

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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9 VOLUME II

10
11 Ted Ferry Civic Center
12 Ketchikan, Alaska

13
14 March 13, 2013
15 9:00 a.m.

16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 18
19
20 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
21 Michael Bangs
22 Michael Douville
23 Donald Hernandez
24 Aaron Isaacs
25 Harvey Kitka
26 Floyd Kookesh
27 Cathy Needham
28 Patricia Phillips
29 Frank Wright
30 John Yeager
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35 Regional Council Coordinator - Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Ketchikan, Alaska - 3/13/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning, everyone. As far as I know, in the Tlingit language there is no word for good morning. Am I correct? However, there are some students who are going to the University of Alaska and, you know, they're very creative and they invented one and it's called yak'ei yi ts'ootaat.

MR. ISAACS: say it again, Bert.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yak'ei yi ts'ootaat. So some kids from Yakutat invented that. So we're going around town, you know, greeting people that way. Anyhow, we'll call this meeting to order and I want to recognize -- is it Robert or Ken?

MR. JACKSON: Ken.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Ken, okay. Ken Jackson from Kake. We welcome you on board. I understand that you have a junior and I do too. It is a problem, isn't it?

(Laughter)

MR. JACKSON: Yes. He got a lot of calls in Anchorage. He lives in Anchorage and I live in Kake.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. I have a humorous story I'll share with you. I was in Anchorage one time attending the AFN convention, I believe it was. I got into the hotel and I stood in the long line to get registered and it came my turn and I gave them my name. So they looked into the records and said, hey, there is a Bert Adams already registered here and I said, no, I'm just coming right now. There's a Bert Adams, Jr. as well. They said do you have a junior and I said, yeah, I have a son named Bert Adams, Jr. but he's down in Yakutat right now. So they did a little bit more investigating. There's a Bert Adams, Sr. and Jr. I think up north somewhere, Kotzebue or thereabouts. So they gave those two my room.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And, you know, they
4 were very apologetic, they managed to get things
5 straightened out and I went to my room and about 15
6 minutes later a real big basket that came up with all
7 kinds of fruits and goodies in it with a little note we
8 apologize for our mistake. So I went through the day.
9 I was kind of tired, so I went to the room kind of
10 early and I fell asleep and I woke up, you know, about
11 midnight or so, so I got into my bed clothes and
12 crawled into the covers and, oh, about 2:00 or 2:30 I
13 started getting these phone calls and the first one was
14 -- when I answered, I said hello and it was a woman and
15 she says, hi, honey, can I come up.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And so I said no, I'm
21 married, you know, and I'm faithful to my wife. Two
22 times it happened that way. So I called downstairs and
23 I told them, you know, could you get these Bert Adams
24 in your hotel kind of straightened out. I'm the one
25 from Yakutat, so no more phone calls after that.

26

27 There's a friend of mine who's a real
28 good friend of my wife who lives in Anchorage and they
29 had arranged -- they wanted me to give them a call when
30 I got in so they could arrange for a dinner or
31 something, you know, and so the next morning the lady
32 called the hotel and she asked for Bert Adams' room and
33 so they connected it on to Bert Adams, one of the other
34 Bert Adams and she says a woman answered and this
35 really surprised her because, you know, Florence, she
36 knows that I don't chase women, I don't have any real
37 bad habits, I don't drink, I don't smoke, you know, and
38 she's wondering what this woman was doing answering the
39 phone. She says is this Bert Adams's room and she
40 said, yes, it is. And she says, well, is he there and,
41 yes, he's here. Where is he? Oh, he's in the
42 bathroom, you know. So, I know what you're going
43 through.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I just thought I'd
48 share that with you.

49

50 MR. JACKSON: I don't get any phone

1 calls like that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: My son is a basketball
4 coach and, you know, he's gotten pretty well known
5 throughout Southeast Alaska for having winning seasons,
6 so they'll sometimes ask him, you know, are you Bert
7 Adams the author. Oh, yeah, yeah, of course. Then
8 I'll get asked are you Bert Adams, the basketball
9 coach. Oh, you bet I am, you know, I'm the guy. So we
10 take credit for one another's achievements.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyhow, welcome
16 aboard. We'd like to have you take an opportunity to
17 share some thoughts if you would at this time, Mr.
18 Jackson.

19

20 MR. JACKSON: Do I need to turn this
21 on?

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, you need to turn
24 it on. That's one of the first things that we do,
25 otherwise we fine you.

26

27 MR. JACKSON: My name is Ken Jackson,
28 Sr. I'm from Kake. I've lived there for 62 years. I
29 know most of the Board members. I'm acquainted with
30 them and I'd like to meet everybody else that's in the
31 room and just try to do the best job I can. I know
32 there hasn't been too much representation from Kake,
33 but I do appreciate what you guys have done for
34 subsistence. I know Federal is separate from State. I
35 got an orientation from Robert last night.

36

37 I really do appreciate you guys
38 welcoming me and I will just do the best I can. Like I
39 say, I've known some of you for years and some of you
40 just a few minutes. I'm open to any suggestions and
41 I'm here to learn and do the best we can for the
42 advisory council.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ken. At
47 the beginning of our meetings we always do a roundtable
48 -- not so much of a discussion, but a report from the
49 Council about issues in their area. So if you have any
50 concerns you might have around the Kake region that

1 deals with subsistence issues, we'd like to give you an
2 opportunity now if you are able to share that with us.

3
4 MR. JACKSON: Before I left yesterday,
5 and I just had kind of short notice because I wasn't
6 notified until Wednesday that I was appointed. I
7 wasn't sure if I was coming to the meeting because they
8 didn't know if they could be able to make arrangements
9 or hotel and travel. I had a couple guys from OVK,
10 Mike Jackson and Nick Davis, approach me and spoke
11 about sea otters and tour ships dumping and wanting to
12 support Angoon for the long going thing that you have
13 going with the State.

14
15 These are things that -- you know, I'm
16 kind of new at this, so I'm not -- and then I realize
17 that there's a difference between saltwater and
18 freshwater, so I can't really speak on those, but I
19 will convey these things to the council when I go back.
20 Anything I learn here I will share with everybody in
21 the community. I think that's probably where we come
22 in. The way I look at it, all of us here are connected.
23 Like my friend here said, we're all related.

24
25 Those were basically the three things
26 that they talked about, was the fishing and the sea
27 otters.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ken. You
32 know, if you were here yesterday and listened to
33 everyone do their part, we all have practically the
34 same issues to deal with, so we appreciate your report
35 there with us.

36
37 Is the gentleman ready for the
38 extraterritorial? We were supposed to do that at 9:00
39 o'clock today.

40
41 MR. LARSON: Yes. Let's have the
42 people on the line.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I'm sorry.

45
46 MR. LARSON:introduce themselves
47 and then we can go right into the presentation.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You bet. Let's go
50 ahead and anyone on line? I know there are six or

1 seven of you there. So, if you'd like to introduce
2 yourself to us at this time, we'll take your names.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. NELSON: Good morning. My name is
7 Hazel Nelson. I'm the director of Subsistence Division
8 at Fish and Game. I'm calling in from Anchorage.

9

10 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM.

11

12 MS. HANSEN: Kathy Hansen with
13 Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance.

14

15 MR. OWEN: Good morning, Chairman
16 Adams. This is Wayne Owen, the director of fish,
17 wildlife and subsistence for the Forest Service in
18 Juneau.

19

20 MR. HEPLER: Good morning, Mr.
21 Chairman. This is Kelly Hepler with Fish and Game in
22 Anchorage.

23

24 MR. WORHATCH: Good morning. Max
25 Worhatch, United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters.

26

27 MR. EVANS: Good morning. This is Tom
28 Evans with the Office of Subsistence Management in
29 Anchorage, Alaska.

30

31 MS. KELLEY: Dale Kelley, executive
32 director of Alaska Trollers Association, Juneau. Good
33 morning.

34

35 MR. VAN ALLEN: Good morning. This is
36 Ben Van Alen. I'm a subsistence fisheries biologist
37 with the Forest Service in Juneau.

38

39 MR. NAOROS: This is Peter Naoros with
40 Kootznoowoo.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome aboard, you
43 all. We hope you -- if you feel you need to make a
44 comment, please jump in there at any time and we'll be
45 happy to accommodate you. We don't want to exclude you
46 from any issues you might have to discuss during the
47 course of these agenda items. Feel free at any time.

48

49 Mr. Kessler, are you going to take the
50 lead on this issue.

1 MR. KESSLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
2 Members of the Council. Steve Kessler with U.S. Forest
3 Service. I didn't hear Caelan McGee. Are you on?
4 Caelan, are you on the line?

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MR. OWEN: Steve, I'll call him on the
9 phone.

10
11 MR. KESSLER: Thank you very much,
12 Wayne. So the plan is I will start and give a brief
13 introduction and then Caelan McGee from the U.S.
14 Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution will
15 provide the bulk of the briefing here for you.

16
17 We contracted with the Institute for
18 Environmental Conflict Resolution as a third party
19 neutral to help seek a locally developed solution to
20 the Kootznoowoo extraterritorial jurisdiction petition
21 as requested by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the
22 Interior. I would like to note that the funds for this
23 work have been provided by the Bureau of Indian
24 Affairs.

25
26 Before Mr. McGee gets started, assuming
27 that we can get him online, I would like to make sure
28 that everyone has a copy of the assessment as I'm
29 holding up and also of this briefing paper. Is anyone
30 missing either of those?

31
32 I'll also note, Mr. Chairman, that we
33 do have a number of people on the phone that might want
34 to provide some testimony after Mr. McGee's review of
35 the assessment and I hope that we can maybe just rather
36 than people just piping in during that review maybe we
37 can just have sort of a formal time that everybody has
38 an opportunity to speak afterwards.

39
40 What I think I'd like to do is just
41 hold off for a moment until we can get Mr. McGee
42 online.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think, Steve, after
45 your presentations and everything I'll remember to try
46 to acknowledge people online here if they have any
47 testimonies to make.

48
49 So thank you for that.
50

1 MR. KESSLER: Great. Thank you very
2 much. Caelan, have you come on?
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. KESSLER: Could we just take a
7 couple minute hold and see what's going on because we
8 were expecting Mr. McGee to be on at 9:00 o'clock and
9 maybe there is a problem because we've got time zone
10 changes and Daylight Savings doesn't affect Arizona.
11
12 MR. OWEN: Steve, I just got off the
13 phone with Caelan and that was the problem. He said
14 less than five minutes.
15
16 MR. KESSLER: Okay.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We do have Item 9(e)
19 that we didn't go through yesterday. Was that just
20 information or was somebody going to take care of that?
21 Robert. It's the Unit 5A moose.
22
23 MR. LARSON: Oh, that will take more
24 than just a few minutes.
25
26 MR. KESSLER: So it sounds like Mr.
27 McGee will be on in just a few minutes, so maybe we
28 could just take a couple minute hold.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can fill in the
31 blanks a little bit?
32
33 MR. KESSLER: What's that?
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cathy.
36
37 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Maybe in the couple minutes we can cover the annual
39 report bullet item that we left unfinished yesterday.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You think we can do it
42 in a few minutes, five minutes?
43
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, if Robert hands me
45 my sheet back.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, take the
48 lead.
49
50 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Larson, could you

1 please hand me my sheet back with the bullet points.

