

VOLUME I

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

APRIL 4, 2019

Members Present:

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

Executive Director, Crystal Leonetti (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/4/2019)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Good morning, everybody. I would like to welcome everybody to the AMBCC spring meeting. I call the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

If we could all have a moment of silence. Stand and have a moment of silence, please.

(Moment of silence)

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. Before we get to our agenda items on the agenda we have some housekeeping that we wanted to go over. I'll turn it over to Karen.

MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thanks, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Welcome to APIA. I hope everyone had the chance to sign in. If not, the sign-in sheet and the badges are right over there. We meet in the far corner of the parking lot at the shed for any evacuations. The restrooms are out the door and to the left. You can see me for any issues. Our doors lock at 4:30, so you will need an escort if you intend to get back in after that time. We have this room through tomorrow. Please be really mindful of your microphones as we have somebody on the call-in line.

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Karen. I guess what we need to do now is we need to do a seating of alternates. For Debra, you'll be sitting in for Randy. If you could just say your name on the record and what region you're representing.

MS. LYNNE: Debra Lynne, Tanana Chiefs Conference.

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other alternates. Jennifer.

MS. HOOPER: I submitted a letter to Patty after our last AMBCC meeting. We have a new chair who was not able to make this meeting and they designated me continuing as the alternate for WCC.

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So TCC and
2 AVCP. Is there a motion to seat these alternates.
3
4 MS. HEPA: So moved, Madame Chair.
5
6 MR. FAGERSTROM: Second.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
9 and seconded. Was that a second, Jack?
10
11 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It's been
14 moved and seconded. All those in favor signify by
15 saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
20 same sign.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
25
26 Roll call, please, Crystal.
27
28 MS. LEONETTI: Association of Village
29 Council Presidents.
30
31 MS. HOOPER: Here.
32
33 MS. LEONETTI: Bristol Bay Native
34 Association.
35
36 MS. HOSETH: Here.
37
38 MS. LEONETTI: Chugach Regional
39 Resources Commission.
40
41 MS. EVANS: Here.
42
43 MS. LEONETTI: Ahtna Intertribal
44 Resource Commission.
45
46 MS. STICKWAN: Here.
47
48 MS. LEONETTI: Kawerak.
49
50

1 MR. FAGERSTROM: Here.
2
3 MS. LEONETTI: Aleutian Pribilof
4 Islands Association.
5
6 MR. DEVINE: Here.
7
8 MS. LEONETTI: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.
9
10 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
11
12 MS. LEONETTI: Maniilaq Association.
13
14 MR. HARRIS: Here.
15
16 MS. LEONETTI: North Slope Borough.
17
18 MS. HEPA: Here.
19
20 MS. LEONETTI: Tanana Chiefs
21 Conference.
22
23 MS. LYNNE: Here.
24
25 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
26 Service.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Here.
29
30 MS. LEONETTI: Alaska Department of
31 Fish and Game.
32
33 MR. SCOTT: Here.
34
35 MS. LEONETTI: Roll call complete.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
38 Crystal. We do have a quorum. What we will do now is
39 we will go on with our agenda, is introductions. So
40 we'll start with Council members, staff and then the
41 Pacific Flyway Council representative.
42
43 I will start with myself. Good morning
44 again, everybody. My name is Gayla Hoseth and I am the
45 Director of Natural Resources and I am the primary
46 representative for Bristol Bay Native Association in
47 Dillingham, Alaska.
48
49 I would like to recognize we have our
50

1 chairman in the room, Mr. Tim Anelon. He's our
2 Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council representative. He might
3 have stepped out for a phone call, but we do have our
4 chairman from our region here. So I just wanted to
5 recognize him.

6

7 I'll turn it over to you, Eric.

8

9 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 Good morning. I'm Eric Taylor. I'm the Migratory Bird
11 Chief for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the
12 Alaska Region. I'd like to introduce, I think, the
13 rest of the crew of the Fish and Wildlife Service. If
14 I could just ask folks to stand up as I introduce you.

15

16 Todd Sanders, who is our Pacific Flyway
17 Representative from Fish and Wildlife Service
18 Headquarters.

19

20 David Safine, who is with our Waterfowl
21 Section in our Migratory Bird Program.

22

23 Julian Fischer, who is our supervisory
24 biologist in the Waterfowl Program.

25

26 Bryan Daniels, waterfowl biologist from
27 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

28

29 Aaron, I'm sorry, I forgot your last
30 name.

31

32 MR. MOSES: Moses.

33

34 DR. TAYLOR: Moses, who is a fisheries
35 or subsistence biologist with the Yukon Delta National
36 Wildlife Refuge.

37

38 We have Crystal Leonetti, who is kindly
39 sitting in for Patty Schwalenberg. Crystal is our
40 Native liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

41

42 Where is Jon? There he is, hiding I
43 would say. Mr. Jon Dyasuk, who is our subsistence
44 coordinator with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in
45 Dillingham.

46

47 Have I missed anybody else?

48

49 All right.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming. My name
5 is Ryan Scott. I'm the Assistant Director with the
6 Division of Wildlife Conservation out of Juneau.

7

8 Also here with the Department today is
9 Jason Schamber in the back, our Waterfowl Project
10 Leader for the Division of Wildlife.

11

12 Lilian Naves, one of our subsistence
13 coordinators in Southcentral Alaska.

14

15 I believe we have another subsistence
16 participant, Jackie, and I also don't know your last
17 name, sorry.

18

19 MS. KEATING: Keating.

20

21 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MR. FAGERSTROM: My name is Jack
24 Fagerstrom. I represent Kawerak. I'm from Golovin,
25 Alaska.

26

27 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris. I represent
28 Maniilaq Association from Kotzebue.

29

30 MS. LYNNE: Debra Lynne. I represent
31 Tanana Chiefs Conference.

32

33 MS. EVANS: Priscilla Evans. I
34 represent CRRC or Chugach Regional Resource Commission,
35 but I'm from Nanwalek, Alaska.

36

37 MS. HEPA: Uvlaalluataq. Taqulik Hepa,
38 North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management.

39

40 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. I'm
41 Jennifer Hooper with Association of Village Council
42 Presidents, Bethel, Y-K Delta, alternate for our
43 Regional Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff. I'm
46 from Kodiak representing our region's 10 tribes.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna
49 Intertribal Resource Commission representative.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
2 Peter, on the telephone, if you want to just introduce
3 yourself.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Peter Devine is
8 on the phone representing Aleutian Pribilof Islands and
9 we would also recognize Karen Pletnikoff is here in the
10 room as well.

11
12 Anybody else on the telephone?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: All right. So
17 now I'd like to turn it over and if the audience could
18 please introduce themselves. We'll start with Kelly.

19
20 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq
21 Tribe of Kodiak.

22
23 MR. SANDERS: Todd Sanders, U.S. Fish
24 and Wildlife Service, Pacific Flyway representative.

25
26 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon with Ahtna
27 Intertribal Resource Commission and Tanana Chiefs
28 Conference.

29
30 MR. PETERSON: Lauren Peterson. I'm
31 the Deputy Director over at Chugach Regional Resources
32 Commission. I'm from Mountain Village in western
33 Alaska.

34
35 MR. ANELON: Tim Anelon, Bristol Bay
36 Native Association. I'm also from Iliamna Villages.

37
38 MR. AHMASUK: I'm Brandon Ahmasuk. I'm
39 the Subsistence Resources Program Director for Kawerak
40 in Nome.

41
42 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
43 Borough, Wildlife Management.

44
45 MS. BAINES: Arielle Baines, from Nome
46 and Kotzebue. Chugach Regional Resources Commission.

47
48 MS. DAWSON: Natalie Dawson. I'm the
49 executive director for Audubon Alaska.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
2 Welcome, everybody. Next on the agenda we have review
3 and adoption of agenda.

4
5 MS. EVANS: I'll make a motion to adopt
6 the agenda.

7
8 DR. TAYLOR: Second.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
11 and seconded. All those in favor of our agenda please
12 signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
17 same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
22 I would just like to point out at the September 2018
23 meeting it was a moment in time when we had a formal
24 apology from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
25 State of Alaska. It is posted on the wall behind us
26 here as a reminder of how far we've come in our state
27 and especially with that apology.

28
29 I just wanted to remind everybody of
30 that apology and remind everybody that the people
31 sitting around the table representing all of the
32 regions within the state of Alaska are the people who
33 are the protectors of our birds, our wildlife, our
34 animals that have sustained our people for thousands of
35 years. Our resources are very valuable and precious to
36 us. I just wanted to bring everybody's attention to
37 that.

38
39 Next on the agenda is invitation for
40 public comments.

41
42 Do we have any public comments at this
43 time.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. I'm really
48 happy to see people from public here. This is a very
49 open meeting and we welcome public comment at any time

50

1 throughout the meeting and I'm sure that we will hear
2 from a lot of you when we come to the proposals and as
3 we're going through that process.
4

5 So next on the agenda is adoption of
6 Council action items, September 13th to 14th, 2018
7 meeting. If you have a moment to review the actions
8 from the fall meeting. It's under Tab 1 after the
9 yellow paper.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

14

15 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make a motion to
16 approve the action items from the September 13-14, 2018
17 meeting.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. There's a
20 motion on the floor. Do we have a second.

21

22 MS. EVANS: Second.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Seconded by
25 Priscilla. All those in favor of the motion please
26 signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Those opposed
31 same sign.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Motion carries.
36 I believe we do not have a copy of our Staff report at
37 this time. We'll table that until the next meeting to
38 have our Staff report.

39

40 We're going to take a five-minute
41 break.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We just wanted to
48 situate the room a little bit more balanced so that we
49 could see everybody and everybody could see us. Thank

50

1 you ladies for moving to the other side of the table.
2 Debra was the only one over there. We had to give her
3 company.

4
5 Next on the agenda we have -- this is
6 one of the favorite parts of the meeting, I think.
7 It's one of the highlights of the meeting, to hear
8 reports by regional representatives from our regional
9 meetings, any issues of concerns and any environmental
10 observations.

11
12 I can go ahead and start with the
13 Bristol Bay Native Association report. The Yaquillrit
14 Kelutisti Council met on March 28th. We had a
15 teleconference. Everything seems to be all jammed up
16 with meeting times, so we were only able to meet
17 telephonically, but I'm glad that we were able to have
18 at least a teleconference meeting and weigh in on our
19 proposals.

20
21 One of the things during our meeting is
22 we did have public comment that Curyung Tribal Council
23 was able to call in and reminded everybody that
24 migratory birds are nutritiously and spiritually
25 connected to our people and that we should have more
26 councils call in and we should encourage people from
27 our area to participate in this process and participate
28 in this meeting.

29
30 This meeting is for the people that are
31 sustained by migratory birds in the spring and summer
32 and also in the fall and winter. So I just wanted to
33 put that on the record.

34
35 So we have five subregions with Bristol
36 Bay Native Association and just so we can give our new
37 friend here Ryan just an overview. Bristol Bay Native
38 Association has 31 tribes in Bristol Bay that BBNA
39 represents. The Lower Peninsula, Ronald Lind, he was
40 going to be here. He's on our council but he's flying
41 in from someplace and was unable to attend, but he was
42 going to be here in person.

43
44 He mentioned during our regional
45 meeting that there were no Eiders. He commented on
46 Whistlers. Our climate is changing within the region.
47 And then as you move farther up on the Peninsula we had
48 from our Naknek area Mr. Paul Hanson. He's one of our
49 elders on our council and I really like hearing from

50

1 the elders in the region.

2

3 As we were going through our meetings,
4 this makes everybody's jobs, those of us who do this
5 everyday, just to remind us who we're doing this for.
6 When we're connecting with the people out in the
7 villages, it just ties everybody close together.

8

9 Paul Hanson, he's one of our elders,
10 like I stated earlier, he's been noticing warmer
11 weather. We have earlier breakups. The river is out
12 earlier than normal. They had no observations of flock
13 of the geese like they used to. They're not as
14 abundant as they were before, how they were following
15 along the river.

16

17 There's snipes from all different parts
18 of the world he noticed and they don't have very many
19 land critters like they have in the past. This is
20 something at a bird meeting, but all of our animals on
21 the land are connected to the fish in the water to the
22 birds in the air. So he's reported also that he's not
23 seeing any more ground squirrels like before.

24

25 Then we move over to the western region
26 of Bristol Bay and Mr. Harry Wassily is our
27 representative for the Nushagak Bay. He reported that
28 there's not very much snow. We had a very mild winter
29 this winter and actually our rivers are out, there's no
30 ice in the rivers. I was able to put my subsistence
31 sign on the beach in March and that cause da domino
32 effect, which is funny because everybody was like we've
33 got to go put up our signs to claim our spots there on
34 the beach.

35

36 Mild winter all winter. The seals were
37 early. People were already getting seals. Then we
38 weren't able to have anybody on the phone from our
39 Togiak subregion and that's where a lot of the birds
40 stage as they go up to Jennifer's region, the Y-K
41 Delta. They weren't able to be on the phone, but we
42 have a lot of people that are sustained by the
43 migratory birds in the Togiak Bay area.

44

45 We move up to Iliamna where the
46 chairman is here in the room, Mr. Tim Anelon. He
47 recently noted that there were dead trout and
48 sticklebacks on the beaches and some of the fish have
49 died. The lake didn't freeze and nobody was able to

50

1 cross the river and it never froze.

2

3 Like I said, everything is all
4 connected. We also talked about different -- during
5 these regional meetings it's really good to hear of the
6 different animals and just how things are changing and
7 with climate. The caribou close by Iliamna for years
8 but now they have to travel farther to go and get
9 caribou. No ptarmigan for the past four or five years
10 and that also generated further discussion about people
11 aren't seeing ptarmigan like they used to before.

12

13 Hopefully we'll be able to have an
14 in-person meeting. I'm glad that we're able to have
15 somebody from -- we have two people from our region,
16 Mr. Jon Dyasuk and Tim Anelon here from our region, and
17 we'll be weighing in on some of these proposals that we
18 have coming up.

19

20 One of the concerns that we did have
21 and we do have, I believe that's Proposal No. 7, is the
22 invitation proposal that we will have discussion on
23 that later, but that came out of our region to change
24 that regulation.

25

26 Our environmental observations, like I
27 stated earlier, we are seeing very mild winters, early
28 breakup. We also have to be as times change and any
29 environmental impacts in our area we really need to
30 weigh in on how these environmental impacts can affect
31 our way of life.

32

33 So, with that, that's my regional
34 report and I open it up if anybody has any questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: With no questions
39 I will turn it over to Jennifer for the AVCP report.

40

41 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 For the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee in our
43 region, with discussions yesterday around how the
44 30-day closure has been working within our region, I
45 went back and looked through my notes. There was a
46 question on sort of timing of when and how that
47 closure, recommendation occurred.

48

49 We were contacted by the Refuge on May

50

1 24th with the recommendation that the closure start May
2 29th. I consulted with various hunters and people
3 within AVCP and then some of the WCC members and our
4 chairman actually came back and recommended the closure
5 to start May 31st and there were no issues with that
6 from the Refuge. It was agreed that the closure would
7 start May 31st and a new release was posted the 29th.
8 That's typical for going back however long that's been
9 that way.

10

11 Most recently our WCC met March 14th in
12 Bethel. There were several initial questions people
13 had, concerns going back a year or two, looking for
14 updates on any current or existing concerns with the
15 bird flu and the pesticides from the Lower 48 farms
16 where a lot of the birds winter. Then an update on the
17 big bird die-off last year. Refuge staff were able to
18 provide information regarding all three topics to the
19 WCC. Those were initial questions that they were
20 interested in receiving updates on at the start of our
21 meeting.

22

23 The WCC has a new chairman. His name
24 is Wasillie Pleasant. He is originally from Quinhagak,
25 but his home base is Nunapitchuk in the Tundra Village
26 area. He had a prior commitment this week, so was
27 unable to be here.

28

29 Some of the things that the WCC did
30 discuss and receive information about the lead shot
31 issue continues to be a concern. Some communities in
32 our region, the stores were found to still be carrying
33 lead shot. Concerns about potential pressures from
34 enforcement to get a handle on the issue. Neesha and
35 the Service and the Refuge were going to be working on
36 more outreach and potential shot exchange clinic.

37

38 We had a presentation discussion with
39 the Refuge RIT staff person Chris Tulik and Lili Naves
40 from Fish and Game about the Harvest Survey Program.
41 The issue of some villages not participating, not
42 cooperating in the survey and how to try and address
43 the issue wanting to get a more representative survey
44 for the region.

45

46 We talked about different avenues that
47 AVCP could assist the Refuge in getting information out
48 to the region. I think that specific topics were the
49 upcoming summer projects. WCC was asked again to

50

1 support and endorse using helicopters for banding
2 projects in the region. We received an update on how
3 things went last summer both at our fall meeting and
4 then again this spring. A formal request came from the
5 Refuge asking for that continued support.

6
7 Concerns I know were raised last fall
8 regarding ptarmigan. Like Gayla said, people are seeing
9 no ptarmigan basically. So we were told that a project
10 was going to be starting up, I'm not sure, between the
11 Refuge and Fish and Game staff, on wanting to tag and
12 then track ptarmigan to try and get an idea on what's
13 happening with them.

14
15 Our region traditionally has not
16 formulated I guess positions specific to AMBCC
17 proposals that come from other regions. They feel it's
18 not their prerogative and they shouldn't be delving
19 into other regions, so they did not take any formal
20 action on the proposals this spring.

21
22 I'm sure it's going to be very common.
23 I think every year, the last several years at least
24 that I've been involved, people have commented how
25 things are starting earlier and all the differences
26 with things happening sooner. I think this year kind
27 of jumped four -- it's looking like it's jumping four
28 slots to just be incredibly very, very earlier.
29 There's been no snow for weeks. The river is closed to
30 traffic. They've been warning people for several weeks
31 now not to get on the river.

32
33 We unfortunately had a tragedy last
34 weekend where a couple of four-wheelers fell through
35 after repeated attempts to warn the public. So now
36 they -- I mean it's impossible to close the river, but
37 our local search and rescue team has asked that nobody
38 under any circumstance use the river. Just flying over
39 the other night it's amazing how quickly it's rotting
40 out and just so, so early.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
43 Jennifer. Any questions of Jennifer on her report.
44 Jonny, if you could please come and approach the
45 microphone and state your name on the record.

46
47 And we had somebody join the phone.

48
49 MR. DYASUK: Jennifer, can you be more
50

1 clear on what Quinhagak had said. Quinhagak is inside
2 of Togiak Refuge and we get calls from Eek part of our
3 area.
4

5 MS. HOOPER: The only thing I mentioned
6 about Quinhagak is our new WCC chairman is originally
7 from Quinhagak, Wasillie Pleasant. I guess kind of
8 along that line no one at the meeting mentioned seeing
9 any birds yet and that was almost three weeks ago. I
10 haven't received any reports since that time.
11

12 MR. DYASUK: Yeah, there were some
13 birds that were mentioned. We have an RIT that retired
14 some time ago, but we're hoping to have an RIT pretty
15 soon. We advertised for the position again. Nobody
16 applied last time, but we hope to have one this time.
17 Since we work with RITs we get information like that.
18

19 We also get the information from Eek
20 too because they're so close to each other. They call
21 each other and most of the time they report by using
22 Facebook. A lot of the hunters are on the website and
23 they're the ones that also get the information through
24 the website to the Facebook because we post anything
25 that relate to opening and what's happening with the
26 migratory birds.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other
31 questions for Jennifer.
32

33 Bryan, go ahead and come up.
34

35 MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I just wanted to add a little bit more to Jennifer's.
37 We also discussed the importance of band reporting. So
38 we do a lot of work of banding migratory birds
39 primarily ducks and geese. Historically, Alaska Native
40 communities have a low band reporting rate with the
41 fear that people get in trouble if they report a band.
42 They don't think they're supposed to harvest birds with
43 bands.
44

45 So we're starting a large outreach on
46 the Yukon Delta to educate people about this. I'm
47 doing this in cooperation with United States Geological
48 Survey here in Anchorage. We are hoping to expand it
49 statewide, which is why I'm bringing it up. It won't
50

1 be this year, but eventually it will be.

2

3 So I just wanted to let you guys know
4 about that.

5

6 In terms of seeing birds, Aaron flew
7 the other day and saw swans upriver at like Fish Lake
8 where we've been getting reports of White-fronts from
9 Chevak, which is in the middle of the Refuge, and
10 Cackling geese over Bethel and then some transmitters
11 that we have on Eiders started showing up on the Yukon
12 Delta last week. So it's between three and four weeks
13 early of when birds should be arriving. So we're a
14 little concerned about the mismatch of timing of birds
15 showing up and nesting and green-up. With that
16 mismatch, survival of young is potentially a lot lower.
17 So just wanted to put that out there.

18

19 MS. HEPA: What kind of eiders?

20

21 MR. DANIELS: Spectacled eiders.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. Any
24 other questions for Jennifer.

25

26 Karen.

27

28 MS. PLETNIKOFF: I just want to follow
29 up on the educational outreach that they're talking
30 about for bird bands. Not only are regular bands
31 important to report, but in the event of an oil spill
32 secondary bands available to the International Bird
33 Rescue Organization and other bird rescuers that
34 identify birds as being rehabilitated -- rescued,
35 rehabilitated and released and had been oiled.

36

37 Previously we had bird rescues where
38 they put birds straight back into subsistence hunting
39 opportunities with no additional banding. They just
40 have the single band that gives no information to the
41 hunter about the oiled bird status of that bird. With
42 the additional information we're getting on the
43 secondary daughter products of dealing with the
44 toxicity in the liver, there's some real concerns about
45 the potential for human health impacts from birds that
46 have been oiled, rehabilitated and released.

