

1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD TRIBAL CONSULTATION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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DENA'INA Civic & Convention Center

7

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

8

9

January 21, 2015

10

8:30 o'clock a.m.

11

12

13 FEDERAL BOARD MEMBERS OR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

14

15

16 Tim Towarak, Chairman Federal Subsistence Board

17 Anthony Christianson, Public Member

18 Charles Brower, Public Member

19 Geoff Haskett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

20 Beth Pendleton, U.S. Forest Service

21 Keith Kahklen, Bureau of Indian Affairs

22 Joel Hard, National Park Service

23 Bud Cribley, Bureau of Land Management

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(P R O C E E D I N G S)

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/21/2015)

(On record)

MR. LIND: Okay. Good morning everybody.

(In Alutiiq)

If I can please have your attention. As you notice, we've got a little different setup here and the reason is we wanted to represent a village setting because we are welcoming all tribes representatives along with ANCSA corporation representatives. So, if you are a Board member, tribal representative, corporation representative, please come on over to the circle and have a seat. Once we get our introductions gone we can get started.

Quyana.

Again if we can have -- if you've just come in, the Federal Subsistence Board members in the circle, tribal representatives, ANCSA corporation representatives, please come join us and we'll get started. Is anybody online, please? We would like you to start off with your name, which tribe you represent or which corporation you represent.

(No comments)

MR. LIND: Hearing none. Welcome, first of all. My name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a newbie. I'm glad to be here. I'm glad to see so many new faces also.

This is a consultation between Federally recognized tribes, ANCSA corporations and the Federal Subsistence Board on proposed changes to the 2015-2017 Federal subsistence fish and shellfish regulations and other subsistence-related issues.

Keep in mind you're welcome to address any subsistence issue as we go through this session. Also I would like to start off with introductions if you would please as we go around the room. We'll start here.

1 MR. CRIBLEY: My name is Bud Cribley
2 and I'm the State Director for the Bureau of Land
3 Management here in Anchorage.

4
5 MR. CHRISTIANSON: My name is Anthony
6 Christianson and I'm the rural Board member
7 representing rural Alaskans on the Federal Subsistence
8 Board. I'm from the community of Hydaburg in Southeast
9 Alaska. I'm also the mayor there and I work for the
10 tribe in the Natural Resource Program.

11
12 MS. PENDLETON: Good morning. My name
13 is Beth Pendleton. I'm the regional forester for the
14 U.S. Forest Service and I'm located in Juneau, Alaska
15 and have management responsibilities both in
16 Southcentral in the Chugach National Forest and in the
17 Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.

18
19 MR. HASKETT: Good morning. Geoff
20 Haskett, the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 Service here in Alaska, here in Anchorage.

22
23 MR. KAHKLEN: Good morning. I'm Keith
24 Kahklen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm
25 here representing Bruce Loudermilk.

26
27 MR. BROWER: I'm Charlie Brower, rural
28 representative for the Federal Subsistence Board, born
29 and raised in Barrow.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Good morning. I'm
32 Tim Towarak. I'm the other Inupiat on this group. I'm
33 the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board. I've
34 been in this position for about three years now, I
35 think. Three or four years. I can't remember. But I
36 wanted to welcome all of you, especially those that are
37 representing tribes.

38
39 As you know, the President of the
40 United States originated the tribal consultation
41 process and we're doing a special consultation with
42 just the tribes and the village corporations and
43 regional corporations are included in that group. So
44 we're taking this first part of the three-day session
45 to meet with you privately and directly so that you
46 could talk directly to the Board on any of the
47 proposals that you feel are important to your region.

48
49 Welcome to the meeting and we hope it
50 goes well. Typically I like to have our meetings as

1 smoothly run as possible. We have formalities. The
2 Robert's Rules of Order, I try to bend those as much as
3 possible so that we have a good conversation. So bear
4 with us as we make an effort to accommodate your
5 wishes.

6

7 MR. HARD: Good morning. I'm Joel
8 Hard, the Deputy Regional Director for the National
9 Park Service in Alaska and I'm representing Burt Frost,
10 the Regional Director and Board member of the Federal
11 Board.

12

13 MR. P. DEMOSKI: Good morning. My name
14 is Peter Demoski. I represent the Nulato Tribal
15 Council. I'm also the elder advisor on Tanana Chiefs
16 Conference. I'm here to speak for Nulato Tribal
17 Council and not necessarily represent Tanana Chiefs
18 Conference.

19

20 MR. A. DEMOSKI: Good morning,
21 everybody. My name is Arnold Demoski. My dad right
22 here. I work for the Nulato Tribal Council as the
23 natural resources coordinator. I'm here to speak on
24 behalf of Nulato Tribal Council. Thank you.

25

26 MR. WALLACE: Good morning. Lee
27 Wallace, president of the Organized Village of Saxman.

28

29 MR. LIND: Thank you. As you can see,
30 we're doing this a little differently. I think it's a
31 great setting and we'll just continue our
32 introductions.

33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Good morning. Gene
35 Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director for the
36 Office of Subsistence Management.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck
39 Ardizzone. I'm Gene's deputy at the Office of
40 Subsistence Management.

41

42 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, everyone.
43 Terry Suminski, the subsistence program leader for the
44 Tongass National Forest in Sitka.

45

46 MS. TAKESHORSE: I just got here.
47 Brenda Takeshorse, BLM, Native liaison. Good morning.

48

49 MR. FELDPAUSCH: Good morning. My name
50 is Jeff Feldpausch. I'm the resource protection

1 director for the Sitka Tribe.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Good morning. Attamuk
4 Enoch Shiedt from Kotzebue, Federal RAC Chair,
5 Kotzebue.

6

7 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hello. I'm Pat
8 Petrivelli, the subsistence anthropologist for the
9 Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I'm sitting in for Glenn
10 Chen on the Interagency Staff Committee.

11

12 MS. K'EIT: Good morning. I'm Kristin
13 K'eit, Deputy Regional Director of Native Services for
14 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

15

16 MR. LARSON: Good morning. My name is
17 Robert Larson. I work for the Forest Service. I'm the
18 Southeast Council's coordinator.

19

20 MR. BANGS: Good morning. My name is
21 Mike Bangs. I'm the acting Chair for the Southeast
22 Regional Advisory Council. I'm a commercial fisherman
23 and an avid subsistence user.

24

25 MR. REEVES: Good morning. My name is
26 Jeff Reeves. I'm a zone subsistence biologist with the
27 Forest Service and I cover the Prince of Wales and
28 Ketchikan areas.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Good morning. My name is
31 Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator for Bristol
32 Bay and Southcentral Regions.

33

34 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning. I'm Mary
35 McBurney. I'm the Subsistence Program Lead for the
36 National Park Service and the National Park Service
37 member on the Staff Committee.

38

39 MR. KOLLER: Good morning. My name is
40 Justin Koller. I work for the U.S. Forest Service in
41 Sitka, Alaska where I'm a zone subsistence biologist
42 for Sitka and Hoonah Ranger Districts.