2

3 MR. LARSON: I've got the new draft.

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, maybe we can't
6 handle that then.

7

8 MR. LARSON: I'll print it and let you
9 review it before we start on that annual report.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In the meantime you
12 could review the paperwork that you have in front of me
13 if you want.

14

15 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 We can start into that and when Caelan comes on, then
17 he can talk about sort of the status and where we've
18 been. As provided in the briefing paper on August 23rd
19 the Secretaries conveyed their decision to Kootznoowoo
20 on this.

21

22 Is that Mr. McGee.

23

24 MR. MCGEE: It is.

25

26 MR. KESSLER: Thank you. Glad that
27 you're on here with us. We're just ready to start into
28 the extraterritorial jurisdiction briefing and I was
29 just starting, but now that you're here perhaps you
30 could continue.

31

32 MR. MCGEE: Thank you, Steve. If
33 there's been a mistake on timing, I do apologize for
34 that. Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, thank
35 you for having this opportunity today to speak with you
36 about our assessment report. I will be rather brief in
37 covering this one page briefing page that you have in
38 front of you so that we can save time for discussion.
39 I guess first very quickly I'll check and make sure
40 that you can hear me.

41

42 MR. KESSLER: We hear you perfectly.

43

44 MR. MCGEE: Great. For what it's
45 worth, my colleague Pat Lewis is sitting here with me.
46 We'll hear from her at some point.

47

48 So what is probably very apparent to
49 those of you who have read the situation assessment
50 report is that this is a procedural document, meaning

1 we entered into these interviews asking questions about
2 processes for discussion and for problem solving rather
3 than coming up with actual answers themselves to some
4 of the issues.

5
6 So I'll walk through very briefly the
7 process and some of our findings. Maybe I'll compare
8 that and make a couple of quick observations versus the
9 recommendations that came out of this body, the
10 Southeast Regional Advisory Council in March of last
11 year, and then we'll go from there. Again, just as by
12 -- maybe I'll be very brief.

13
14 By the way, to back up, I think most
15 are familiar that the Forest Service was appointed to
16 by the Secretaries to look for a way to initiate these
17 discussions. We, through funding from the Bureau of
18 Indian Affairs, began what is a two-phase process. The
19 first is a situation assessment. The second would be
20 any following collaborative problem-solving. We're
21 still in the first phase. We're nearing the end of
22 that first phase, the situation assessment.

23
24 We conducted about 30, a little more
25 than 30 interviews or, more accurately, interviews with
26 more than 30 people between December and February. We
27 developed a draft situation assessment, which we based
28 on the 22nd of last month. Those are still out for
29 comment and review and we're still getting some
30 comments on that.

31
32 The two main recommendations that come
33 from this report are that the -- I'm going to do them
34 in reverse order. The Forest Service increased its
35 coordination with the different leadership bodies of
36 the Angoon community and provided some support so that
37 those bodies meet with the Forest Service more often
38 and meet with each other more often just because it's
39 difficult to pull these meetings off. Logistic support
40 is actually -- can go a long way.

41
42 The task of this group will be what
43 they determine it to be, but the suggestion in the
44 report is if they focus on many of the issues that are
45 raised in the petition for extraterritorial
46 jurisdiction that have to do with the management of the
47 National Monument. I'll stop there and we can talk
48 more about that.

49
50 The second main recommendation is that

1 the State of Alaska convene a multi stakeholder
2 collaborative working group to address interference
3 with subsistence sockeye fishing near Angoon and to use
4 third party facilitation in order to do so. I have
5 received some comments since releasing the draft that
6 requests a more neutral framing of this recommendation.
7 We've gotten the comment that in the report it assumes
8 that there needs to be changes, for example, to this
9 Northern Southeast Purse Seine Management Plan --
10 Fishery Management Plan.

11
12 We've gotten some requests that this
13 actually just be a more neutral framing of this, but
14 that the central idea remains the same, which is
15 collect the key parties that are important for the
16 implementation of different solutions and try to
17 develop agreements, recommendations that everybody can
18 live with that feed into the Board of Fisheries process
19 and the development of the next Northern Southeast
20 Alaska Seine Fishery Management Plan.

21
22 Where we are in the process, we are
23 collecting some written comments. We're getting a
24 number of different types of changes. Some are
25 accuracy in terms of language. Some are toned like the
26 ones that I mentioned where there's a request for a
27 more neutral framing that does not assume that there
28 will necessarily be changes to the upcoming management
29 plan.

30
31 On the 20th of this month, of March, we
32 will hold a conference call and webinar to walk through
33 the key points of this and allow anyone who is
34 interviewed, anybody on that call to ask some questions
35 of how we reached our conclusions or any other
36 clarification that's needed. At that point we will
37 probably close accepting changes and comments and
38 suggestions to the report.

39
40 To close the part of this presentation
41 right now to open it for your questions, let me just
42 make a couple of comments of our report versus your
43 report of last year. Clearly your report, one of the
44 key differences that I see is that ours intentionally
45 stayed on the ground of procedural recommendations, so
46 we're talking about how the Forest Service can support
47 some meetings and the nature of those meetings and,
48 likewise, the State. Whereas some of your
49 recommendations are along similar lines. For example,
50 the subsistence program and ADF&G will assist the

1 community in developing a regulatory proposal for the
2 State Board of Fish at the next regular cycle and then,
3 you know, you conclude with the amounts necessary for
4 subsistence to change the amounts necessary for
5 subsistence finding to a community rather than
6 management area designation.

7

8 So in my mind I think we're touching on
9 similar themes here, which is help the Angoon community
10 and leadership enter into these planning and regulatory
11 processes and engage them more effectively. I've
12 stayed out of some of the substantive findings, such as
13 the recommendation here to adjust the amount necessary
14 for subsistence.

15

16 I think I will stop there and take any
17 questions you might have.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions from the
20 Council. Patty.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 You mentioned the webinar. Is that open for the
24 Council to dial into?

25

26 MR. MCGEE: Absolutely.

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Can we get information
29 on that?

30

31 MS. LEWIS: Yes, I'll be sending out
32 information later today and it will include a call-in
33 number as well as a link to the URL to get on the web.

34

35 MR. MCGEE: It's decidedly low-tech
36 stuff. It's pretty simple. It's just a conference
37 call and we'll have a live
38 presentation that goes along with it on the website.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So that will be on the
43 20th?

44

45 MR. MCGEE: The 20th and the time is
46 3:00 p.m.

47

48 MS. LEWIS: It's 3:00 p.m. our time,
49 but 2:00 p.m. Alaska time.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more
2 questions of the Council.

3
4 MR. LARSON: Caelan, this is Robert
5 Larson, the Council's coordinator. So you'll make sure
6 that information gets routed to me.

7
8 MR. MCGEE: Certainly will, Mr. Larson.
9 We haven't sent it out to anyone yet, so you will be in
10 the first wave and I'll make sure you get it.

11
12 MR. LARSON: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Steve.

19
20 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Steve
21 Kessler. I just think that we should hear if there are
22 any questions or comments from anyone online who have
23 been -- many of these people have been very involved in
24 the process and in the discussions with the U.S.
25 Institute, so hopefully we could open the line to any
26 comments and questions.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. We'll go ahead
29 and open the line to anyone who is online who has some
30 comments or questions on this issue. Is there anyone
31 there?

32
33 MR. HEPLER: Mr. Chairman. This is
34 Kelly Hepler with Fish and Game again. First of all I
35 want to thank you this morning for -- you know, I miss
36 not being down there and one of the things I was
37 thinking before I called in is one of the things I miss
38 most is your stories, Mr. Chairman, so you did warm my
39 heart this morning hearing you start the meeting with
40 one of your stories. It made me feel a little bit more
41 at home.

42
43 I just want to just reiterate last
44 spring we met with the Council and I thought we came to
45 a very workable solution. That time the State
46 committed to find a local solution to work with Angoon
47 and Kootznoowoo in trying to resolve some of the
48 differences and that commitment is still there, Mr.
49 Chairman. We followed through on many of the things we
50 talked about last summer and we're continuing on doing

1 that. We plan to have a community meeting sometime in
2 April with the village of Angoon and talk about some of
3 these issues that we have been working on. Myself and
4 Hazel Nelson on the line will be with me.

5
6 Jennifer Yuhás is in the audience and
7 she's the spokesperson for the State in my absence and
8 she's actually probably a little more articulate than I
9 am anyway. You probably enjoy being around her more
10 than me. I've been very encouraged. I've had the
11 opportunity to meet with some of the users or on the
12 phone. I met with UFA board. All I hear, Mr. Chairman,
13 is people committed to resolving if there's any kind of
14 differences we can resolve.

15
16 Caelan, I do appreciate you going back
17 and working with -- you and Wayne Owen of the Forest
18 Service have been incredible to work with. The main
19 thing I just want to reiterate our plan, like Caelan
20 said, is not necessarily to get a third party
21 discussion going, but we want to work within the guides
22 with the Board of Fisheries, just like we did last
23 spring, within that process, and we want to work with
24 the community and see what we can do, Mr. Chairman. I
25 don't think it's necessary right now to create another
26 working group. I think we work within the guides of
27 that and it would be a worthwhile thing to do.

28
29 Mr. Chairman, that's all I have.
30 Jennifer, I think, over the course of the meeting will
31 have an opportunity to talk to the Council if you have
32 any other particular questions.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much
37 for that. I think the question I was going to pose,
38 and you mentioned it, was that at that joint meeting
39 with the Board and the Southeast RAC it seemed like
40 there was a real big broad base of cooperation from all
41 user groups. I think you answered the question, but
42 would you confirm that, please.

43
44 Is that still pretty much in effect?

45
46 MR. HEPLER: Mr. Chairman. Absolutely.
47 Some of those primary user group people are on the
48 phone and Dale and others and Nancy and others can
49 reflect that, but I'm completely encouraged. The
50 industry and some people not inside the industry are

1 all interested in making sure we resolve anything
2 working with Angoon. I mean it's part of our home,
3 part of our people, so that's why we're committed, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any
7 questions from the Council. Mr. Wright.

8
9 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 was just wondering, you know, in the paper it says
11 Chatham Strait, Peril Strait and Icy Strait and it may
12 not be necessary to include these interest groups as
13 full members. I was just wondering about the Icy
14 Strait communities that -- I think that we should be
15 involved some way so that, you know, because it does
16 include us. As a procedural, we probably need to make
17 some kind of contact with somebody so that we can be
18 involved with this issue.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think, you know,
23 that was pretty well emphasized at our previous
24 meeting, so why don't you respond to that, sir.