47

48 So just for this body's information and
49 to remember in the future if we ever do have a

50

1 large-scale oil spill where they do bird rescue, we
2 need to be mindful that they are remembering to use the
3 secondary bands and that our folks are informed of
4 these secondary bands and they can make their decisions
5 accordingly. But if you need any assistance with
6 information on this for your education outreach, please
7 let me know.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Karen,
10 for bringing that to our attention. I wasn't aware of
11 that. That is really -- our people out there that are
12 harvesting birds do need to know that. Maybe we could
13 have some information on that at our next meeting about
14 these secondary banded birds would be very important.

15
16 I'd like to pause and recognize we had
17 somebody call in on the phone. If you could identify
18 yourself.

19
20 MS. CARTY: Good morning. This is
21 Courtenay Carty calling in from Curyung Tribal Council
22 in Dillingham. Thank you for having me.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
25 calling in, Courtenay. We're going through regional
26 reports right now. I just want to note on the record
27 that Courtenay had a hard time calling in. Our call-in
28 number is not published on our website or on our
29 agenda. That is something that needs to be fixed.
30 This is a public meeting. This is a public process.
31 If we want to have public participate, people need to
32 be able to access the telephone line. So I wanted to
33 put that out there.

34
35 MS. BERNS: Gayla.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

38
39 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa Berns with
40 Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor. I wanted to let you know
41 that I'm on as well.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, okay. Thank
44 you, Melissa. Good to hear your voice.

45
46 Anybody else on the phone.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. While
2 we're at this paused moment of time, do we have any
3 more regulation books available because they're very
4 limited of our regulatory books.
5

6 DR. TAYLOR: Yes, we do, Madame Chair.
7 These have been amended a bit. As I think everyone
8 knows, the 2018 regulations were accepted for the 2019
9 regulations. In other words, this year's regulations
10 are no different from last year. So what we have done
11 is put stickers on the covers and put 2019 on them.
12

13 When I have an opportunity to give a
14 report, I'll give everyone an update on the challenges
15 we've had to get the Federal Register published for
16 this 2019 subsistence season, but this is part of the
17 challenge that we've had. I'd be happy to distribute
18 these to everyone to make sure we have a copy.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Eric.
21 I think if we could all at least have a copy here at
22 the Council as well as the people in the audience so
23 that we could reference these regulations.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 With that, if there's no other
28 questions for Jennifer, I'll turn it over to Taqulik.
29

30 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 Taqulik Hepa. So we had our fall meeting in Atqasuk
32 last 2018. A couple things that were of concern one of
33 the committee members for our regional management body
34 was just reporting again that they're not seeing as
35 many red Phalaropes as they did growing up. I wanted
36 to make sure I mentioned that.
37

38 The other main concern that was brought
39 up was about when we were approving the harvest survey.
40 The concern was that because they do a random pick of
41 communities to be surveyed and when Point Hope is not
42 picked, then it's not reflective of what an estimate
43 would be for the North Slope because Point Hope
44 harvests different birds than any other community on
45 the North Slope.
46

47 So there was a recommendation from the
48 committee that we keep point hope as one of the
49 community members on an annual basis so we have those
50

1 different types of birds than any other community on
2 the North Slope doesn't harvest in the estimate and
3 mainly seabirds.

4
5 So those were the two main ones that
6 come up. We did review the regulation booklet and came
7 up -- or they proposed some changes to the regulations
8 which we will be talking about later today. I won't go
9 into detail with those right now.

10
11 Just for reporting, I just want to say
12 that as with both your reports that birds are arriving
13 earlier. The first Snow Buntings were reported in
14 February. We usually get first reportings at the end
15 of March.

16
17 There's been reports of a flock of
18 geese in Wainwright on Friday, last Friday, and then
19 also sightings of Eiders flying in the open leads as of
20 last week. Also Robert Suydam reported that they did
21 see a gull, which is a lot earlier than normal.

22
23 I also want to make an announcement
24 that many of you know that Michael Peterson has retired
25 from the department and he may be coming to this
26 meeting to say his goodbyes, but I just want to give
27 our appreciation to Mike for the many years of service
28 he did not just for the Department of Wildlife
29 Management but his involvement with the Migratory Bird
30 Co-management Council. He will truly be missed and I
31 wish him the best as he makes the big move to Arizona.

32
33 That's it.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I would like to
36 recognize Mike for all his work that he did for us. I
37 know that he was going to try to make it to this
38 meeting, but he's not able to come in person?

39
40 MS. HEPA: He did mention that he was
41 going to try to come to the meeting. I'm hopeful that
42 he will.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Mike
45 Peterson brought a lot of good insight and his
46 participation on the AMBCC was remarkable and we will
47 always -- and memorable for the traditional knowledge
48 that he did bring to this Council and we will miss him
49 very much.

50

1 Any questions.

2
3 MS. HEPA: Since Jennifer reported on
4 other animals, I just wanted to mention that because
5 it's been an unusually warm year throughout the winter
6 that seals were reported to be very healthy. In fact,
7 polar bears as well. A lot of polar bears moving back
8 and forth in most of our communities along the coast.
9 Caribou have been around the communities mainly because
10 there's been an increase in sightings of furbearers.
11 Lots being harvested as well. Wolves and wolverines in
12 particular.

13
14 So I just wanted to mention that with
15 climate change it's not all gloom and doom, but at this
16 moment in time that we're seeing a lot of positive
17 things and who knows where that will lead over time.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

20
21 Jack.

22
23 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom. I
24 represent Kawerak, 20 villages. We didn't have our
25 spring meeting. There was a lot of scheduling with a
26 lot of different organizations and the hotels were
27 pretty full. We rescheduled that until the end of
28 April.

29
30 Observations from last fall. Like
31 everybody else everything is almost two weeks earlier,
32 maybe three weeks. We used to go get our Murre eggs on
33 January 23rd -- excuse me, June 23rd, but everything is
34 a lot earlier now. The ice left. We just had our
35 Iditarod basketball tournament and I was fortunate
36 enough to speak with a bunch of people from all of our
37 communities and they noticed pretty much the same
38 thing. Everything is early.

39
40 Traveling out there is really no way to
41 really describe how the changes are, but maybe this
42 will help. My vice chair in our committee we lost him
43 this fall to a -- he went out ice fishing and this is a
44 person who had been doing that all his life, but he
45 fell through the ice and we haven't recovered him yet,
46 but those efforts are still going on.

47
48 I don't know how to say it. That's a
49 part of subsisting. Especially in these times you have
50

1 some real difficult choices to make. Are you going to
2 go bang up your snowmachine to go harvest something or
3 your boat, but you've got to do it.

4
5 A lot of people are worried about the
6 lack of a cold water barrier and there's been some
7 comments that we're going to have another bird die-off.
8 The best scientific data available kind of indicates
9 that. I'll point out this.

10
11 Everything is early, like I said.
12 Regional reports, there's no ice up there right now.
13 My Savoonga friends and Gambell friends said it's
14 weird, Jack. Something they grew up with all their
15 life is not there no more. That leads to a lot of
16 changes. They have to go a lot further to harvest
17 their food. That puts a lot of strain on a person who
18 has very limited income to go travel a couple hundred
19 miles with a really old motor and a leaky boat, but you
20 have to do that.

21
22 Like I said, a lot of people are
23 worried about this. Everything is earlier. The
24 ptarmigan, I'm glad people brought that up because
25 we've noticed that they're later in showing up. I come
26 from Golovin, which is right in the middle of Norton
27 Sound, and the ptarmigan would come from the west. I
28 always wondered why they're not considered a migratory
29 bird because those birds move. They'll be in an area
30 this week and two weeks later they're 100 miles away.

31
32 That's just the part of our problems.
33 We're worried about the bird die-off again. Maybe a
34 positive thing, but something that may be looked at
35 negatively is we have more Snow geese right now.
36 Growing up they were predominantly a bird that went to
37 Stebbins and St. Michael, staged there, then went to
38 Wrangell Island or the North Slope. They're in Koyuk
39 now and there's thousands.

40
41 One of my friends showed me. He said,
42 holy cow, Jack, and he showed me a picture. It was
43 like the Outdoor Channel. There was geese all over.
44 He said, man, my wife cut me off from hunting. I can't
45 get no more white geese. Send me some. I'll trade you
46 some swans. Okay. There's more swans. That's a
47 given.

48
49 More Cackling geese. It was like, hey,
50

1 we've got a real cute little goose. Well, that's a
2 Cackling goose. There's not supposed to be very many
3 of them up here, but they're getting more and more.
4 More Snow geese, more Cackling geese, too many swans.

5
6 There's some worry about testing of
7 cranes because they go to Siberia and they come back.
8 Last fall we had a very strong west wind, so that kind
9 of messed up our -- the Siberian cranes come through,
10 but we had all that wind, so they had a good tail wind.
11 They went zooming right by. The winds quite so we had
12 stragglers come through very late in the year.

13
14 Somebody in September saw a Signet,
15 which is one of them big swans and it was still gray.
16 It was like are they laying two times a year now, Jack.
17 I said I hope not.

18
19 Another big thing is the health of our
20 staging areas. With this thing here we're worried
21 about the eiders that are in the (indiscernible). We
22 have acidic changes in the ocean that will affect the
23 shell growth. Just looking at this everything is down
24 and we're just worried about a bird die-off. Everybody
25 is saying that everything is tied together. Once that
26 bottom of the food chain starts to go, like these
27 arrows indicate, we're going to be in a world of hurt.

28
29 Have I left anything out, Brandon?

30
31 MR. AHMASUK: No, you're good.

32
33 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. All right.
34 That concludes my report.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jack.

39
40 Eric.

41
42 DR. TAYLOR: Jack, I was wondering if
43 you could mention your youth camp that you've got
44 planned.

45
46 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. Thank you. I
47 almost forgot that. I was just beating myself on the
48 head. With the realization that we're an
49 internationally important staging area or lagoon. We
50

1 have eel grass. In the past we've had -- if I may,
2 maybe I'll give a little background as to why the eel
3 schools came about.

4
5 In 1992 we had to do a repatriation.
6 Our community, our region, had 174 human remains stored
7 at the Smithsonian. That's how I got involved in it.
8 I opened my mouth. There was a regional meeting in
9 Nome I had to go to. Went there with a bunch of
10 elders. I was their escort. Go get me coffee, go get
11 me tea, put this much sugar in it, stir it that many
12 times. Okay.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. FAGERSTROM: So I went with them.
17 Man, I started to get offended because of what happened
18 and pretty soon I was speaking and it was like half an
19 hour later, Jack, you got to go to Washington, go to
20 Smithsonian, go get them remains. These are elders.
21 You can't say no. Okay. I'll do that. Went out
22 there, did all that.

23
24 And we had a field school funded by the
25 Park Service and that lasted for three years. They
26 funded us the first year, then they said we'll fund you
27 again for two more years, but you have to have an
28 international component to it, so we had some youth
29 from Providencia, Lavinia come over and that was a very
30 eye-opening experience for our youth in our community
31 because, hey, you think we have it bad, those people
32 over there got it way worse than us.

33
34 Going back to that we had a field
35 school. Our youth are idle the summertime. Wintertime
36 they've got sports. They've got the gym open for them,
37 but the summertime they're idle. We were all young one
38 time. You know how it is to be idle. We figured out
39 that through all that process the youth in the
40 community wanted to know what's going on with our
41 region and our history and our ability to harvest.

42
43 Fortunately -- well, I don't know if
44 it's fortunate or not, but this year BIA had some
45 remains that needed to be reburied. They were Inupiaq
46 and Yup'ik. Golovin is right at the boundary line of
47 those two disparate groups. So we had to go re-bury
48 them. They came and got me with a chopper. We did all
49 this. We ended up talking and there was some money

50

1 available. So it was like, hey, you guys have done
2 something in the past. Do you want to do it again. He
3 was like yeah.
4

5 I approached Eric and with that little
6 bit of monies available we'd like to do a little --
7 this is what we have, this is what we have to protect.
8 You don't know what you have to protect until you know
9 what you have and you do not realize what you had until
10 you lose it. So we want to preserve all that.
11

12 We're going to be asking Eric for a lot
13 of help, as much as possible, but outreach is important
14 and our region wants to have a culture camp in every
15 village in every year. Hopefully we can set a standard
16 that they'll have to still pass if they want to be
17 anybody. That's the way it is.
18

19 That's my report.
20

21 If there's any questions, I'll try to
22 answer them.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jack.
27 Any other questions for Jack. Thank you for the
28 history of that.
29

30 MR. FAGERSTROM: I'm sorry to be so
31 long-winded.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: No, I think that
34 it's really good. Like I said, this is the favorite
35 part of the whole meeting, is that we -- this is part
36 of a family. We've all been on this Council for a long
37 time together and the more that we get to know each
38 other's history in the area that we represent, it just
39 brings us all closer together. So thank you for
40 sharing with us today. It means a lot.
41

42 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other
45 questions for Jack.
46

47 (No comments)
48

49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Cyrus.
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 I didn't come prepared here with a written report, but
3 you hear it -- this past several years you hear it
4 throughout the whole state, but climate change is real.
5 So the majority of the discussions in our meetings is
6 surrounded by the climate change. The earlier ice
7 break-up, earlier spring thaw and later fall freeze-up.

8
9 So as an indication from some of our
10 regional folks with the sudden spring thaw we were
11 unable to go to the traditional hunting grounds mainly
12 due to a lot of water and slush that they would have to
13 deal with, so they had to go to Plan B and hunt nearby
14 other areas. That's inland along Selawik or Upper
15 Kobuk areas. Along the coast we're a little cooler
16 down there. Water temperature, rain when it can.

17
18 Yet again last spring was the second
19 year in a row that I was able to harvest geese the last
20 week of April west of Kotzebue. Normally I'd have to
21 go 100 miles south to do that in April. This year I
22 wouldn't be surprised if I can go and actually make my
23 blind here earlier.

24
25 It was very interesting at the last
26 week and a half of March I took a right up toward
27 Noorvik and hauling some stuff up there for an event
28 that was going on, dog races and help my brother haul
29 up the kennel, and as we were hauling it up that way I
30 really had to watch where I'm traveling too and from,
31 staying on the main trail. There was so much water
32 melt already and some bad spots got water underneath
33 the snow.

34
35 I'm thinking, golly, maybe I should
36 have took my shotgun instead, you know. A lot of great
37 spots to be building a duck blind, which we normally
38 wouldn't see up until at least the ending part of April
39 was already happening at the end of March.

40
41 So those are parts of my observations
42 and other reports that we had from our area is early
43 sightings. Some areas were fairly good hunts if they
44 were able to make it to the traditional hunting
45 grounds, but going to Plan B, getting the boat out
46 sooner. The majority of the hunt right now would be
47 taking place by snowmachine. More snow than usual.

48
49 This year we're pretty much hunkered
50

1 down for the most part of January and practically the
2 full month of February due to storms one after the
3 other. Prevailing east and southeast winds, open water
4 nearby. The ice was able to stay intact right there in
5 front of Kotzebue in the bay, but yet water underneath
6 the snow to where it shouldn't be. So it's good for
7 some things, but not good for other things, one being
8 traveling. Safely traveling too and from. It's going
9 to be a challenge to go to and from.

10

11 So the Native Village of Kotzebue has
12 been studying our sea ice in front of town and whatever
13 shore-fast ice we have for the past couple years. So
14 we did put in monitors on two places in front of
15 Kotzebue and then we monitor outside toward wherever we
16 have shore-fast ice, which is very limited.

17

18 This year was very interesting because
19 we don't really have very much thickness on ice, so it
20 was measured from one area to where we would normally
21 have the ice trail that they would open up that would
22 go to Noorvik about this time of the year. That's not
23 going to happen.

24

25 Average is about 35 inches to 18 inches
26 from in front of Kotzebue to the mouth of the Kobuk,
27 but in between a lot of other areas is much -- but that
28 was the safest road. So that ice trail was not going
29 to happen. Understudies were also studying the
30 salinity, the currents, ice thickness. All that is
31 going to be documented down and then kind of compare it
32 with indigenous knowledge.

33

34 Another interesting thing that I
35 thought of, you know, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
36 Service do -- well, in our area and I guess statewide
37 also, is they have this first bird sighting. They call
38 in the date on first bird sighting. It would be
39 interesting to add on the first egg, you know, to kind
40 of like match it up with our 30-day closure or kind of
41 like come up with something to see if it's actually
42 happening sooner or not. These are just thoughts that
43 come into mind. Then that 30-day closure is going to
44 reflect around this climate change and it's something
45 that we have to -- we should be aware of.

46

47 I can't think of anything more I should
48 add on here.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Cyrus.

4

5 Any questions for Cyrus.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

10

11 Debra.

12

13 MS. LYNNE: Thank you. I'm new to this
14 process, so thank you. I first want to say Madame
15 Chair and Council thank you for allowing me to be an
16 alternate for Tanana Chiefs today. I wanted to say
17 that as an alternate I don't have any reports, any new
18 information, but I would like to share some information
19 on a project that I worked on.

20

21 Tanana Chiefs has 45 villages, 37 of
22 them are Federally recognized and five are tribal
23 management. We have a conference, a convention once a
24 year where everybody in the region meets and they come
25 into Fairbanks and it's an opportunity for us to speak
26 with and I wanted to do a survey on several questions.

27

28 I had seven questions and one of them
29 was have you seen migratory birds arriving early or
30 departure, access to your harvest, what challenges are
31 you having, new species of migratory birds and
32 environmental challenges for harvesting.

33

34 We received about 500 responses, so I
35 think we have a pretty good sample to be able to take a
36 look at what is happening in the interior. It went
37 from Grayling all the way to Eagle up to Huslia and
38 Arctic Village. So we had a good representation on
39 this survey. This was beginning of March, so were just
40 able to get all the survey answers compiled and now
41 we're starting to take a look at what we have. We
42 would like to share that information with this Council
43 when we get these results in and of course with you as
44 well, Eric.

45

46 This is a concern with Tanana Chiefs,
47 is the same concerns I'm hearing here, is the timing of
48 the birds. Looking through the results over 300
49 different hunters are stating their hunting skills, if

50

1 they're elders, so we understood their capacity of what
2 they harvested, where their expertise was.

3
4 Just like what I'm hearing here is the
5 majority of them were reporting that there's new
6 species coming into the area and a lot of areas are
7 dry. There's a lot of lakes that are drying up, so the
8 habitat is starting to change and so they're not coming
9 into the same area, the area is declined due to the
10 fact that the habitat doesn't support any longer for
11 their migration into these different areas. So it will
12 be interesting to be able to see what other things come
13 out of it that we haven't quite yet seen because you
14 always do come across new information on things like
15 that.

16
17 Randy Mayo has spoken to me that he
18 would like to see the 30-day flexibility in our area
19 and he wants me to bring back to him any information
20 that has been discussed here and ideas that have been
21 formulated here to share with us so that moving forward
22 in your initiatives that we would like to participate
23 in these proposals in the future as well.

24
25 The last thing is that Randy wanted me
26 here because all the members on the council had
27 schedule conflicts and he felt and stated in the last
28 meeting that he wanted to support and he knows it's
29 very important that the Native Caucus stay united and
30 we support each other. Even though Tanana Chiefs does
31 not have any proposals that has any implications for
32 our area, I'm here to support this Native Caucus in
33 whatever decision you make. It's important to Tanana
34 Chiefs to make sure you know that's our message that we
35 want to support you.

36
37 That's all I have.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Debra,
42 for sharing those words and we'll look forward to
43 seeing your survey results. What an interesting thing
44 that's happening in your region to gather that
45 information. I really enjoy working with the people
46 from your region. Thank you for the support. You
47 speaking of Randy's words of us staying united, I mean
48 that speaks loud and clear and that's a message that
49 Randy does bring on this Council and he always brings

50

1 us back to our sovereignty and our tribal rights.
2 Please extend a hello from all of us to him.

3
4 With that, is there any questions for
5 Debra.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Cyrus.

8
9 MR. HARRIS: Madame Chair. Thank you,
10 Debra. That reminded me on my report, so I'm going
11 back to my report if you don't mind.

12
13 MS. LYNNE: You're welcome. Thank you.

14
15 MR. HARRIS: I failed to mention that I
16 did have a one-on-one telephone meeting with our
17 regional folks regarding these proposals. I did email
18 them the information for them to review, got their
19 input on it, which I'm bringing back here to this
20 meeting here. Anyway, I failed to mention that for the
21 record. Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
24 Cyrus.

25
26 Any more followup for Debra.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We'll move to
31 Priscilla.

32
33 MS. EVANS: Okay. It's my first time
34 doing a report. We had our spring meeting last week
35 and reviewed the seven proposed regulations and I think
36 we're in support of all of them. We're working on
37 securing funding to develop and publish a document that
38 illustrates each of the subsistence migratory bird
39 species that are used in the Chugach region along with
40 the scientific name, common name and name translated
41 into Sugstun, our traditional language.

42
43 We've begun working on the website,
44 screen shots of what it will look like will be shared
45 with the AMBCC for their input when it's ready. That's
46 part of CRRC's report I have.

47
48 In our area hunters have been catching
49 a lot of ducks for the elders and some of them are
50

1 sawbills, harlequins, scooters, canvasbacks, teals,
2 eiders and pintails. They were lacking this in their
3 diet for like almost a year. Most of them were getting
4 weak, but after eating the foods they got their
5 strength back and it really showed, literally.
6 Couldn't believe it. They were even complaining how
7 they were getting weak from not having that in their
8 diet.

9
10 Last week my son with two other hunters
11 went and got four seals and gave it out to the
12 community so everybody is getting ready to make seal
13 oil for boiled fish this summer. So they're really
14 happy for that. Feeling blessed.

15
16 One of the things we do with CRRC is
17 test our water for ocean acidification because of the
18 Murres that were dying off and washing up on our
19 beaches the last couple years. I don't think we've
20 seen them this year and last year. I don't know if it
21 was caused by algae or something else.

22
23 That's all I have.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
28 Priscilla. We're happy to have you here and great
29 report.

