
6 I see on the proposal on Page 2 with  
7 how the new regulations should read. Number 1 there  
8 where it says a letter of invitation may be sent by the  
9 tribal council to the hunter with a copy to the  
10 Executive Director. I think that the language should  
11 stay the same as what is in the book and it will be  
12 will be sent and then the or, or have the permit, but  
13 that would be my take on it for my vote, but I would  
14 want to definitely poll the Native Caucus before  
15 voting, casting the Native Caucus vote.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla.

18  
19 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. This is  
20 Karen. And I'd agree to that. Our intent was not to  
21 change the current process.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Eric.

24  
25 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm  
26 going to build off Gayla's question because I'm trying  
27 to -- I read the proposal and read the Technical  
28 Committee's report and I was going to ask Jim or Karen  
29 to clarify or help me understand. So the proposed  
30 permit process is being put forward to I think address  
31 the question that Jim wants addressed. That is to make  
32 a regulation that actually works and I applaud that.

33  
34 My question is in the current process  
35 invitation a copy of the letter sent to the AMBCC  
36 Executive Director. The proposal doesn't really  
37 clarify. Is the intent of the proposal to also send  
38 copies of the permit to the AMBCC Director?

39  
40 MS. LINNELL: Yes, for a list.

41  
42 MR. TAYLOR: All right. Thank you. I  
43 have to ask this question. I'm struggling here. I'm  
44 trying to understand, Jim or Karen, how a permit is  
45 going to be more efficient or less onerous when it  
46 seems like the same requirements are being put forward  
47 in the sense that a person -- there has to be  
48 communication between.....

49  
50

1 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: One second, Karen. Go  
4 ahead, Eric.

5  
6 MR. TAYLOR: I'm just trying to seek  
7 clarification on how the permit differs from the letter  
8 of invitation in the sense that it's still a piece of  
9 paper that has to be filled out by both entities and a  
10 copy has to be sent to the AMBCC Executive Director who  
11 forwards it on to the Fish and Wildlife Service's  
12 Office of Law Enforcement.

13  
14 Is a permit perceived to be less  
15 burdensome than a letter of invitation or is it  
16 something easier to understand or easier to process or  
17 exactly what?

18  
19 MS. LINNELL: This would centralize the  
20 processing here. Again, as Gloria had said, there's  
21 turnover. Just recently for at least two of our tribes  
22 there's been three administrators. That turnover  
23 underneath them and in being able to pull this through,  
24 educating them on the process. Because I'm handling  
25 these -- you know, AITRC has a contract to help our  
26 tribes with the migratory bird process. So that's one  
27 burden off of their hands.

28  
29 As far as your interest in this, it  
30 doesn't matter. This is what our tribes are saying  
31 they would like to have and this is what we're putting  
32 forward.

33  
34 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please go ahead.

37  
38 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Jim Simon for  
39 the record. I have a different way of responding  
40 although it's consistent. The eight Ahtna tribes have  
41 established the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission  
42 as an intertribal agency in order to relieve the burden  
43 on tribal administrative staff to fulfill those  
44 functions.

45  
46 So that is why it sounds peculiar that  
47 a permit is actually fixing an overburden problem  
48 because typically in fish and wildlife management we  
49 think about it in the opposite fashion, that a permit  
50

1 is more encumbering.

2

3 In this particular case, because of why  
4 the eight villages have formed the Ahtna Intertribal  
5 Resource Commission, it would alleviate -- and that's  
6 why there are no letters of invitation from the Ahtna  
7 Region up to this time. Hopefully there have not been  
8 any enforcement actions as a result of that.

9

10 The tribes of the Ahtna Intertribal  
11 Resource Commission as well as the Alaska Native  
12 landowners that are also on that board of directors and  
13 part of that commission want to ensure regulatory  
14 compliance and the continuing conservation of migratory  
15 birds.

16

17 This is a solution that will likely  
18 work in the Ahtna Region because of its longstanding,  
19 multi-year experience with community hunt permit  
20 administration and reporting requirement. This is  
21 right up the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission's  
22 alley in their growing capacity to do this and expand  
23 their existing program.

24

25 That may not exist in other regions of  
26 the state and we're not suggesting that they should  
27 have that kind of capacity because they're different  
28 and that's why we think that this is a solution that  
29 will work for the Copper Basin and the Upper Susitna  
30 Valley.

31

32 To solve a problem that is of mutual  
33 concern to the Co-management Council, the State Federal  
34 and Tribal interest to ensure compliance with what I  
35 view as problematic definition of immediate family  
36 member for Dena'ina people in the Interior where uncles  
37 and aunts are not included and they are definitely  
38 immediate family members.

39

40 We can't encumber all of the problem  
41 with the invitation to hunt program in one proposal.  
42 We have to take this one step at a time and this  
43 particular issue and this particular proposal 2020-01  
44 is designed only to solve the Ahtna Traditional Use  
45 Territory's problem.