25
26 MR. HEPLER: Mr. Chairman. Certainly.
27 We're inclusive, so we want to make sure all the people
28 who want to be involved are, in fact, involved. I'll
29 make note of that and I'll work with Cathy and others
30 in the industry side to be sure we get the right people
31 involved.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: More questions. Mr.
36 Kookesh.

37
38 MR. KOOKESH: I had one for Kelly. You
39 mention in your transcripts that you're working with
40 all the groups and I'm just wondering how you're going
41 to involve Kootznoowoo with the Angoon meeting since
42 the Juneau office is -- since the corporate office is
43 in Juneau.

44
45 MR. HEPLER: Yeah, this is maybe
46 getting a little bit ahead of ourselves. I apologize
47 not having this more organized. But the intent was
48 that I was going to -- since Peter is on the line he
49 gets to hear it the first time. I was going to invite
50 Peter to accompany us down in April. That way he's

1 there with us and the same type of thing, giving the
2 same courtesy the Chairman extended to Peter this
3 morning. We'll offer the same courtesy because he's
4 certainly a major player in Kootznoowoo as a
5 corporation, so we planned to have Peter with us and,
6 Peter, you haven't had a chance to hear that from me
7 yet, so you're hearing it right now. Hopefully you'll
8 have time, but we'll get the exact date. We're working
9 with Chad and Wayne with the Forest Service to get a
10 date worked out for Angoon.

11

12 Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone else
15 with a question for Kelly.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. Is
20 there anyone else online that would like to make a
21 comment?

22

23 MS. NELSON: I would, Mr. Chairman.

24 This is Hazel Nelson, the director of Subsistence
25 Division. I'm looking forward to coming to Angoon and
26 meeting everyone and listening to your concerns. This
27 area and concern is new to me. I've been spending time
28 understanding it and several of my Staff from
29 Subsistence Division has recently been in your part of
30 the country conducting household surveys and I really
31 sincerely appreciate the time that is given to them as
32 you know records that are kept for subsistence harvest
33 and uses is really important in helping the Board of
34 Fisheries in their determinations. It's certainly
35 important in building a record for how the subsistence
36 users have amounts necessary for subsistence and I hope
37 that they have enjoyed the company of the people in
38 Southeast and I really look forward to meeting each of
39 you at that meeting.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much,
44 Hazel. Any questions for Hazel, anyone from the
45 Council.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you again,
50 Hazel. Is there anyone else online that would like to

1 comment?

2

3 MS. KELLEY: Mr. Chairman. This is
4 Dale Kelley, executive director of Alaska Trollers
5 Association. I'd just like to reflect.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me. What was
8 your name again?

9

10 MS. KELLEY:some of the comments
11 that I have for.....

12

13 REPORTER: Hold on, hold on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me. I didn't
16 get your name.

17

18 MS. KELLEY: I'm sorry. It's Dale
19 Kelley, Alaska Trollers Association.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

22

23 MS. KELLEY: I don't really have much
24 to say, Mr. Chairman. I did want to reflect some of
25 the comments of Director Hepler about willingness of
26 industry to sit down and work with all the user groups.
27 I'm encouraged by this process and think that the only
28 way we can work through problems is to understand each
29 other better and work through the processes we have in
30 place, like Board of Fish. So I'm really encouraging
31 everybody to communicate and share information.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Questions
36 for Ms. Kelley.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more online people
41 want to comment.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. We'll
46 go ahead and move on. Steve.

47

48 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. I don't
49 have anything more. This was for information of the
50 Council. If the Council, as a whole, would like to

1 provide comments on the situation assessment, you could
2 do that now or if individuals would like to provide
3 comments, the comment period is through the end of next
4 week as Mr. McGee has discussed.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Steve.
7 Jennifer, do you want to come forward a minute. While
8 she's coming, do we have any blue slips?

9
10 MR. LARSON: We do not.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just for people in the
13 audience, if you want to make a comment, there's a
14 comment slip up there. It's blue. Fill that out and
15 we'll take you once it's delivered up here. It looks
16 like that. If you want to make a comment on this
17 particular issue, I would encourage you to go up and
18 get a slip right now and we'll put you on line.

19
20 Ms. Yuhas, go ahead.

21
22 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
23 just wanted to add an informational point to Mr.
24 Hepler's discussion and that centered on Floyd's
25 question with regards to invitations to a meeting that
26 might happen in Angoon. I just want to clarify for the
27 Council and for everyone else listening that the reason
28 that those have not gone out is not due to any sort of
29 disorganization. We don't have confirmation yet from
30 Angoon on when they're available. So we haven't sent
31 any formal invitations to Peter or others because we
32 don't know the dates yet and that's out of respect to
33 Angoon. We want to make sure they're available and
34 they're ready to meet with everyone before we send out
35 invites to everyone else.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jennifer.
38 Mr. Kookesh, did you have something to say.

39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I had three
41 comments or three questions. Maybe Steve can answer
42 the first one unless the RAC wants to take it. What I
43 was wondering is what is our role going forward, the
44 Southeast Regional Advisory Council. The other one is
45 the second phase monies? What is the plan for -- what
46 are you working on for Phase II if there is going to be
47 a Phase II. The third one I had was can you speak to a
48 Comprehensive Southeast Salmon Management Plan?

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I got two of your

1 questions. I'll just let him answer it and I'll get
2 that from there. Okay, go ahead, Steve. Do you want
3 to respond to that.

4

5 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 I will attempt to answer the first. I think that the
7 second I will punt that to Mr. McGee online and the
8 third one I have no idea, so we'll need to figure out
9 who would be the best person here to answer that
10 question.

11

12 So as far as the Regional Advisory
13 Council role, that's really up to you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me, Steve.
16 Since Mr. Kookesh wouldn't let me know what that third
17 one was, would you mind sharing that with me.

18

19 MR. KESSLER: Okay. The three were the
20 role of the Regional Advisory Council. The second one
21 was a little bit about Phase II and how that's going to
22 come about and what that will potentially look like.
23 Floyd wants to know about money for that also. The
24 third one is the status of the Comprehensive Southeast
25 Salmon Management Plan.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

28

29 MR. KESSLER: So the first one with the
30 Regional Advisory Council role, that is, in large part,
31 up to the Regional Advisory Council to figure out. You
32 provided your recommendation to the Federal Subsistence
33 Board. The Federal Subsistence Board provided their
34 recommendation based on your recommendation to the
35 Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior and then
36 the Secretaries decided what way to proceed.

37

38 We're now implementing the Secretaries'
39 direction through using a third party neutral to help
40 us all through this process. We've come back to you and
41 we've committed to coming to you at every one of your
42 Council meetings to give you an update as this process
43 unfolds over the next couple of years. You have the
44 choice of how you would like to participate,
45 recognizing that you're an advisory council to the
46 Secretaries and to the Federal Subsistence Board.

47

48 So, for instance, if you wish to
49 provide recommendations on this assessment as a
50 Council, you could do that. As individuals, of course,

1 you can also do that. I think that you are an
2 organization that we should bounce some of these
3 different solutions on. The Council may see some
4 proposals or may need to be part of this process if
5 there are regulatory issues that are within your
6 authority. We also recognize that this Council has a
7 role in everything to do with subsistence no matter if
8 it's within the Federal jurisdiction or Federal
9 Subsistence Board jurisdiction or in any other issues
10 affecting subsistence in the region.

11
12 So it's really your call, but we are
13 implementing the process that started from this Council
14 and through the Federal Subsistence Board and to the
15 Secretaries. Is that good, Mr. Kookesh?

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think I'm kind of --
18 I appreciate Floyd's question about that, but I'm
19 wondering just how deep are we going to be involved in
20 this. You've mentioned, you know, that we'll have an
21 important role in that, but, you know, when it gets
22 right down to the nitty gritty how much input will the
23 Council have on these issues?

24
25 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Adams. I think that
26 the Council can have the level of involvement which
27 they choose. Also recognize at your last meeting that
28 you identified two spokesmen for the Council and that's
29 yourself and Vice Chair Michael Bangs. So, unless
30 something changes and the Council wants to change that
31 interaction as this process moves forward, recognizing
32 the Council only comes together twice a year and this
33 process is going to be continuous, I would think that
34 it would be through you two gentlemen that further
35 involvement would occur. If there's significant
36 questions or steps along the way that you feel the
37 Council needs to be involved in, of course there's
38 always the opportunity to call a special meeting of the
39 Council.

40
41 To keep this process moving, it's going
42 to be a continuous process that can't just wait for
43 Council meetings.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Then, you
46 know, the involvement of the Chairman and the Vice
47 Chair, they would be privy to going to these
48 forthcoming meetings that will be held in Angoon or
49 elsewhere?

50

1 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. I guess
2 there needs to be further discussion on that and taking
3 a look at the availability of funding and whether -- I
4 mean is that a request? I'm not sure I heard a request
5 that you would want to participate in such meetings.
6 I'm sure Kelly is listening to this and thinking about
7 participation like at this upcoming Angoon meeting.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, well, I think
10 it's important that one of us be present at some of
11 those meetings. I guess we can talk about that a
12 little bit later on too. So thank you. I think there
13 was another question I had, but it slipped my mind. It
14 will come back to me, so I'll catch you then.
15

16 Any more questions of Mr. Kessler. Go
17 ahead.
18

19 MR. KOOKESH: Did he answer the one
20 about the money and the Southeast Salmon Management
21 Plan.
22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did you? Okay, you're
24 not done yet.
25

26 MR. KESSLER: The second question from
27 Mr. Kookesh was about Phase II and how we're going to
28 sort of move into Phase II. As I said, I'd like to
29 punt that one to Mr. McGee to talk about Phase II. I
30 think we've had some discussions here with Mr. Hepler
31 about that also. Caelan, can you respond to what's
32 next.
33

34 MR. MCGEE: Sure, Mr. Kessler, thank
35 you. What we know so far -- well, let's see. Our
36 assessment report includes our recommendations for the
37 next phase, which are these two prophesies. One that
38 is hosted and supported by the Forest Service and one
39 that is hosted and supported by the State of Alaska. I
40 think each of those bodies are considering just what it
41 is they want to do with those recommendations.
42

43 My general understanding -- I'll
44 certainly let them speak for themselves, but my general
45 understanding is that there's broad support for deeper
46 and more effective engagement on these issues, but that
47 actually turning our recommendations into a new process
48 or a beefed up process or something that each of those
49 bodies are doing their own work to design that and how
50 it will work.

1 We, at U.S. Institute, will makes
2 ourselves available to either of those bodies in terms
3 of offering advice on how to design and go about those
4 things. If it's appropriate, there may be some role
5 for the U.S. Institute or another third party
6 facilitator to assist with those. That's all unclear,
7 so I think the following things have to happen.