30
31 Is there any questions for Priscilla.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We'll move
36 to Coral.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. So we just
39 had our spring meeting on Monday, so I'm the new chair
40 for our area. Reporting in our area, there doesn't
41 seem to be any changes in birds. Last year we seemed
42 to have a big eagle die-off. Lots of dead eagles and
43 they seem to be young ones. This year I think people
44 have seen a few. Kelly saw one herself. I saw five
45 dead eagles last year but haven't seen one yet this
46 year. So I don't really know what was happening there.

47
48 I think in the city of Kodiak where I
49 live we don't have too much to report because we do not
50

1 have a road system hunt. It's something that we have
2 been talking about at every meeting for several years
3 now since I've been there and before I was there they
4 were there talking about it also. I think it's
5 unfortunate we talk about how -- we're talking here
6 about the health of those wild foods and I think it's
7 unfortunate that this denies us access to our cultural
8 practices as well as healthy food for our families.
9

10 Emperors. Those of course come up. I
11 can't remember -- I guess I'm not even going to report
12 on the Emperor hunt for the fall. The Emperors are
13 very healthy. They're all along a road system. There
14 seems to be a lot of them. We just again don't have
15 access to them. For one, our road access is denied.
16 For two, the Emperors -- the season opens April 2nd and
17 definitely by the 24th the Emperors are gone. So we
18 need a little more flexibility in our date to get
19 subsistence Emperors.
20

21 So in trying to get our road system
22 open we've talked about a lot of birds and bird numbers
23 and how many birds are harvested and it keeps coming up
24 that they don't regularly do surveys for our area. I
25 guess because of the cost of surveys. So they
26 concentrate up in the nesting areas up in northern
27 Alaska. Because this has caused us a lot of issues,
28 we'd like to figure out how we can get some surveys in
29 our area. I think the last one we had was from 2010.
30 So we'd like to get some more bird surveys in our area.
31 All the reports of ducks and geese seem to be fairly
32 healthy in the reports around our island.
33

34 So I'm a full-time artist and I work
35 with a lot of indigenous materials. I work with a lot
36 of skins and other parts of animals, the nonedible
37 parts. I also have my own studio and I teach classes.
38

39 Last year I was involved in a project
40 where we've talked about cultural practices in
41 migratory birds. We went to several villages around
42 the island and then last year I was also with the
43 wildlife refuge. They brought in two sets of interns
44 to come in and I gave a presentation on cultural
45 practices on the island and my personal experiences and
46 then we did a little art activity. We made earrings
47 with some fish skin that I had tanned.
48

49 So this year they've requested that
50

1 again, so I'll be working with some incoming summer
2 interns with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Then
3 I've also been invited to do some presentation and
4 project with third-graders at Salmon Camp. So I'll be
5 doing that this year.

6
7 I guess just in becoming familiar with
8 AMBCC and having my art practice I was talking with
9 Kelly about starting a program. I'd like to get a
10 program started where we educate the youth about birds
11 and the environment and our cultural practices. So
12 there's more awareness and I would like to have
13 activities where there's a lot of children who do not
14 have parents that hunt that perhaps would be a good
15 activity for them to pair them up with other hunters.

16
17 Also to learn what's your personal --
18 even if you don't hunt or eat birds, you know, you
19 still -- we feel like everybody has a personal
20 responsibility to take care of the environment. So
21 there would be that aspect to it too and then I would
22 probably bring in some art to that too.

23
24 So besides not having access to our
25 birds our bird populations seem to -- a lot of them
26 seem to be doing well and they've sort of been on an
27 even level. We haven't had any reports of any die-offs
28 in the last year either besides the eagle die-off.
29 Well, it wasn't a die-off, but there was an extra
30 amount of dead eagles laying around last year -- year
31 before, 2017. I'm not sure what year this is. 2017,
32 yeah.

33
34 That's it.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Coral.
39 I just had a question about the Emperor geese. I know
40 that in our region and as you go farther south with the
41 Emperors is they like to harvest Emperors in the fall.
42 Is that the same in the Kodiak region as well, is
43 harvesting Emperors in the fall time versus the spring
44 time?

45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: I don't recall that ever
47 coming up, time of year. We used to access when we
48 accessed. Kelly might have an answer to that.

49
50

1 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq
2 Tribe. I don't know of anyone who successfully got an
3 Emperor in the spring season. For 2017 there were 33
4 Emperor geese taken in the fall hunt and last year
5 there were 48 taken for the 2018 hunt.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Kelly.
8 Peter, are you on the phone?

9
10 MR. DEVINE: Yes, for the first time.
11 I dropped off five times and dialed back in 37 times.
12 It was hard to access the five times that I've been
13 dropped off. I called back 37 times to get in. It's
14 not recognizing the code number we're putting in.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We're glad
17 that you're able to be on with us now. Were you able
18 to hear Coral's report?

19
20 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. I just had
23 a question and I know that the Emperors in the southern
24 areas of Alaska where they're wintering, in your region
25 are you guys -- you guys mainly harvest Emperors in the
26 fall time after they nest and then return, is that when
27 you guys are mainly harvesting or would harvest
28 Emperor geese in the fall?

29
30 MR. DEVINE: No. We do ours in the
31 winter. When they return in fall time they're just
32 getting done changing feathers and they're all full of
33 pin feathers. They're a much better product when
34 they're fatter in the winter.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
37 I was just wanting to get clarification on that as we
38 move into -- you know, when we talk about the fall and
39 winter season date changes and to emphasize the need
40 for you guys to have that subsistence fall and winter
41 date, so I just wanted to ask that question.

42
43 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, it's hard to pluck
44 them in the fall time because pin feathers you rip the
45 skin and the best part of the bird is the skin.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

48
49 Coral.

50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: I'd just like to make a
2 note that I mean I guess we haven't had a season in so
3 long. My father is no longer around, so I can't go
4 home and ask him because it's been such a long time.
5 Of course there would have been probably more fall
6 harvesting just simply because they're there in the
7 fall and they're not there in the spring. They're
8 there from September to April. So I guess that's how I
9 would answer that question if they're not there.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
12 that. Yeah, we have a lot of traditional knowledge
13 that was lost during the closure time. Is there any
14 other questions for Coral on her report.

15

16 Crystal.

17

18 MS. LEONETTI: Thanks, Coral, for doing
19 the outreach to the villages with the Refuge. I saw
20 pictures of that and it looked like the kids were
21 having a blast. I do have a comment about the eagles
22 dying. I'm just curious if any of the carcasses got
23 sent to our National Eagle Repository. They can do an
24 autopsy and figure out why they died, but also our
25 Native brothers and sisters in the Lower 48 have a
26 great cultural need for the feathers and there's always
27 a shortage of feathers and there's a huge list of
28 tribal members looking for feathers.

29

30 Any time we have the ability to share,
31 I think that would be good.

32

33 Thanks.

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Robin collected birds.
36 I know last year when she collected they were out of
37 room to harbor them until they were sent off, but I
38 haven't heard a report back on what the results of the
39 testing was.

40

41 And just another note. When we did the
42 migratory bird, one of the students from the rural
43 village, first grade or kindergartner, made it into the
44 2018 Migratory Bird Calendar after our visit, so we're
45 proud of that.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any questions for
48 Coral.

49

50

1 Jonny.

2
3 MR. DYASUK: For the past three years
4 now I noticed after talking and visiting and all that
5 stuff and everything else, the Chignik people on that
6 area I didn't know that they migrate in wintertime to
7 Kodiak or Anchorage. They move up here. And then in
8 the spring they go down. I was informed that they only
9 hunt in the wintertime when the birds fatten up.

10
11 In fact, when I was there in December
12 they had just started to hunt and that's what I find
13 out. But they don't take a lot of birds though. The
14 birds seem to be all right. But when they go across to
15 the Port Heiden side, the birds were gone after by the
16 eagles. They were torn to pieces at end of the
17 airport. A young lady was kind of concerned about it
18 and sent me some photos. I didn't know the eagles go
19 after the Emperor geese in a pretty hard way. Those
20 eagles hunt better than the hunters themselves.

21
22 The villages in Port Heiden felt sorry
23 for the birds. They don't bother hunting them. Did
24 that happen pretty much in your region, the Chignik
25 people, which is Bristol Bay side? They moved to
26 Kodiak side and then go down in spring. They don't
27 hunt in between. Do they hunt Emperor geese in
28 between?

29
30 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm not sure. We do
31 have a large number of people from Chignik that live in
32 town. I'm going to say when they were younger they
33 probably went, but they're older now and kind of
34 because we're unable to hunt on our road system, their
35 families have not hunted, but I'm not sure about that.
36 I do know we do have a lot of Chignik people in town.

37
38 MR. DYASUK: The person that I was
39 talking with was an older man too. He would talk about
40 himself, that the people in Chignik side were changing.
41 They hardly hunt anymore, but they do hunt, but the
42 older people that before them used to hunt the Emperor
43 geese because it's moved down there. That particular
44 bird is in the Aleutian Chain all the time and goes up.
45 That's when we hunt them in my region.

46
47 People going back and forth between
48 Kodiak and Chignik areas, those three villages, also
49 Perryville. There was one person from Perryville that
50

1 was mentioned to me that they used to hunt them quite a
2 bit. But I noticed that Perryville people don't really
3 go up to Kodiak. Only three villages, Lake, Lagoon and
4 the Bay itself, those are the ones that go up to Kodiak
5 and I was kind of wondering about that.

6
7 But one thing that I noticed by talking
8 with people the eagles are the ones that actually hunt
9 more of the Emperor geese than natural hunter down
10 there. The village members in Port Heiden just left
11 them be. That's the one thing that I noticed because I
12 have a tendency to use technology sometimes. I record
13 people just so that if they doubt me, they can listen
14 to the old recording.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jonny.

17
18 Any other questions for Coral.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Coral.

23
24 Gloria.

25
26 MS. STICKWAN: We had a meeting, Copper
27 River Migratory Birds Committee meeting on March 19th.
28 We supported the proposals that affect -- that are
29 statewide proposals. We like the tribal card to do
30 that. We supported the fall/winter hunt too. We
31 believe it's customary and traditional to hunt in the
32 fall time and we should be able to continue that
33 practice.

34
35 We don't say anything about other
36 regions. We don't talk about those proposals, but we
37 heard -- Patty called in and explained the proposals to
38 us, so we heard about them. Our usual -- like
39 Jennifer, we don't make comments on other regions
40 proposals, but we do support.

41
42 We talked about having an educational
43 camp for migratory birds and we set up camp in August
44 of this year and we have a committee to work on it.
45 One of the concerns someone brought up was why do we
46 have to buy license. We should have our own tribal
47 license. Patty said maybe that's something we could
48 work on.

1 This elder said that somewhere in
2 Alaska they have their own tribal license. I think she
3 said Chickaloon. But I never heard of that. I don't
4 know of any place in the state of Alaska that has a
5 tribal license. I never heard of that. But she said
6 that she heard they do. So she doesn't think that we
7 should have to buy our license.

8
9 And then we heard an update on our
10 budget. Our budget was turned in in December. Reports
11 were done. I asked them if they saw any migratory
12 birds and nobody saw any migratory birds. The lakes
13 are starting to thaw out now, but Copper River was open
14 all winter. It's been like that for about 20 years
15 now. The river hasn't froze.

16
17 We used to freeze in December and we
18 used to be able to cross the river, but we can't do
19 that anymore to go over there and trap or travel on
20 snowmachine across the river. We can't do that
21 anymore, Copper River. So climate change is the same
22 as everywhere else. We seem to see less birds too.

23
24 That's my report.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
27 Gloria. Is there any questions for Gloria.

28
29 Jim.

30
31 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record,
32 Jim Simon with Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.
33 I just wanted to add on to something that Gloria said.
34 I understand the challenges this Federal administration
35 has in getting subsistence regulations passed both in
36 the Federal Subsistence Board and apparently also with
37 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council. So
38 we're hopeful that that goes -- kinks will get worked
39 out so that the regulations can -- so that people out
40 in rural Alaska can have a reasonable opportunity to
41 comply with subsistence regulations.

42
43 I'm disappointed that the 2018 book is
44 going to be refurbished, so I just want to make sure
45 it's on the record that the closure in the Copper River
46 region for those Copper Basin communities that are also
47 eligible to hunt in Unit 12 in the Interior region.

48
49 So I'm looking at Page 12 of the
50

1 Migratory Bird Handy Dandy. The closure is incorrect
2 on Page 12. It says that the Interior closure is June
3 1st through the 31st and then references Page 7. It's
4 actually Page 8. If you look on Page 8, the Interior
5 closure is June 15th through July 15th, not June 1
6 through July 31st. Unfortunately, for the past 16
7 years the Copper Basin region has had the perception
8 that they've had a month less spring and summer
9 migratory bird hunting than they actually have in the
10 books.

11

12 With Donna Dewhurst -- we did address
13 this at the Copper Basin Bird Commission meeting on
14 September 5th, but with Donna Dewhurst's retirement I
15 want to make sure that everyone is on -- that it's on
16 the record that the next iteration of these regulations
17 should be corrected to actually reflect those hunting
18 opportunities for the Copper Basin region and
19 residents.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jim,
24 for bringing that to our attention. That's a good
25 catch and we definitely will need to make sure that
26 those are in the 2020 print of the regulatory booklet.
27 One thing that we want to do is also redesign this
28 booklet so it is more friendly to the person reading
29 it. There was a committee that was formed to do that.
30 We just never had a chance to get together and do that.
31 Thank you for bringing those and we will make note of
32 that for the 2020 regulatory book.

33

34 Eric, did you have something?

35

36 DR. TAYLOR: I just want to reiterate
37 what Gayla said. Jim, thank you for bringing the error
38 to our attention. I apologize that a couple things
39 were incorrect. I do agree with Gayla. I think the
40 regulations book can be made more I think user
41 friendly. You are correct. With the retirement of
42 Donna Dewhurst on December 31st and combined with the
43 35-day furlough and then combined with a nearly
44 two-week time lapse relative to the earthquake where we
45 weren't allowed into the regional office. All these
46 things contributed to kind of upending the process from
47 the regulations, Federal Register notice to publication
48 of this booklet.

49

50

1 Nonetheless, this book should be
2 accurate and we'll make sure it is.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Priscilla.

7
8 MS. EVANS: I just want to say my name
9 is spelled wrong on there too, on the book.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Yeah, we
12 will make that note. Any other changes in the
13 regulatory booklet?

14
15 Debra.

16
17 MS. LYNNE: I don't know if Jim said
18 this, but it says Page 7 to reference Interior, but
19 it's really Page 8. I don't know if he said that.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: He did. Thank
22 you for that.

23
24 Kelly.

25
26 MS. KRUEGER: There is one other one.
27 On Page 16 for Yellow-Billed loons, it's the one that's
28 in red. It says Page 12. It's actually Page 10. And
29 then Coral's name needs to be updated on the front as
30 well for 2020.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: What page was
33 that?

34
35 MS. KRUEGER: So it's on Page 16,
36 Yellow-billed loon. It refers to regional regulations
37 on Page 12, but it's actually Page 10.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

40
41 Any questions for Gloria.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Peter's report.
46 Peter, do you have a report to give us?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Peter, are you on
2 the line?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: When he calls
7 back, if somebody could remind me to have him give his
8 regional report. We'll squeeze it in on the agenda.
9 Did you have something that you wanted to add, Karen?

10
11 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah, please have
12 Peter report. I just had a couple of things to catch
13 everybody up on. We no longer put a slash between
14 Aleutian and Pribilof either. We wanted to show our
15 unity a little while back.

16
17 APIA and AMBCC Executive Director and
18 our tribes continue to work together to try and get
19 together for a regional meeting, but our tribes have
20 not yet provided -- we're shooting for seven names so
21 we get at least 50 percent representation. Next week
22 is our APIA board of directors meeting, so we hope to
23 rectify that then.

24
25 Something that is of interest to this
26 body might be that CDC, ANTHC, the State of Alaska and
27 others just recently held a zoonotic prioritization
28 workshop and the top two issues that were brought up,
29 although maybe not considered traditional zoonotic
30 diseases were domoic acid and PSP together as one
31 concern and zoonotic influenza A, so avian and swine
32 influenza. I thought both of those might be of
33 interest to this body since they can both affect
34 migratory birds.

35
36 Any time we talk about contaminants or
37 diseases in traditional foods we always need to remind
38 everyone that when we look at our morbidity and
39 mortality statistics when we look at what Alaska
40 Natives die of, it is related to a Western diet and not
41 related to our traditional foods, which are healthy and
42 important to not only our well-being but our culture as
43 well.

44
45 Finally, PSP and other harmful algal
46 blooms continue to be a really big concern in our
47 region where fisheries primary for our economy and
48 that's a huge concern of our subsistence foods and
49 shellfish. But now evidence is starting to show us
50

1 finding PSP in forage fish and potentially even higher
2 in the food chain. So we want the biologists, we want
3 this body, everyone to be aware of the harmful algal
4 bloom threats that we're facing and to keep themselves
5 safe as well if they're consuming shellfish.

6
7 Then the impacts to the overall
8 ecosystem and the ability to provide the food necessary
9 for migratory birds. It's one of the big reasons that
10 Alaska I such a draw, is our incredible food resources
11 at times.

12
13 So those are some of the concerns that
14 are going on for our region.

15
16 I think that was Peter.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Karen.
19 Peter, I know you keep going on and off on the phone.
20 We are doing regional reports and Karen just gave us
21 some updates as well. Do you have a regional report
22 you'd like to share with us?

23
24 MR. DEVINE: It's just that it's kind
25 of hard to get a meeting together when -- you know,
26 this is the 43rd time I've called in and dropped
27 offline eight times in the last two hours.

28
29 We haven't had a regional management
30 body meeting, but one of the concerns in our region is
31 from the.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We must have lost
34 him. Courtenay and Melissa, are you guys still on the
35 line?

36
37 MS. CARTY: Yes, ma'am. This is
38 Courtenay and still here and able to hear.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. I know
41 that Peter said he was having problems with his phone
42 and his connection. We just wanted to make sure it
43 wasn't a line on this end. Melissa, are you still on?
44

45 (No response)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. When Peter
48 is able to call back in, we will break on our agenda
49 and allow him to give his regional report.
50

1 At this time thank you everybody for
2 the reports. It gives us a really good overview of
3 what's happening around the state of Alaska. Like I
4 said, I think this is one of the best parts of the
5 meeting.

6

7

 Go ahead, Jennifer.

8

9

10 MS. HOOPER: Sorry. Gloria reminded me
11 I did want to make a comment regarding our agreement
12 and our funding for WCC. I was contacted after the
13 shutdown by Donna who let us know that documents that
14 we had sent after a certain date needed to be
15 resubmitted and we got those into Cheryl and we have
16 not yet received our new contract agreement. I'm not
17 sure where the funds are, but I just wanted to let Eric
18 know.

18

19

20

 Then I forgot to mention for Ryan's
21 benefit, if you're not familiar yet with our region,
22 AVCP encompasses the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. There are
23 56 tribes. The majority of the Kuskokwim up to Lime
24 Village and then the Lower Yukon from the coast up to
25 Russian Mission. So we're a pretty big region.

25

26

 Thanks.

27

28

 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Gloria.

29

30

31

 MS. STICKWAN: Jennifer just reminded
32 me that we were told in our budget that we didn't get
33 2019 funds either and we turned our reports in too.

33

34

35

 MR. HARRIS: Madame Chair. Cyrus
36 Harris for the record. That was questionable for our
37 area also, but something worth looking into. I thought
38 they might have found it just the day before I came,
39 but I'm really unsure.

39

40

41

 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you. We're probably
42 jumping ahead a little bit. In your binders probably
43 somewhere, I'm not sure because it was a bit
44 discombobulated to try to get everything put in at the
45 last minute. I did ask Cheryl to produce the most
46 recent updates on AMBCC grants and cooperative
47 agreements and there's a table that should look like
48 this in your binder.

48

49

 At least according to our records and

50

1 perhaps something had just got in the mail and we
2 haven't received it yet, but per Cheryl awards for the
3 North Slope Borough, the Association of Village Council
4 Presidents and Kawerak are pending for receipt of
5 required documents.

6
7 I'll touch base with Cheryl. She's at
8 home today with a sick pup dog, but I'll touch base
9 with her by cell phone and make sure that this is
10 accurate and maybe we can get together and figure out
11 what's still missing to make sure those awards are
12 granted.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We don't have
15 that. Was that a pass out from -- yeah, we don't have
16 that handout.

17
18 DR. TAYLOR: I think you may want to
19 check -- it may have been attached to another document.
20 If not, I'll make sure a copy.....

21
22 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. It's attached to
23 the Technical Committee report for those of you that
24 got that yesterday.

25
26 DR. TAYLOR: There should be four pages
27 total about the budget.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: As we're going
30 through this, we have -- Liliana, you need to leave at
31 11:45. How long is your presentation?

32
33 MS. NAVES: That one is 13 minutes.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: So we might have
36 to move you to this afternoon possibly.

37
38 MS. NAVES: Yeah, that's possible.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So what
41 we'll do at this time is we have about four regions
42 here that have not received their funding and the
43 budget item is not on the agenda. I think if you are
44 ready to talk about this, Eric, we could do that now.

45
46 One thing that we should add under
47 reports is reports from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
48 and the State of Alaska of up and coming things or
49 things to be brought to our attention for future
50

1 meetings.

2

3 I'll turn it over to you, Eric.

4

5 One of the things when we had our
6 Native Caucus meeting yesterday, one of the questions
7 that came out of Native Caucus is whether or not
8 Donnas's position is going to be filled. Having nobody
9 in that position -- I mean we miss Donna. I'm sure you
10 do as well. Also with the coordination of everything
11 that she would work -- working alongside with Patty was
12 a great working relationship. So we had questions
13 about Donna's position.

14

15 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Eric Taylor with Fish and Wildlife Service. So I just
17 have a few things that I think might be interesting.
18 Gayla brought up the first. Donna Dewhurst retired on
19 December 31st.