46

47 My prediction is there will never be  
48 one solution that serves all of the co-management  
49 regional bodies in the state. We need to take one step

50

1 at a time. You know, the fact that Tanana Chiefs  
2 Conference is quite concerned because of the role of  
3 marriage as well as the customary and traditional  
4 relationships with other communities.

5  
6 You'd be surprised at how many Interior  
7 communities have eaten muktuk from the North Slope,  
8 bowhead whale. You know, there are relationships that  
9 require some future exploration of whether or not you  
10 can only be invited to return to your actual member  
11 tribe and not your wife's member tribal status. That's  
12 a very big concern of the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

13  
14 But you cannot encumber the Ahtna  
15 Region's proposal to just deal with making sure invited  
16 hunters are legal and have the proper documentation  
17 with putting everything that's concerning tribes across  
18 Alaska with respect to the Invitation to Hunt Program  
19 on one proposal. That is an unrealistic and unwise  
20 approach.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Jim.

25  
26 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair. This is Taqulik.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Taqulik.

29  
30 MS. HEPA: Yeah, I was just going from  
31 the North Slope's perspective. I want to give support  
32 to Gloria, to Karen and to Jim for their comments. I  
33 also support the comments to say that I like the  
34 proposal because every region is different. If the  
35 Ahtna Intertribal organization from that region have  
36 come up with a way forward that would work for them, I  
37 say that we adopt this proposal with the modified  
38 language that was mentioned earlier to make sure that  
39 we're not changing the current process that is in place  
40 now.

41  
42 So I from the North Slope I give my  
43 support to this proposal with the minor modification.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Taqulik.  
48 Appreciate that. So, Gayla, you mentioned that you'd  
49 like to poll the Native Caucus. I guess I need some

50

1 indication how long do you need to do that?

2

3 MS. HOSETH: I mean it's just a matter  
4 of a vote, how we would vote, Mr. Chair. I guess it  
5 would be whether or not if we're going to take action  
6 on this proposal if we're taking action as written in  
7 the proposal or if there's going to be an amendment to  
8 the language.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, I agree. Thank  
11 you. Eric, where are you on your comfort level of  
12 understanding the responses that Ahtna provided to the  
13 Technical Committee and some of the language changes  
14 we've heard on the phone?

15

16 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Eric  
17 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. The first thing  
18 is kind of a scary note. This call only has 15 minutes  
19 left. We were supposed to end at 12:00 and I've got  
20 about 12 after 12:00. So we need to probably move  
21 fairly quickly on this especially since we have another  
22 proposal.

23

24 I am at a point where the only -- the  
25 three changes that I see or clarifications are -- one  
26 is that the letter of invitation  
27 will be sent to the AMBCC Executive Director as opposed  
28 to the word may. I think Karen and/or Jim have agreed  
29 to that.

30

31 Also that copies of the permits will be  
32 sent to the AMBCC Executive Director, who will then  
33 forward them on to the Office of Law Enforcement.  
34 Similar to the current process that we have for the  
35 letter of invitation.

36

37 Third, to clarify in the letter that  
38 the AMBCC Director receives that the permit would have  
39 a two-year expiration date. I think those are my three  
40 requests. I don't know if that requires a friendly  
41 amendment to the proposal or what's the proper  
42 procedure. Those are the three clarifications that I  
43 need.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric. I  
48 guess.....

49

50

1 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure  
2 of the process, but can I make those amendments?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I'm not sure either,  
5 Karen. Patty, do we need the Executive Committee to do  
6 that or is the proposer okay with that?

7  
8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: If the proposer is  
9 okay with the amendments, the amendments can be just  
10 stated in the motion.

11  
12 MS. LINNELL: I would say that a list  
13 of the permittees will be sent to the Executive  
14 Director that can be forwarded to Enforcement. But  
15 keeping the language the same and having the two-year  
16 expiration is fine.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay.

19  
20 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead.

23  
24 MR. TAYLOR: Karen, when you clarify  
25 that a list, so the list would just be the names of the  
26 individuals or what do you envision in terms of being  
27 on that list?

28  
29 MS. LINNELL: The list would include  
30 the person invited to hunt and which location they're  
31 from. Basically it's the same information that's on  
32 the permit.

33  
34 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks. I'm going to ask  
35 Rory Stark to clarify to make sure that our Office of  
36 Law Enforcement is comfortable with what information he  
37 would receive in order to make sure this regulation is  
38 clear. Rory, could you weigh in, please.

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. Just for  
41 clarification maybe we could read into the record how  
42 the regulation will read and then that might save time  
43 if that would be enforceable with Rory.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I think that's a great  
46 idea, Gayla. Patty, are you able to read in just those  
47 sections where the language would be amended.

48  
49 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. For the  
50

1 record, I think it should be read entirely of how the  
2 new regulation will read so everybody is on the same  
3 page of understanding.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Fair enough. That's  
6 fine.