43

44 MR. COGSWELL: Good morning. I'm
45 Stewart Cogswell. I'm the Fish Division Chief for the
46 Office of Subsistence Management.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning. I'm
49 Karen Deatherage. I'm a Council Coordinator for the
50 Kodiak/Aleutians Council. I'm glad to be here. It's

1 my first meeting as a Council Coordinator.

2

3 MS. FLEEK: Good morning. I'm Adrienne
4 Fleek. I'm a Council Coordinator as well. I work with
5 the Y-K Delta as well as the Seward Peninsula.

6

7 MS. SHIEDT: Mida Shiedt from Kotzebue.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Good morning and welcome.
10 Eva Patton. I'm the Council Coordinator for the North
11 Slope Regional Advisory Council and the Eastern
12 Interior Regional Advisory Council.

13

14 MR. BROWER: Good morning. My name is
15 Harry Brower, Jr. I'm Chair of the North Slope
16 Regional Advisory Council and a hunter in Barrow.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: You forgot you're a
19 chairman of AEWC. Good morning. My name is Billy
20 Adams and I work for the North Slope Borough Wildlife
21 Department. Harry is my supervisor and I'm also a
22 hunter.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Carl Johnson.
25 I'm the Council Coordination Division Chief at the
26 Office of Subsistence Management.

27

28 MR. BROOKS: Good morning. It's a
29 pleasure to see everyone here. It's a good day. My
30 name is Jeff Brooks and I work for the Office of
31 Subsistence Management. I'm a social scientist there
32 in the Division of Anthropology. Thank you.

33

34 MS. TONNESON: Good morning. My name
35 is Heather Tonneson and I work for the National
36 Wildlife Refuge system and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
37 Service here in Anchorage.

38

39 MR. LIEBICH: Good morning. I'm Trent
40 Liebich. I'm a fish biologist in the Office of
41 Subsistence Management.

42

43 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name
44 is Tom Whitford. I'm going to try and give my title
45 right. I'm brand new. I'm the Region 10 Subsistence
46 Program Leader for the Forest Service. I'm glad to be
47 here to my first meeting.

48

49 MR. FOX: Good morning. I'm Trevor
50 Fox. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the

1 Fish and Wildlife Service and I serve on the Staff
2 Committee for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

3

4 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
5 Pappas. I work for Office of Subsistence Management.
6 I'm the subsistence liaison to the State of Alaska.

7

8 MS. KENNER: I'm Pippa Kenner and I'm
9 an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
10 Management.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Good morning. I'm Don
13 Rivard, fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence
14 Management.

15

16 MR. LORD: And over here my name is Ken
17 Lord. I'm with the Solicitor's Office of the
18 Department of the Interior. I'm one of the legal
19 advisors to the program.

20

21 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham with the
22 Chugach National Forest subsistence lead.

23

24 MR. LOHSE: Ralph Lohse, Chair of
25 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

26

27 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, Subsistence
28 Management Office.

29

30 MR. JENNINGS: Tom Jennings,
31 Subsistence Management Office as well. Thank you.

32

33 MR. HILDRETH: Derek Hildreth, Office
34 of Subsistence Management.

35

36 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is
37 Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist with the Fish and
38 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management.

39

40 MR. MCKEE: Hi, my name is Chris McKee.
41 I'm the Wildlife Division Chief with the Office of
42 Subsistence Management.

43

44 MS. RAYGOR: Good morning. I'm Pam
45 Raygor. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management.

46

47 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Good morning. I'm
48 Theo Matuskowitz and I'm with Fish and Wildlife
49 Service. I'm the Regulation Specialist.

50

1 MR. SHARP: Good morning. I'm Dan
2 Sharp. I serve on the Interagency Staff Committee for
3 the Bureau of Land Management.

4
5 MS. LEONETTI: I'm Crystal Leonetti,
6 Alaska Native Affairs specialist with U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service.

8
9 MR. CASIPIT: Good morning. My name is
10 Cal Casipit. I'm the subsistence staff biologist for
11 the Forest Service stationed in Juneau, Alaska.

12
13 MR. OWEN: And I'm Wayne Owen. I'm
14 with United States Forest Service, regional office,
15 where I am the director of wildlife, fisheries and
16 subsistence programs.

17
18 MR. EPCHOOK: Good morning. I'm
19 Chariton Epchook from Kwethluk.

20
21 MR. ASHENFELTER: Good morning. I'm
22 Roy Ashenfelter with Bering Sea Native Corporation and
23 Kawerak.

24
25 MR. LIND: Anyone else we miss?

26
27 OPERATOR: We do have participants
28 online.

29
30 MR. LIND: Oh, great. Good morning.
31 Those online would you please say your name, the tribe
32 you represent or corporation you represent, please.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: This is Jack Reakoff,
35 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council Chair.

36
37 MR. LIND: Thank you. Anyone else.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. LIND: Hearing none. Okay. We're
42 going to go ahead and get started. I would like to
43 have those who are ready here to go ahead and give a
44 testimony at this time. We'll first have Mr. Peter
45 Demoski.

46
47 MR. P. DEMOSKI: Why am I always first.
48 Good morning again. I represent a small village on the
49 Yukon River. Population 230 people. My Nulato Tribal
50 Council has directed me to express opposition to FP15-

1 03, which tends to eliminate drift gillnet fishing gear
2 in District 1 through 4. Even though it continues on
3 to District 5 and 6, I'm representing District 4.

4

5 The Koyukuk subsistence fishermen
6 recommended that the first pulse of chinook salmon be
7 closed in 2012. This was done. Since 2012 the Nulato
8 subsistence fishermen recommended a moratorium on
9 chinook salmon along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. I
10 was a Nulato spokesman during those years. This
11 moratorium occurred in 2014.

12

13 We, the subsistence fishermen in
14 District 4 have accepted a very small portion of blame
15 for the decline of chinook salmon and have accepted
16 huge sacrifices for the preservation and conservation
17 of chinook salmon. District 4A makes recommendations
18 that affect all districts along the Yukon and Kuskokwim
19 Rivers. District 4A does not advocate recommendations
20 that are proposed to benefit one district at the
21 expense of another district. This is what FP15-03 is
22 going to do.

23

24 In 2014, 137,000 chinook salmon swam
25 through the Pilot Station sonar as of June 30th, 2014.
26 This far exceeded the projection of 64-121,000. In
27 2014, 55,000 chinook swam through the Eagle sonar into
28 Canada, exceeding the target escapement of 42,500.

29

30 Right here I would like to remind you,
31 probably many of you know, that in yesterday's
32 Fairbanks Daily News Miner and Anchorage Dispatch the
33 actual count that went through the Eagle sonar was
34 actually 64,000. That's 9,000 over the reported
35 escapement that Fish and Game reported.

36

37 This should not be inferred that the
38 moratorium is the answer after only one year. The
39 moratorium demonstrated that the desired escapement
40 into Canada can be achieved. The moratorium does not
41 demonstrate that we can rely on projections of numbers
42 swimming by the Pilot Station sonar.