8
9 The two lead agencies, the Forest
10 Service and the State, have to design and offer up the
11 shape of these engagement processes. I think the
12 parties that would participate in these processes that
13 have to decide whether that's something that meets
14 their needs and works well with them. Then I think
15 funding needs to be secured to support those efforts
16 and that's all to be determined.

17
18 So we're at the end of Phase I and
19 that's what I know so far of Phase II.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
22 Steve.

23
24 MR. KESSLER: So thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. Mr. Kookesh's third question was about the
26 Comprehensive Southeast Salmon Management Plan update
27 and I hope there's somebody else in the room who will
28 be able to address that question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In the room or online.
31 Is there anyone in the room who would be able to answer
32 that question from Staff?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Could you find out for
37 us.

38
39 MR. KOOKESH: Can I ask a follow up?

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. KOOKESH: I would like to know
44 since Phase I ends in a little over two weeks, what are
45 the plans moving forward for the money? Do we just
46 wait until Phase I ends and then start looking for the
47 money or what are you going to do?

48
49 That's my question.

50

1 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.
2 Of course, I think all of us are thinking about the
3 money and what the process would be going forward. At
4 this point, as Mr. McGee discussed, we would have the
5 two lead agencies for the different parts of the
6 question and I think that those lead agencies will be
7 thinking about how to fund these processes moving
8 forward. I don't think any of us are willing to make
9 those commitments yet. We had a commitment for the
10 funding of Phase I. We don't have any commitments yet
11 for the funding of Phase II because we don't even know
12 exactly what Phase II will look like.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does the sequester
15 have anything to do with that?

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19
20 MR. KESSLER: Oh, probably the
21 sequester might have a little bit something to do with
22 that, but the sequester is Federal only. So if the
23 State is going to be facilitating the process -- you
24 have to ask the State because the State gets Federal
25 monies too, so I really don't know.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Mr. Wright
28 and then Cathy.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 This Regional Advisory Council has been involved with
32 this for quite some time and I think that the Chair and
33 Vice Chair should somehow be involved because one of
34 the definitions I'd like to know is what does full
35 members mean as full members on Page 8 on the top
36 paragraph. It says that -- talking as full members
37 when they were talking about Icy Strait and Chatham
38 Strait and Peril Strait, you know, include these
39 communities as full members. The Regional Advisory
40 Council has been involved, so I'm just curious of what
41 the definition of full members is.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 MR. MCGEE: I can respond to that, Mr.
46 Wright and Mr. Kessler, if that's helpful.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

49
50 MR. MCGEE: Mr. Wright, I think I

1 probably had imperfect language on this. I don't
2 actually have a formal definition of what a full member
3 is, but our recommendation was to put together a body
4 that provides recommendations to the extent possible to
5 different processes, especially the development of the
6 Purse Seine Management Plan.

7
8 What I wanted to say in the assessment,
9 what I tried to say was that there are some issues in
10 the petition that venture outside of Angoon's area and
11 into other people's -- should certain actions be taken
12 on the petition it has the potential to affect others
13 on the edge and nearby and your community of Hoonah is
14 a very -- the most important example of that.

15
16 So when I suggested that, it might not
17 need to be full members. It was not to try to say that
18 you don't -- your community doesn't have enough
19 interest in it to participate as a full member, but
20 more to say there are such a number of other issues to
21 be discussed that maybe -- that there are ways to build
22 in, for example, the interests of Hoonah and the
23 fishermen that operate out of Hoonah, that it would be
24 important for you to weigh in on those issues, but
25 perhaps you wouldn't need or want full engagement on
26 the rest of the issues.

27
28 I'm not doing a very good job of
29 explaining it. Let me try one more way. First I'll
30 say any body that gets put together it would not be the
31 institute saying you get to participate at this level
32 and not at this level. That's all a discussion on how
33 a group would be put together. In other words, the
34 recommendations in this report are a starting point for
35 discussion. The reason I said not full member was
36 thinking that it was important for, for example,
37 Hoonah's or other gear groups other than the seiners,
38 some of these other groups that may be affected by
39 actions related to the petition. Their interests need
40 to be included in this discussion, just maybe not all
41 of the discussions, and that may not be perfectly
42 accurate.

43
44 Sorry for the long answer.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you.
47 Cathy. And then you had a follow up too, Mr. Kookesh.
48 Did you have something.

49
50 MR. KOOKESH: I had a different

1 question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Different question,
4 okay. Cathy, go ahead.

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
7 thinking about the SERAC's role in this, one thing I
8 wanted to kind of step back and point out on the record
9 is that we have been involved from the beginning in
10 that we made the original recommendation to the Federal
11 Subsistence Board that got forwarded on to the
12 Secretaries and then the Secretaries took action which
13 included things beyond what we had necessarily
14 discussed in our recommendation, of course.

15

16 We have a specific recommendation on
17 milestones that we kind of set up in that that we'd
18 like to see in three years and we deferred action being
19 taken on the petition at that time and hope that those
20 milestones that we set up were implemented and put in
21 place within three years. If they weren't, then we
22 recommended that extraterritorial jurisdiction actually
23 be applied and that was my -- last spring, when we met
24 a year ago, that was sort of my take home message of
25 what came out of it.

26

27 When I read through the situation
28 assessment and when we get a status report back, we
29 kind of seem to lose it seems to me the interpretation
30 out there of what we made in our recommendation is that
31 we said let's just defer action. I think that we need
32 to be kind of clearer and make sure that it was only
33 defer action until certain things could be done.

34

35 So, personally, when we have the update
36 of where we are in the process, it would be nice to go
37 back and look at the list that we put together of
38 things that we wanted to see and find out where, after
39 one year, are we with each of those bullet items of
40 things that we had. So genetic stock testing was one
41 of them. Has that been implemented, is it funded to be
42 implemented, is it going to be implemented by the end
43 of the three years or not.

44

45 So when we think about like what is our
46 role, I think we need to keep pushing to make sure that
47 our original recommendation, pieces of that are still -
48 - we're getting reports back on that and that we're
49 comfortable that at the end of the three years the
50 parties that have worked together have addressed those

1 things as well, not just what's coming out of the
2 situational assessment and the recommendations that
3 they're making.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that,
6 Cathy. Appreciate it. Floyd.

7
8 MR. KOOKESH: My question goes to
9 Caelan, the Forest Service, State of Alaska and
10 probably to the Regional Advisory Council, specifically
11 through Caelan. If we're going to be including new
12 members or adding additional, I'd like to make sure
13 that those complete lists that go to RAC, that go to
14 the State of Alaska and Forest Service are all the same
15 without excluding any because I've heard at some point
16 in one of the mailings that the gillnetters and Kathy
17 Hansen was excluded. So I just need to make sure that
18 if we're going to go through an all-encompassing
19 process, that we need to make sure everybody is
20 included.

21
22 This is a public interest issue.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Point well taken,
27 Floyd. Steve or someone could respond to that, okay.

28
29 MR. KESSLER: I think that Mr. McGee
30 might have a comment on that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. McGee, the Chair
33 recognizes you.

34
35 MR. MCGEE: Mr. Kookesh, good question.
36 I think that, first of all, the State is probably
37 working on a slightly different model than we suggested
38 in our recommendation, which I think is fine. I think
39 the State is considering the resources in different
40 ways to have this discussion. So that's the first
41 comment, I think. In other words, whatever process
42 comes to talk about the next Purse Seine Management
43 Plan it will probably look a little bit different than
44 what we've got in our recommendation.

45
46 Now whether you follow a close
47 recommendation to this plan or even the State process,
48 whatever it is that the State -- how they adjust it and
49 present their suggestions for how to have this
50 discussion, either one of those should start by doing

1 two things. Being very clear on what the mission of any
2 body or any group is, what their task is and spending
3 some time being very clear about its membership and
4 composition and who needs to be a part of it and why.
5 Break that out into a series of protocols, operating
6 protocols that describe the mission of the group, how
7 they make decisions, how it's comprised, operating
8 procedures.

9

10 I think you raise the right questions,
11 Mr. Kookesh, and I think those have to be considered in
12 the development of a group.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Patty.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
17 Adams. I'm going to go down the same routes similar to
18 what Cathy was talking about and that is, you know, we
19 had our recommendations on the ETJ. In our statement
20 we said the ultimate solution will require cooperation
21 between the State of Alaska, Federal Subsistence
22 Program, and local communities. Is the seine group a
23 local community, is the commercial fishery group a
24 local community besides, besides Angoon, Hoonah and
25 Kake possibly. You have this corridor where these fish
26 are going through. They're all stakeholders in one
27 degree or another and rightly so. This is traditional
28 territory we're dealing with and they feel that they
29 have the top right over the others.

30

31 Also our recommendation was to defer
32 extending ETJ into the waters of Chatham. Based on our
33 recommendations was that they amend the Northern
34 Southeast Alaska Seine Fishery Management plan and the
35 Hidden Falls Hatchery Management Plan. So where has --
36 I think we want to know what steps are being taken
37 towards our recommendations. They ask what is the
38 RAC's role. Well, the RAC wants to know what specific
39 activities have happened on our original
40 recommendations in the ETJ.

41

42 Yesterday I requested that we add
43 genetic stock analysis, genetic stock sampling and
44 analysis in our annual report. So why. Well, because
45 one of our recommendations is genetic stock
46 identification in the Chatham Strait fisheries. Are
47 those fish being intercepted and in what areas of
48 Chatham are they being intercepted.

49

50 Then we have the escapement goal

1 studies. What progress is being made towards these
2 escapement goals studies. This fellow on the phone
3 says there's broad support for more deeper, more
4 effective engagement and that we need to design up and
5 offer up the shape of these engagement processes.

6
7 We've already said what we want to
8 know, so there's a report that's telling us -- and I
9 understand that you have to put certain negotiation
10 pieces in place. You've got the Feds and you've got
11 the State and then you've got the stakeholders. I
12 understand that and you can't do A until you do B. You
13 can't go to the Board of Fish with a proposal until you
14 do the amounts necessary for subsistence.

15
16 That was one piece of an update that
17 was relevant to us, that Fish and Game is on the line
18 telling us we're in Angoon and we're doing an amounts
19 necessary for subsistence. We need that. They cannot
20 put a proposal forward until they do that. To me,
21 that's a step in the right direction.

22
23 I know that there needs to be a third
24 party, you know, mediator so that we can make some --
25 we're not throwing sticks at one another, but in order
26 to gain headway towards positive resolution of our
27 recommendation. That's what I want to see.

28
29 If Chairman Adams and Vice Chair Bangs
30 can be involved in these stakeholder meetings to
31 represent our concerns, then there remains that focus
32 on what this was about as far as the RAC is concerned,
33 as far as I'm concerned as a member of the RAC.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.
38 Yes, our involvement would be very important and then
39 we can come back to the Council and give reports.
40 Kelly, would you mind responding to Patty's concern
41 here about what has been done and maybe is it possible
42 for you to share with us, you know, what needs to be --
43 and I know we have the stages and so forth, but I
44 think, you know, it might comfort some of us to know a
45 little bit more about where we have been and where we
46 are going.