7  
8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So I am going  
9 to be reading from the proposal how the new regulation  
10 should read?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am.

13  
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And then the  
15 changes that we discussed. So if I miss anything or  
16 mischaracterize anything, please somebody speak up.

17  
18 Starting with (d) Participation by  
19 permanent residence of excluded areas. Immediate family  
20 members who are residents of excluded areas may  
21 participate in the customary spring and summer  
22 subsistence harvest in tribal communities subsistence  
23 area with permission of the tribal/village council or  
24 whichever is appropriate to assist indigenous habitants  
25 in meeting their nutritional and other essential needs  
26 or for the teaching of cultural knowledge, and this is  
27 in addition, using one of the following procedures:

28  
29 (1) A letter of invitation will be sent  
30 by the tribal/village council to the hunter with a copy  
31 to the Executive Director of the Co-management Council  
32 who will inform law enforcement and the Service's AMBCC  
33 Coordinator within two working days. The Service will  
34 then inform any affected Federal agency when residents  
35 of excluded areas are allowed to participate in the  
36 subsistence harvest within their federal land; or

37  
38 (2) A permit may be issued by the  
39 tribal council or their authorized tribal  
40 representative to the invited hunter certifying that  
41 the permit holder is an immediate family member  
42 authorized to assist eligible family members in hunting  
43 migratory birds in the tribe's subsistence harvest  
44 area.

45  
46 It further goes on to say that this is  
47 a region-only proposal. Were there other changes? Oh,  
48 and then the addition of what Karen had added that a  
49 list of invited hunters will be sent to the Executive  
50

1 Director of the AMBCC.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: As well as the sunset  
4 date for two years.  
5  
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Right.  
7  
8 MS. LINNELL: Right.  
9  
10 MR. SIMON: Clarification question.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead.  
13  
14 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jim  
15 Simon. The two-year sunset, is that actually the  
16 permit term limit or is that referring to establishing  
17 this regulation and then it would disappear in two  
18 years? Just to clarify the record, please.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: That's a good  
21 question. The way I read it and have thought about it  
22 would be that the regulation, if the sunset clause  
23 isn't removed, would end after two years.  
24  
25 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
26 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Eric.  
29  
30 MR. TAYLOR: I guess I would  
31 respectfully disagree. I interpreted this that the  
32 two-year expiration refers to the permit to the  
33 individual that the regulation becomes part of the  
34 record and permanent and that two years refers to just  
35 the permit because the person -- the status may change  
36 or their relative in the AMBCC may change, but I  
37 interpreted this as per the permit and not the  
38 regulation.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yeah, thanks. I  
41 definitely.....  
42  
43 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
44 Yeah, the permit would expire in two years and I don't  
45 think we should do a sunset clause on this proposal.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I don't have a strong  
48 feeling either way. Karen, did that mesh with what  
49 your original intent was?  
50

1 MS. LINNELL: Yes, sir. That the  
2 permit would expire in two years.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, ma'am, for  
5 clarifying. Rory, are you in a position to speak to if  
6 this would meet the law enforcement requirements?

7  
8 MR. STARK: This is Rory Stark with  
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law  
10 Enforcement. Yeah, I think with the addition of  
11 sending a list to the Executive Director to Patty or  
12 the Executive Director of the AMBCC that would make it  
13 so we could make sure that only the permits that were  
14 actually issued by the tribal representative and sent  
15 back to the AMBCC as well were the ones out in the  
16 field so that somebody doesn't create their own permit.  
17 So, yeah, I think that would work for us.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you,  
20 Rory. Appreciate it. So with those amendments  
21 discussed by the Executive Committee as well as the  
22 author of the proposal, I'll go on record as saying  
23 that I will likely vote in the affirmative for this. I  
24 appreciate all the discussion.

25  
26 I also just want to recognize that  
27 there are lots of things going on around the state as  
28 far as different status of these kinds of requests and  
29 these kinds of proposals. Both Jim and Patty, thank  
30 you for weighing in on the Invitation Committee.  
31 That's something I would like to continue to have  
32 conversations about once we get through the proposal we  
33 have before us.

34  
35 In terms of the next step, I guess I  
36 get a sense we're just about ready to vote on it.  
37 Gayla, do you need some additional time and do you have  
38 the information you need to poll the Native Caucus?

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I don't need  
41 additional time. Maybe, Patty, if you could just call  
42 out the regions and then that would determine Native  
43 Caucus vote.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Great. Thank you,  
46 Gayla. I guess I will ask for someone to call the  
47 question.

48  
49 MS. HOSETH: This is Gayla. Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The question has been  
2 called. Any additional discussion.

3  
4 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
5 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. Sorry, I'm a  
6 little bit lost here. Gayla asked I believe for a poll  
7 of Alaska Native representatives prior to a vote on  
8 this proposal. Am I correct in that, Gayla? Could you  
9 clarify, please.