43

44 In 2014, up to 80,000 chinook that did
45 not go through the Eagle sonar must have swam into
46 tributaries of the Yukon River drainage. This exceeds
47 the total number of chinook traditionally harvested by
48 the Yukon River subsistence fishermen. The 9,000
49 exceeded number of reported chinook that went through
50 the Eagle sonar could easily satisfy the harvest number

1 of people in District 1 for any given year. This
2 exceeds the total number of chinook traditionally
3 harvested by the Yukon River subsistence fishermen.

4

5 Drift gillnet fishing, while admittedly
6 the most successful method for harvesting chinook in
7 District 4, the numbers traditionally harvested would
8 not dramatically affect the escapement into Canada. It
9 is the factual numbers of chinook that swim by the
10 Pilot Station sonar that is the determining factor that
11 tells us can we harvest or not harvest chinook salmon.
12 This is Alaska Fish and Game's best scientific reliance
13 on projected runs, which we have seen can have an error
14 rate of 12 percent to 53 percent.

15

16 It has already been proven that a high
17 escapement into Canada does not always foretell a high
18 projection number five or six years in the future.
19 Neither does a low escapement into Canada always
20 foretell a low projection number five or six years in
21 the future also. Therefore, Nulato Tribal Council
22 opposes FP15-03. Eliminating drift gillnet fishing
23 gear in District 4 will not affect the escapement into
24 Canada at all.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. LIND: Quyana, Peter. Do we have
29 anybody from ADF&G to comment.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. LIND: Thank you, Peter. Has
34 anyone come online? A little too early. Okay, thank
35 you, Peter.

36

37 The next person, Arnold.

38

39 MR. A. DEMOSKI: I don't really have
40 anything to say. I'm still in a learning process. I
41 just started this job not even two years ago, so
42 there's a lot I don't know. I'm just trying to learn
43 as much as I can so I can gain the knowledge to be a
44 good representative for Nulato one day. With a little
45 help and guidance from the tribal council members and
46 our elders, I look forward to being a representative
47 one day for the Nulato Tribal Council.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. LIND: Thank you, Arnold. As we
2 have heard.....
3
4 MR. A. DEMOSKI: I just want to say too
5 that I do oppose the Proposal 15-03. Thank you.
6
7 MR. LIND: Quyana. Do we have any
8 comments from the Board members.
9
10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: While we're on 15-
11 03, I understand we have Mr. Reakoff, the Chairman of
12 the Eastern Advisory Council. If he has any comments
13 on that particular proposal, we'd like to hear from him
14 also. And I appreciate the people from Nulato coming
15 over to testify on that proposal. I know it's an
16 important regulation for your consideration.
17
18 In the strictest terms of tribal
19 consultation, I'm hoping that we don't make it a real
20 formal process. I'd like to see it as open as
21 possible. So if anybody has any comments any time on
22 any proposal that we bring up through the tribal
23 consultation process, the hope is that we will have a
24 good discussion about any of your thoughts on any of
25 the proposals.
26
27 MR. LIND: Jack, are you still with us?
28
29 MR. REAKOFF: You're breaking up quite
30 a bit.
31
32 MR. LIND: We can hear you now.
33
34 MR. REAKOFF: If the speakers could
35 speak a little closer to the mic. It's interfering
36 with the conference call.
37
38 MR. LIND: Okay.
39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Was there a question for
41 me then? I could hardly hear what the Chair was
42 saying.
43
44 MR. LIND: Okay. Stand by.
45
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Mr. Reakoff, this is
47 Tim Towarak, the Chairman. I'm assuming that Proposal
48 15-01 -- or is it 15-03, I'm sorry, came from your
49 region.
50

1 MR. REAKOFF: That was the Eastern
2 Interior Council's proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Do we have anyone
5 present from the Eastern Interior Council? Okay. We
6 just found out that Andrew Firmin from Eastern Interior
7 Council is going to be here any minute, so as soon as
8 he comes in we'll ask him to address that particular
9 proposal because that proposal came from that region.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

12
13 MR. LIND: Board members, we do have
14 Trent from OSM. If you want, he can do a recap.

15
16 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, so if you guys
17 would like me to just talk through that proposal, I'll
18 give a brief summary and I can try to answer more
19 questions for you.

20
21 Are folks online able to hear me?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: It's real broken. If you
24 can hear me, real broken. I get about every two or
25 three words or so.

26
27 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. I'll talk real
28 close to the mic, Jack. Does that help?

29
30 MR. REAKOFF: That helps a heck of a
31 lot. Thanks.

32
33 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. So 15-03, I'm just
34 going to talk through a brief summary here on this
35 proposal and maybe this will clarify a little bit about
36 some of the discussion we had at the Council meeting
37 and where this proposal was developed and what it was
38 intended to do.

39
40 This proposal, as some of you may know,
41 it's requesting the elimination of the use of drift
42 gillnet fishing gear for the targeting of chinook
43 salmon in Yukon River Districts 1 through 4 and this
44 was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
45 Council.

46
47 This proposed regulatory change was
48 intended to eliminate the use of the drift gillnets for
49 the targeting of chinook salmon. The proponent, in
50 this case the Eastern Interior Council, was concerned

1 over the fact that escapement goals have not been met
2 for chinook salmon in recent years and they believe
3 that the change in the regulation should provide
4 additional protections for chinook salmon that could
5 improve the overall escapement throughout much of the
6 Yukon River drainage.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: You're cutting in and
9 out.

10

11 MR. LIEBICH: I'll try to talk a little
12 bit slower and see if that helps. So, if adopted, this
13 proposal would remove drift gillnets as a gear type for
14 the Federal subsistence harvest of
15 chinook salmon in the Yukon River. The drift gillnets
16 currently are not allowed in Yukon Districts 5 and 6.
17 However, the Federal regulations do allow the drift
18 gillnets in Districts 1 through 3 and also in parts of
19 District 4.

20

21 Similarly, the State regulations allow
22 drift gillnets in Districts 1 through 4. So the
23 elimination of the drift gillnets could benefit chinook
24 during times of conservation if the removal of those
25 drift gillnets as a gear type effectively reduced
26 harvest efficiency to the extent that it reduced the
27 overall harvest of chinook.

28

29 Conversely, the elimination of drift
30 gillnets could also be a potential detriment to
31 subsistence users whose harvest of chinook salmon may
32 be more effective with drift gillnets during strong
33 chinook salmon years. So the proposal could remove a
34 fishing gear option that is currently relied on by one
35 segment of the fishing community. It would not affect
36 the fishing practices of others.

37

38 I also want to note that if drift
39 gillnets were eliminated as a gear type in the Federal
40 waters, the Federally qualified subsistence users
41 fishing under State regulations could still utilize
42 drift gillnets in State waters and set gillnets would
43 also still be allowed throughout the Yukon.

44

45 The last thing I wanted to comment on
46 is that in times where it may be appropriate the
47 Federal in-season manager for the Yukon River currently
48 has the delegated authority to accomplish what is being
49 proposed and has the ability to open or close Federal
50 subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under

1 regulations and the ability to specify the methods and
2 means.