20

21 Donna had kind of moved her retirement
22 over time and had kind of given me a couple of false
23 alarms, but then all of a sudden she checked with the
24 retirement folks in our Human Services and said this is
25 the ideal time. So I had, I guess, about a month's
26 notice before Donna retired.

27

28 As Gayla said, you never know how much
29 you miss someone until they're gone and then you
30 realize, wow, I didn't know she did that and I didn't
31 know we had to do that. Suffice to say I had to grin
32 when Gayla said that she was invaluable and indeed she
33 was.

34

35 Donna had been here since the inception
36 of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council and
37 has been a key figure working with Fred Armstrong very
38 early on and all the way through, as Gayla said, with
39 Patty Schwalenburg as the Executive Director.

40

41 We are in the process of filling that
42 position. I've asked Cheryl Graves, who is our budget
43 analyst assistant, to sit in for that at the present
44 time. Cheryl has significant experience in terms of
45 budgets, grants, agreements, as well as coming from
46 Bethel for about 10 years where she was the budget
47 analyst for Yukon Delta Refuge. So Cheryl has lived
48 and worked in rural Alaska, so has some pretty good
49 sensitivities about budgetary constraints,

50

1 communications, those sorts of things. In the
2 meantime, Cheryl is going to be filling in on that
3 position.

4
5 The other vacancy we had was Tim
6 Bowman. Tim was our Sea Duck Joint Venture Coordinator
7 and had been in that position since the beginning of
8 the Sea Duck Joint Venture. That joint venture is a
9 cooperative agreement between Canada and the United
10 States to look at conservation issues surrounding sea
11 ducks. Sea ducks, of course, are important as a
12 subsistence resource to probably all regions.

13
14 We have Tom Rothe. Probably many of
15 you remember Tom Rothe. He is the former Waterfowl
16 Coordinator. Worked before Jason and worked before Dan
17 Rosenberg, who I think was the original Waterfowl
18 Coordinator for the State of Alaska. So Tom is sitting
19 in on that position on an interim basis right now. We
20 hope to actually hire Tom as what's called a rehired
21 annuitant. When the time is right, I'll have Tom give
22 an update on the Sea Duck Joint Venture.

23
24 In terms of issues that my agency is
25 involved with in a big way is everyone knows that the
26 Arctic Refuge was opened for oil and gas leasing and
27 possible development and production. That
28 environmental review process is a very fast one.
29 Normally these sort of things take probably two years.
30 The Department of Interior has accelerated those sorts
31 of reviews, environmental impact statements, to a
32 one-year time period.

33
34 So all of the programs in Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, not only at the Refuge system but
36 migratory birds, endangered species, are Office of
37 Subsistence Management. Our fisheries offices have
38 almost in some ways removed people from their normal
39 duties and assigned them to work on this environmental
40 impact statement. So that has taken a significant
41 amount of time.

42
43 The other major proposed project that
44 all of you are aware of is the Pebble Mine. That
45 project, of course, has potential significant impacts
46 with fisheries in Bristol Bay as well as impacts to
47 other resources, including migratory birds.

48
49 Another process that's very
50

1 accelerated, if I remember correctly, there was a
2 request for an extension for comment period which the
3 Corps of Engineers has decided it was not necessary, so
4 we're in the process of submitting comments on
5 potential impacts of that project to all the migratory
6 bird resources that occur not only in Bristol Bay but
7 along the proposed mine, the roads, gravel extraction
8 associated with it. Any sort of impact to loss or
9 degradation of habitat we're providing comments on.

10

11 Finally, you're probably aware that the
12 Department of Interior is going through a
13 reorganization process that was started by former
14 Secretary Zinke. That process is likely to continue.
15 It's kind of on a hiatus at the time with the current
16 Secretary going through the approval process through
17 Congress. We do expect that to continue.

18

19 Alaska will probably maintain business
20 as usual. The region that is identified by the
21 Department of Interior is only Alaska. The rest of the
22 United States is going to be comprised very
23 differently. The Fish and Wildlife Service, National
24 Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of
25 Indian Affairs, all of those Bureaus will again be
26 working just like we have now, so it would be status
27 quo. There will be some reorganization in terms of
28 leadership, but that's still off in the future.

29

30 Budget.

31

32 Everyone was always very curious on the
33 budget, particularly supervisors like myself that have
34 a crew of people and projects that -- for example, the
35 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council expects us
36 to conduct the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Breeding Pair
37 Survey from Jennifer's region and Bryan Daniel's region
38 that is used to estimate the numbers of Cacklers, the
39 numbers of Emperor geese.

40

41 So in terms of budget we expected -- we
42 have not -- even though we're well into the fiscal
43 year, the fiscal year starts October 1st. We do not
44 have a budget at this point. We're on a continuing
45 resolution. The rumor on the street from my Assistant
46 Director in headquarters is that it will be flat. We
47 do not expect a significant decline. We also do not
48 expect an increase.

49

50

1 With that you have costs go up on a
2 yearly basis whether it's fuel or whether it's salaries
3 or space cost. So really a flat budget is a declining
4 budget in all reality. It's something that we try to
5 build into our program. I have a very productive crew
6 that works for Migratory Bird Management that goes out
7 and seeks to get what we call external funds or soft
8 money through other agencies like the Department of
9 Defense or the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

10
11 We actually use those external dollars
12 to balance our budget. The allocation that we have
13 actually results in a negative budget, so we're
14 dependent upon people like Julian and others to seek
15 cooperative agreements with Department of Defense or
16 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or National Park
17 Service to provide supplemental funds.

18
19 So, with that, I'll be happy to address
20 any questions from the Council or others.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Eric.
23 We're happy that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was a
24 cooperating agent during the scoping period with our
25 area with the Pebble Mine. You mentioned the Arctic
26 Refuge as well.

27
28 I have a question in regards to Donlin.
29 Did you guys provide comments for the draft EIS for
30 Donlin? And especially with dam tailing failures all
31 the birds are going on the nesting grounds in the Y-K
32 Delta Region. I mean that's a concern for all of us
33 here in the state of Alaska.

34
35 DR. TAYLOR: We did provide comments on
36 the Donlin Mine. That's actually one of the objectives
37 of our program. When our employees have been sitting
38 down over the past almost two years now we are
39 reviewing what are the objectives of our program and
40 one of the five that we identified was what we called
41 threat research. Something like a proposed development
42 we consider a potential threat to migratory birds.

43
44 So cooperating with another division in
45 the Fish and Wildlife Service, in this case our
46 Ecological Services branch, has the lead on providing
47 comments to the cooperating agency or the agency that's
48 in charge of a project. We provide our comments to
49 Ecological Services and they're incorporated in the
50

1 overall Fish and Wildlife Service letter and then
2 that's sent in.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
5 If I could just talk about the process in regards to
6 Pebble Mine. That's our region in Bristol Bay. BBNA
7 has a resolution opposing the mine. So are your
8 comments all in the how many thousand pages draft EIS
9 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the impact of migratory
10 birds?

11
12 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good question,
13 Gayla. We are reviewing a draft EIS. I have
14 representatives from our waterfowl, shorebird, seabird,
15 land bird and raptor sections, one person at least in
16 all those sections, reviewing that draft EIS to look at
17 if our comments were incorporated in the most current
18 version and if they were not, then we iterate our
19 concerns.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

22
23 Any questions for Eric.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
28 Eric. Did you have anything you wanted to say, Ryan?
29 I'm putting you on the spot. I don't know if you
30 wanted to share anything.

31
32 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
33 can provide a quick division update if that would be
34 interesting or useful, I guess.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead.

37
38 MR. SCOTT: Thank you again. For the
39 record, my name is Ryan Scott. I work for the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game. I will be brief for sure,
41 but I'll hit many of the other things that have been
42 said around the table this morning.

43
44 First, I'll just touch briefly on the
45 budget because we don't have one yet and we don't know
46 what it's going to be. Coming up for FY 2020 we're in
47 the process. It's certainly being scrutinized heavily.
48 At present we will receive funding at a lower level
49 than we've had.

50

1 As many people here are aware, our
2 division is heavily funded by Federal dollars. The
3 Pittman-Robertson Act and the excise taxes that are
4 provided through that and that amount of money has
5 ground-swelled over the last several years. However,
6 it does appear to be tapering off.

7
8 That's not necessarily the impacts
9 we're feeling right now, but in the future we
10 anticipate that those Federal funds that we match with
11 Fish and Game general fund dollars, things like that,
12 those will be declining. Primarily it's the general
13 fund dollars that are being reduced throughout State
14 government and the Division of Wildlife Conservation is
15 no exception to that as well.

16
17 Those changes will likely impact
18 special areas in refuges, some of the programs that
19 we're unable to use Fish and Game Fund, hunter,
20 trapper, fisher dollars to make those matches.

21
22 Staffing. We're very fortunate. We
23 aren't going through a tidal wave of retirements, which
24 seems to come every year or two where we lose folks
25 that have been with us, similar to what I've heard here
26 this morning, where you have long-term participants on
27 the Council in various regions that have contributed
28 greatly. We experience the same thing. Folks move on
29 and they've earned it.

30
31 Fortunately right now we're pretty
32 stable. We do have a couple on the horizon. Our
33 Regional Supervisor here in Southcentral, Howard
34 Golden, he'll be retiring in about two weeks. We've
35 replaced him with a woman named Cindy Wardlow. She's
36 been with the Division for a long time. I would
37 highlight that they just finished both of their initial
38 forays into the Board of Game process and both did very
39 well. So good luck to Howard and welcome Cindy as
40 well.

41
42 Neil Barton, a very long-time area
43 biologist from Southeast, my neck of the woods, now out
44 in the Dillingham area, he'll be retiring as well. I
45 am happy to say though I understand he's coming back to
46 Juneau, so I'm going to be happy to see him when he
47 gets there. Then a few other retirements, but pretty
48 slow on that front right now.

49
50

1 A couple other things that I would just
2 reiterate again, things that we've heard. Changes in
3 the weather impact us as well. All over the state
4 we're hearing the same concerns and we have the same
5 questions. One of them for us is how do we adapt our
6 management approaches to the changing weather.

7
8 I'm not speaking particularly the
9 seasons, bag limits, things like that, but as you are
10 well aware we get in airplanes or helicopters and we
11 fly around and we count moose, caribou and bears,
12 whatever it might be. Oftentimes we use snow to our
13 advantage and use that as a background to get some of
14 that work done and it's just not there in a lot of
15 cases these times.

16
17 So we have several projects
18 investigating new methodology for moose surveys,
19 caribou surveys. Not so much the photo census work
20 that occurs in the summer, but composition counts and
21 things like that and trying to understand how are we
22 going to adapt so we can provide the best data possible
23 for everybody in the state of Alaska.

24
25 A couple projects that I think folks
26 touched on from the Bethel area. There is a
27 cooperative ptarmigan project that will be starting
28 with Fish and Game and the Refuge out there. Another
29 cooperative project will be looking at Alaskan hares.
30 Over the years people in Southwestern Alaska primarily
31 have reported having more difficulty not only
32 harvesting the animals but also finding the animals.
33 Sometimes they're referred to affectionately as giant
34 bunnies. So we're going to start a cooperative project
35 out there looking at that and trying to understand what
36 the dynamics are with that population.

37
38 Our Waterfowl Program, Jason will be
39 joining us throughout the meeting. They have a project
40 beginning telemetry project in Yakutat Bay. As I
41 understand it, the crews are on the ground now looking
42 for scoter rafts and they'll be doing capture
43 operations and implanting telemetry tags in those birds
44 and tracking movements and trying to figure out where
45 these different populations of seabirds go.

46
47 Arctic terns have been a big topic
48 already yesterday afternoon. We have a couple
49 different projects concerning Arctic terns. One out in
50

1 the Dillingham area in addition along the Yakutat
2 Forelands. There's a couple different things happening
3 there.

4
5 One is to identify colony and nesting
6 locations, but also be able to go back each year to
7 those areas. As we've already discussed, those birds
8 like to move around. They don't have a high site
9 fidelity oftentimes to the nesting areas. With small
10 transmitters we're able to actually find those birds
11 again. They can catch back up with actually
12 enumerating the abundance of the different colonies in
13 some of those areas. So that's ongoing and that will
14 be going for quite a while as well.

15
16 I think that's about it. I wanted to
17 express my thanks for being welcomed here. I've
18 learned a ton already and I've been around for about
19 15, 16 hours. I'm getting a lot -- somebody said
20 drinking from a fire hose yesterday. After I walked
21 out I was like, yeah, she was right. So thank you
22 everybody for coming and I appreciate the process and
23 I'm looking forward to the remainder of the time.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Ryan.

26
27 Is there any questions for Ryan.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. I think
32 that is a good regional perspective and then also from
33 U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the State of Alaska.

34
35 The time is 11:45 and I would just say
36 that we go to lunch now and we could be back by 1:00
37 o'clock. Does that sound like enough time for
38 everybody?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Have a
43 good lunch, everybody. See you back here at 1:00.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,

50

1 everybody, for returning after lunch. The time is 1:24
2 and we're going to carry on with our agenda. I just
3 want to give this opportunity for any public or if
4 anybody has any public comments at this time before we
5 go with Liliana's presentation.

6
7 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

10
11 MS. CARTY: This is Courtenay. I guess
12 I would pause in case there's any public comments in
13 the room.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead,
16 Courtenay.

17
18 MS. CARTY: Good afternoon. This is
19 Courtenay Carty. I'm the tribal administrator at
20 Curyung Tribal Council and I have with me Renee Roque.
21 She's our environmental coordinator. This is her first
22 ever, I guess, any type of regulatory meeting.

23
24 We're in the process at our tribe of
25 developing a natural resources department. Renee
26 primarily works through the IGAP program through EPA,
27 but one of our goals and outcomes is to develop a
28 department. So a way of doing that is -- you know, the
29 Councils get stuff from the State and the Feds through
30 all our different management systems that regulate our
31 harvest. Stuff comes across our desk every day.

32
33 So part of how we're going to go about
34 starting our own tribal natural resources department is
35 all the stuff that goes over my desk is going to start
36 going over to Renee's desk and I'll be roping her in
37 throughout all of our different regulatory processes
38 and public processes that manage our resources.

39
40 With that, I'll just be brief and
41 comment on regulatory proposals, at least 1, 2 and 7,
42 maybe some more. Thanks.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

45
46 Any other public comments.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay, Lili.

2

3 MS. NAVES: Thank you, Mrs. Chair. I
4 will largely follow along the one-page update that is
5 behind Tab 3. At every AMBCC meeting there is this
6 one-pager with the work recently completed and ongoing
7 and upcoming work for the Harvest Assessment Program.

8

9 Starting from the top we completed the
10 2017 final report that got distributed this meeting.
11 This one here you got yesterday. We also recently
12 completed the expanded version of our data book. This
13 is part of kind of making the data more accessible and
14 easy to use. The first version of the data book had
15 one table per page per species. The expanded version
16 now has one table per birds but also has the egg
17 harvest.

18

19 The second part of the report we added
20 time series graphs of four to five regions that are now
21 regularly surveyed and for which you have more data
22 too. For the Y-K Delta those time series included the
23 Goose Management Survey back to the early '80s and for
24 the Bristol Bay area back to the mid-'90s.

25

26 If you find anything that doesn't look
27 right there or that can be done differently in the
28 future, let me know and we'll keep working on getting
29 this in better shape every time we do it. This goes
30 together with the data book of the harvest information
31 program, the other survey that tracks harvest for the
32 fall sport hunt. I coordinated with Todd Sanders in
33 this, our data book, and now it's also available at the
34 Pacific Flyway Council website.

35

36 Last year we migrated the website of
37 the harvest assessment program from the Fish and
38 Wildlife Service website to the Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game website. Now it's hosted under the page
40 of the Division of Subsistence. This had to do with
41 the changes that are coming to the website of Fish and
42 Wildlife Service. Also it allows us more flexibility
43 on how to design and update our web page. So it's now
44 recently updated and we keep doing fine-tuning for it.

45

46

47 You can Google AMBCC harvest survey and
48 you'll find it through the Fish and Game web page. We
49 are also working on options to make it more -- when you

50

1 do a Google search for it to appear towards more the
2 top of your search so it's easier to find.

3
4 We completed last year a round of
5 revision and update of the summary of survey results
6 for the five regions that are surveyed more often.
7 Those are shared with the regions. This is how you
8 presented the survey data in a handy, easy way to the
9 households. So those are available to the original
10 partners, the original refuges. Every time that a
11 surveyor knock on the door to invite a household to
12 participate in the survey, this is offered to the
13 households too, so it's the most direct way of bringing
14 the data directly to the subsistence users.

15
16 A brief update on our budget. So about
17 four years ago our program got cut. A cut of more than
18 50 percent on funding. At that time Fish and Game
19 stepped in. So right now our program is funded with
20 100,000 annually provided by Fish and Wildlife Service
21 to a comparative agreement and 80,000 annually provided
22 by the Division of Wildlife Conservation of the Alaska
23 Department of Fish and Game. This didn't made the cut
24 that we got at that point in time and it has been flat
25 since a while.

26
27 So at this point that level funding
28 does not cover anymore all the functions that you
29 perform with the survey program. So more and more the
30 Division of Subsistence is stepping up and filling in.
31 Also we have had to work with grants. So this is our
32 reality right now. So on an annual basis we are short
33 \$20-30,000 per year and we're coming up with the funds
34 to cover that. Just so you're aware of our budget
35 situation there. We're far from a comfortable place.

36
37 Going on to ongoing and upcoming work.
38 The 2018 survey data collection got delayed because of
39 the Federal shutdown. Some partners are now completing
40 data collection and the draft results are going to be
41 available for the regional councils of the AMBCC and
42 other partners before the AMBCC fall meeting and before
43 the partners meet in fall so we can keep up with our
44 regular schedule for adoption of the annual survey in
45 the fall meeting of the AMBCC. So we are going to
46 catch up along the year and be following our time
47 schedule again in the fall.

48
49 Last year we talked that for the 2019
50

1 survey would be a last year that we'd try to get the
2 Colorado State University on board again to do one more
3 final round of the analysis that has been fine-tuning
4 the sample design of the survey or how the sampling
5 effort is distributed among regions and among places
6 within a region. So we need to touch bases about that
7 with the Fish and Wildlife Service of how that's going
8 to happen, if that's going to happen. Their contract
9 ended last year, so this is something for us to work
10 on.

11
12 The paper on shorebird harvest and
13 indigenous knowledge is in press now in the journal.
14 There are copies of the in press version there. This
15 is in addition to the complete report that was provided
16 to the participating communities and also to the
17 four-page summaries that were provided in Cental Yup'ik
18 and English.

19
20 I made a presentation about that at the
21 AMBCC, but since the fall meeting I have made this
22 13-minute presentation at different opportunities. For
23 instance the meeting of the Yup'ik Seminar, at the U.S.
24 Geological Survey, at the Alaska Bird Conference and
25 more recently last week under invitation at the meeting
26 of the Arctic Research Commission. If you have time
27 during this meeting later on the agenda I can show
28 again this 13-minute presentation because I think it's
29 nice for you to see how I have been presenting results
30 related to the AMBCC to other audiences.

31
32 I got involved with the organization of
33 the American Ornithological Society that's going to
34 take place this year in Anchorage. I got involved with
35 this specifically with the task of including Alaska
36 Native topics in the meeting program. I have been
37 working with the organization committee. We thought
38 about including this in a very organic way in just how
39 meetings are organized in general.

40
41 So we thought about having some
42 presentations about projects. Then this evolved into a
43 broader symposium. So we're hosting a symposium on
44 human dimensions of bird research and conservation and
45 we tagged this symposium with the presentation that
46 Patty Schwalenberg is going to give at the AOS meeting.
47 Patty is giving a plenary talk and at the same day
48 we're going to have this full day symposium.

49
50

1 We got to coordinate with the lead
2 people in the Lower 48 that work with human dimensions
3 and we've got lots of submissions to the symposium.
4 They're real excited how this looks like. So this page
5 here has a summary with a table. This is a summary of
6 the titles of the presentations that are going to
7 happen in this summary.

8
9 The Alaska-related ones are more on the
10 last two-thirds there. For instance we have William
11 Naneng and Ryan Maroney presenting on the trail at
12 Hooper Bay with other folks from Hooper Bay. Crystal
13 Leonetti is going to give a presentation on the
14 cross-cultural considerations in the wildlife
15 management conservation.

16
17 A group of people, including me, and
18 we're hoping that Chris Tulik is going to be the person
19 that's going to do this presentation at the meeting.
20 We're going to talk about the harvest assessment
21 program. Jackie is going to give a presentation about
22 the shorebird project. Craig Ely from USGS is going to
23 give a presentation on their work in Old Chevak where
24 they worked with the youth in the community for years
25 for banding geese in that area.

26
27 We keep coordinating with Patty to make
28 sure that what we're planning to do works well with
29 what she's planning for the plenary. It has been a
30 great opportunity to work on this.

31
32 We've got kind of grandiose dreams in
33 there and we're kind of trying to get Pamyua to play at
34 the closing event, but they are really expensive. I
35 didn't know how expensive they are when we started
36 talking with their agent. So I think that we're trying
37 to get sponsors, but it would be so wonderful if they
38 can play at the closing event. In talking with their
39 agent we're trying to see if they could focus on bird
40 songs, but we have a gap in the budget yet before that
41 may happen.