10  
11 MS. HOSETH: Through the Chair. Eric,  
12 yes, I'd like Patty to poll the Native Caucus and then  
13 that would determine the Native Caucus vote when we  
14 vote on this proposal.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: And I got us out of  
17 sync and I apologize for that. I had every intention  
18 to make sure that happened before the Executive  
19 Committee voted.

20  
21 Patty, could you poll the Native  
22 Caucus, please.

23  
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Aleutian Pribilof  
25 Islands Association.

26  
27 (No response)

28  
29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Peter or Karen.

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: They might have  
34 gotten kicked off. People are getting kicked off  
35 apparently because we have so many people on the call.  
36 Association of Village Council Presidents.

37  
38 MS. HOOPER: Support.

39  
40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Chugach Regional  
41 Resource Commission. Priscilla just had to jump off  
42 the line, but she does support. Ahtna Intertribal  
43 Resource Commission.

44  
45 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. Are we  
46 supporting for Native Caucus or on the proposal?

47  
48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The proposal.

49  
50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I support the proposal.  
2  
3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak.  
4  
5 MR. AHMASUK: Hi, Patty. This is  
6 Brandon. Just so I'm clear it's for Karen's region and  
7 Gloria's region only. Not statewide, correct?  
8  
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's correct.  
10  
11 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. Support.  
12  
13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Maniilaq.  
14  
15 MR. HARRIS: Support.  
16  
17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: North Slope Borough.  
18  
19 MS. HEPA: Support.  
20  
21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sun'aq Tribe of  
22 Kodiak.  
23  
24 MS. CHERNOFF: Support.  
25  
26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Bristol Bay Native  
27 Association.  
28  
29 MS. HOSETH: Support with the amended  
30 changes.  
31  
32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Thank you.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty.  
35 Thank you everyone for weighing in. Gayla, you have  
36 the information you needed?  
37  
38 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.  
39 Thank you.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you.  
42  
43 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair. We were  
44 going to meet to talk about this proposal in the  
45 Invitation Committee. Are we still having that  
46 committee meeting on the phone Friday?  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I think we're moving  
49 to a place where you won't have to do that. I would  
50

1 say the plan is not to have that at this point.

2

3 So the question has been called.

4 Patty, would you poll the Executive Committee, please.

5

6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. U.S. Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service.

8

9 MR. TAYLOR: Support.

10

11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of  
12 Fish and Game.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Support.

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the AMBCC Native  
17 Caucus.

18

19 MS. HOSETH: Support.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The proposal passes,  
22 Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty. And  
25 thank you, Gayla and Eric. I know that that was a lot  
26 of information and a lot of time and a lot of good  
27 discussion. I really appreciate everybody's time. As  
28 I stated earlier, I don't think this issue is going  
29 away. I will probably ask Patty to at least have  
30 another agenda item in the fall where we can talk about  
31 how to approach these as they come up and try to get a  
32 handle on different invitation requests and issues.

33

34 So that said we are at 12:28 p.m.  
35 Eric, are we going to get kicked off at 12:30?

36

37 MR. TAYLOR: There's a risk of that  
38 happening, Mr. Chair. I can try to contact my  
39 administrator and see if we can change the call or we  
40 can just continue and see what happens.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you,  
43 Eric. Under new business, continuing on, if folks are  
44 able to hang in there and we can try to get through  
45 these last couple things. The next proposal we have is  
46 2020-02, allow eggng during closed season.

47

48 I recall during our Technical Committee  
49 report that there was some information that the 30-day

50

1 closure, due to action taken by the AMBCC previously,  
2 it had not been published yet, but that was going to be  
3 variable. So I guess I'm curious. Do we need to go  
4 through this proposal knowing that that's coming? We  
5 also had some sideboards about treaty concerns and  
6 season lengths.

7

8 Patty, do you have any insight on that?

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Vince Mathews  
11 I believe might be on the line. We have a proposal  
12 that was submitted that is requesting to allow egging  
13 during the closed season. Julian and Eric, you may  
14 have to help me out with the publishing things that are  
15 going on at the Service. I'm not exactly sure what's  
16 publishing when anymore.

17

18 The regulation that passed last year  
19 from the North Slope Borough to allow the floating  
20 30-day closure similar to what's going on in  
21 Association of Village Council Presidents region, the  
22 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area, and that was passed, but it  
23 has not published. If it had published, the North  
24 Slope Borough believes they could have accommodated  
25 this person's need to gather eggs by floating the date  
26 into a period where it would accommodate her needs, but  
27 it has not published.

28

29 We asked the proposer if they would be  
30 interested in withdrawing the proposal since this will  
31 be resolved once the new regulation does publish, but  
32 they did not want to withdraw the proposal. They  
33 wanted to wait to see the actual regulation in writing  
34 to ensure that they were not doing anything illegal.