3

4 So with all that in mind, OSM's
5 conclusion on this proposal was to oppose the proposal
6 and that's where we ended. That was the end of the
7 proposal. The discussions that came out of the Council
8 meeting and kind of where we're at at this point in the
9 process.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Once we start our
12 formal meeting the tribes will also have another
13 opportunity to testify to the full Board when we go
14 through the proposals one step at a time. So you'll
15 have a second opportunity to address the Board
16 regarding 15-03.

17

18 MR. LIND: Do we have anybody else, any
19 questions or comments.

20

21 MR. WALLACE: A new process here. I
22 was actually kind of surprised at the setting this
23 morning. Saxman called for a consultation with FSB
24 some months ago. OVS's viewpoint of tribal
25 consultations is that time to sit with decision-makers
26 from the Board. One-on-one dialogue, dialogue going
27 back and forth. I know Tim called for testimony, but
28 it's really a time for dialogue.

29

30 OVS's viewpoint was to, with the
31 outcome of the consultation of talking back and forth,
32 get an idea of where the Board decision-makers are
33 going with a proposal or an action. It's for us to come
34 out of the meeting and say, well, okay, I think we have
35 support from XYZ on the Board. And then, yes, when you
36 go into the formal meeting, that's when you really
37 testify, but that's what consultation is for tribal
38 consultation, is a good dialogue back and forth.

39

40 The tribe, the council, sent me up to
41 today's meeting to, number one, get an update on the
42 rural determination foremost for Saxman and the way the
43 rulemaking is going to go on that. Then I seen another
44 action item was tribal consultation.....

45

46 OPERATOR: Excuse me. Pamela Raygor
47 joins.

48

49 MR. WALLACE:and see what action
50 was going to be taken there because definitely

1 everybody has a little different idea of what is really
2 tribal consultation. For OVS, it really wouldn't be
3 this whole setting. We'd really push for private
4 conversations, closed to the public. That's where you
5 really get good dialogue. I understand some action has
6 been taken on that and I appreciate that. Saxman was
7 kind of the guinea pig on tribal consultation because
8 we requested it.

9

10 But this is the time for tribal
11 governments, like Peter, speaking on this one proposal,
12 for him to get an idea of how the Board is going to go
13 on this as far as decision-making. I don't want to
14 take up much more time, but that was my comments on the
15 action there.

16

17 MR. HASKETT: Thank you. I appreciate
18 those comments. This is kind of an experiment this
19 morning. The guidelines haven't been accepted or put
20 forth yet, so we were trying to see how this works.
21 The problem we have in terms of the kind of
22 conversation you're asking for is that I don't know
23 for sure what I'm going to do on this one. I have a
24 pretty good idea, but I have to wait until we have the
25 deliberations and we have the discussion, so there's
26 going to be additional discussions coming up too.
27 Maybe we could ask Ken Lord to help us with this a
28 little bit, our legal guidance.

29

30 But my sense of what was going to
31 happen this morning was an additional chance to hear
32 from people. It's not that we couldn't have questions
33 or communication, but I wouldn't be at a point yet
34 where I could say this is what I'm going to do yet
35 because the deliberations haven't taken place yet. So
36 I appreciate your concerns, but I'm not sure how to
37 address that.

38

39 MR. LORD: Ken Lord for the record.
40 What would happen here is general discussions about any
41 issues that concern tribes or ANCSA corporations and
42 that's pretty wide open, but we're particularly talking
43 about anything that affects subsistence here.

44

45 But the better way to do this if we can
46 is when focusing in on specific proposals is talk about
47 that during the Board meeting and have that
48 conversation then so that -- and a couple reasons that
49 that's a better way of doing it. One is Geoff's
50 concern that he raised about not knowing what he's

1 going to do until he hears all of the testimony.
2 Another is that it builds a better record. We have all
3 of the testimony in one place in the record. That
4 might make for a better conversation too if everybody
5 who wants to talk about that particular proposal is
6 here at that time.

7
8 You know, this is your consultation,
9 not mine. I'm just saying that that would be the ideal
10 way of doing it. So that's probably all I can think of
11 at the moment that might be helpful.

12
13 MR. HASKETT: For the record, I should
14 have said before I'm Geoff Haskett, Fish and Wildlife
15 Service. So I totally understand the concern, but
16 again this is our first shot at trying this and I think
17 we'll learn from this process and we'll have the
18 opportunity to figure out how to tweak it, make it
19 better. Right now you can hear kind of the concerns
20 there are about actually making kind of pre-decisional
21 kind of discussions.

22
23 MR. LIND: Guyana. Any more comments
24 inside the circle, outside the circle. Do we have
25 anybody else joined us online?

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: All right. Anybody
30 else feel free to bring up any other comments or
31 questions, concerns.

32
33 MR. LORD: I was asked to talk about
34 the differences between private consultation, one where
35 the public is not available, and a public consultation.
36 There's no legal reason to not have a private
37 consultation with the Board. The potential problem is
38 if a tribe wants to say something that they want the
39 Board to take into account in making a decision on the
40 regulations that are coming up, the Board members can't
41 do that unless that information is on the record. It's
42 something that they can point to to a judge and say
43 here's why we made the decision we made. If the
44 consultation is private and there's no transcript of
45 it, that won't happen, which means the Board can't rely
46 on it.

47
48 So if you've got something you want to
49 talk to the Board about that you don't need them to
50 rely on in making a decision, that's fine. If it's

1 some information that you want them to use in making a
2 regulatory decision, then we really need to have at
3 least a transcript of that discussion.

4

5 MR. HASKETT: Sorry, Geoff Haskett
6 again. Another clarification, I think. I think this
7 will help. As I understand it, we could have a private
8 consultation though, yes?

9

10 MR. LORD: You could.

11

12 MR. HASKETT: But then what would have
13 to happen when the Board has its deliberations, if
14 there were points that we needed to go ahead and
15 consider as part of deliberation, some of those
16 specifics would have to come back in for the record
17 later on in the meeting, but you wouldn't have to share
18 anything you didn't want to from the private
19 consultation. Yes?

20

21 MR. LORD: Yes.

22

23 MS. LEONETTI: Crystal Leonetti, Fish
24 and Wildlife Service. I'm going to describe a little
25 bit later on the implementation guidelines for the
26 Board's tribal consultation policy as it's drafted in
27 its final form right now. This is a private
28 consultation right now. The public is not here, the
29 media is not here. So, as Ken described, anything
30 that's shared that the Board might use in making a
31 decision then would need to go on record before they
32 make that decision.

33

34 This is being recorded, so there will
35 be notes available -- transcripts available afterwards.
36 If the public would want a copy of those notes, they
37 could receive a copy of those notes. So just for the
38 tribal leaders' information that's how that works.