42
43 One last thing I'd like to talk is at
44 the YKC meeting last week one of the regional
45 representatives asked about a mailing list to
46 distribute results from the survey program. I said,
47 oh, maybe should have a mailing list. So we have this
48 contact information sheet on the back table and you can
49 circle too if you want to be on the mailing list to
50

1 receive updates about the harvest assessment program
2 work and products. Please put your name there. We are
3 working on getting this mailing list set up.
4

5 I'd also like to recognize Jackie
6 Keating that has been helping me in this last year.
7 Until Jackie came on board last year it was only me to
8 do the work related to the survey and I had one person
9 to help one month a year and it's really difficult to
10 make that work when there is the big push. So part of
11 our efforts too have been to kind of getting Jackie's
12 position funded and to have her helping work with us.
13 You can see that her contributions really show up on
14 how much more you can do, so I'm really grateful that
15 she's on board.
16

17 One last thing. I mentioned yesterday
18 about the pilot study on terns in local ecological
19 knowledge. So this is the study that I'm talking about
20 and I will leave the report there on the back table.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Lili.
25 That was a lot of information, so I hope that I can
26 remember the questions I wanted to ask. In this
27 booklet you reference something about the -- are you
28 guys doing surveys during the fall and winter hunts?
29 And did you say that that information is incorporated
30 into this booklet or is this just spring and summer?
31

32 MS. NAVES: The AMBCC survey covers all
33 seasons. For the Bristol Bay area we even cover winter
34 harvest because of the Peninsula villages. So since
35 the beginning the understanding of the AMBCC is that to
36 fully document the uses of birds that the survey should
37 cover the whole annual cycle of activities. Also that
38 the survey should document the harvest of grouse and
39 ptarmigan. So our survey covers annual harvest in all
40 regions and all areas that are eligible to participate
41 in the subsistence harvest.
42

43 The other survey that has the other
44 data book covers fall harvest only nationwide. There
45 is one component in that survey that covers Alaska. So
46 far Alaska, because of low compliance with the State
47 Duck Stamp in the rural areas, that survey doesn't
48 fully document fall harvest in the rural areas. So for
49 harvest in the rural areas we follow I think that AMBCC
50

1 documents it much better.

2

3 So this data book has all seasons.
4 It's annual harvest. All as in the AMBCC survey.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: For all regions?
7 Okay. So that's good for us to know that this isn't
8 just spring and summer. That this is an annual harvest
9 report in this booklet.

10

11 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

14

15 MS. NAVES: And this is a summary.
16 It's just to have a Handy Dandy at the meeting. For
17 instance, if you quick need to look what is the harvest
18 of Brant, you go there to the Brant and you see on one
19 page all the harvest that's available for it. So if
20 people want details on harvest by seasons or confidence
21 intervals or things like that, it's the annual reports.

22

23 The annual reports are all available
24 online on the web page. If we want hard copies of
25 this, just send me an email or get your name there on
26 the mailing list and we'll be happy to provide extra
27 copies and such. We don't keep extra copies from the
28 past and every year we only print so many of those.

29

30 For this one here we made a big
31 printing order. Before your fall regional meetings
32 please let me know because I already ordered printed
33 copies to send to all your regional bird councils, so
34 let's coordinate for that so that can be shipped in
35 advance to your meeting.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. The second
38 thing is actually you have it pulled up. In the
39 discussion of surveys, and I think for the -- we have
40 the Harvest Survey Committee and maybe we should have a
41 teleconference sometime in the near future of those who
42 serve on that committee.

43

44 Currently right now we have -- well,
45 Mike Peterson, he'll need to -- maybe, Taqulik, you can
46 sit in for him or Todd. Eric Taylor, Taqulik you're
47 already on there, Jennifer Hooper, Brandon, Cyrus, Jim
48 Fall, Vince Mathews, myself, Liliana, Jason Chamber,
49 Chuck Frost and Randy Mayo. Who was the chair of that?

50

1 Oh, it was Mike.

2

3

4 MS. NAVES: Mike. Thank you for
5 bringing the Harvest Survey Committee because I'd like
6 to thank Mike for all his years of service as chair of
7 the Harvest Survey Committee. He really provided lots
8 of leadership and guidance in our committee. I
9 especially appreciated his willingness of working
10 together and kind of getting things together among all
11 the different partners. So we're going to miss him and
12 we need to name a new chair for the committee.

13

14

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MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any volunteers to
be the new chair until we can call a teleconference?

MS. NAVES: Can I suggest a chair if
that's acceptable?

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yourself? You're
volunteering?

(Laughter)

MS. NAVES: I would like to ask or
suggest if Jennifer Hooper could be our next chair. I
know that she's already super busy with other things,
but she does a wonderful job with the Waterfowl
Conservation Committee in the Y-K Delta and the Y-K
Delta is a big part of the survey and of the harvest.
So we have been trying to get more representation of
the Y-K Delta in the Harvest Survey Committee. I think
you already had decided that Chris Tulik sit at the
committee, but I'm not sure that he's listed there. Is
he, Chris Tulik?

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: He was not.

MS. NAVES: But I think you already had
decided on that before, so I don't know if that fell
through the cracks. Because he coordinates the survey
for the Y-K Delta. Our of 50 communities that we
survey every year, about half of those communities are
in the Y-K Delta. Maybe can work with Jennifer in the
break.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Maybe I'd
nominate Liliana to be the new chair. Jennifer I think

1 is -- I mean back at home doing what we do our plates
2 are pretty full. I'm sure yours are too, but adding
3 another -- I know that the hardest thing is gathering
4 everybody together to see who's available. We do need
5 to have a Harvest Survey Committee meeting. I guess
6 maybe we could call for a meeting and then at that
7 meeting we could elect a new chair, but would you be
8 able to pull that meeting together, Liliana?

9

10 MS. NAVES: You mean be the acting?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yeah, acting
13 chair, and see when we're all available here in the
14 next -- maybe in May.

15

16 MS. NAVES: Uh-huh (affirmative).

17

18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. Any
19 questions for Liliana with the information she shared.
20 Eric.

21

22 DR. TAYLOR: Just to thank you,
23 Liliana. I'd just remind folks the conference that
24 Liliana pulled together, this one-day symposium on
25 human dimensions, it's the largest ornithological
26 conference in North America. The AOS meeting is the
27 largest venue where biologists and researchers come
28 together and we're lucky enough to have it in
29 Anchorage. I want to say maybe Dan or somebody else
30 can refresh my memory, but I think this is the first
31 time the conference has been held here.

32

33 So it's really wonderful that Liliana
34 has gone to the effort to develop a symposium and
35 develop a list of papers that people from all across
36 the world will actually get to see. So no small task,
37 so thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Anything else.

40

41 Go ahead.

42

43 MS. HEPA: Liliana, can you just
44 explain to me -- I was looking at your confidence
45 interval P. What exactly does that mean? CIP.

46

47 MS. NAVES: That's confidence interval
48 percentile. A simplified way of putting it is that
49 there is 95 percent of chance that the actual harvest

50

1 is within that band, that percentile band around the
2 estimates. So for instance for some species that are
3 harvesting larger numbers and more often, the
4 confidence interval is narrow. For species that are
5 not harvested often on a small number, the confidence
6 intervals are wider.

7
8 So let's say that the harvest estimate
9 is 1,000 birds and the confidence interval is 80
10 percent, so this can be 1,000 or 80 percent of 1,000,
11 it will be between 1,000 and -- 1,000 or 80 percent of
12 that and on the other side, on the negative side.

13
14 MS. HEPA: So my question, like in the
15 report you did for 2017, if you look at Page 27, the
16 percent of confidence interval for harvest for the
17 North Slope is like 173, 125 percent. So how effective
18 and how meaningful are these numbers? Because that's a
19 pretty huge number. So what does it mean, you know?

20
21 MS. NAVES: This means that there's not
22 much of a certainty on that estimate. So when
23 confidence intervals become larger than 100 percent, we
24 report -- well, now we don't show anymore -- before, in
25 the report, we had the estimated number. The low side
26 of the confidence interval and the high side of the
27 confidence interval. Now we just show the percent.

28
29 But what we did in the past is that the
30 low side would be the actual number of reported birds
31 and the high side would be the estimate. Let's see, if
32 it's for Teal, the high side would be 20 plus 190
33 percent of 20. You see that when it's -- we were
34 talking about a very -- for Teal, that is 190 percent.
35 The total harvest estimate is 20 birds. So even if we
36 are going 190 percent on top of that is still a small
37 number of birds.

38
39 But that is -- I mean it comes out from
40 the calculation. I cannot do anything to make it
41 better or worse.

42
43 MS. HEPA: I wanted to bring that up
44 because when we reviewed and approved this, we did
45 write a letter of the concerns that were brought up
46 from our Fish and Game Management Committee. We'll be
47 watching this. Just how useful is this information if
48 the confidence intervals are so big?

49
50

1 On the second to the last page is our
2 letter just kind of summarizing some of those concerns.
3 So we'll be watching. You know, we just completed the
4 survey on the North Slope and again timing of receiving
5 the funding and the training became an issue. When we
6 were ready to begin, we were asked to stop. Then, when
7 we were asked to start again, the people that were
8 trained some of them weren't available, so we had to
9 scramble. We asked for an extension and we didn't know
10 if we could get an extension because people might not
11 remember.

12
13 So we need to really take a timeout and
14 ask ourselves what are we actually doing here because I
15 have a feeling this is going to become a pattern with
16 the funding, the training, when we can start, when we
17 can stop. Not just that. Like the guy from Point Hope
18 he brought up how can you get a good estimate with only
19 doing an X amount of households. He didn't feel really
20 confident with those numbers.

21
22 I know that we did some modeling with
23 the Colorado State University. But at some point we
24 have to ask ourselves is it really worth the money and
25 are we getting good, reliable information to help us
26 better manage these birds. That's a question. I just
27 wanted to point that out that we have some concerns.
28 They're listed here. And we'll continue to monitor
29 should we actually participate or not.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. NAVES: So going back to the
34 objectives of the survey, the distribution of the
35 sampling effort was designed to generate estimates at
36 the State level for the species that are commonly
37 harvested. So the objective was that the confidence
38 interval will be around 50 percent for estimates at the
39 statewide level for this group of 20 or so species that
40 are considered as commonly harvested.

41
42 Every time that we go to a finer scale
43 than the State level or those species that are
44 harvesting smaller numbers, the confidence interval is
45 not going to be as good as the scale that the survey
46 was designed to operate.

47
48 At Page 19.....

49
50

1 MS. HEPA: I understand that. So just
2 for people's information I just want them to know that
3 this survey method is based on getting a statewide
4 estimate for the entire state. So when we break it
5 down by region, again there's going to be some pretty
6 big discrepancies of what we see.

7
8 That's why when people look at this,
9 they have to understand what level of detail are we
10 actually working for to meet the objectives of our
11 project and is it helpful for management or not because
12 we actually -- every region is so different. We hunt
13 different birds. Other birds are more important to
14 different people in different regions. So it's a
15 different story.

16
17 So how do we make use of this
18 information for management purposes if we're doing this
19 to help better manage the resources. At the end of the
20 day you ask yourself how is this actually helping us.
21 Maybe it's not and to me I feel like we're just being
22 cumbersome asking these communities for information
23 that maybe really isn't relevant or useful.

24
25 Like I said, we'll just monitor how
26 we're using this in the next couple years.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
31 bringing that up. I think that's why it's really
32 important for us to have a Harvest Survey Committee to
33 further talk about this. Being on this committee for a
34 number of years and when Myron Naneng was here and just
35 lately the last couple days his words have been echoing
36 through my head, why are we being surveyed to death.
37 Especially when we have populations that are not a
38 species of concern and why are we surveying ourselves
39 for this information.

40
41 So I think that that would be really
42 good to have a Harvest Survey Committee talk about
43 things. You mentioned the Colorado University about if
44 this is going to continue and Eric's on that committee
45 and we could have a further discussion about it and
46 maybe see where we are to go from here. Thank you for
47 bringing that up.

48
49 I think that's really important

50

1 especially when you look at some of the villages and
2 how -- and getting the surveys. And then making sure
3 that we have resolutions to go into the villages to get
4 the surveys has been quite difficult I think on getting
5 those resolutions for villages to participate.

6
7 And then some of those villages might
8 not be high-harvesting villages. Like in our region if
9 you don't have Togiak, for instance, included in the
10 harvest surveys every year, then the numbers are
11 probably going to be skewed for our region as well.

12
13 MS. NAVES: With all surveys we are not
14 expecting to depict reality exactly as it is. There's
15 lots of trade-offs that are made with surveys. We're
16 talking about surveying a whole lot of villages.
17 Alaska is huge and to get a sample that's meaningful at
18 the State level is just a tremendous effort.

19
20 We don't have a registration system or
21 something like that that would allow us to do the
22 survey differently. So that's a challenge that we deal
23 with. One thing about the management, people are
24 thinking about the population level. So it's for that
25 that there is the interest and the priority of doing a
26 survey that can depict Alaska harvest at the statewide
27 level because the interest is to consider the
28 Alaska-wide estimates together with estimates for the
29 Lower 48 to figure out how the big picture is working
30 together.

31
32 For instance we work with Todd to get
33 our data book into the Pacific Flyway Council.
34 Ultimately the management of harvest is at the
35 population level. So it's for that's difficult to
36 reconcile or how to weigh the costs and benefits of
37 having harvest estimates that depict how things are
38 working at the region level or at the statewide level.
39 There is no money and the staff available in the world
40 to do that at a fine scale that would fulfill both ends
41 of the spectrum of providing the detail at the
42 subregional and regional level and the Alaska-wide
43 level.

44
45 So we have to keep in mind that the
46 survey is a picture, is a pixilated picture of what's
47 going on. The intent of having the time series graphs
48 is to look at all years at once. In all surveys we
49 cannot look at the individual years alone. That is
50

1 just a snapshot.

2

3 This is the same thing for population
4 surveys. You look at the whole time series together
5 because one year the birds could be migrating early,
6 could be migrating late or some other thing interfere
7 with how the counts are done. So we look at the whole
8 time series. This is where we get the post of what's
9 going on.

10

11 When you do, for instance, studies as
12 we did the seabird study and the shorebird study that
13 we are completing now, we lump all years together and
14 then we don't only use the AMBCC data, we also tap into
15 the Community Subsistence Information System. That's
16 the database that compiles data collected by the
17 Division of Subsistence.

18

19 Also we use the surveys done by the
20 North Slope by Kawerak that are available reports and
21 you put everything together and that is how we
22 calculate these estimates that are a much more
23 realistic representation of what's going on.

24

25 So don't worry about individual years.
26 We need to look at everything together and from one
27 year to another it's going to vary and that is just how
28 it is.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. I know
31 that we need to keep going and I think that we could
32 really have continued conversation and we need to have
33 a committee meeting. So if you want we could schedule
34 something for May.

35

36 Jim.

37

38 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Jim Simon for
39 the record representing Ahtna Intertribal Resource
40 Commission and Tanana Chiefs Conference. I really
41 appreciated Taqulik's questions about that. For the
42 record, I used to work for the Department of Fish and
43 Game, Division of Subsistence, and used to serve on
44 your Technical Committee from like 2003 through 2007,
45 2008, somewhere around in there.

46

47 Some of these questions have been
48 around for a long time. From my point of view --
49 again, not having really been involved in your process

50

1 for a decade -- my understanding with this unit of
2 analysis of the whole state was because of the protocol
3 amendments in '96 required that there would be no
4 increasing level of harvest.

5
6 In looking at information of the
7 spring/summer and other AMBCC-monitored harvest for
8 Alaska relative to the overall migratory bird harvest
9 that Dr. Naves provided to the Southcentral Board of
10 Game meeting, it seems to me that the data that you've
11 collected throughout the past however many years, close
12 to 20 years, demonstrates a really small overall
13 portion of the total harvest is happening by
14 subsistence users and tribes in Alaska. It's really
15 sport hunting Outside and elsewhere, in Alaska sports
16 hunting. That is really the large harvest levels if I
17 understood the information I saw a couple weeks ago.

18
19 So, from my point of view, the State
20 perspective of coming up with statewide annual harvest
21 estimates is to be able to make sure that there's not
22 this increasing trend of harvest and establishment of
23 new traditions of migratory bird use. So I think that
24 Taqulik's question is a very good one that the Survey
25 Committee should really consider.

26
27 Has the data collection over the past
28 15-plus years demonstrated that this is a sustainable
29 harvest level. It is relatively small compared to
30 overall sports harvest of migratory birds within North
31 America. And is it really necessary to continue this
32 burden, household respondent fatigue, because never,
33 even in the very beginning of this program, never has
34 the Federal government provided the amount of funding
35 needed to implement its harvest survey methodology.

36
37 I know you've gone through multiple
38 revisions of that methodology through time and I'm not
39 up to speed on the latest methodology methods being
40 deployed, but that's why we ended up moving into this
41 rotational cycle where Y-K Delta generally had to get
42 surveyed every year because so much of the statewide
43 harvest comes from that region, then alternating
44 different regions. It was all because there wasn't
45 enough money to implement the method that the Federal
46 government and AMBCC adopted for this program.

47
48 So maybe you don't need to do it
49 anymore is my point of view. It's a small overall
50

1 level of harvest, it's consistent, there does not seem
2 to be increasing trends except those related to
3 increasing population levels. So maybe the people can
4 spend more time hunting and less time filling out
5 surveys.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jim.

10
11 We're going to call Julian up next.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: While Julian gets
16 ready we do have one other presentation. I'm sorry.
17 It was called to my attention that I'm out of order on
18 the agenda. So we're going to do the lead shot
19 presentation first.

20
21 We're going to take a five-minute break
22 while Eric loads the presentation.

23
24 (Off record)

25
26 (On record)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: When we hear this
29 noise (ding), that means we're going to start.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 DR. TAYLOR: Everyone should have a
34 copy of this somewhere in your binder. The next
35 challenge is where. I'll give you 30 seconds to try
36 and find it. It's called Lead Shot, Waterfowl and You.

37
38 All right. Good afternoon. I'm Eric
39 Taylor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I have
40 been delegated the responsibility to talk about Lead
41 Shot, Waterfowl and You. The first thing I will admit
42 is you got the B team or the minor league team as
43 opposed to the major league team. Neesha Stellrecht,
44 who gave this presentation last year to the AMBCC, is
45 actually out at Newtok in the process of exchanging
46 lead shot for non-toxic steel shot. Angela Matz, who
47 is the real expert and a contaminants biologist in our
48 agency, is down on Kodiak Island dealing with a oil
49 spill.

50

1 The first thing is that this is a
2 co-authored publication between the Fish and Wildlife
3 Service, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and
4 the U.S. Geological Survey. All of you know that lead
5 is bad. That's why we no longer have leaded gasoline
6 and lead paint has been out of existence for quite some
7 time. So relative to Alaska lead has poisoned
8 waterfowl in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in the North
9 Slope. Including both threatened species, Spectacled
10 eiders and Steller's eiders.

11
12 Now while this presentation is really
13 geared toward the North Slope and the Yukon Delta, the
14 ramifications are the important messages appropriate
15 for the entire state. So what happens is that
16 waterfowl pick up spent lead shot thinking that it's
17 grit or gravel that they require to digest food that
18 goes to the gizzard. And we know this because we've
19 seen it from x-rays of birds that have been collected
20 or birds from hunters, examining dead birds and also
21 looking at the actual lead levels in birds.

22
23 The issue is in Alaska lead shot is
24 even more ornery or a problem because as opposed to
25 some place like I'm from, Missouri, where the sediments
26 stay unfrozen, here the ice keeps it near the top of
27 the sediment.

28
29 So nesting hens, here Steller's eiders
30 and ducklings are particularly effected and we also see
31 this both in Spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders,
32 but we also know that hens primarily and ducklings are
33 primarily effected. Males tend to leave the breeding
34 grounds once nesting or incubation is underway, so it's
35 the female and young who are most often found sick. So
36 these high levels can make them sick, cause them to die
37 and actually cause them to be more susceptible to
38 predation.

39
40 So lead is primarily a neurotoxin and
41 by that I mean it affects the nervous system. Also the
42 immune system or the ability for birds to fight off
43 infections, like bacterial or viral infections. It
44 affects the kidneys as well as the blood.

45
46 Birds that are effected by lead shot
47 can drown, they have a difficulty in moving and they
48 have a difficulty in caring for young, so their ability
49 to see a predator and protect their young by hiding
50

1 them is compromised. Finally, it also can cause the
2 digestive tract to stop working and birds can actually
3 die from impacted food.
4

5 So, not only can lead affect waterfowl,
6 but it can poison all of us as well. So, again it
7 affects humans the same way as it affects birds and
8 animals. It's particularly a problem in children and
9 unborn babies and the effects are permanent in the
10 sense it can cause premature births, smaller
11 youngsters, reduce growth, decrease mental ability and
12 learning difficulties later on and behavioral problems
13 as well.
14

15 So we know this because we've looked at
16 disease in the hospitals and researchers and physicians
17 have studied the effects of how lead paint that is
18 unfortunately eaten by youngsters and how it affects
19 them later on. Adults, the effects can also be
20 permanent or temporary, but includes: anemia, weakness,
21 decreased reaction time, memory effects as well as
22 decreased sperm count.
23

24 So lead shot is still a problem in the
25 sense that you can remove it, but the effects can still
26 be there. So if you shoot a bird and you pull the lead
27 shot out from the breast muscle or from the wing or
28 from the digestive tract, the problems can still be
29 there especially in this case if it lodges in the
30 appendix.
31

32 So even when it's visibly -- visible
33 shots removed, the dust fragments and the small
34 fragments, for example when a lead shot hits a bone,
35 small fragments are then created that you can't see.
36 You can also see the big shot that you pull out, but
37 they're too small to be removed and lead remains.
38

39 So I don't want to scare everyone here
40 in the sense that if you're feeling like you ate a bird
41 with lead shot or you went what is that when you bit
42 down on it and then you swallowed it. Obviously it's
43 not going to cause instant health problems and
44 obviously death, but we do know that lead ingestion can
45 affect human health. Nothing good comes out of lead
46 shot. And you have a choice that either you can use
47 lead, which is not healthy for your family, and there
48 are other shot out there that you can use, non-toxic
49 shot.
50

1 So again this was a study that was done
2 in Canada that looked at lead remains in food taken
3 with lead shot and even after removing visible shot in
4 Canada, the elevated lead in breast meat was found to
5 be 11-21 percent of the birds taken. In Greenland,
6 soup made from sea birds that were shot with lead had
7 higher lead concentrations than soup made from birds
8 taken with non-toxic shot.