35

36 So, from what I understand -- and,  
37 again, Eric and Ryan, Cheryl, you guys can correct me  
38 if I'm wrong, but I think we have to vote this proposal  
39 down because it's asking to do something that's not  
40 currently in regulation, but that should be resolved  
41 once the regulation publishes.

42

43 Eric, can you shed some light on that  
44 too.

45

46 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah, sure. Mr. Chair.  
47 Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. Patty, you  
48 described everything accurately. This proposal has to  
49 do with egging on the North Slope region and the

50

1 situation is that with conditions that have changed on  
2 the North Slope, like throughout Alaska, subsistence  
3 users are finding themselves in difficult positions  
4 because birds are nesting at different time periods,  
5 both in the long term where seasons have gotten warmer  
6 over the past few decades, but also that we've seen a  
7 greater frequency of what we would consider outliers in  
8 the sense that we've had some very early seasons and  
9 some very late seasons.

10

11 This has long been recognized, as Patty  
12 mentioned, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and  
13 consequently there is the Association of Village  
14 Council Presidents along with the Fish and Wildlife  
15 Service Refuge Manager are able to assess the phenology  
16 or the timing of nesting and then set the closed period  
17 such that it protects the principal nesting period and  
18 provides the conservation that we all want for the  
19 birds and current with ensuring access to birds when  
20 subsistence hunters need them.

21

22 Patty described that the North Slope  
23 Borough had in 2019 submitted a proposal to adopt a  
24 similar process that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta uses and  
25 it's been in regulation with the AMBCC. That is to  
26 allow villages on the North Slope to work with the  
27 Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service  
29 to set appropriate levels when it's warranted.

30

31 If it's not warranted, if it's a  
32 quote/unquote normal year, then the regulation that's  
33 in place would still be the dates that we would follow.  
34 If it's a particularly early year or a particularly  
35 late year, then the North Slope Borough would work with  
36 the two agencies and set the appropriate closure  
37 period.

38

39 That proposal passed the AMBCC. It was  
40 supported by the Pacific Flyway and it passed the  
41 Service Regulations Committee. So, in essence, the  
42 proposal should be in place this year. Unfortunately  
43 there's been a delay in getting the Federal Register  
44 process underway for several reasons. I just got a  
45 note from our Policy Department that's in charge of the  
46 Federal Register process.

47

48 As I mentioned earlier in the call, the  
49 approval process has gone through the Department of  
50

1 Interior after the Service Regulations Committee and  
2 the language has all been written in the correct  
3 format. It's been submitted to the Federal Register  
4 and it's waiting on the docket at the Federal Register  
5 to be published.

6  
7 I had hoped in talking to our  
8 headquarters that it would have been published last  
9 Friday, if not today. I just have a note today that  
10 said it's not published. So in essence we're waiting  
11 for that approved regulations to publish. Then there's  
12 a 30-day comment period. So let's just assume that it  
13 publishes tomorrow on the 5th of May. There's a 30-day  
14 comment period. I have to respond to comments and  
15 those get reviewed by the Solicitor's Office and  
16 finally the final regulations are published.

17  
18 It's my hope that that process can be  
19 completed by early June if not mid June, but I can't  
20 guarantee the group that at this point. Patty, you're  
21 right. The regulations that we have approved would  
22 take care of this and if the dates are incorrect  
23 because of a season or they're just incorrect because  
24 birds have changed their phenology, then it gives the  
25 North Slope Borough the flexibility to have the closed  
26 dates that allow both conservation and access to the  
27 Common Eiders.

28  
29 I'll be happy to try to address any  
30 questions. Rory, if you would like to render an  
31 opinion, that would be helpful as well.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Before we get into  
34 this too far, you guys, given that Patty did reach out  
35 to the author and they were not interested in  
36 withdrawing the proposal, I think we have to put it on  
37 the table. We really need to have these discussions in  
38 that context.

39  
40 So I would entertain a motion to adopt  
41 Proposal 2020-02.

42  
43 MR. WIESE: Mr. Chair. This is Will  
44 Wiese in Kaktovik. May I comment?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Please.

47  
48 MR. WIESE: I'm Will Wiese and I'm the  
49 Arctic Refuge Ranger in Kaktovik and I worked with the  
50

1 author of this proposal on this proposal. I actually  
2 worked with the tribal council on this proposal. There  
3 was interest from several people in town about eggging.

4

5

6 When some people found out that the  
7 closure started June 20th, there was concern that  
8 their traditional eggging takes place in late June and  
9 even early July and that's where this proposal kind of  
10 grew out of.

11

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The author of the proposal signed on to  
it really because the tribal council up here had  
planned to adopt the proposal or a similar proposal,  
but just couldn't make the deadline to submit.

After talking to those people again  
since learning of the flexibility in dates that passed  
last year, I think that seems to satisfy most people's  
desire to make sure that they can egg during the  
traditional time.