39

40 This is also a good time -- tribal
41 consultation is a good time for tribal leaders and
42 corporation leaders to bring forward to the Board
43 information that they might not already have. So it's
44 also a time that Board members can ask questions of the
45 tribes and corporations and gain a deeper understanding
46 of the subject matter.

47

48 Thanks.

49

50 MR. LIND: Thank you, Crystal.

1 MR. P. DEMOSKI: Peter Demoski of
2 Nulato Tribal Council again. I've been here before to
3 these Federal subsistence meetings and this is a
4 completely different process, which I totally approve
5 of. In the past, we came in and sat for hours ready to
6 give three minutes of testimony. That was your limit
7 on our testimony. The Board didn't know what we were
8 going to do when we got up to the mic. Here we're able
9 to discuss our proposals with you before the meeting
10 where you make your determination. I think that's
11 great and I think that's a democratic process you
12 should be following all the time.

13

14 MR. LIND: Quyana, Peter. Thank you
15 for that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And that's why I
18 requested that someone from the Eastern Regional
19 Advisory Council give us their position on it because
20 that's where the original proposal came from, from the
21 RAC that represents District 5 and 6. So until Mr.
22 Firmin gets here I don't think we have anyone to speak
23 on their behalf.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Peter and
26 Arnold for coming. It's a very important process.
27 Andrew Firmin had anticipated being here this morning
28 specifically to be able to hear and listen to any
29 comments or concerns and recommendations on these
30 proposals. So apologies he wasn't able to be here this
31 morning.

32

33 As you know, it can be a long day to
34 wait for these proposals to come up on the agenda
35 during the full Council meeting. If there's an
36 opportunity, if you are here this afternoon, Andrew
37 would very much like to hear your questions and
38 concerns and we'll be able to have some dialogue about
39 their proposal and respond to those questions.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. LORD: Ken Lord again. I wanted to
44 explain a little better my rationale here. If the
45 Board makes a decision, we all like that decision, it's
46 a good one, but we get a legal challenge. What happens
47 when we get to court is the judge -- there's no trial.
48 People can't get up and testify. We can't have Bud
49 come up and testify as to why he made his decision the
50 way he did. Instead, the only thing the judge looks at

1 is the written transcript and the information that OSM
2 puts together, the analysis, the transcripts at the
3 Regional Advisory Council meetings. Those all
4 constitute what we call the administrative record. All
5 those written documents. That's the only thing the
6 judge looks at in trying to decide if the Board's
7 decision is legally justified. So if there is
8 information that the Board relied on that the tribes
9 gave them, for example, that's not in that record, the
10 judge won't know about it and it can't be the basis for
11 a decision.

12

13 So one way, for example, Peter, you
14 were testifying to a specific proposal and I noticed
15 that you had written comments. One way that we can get
16 your comments into the record is if you want to give
17 the Board or the court reporter a copy of those written
18 comments. We can put those in the administrative
19 record and the judge will see that and we can point to
20 that as the basis for the Board's decision. In the
21 future, if you want to write up something that we can
22 put in the administrative record, that's one way that
23 it can be done.

24

25 MR. LIND: Mr. Harry.

26

27 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you. Good
28 morning, everyone. Mr. Chair. Thank you for giving us
29 the opportunity to comment on this. Just going over
30 some of the written material, I was just trying to
31 identify -- when you identified this ANCSA
32 corporations, tribal governments and those
33 organizations that have been identified, wasn't there
34 any key people to communicate with that these
35 discussions are going to be happening?

36

37 It seems like there's just two or three
38 folks here and there's nine or eight other
39 organizations that could be represented within this
40 discussion. It seems like it's not -- how do I say
41 this. I think there's been a failure in communication
42 in the sense that what I'm sensing and sharing you my
43 opinion just from what I'm gathering here this morning.
44 We're going over a process that's in trial, so to
45 speak, but there's not enough representation from the
46 ANCSA corporations or the tribal organizations
47 represented here this morning.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. LEONETTI: Crystal Leonetti. Thank
2 you, Mr. Brower. I believe that all the 229 Federally
3 recognized tribes in Alaska were invited and so were
4 all the ANCSA corporations, village and regional. So
5 people are informed. Tribes and corporations are
6 informed and hopefully as these consultations become
7 more well known there will be more attendance.
8

9 MR. LIND: Quyana, Crystal. Also thank
10 you, Mr. Brower. As Native liaison for OSM, I've got
11 to tell you we have a great team working at OSM and our
12 effort, our goals, are to outreach to everyone that has
13 been affected by a proposal. We are definitely getting
14 better at it and our efforts made by our coordinators
15 are extremely done very well. We do hear back from
16 some and sometimes we don't.
17

18 Again, the effort is there and it's
19 going to get better and better and we're hoping and
20 looking forward to more folks joining us on these
21 consultations.
22

23 Thank you.
24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'd like to explain
26 to Mr. Demoski that as it is right now the Staff that
27 has reviewed Proposal 15-03, the one you testified on,
28 they are recommending to the Board that we do not pass
29 that regulation. That's just for your information.
30 That's what we're looking at right now. Later on when
31 we start our formal meeting we will be doing a complete
32 deliberation of that whole proposal.
33

34 The Staff will be giving the reports,
35 we'll get reports from any other public members that
36 want to make comments on that proposal, we will hear
37 from the Regional Advisory Chairs that are interested
38 in it and especially the Eastern Regional Advisory
39 Council because that's where the proposal came from.
40 We will ask them to tell us why we should vote one way
41 or the other. So there's going to be other
42 opportunities for you to add on to any information that
43 you hear to give us direction on how we should be
44 voting. But for this morning you have us directly to
45 talk about that proposal.
46

47 MR. P. DEMOSKI: Thank you, Mr.
48 Towarak. Peter Demoski, Nulato Tribal Council again.
49 I agree with Mr. Brower over there. I expected to come
50 here with a lot of individual tribal council

1 representation, especially from the Western Interior
2 Regional and Eastern Interior Regional. I've made my
3 comment without any Eastern Regional people here and
4 that's great. Nobody to argue with this morning.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. P. DEMOSKI: But I am looking
9 forward to the next couple days. If they are here, I
10 hope some more representation comes from Western
11 Interior. I hope Jack Reakoff gets here.

12
13 MR. LIND: Quyana, Peter. Any more
14 comments.

15
16 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Anthony
17 Christianson. I'm the rural Board member. I guess
18 just in my short experience here with the Board as far
19 as the consultation and the development of the
20 consultation, it's kind of in its growing stages and
21 the growing pains are going to be there. But I know
22 that situations that have come up in consultation from
23 tribes or the affected public that were brought up in a
24 forum like this ended up in action and ended up in the
25 lap of the people with either the delegated authority
26 or the power to act on the concerns of the citizens.

27
28 So my point of interest in this is
29 looking for issues that might be outside of the scope
30 of the meeting that we're in, seeing that the process
31 already has criteria we're going to follow throughout
32 the next three days to get the concerns of the people
33 who have issues or concerns about certain proposals or
34 processes. So I would look to listen to the tribal and
35 ANCSA corporations in this consultation issues that may
36 be outside the scope of what it is we're going to be
37 working on the next couple of days so we can look to
38 address those and find some action and traction.