47
48 MR. HEPLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 I'll be happy to. I understand that Jennifer gave you
50 a little bit of an update yesterday, so I'll expand

1 upon that. The first primary thing that we discussed
2 last spring was the genetic stock identification. In
3 that discussion, if you remember, Mr. Chair, came in
4 late in the regulatory or budgetary process, but I
5 think the actions of the governor's office,
6 commissioner's office and the users we're very
7 fortunate to get money put into the budget in a very
8 quick way to actually get that engaged.

9
10 Last year, working with the Forest
11 Service, our Staff went out and collected the baseline
12 information, which we need to know those markers, those
13 small lakes in northern Chatham. So that has been
14 completed. There's still some work that needs to go
15 back and take some more of those baseline samples this
16 coming summer.

17
18 With that said, then the other piece of
19 that, of course, what happens in the fishery and being
20 able to pick those fish up through the fisheries. We
21 have money requested in the budget process right now
22 that I'm not sure where it's going to end up in the end
23 because we're still in the middle of a budget process,
24 but I can tell you as far as the Department, doing a
25 fishery sampling is incredibly important for the
26 Department. Not only for this process, Mr. Chairman,
27 and what it means to the communities in Southeast, but
28 also for the treaty process.

29
30 So the Department is committed to
31 working closely, you know, with the Legislature and get
32 funding for that. If not, I think we're going to have
33 to go back and examine our own budget. So we are
34 committed to follow through with that information.
35 Now, the intent, of course, is this is all going to
36 come together in time for the Board of Fish meeting
37 coming up in a couple years. We always put qualifiers
38 on. You'll be able to get a snapshot of what that
39 looks like, so I don't want to overplay what we're
40 going to have, but we committed and we are following
41 through what I consider the most significant part of
42 what we mentioned to the RAC last spring, so that is
43 being done.

44
45 The second part -- I think the second
46 most important piece of information is breaking apart
47 that Northern Southeast and the amount necessary
48 determination so you don't get blended out by Juneau
49 and that's something that -- just, in fact, yesterday
50 Director Nelson and I were talking about making sure we

1 got that commitment through and we're going to follow
2 through with that.

3

4 Hazel, I don't know, and not to put you
5 on the spot if you're still on the phone, if that's
6 something maybe you want to address, but we are
7 committed to working and make sure that information is
8 available. Mr. Chairman.

9

10 MS. NELSON: Actually, yes, Kelly and
11 Mr. Chairman. As I had mentioned earlier, several of
12 our Staff have recently returned from doing some
13 surveys and we would certainly like to obtain more
14 information to supplement what we've gathered, which
15 may require additional trips out there. For those of
16 you who understand how important it is for the families
17 to open their doors to the subsistence team who are
18 gathering this data, it's really important for us to be
19 able to talk with people. I understand that a lot of
20 times though people are busy or have other priorities,
21 but this issue is really important to the communities.
22 In order for us to get the best data available, the
23 more data on this the better the decisions will be.

24

25 Right now while I recognize we have
26 returned with some recent data I'm not satisfied with
27 it. I'd like to see a larger percentage of the
28 households to be represented. Once we have all of that
29 data put together, we'll certainly be on a fast track
30 in order to get resolution to this sooner, the more
31 satisfied I'll be with being able to work effectively
32 on this most important issue for the communities.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
37 else online would like to comment.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments or
42 questions from the Council.

43

44 MS. KELLEY: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.

47

48 MS. KELLEY: This is Dale Kelley again.
49 I just had a couple of things and one is in response to
50 what Kelly had said about the sampling for the genetic

1 stock ID in Chatham. If the Council -- hopefully
2 you're already aware, but this is something that I
3 would suggest you maybe mention to your local
4 representative because we're having a tough time
5 budget-wise making sure that Fish and Game's sampling
6 budget is secure this year and they're pretty aware up
7 there, but just if somebody is talking to their local
8 legislator you might let them know that the RAC feels
9 it's important to get that sampling done so that we can
10 definitely have the sampling budget that we need to do
11 this and other important fishery sampling for all of
12 our constituents.

13

14 One last thing is earlier something was
15 said about these fisheries in Icy Strait and Peril
16 Strait, Chatham Strait and whether or not they would be
17 stakeholders or full or part. It's really important
18 with our program that people recognize that our
19 fisheries are really interrelated in how they're
20 managed. I would hate to see important stakeholders
21 left out of the process or given some kind of status in
22 any process you have moving forward.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

27

28 Mr. Hernandez.

29

30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
31 Chairman. One more question I just thought of. I saw
32 it in one of our reports. I don't remember where, but
33 another component was dealing with the stream barrier
34 with the falls. I read somewhere that there's also
35 some efforts going on there and money appropriated to
36 deal with that. Am I right about that?

37

38 What's going on with that?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve, could you
41 answer that.

42

43 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
44 and Mr. Hernandez. I think that maybe there are others
45 who are more familiar with the status on that right
46 now. Wayne Owen, do you have the status of that
47 project or is Chad on?

48

49 MR. MCGEE: I don't think Wayne Owen is
50 on at the moment.

1 MR. KESSLER: So, Wayne, do you have an
2 update on the status of the project?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. HEPLER: Mr. Chairman, Steve. This
7 is Kelly Hepler. Wayne and I have talked quite a bit
8 about this. My understanding is all the work has been
9 done, all the permitting has been completed and the
10 intent is to do the blasting this spring and so that
11 fish passage -- hopefully by mid-summer should be ready
12 to go. That's my understanding.

13
14 Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr.
17 Douville. Haven't heard from you all during our thing
18 here.

19
20 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 The RAC was very specific when they made their
22 recommendation. They said the State, the Feds and the
23 people of Angoon perhaps could be included and
24 villages. Now we're looking at a scenario where we're
25 seeing all these stakeholders. Well, my suggestion is
26 go to those stakeholders and meet with them and take
27 their concerns to the meetings so we don't have
28 overwhelming hostile fishing groups trying to impose
29 their will on Angoon people if you will. They can be
30 aggressive and I just don't see the need. I believe
31 the State can handle that part through that type of
32 process. That's, I believe, why we made the
33 recommendation in that fashion.

34
35 The other part I had, there was some
36 things that could be done in the short term and one was
37 just addressed. The other that I heard mentioned that
38 was possible and there was even money for was the
39 enhancement of those sockeye. These are things that
40 could be taken care of while the bureaucratic wheels
41 turn slowly. I mean in the short term. They're not an
42 answer, but they would be a plus.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, very well taken,
45 Mike. Thank you very much. Anyone else have a
46 comment.

47
48 Tim and then Ken.

49
50 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I have to agree with Mike about all the stakeholders
2 involved in this very interesting subject here. When
3 you talk about stakeholders, I know historically a lot
4 of the permit holders are from out of state and a good
5 percentage are from out of state. It would be
6 interesting to see the amount of stakeholders that are
7 not residing in the state of Alaska that have an
8 interest in this seine fishery or whatever fishery is
9 going to be affected through this whole process. The
10 reason being is that representation of the Angoon
11 people here, like Mike says, it's a fishery thing now.

12

13 Thanks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim.

16

17 Ken, and then Mike.

18

19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Just a comment. I used to seine back in the '60s and
21 '70s with my grandfather and I notice Frederick Sound
22 isn't included in this, but there were times when they
23 said the fish came from the south in Frederick Sound
24 heading toward Peril Strait or Angoon. Sometimes it
25 came to the Indian Islands through Hoonah. Lately I've
26 been listening to some of the seiners out by Hidden
27 Falls and they say they pick up a lot of sockeye when
28 they're seining, a lot more than they usually had.

29

30 I think these are key things for them
31 to check on to make sure, you know, as much as they're
32 intercepting. Maybe so much not to dictate how they
33 fish or when they fish, but it's going to be a
34 collaborative effort for all of us, including Kake, to
35 make sure that we all participate in some fashion and
36 to listen to your knowledge and your facts and all the
37 information you gather.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ken.

42

43 MS. KELLEY: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: It will take just a
46 brief second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll take you after
49 Mike, ma'am.

50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: I realize there's a lot
2 of fishing groups in the -- you know, they can have
3 their voice, but I also wanted to remind everybody that
4 Angoon has a rural priority.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The young lady online.

7
8 MS. KELLEY: This is Dale Kelley again
9 and I just want to clarify very quickly my comments.
10 The last couple speakers I totally respect what they
11 had to say and I think it's more about sharing
12 information and knowledge. My trawl fleet is 86
13 percent residents by the way. I just want to -- I
14 meant no disrespect or that the fishing groups should
15 somehow come in and dominate a process. It was more
16 about making sure we all understand how everything
17 coordinates together and working together.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
22 Cathy.

23
24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 I'd like to recommend that we consider sending a letter
26 to the Federal Subsistence Board and include the
27 following. First to reiterate that we are interested
28 in continuing to be involved in this issue because
29 different components have the potential to come back to
30 us. I kind of feel like maybe we haven't been getting
31 the status that we've been requesting in these updates
32 that we get at each of our meetings. So that letter
33 could include a statement why we want to continue to be
34 involved in an action level type situation in the
35 issue.

36
37 The second thing is, it's been one year
38 since we made our recommendation, but I know it hasn't
39 been one year since the Secretaries have put forth
40 their plan and I know the Federal Subsistence Board is
41 going to get a one year report and I think we should
42 iterate that the one-year report needs to address our
43 original recommendation actions as well as the status
44 on each of those, in addition to the other additional
45 things that are going on that weren't necessarily part
46 of our original recommendation, but were included by
47 the Secretaries.

48
49 The third thing I would like to see is
50 an assessment of whether or not this three-year window

1 that we've given is going to be met. Are the parties
2 involved actually making the progress that needs to be
3 happening because even the Secretaries' recommendation
4 back said that they may take action within those three
5 years if they don't see significant progress. It's
6 hard to measure that progress if they're not -- if
7 we're not getting reports back to the specific items
8 that we've actually included as action things that
9 should happen within that three-year period.

10

11 So if we could maybe think about
12 putting a letter and forwarding it on to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board so that they know that we're still
14 watching this and trying to stay as involved as
15 possible in it because we recognize the fact that
16 eventually proposals are going to be coming forward to
17 us and maybe even the decision whether or not extending
18 extraterritorial jurisdiction may come back to us in
19 that public form again.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy.
22 We'll remind Robert to keep that idea of a letter.
23 Maybe toward the end of the meeting maybe we can take
24 care of that.

25

26 I don't know who it was online, but she
27 suggested a letter or maybe a contact with the
28 legislature. Maybe the Council can talk about that and
29 see if that's appropriate, which I don't want to see it
30 go through the cracks. Anyone else, please.

31

32 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Floyd.