However I do want to point out that I  
think one kind of misconception is that this is a  
change in phenology and that's why a change is needed.  
When I think in reality the perception is some people  
hear that eggging always took place in that late June  
time period for Common Eiders. Common Eiders tend to  
nest later than the other birds that they're gathering  
eggs from.

So it sounds like the proposal -- last  
year's -- the change that's coming should address this  
issue, but it might be a recurring thing that every  
year the season dates need to float further to  
accommodate Common Eider eggging because typically  
initiation of nests doesn't even occur on average until  
somewhere in that 17th, 18th of June range. So there  
aren't Common Eiders until the season is closed as it  
currently sits.

CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you. Lots of  
discussion about shifting dates and bird arrival and  
nesting. It certainly will be something that we  
address going into the future as well, no doubt.  
Again, I think though because of where we are  
structurally we need to -- you know, before we go too  
far, much further with this, we should adopt the  
proposal for discussion.

1 MS. HEPA: This is Taqulik. I'll  
2 second that proposal or the motion.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I would love to say  
5 that's great, but I'm not sure that we actually had a  
6 motion yet.

7  
8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, we don't have a  
9 motion yet.

10  
11 MS. HEPA: So what I understand is that  
12 we have to vote it down, so we would make a motion to  
13 approve the proposal and then we'll vote it down. So  
14 I'd like to make a motion to support the proposal.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Do we have a second.

17  
18 MS. HOOPER: This is Jennifer. I'll  
19 second.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. We have a  
22 second. We have Proposal 2020-02 before us.  
23 Discussion.

24  
25 MS. HEPA: For discussion, this is  
26 Taqulik.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Taqulik.

29  
30 MS. HEPA: I appreciate the proposer  
31 for submitting the proposal and as it was stated  
32 earlier that I support the concept as written of what  
33 they were trying to do and because of the proposal that  
34 was passed last year and that will be published later  
35 this summer that that would meet the needs and concerns  
36 of in particular the Native Village of Kaktovik.

37  
38 So I am not going to vote in favor of  
39 this proposal knowing that new regulations will come  
40 out later this summer and we will work with the  
41 community, in particular with the eggers, to identify  
42 the date for the proper 30-day closure.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, ma'am.  
47 Additional comments on Proposal 2020-02.

48  
49 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.

50

1 I would ask the same for Patty to poll the regions on  
2 this and that will determine the Native Caucus vote.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla.  
5 I'll make sure I do that in the right sequence this  
6 time. My apologies for the last proposal.

7

8 Just to put a little bit more on the  
9 record. I will not be supporting the proposal, reason  
10 being that based on the actions taken by the AMBCC last  
11 year. I think we're at least addressing the underlying  
12 concern and the need for folks and by having some  
13 additional flexibility built into the closed period I'm  
14 hopeful that we will address the concerns that the  
15 author put into the proposal.

16

17 At the same time I will recognize that  
18 this is a topic that we heard quite a bit on already  
19 with different migration timing and nesting timing. I  
20 certainly recognize that we will likely be visiting  
21 this topic again.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
26 Taylor.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Go ahead, Eric,  
29 please.

30

31 MR. TAYLOR: Thanks. I appreciate the  
32 comments by Taqulik. The proposal is not consistent  
33 with the protection of bird eggs and the regulations  
34 that we currently have in place. I appreciate Taqulik  
35 working with the villages in the eastern unit to  
36 determine if indeed that date that's currently closed,  
37 June 20th to July 19th needs to be changed in the  
38 future.

39

40 Again, I'm optimistic that we can get  
41 these regulations proposed on the Federal Register and  
42 get this in place. I just wanted to make those points.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric.  
47 Patty, can you poll the Native Caucus as Gayla  
48 suggested.

49

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Association of  
2 Village Council Presidents.

3  
4 MS. HOOPER: I wasn't really too sure  
5 at their spring meeting did not take action on this and  
6 I would defer to the North Slope Region and either take  
7 no action myself or align with what their vote is.

8  
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Aleutian  
10 Pribilof Islands Association.

11  
12 MR. DEVINE: Aleutian Pribilofs votes  
13 no.

14  
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Bristol Bay Native  
16 Association.

17  
18 MS. HOSETH: No.

19  
20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Chugach Regional  
21 Resources Commission. They voted no, but she's not on  
22 the line. Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

23  
24 MS. STICKWAN: No.

25  
26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak.

27  
28 MR. AHMASUK: Patty, I have a couple  
29 things. I have to defer to the North Slope Borough and  
30 Taqulik's decision, but also my question earlier to  
31 you. So I'm not actually the bird rep. Jack  
32 Fagerstrom is. His alternate is whoever the vice chair  
33 is. So am I supposed to be voting or not voting or  
34 what's the deal on that?

35  
36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I don't think you  
37 can vote if you haven't been designated as an  
38 alternate, but if you guys discussed this then you can  
39 relay that information for Gayla's information.