39
40 And I look back to the Kuskokwim issue.
41 That came up as an issue in a consultation process that
42 I was on on the phone. Ultimately it ended up in our
43 laps at a meeting and ultimately it ended up in the
44 Staff hands and some action was taken this last year.
45 So my idea of consultation is that we bring concerns to
46 the circle that we can listen to and that we can take
47 some energy to the powers that are able to make some
48 action happen on the concerns of the citizens and the
49 tribal members.

50

1 So, as I sit in a circle, that's what
2 I'm hoping to hear, is things that might just be really
3 of a concern that we can help the tribal members of the
4 state, the ANCSA members or rural members find
5 solutions to big problems. Through this process I've
6 found that there is some success in it.

7
8 So just please look to try to bring up
9 something that we can help find solutions to,
10 understanding that we all have a different view of how
11 consultation should happen. Every tribe has a
12 different way culturally of doing that, so we'll never
13 really hammer down one process, but again I appreciate
14 this open house conversation and dialogue and I would
15 look to find and hear some things that might be outside
16 of the scope of the meeting we're about to have here in
17 the next couple days.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 MR. LIND: Thank you, Tony. Anyone
22 else. I feel like I'm at an auction.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MR. LIND: Well, we definitely
27 appreciate all you folks.

28
29 MR. WALLACE: Lee Wallace. Thank you,
30 Tony, for those comments about outside the box of
31 what's happening here. I guess I'm going to make a
32 real general comment about -- there was a number of
33 individuals doing customary traditional fishing this
34 summer and there was a number of them and they all had
35 their permits and, of course, law enforcement came
36 along and they wanted to inspect them, make sure the
37 fins were cut. Not only that, they wanted to count all
38 the fish they had. So they stopped their process of
39 fishing and they counted all the fish and they were
40 within limits, they were all legal. But the parting
41 comment from law enforcement was you guys are putting a
42 strain on the system.

43
44 That was his direct comment to my son.
45 My son was involved with the group of individuals
46 fishing. You're putting a strain on the system. Yet
47 we all know that we only take maybe 1 percent, maybe 2
48 percent of the whole catch, 1 or 2 percent, and law
49 enforcement is saying you guys are putting a strain on
50 the system. 1 or 2 percent. It's those other

1 fisheries that are putting a strain on the fisheries,
2 the commercial, the sport fishing, any other fishery
3 that's there. Charter fisheries. They're the groups
4 that are putting a strain on the system, not the
5 subsistence users. 1 or 2 percent. So that type of
6 mindset needs to be changed.

7

8 We've heard throughout the years that
9 we get heavily enforced. My son has been really kind
10 of pushing me out of the way, you know, as far as going
11 out for fishing. He said, well, he thinks dad's
12 getting a little old. He's a young 20-year-old young
13 man who is really taking it on. He says, okay, I'll
14 take care of it, Dad. I still like to go out there.

15

16 But it's something again I needed to
17 say to this group is that mindset needs to be changed.
18 We're not putting a strain on the fishery. Other
19 fisheries are.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.
24 Checking up online, has anyone joined us?

25

26 MS. LARSON: This is Dorothy Larson,
27 the administrator for the Curyung Tribal Council. I am
28 online, but we are not able to hear much of what's
29 going on.

30

31 MR. LIND: Well, welcome. Can you hear
32 me now?

33

34 MS. LARSON: I can here you, yes.
35 Thanks.

36

37 MR. LIND: Okay. If we have any other
38 speakers. Do you have anything to bring up?

39

40 MS. LARSON: No, I don't at this time.
41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. LIND: You're welcome. Thank you
44 for being online. At this time it looks like we're
45 going to be closing down. We don't have anyone calling
46 out. We are scheduled to go through this session until
47 10:00 a.m. this morning and we have a little time in
48 between, which the Federal Subsistence Board will start
49 at 11:00 a.m.

50

1 MR. HARD: Thank you, Orville. I just
2 thought I'd take a moment. This is Joel Hard with the
3 National Park Service. Consultation from my
4 perspective is about relationships and they build over
5 time and having that dialogue is important. With that
6 thought I thought I'd take a moment here and
7 acknowledge the passing of Alvin Boskofsky. He was the
8 longtime member of the Aniakchak National Monument
9 Subsistence Resource Commission and the Bristol Bay
10 RAC. He passed away in December.

11
12 You know, he was always engaged in
13 these meetings. He spent a lot of time with the SRC
14 discussing many issues and he had a thoughtful
15 relationship with the members of the National Park
16 Service. It's that sort of relationship that I think
17 is built in meetings like these with the relationships
18 of people in rural communities with the broader
19 membership of the Federal Board. I think in the spirit
20 of how he conducted himself, the strong stewardship he
21 brought to the resource and his commitment to helping
22 people prioritize subsistence in ways you described I
23 think is important.

24
25 So I just thought I'd take that minute
26 here to acknowledge Alvin.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'd also like to
29 point out, Lee, if you would like for us to have a
30 conversation about the rural determination process, we
31 could tell you what we know or what we're planning. In
32 the full Board meeting, we're having an update brought
33 to us by the Staff. Except for that, I don't think
34 there's any other new information that we've got.

35
36 We're going to review our timeline. I
37 know it's getting closer for us to be making decisions.
38 We've started the communication with the Secretary of
39 the Interior, where the ultimate decision will be made
40 on what process is used for the rural determination.
41 We've made our recommendations to him and he is in the
42 process of reviewing it. That's my understanding of
43 where we're at.

44
45 MS. PENDLETON: Beth Pendleton,
46 Regional Forester for the Forest Service. Maybe I'll
47 just add to that, Chairman Towarak, that the
48 expectation that there will be additional public
49 meetings with the draft regulations published. Also,
50 Mr. Wallace, there will also be opportunities for

1 further consultation on that.

2

3 I did want to acknowledge the
4 consultation that Mr. Loudermilk and myself and others
5 participated in with Mr. Wallace and members of the
6 Saxman Tribal Council several months ago and it was a
7 great opportunity for consultation and discussion and I
8 think getting a deeper understanding, the opportunity
9 for dialogue and questions so that members at the table
10 there can better understand the issues and the concerns
11 of the tribe and just greatly appreciated that. There
12 will be additional opportunities for consultation as we
13 move forward this spring and this summer.

14

15 MR. LIND: Thank you for that. We are
16 getting a little feedback on the phones. If you have a
17 mute, would you please use that. If not, *6 to mute
18 your phone. Thank you. Thank you, Beth.

19

20 We do see some new faces that come on.
21 Again, we're in our tribal and ANCSA consultation
22 period and we're going until 10:00 o'clock this
23 morning. So if you have something you want to testify
24 on, please welcome, come to the circle and sign up.