35

36 MR. KOOKESH: My question is for Kelly
37 Hepler. A discussion came up about doing some blasting
38 at Kanalku. I'd like to know if it's possible that we
39 can get the pros and cons of that process, of the
40 blasting process, if it will work, if it won't work,
41 what can happen or not happen.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Has that happened
44 already?

45

46 MR. KOOKESH: I doubt it. They said
47 no.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want a response
50 from Kelly right now?

1 MR. HEPLER: Mr. Chairman. Do you want
2 a response now or do you want me to work with Wayne
3 Owen and the Forest Service and maybe get a complete
4 answer back to Floyd? But I mean I'll just say off the
5 top I mean it certainly looked like getting those
6 gradients done, those falls down I went and looked at
7 this summer, getting those knocked out of there is
8 certainly going to increase the opportunity for fish to
9 get up in the lake, Floyd, so I think it's going to
10 increase the opportunity for those fish to spawn.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, why don't you
13 just go ahead and get together with Wayne and come
14 forth with something later on. Thanks. Oh, Cal.

15
16 MR. CASIPIT: Actually I think I can
17 answer.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

20
21 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair. Cal Casipit,
22 subsistence staff biologist in Juneau. Mr. Kookesh.
23 The Forest Service completed the environmental
24 assessment for doing that blasting at the falls. It
25 weighs the pros and cons of doing it and the
26 environmental effects and all that other stuff. Since
27 it was in a wilderness monument area, the bar was a
28 little bit higher as far as the tradeoffs and looking
29 at the effects and all that, so a very thorough EA on
30 that. They're taking a pretty cautious approach in how
31 they're approaching modifying those falls. It's going
32 to be done in two phases. I think they mentioned that.

33
34 The first phase is some technical
35 blasting to deepen the pool and to change the gradient
36 of the worst part of the falls. That would be
37 monitored. That first initial work will be monitored
38 and if that doesn't work out, then there's an
39 additional second phase of installing some slat boards
40 to raise the level of the lower pool. That is a visual
41 thing in the stream, so that's why it was second phase
42 to see if that's really needed or not.

43
44 Those issues of tradeoffs and benefits
45 and what have you is looked at through the EA process
46 that we've been doing for the past two years. It took
47 us about two years to do.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that answer your
50 concern?

1 MR. CASIPIT: We can also provide
2 copies of that EA to Mr. Kookesh if he'd like.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was just wondering
5 if that answered your question. Maybe Kelly and Wayne
6 doesn't need to be concerned about that.
7
8 MR. KOOKESH: Well, if he provides us
9 with a copy for Kootznoowoo that would be good so we
10 can look at it.
11
12 MR. CASIPIT: We'll get that done.
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: Because we don't want to
15 have utter failure.
16
17 MR. CASIPIT: No.
18
19 MR. KOOKESH: And neither do you.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Cal.
22
23 Steve.
24
25 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 There have been a number of comments about the
27 recommendation of the Regional Advisory Council, the
28 Federal Subsistence Board and the milestones involved
29 and if you would like, I've brought up on my computer
30 your recommendation and we can go through each part of
31 your recommendation and see how we're doing. It would
32 have been nice if we had prepared a little briefing
33 paper just specifically on that for you, but I think we
34 can probably do that verbally, both myself and some of
35 the people that are online could help with that.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you prepared to do
38 that now?
39
40 MR. KESSLER: We can give it a go.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know what, gande
43 ax tuwatee, I need to go to the bathroom, so why don't
44 we take a break. Let's take a 15-minute break.
45
46 MR. MCGEE: Mr. Chairman. This is
47 Caelan. Is it okay if we sign off?
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. We'll be back in
50 about 15 minutes. You can stay online if you want,

1 right, Tina?

2

3 REPORTER: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can stay online.

6

7 MR. MCGEE: Would you like us to speak
8 to the -- or still be available to the discussion after
9 the break?

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. We'll do it.

12 Thank you.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're back in session
19 now. We'll go ahead and turn the time over to Steve
20 and Jennifer to continue on with this discussion.

21

22 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Steve Kessler with the U.S. Forest Service. What we
24 discussed is that first we would like to address
25 Floyd's previous question. He had three questions and
26 one of them was about the Comprehensive Southeast
27 Salmon Management Plan, so I'll turn that over to
28 Jennifer.

29

30 MS. YUHAS: And I believe Mr. Sam
31 Rabung with the Department is back on teleconference.
32 He was listening in a little bit earlier. I think I
33 got a voicemail from him asking about the break, so I
34 just sent him a message. Sam, are you online?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is anyone else online?

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, we can hear
41 you.

42

43 MS. YUHAS: So, Mr. Chairman, I guess
44 we will wait for Sam to receive my email saying we took
45 a break and we're back online and Steve and I could
46 move forward with going through the points from the
47 original RAC recommendation.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please do move forward
50 and then when Sam comes online we'll recognize him.

1 MS. YUHAS: As my colleague finds his
2 place, I don't want to be too cheesy here, but I do
3 want to point out that, you know, we're both sitting
4 here working in a collaborative effort to give this
5 report and that the Department has recognized through
6 this process that Region 10 Forestry our working
7 relationship has been very good through this, you know,
8 trying to serve the users and keeping each other
9 informed with our conversations with the Center for
10 Environmental Conflict Resolution.

11
12 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. I'll go
13 through the recommendations that the Regional Advisory
14 Council made and then we can have a short little
15 discussion on each one of those and where we are in the
16 process of addressing those.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve, we don't have a
19 copy of that in front of us. Can we get one?

20
21 MR. KESSLER: I guess I could send it
22 to you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you could send it
25 to Robert, maybe he can make copies for us, but go
26 ahead.

27
28 MR. LARSON: Sure.

29
30 MR. KESSLER: Right. That would
31 probably take us a little while to take care of that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just go ahead.
34 Robert, while they're doing their presentation, if you
35 could make copies for the Council, I'd appreciate it.

36
37 MR. KESSLER: The first item was to
38 amend the Northern Southeast Alaska Seine Fishery
39 Management Plan and the Hidden Falls Hatchery
40 Management Plan to include accommodations for the State
41 and Federal subsistence fisheries.

42
43 MS. YUHAS: The same plan is addressed
44 every year, so part of what you see in the
45 recommendations talking about a working group, a few
46 folks -- you know, Member Wright had brought up
47 semantics of full members and things that aren't
48 explained in this draft and the Department did bring up
49 the semantics of working group. You know, what kind of
50 recommendation is here for a working group, how formal

1 is it, what does it replace.

2

3 The Department is looking at that
4 recommendation as far as trying to outreach with those
5 affected and the petitioners to work through existing
6 processes. So this recommendation for amending the
7 plan, we're viewing that as how do we work with the
8 petitioners and those affected to put forth
9 recommendations for amending the plan within its
10 structure of it's yearly cycle.

11

12 MR. KESSLER: Ms. Yuhas, I think that
13 the next one is tied to that, close the commercial
14 seine fishery areas in regulation that have been closed
15 by State emergency order near Basket Bay and
16 Kootznoowoo Inlet. So, again, that would be a process
17 that would be worked through with the working group and
18 then through the Board of Fish process.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. Mr. Kessler and
21 I discussed that the next two points actually are
22 working through the Board of Fish process. The
23 complainants had recognized that although they had put
24 forth proposals, proposals were not adopted and the
25 report and the interviews had addressed the idea that
26 the process isn't always that easy to work through.
27 The way we see that recommendation is assisting folks
28 to work through the process. It hasn't worked for
29 them. They haven't got the results they wanted. It
30 can be difficult to navigate and the Department has a
31 responsibility to assist the users in working through
32 the process and help them in going through the
33 mechanics of developing proposals that would get the
34 results that they want.

35

36 The first is the closure areas that
37 they're talking about here in the recommendation and
38 the second is the ANS. Those are both areas to work
39 through the existing Board of Fish process and an
40 opportunity for the Department to be outreaching to
41 assist folks to work through that process. The data
42 collection is ongoing, which Director Nelson spoke to
43 factors into that third point on our screen that you
44 can't see, but the second of the two that work with the
45 Board of Fish process, the ANS.

46

47 MR. KESSLER: This would be the fourth
48 item. The third item had to do with the amounts
49 necessary for subsistence. The fourth item is to
50 establish escapement goals for Kanalku, Kook, Sitkoh,

1 Hasselborg and Eva Lakes and associated with that is
2 the genetic stock identification programs and the
3 escapement goal studies that would be done in
4 cooperation with the Federal Subsistence Management
5 Plan. If you'd like to talk a little more about that,
6 I believe that Kelly addressed that also already.

7
8 MS. YUHAS: I do want to recognize that
9 the RAC got a full report in the fall meeting that I
10 gave as far as the numbers on what data was collected
11 with the genetic stock ID. The season hasn't reopened
12 for the year, so there's no new information since the
13 fall, but I read off all the numbers on which scales
14 were collected and what areas we couldn't get into
15 because of the weather or that the fish didn't come
16 back and that we couldn't get the numbers there. Until
17 you have collected the GS ID and collected the
18 information for the ANS we can't really come up with
19 any suggestions for the possibility of the escapement
20 until we have that information. As far as the status,
21 it's ongoing. We're collecting information.

22
23 MR. KESSLER: The next item is that the
24 Federal Subsistence Program should contact and
25 cooperate with Kootznoowoo Incorporated concerning the
26 application of ANILCA. The second recommendation is
27 described in the Institute's report. U.S. Forest
28 Service convened meetings with Angoon Alliance to
29 coordinate and develop strategy associated with
30 management and economic development related to the
31 viability of Angoon. That responds quite directly to
32 that item of your recommendations.
33 There has been considerable discussion with Kootznoowoo
34 and with the Angoon Community Association over the last
35 six months to a year associated with that item.

36
37 The last item, the Council requested
38 the Secretary to provide annual progress reports to the
39 Council and the Subsistence Board regarding these
40 recommendations. We have committed to providing you an
41 update at every one of the Council meetings. We will
42 continue to do so. The direction from the secretaries
43 was actually to provide a six-month update to the
44 Secretaries' office. A very informal update was
45 provided last December to the Secretaries' office under
46 Secretary Butch Blazer. The first really sort of
47 formal update will be as soon as this first phase I is
48 complete and the U.S. Institute will be prepared that
49 report to the Secretaries and, of course, that will be
50 made available to the Council also.

1 So that's all of the recommendations
2 that were made, the sort of milestones. We're making
3 progress on, I believe, all of them. As we provide you
4 updates in subsequent meetings, make sure that each one
5 of those is addressed in that update.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Questions
8 or comments, Council members.

9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: So you're giving an
15 annual report to the Secretaries then. Is that in
16 written format and will that be shared with the RAC?

17
18 MR. KESSLER: Yes. Actually the
19 Federal Subsistence Board has been directed to provide
20 six month updates to the Secretaries' Office and, yes,
21 those will be provided to the RAC also.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Mr.
24 Kookesh.