40  
41 MR. AHMASUK: I think at our last  
42 regional bird meeting the discussion that we had  
43 definitely times are changing, spring is coming  
44 earlier. All the animals don't go by an exact calendar  
45 date. They go by what Mother Nature tells them.  
46 Currently for our region it's not an issue yet, but it  
47 very well could be in the near future.

48  
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So Maniilaq.

50

1 MR. HARRIS: Patty, we didn't have our  
2 regional meeting here, so I'll be neutral on this one.  
3 For discussion, for waterfowl and seabirds they do have  
4 different patterns of nesting, that the seabirds are  
5 later. I'm thinking that the Common Eiders are  
6 considered seabirds, am I correct?  
7

8 MR. TAYLOR: Cyrus, this is Eric Taylor  
9 with Fish and Wildlife Service. They're actually  
10 considered sea ducks, but nonetheless you still are  
11 correct. This particular species does nest later than  
12 many species of waterfowl.  
13

14 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Eric. That  
15 could be clarified within that regulation on the North  
16 Slope or Kaktovik area.  
17

18 MS. BURNS: Mr. Chair.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am.  
21

22 MS. BURNS: This is Nora Jane Burns. I  
23 just want to say that in our village we don't have that  
24 many eggers. It's just a certain number of families  
25 that go out and egg. I just wanted to make sure that  
26 they have -- when the Common Eider nest, I wanted to  
27 make sure that they are able to get the eggs before  
28 they started growing inside the egg. That was why I  
29 helped co-write this proposal.  
30

31 Thank you for hearing me.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Yes, ma'am. Thank  
34 you. Patty, could you continue, please.  
35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. North Slope  
37 Borough.  
38

39 MS. HEPA: Thank you. The North Slope  
40 Borough is going to vote down. Thank you, Nora Jane,  
41 for participating in today's conference call. The  
42 reason I'm voting down is because with the new  
43 regulation that's going to come into place we will work  
44 with the local hunters from each of our different units  
45 to identify when the closures should happen instead of  
46 it being on a set date. So when they're done picking  
47 eggs they'll notify us and then we'll close the season.  
48

49 So my vote for the current proposal is  
50

1 no.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the Sun'aq Tribe  
6 of Kodiak.  
7  
8 MS. CHERNOFF: No.  
9  
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, everyone.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty.  
13 Thank you everyone. Ms. Burns, thank you very much for  
14 calling in. Hopefully we'll have addressed the need  
15 and the concern there as well. Certainly if we need to  
16 revisit it and go at it again, we'll do that for sure.  
17  
18  
19 Any other discussion on Proposal  
20 2020-02.  
21  
22 MS. HOSETH: Question.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The question has been  
25 called. Patty, could you poll the Executive Committee,  
26 please.  
27  
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and  
29 Wildlife Service.  
30  
31 MR. TAYLOR: Oppose.  
32  
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of  
34 Fish and Game.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Oppose.  
37  
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And the AMBCC Native  
39 Caucus.  
40  
41 MS. HOSETH: Oppose.  
42  
43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The motion fails,  
44 Mr. Chairman.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Patty.  
47 Thank you again everybody for weighing in on it.  
48 Again, based on the information we have from a previous  
49 regulatory change that was made, we're just waiting on  
50

1 the regulations to be published. I think we'll be in  
2 good shape, but if we need to revisit this, please,  
3 Taqulik and others, let us know and we'll get it back  
4 on the docket.

5  
6 So that moves us down to Item C under  
7 new business. Eric, whatever magic you did to keep us  
8 online thank you for that as well. I believe, Patty,  
9 correct me if I'm wrong, we just need to adopt the  
10 consent agenda, is that accurate, for the 2021  
11 regulations? As I recall, there weren't any other  
12 changes. Is that accurate?

13  
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That is correct, Mr.  
15 Chairman. We just need a motion.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Thank you,  
18 Patty. I guess I'll entertain a motion to adopt the  
19 consent agenda items consisting of the 2021  
20 regulations.

21  
22 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
23 So moved.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: So moved. Discussion.

26  
27 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
28 Taylor. I second.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Eric. Any  
31 discussion on the consent agenda items.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none. Can we  
36 have somebody call for the question.

37  
38 MS. HOSETH: Question.

39  
40 MS. HEPA: Question.

41  
42 MS. STICKWAN: Question.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Great. Thank you.  
45 That was a big response. Patty, will you poll the  
46 Committee, please.

47  
48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. U.S. Fish and  
49 Wildlife Service.

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: Approve.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of  
4 Fish and Game.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Approved.

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The AMBCC Native  
9 Caucus.

10

11 MS. HOSETH: We didn't poll, but I'm  
12 pretty sure it would be approved.

13

14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. We just need  
15 to call for the question, I believe. No. The motion  
16 carries. I'm sorry.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: That's okay. You're  
19 in good company with me. Thank you. So Item C has  
20 been approved. Thank you everybody for looking into  
21 that. I'm glad that we could get through that quickly  
22 as well.