25

26 No Andrew yet. Okay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: One other thing. I
29 know there's been a lot of questions about tribal
30 consultation. I think I should point out, having had
31 some experience with State government -- I too have a
32 really bad cold. I apologize. The State of Alaska,
33 you know, has a very awkward relationship with tribes.
34 For one thing, the State does not recognize tribes as
35 the Federal government does.

36

37 During a previous administration that I
38 worked for we tried developing a relationship between
39 the tribes and the State of Alaska. Administratively,
40 it worked. We had meetings with tribes throughout the
41 state and we talked about tribal issues. There was a
42 lot of understanding I think brought forth through that
43 process to what role the tribes play in rural Alaska.
44 To me, that was one of the most important things that
45 came out of that process.

46

47 But I wanted to point out how it might
48 affect the Federal tribal consultation process. The
49 consultation process came from the President through an
50 administrative process. There's nothing that will make

1 it last forever. The next administration could reverse
2 that administrative process and just totally eliminate
3 the tribal consultation process that we're working on
4 right now. To me, that puts it in kind of an
5 unwieldily position in my mind.

6

7 So as long as we've got President Obama
8 we've got the tribal consultation and we'll try to make
9 it work. But what happens if we get a new president
10 that doesn't believe in the tribal consultation
11 process. If they eliminate the administrative order
12 creating the tribal consultation process, then we go
13 back to the old system of not having tribal
14 consultation.

15

16 So in some ways you can see the
17 situation that we're in right now. It's created by an
18 administrative process, not a legal process. I've
19 always wanted to say that about this, but I've never
20 had this opportunity before.

21

22 Mr. Lord, is that a right analysis of
23 the administrative process?

24

25 MR. LORD: It is in the sense that
26 there was an executive order issued by -- it was
27 President Clinton originally, Executive Order 13177,
28 that started this process, but for this particular
29 program, I think even if the executive order went away
30 we certainly would still coordinate very closely with
31 tribes and the peoples of Alaska. That's just a
32 cornerstone of this program and what was intended when
33 Congress passed Title VIII. It might have some pretty
34 wide-ranging effects nationwide, but I think that in
35 this program at least many things would continue as
36 they are now. At least that's my projection

37

38 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I hope it does. I
39 think the tribal consultation process has been a good
40 way to open the door with tribes. I support it. I've
41 always supported it. I think it gives another method
42 of reaching directly to the Federal Subsistence Board
43 and other Federal agencies. The Federal government
44 does have, I think in the Constitution, that the
45 special relationship that the Federal government has
46 with tribes, I think that's embedded in the Federal
47 constitution somewhere.

48

49 I'm not a legal person, so that's my
50 understanding of the relationship, a special

1 relationship that the Federal government has with
2 tribes. We don't have that same relationship with the
3 State of Alaska. It's not part of the State's
4 constitution to recognize tribes.

5
6 MR. P. DEMOSKI: Peter Demoski, Nulato
7 Tribal Council. Thank you, Chairman Towarak, for your
8 analysis of the tribal government's relationship with
9 the State of Alaska. For years tribes in Alaska have
10 been in conflict with the Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game. We'd much rather deal with the Federal
12 government on our subsistence issues, but that cannot
13 always be the case.

14
15 Previously I brought out the escapement
16 numbers into Canada monitored by the State of Alaska at
17 the Eagle sonar checkpoint. They reported 55,000
18 chinook salmon went to Canada. The Fairbanks Daily
19 News Miner, the Anchorage Daily Dispatch brought out a
20 higher number of 64,000. I don't know the source of
21 the papers' numbers, but it gives me reason to doubt
22 that Alaska Fish and Game is giving us accurate
23 numbers.

24
25 I stated earlier that the 9,000 fish
26 undercounted could have easily satisfied District 1's
27 harvest of chinook salmon for any year. Are they
28 giving us lower numbers to bolster their conservation
29 methods and putting it at the expense of us Yukon River
30 subsistence fishermen? I don't know that, but it's
31 numbers that we receive from the State of Alaska that
32 don't correlate with other numbers that make us doubt
33 that we can really work with them. That's why I say
34 tribes would much rather work with the Federal
35 Subsistence Board.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. LIND: Quyana, Peter.

40
41 MR. HASKETT: Geoff Haskett again, Fish
42 and Wildlife Service. I certainly cannot speak for
43 Fish and Game for the State of Alaska, but I will say
44 that there is a new proposed commissioner, Sam Cotten,
45 who I have recently been able to speak with. I know
46 some other folks in this room have as well. I've been
47 very, very impressed with him and his interest in long-
48 going disagreements and I think we're going to have
49 lots of good discussions with the State of Alaska and
50 I'm hoping for a lot of good communications with them

1 over the next couple of years.

2

3 I think we've probably got an invite in
4 for Sam Cotten to come to a Board meeting at a future
5 time. He's not actually approved yet, but I think he
6 will be. So just a note. I mean I have high hopes for
7 continuing better relations with the State of Alaska
8 and more discussions and communications with them.

9

10 MR. ANDREW: Good morning. My name is
11 Timothy Andrew. I'm the director of natural resources
12 for AVCP. We're a consortium of 56 tribal communities
13 in the Y-K Delta area. I'm here in not so much of a
14 tribal capacity but a representative of the consortium.

15

16 We've had some major issues come up,
17 especially in 2014 when the 804 fishery occurred on the
18 Kuskokwim River and it's likely going to occur on the
19 Yukon River as well. We represent the coastal
20 communities of Kuskokwim Bay all the way up to Lime
21 Village. We do not have McGrath, Nikolai, Telida or
22 Takotna. Those are TCC communities.

23

24 With the Federally authorized fishery
25 that occurred this past summer, the only communities
26 that were able to participate, even though every
27 community on the Kuskokwim River got a cultural permit,
28 where people from Aniak all the way down to the mouth
29 of the Kuskokwim River, people in Nikolai wanted to
30 participate. People in Stoney, but they have to travel
31 -- well, Nikolai has to travel like 300 miles in order
32 to get that Federal allocation of salmon.

33

34 It's an incredible challenge and AVCP
35 would like to see that smoothed out at some point
36 between the Federal and State management system and
37 perhaps go through a tribal management system, which I
38 see is on your agenda.

39

40 We have an incredible stake in the
41 fishery, both on the Yukon-Kuskokwim River where we
42 very much depend on the resources since our ancestors
43 arrived here, long before any established government
44 had come in to provide regulation for us. We've been
45 good stewards of the resource. We continue to be good
46 stewards. Hopefully we'll work in a better direction
47 for the resource.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. LIND: Quyana.

2

3 MR. WALLACE: My Council always regrets
4 when I call for the mic. Since we do have until 10:00
5 o'clock, I just wanted to make some more comments.
6 Definitely, consultation is very meaningful. When I
7 come away from consultation, I want it to be
8 meaningful. I do acknowledge Beth's comment on the
9 consultation that we had down there for the U.S. Forest
10 Service and BIA. It was a very good discussion. Many
11 hours of back and forth. That's kind of what I want
12 out of the consultation as a tribal leader, is to have
13 it be, number one, meaningful when we step away from
14 the consultation.