9
10 These two studies were done with the
11 help of the Inuit who lived a subsistence lifestyle in
12 Greenland and Eastern Canada. So like Murre soup,
13 similar to duck soup, it was made with birds that were
14 shot with lead and again it had much higher
15 concentration than birds that were shot with non-toxic
16 shot.

17
18 So the clincher is the main point here
19 is in both Greenland and Canada hunting with lead shot
20 caused elevated blood levels in Inuit subsistence
21 hunters and their families because lead remained in
22 their food.

23
24 So what does this mean for birds. In
25 summary, spent lead shot remains available to ducks for
26 many years in Alaska wetlands. Why? Because we have
27 that ice layer that builds up underneath the thawed
28 sediments and it keeps that lead available. Lead shot
29 poisons waterfowl including threatened Spectacled and
30 Steller's eiders, which is one of the factors why these
31 species were found in decline.

32
33 What does it mean for all of us sitting
34 around the table? Subsistence food taken with lead
35 shot can cause elevated blood levels in Alaskan
36 subsistence hunters and their family, as in subsistence
37 families from Greenland and Canada. So the bottom line
38 is please don't use lead shot.

39
40 So one of the problems that we have
41 found in working with subsistence and rural hunters is
42 it's not always really clear when ammunition contains
43 lead and when it's non-toxic. So you see those two
44 boxes on the left, the Remington Express and the
45 Winchester Super X. Nothing on those boxes say lead.
46 Nothing on those boxes say poison unless you read the
47 fine print.

48
49 Unfortunately stores, owners of the
50

1 stores or the corporations, sometimes get confused and
2 order lead shot thinking its non-toxic shot. Non-toxic
3 shot, those boxes on the right, will actually say that.
4 They will say Nitro-Steel or non-toxic or something
5 else that tells you it's not lead. So again those
6 boxes will actually say what type of shot it is. So
7 we're in the process of trying to determine how much
8 lead shot is still being sold in those two communities,
9 both the North Slope and the Y-K delta.

10

11 This is a poster that we have used in
12 terms of talking about Lead Shot, Waterfowl Migratory
13 Birds and You that is available that we can provide to
14 all of you. I can send you this and you can print if
15 off and you can post it in your office or use it in
16 your presentations. And I'd be happy to share this
17 presentation with any or all of you for use in schools.

18

19 So last year Neesha gave a presentation
20 and talked about problems. Lead shot has been outlawed
21 since 1991 and we have gradually worked with outreach
22 and education with all of rural Alaskans and the
23 companies that sell groceries and hardware and sporting
24 goods to try to decrease the availability, get lead
25 shot ammunition off the shelf, particularly during the
26 waterfowl season. Our feeling is if it's not
27 available, people won't make a mistake and buy it.

28

29 For the most part we have been
30 successful, but as Neesha informed the AMBCC last year,
31 there has been some slippage in that, particularly for
32 the North Slope and for the Y-K Delta where, for
33 whatever reason, stores are ordering not small amounts
34 but sometimes pallet level, cases of lead shot.
35 Sometimes it's the only thing that is available.

36

37 So there's kind of three steps that
38 we're taking that Neesha outlined last year and that's
39 one step she is actually doing today out at Newtok. We
40 are working to try to determine the availability of
41 lead shot to see how narrow a problem or how big a
42 problem it might be in those two regions. How many
43 shops still have it, are selling it and working with
44 the owners and the corporations to decrease its
45 availability.

46

47 The second aspect is we are
48 aggressively going with outreach and education such as
49 this presentation. Again Neesha or Angela Matz would

50

1 have done a much better job than me, but we're not
2 missing opportunities to talk to rural residents about
3 this issue so that you can become aware of it because
4 it's not only an issue to waterfowl and migratory
5 birds, it's an issue to the hunters and their families
6 and the children that are eating the foods that
7 subsistence hunters are taking.

8
9 Finally, law enforcement -- and I have
10 asked Rory to come up here -- in terms of compliance
11 has always been one of the most importance things
12 because of the dangers that I have tried to point out
13 through this presentation, that the three, the Alaska
14 Native Health Consortium, the USGS, and the Fish and
15 Wildlife Service.

16
17 So I'm going to stop there and I'll ask
18 you if you have questions on enforcement or compliance,
19 Rory is going to come to the microphone to answer your
20 questions, but if there is anything on this
21 presentation and what we're doing, I'll be happy to
22 take a stab at it.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Eric.
25 If you wanted to go on the mic, Rory. Is there any
26 questions from the Council regarding the presentation
27 or for Rory?

28
29 Go ahead, Ryan.

30
31 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Eric. Just a
32 comment really. I appreciate you keeping this rolling
33 and moving forward and the outreach efforts. There is
34 a new wave of lead knowledge coming and it's moving
35 into big game animals. There's quite a bit of research
36 going on right now with normal large boar rifle
37 calibers and the lead content of those bullets.

38
39 Recently -- and we can look into if the
40 Council is interested at some point -- but recently at
41 the Pacific Flyway Council meeting there's a couple
42 guys that have taken this on themselves and they're
43 getting funding from various organizations and
44 harvesting different kinds of animals, collecting blood
45 right away, doing necropsies afterwards and finding
46 lead fragments that you can't see.

47
48 So the comment really is that there is
49 a new wave of information and knowledge on the use of
50

1 lead that is rapidly approaching. And there are some
2 states, and I believe it happened in January of this
3 year, where California banned the use of lead period.
4 Thanks.

5
6 MR. STARK: So just to follow on what
7 Eric and Ryan said, I think the lead shot is probably
8 the most significant regulation there is with the
9 subsistence hunt. I know generally the regulations are
10 much more relaxed, no bag limits, that sort of thing,
11 than the fall/winter hunt. It is really a conservation
12 issue as Eric highlighted, so we do take it seriously
13 from a law enforcement perspective.

14
15 It is worth nothing that -- like Neesha
16 is out right now in Newtok and one of our guys is going
17 with her to help switch out some lead shot from a store
18 -- however these stores are getting all of this lead
19 shot, it would be great if whatever influence you guys
20 have you can sort of exert it on those stores and tell
21 them really you shouldn't be getting lead shot out
22 here.

23
24 So whatever we can do. I mean this is
25 a multi-pronged effort, certainly not -- you know,
26 education and influence, whatever we can do to try and
27 get this lead shot out of villages would be helpful.
28 And it should be noted that in the Y-K Delta and the
29 North Slope lead shot is basically -- you know, there's
30 a state regulation on the Y-K Delta that says you can't
31 use it to hunt basically anything with.

32
33 So we've got this shot that's not
34 supposed to be used for anything and these stores are
35 selling it. It's really doing a disservice to
36 everybody. So whatever we can do to help to do that, I
37 would encourage it.

38
39 And then from our perspective
40 certainly, you know, it is the one thing we take most
41 seriously when it comes to regulation, and if we see
42 violations and we see lead shot in the field, we do
43 deal with it. That is one of the things we don't have
44 a lot of discretion on. It's sort of a bright line for
45 law enforcement, lead shot in the field, at least for
46 hunting.

47
48 Any questions on that?

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Lili and then
2 Karen.

3
4 MS. NAVES: One question too is whether
5 people buy ammunition in Anchorage, in Fairbanks, and
6 other places that are not the villages. Because
7 people do lots of shopping in Anchorage and you know
8 that before the hunting season people from villages buy
9 ammunition in Anchorage. So the stores in the villages
10 are not the only source of ammunition for people
11 hunting all across Alaska.

12
13 MR. STARK: Certainly that's correct.
14 I mean we are focusing on the stores in the villages.
15 If we can get them to carry the steel shot and the
16 non-toxic shot instead, that would be the preference,
17 but obviously from any source. And outreach is the
18 primary method, but when we do field contacts again
19 that will be the one that is most important to us from
20 an enforcement standpoint. Unless anyone has any
21 questions.

22
23 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thanks, Chair. Are
24 these approaches similar to what you do in the Lower 48
25 for other places that must have bans?

26
27 MR. STARK: That's a good question and,
28 yes, lead shot is a complete zero tolerance in the
29 Lower 48. We don't have a major problem anymore. It's
30 been banned since 1991 and it is very, very rare to see
31 it anywhere used in the Lower 48 right now. But if we
32 do, we take it very seriously.

33
34 MS. PLETNIKOFF: What do they use it
35 for?

36
37 MR. STARK: It can still be used for
38 upland game birds and that sort of thing, just not for
39 migratory waterfowl.

40
41 MS. PLETNIKOFF: And with that
42 effective swap out, were there ways of trying to make
43 steel or alternative shot more affordable for those
44 hunters Or how do you guys address that financial
45 issue?

46
47 MR. STARK: So I'm not sure what the
48 current -- I know that Neesha and one of my guys are
49 going out and basically what they're doing is taking
50 steel shot out and giving it to the store and taking

1 the lead shot from the store. And I would presume that
2 then the store will sell it at the same price because
3 they're getting it for that price. However, in the
4 past, I know we have done lead shot exchanges where we
5 have just exchanged -- and this was years ago. Early
6 on in the 2000's we did a lot of lead shot exchanges
7 were we exchanged steel for lead shot for folks.

8
9 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah, I think that
10 message, if that can happen, even if we have to help
11 you guys search for some funds to do that, I think the
12 idea of offering people the opportunity to exchange
13 their lead for steel would be pretty important.

14
15 I just want to point out that the
16 overall tone of the lead poster and this presentation
17 could have been more sensitive to the challenges of
18 getting subsistence food and the need for subsistence
19 food to stay in our diet for healthy and -- well,
20 ANTHC's own motto is Alaska Native's are the healthiest
21 people in the world. And I recognize that they were a
22 partner in this, but I think we can all be more
23 sensitive to the fact that again we are not dying from
24 our traditional foods, even with lead, even with very
25 small amounts of lead in it.

26
27 I'd also like to ask whether or not
28 there was Alaska Native data on those lead blood levels
29 associated with food or if we are just making that
30 inference because of Greenland and Canada data?

31
32 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good question,
33 Karen. I do not know what data have been collected in
34 terms of blood levels from rural residents relative to
35 lead. I can do an inquiry to Angela Matz and get back
36 to the group on that.

37
38 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Yeah, if you're going
39 to use this presentation again, ever, then let's make
40 sure that we are -- or let's just specify that we can
41 infer perhaps that this could impact Alaska Native
42 health. but if it's not on data about us, it's not
43 fair to say that about us.

44
45 DR. TAYLOR: Okay. Again, just to make
46 sure that I tried in terms of making sure that we are
47 not making inferences that what you are doing is bad.
48 What we are trying to be concerned with is that people
49 know the detriments of lead and what happens to both
50

1 the waterfowl as well as human health. Again, that's
2 the reason why we don't have lead gasoline and we don't
3 have lead paint. It's to protect human health.

4
5 So the study that this presentation
6 cites was done in Greenland and Canada. I'll look to
7 see what data we have in terms of lead levels in rural
8 residents in Alaska, but the point was there was a
9 study done elsewhere of rural residents that had a
10 subsistence lifestyle and that the detriments of using
11 lead in terms of human health is what the problem is.

12
13 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. Thank you,
14 Karen, for bringing that up. Yeah, I was really
15 appalled by that part of it. I know what you're trying
16 to do in the message, but using their data to kind of
17 scare-tactic us that is the way that we took it and
18 it's really -- it's not good. It doesn't feel good.
19 You make us feel like we don't know what we're talking
20 about. I understand the issue of lead shot because
21 that discussion has happened over the years, many years
22 here.

23
24 And we did extensive outreach on the
25 North Slope for many years with the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service on lead shot. We did the lead shot exchange
27 program. We did a proposal to the Board of Game and
28 banned it from the entire North Slope. We did checks
29 in the stores. I remember last year Neesha came up and
30 she visited one store and found some.

31
32 I know the store owner and he did tell
33 her as well that he bought it here in Anchorage for
34 really, really cheap and he didn't know. He said he's
35 not going to do it again. We did checks in the
36 villages. We didn't see -- I think he went to Point
37 Hope. There was nothing.

38
39 So for you guys to keep saying it was
40 the North Slope -- our people are aware and after a
41 certain amount of time of outreach we said, well, good,
42 law enforcement can do their job and enforce what is
43 right because of the lead shot issue. But I just don't
44 like you using the North Slope when minimal amount was
45 found and one guy admitted that he bought it for really
46 cheap. Now he knows and he's not going to do it again.

47
48
49
50

And so based on that, you know, I think

1 that's -- I would never present that to our people
2 because you're going to make them scared. And if
3 you're going to do something like that, you need to use
4 real information for our people and our resources.
5

6 That's why we test our own animals as
7 well to make sure that our animals continue to be
8 healthy because I've watched people react to this and
9 say I'm not going to eat that no more. I'm not going
10 to hunt for it no more. It sticks with them. I'm not
11 gonna feed that to my children, you know, because I
12 breastfeed my kids. That's how they're going to take
13 it and you're going to change somebody's way of life
14 and the way that they eat.
15

16 Thank you.
17

18 DR. TAYLOR: Taqulik, thank you. That
19 is good news in terms of the shops up there in the
20 North Slope Borough and it's probably a combination of
21 work done by the North Slope Borough Wildlife
22 Department, Fish and Wildlife Service, Neesha and
23 others.
24

25 That's one of the things we are trying
26 to find out. If indeed the problem is not out there,
27 then we don't have to worry about it, but if it is,
28 then, as Ryan said, it's going to be incumbent upon all
29 of us to work together to try and put the pressure on
30 store owners to make this stuff not available.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Karen.
33

34 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. Eric, can I get the contact person at ANTHC who
36 assisted with this poster development. I think we need
37 to re-frame this as a pro steel shot and the health
38 benefits associated with using steel shot when hunting
39 as opposed to this scare-mongering tactic that we
40 constantly are facing. This uphill battle with
41 subsistence foods and contaminants and disease.
42

43 These outside researchers who say your
44 food's got this or your food's like that, and then just
45 walk away as if we have financial or healthy access
46 choices. We need to be treating people better than
47 this. I appreciate you wanting to help prevent illness
48 in folks, but there is a better way of doing it than
49 the way we are doing it with this poster.
50

1 Thanks.

2

3 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Karen. And,
4 yes, I will get the contact from the Native Health
5 Association.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Jim.

8

9 MR. SIMON: Thank you for the
10 presentation, Eric. For the record, my name is Jim
11 Simon. This time I am speaking on behalf of Tanana
12 Chiefs Conference. I wanted to again echo the concerns
13 expressed by Karen and Taqulik and give a little bit of
14 an Interior Alaska perspective.

15

16 Not 20 years ago Tanana Chiefs
17 Conference did a health survey of more than 1,000
18 respondents -- I can't remember exactly, I think it was
19 1,005 -- throughout Interior TCC communities. In that
20 health survey approximately 80 percent of the
21 respondents identified that they were reliant on
22 subsistence foods, traditional ancestral foods, for 50
23 percent or more of their diet.

24

25 In that same survey, of that 80
26 percent, more than 19 percent of the respondents were
27 avoiding traditional foods because of fears of
28 contaminants associated with the military industrial
29 complex, which is specifically what this health survey
30 was feeding into, an environmental mitigation program
31 working with the Department of Defense and TCC member
32 tribes.

33

34 So we ended up establishing a
35 traditional foods contaminant and assessment program
36 run by the tribes and brought in -- provided training
37 to participating tribes by bringing in epidemiologists
38 and nutritionists and all kinds of experts to really be
39 able to respond in a culturally appropriate manner to
40 the concerns about contaminants in wild foods.

41

42 Just as Karen has said, what the
43 experts in those nutrition and epidemiology fields told
44 the tribal liaison officers and tribal leadership is
45 that their wild foods are safer than store-bought
46 foods.

47

48 So I do think it is important to
49 address the lead legacy of what is hopefully past

50

1 practices of using lead because I think, as Ryan has
2 mentioned, where there is an increasing understanding
3 of how this lead persists in the environment and is
4 affecting not just waterfowl.

5
6 I just wanted to give some of that
7 perspective because it does demonstrate how tribes are
8 owning this and bringing in the experts to themselves
9 and part of constructing the dialogue and the concerns
10 to educate people and to give them all the information
11 they need to make good, healthy choices for themselves
12 and their families and their tribal communities.

13
14 It's really important to try and do it
15 well and not use scare tactics because we see the
16 people make decisions to protect themselves because
17 they are afraid of contaminants, but then they end up
18 eating food from the store, which is the worse option.
19 Stick with your traditional foods.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Coral.

24
25 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. So you
26 talked about doing trade-outs up in some upper regions.
27 I'm not quite understanding why if there is the
28 legality all over the state, why you're not going to
29 other stores. It seems rather targeted.

30
31 MR. STARK: So the stores --
32 specifically what we're doing right now is Newtok is
33 where we're going, but in the Y-K Delta some of the
34 stores had a lot of lead shot. They had 70 cases out
35 there and it wouldn't actually be legal to hunt
36 anything out there with it. And the concern is
37 obviously the waterfowl and the health risks with that,
38 so that is why we focused on that area.

39
40 MS. CHERNOFF: So in town at Cabela's
41 or other places, how many boxes of lead shot do they
42 sell? And are we trading out with them?

43
44 MR. STARK: So the lead shot -- the way
45 it works is lead shot is legal for upland game birds
46 and that sort of thing and there isn't as much toxicity
47 as far as I understand and I'm no scientist on this.
48 So that is still legal to use for upland game birds,
49 that sort of thing, out of Anchorage and people do use

50

1 that I assume.

2

3 But again it's illegal out in that area
4 for them to use it for anything and that is why the
5 real putting the pressure out there to do that and also
6 to try and keep it out of the water. So it's the
7 waterfowl environment that we are trying to keep it out
8 of specifically.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We will
11 take one more question on this and then we will move
12 forward. We have a lot to get done on our agenda, so
13 this will be the last one and maybe you could have a
14 continued conversation. It's a good conversation. I'm
15 just worried about our time.

16

17 MR. DANIELS: Bryan Daniels, Yukon
18 Delta. So just to provide a little bit more history on
19 it. Yukon Delta is one large wetland and because of
20 the permafrost and ice the lead shot does not sink into
21 the substrate, so it stays available. Because of the
22 large population numbers it was -- they decided that
23 lead shot should not be used because even if you're
24 hunting upland game on the Yukon Delta you're still
25 hunting in a wetland. So even in the Lower 48 on
26 National Wildlife Refuge in wetlands you cannot use
27 lead shot. So it just extends to here as well at the
28 Yukon Delta.

29

30 We have chosen Newtok to do the
31 exchange because, as he mentioned, they have a lot, 70
32 cases, but it's also in the heart of the nesting
33 location for Spectacled eiders. So putting 70 cases of
34 lead out on the landscape, directly in the middle of
35 their nesting location, we felt it was pertinent to get
36 it out so that much more lead isn't put out in the
37 environment. So that's how that decision was made.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
40 Rory and Eric. Okay. So if everybody is okay with it
41 we're going to switch things a little bit on our
42 agenda. Due to our time, Julian, you are up, we're
43 going to do Technical Committee reports as we go
44 through the proposals.

45

46 And due to our time, and it's almost
47 3:00, if it's okay with you and our group up here,
48 we've discussed it, that we're going to get right into
49 proposals because some of the people need to leave

50

1 tonight or tomorrow, and then our proposals really
2 don't have anything to do with population trends and we
3 have a lot of work that we need to get done with these
4 proposals. I just want to make sure that we have
5 adequate time to discuss these.

6
7 So, with that being said, did you guys
8 want to take a break before we go in or just keep
9 going? I see yeses and nos. Take just a five-minute
10 break?

11
12 Five-minute break.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (On record)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay, everybody,
19 if we could have everybody back. I made the little
20 noise (ding) and only Ryan came back.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. SCOTT: I just didn't want to get
25 in trouble.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Sorry for the
28 change in the schedule, but Julian is going to give a
29 brief overview of the Technical Committee that we had
30 on the seven proposals that are going to be before you
31 and then we'll get right into the proposals.

32
33 MR. FISCHER: Good afternoon. My name
34 is Julian Fischer. I work for the U.S. Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management. What I am
36 going to talk about today is not U.S. Fish and Wildlife
37 information.

38
39 I am serving as the chair of the
40 Technical Committee for the AMBCC. So the information I
41 am going to provide is really AMBCC information. It's
42 with input from all the members of the committee. And
43 those are: Myself, Gayla, Cyrus Harris, Todd Sformo,
44 Coral Chernoff, Jim Fall, Jason Schamber, and then we
45 also had Kelly Krueger on the line during the meeting.
46 The meeting occurred last Tuesday, the 26th of March.

47
48 The purpose of the Technical Committee
49 is to provide information to the Council to aid them in
50

1 their decision in approving or not approving any
2 proposal. So that typically involves any background
3 information about the proposal, the purpose of the
4 proposal and the Committee also looks at details that
5 were provided that might be confusing or could be
6 improved to make everyone understand exactly what the
7 intent is. We also look for -- if we realize there
8 might need to be a legal interpretation of something,
9 that's when we would address it.

10

11 That's generally the purpose of the
12 Committee. The Technical Committee is not there to
13 advocate, to approve or not approve a proposal. It is
14 to simply provide information to you to aid in your
15 decision.

16

17 Okay, so as you know there are seven
18 proposals. We spent three hours discussing them. I am
19 going to try and get through this in less than 10
20 minutes, so I'm going to be hitting the highlights. If
21 you have any questions for the Technical Committee, I
22 will try to take those and I might call on other
23 members of the Committee if I fail to adequately
24 address them.

25

26 So, the Committee report is in your
27 binders. It was handed out yesterday and this was
28 after I received comments from everyone that was on the
29 call. Proposal No. 1 is a unit boundary change for the
30 North Slope Borough. There are three units in the
31 North Slope Borough and it's a simple change to include
32 Wainwright and Atqasuk in the Northern Unit.