23

24 I think that's the end of our needed  
25 regulatory actions. At this time is an invitation for  
26 public comments. If people have comments, please let  
27 us know.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Hearing none. We'll  
32 move to Council and Staff member comments.

33

34 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
35 Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. I'll just say  
36 thank you for everyone's perseverance and patience as  
37 we work through proposals, particularly in this new  
38 format that we're facing. As Gayla mentioned, it's  
39 much nicer to surround the table and see each other and  
40 be able to communicate in that way. Thanks for  
41 everyone's patience and endurance and thanks Mr. Chair  
42 for leading us through the meeting.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. I just  
45 want to say thank you for supporting AITRC's proposal  
46 for the Ahtna Region. I hear there's an EIS out for  
47 the National Parklands on enforcement. I think that  
48 should be on the agenda for discussion in the fall.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gloria.  
4 I'm not aware of that, but we'll look into that as  
5 well.

6

7 Other Council members or Staff  
8 comments.

9

10 MR. DEVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Peter  
11 Devine, Aleutian Pribilof Region. Just some  
12 observations for the spring. The Trumpeter Swans they  
13 came through Sand Point March 22nd. The geese took off  
14 the Sand Point. We had 100 Emperor Geese stick around  
15 all year round this year. It was a mild winter and  
16 usually we don't see them unless it's really cold and  
17 it forced them from the mainland. Due to the abundance  
18 of them, they were there all the way up to a week ago.  
19 They finally took off and the Brant are there now.

20

21 Due to social distancing, I can say  
22 this is my first meeting I did a teleconference while  
23 pedaling Homer Spit, so it was pretty awesome.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: That's great. Thank  
26 you for that.

27

28 Other Staff or Council comments.

29

30 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.  
31 I just wanted to thank everybody for participating this  
32 morning on AMBCC call. I know with everything that's  
33 going on with COVID, to take time out for this  
34 migratory bird meeting is really important as our  
35 subsistence resources are so important to all of us.  
36 I'm missing you guys. I'm looking forward to seeing  
37 you guys when we can.

38

39 I do need to step off the call, so if  
40 there's any other actions, Taqulik, I'll turn it over  
41 to you. But we're also fighting out here to protect  
42 our homes from an influx of 15,000 people that are  
43 going to be coming here this summer. So I appreciate  
44 everybody's time and everybody stay safe.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, Gayla. You  
47 too. Be careful out there. Thank you for your time.

48

49 I'll just add a little bit as well.

50

1 I'll echo both Eric and Gayla's comments, thanking  
2 everybody for hanging in there today. Most of us at  
3 this point have been through lots of teleconferences  
4 and it's difficult. One of the highlights for me in a  
5 given year really is getting together. I thoroughly  
6 appreciate the AMBCC and all the organizations  
7 involved, the great discussions. Those discussions and  
8 working through things similar to Proposal 01 I think  
9 certainly goes better when we're in the same room and  
10 we have an opportunity to talk directly to one another.  
11

12 That said, we got together. Patty,  
13 thank you for putting the teleconference together and  
14 continuing to do all the great work you do and  
15 everybody else for taking time and being on here. I am  
16 very much looking forward to the next time that we can  
17 get together in person as well.  
18

19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chair. This is Patty. I just wanted to echo what  
21 everyone else said obviously, but Crystal did get back  
22 to me. They had one other tribal consultation on  
23 ravens in Alaska, so there are not very many up here  
24 yet.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you for that  
27 additional information. Other Council or Staff  
28 comments before we set the date and time of the next  
29 meeting.  
30

31 (No comments)  
32

33 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Hearing none.  
34 Patty, any suggestions or do we want to send a poll out  
35 to people as far as the date and location of the next  
36 meeting?  
37

38 Patty, are you still with us?  
39

40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yep. I had my phone  
41 on mute. Sorry. I can't keep track of this mute  
42 button. I was saying that generally we usually choose  
43 right around the third week in September, but if you  
44 want me to send out a Doodle poll, I can certainly do  
45 that especially since we're overdue on this call.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I'm fine with that.  
48 Eric, Taqulik, are you comfortable with that? We've  
49 got plenty of time to put that into motion.  
50

1 MS. HEPA: I think that would be just  
2 fine. Thank you. Doodle polls work fine. With the  
3 target of sometime in September.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I agree. Thank you  
6 for that. Eric, are you good with that?

7  
8 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I am. Thanks.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay. Patty, let's do  
11 that and generally speaking focusing on a normal time  
12 period that we could get together in the fall.

13  
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: All right. We just  
15 need a motion to adjourn, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: That's all we need.  
18 We don't even need a second.

19  
20 MR. HARRIS: So moved.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Thank you, everybody.  
23 Please be safe out there and give your love and all  
24 your time and energy to your communities just like  
25 you're doing here. I appreciate it.

26  
27 (Off record)

28  
29 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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