15

16 I know Tim mentioned the State of
17 Alaska. Last spring after we met with the
18 consultation, the State of Alaska DOT sent out an
19 announcement of a Southeast transportation plan in
20 Ketchikan. I was the only tribal leader that went to
21 the meeting. It was a very short presentation and I
22 made some comments. Before I left I stated I want
23 tribal consultation with State DOT. Not only just with
24 the OVS government, but I also said I'm going to be
25 inviting the Ketchikan Indian Corporation, Metlakatla
26 Indian Community, the City of Saxman to this
27 consultation in Saxman.

28

29 So here was all these governments and,
30 again from that, it was hours of discussion back and
31 forth. I was trying to bring back an old stip that
32 just kind of went away. Hopefully, with the new
33 administration, maybe we'll bring that stip back. That
34 particular stip could actually bring maybe \$3 million
35 into the city of Saxman's coffers.

36

37 So I just wanted to show the other
38 individuals that consultation could be meaningful and
39 it's very important to have. Just to have that
40 discussion and communication. There's no
41 communication, they're not going to know what each
42 party is going to be thinking about. So, yes,
43 definitely consultation is very important.

44

45 That's what I want out of this
46 consultation too, is that it be meaningful. Meaningful
47 for all in the circle. Of course, there's the outlying
48 circle. You know, you guys could be off having
49 Starbucks for all I know. Maybe this isn't meaningful
50 for you folks. As a tribal leader, I definitely want

1 my trip up here to Anchorage meaningful and I can bring
2 something back to my council.

3

4 Thank you. Thank you for having us.

5

6 MR. LIND: Quyana, Mr. Wallace. I'm
7 just going to give a shout out to those online. You
8 have a few minutes if you want to chime in.

9

10 MS. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

13

14 MS. LARSON: Yes, good morning. This
15 is Dorothy Larson. I'm the administrator for the
16 Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham. I just wanted to
17 say that in reading the Governor's transition report
18 that this tribe would very much support
19 Walker-Mallott's effort in supporting subsistence,
20 especially for rural subsistence users that depend on
21 it, and also for the dual management and co-management
22 of renewable resources between the State and tribal
23 governments, and that we would hope that the
24 Subsistence Board would also support the Walker-Mallott
25 effort.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Dorothy.
30 I wanted to point out that because of the process that
31 the Federal Subsistence Board was created through our
32 jurisdiction is strictly with subsistence on Federal
33 policies. Our relationship with the State is going to
34 be, I think, a different avenue that I think we will
35 need direction from our attorneys before we could take
36 any kind of position on the Mallott-Walker initiative.

37

38 MS. LARSON: Yes, thank you for that
39 comment. The release, the transition report release
40 yesterday does indicate the State is prioritizing
41 Federal ecosystem management between the Federal
42 government, the State government and the tribal
43 government.

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Good morning. Timothy
46 Andrew again. Although this is an extremely meaningful
47 process for the tribal communities that are here, there
48 are 229 tribes in the state of Alaska and, like I said
49 earlier, we have 56 of those within the Y-K Delta.
50 Federal regulation out there is far reaching. You

1 know, Federal activities is extremely far reaching into
2 many of our communities from Aniak on down. Several of
3 the other conservation units where subsistence is
4 extremely impacted.

5
6 The centralization of the Federal
7 management system -- like, for example, our regional
8 coordinators centralized into Anchorage, is extremely
9 disturbing. In fact, Federal management should be out
10 there rather than here in Anchorage, closer to the
11 communities, where we can have more effective tribal
12 consultations on regulation.

13
14 The Yukon-Delta Refuge Staff are
15 extremely open to traveling out to the villages to
16 consult with them within the Federal Refuge, but OSM
17 Staff need to get out there as well because OSM affects
18 our lives in every way possible. What we get up in the
19 morning to eat, what we eat for lunch, what we eat for
20 dinner, customs, traditions, the spiritual, physical,
21 social, our activities, and for our future generations
22 as well to carry that forward.

23
24 I think OSM needs to be out there, out
25 in the regions, out where the regulation is impacting
26 all the people out there. Also the Federal Subsistence
27 Board as well. I really appreciate your trips out to
28 the affected communities, but perhaps at some point
29 holding the meetings out in the rural areas because
30 most of the people -- we have 229 tribes out there and
31 some of the people out there don't even know who the
32 Federal Subsistence Board members are and we've been in
33 existence for quite some time now.

34
35 If we can work towards that somehow,
36 somehow and getting the members out continuously and
37 also holding the meetings out in the rural areas as
38 well, it would be very meaningful. Thank you.

39
40 MR. LIND: Thank you. I'll make a
41 short comment and if anyone else wants to chime in. I
42 am fairly new to OSM as a Native liaison and I
43 definitely am making a greater effort to let everyone
44 know in the tribes and ANCSA corporations that I am
45 going to be one of their contacts. If they have
46 subsistence issues, to give us a shout-out.

47
48 Also I believe here a few months ago
49 OSM actually made a trip out to some of the villages,
50 which was, to me, as you said, very important and I

1 hope to see that continues. I think this OSM office is
2 definitely going to grow toward a greater connection
3 with the local communities as we go out into the
4 villages. I'm signed up. I'm anxious -- I'm excited
5 to get out there and I know some of my team members are
6 also.

7

8 With that, a last shout-out to those
9 online as we get close to doing a closing.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. LIND: Not hearing anything. Also
14 to mention that I appreciate you guys recognizing Alvin
15 Boskofsky. He was my uncle and he's actually one of
16 the reasons I got involved with the Federal government.
17 We have elders that have a lot of knowledge that aren't
18 in books, so we appreciate the elders coming out to our
19 consultation meetings, the Federal Subsistence Board
20 meetings. That's really greatly appreciated.

21

22 With that, if no one has anything else,
23 we are going to go ahead and give it to Chairman Tim.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I wanted to point
26 out, Tim, for your information that we, as a Board,
27 have also taken a look at how we can bring ourselves
28 out to join the Regional Advisory Council members.
29 We're trying to split it up so that we hit all the
30 Regional Advisory Councils. I know I've been to about
31 four or five different meetings myself since I've been
32 the Chair and I'm going to try to go out to the ones
33 that I haven't been.

34

35 So we are working at making ourselves
36 more available to the regions at least. As is with
37 most of the Federal programs, our budget is really
38 restrictive on what we can do. If we had our choice,
39 we would have all of our meetings in rural Alaska where
40 the decisions that we make are actually being
41 implemented and not here in Anchorage.

42

43 MR. LIND: Thank you. Well, you know
44 what, I'd like to thank our guests that came in to
45 testify. That's where consultations start. Again,
46 this was an experiment this morning. As we sat in a
47 circle, I've heard a couple good comments. I'm sure as
48 we go through the next two, three days, please, if you
49 have something that you can see that we can improve on,
50 I want to hear it.

1 With that, Recorder, I'm going to go
2 ahead and say thank you very much for your time and
3 this consultation session has ended.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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)ss.
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Salena A. Hile
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