33

34 We discussed this proposal relatively
35 briefly compared to the others. Some of the concerns
36 or questions that came up in our discussions were
37 regarding Point Lay. Point Lay is also a coastal
38 community and it is very close to the proposed boundary
39 change, but it's not included in the North Unit. So we
40 discussed that and we wanted to confirm that that was
41 the desire of Point Lay. That's the information that
42 we received from the North Slope Borough regarding
43 that, is that this was the intent.

44

45 And really Wainwright and Atqasuk were
46 to be switched into the Northern Unit. We were unaware
47 of any scientific or traditional ecological knowledge
48 that would support moving Atqasuk and Wainwright into
49 the north, but we felt that the residents of those two

50

1 communities were well aware of what their hunting
2 traditions were and were best suited to make that
3 determination.

4
5 I'm going to move on to the next
6 proposal. The second proposal is two allow for a
7 flexible 30-day closure for the North Slope Borough.
8 So the purpose of a 30-day closure during the open
9 season in spring and summer is to allow for a no
10 hunting and no eggging during the principal nesting
11 period for migratory birds.

12
13 When AMBCC was first set up, 30-day
14 closures were established based on input from local
15 communities and from scientific data that provided
16 information about average nest initiation dates. As
17 we're hearing more and more those dates are changing,
18 birds are changing, waters are coming much earlier than
19 they used to, snow is melting quicker and the birds are
20 arriving. They're starting to nest earlier. They're
21 also less predictable from year to year. So having a
22 fixed date is starting to make less sense.

23
24 So, in the beginning of the AMBCC, the
25 AVCP region requested to have a flexible 30-day closure
26 and so the date would be determined through
27 correspondents between the Yukon Delta Refuge and local
28 communities through consultation with the AVCP and
29 their Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

30
31 So the purpose of this proposal is to
32 allow for a similar approach to be taken on the North
33 Slope. The Committee agreed that this is a good idea.
34 The purpose of the 30-day closure is to have that date
35 of the closure correspond to when people are actually
36 harvesting birds and collecting eggs in the early part
37 of incubation and having a closure to allow for those
38 eggs that remain to develop and hatch.

39
40 What we did talk about as a Technical
41 Committee is the process of communication and the
42 importance that there would be in having a very clear
43 set of communication and individuals identified in
44 advance to make sure that communication is clear and
45 consistent and there is a process that is well
46 understood.

47
48 Committee members pointed out that
49 there are successful collaborations on other harvested
50

1 species like moose. They pointed to the Yukon Delta as
2 a successful example of this occurring.

3
4 We also discussed the possibility of
5 using not only input from hunters, residents in rural
6 villages and biologists, but also potentially
7 developing a computer-generated model that uses climate
8 data to help come up with those predictions of when
9 birds are going to start nesting and we talked about
10 that.

11
12 It was pointed out by committee members
13 that if that type of approach was adopted, it would be
14 essential for traditional ecological knowledge to be
15 incorporated into such a model and into the decision
16 making. It was also pointed out that the likelihood
17 that this is going to be needed in other regions is
18 very high.

19
20 Proposal 3 is an extension of the area
21 that would be open for the special Black Brant hunting
22 season in the North Slope Region. Currently there is a
23 -- I'm assuming, Madame Chair, that each proposal will
24 be introduced by the proposer, so I'm not going to get
25 into too much detail in this.

26
27 Currently there is a special Brant
28 hunting season open on the North Slope during the
29 migration period when the birds are leaving the Yukon
30 Delta and passing along the Northwestern part of the
31 North Slope on the way to their molting grounds. The
32 proposal is to increase the boundary of that special
33 hunt to incorporate all of Kasigluk Lagoon.

34
35 We discussed what is going on with the
36 Brant population during the committee meeting. The
37 birds that are hunted during this time period are birds
38 that nest on the Yukon Delta. They either fail to
39 breed successfully or they're too young to breed, but
40 they're associated with the Yukon Delta breeding
41 grounds and then they head north to the North Slope to
42 molt their feathers.

43
44 So we discussed the status of the Yukon
45 Delta population and the fact that it has been
46 declining at a pretty rapid rate over the last couple
47 decades. So the colonies on the Yukon Delta are
48 declining and so we talked about the fact that those
49 birds are declining on the Yukon Delta and increasing
50

1 on the North Slope.

2

3

4 We also talked about recent
5 publications that have come out that show that harvest
6 rate is increasing for Brant, but that increased
7 harvest rate is not associated with North Slope hunting
8 specifically. The Committee also sought to understand
9 whether this was going to represent a new hunt or if it
10 was going to be a continuation of an existing
11 tradition.

12

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The answer was not obtained during the meeting. It was understood through later conversations with Committee members that this was not new, this was simply going to make legal something that was already happening. So it's not anticipated that there will be any change in harvest overall as a result of this expansion.

The fourth proposal was to extend the subsistence regulations into the fall and winter period. This is not a new proposal to the AMBCC. It has been submitted in one form or another about six times from different regions. This time it's coming from the North Slope Borough and it would be statewide.

We discussed the 1997 protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and how that created an exception for the closed period that would allow for a hunt from March 10 to September 1 and how that protocol amendment did not allow for an open season after September 1 under the subsistence regulations. So it was beyond the jurisdiction of the AMBCC.

We talked about that there is a Technical Committee subcommittee that is focused specifically on this and it's called the Fall/Winter Subsistence Harvest Season Temporary Committee Working Group and it hasn't met recently.

Proposal 5 is the proposal submitted by the Kodiak Region to open up the Kodiak roaded area to the harvest of migratory birds onshore and within 500 feet of shore during the spring/summer season.

So, I think the Kodiak Region can introduce their proposal more completely than I am

1 going to do here but essentially residents of the
2 Kodiak Region are eligible for the spring/summer hunt,
3 everyone is eligible that's a permanent resident, but
4 currently the roaded area and the area 500 feet
5 offshore within the roaded area is closed to harvest of
6 birds and eggs. The proposal is to remove that closure.
7

8 This is a proposal that has come
9 several times before the Committee, approximately four
10 times in one form or another, most recently in 2017.
11 We talked about how this proposal has changed since the
12 most recent one that was tabled which was important to
13 consider because we wanted to understand what had
14 changed and how this would be different and how that
15 might affect the decision that this body will make this
16 week.
17

18 There is a number of changes. Last
19 time this came up there were two accompanying proposals
20 that went with rescinding of the closed roaded area.
21 Those were the closure of Arctic and Aleutian Terns and
22 then another accompanying proposal to maintain the
23 closure for Emperor geese. In this proposal this time
24 there is not an accompanying Emperor goose closure
25 proposed.
26

27 There is another major change from
28 previously and that is that this will be a registration
29 hunt and that registration would come with a
30 requirement for all take to be reported. We talked
31 about the concerns that were raised by the AMBCC Road
32 Committee and how this new proposal addressed them.
33 They had to do with the conservation of Aleutian and
34 Arctic Terns.
35

36 In the way this proposal attends to
37 that is there is an accompanying proposal to close the
38 roaded area to Arctic and Aleutian Terns if the road is
39 opened. The concern that there is an increase in the
40 number of hunters participating in the spring/summer
41 harvest.
42

43 There was an update in the number of
44 eligible residents that could potentially participate
45 in the road hunt if it was approved and there was
46 information provided about who they are and also
47 information about how many of them are likely hunters.
48 The Committee talked about a survey that was put
49 together to determine level of interest. It had 56
50

1 respondents and less than half of them said that they
2 would participate in the road hunt if permitted.

3
4 We talked about the purpose of the
5 registration hunt that was to provide information about
6 the level of interest of people that would actually
7 participate and it would allow for an understanding of
8 what species were of interest and what were actually
9 being taken.

10
11 And another major difference of this
12 proposal is that it had a three-year trial period that
13 would close after that three years and it would require
14 a new proposal to be reopened and this would provide
15 the AMBCC the opportunity to review all the information
16 that was learned and make a decision based on that
17 information about whether it should open again.

18
19 There was some discussion about the use
20 of a registration hunt and whether that would create a
21 precedent that was not customary or traditional. It
22 was pointed out by one Committee member that there is a
23 precedent for that which is the community of Cordova
24 that instituted a registration hunt of a very similar
25 type that this proposal is actually modeled after.

26
27 We talked briefly about other species
28 that may be of interest including shorebirds and
29 whether it be appropriate to include just those species
30 that have been identified of interest for harvest and
31 exclude others. We talked briefly about shorebirds and
32 whether they are harvested or not.

33
34 We talked a fair bit about gulls and
35 eggging and summarized information about how many eggs
36 are available in the current open area adjacent to the
37 road area relative to the number of eggs available for
38 gathering onshore, which are relatively few in
39 comparison.

40
41 All the details of this are outlined in
42 the report and the report again is essentially notes
43 from the meeting after input was provided from all
44 Committee members. Excuse my pauses. I'm just trying
45 to skim through this as quickly as I can without going
46 into all the detail.

47
48 The Kodiak Refuge indicated that the
49 region is really not a primary waterfowl production
50

1 area. There are waterfowl that use the area primarily
2 in winter and there are certainly waterfowl to harvest,
3 but it's not a major production area relative to say
4 the Yukon Delta or North Slope or most other places in
5 the state.

6
7 We talked about access to hunting areas
8 and the cost of permits to access those lands and how
9 that may or may not limit harvest for non-traditional
10 hunters.

11
12 We talked about terns a fair bit and
13 how closing tern colonies, having geographic boundaries
14 around tern colonies, would be difficult because the
15 tern colonies move from one year to another and they
16 are not fixed in a hard and fast location.

17
18 I am going to go to Proposal 6 because
19 it's closely related to Proposal 5 and that is a
20 proposal to close Aleutian and Arctic Terns to harvest
21 in the Kodiak roaded area. Obviously currently it's
22 closed because the roaded area is closed, but were it
23 to open this is a proposal to close Aleutian and Arctic
24 terns to harvest and collection of eggs. This was
25 similar to what was presented two years ago.

26
27 We talked about the Renner, et al, 2015
28 paper that showed that terns in colonies in Alaska have
29 declined by over 80 percent, Aleutian terns by over 90
30 percent, Arctic terns by around 80 percent. The
31 largest tern colonies in the Kodiak Archipelago are
32 within the roaded area. There are other colonies
33 outside of the roaded area as well. Those are
34 currently open to harvest.

35
36 Proposal 7, which is a proposal to
37 modify the requirements that would allow for residents
38 of ineligible subsistence areas to assist immediate
39 family members in their hunt in eligible areas.
40 Currently the requirement is for a tribal council
41 letter of invitation to be submitted to the AMBCC that
42 specifies the name and the relatedness of the invitee
43 to come and hunt. That was approved several years ago.
44 The proposal is to modify that requirement to replace
45 the need for the tribal council letter and instead the
46 requirement would be to have a tribal identification
47 card.

48
49 I'm going to end there because the
50

1 information we received after the meeting is the most
2 germain to this question and we can either delve into
3 that right now because it's technical information or
4 just deal with it during discussion of the proposal.
5

6 That's the completion of my Technical
7 Committee report and I'd be happy to take any questions
8 on behalf of the Committee.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
11 Julian, for the overview of that. Is there any
12 questions regarding the Technical Committee's
13 discussion? I think that we'll have lengthy discussion
14 on each proposal. I would suggest we save it for that
15 time unless it's anything regarding the Technical
16 Committee.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. Okay.
21 Now we're going to start going through the proposals.
22 Our first proposal is Proposal 2020-01, Boundary change
23 Northern and Southern Units of the North Slope Region.
24 That was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game
25 Management Committee.
26

27 Taqulik.
28

29 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair. As
30 I stated earlier in our regional reports, we met in
31 Atqasuk. Had the opportunity to review the existing
32 regulations that are in place with our regional
33 management body members.
34

35 So the first proposed change reflects a
36 boundary change between the Northern and Southern Units
37 for the North Slope Region. This would involve the
38 hunters from Wainwright, Atqasuk and Barrow. So the
39 hunters from those communities weren't hunting in two
40 -- to minimize their potential to hunt from two
41 different units, it made more sense to them that they
42 have the Northern Unit, which better reflects the type
43 of hunting that actually occurs.
44

45 In the proposal it describes what the
46 boundary change is. I did pass out maps yesterday to
47 reflect that change. Again, the boundary change is to
48 better reflect what the current hunting patterns are
49 for the communities of Atqasuk, Wainwright and Barrow
50

1 so they're not hunting in two different units.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Just for
4 formality just to help me out, past chairman, when we
5 have a proposal do we adopt it first and then
6 discussion on this Council and then we will bring it to
7 the floor for adoption and then we have discussion?
8 Just pointing the order of myself here as the Chair. I
9 mean that's what we would do on our council meetings at
10 home, so I just wanted to make sure that we follow the
11 proper Robert's Rules of Order.

12

13 So, with that being said, before we get
14 into discussion, if there's a motion on the floor for
15 this proposal.

16

17 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, I move to
18 adopt Proposal No. 1.

19

20 MR. HARRIS: Second.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
23 and seconded by Cyrus.

24

25 We'll have discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It's been
30 a while since we had this many proposals, so we just
31 want to make sure that we do everything correctly here.
32 With that we'll open it up to questions. I just wanted
33 to let you know, Taquulik, that our region we talked
34 about your proposal and the Bristol Bay Region is in
35 support of your proposal. I didn't think that we had
36 any questions on the proposal. I just wanted to make
37 note of that.

38

39 Cyrus.

40

41 MR. HARRIS: Just for the record also
42 the Northwest Arctic did support this proposal.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Jason, did you
45 have anything that you wanted to weigh in on this
46 proposal for Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

47

48 MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Jason Chamber, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

50

1 The Department has reviewed the proposal and does not
2 have any biological concerns regarding this proposal at
3 this time.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.
6 I just have the list that I'll be calling people up.
7 Next we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff
8 analysis.

9
10 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and
11 Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service does not
12 have any conservation concerns related to this proposal
13 and we defer to the subsistence hunters in those
14 communities to decide whether the most practical thing
15 is for them to hunt and be able to move between those
16 two communities and hunt in those two areas without
17 having to switch unit boundaries. I think for this to
18 be really practical, the proposal that we'll be talking
19 about next will fit very well with it.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
22 Julian. We reviewed the Technical Committee analysis
23 with the report that Julian gave earlier. Public
24 comment. Anybody from the public want to weigh in on
25 this proposal.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Now we have
30 Council discussion.

31
32 Any further discussion on this
33 proposal.

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: Question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The question has
38 been called. Then we go to the vote.

39
40 MS. LEONETTI: Native Caucus.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

43
44 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
45 Service.

46
47 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.

48
49 MS. LEONETTI: State of Alaska.

50

1 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: All right. With
4 that the proposal passes.

5

6 MS. HEPA: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Just to do a
9 phone check to those on the phone. Can people on the
10 phone hear?

11

12 MS. BERNS: This is Melissa. I can
13 hear you very well.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

16

17 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair, this is
18 Courtenay. I can hear you pretty well. I was having a
19 hard time listening to Julian earlier. Just kind of
20 soft. But so far we're following fine.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay, thank you.
23 Peter, are you still on?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Next item on our
28 agenda is Proposal 2020-02, Change procedure for
29 setting 30-day closure on North Slope, submitted by
30 North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee.

31

32 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Again, this is Taqulik Hepa representing the North
34 Slope Region. This proposal follows the one that was
35 just made before. In reviewing the regulations that
36 was brought to our attention, concerns that have arose
37 before about the closure periods.

38

39 I'll just go ahead and read why we're
40 proposing this. The change in climate is influencing
41 the arrival and nest initiation dates of migratory
42 birds on the North Slope. The current open and closed
43 season regulations generally work for the North Slope;
44 however, there may be years when regulations do not fit
45 specifically the 30-day closure because spring is
46 especially early or late. The North Slope Region would
47 like the flexibility of being able to change the closed
48 seasons if environmental conditions warrant.

49

50

1 And we did have discussion about -- in
2 looking at how the Y-K Delta does their flexibility.
3 With further discussion in our workshop yesterday there
4 was some questions posed on how would this trigger. I
5 think that the North Slope Borough would be committed
6 to forming a working group to set the protocols on when
7 the 30-day closure should begin.

8
9 An example would be that we have a Fish
10 and Wildlife Service employee in Barrow, we have our
11 Department of Wildlife Management that is out in the
12 field, and our hunters together, through communication
13 and consensus, would agree on a 30-day closure begin
14 date.

15
16 We can work out those details with a
17 committee involving Fish and Wildlife Service, maybe a
18 hunter, our department, and any others that may be
19 interested on setting those protocols to be implemented
20 next year if this proposal is passed.

21
22 As others have brought up earlier after
23 the technical review it is likely that this will be a
24 regulation that might be applied to all the other
25 regions of Alaska through this regulatory process. So
26 kind of is a pilot study maybe.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair. I move to
31 adopt Proposal No. 2 to establish a flexible 30-day
32 season closure dates for the North Slope.

33
34 MR. HARRIS: Second.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's been moved
37 and seconded by Cyrus. I'll go down the list again.
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff analysis.

39
40 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Chamber, Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game. The Department has
42 reviewed the proposal and we do not have any concerns
43 relative to the potential biological impacts. We'd
44 note that given the changing climate and variability in
45 nesting patterns across years, allowing the flexibility
46 to annually adjust the closure dates relative to
47 nesting phenology will work to better protect breeding
48 birds and meet the original intent of the closure
49 period.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis.

5

6 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and
7 Wildlife Service. We feel that this proposal will
8 serve to both meet the needs of subsistence hunters
9 better than we're currently managing now and will also
10 serve to protect breeding birds. I think it's in our
11 mutual interest to move this forward.

12

13 I would like to mention -- Taqulik, you
14 talked about forming a working group to set the closure
15 periods. I think that's really important that that's
16 figured out and a really solid plan is put into place.
17 I'd also like to invite Fish and Game to participate in
18 that working group.

19

20 I think this is a really good
21 opportunity to blend traditional ecological knowledge
22 and scientific data. One concept that I'd like to put
23 forward as we move into this realm is using climate
24 data to better make the decision and then also use
25 traditional ecological knowledge in that
26 decision-making process together.

27

28 USGS, we have Dan Ruthrauff here from
29 USGS who has been working in the Colville River Delta
30 for a number of years and has been working with
31 migratory birds up in that region and has been
32 documenting nest initiation dates and also correlating
33 those with other factors that are happening that
34 indicate oncoming spring and summer. I would just like
35 to introduce him briefly and give him the opportunity
36 to suggest ways that scientific data might be useful in
37 making this sort of management decision.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Did you have a
40 slide show?

41

42 MR. RUTHRAUFF: I do, Madame Chair,
43 yeah. Thank you. I don't know if you'd like me to
44 show it. Julian suggested maybe for the sake of time I
45 could just give a little background.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Go ahead
48 and introduce yourself for the record.

49

50

1 MR. RUTHRAUFF: Okay. Thank you. For
2 the record, my name is Dan Ruthrauff with U.S.
3 Geological Survey here in Anchorage, Alaska. As Julian
4 mentioned, I've been involved with some research up on
5 the Colville River Delta where we've been studying the
6 reproductive ecology of Arctic breeding geese for the
7 last eight years. Three species: Greater
8 White-Fronted goose, Lesser Snow goose and Pacific
9 Black brant. We've monitored upwards of about 1,000
10 nests a year and we have a lot of really nice detailed
11 information about annual variation and initiation
12 dates.

13
14 We've just started analyses to try to
15 better understand the environmental conditions that
16 spur the geese to begin their reproductive efforts. I
17 think it could be really great to get more information
18 from local communities like some of the environmental
19 conditions that we're finding are really good
20 predictors of nest initiation dates or things like snow
21 cover, the thaw degree days.

22
23 Some of the things we can draw from
24 remote weather stations very easily, but other things,
25 like the amount of snow cover, it would really help to
26 have local observations. So we're finding that some of
27 our best predictors are things that we're getting at
28 our site. So if we could include observations from
29 other sites around the region, I think we could really
30 improve estimates and make it really specific. Not
31 just for, say, Atqasuk or -- you know, we could really
32 specify it by region and not just say the North Slope
33 Borough in general.

34
35 So I think we'd be really interested in
36 participating in that process of integrating local and
37 traditional ecological knowledge into our efforts.

38
39 MS. EVAN: (Away from microphone).

40
41 MR. RUTHRAUFF: I am not, but I'm happy
42 to join, yeah. I know my supervisor John Pearce
43 typically comes in the fall and presents a lot of our
44 work, but we're happy to be involved and happy to share
45 some of the work that we've done with you so far.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Gloria.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question about
50

1 this proposal. She said this is going to be a pilot
2 study?

3
4 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Just for clarification, since we're putting this into a
6 proposal following how the Y-K Delta has initiated
7 their 30-day closure. With climate change increasing,
8 this might be a pattern and maybe this process that
9 we're using to change the 30-day closure set dates
10 based on observations and coming up with some kind of
11 protocol might be a good example to use for other areas
12 if it comes to be.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead, Ryan.

15
16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Don't run away, Dan. Just a quick question because I'm
18 pretty intrigued with the modeling idea. You've
19 started to look at the information, you know, it sounds
20 like, I'm going to guess, preliminary. So how far back
21 are you looking right now? Does funding and planning
22 look like you'll be continuing to monitor climate data
23 for the foreseeable future?

24
25 The reason I ask, to put it into
26 context, is we've heard over and over and we'll all
27 seen it, frankly, things are changing so quickly that
28 it seems like you're going to need an extensive sample
29 size by years or something like that.

30
31 MR. RUTHRAUFF: Yeah, for sure. Good
32 questions. We've been at our study site just for the
33 last eight years, but those last eight years you know
34 have encompassed some really unusual weather events.
35 Like 2016 was one of the earliest springs on record
36 while 2018, just last year, was one of the latest in 80
37 years on the North Slope.