25
26 MR. VAN ALEN: Mr. Chairman. This is
27 Ben Van Alen in Juneau.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, go ahead, then
30 Mr. Kookesh.

31
32 MR. VAN ALEN: Thank you. I know we're
33 not talking too much about information in the
34 discussion, but I just wanted to bring forward that in
35 2011 there was quite a large run of pink salmon into
36 northern Southeast, northern inside waters in
37 particular, and a tremendous seine effort that went to
38 harvest those fish so this year's 2013 brood is off of
39 those. The forecast that the Department of Fish and
40 Game has released is predicted to be an excellent
41 return of pink salmon region wide I believe they said.
42 It was something like 54 million fish and they use
43 indexing of the fry that swim out to upper Chatham and
44 Icy Strait to support the forecast estimate.

45
46 I think there's a general pattern that
47 the concerns by Angoon residents of being able to meet
48 their subsistence, particularly subsistence sockeye,
49 needs is highest in years where there's been large and
50 extended seine fishing in the Icy Strait, upper Chatham

1 area.

2

3 So I'm just bringing this out to maybe
4 -- I've been listening to hear if there's any sense of
5 urgency before us about making some -- I guess managing
6 precautionary basis for responsibilities for both
7 conservation and subsistence priority when this year's
8 purse seine management plan is developed or by any work
9 by any of the stakeholders prior to the season that
10 might give Angoon residents a little more assurance or
11 information that their concerns are being directly
12 addressed.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. No more
17 questions, comments.

18

19 MR. KOOKESH: I got tired of holding my
20 hand up.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hmm?

23

24 MR. KOOKESH: I was next.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You were next. Okay,
27 you're next. You're right. And then Tim.

28

29 MR. KOOKESH: My question goes to the
30 salmon management plans. Are the RACs going to be
31 involved in them or shouldn't they be involved in
32 salmon management plans and also the affected
33 communities or are we on a need to know basis?

34

35 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Member
36 Kookesh. The communities to my knowledge and I believe
37 we've got a few people online who actually work within
38 the plan the way I work within the RAC and Federal
39 Subsistence Board process, that the communities have
40 members who participate actively in discussions
41 regarding the plans. However, the RACs have noticeably
42 had discussions about plans, but not put plans on their
43 agendas to make formal recommendations and I have
44 noticed that. So, as Mr. Kessler stated earlier, the
45 RACs have a lot of determination for their own
46 involvement, what they choose to be more involved with
47 and less involved with. So I believe that second
48 question relates to what the will of the RAC is,
49 whether you want to put these things on your agenda and
50 make formal comments directed to the managers for the

1 specifics of plans so that those can be incorporated as
2 official wishes of Regional Advisory Councils.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr.
5 Larson, we need to make note of that when we have our
6 discussion for the RAC members. I might forget.

7

8 MR. LARSON: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tim, go ahead.

11

12 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 In listening to the gentleman's question on the
14 northern run of the king salmon in the Haines area, the
15 region I represent, the Chilkat side we voluntarily --
16 the personal users driftnet, personal users, we don't
17 call them subsistence. We have three different user
18 groups up there. The Chilkat side was closed down
19 because they weren't looking so good for the king
20 salmon return. So the driftnetters, the personal users
21 here, voluntarily didn't fish on that side. The
22 gillnetters were limited, I think, down quite a few
23 miles where they closed it, so we all conserved the
24 king salmon run. They had a count of about 100,000
25 fish. We were the only user group -- I guess you could
26 call us subsistence people, that didn't fish for king
27 salmon on the Chilkat side, but the seiners, the
28 trawlers, the gillnetters all caught the king salmon.
29 When it comes down to us at the very end, the
30 subsistence people made the sacrifice as well as some
31 of the gillnetters didn't fish on that side. But,
32 yeah, we had 100,000 king salmon return. Then you have
33 your predators, wolves, eagles, ravens and bears.
34 Yeah, that's a pretty big list there. Yeah, I'd like to
35 mention that for the northern area. Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim.
38 Anyone else like to make a comment.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: I have a question. When
45 will these Southeast Alaska Seine Fishery Management
46 Plan and the Hidden Falls Management Plans come out?

47

48 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I got
49 caught. I was hoping that my managers would be online
50 to speak to the dates. I know that it's sometime pre-

1 season. I'm kind of at a loss here.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is Kelly online? Will
6 he be able to answer that question for you?

7

8 MS. YUHAS: I believe Kelly signed off
9 to go to another meeting. I anticipated two of our
10 managers calling in, but it sounds like they're not
11 online.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there anyone else
14 that can answer that question for the State?

15

16 MS. HANSON: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

19

20 MS. HANSEN: This is Kathy Hansen with
21 Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance. There is no set
22 date, but usually around the first or second week of
23 June is when the management plans are published.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. Did
26 you have a follow up too, Patty?

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Is there industry
29 participation on those teams that come up with these
30 plans or are those just Department teams?

31

32 MS. HANSEN: Those are just Department
33 plans.

34

35 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I
36 intended to speak for the Department. I don't want to
37 characterize teams, but when we talk about input and
38 stakeholders and the idea that RACs have the
39 opportunity to make comments to these, the managers
40 draft those plans and they draft that based on
41 predictions and some of the other things that we've
42 talked about here, ANS and some of these things. In
43 some areas we've talked about international treaties.
44 So the managers are tasked with taking all these
45 factors in. So there is opportunity for the RAC to
46 officially comment prior to release of a plan if that
47 was the question.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll recognize Patty
2 for a follow up.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
5 and thank you, Jennifer. Going back to what Mr. Ben
6 VanAlen brought to the discussion was that the
7 prediction for this coming up season is going to be
8 flush with pinks on the northern end or region wide.
9 Will the management plan -- well, they're anticipating
10 that huge run, but we're also dealing with potential
11 interception of fish sockeye going to streams that
12 Angoon traditionally harvest from. The Federally
13 qualified users of specific streams. Will management
14 plans be amended to react to that potential? You know,
15 you've got a high number of pinks, but you also have
16 needs that need to be met for this 2013 season.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Was that a hard
19 question?

20
21 MS. YUHAS: I don't think that was a
22 hard question. I appreciate it.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26
27 MS. YUHAS: There's been a few this
28 meeting, but I don't think that one was too hard. The
29 question was will they be amended. Since they haven't
30 been published there is an opportunity to provide input
31 to their drafting and so I kind of want to turn it
32 around the other way. Should the RAC have specific
33 concerns or needs or suggestions to management of any
34 stock, the RAC has an opportunity to provide formal
35 comment in whatever form you wish, conduct a formal
36 vote and say, for example, not that I would want to
37 direct your comments, but it sounds like this one could
38 take the form of -- we would like you to recognize that
39 the RAC has the following concerns and name them or
40 desires and name them and then the manager is tasked
41 with incorporating the mechanics of these things.

42
43 If I were to express as an individual a
44 concern for an issue that the manager said, well, that
45 is addressed through this because those stocks don't
46 mix or, oh, you've pointed something out and they do.
47 Depending on what the mechanics are for that particular
48 fishery, the manager takes a look at those.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Floyd, go

1 ahead.

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: Mine kind of goes to the
4 comment that Mr. Jackson made earlier about how the
5 hatcheries, the Hidden Falls Hatchery was intercepting
6 sockeyes. If you're going to amend the plan for the
7 hatcheries, do you know if they moved their lines out
8 before and started catching sockeyes or before they
9 moved their lines out were they catching sockeyes?
10 That's in our petition, one of those requests. Did I
11 make myself clear?

12

13 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair, Member
14 Kookesh. You made yourself clear and I do not have the
15 answer. He's asking hard questions, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's his role.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Patty.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: I would like to clarify
28 that his petition is the Kootznoowoo petition and our
29 recommendation is a RAC recommendation, which are
30 intertwined together but they're two separate things.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thanks, Patty.
33 Floyd.

34

35 MR. KOOKESH: Earlier I talked to Cal
36 Casipit. Is Cal going to come up and talk about any
37 enhancement plans?

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cal, would you come
40 forward, please.

41

42 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Mr. Kookesh. For the record, Cal Casipit, subsistence
44 staff biologist for the Forest Service. It's been a
45 while since I've been involved in the hatchery -- the
46 salmon enhancement management plans. In the past I sat
47 on the regional planning teams which talks about
48 hatchery production, where and when, and that sort of
49 thing.

50

1 It's my understanding that the
2 comprehensive salmon management plan is directed at
3 enhanced fish and where enhanced fish, hatchery fish
4 are produced and when and how many numbers and that
5 sort of thing. We do have a representative from the
6 Forest Service who does sit on those RPTs. As an ex-
7 official member, they don't actually vote on anything.
8 I'm not sure where they are in this Phase III update of
9 that plan. I know every five years they try to update
10 it with new information.

11
12 Since that's under the Alaska
13 Department of Fish and Game private non-profit hatchery
14 program, I'm not sure where they are on the Phase III
15 updates there. I know in the past we've -- the Forest
16 Service has been involved because we do produce
17 enhanced fish through our fish passes and that sort of
18 thing and we have participated in the Phase III updates
19 in the past, but I'm not sure where we are right now in
20 that because I've been away from it for a while.

21
22 Hopefully there's somebody online with
23 Fish and Game that can answer that. I guess Sam Rabung
24 is online, so perhaps he can fill you in on where they
25 are on that Phase III update.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Rabung, are you
28 online?

29
30 MR. RABUNG: Yes, sir.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes
33 you and go ahead.

34
35 MR. RABUNG: I can speak briefly to the
36 comprehensive salmon plans. Basically those are the
37 foundational documents that we use statewide for each
38 of the enhancement regions to kind of lay out the
39 ground work for what the desired enhancement projects
40 and protocols are for the region. The Comprehensive
41 Salmon Enhancement Plan for Southeast Alaska Phase III
42 was approved in 2004 and that's the one that we work
43 off of. That's a tool for use by the regional planning
44 teams whose role is to review any proposed hatchery
45 permit applications in any hatchery permit alteration
46 requests and they weigh them against what's in the plan
47 and then make recommendations to the commissioner of
48 Fish and Game.

49
50 That's it in a nutshell. I'm not sure

1 there's any more to it than that. I could add to that
2 if you wish.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Why don't you go ahead
5 and do that. Mr. Kookesh had a question here and I
6 think I'll have Jennifer repeat that and maybe you can
7 answer that at the same time too. Why don't you go
8 ahead and do that, Jennifer, and then we'll let him
9 finish his comment.

10

11 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
12 understand the assignment is to repeat question number
13 three as asked by Member Kookesh earlier in the meeting
14 and that was simply what is the status of the
15 Comprehensive Southeast Management Plan.

16

17 MR. RABUNG: The status is it was
18 updated in 2004 and is in effect. It doesn't really do
19 anything more than that. It serves as a tool for
20 guidance for the RPT when evaluating proposed hatchery
21 applications and hatchery permit alterations.