38
39 So we've captured a lot of really
40 extreme variation over those eight years of study and
41 we have other study sites on the Chipp River that we
42 can draw from and Point Lonely. We know there's a lot
43 of information from Utqiagvik with Steller's eider crew
44 monitoring this. So there's a lot of different sites
45 and we believe there might be some information from the
46 Canning River where we can draw from.

47
48 So a lot of different sites across the
49 North Slope that we could potentially draw on to form
50

1 our models and, like you say, a longer time period is
2 better, but over the last eight years we've encompassed
3 -- like for some of our birds we already see like a two
4 and a half week variation in nesting over just those
5 last eight years.

6
7 So we're capturing a lot of variation
8 and we're finding really strong correlations with some
9 of these ecological variables, like snow cover and
10 temperature, things like that. So, yeah, it's been
11 strangely predictive. We were really surprised at how
12 well it's predicting initiation dates in such a way
13 that you could really refine this 30-day closure I
14 think pretty well.

15
16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Bryan, you had
19 something. Bryan, is this with the U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife analysis?

21
22 MR. DANIELS: This will be from Yukon
23 Delta perspective.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We could
26 wait until the.....

27
28 MR. DANIELS: Oh, sorry.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Unless we're --
31 you could just maybe sit there. Is there anything more
32 from Julian or Dan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
33 perspective on this proposal?

34
35 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry. I should have
36 mentioned this before. One element of the proposal
37 that is excellent is that the fallback is the published
38 dates. So if there's not a decision to make a change,
39 then it should be clear to the public when the closures
40 will occur. That's really important and it gives -- it
41 buys a little bit of time for developing a smooth
42 communication system. Preferably we would have the
43 30-day closure time to correspond with the birds and
44 the hunters. I just wanted to point that out.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

49
50

1 We went over the Technical Committee
2 analysis.

3
4 Public comment.

5
6 MR. DANIELS: Bryan Daniels, Yukon
7 Delta. So I just want to touch on what Dan said, that
8 the modeling would be extremely useful I think ahead of
9 time to be able to provide outreach to people in your
10 region of these are the conditions, this is when the
11 closure may be, but not actually use people on the
12 ground to say, okay, this is what's actually happening.

13
14 So help model to provide outreach on,
15 okay, it's going to be an earlier year, it's
16 potentially going to be June 2nd through July 1st,
17 whatever, or May 20th through June 20th. Instead of
18 using this to set the dates, I think it would be very
19 useful to use them for outreach ahead of time, say in
20 March or February when you guys have your regional
21 meetings, to be able to provide that.

22
23 On the Yukon Delta that's where we fall
24 short, is we provide information saying, okay, we think
25 it's going to be an early year, we think it's going to
26 be a late year, but we rely on people on the ground and
27 AVCP to approve the dates that we suggest. Come and
28 get their input. So I think it could be stronger if
29 you guys do have that information to be able to provide
30 that so that hunters in the field know more ahead of
31 time when they should have their hunting done by.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other public
34 comment on this proposal.

35
36 MS. CARTY: This is Courtenay, Madame
37 Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead,
40 Courtenay.

41
42 MS. CARTY: Courtenay Carty, Curyung
43 Tribal Council for the record. I attended the YKC
44 meeting last week where this was discussed a lot at our
45 region. Our regional representative spoke about how
46 YKC previously tried to engage in regulation changes
47 regarding our season dates as well and this is a
48 proposal that the Bristol Bay Region definitely
49 supported and would like to see something happen in our
50

1 region.

2

3 We also experience climate changes and
4 are seeing different times when the birds are hitting
5 our landscape and different weather conditions make it
6 available for us to go out and harvest.

7

8 So we support this proposal and would
9 hope to see something like this be implemented
10 statewide because this is happening throughout the
11 state and not just in the Y-K Delta or the North Slope
12 Borough. So I'm glad we're on the right track and I
13 hope to see this regulation implemented.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

18

19 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record,
20 Jim Simon with Tanana Chiefs Conference and Ahtna
21 Intertribal Resource Commission. I really like this
22 proposal. I think it gets to the core of what
23 co-management is, which is what this Council has been
24 established to provide.

25

26 I'm somewhat concerned about a
27 biological-driven model by people in Anchorage telling
28 people in the North Slope what's happening on the North
29 Slope. It seems sort of nonsensical to me. Maybe I
30 don't understand all the details.

31

32 I think it's very good to utilize the
33 local knowledge and Western scientific knowledge
34 whenever we can, but we can't have this process of
35 co-management be dependant upon scientific data alone
36 that is subject to the whims of political
37 administrations and budgets.

38

39 So I think that having the discussion
40 and sharing what information is available is a great
41 way to actually implement co-management decisions and I
42 do see that this is likely going to end up being
43 necessary in other regions just because -- you know, I
44 saw a whole pod of ducks in the open portion of the
45 Tanana River driving down here yesterday, which is
46 bizarre to me, but they are showing up earlier.

47

48 So thank you for that.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

2

3 Any more public comment.

4

5 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair. This is
6 Courtenay. If I may add one more thing.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead.

9

10 MS. CARTY: I guess I just wanted to
11 add in that I believe this infrastructure in our region
12 is in place to make these coordinated co-management
13 decisions. I like what the last testifier just said
14 about not basing it only on urban management schemes.

15

16 In Bristol Bay right now we already
17 have, for example, the Nushagak Peninsula Co-management
18 Committee. We make harvest date recommendations and
19 herd size harvest recommendations already, so this
20 infrastructure is in place in our region. If we ended
21 up amending the regulation to include Bristol Bay, that
22 would be great.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

27

28 Any other public comment.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Now we
33 will get into Council discussion. As Courtenay stated,
34 she did call in to our regional management body and we
35 were in support of this proposal and we think it is
36 important for a 30-day closure for those regions who
37 were able to vote on this and weigh in on that and
38 those voices were concerned, I would even like to
39 include Bristol Bay in this proposal because the birds
40 are coming earlier. And any region that wants to join
41 in on that that's something we can do is to make a
42 motion to modify this proposal.

43

44 The one thing I really want to stress
45 and we talked about it during our meeting and it's been
46 also stated here is that we really have TEK for these
47 30-day closures and that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
48 will work closely with the locals in the area. So I'll
49 pass it on to other Council discussion.

50

1 Cyrus.

2
3 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Northwest Arctic also supports this proposal. I'm in
5 the same boat as you are about getting a statewide
6 possibly. It will benefit all areas.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Debra.

11
12 MS. LYNNE: Madame Chair. I think if
13 there's any way we could make it statewide because
14 everyone here has spoke to the changes that they've all
15 experienced. So I think statewide we've all been
16 experiencing changes, so I think it would be beneficial
17 statewide or at least the Interior added to the list.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think that as
20 we have further discussion on this -- like we stated
21 earlier, I mean the birds are arriving earlier. If it
22 does go statewide, we need to really make sure that we
23 emphasize the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife groups in
24 each region to work closely with the people that are in
25 that region.

26
27 Taqulik.

28
29 MS. HEPA: Thank you. I to think that
30 -- thinking about this proactively to include other
31 regions of Alaska is a good thing, but we have to make
32 sure that protocols are in place and that there's going
33 to be these working groups for each of the regions to
34 come up with their protocols and maybe we could bring
35 them to our fall meeting.

36
37 If this is going to be implemented in
38 our specific regions that we come to the fall meeting
39 with a workgroup protocol that has been accepted to get
40 kind of the blessing at our fall meeting so that we
41 have something in place. I just want to make sure that
42 everyone has a protocol and it's clear and we all
43 understand what it is.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Ryan.

48
49 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chairman

50

1 -- or Chair, Madame Chair. I'll just stop.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. SCOTT: Certainly I intend to
6 support the original proposal that a motion was made
7 for and recognize that for the remainder regions of the
8 state there's an interest here. I think that the point
9 was just very well made that one of the things we need
10 to make sure is in place is that protocol.

11

12 In addition to that, I do wonder about
13 just a more robust airing of the idea with the folks
14 that we all represent just so that everybody is clear
15 as to what this might mean. Not only the regulatory
16 change that may occur, but what the protocol means and
17 how that would potentially work.

18

19 So for sake of discussion, bringing it
20 to the fall or recognizing, as been stated here many
21 times, that we'll likely be seeing very similar
22 proposals for the rest of the region either doing it in
23 the fall or at the next regulatory meeting in the
24 spring, the remaining regions taking it up then as
25 well.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead, Gloria.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that
32 in our area we have Unit 12, which is in the Interior.
33 Cantwell is in Ahtna Village. They would be in a
34 different region. It would be complicated for us to --
35 I'm sure it can be done. With Jim Simon's help I'm
36 sure we can do it, but we need not talk about our area.
37 I'm sure they wouldn't be opposed to it.

38

39 But we need to take time for ourselves
40 about how we're going to address this because we have
41 two different regions. I mean it's not just our little
42 -- there's Cantwell and then Interior and the rest of
43 us are together. So it's kind of complicated for us,
44 but it can be done.

45

46 I just think the idea of us introducing
47 it when we're ready to would be good. It could be a
48 statewide proposal, but when we're ready to move
49 forward we need to talk about it among ourselves.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I agree, Gloria.
2 That way more people can weigh in on it as well. Any
3 more Council discussion.

4
5 Did you have something, Eric.

6
7 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 We're winging our way through this thing. I'm probably
9 confusing the Chair more than helping her.

10
11 First off, Taqulik, thank you. I think
12 the proposal is good. We have this on the Yukon Delta
13 now and it has worked well. In fact, it has been
14 flexible. For example, a proposal that was -- Bryan,
15 you might have to correct me on this, but I think two
16 years ago -- or Jennifer -- where we wanted to adjust
17 the start of the closure period to make it earlier to
18 allow -- like this year. Goodness gracious, we're
19 going to have a very early nesting year. So in order
20 to protect the nesting season and still provide ample
21 opportunities for harvest of birds and their eggs, we
22 can adjust it.

23
24 So I think it's a really good idea and
25 not to keep repeating this, all of us have clearly
26 demonstrated climate change and birds are migrating
27 differently, showing up in different migration routes
28 and nesting differently.

29
30 You have touched upon this and I just
31 kind of want to formalize it, the working group. That
32 was our one concern with the proposal that we would
33 like to see a clear path forward in gathering that nest
34 information. You've touched upon all the things
35 exactly that we were thinking about. That it would be
36 comprised of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service,
37 local hunters.

38
39 I might recommend that local hunters
40 from several of your communities, from the Interior as
41 well as across, and then certainly WCC. So that
42 Jennifer or her representative can say this worked or
43 this didn't work or we might make suggestions in the
44 future. I think that would certainly help us.

45
46 I don't know how to do this, but I
47 would ask you to consider perhaps putting that into the
48 proposal to keep people's feet to the fire so that we
49 know the Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to serve
50

1 on this working group and our representative in Barrow
2 is expected to help you and others as well.

3
4 You know, these dates that were
5 established -- I mean this is back from 2001, so that's
6 nearly 20 years ago. As Julian mentioned -- and I was
7 not part of this process. I'm not for sure how these
8 dates were comprised and I'm looking at your region,
9 for example, and I'm trying to figure out why the
10 Southern Region, for example, the closure period is
11 later than the Northern Region and I might think, gosh,
12 it would be almost just the reverse.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Taqulik.

15
16 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair, and
17 Eric for that question. I brought it up briefly
18 yesterday and I remember when we were having our Fish
19 and Game Management Committee talking about the 30-day
20 closure, the members on the committee were very
21 reluctant to pick the 30 days because it varies from
22 year to year depending on the conditions.

23
24 So after hours and hours of discussion
25 this is kind of what -- they said, okay, let's just do
26 this, you know, and so that's what happened. In
27 reviewing this, the same thing happened. It was like
28 why is it this date.

29
30 I know law enforcement was there around
31 that time reminding us of there's a closure time and
32 then people were talking about, well, the closure time,
33 shouldn't it be earlier or later depending on the
34 season because some people do read these and try to
35 follow the rules. But that's how it happened.

36
37 DR. TAYLOR: That only emphasizes the
38 need for your proposal and that these things -- people
39 took their best guess at it. They probably had a
40 timeframe to recommend them and we haven't looked at
41 them and I think there's clearly some limitations.

42
43 In terms of the recommendation for
44 statewide, I think -- certainly I think all of us
45 recognize the need for that, but I would express some
46 caution. Let's work on the North Slope Borough and
47 work out that protocol and then move on. I think it's
48 going to become flex enough perhaps and then as opposed
49 to taking everybody at one time.

50

1 I do like Dan's proposal. I'm not
2 really familiar with the details of his work. I do see
3 some potential and we incorporated and made the
4 recommendation to incorporate TEK when it was first
5 brought up. I actually have a person on my staff that
6 has a National Science Foundation proposal that was
7 funded to actually formally do that process of using
8 TEK, Chuck Frost.

9
10 Anyway, those are my comments. The
11 main thing is I'd like to see, if possible, a short
12 paragraph with your proposal explaining that working
13 group and the members of it and kind of the objectives
14 of it.

15
16 MS. HEPA: Today?

17
18 DR. TAYLOR: No. It doesn't have to be
19 today, but I think if we're all in agreement that some
20 sort of description so that history goes with this
21 proposal, I think that would be helpful.

22
23 MS. HEPA: Okay.

24
25 DR. TAYLOR: Great. Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I just wanted to
28 add that how the new regulations should read it mirrors
29 what it is in the Y-K Delta under her asterisk there
30 for all closure dates to be announced and then it
31 states after consultation with the Service, field
32 biologist on the North Slope Borough, Department of
33 Wildlife Management and the North Slope Borough Fish
34 and Game Management Committee. So that would be put in
35 the regulation booklet.

36
37 Any other further discussion.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: I guess I wanted to hear
40 from the State. What did you say about this proposal?

41
42 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair, Member
43 Stickwan. I intend to support the original proposal
44 for sure. My comments earlier were just as we were
45 getting into a discussion about going statewide with
46 it. Essentially I agreed with you, just taking it one
47 step at a time and make sure that we thought out the
48 process and different impacts that it might have to the
49 different regions.

50

1 I won't repeat everything that Eric
2 said. I think that by providing for flexible dates I
3 think it actually in a biological sense is a better way
4 to go. As with changing climates and changing nest
5 dates and nesting periods, we're missing the boat, you
6 know, probably on providing maximum opportunity to
7 harvest but to also ensure that we capture that 30-day
8 closure to ensure strong, viable populations into the
9 future.

10

11 All the other things I would simply
12 agree with. I appreciate the comments on the working
13 group. I think it's incredibly important to have the
14 local hunter input and having that distribution of
15 input throughout the various portions of the North
16 Slope area will provide a lot of good information and
17 give people -- I think it will give everybody and this
18 Council, I would imagine, a lot of comfort in the dates
19 that get set and move forward from there.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think after all
24 that discussion I think that we'll bring it back to
25 Bristol Bay and we'll be probably submitting a proposal
26 for Bristol Bay for 2021 regulations. Then if each
27 region goes back and you discuss it within your region
28 and your region has that same proposal, then I think we
29 could just hit it region by region.

30

31 Go ahead, Gloria.

32

33 MS. STICKWAN: I guess I'm confused
34 because we said this proposal. We talked about this
35 proposal and then somebody suggested an amendment, but
36 no amendment was made. So we're back to this. We're
37 only going to do this one.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes. Yes, Cyrus.

40

41 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. Anyway, that
42 would be a great agenda item for our regional meetings
43 that we're going to be having -- well, mine will most
44 likely be in August. That way we get to educate our
45 people on what to look out for in the near future, get
46 information on dates and times of thaw, eggs and
47 whatnot. Both of you are welcome in August.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I just wanted to

50

1 say also that with the 30-day closures, you know, with
2 the birds coming earlier, that we can also put in a
3 proposal that our season starts earlier. I believe we
4 have until -- we could go back as far as March. Does
5 somebody have that date? March 2nd or March.....

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 11th.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: March 11th. So
10 just everybody keep that in mind that if you go back to
11 your regional management bodies with the 30-day closure
12 because of birds nesting earlier, we could also put in
13 proposals that our season starts before April 2nd. So
14 put that on your guys's agenda for discussion.

15
16 Any other Council discussion for
17 Proposal 2.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. EVANS: Question.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Question has been
24 called. Crystal.

25
26 MS. LEONETTI: Native Caucus.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

29
30 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 Service.

32
33 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.

34
35 MS. LEONETTI: State of Alaska.

36
37 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Unanimous consent
40 for Proposal 2. We'll move on to Proposal 3.

41
42 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Madame Chair. So
43 this proposal is to change the southern boundary for
44 the special Black Brant hunting postal zone.

45
46 When this regulation was first
47 requested, the southern boundary was intended to extend
48 to the south end of the Kasigluk Lagoon so Point Lay
49 hunters could also legally hunt migrating Black Brant
50

1 as they have done for many years.

2

3 These geese have previously received
4 protection for nesting in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and
5 are migrating to the Teshekpuk Lake for molting. The
6 proposed boundary change provides Point Lay hunters
7 with the opportunity to legally hunt Black Brant as the
8 birds are migrating to Teshekpuk Lake to molt.

9

10 In discussion with our Fish and Game
11 Management Committee member from Point Lay, he
12 reiterated that it's a hunt that has been happening.
13 We actually have harvest numbers to reflect that. Todd
14 brought that to my attention. It ranges between just
15 under 50 to 100 birds.

16

17 So the boundary change, I did pass out
18 a map and basically what it is it's extending the Icy
19 Cape boundary to the south and of Kasigluk Lagoon.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 DR. TAYLOR: Madame Chair. I make a
24 motion to bring this proposal to the floor.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.
27 There's a motion. Do we have a second.

28

29 MR. HARRIS: Second.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Seconded by
32 Cyrus. Discussion. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
33 Staff analysis.

34

35 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Schamber.
36 Initially the Department did have some concerns that
37 this change in boundary would increase the harvest of a
38 declining population of Brant from the Y-K Delta, but
39 the confirmation from the North Slope Borough that this
40 was an ongoing harvest and the proposal was to legalize
41 this ongoing harvest, so harvest levels would remain at
42 traditional levels. The Department has no further
43 concerns.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Jason.

46

47 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and

50

1 Wildlife Service. We have concerns about Brant in
2 general. The Yukon Delta population is a focus of our
3 attention. But similar to what the Fish and Game rep
4 just said, it's an ongoing harvest. We don't expect
5 it's going to increase overall take of Yukon
6 Delta-based birds. I think we need to be cautious and
7 keep our eyes open about this declining population on
8 the Yukon Delta for the benefit of the hunters in that
9 region. It's a shared resource.

10

11 Looking more broadly, the population of
12 Black Brant we believe is stable overall. The
13 monitoring metric we use for the overall population of
14 Pacific Black Brant appears to be stable and relatively
15 high. So our concerns about Black Brant in general are
16 relatively low, but we've got our eyes on the Yukon
17 Delta population, particularly because of the declines
18 that have occurred in the colonies there over time.

19

20 So conservation concern about this
21 particular proposal is relatively low.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
24 Julian.

25

26 We went over Technical Committee
27 analysis earlier.

28

29 Public comment.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Council
34 discussion.

35

36 Cyrus.

37

38 MR. HARRIS: Northwest Arctic supports
39 this proposal.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Ryan.

42

43 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Just to put a little on the record, I certainly intend
45 to support the proposal, recognizing that there is an
46 underlying question or concern, low level concern
47 potentially about Brant in general. Most of my
48 concerns were taken care of when it was brought to our
49 attention yesterday that the harvest is something that

50

1 has occurred and it's likely it is going to continue to
2 occur.

3
4 One of my questions was going to be do
5 we have numbers and I appreciate that being brought
6 forward. Thank you very much. So, like I said, I will
7 support this proposal, recognizing that we may have to
8 keep an eye on the Y-K Delta brant well into the
9 future.

10

11 MS. EVANS: Question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Priscilla, before
14 you call that I just wanted to add one thing. Bristol
15 Bay also supported this proposal and one thing that
16 really stood out is how would this regulation affect
17 subsistence users and what you guys stated here. When
18 this regulation was first requested, southern boundary
19 was extended to extend to the southern end of Kasigluk
20 Lagoon to the Point Lay hunters so they also could
21 legally hunt migrating Black Brant that they have done
22 for many years.

23

24 I think that really stood out with the
25 Bristol Bay Region and voting and definitely want to
26 support that. So we're in support of it as well.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. EVANS: Question.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: The question has
33 been called by Priscilla. Crystal.

34

35 MS. LEONETTI: Go the other way. State
36 of Alaska.

37

38 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

39

40 MS. LEONETTI: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
41 Service.

42

43 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.

44

45 MS. LEONETTI: Native Caucus.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes. Motion
48 carries unanimously. We will move now on to Proposal
49 2020-04. The exact title of it is change fall/winter

50

1 regulations to allow subsistence harvest regulations
2 from September 1st to December 31st. Submitted by the
3 North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee.
4

5 MS. HEPA: Madame Chair. With your
6 permission, unfortunately I have to leave in about 10
7 minutes. So I'm going to ask if we could address this
8 one tomorrow for introduction if that's okay with you.
9 Thank you.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: That would be
12 okay. Is that okay with you guys?
13

14 DR. TAYLOR: Yes.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We're going to
17 take a five-minute break. What time is it? It's 4:15.
18 What we should probably do is if it's 4:15 and we check
19 the time before we get into the next proposals, do we
20 want -- how long do we have this room for, Karen?
21 Until 4:30?
22

23 MS. PLETNIKOFF: 4:30 is what's on the
24 agenda. That's right.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We could then
27 stand down until tomorrow. What time are we starting
28 tomorrow?
29

30 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Seven.
31

32 (Laughter)
33

34 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I'm just thinking
35 if we're on for 9:00 tomorrow, we should probably
36 either do 8:00 or 8:30. Why don't we say 8:30
37 tomorrow. The next four proposals are going to take a
38 lot of discussion.
39

40 (Off record)
41

42 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
43
44
45
46
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48
49
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