22

23 MS. YUHAS: Sam, could you please
24 explain the process for updating and/or amending the
25 plan. There were a few questions when you weren't
26 online from some of the members regarding how they
27 could make their wishes or concerns known to the
28 managers when drafting plans in general.

29

30 MR. RABUNG: Are you speaking to
31 fisheries management plans?

32

33 MS. YUHAS: Yes, sir.

34

35 MR. RABUNG: See, the Comprehensive
36 Salmon Enhancement Plans are separate and standalone.
37 They don't integrate with fishery management plans.
38 Fishery management plans are drafted by the actual
39 Department fishery managers, so they're two different
40 documents and they don't interrelate. I guess I'm not
41 sure I understand the question very well.

42

43 MS. YUHAS: The RAC is not -- Mr.
44 Chairman, was that answered?

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry, I got
47 distracted here. Did he answer your question? No?

48 MS. HANSEN: Chairman Adams, can I have
49 a chance to speak when there's a chance.

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Just say yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.
8
9 MS. HANSEN: This is Kathy Hansen from
10 the Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance. I think
11 what is occurring right now is people are stumbling
12 over documents and regulations that are named very
13 similar but all have different processes. You have the
14 Salmon Comprehensive Plan, which is an enhancement
15 document that Sam just talked to. You have the Purse
16 Seine Fishery Management Plan that the Department puts
17 out once a year for the fishery. There are hatchery
18 annual management plans that are put out yearly.
19 There's the Board of Fish regulation, which is also
20 called Fishery Management Plan.
21
22 I think part of the problem in
23 answering Mr. Kookesh's question is there isn't really
24 clarity on which plan he's asking about specifically
25 and this is a comment that I have written in to the
26 institute regarding their draft report because I got
27 confused over the use of their term and which one they
28 were speaking to. I think that that's fundamentally
29 what the problem is here.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Kathy.
32
33 Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.
34
35 MR. KOOKESH: I did start off asking
36 about one thing, but it sounds like there's more
37 things. If they could provide us with a link so we
38 could go to it and look at all of those things like
39 Kathy mentioned, I'd like to be able to do that or
40 through Robert. That way we can all be able to look at
41 it.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Kathy, could you
44 filter all those links.....
45
46 MR. RABUNG: I could speak to that.
47
48 MS. HANSEN: Go ahead, Sam.
49
50 MR. RABUNG: Yeah, this is Sam Rabung

1 again. The Purse Seine Fishery Management Plans,
2 they're on the Department searchable documents page and
3 if you just put in purse seine management it will come
4 up. I've got it on my desktop right now. I'm looking
5 at it. Those are called regional information reports.

6
7

8 The Comprehensive Salmon Plans for
9 statewide are found under the Fish and Game hatcheries
10 page, so that's www.alaska.gov, get's you to the State
11 page, and then you scroll down and go to Fish and Game
12 and then fishing and hatcheries. Under planning you'll
13 see regional planning teams, advisory councils, salmon
14 enhancement plans, then we have all 10 of our current
15 salmon enhancement plans for the State listed there and
16 they're available in PDF.

17

18 Then the other one that I think you may
19 be talking about is what we call annual management
20 plans. Each hatchery facility that's permitted we co-
21 draft an annual management plan which discusses how
22 they'll operate that year and details the harvest
23 management plans for within the special harvest area
24 for each facility. So basically the hatchery operator
25 lets us know what their escapement needs are into the
26 special harvest area for brood stock and cost recovery
27 and we discuss -- department managers and the hatchery
28 managers discuss how those fisheries will be managed
29 and they're approved by the commissioner or the
30 commissioner's delegate annually.

31

32 We don't have the 2013s completed.
33 They're in draft form right now. In fact, I'm
34 reviewing them right now. When they are available or
35 when they're approved they're available -- we're going
36 to post them online under that tab that I just spoke
37 to; Fish and Game, fishing, hatcheries, planning.

38

39 The RPT also can discuss these
40 management plans, the annual management plans, and the
41 Southeast RPT's meeting will be April 10th in Sitka.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Jennifer, go ahead.

44

45 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Thank you, Sam, for that very thorough, detailed verbal
47 explanation. Mr. Chairman, the way I understood the
48 previous dialogue is as an assignment to me in
49 interacting with your RAC. I would be happy to provide
50 a list to Mr. Larson of the fisheries management plans

1 that this RAC could be affected by so that he may
2 distribute that to the RAC members so the RAC may
3 determine which issues it would like to specifically
4 comment on and have on its agenda in the future.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. That's a
7 real good way to distribute things to the RAC.

8
9 Do you have any comments on it?

10
11 MR. LARSON: There's just two things.
12 One specific to this question we have in front of us.
13 Yes, I am aware of the different types of management
14 plans that are out there and the places they are at.
15 If there's a request from the RAC or members for
16 information regarding hatchery management plans, the
17 Comprehensive Enhancement Plan, individual plans
18 regarding the seine fishery, all of those things are
19 out there. Some in regulation, some is an annual
20 document in the regional information reports. So, yes,
21 I understand the differences and I understand where
22 they're at. I can help you find those if I have an
23 idea which one's you would be interested in.

24
25 The question I think needs to be
26 answered is to what extent -- these are complicated,
27 time-consuming issues. What I think would be a
28 suitable topic would be to what extent the RAC would
29 want to be involved in the formation of any one or all
30 of these. It would be quite the task, I think, to
31 involve some of them.

32
33 There's also the Stikine River
34 Management Plan, the Trans-Boundary Management Plan,
35 Northern Area, Southern Area Trans-Boundary Plans.
36 There's lots of plans. So if we could have a clear
37 idea of which plans the RAC wanted to comment on or to
38 become involved in the formation of, I could help you
39 do that as well. Just let me know.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert.

42
43 Floyd, go ahead.

44
45 MR. KOOKESH: I was going to say do you
46 mean we're too dumb
47 to look at those? I'd like to be able to see them. I
48 don't know if it's a question. If the question is are
49 you going to -- that was my understanding is just show
50 us the plans. If the links are to be provided, just

1 send us the links and we'll see how comprehensive they
2 all are in looking at them.

3

4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. That is doable
5 and I can do that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Again, I just want to
8 remind all of the Council members that if we have any
9 questions about anything that pertains to our work
10 here, there's the guy that you want to go to and he'll
11 provide you with the information you need.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 How about it, you guys. How are you
16 doing? Passing the buck between you two there? Any
17 comments, questions from the Council. Patty, go ahead.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I appreciate
20 the recommendations that are coming from the Feds and
21 the State on how we can be more effective. It's not my
22 intention that I micro-manage how this program is
23 administered. I do want to make recommendations and I
24 feel that is one of my duties. The only way I can make
25 those recommendations is through information. So this
26 is focused on the ETJ. So what management plan are we
27 specifically talking about.

28

29 Well, our recommendations talk about
30 the Hidden Falls Management Plan and the Northern
31 Southeast Alaska Seine Fishery Management Plan. I
32 would like to recommend that Mr. Ben Van Alen of the
33 U.S. Forest Service be involved in those discussions.
34 I heard that there is someone from the Forest Service
35 that sits in as an ex officio in those meetings and I
36 don't know who that is, but that would be my
37 recommendation.

38

39 What we want is updates related to what
40 our recommendations were, so that's where I'm coming
41 from.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. I
44 agree that maybe Ben Van Alen could be a real good
45 resource in being involved in this. Every time I think
46 about Ben I recall a time when I asked him what the
47 effects of Russell Fjords overflowing in Yakutat and
48 what the long-term effects of that would be. His
49 simple answer was that fish like water, so the flooding
50 of that probably would provide more habitat in the long

1 run. So I really appreciate that.
2
3 Any more stuff from you guys, Steve and
4 Jennifer.
5
6 MS. YUHAS: I think we would be happy
7 to conclude our koowahaa.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great.
10
11 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 We look forward to providing updates at the next
13 meeting.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We look forward to
16 that too. Okay. Thank you, you guys.
17
18 Gunalcheesh.
19
20 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Harvey.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Adams. I
25 didn't have any questions for this group. I really
26 listened hard. But I had a real thought and one of the
27 thoughts was that there's been some TEKs involved in
28 this. I believe Angoon had one that came out. In
29 looking at this, I had to look back because I know some
30 of the Council feels that some of these streams would
31 not support a subsistence fishery. Whereas before, in
32 my early days, I knew they supported more than just one
33 community. Sitka Bay probably supported more than one
34 community. It supported Sitka as well as Angoon.
35
36 The amount of fish that were in these
37 places and these lakes was more than it is now. Sitka
38 will probably -- it's last demise was when they logged
39 it off and lost all their fish just about. Not too
40 many fish survived the temperature change that happened
41 and the different water quality acts that happened
42 because it got logged off right down to the lake. Now
43 I understand their logging practices have changed, but
44 I hope they never do that again because that really
45 hurt that system. It also caused Angoon not to have
46 another place to go get their fish.
47
48 Basket Bay used to have probably close
49 to a million sockeyes that went back into that place.
50 I know that this Board probably doesn't realize how

1 these people subsisted on their fish. Basically the
2 fish is the most important to our people and deer meat
3 is one thing, but the fish was finally important. Most
4 everything that comes from the ocean was important to
5 our people.

6
7 The amounts of fish that went into
8 these lakes is nowhere near what's in there now.
9 Probably one of the scary things now that's coming back
10 is they're going to log somewhere around Basket Bay
11 area. I know that's in the plans and they're asking
12 for a road system to come into that place. If they
13 lose that fishery in Basket Bay, that would be really
14 devastating for Angoon.

15
16 I just wanted to make sure that people
17 knew there's some TEK involved in this. I'm probably
18 one of the older people on this Council, along with Mr.
19 Isaacs. We got to see some of these fish and some of
20 these places and knew there was a lot of fish in these
21 places. Now there isn't and a lot of people don't
22 realize that there used to be -- these streams
23 supported a lot of fish.

24
25 The management plan, if they do it
26 properly, these streams will come back. Hopefully it
27 will and hopefully we can have something to say about
28 it.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
33 Is there anything that the Council wants to bring up
34 that we have discussed so far that we need to maybe
35 help move the process forward, action items or so
36 forth.

37
38 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

39
40 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman. Yesterday we
41 went around and had our Council reports and I think
42 there's something that I feel is pretty important that
43 the Council maybe writes a letter or something and that
44 was to the effect of the mining in Canada, how it's
45 possibly going to affect our fisheries on the
46 transboundary river systems just as a concern, that it
47 is a concern to us and to keep the Secretary of
48 Interior involved in that process. I don't know how
49 the Council feels, but I would like to see a letter of
50 concern on that subject.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, I think
2 that issue is on our annual report that we have to
3 approve a little bit later on. Do you still want a
4 letter to come forth?
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Haagu.
9
10 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair. I was going
11 to -- is it time for testimony?
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you going to talk
14 about this particular issue?
15
16 MR. SANDERSON: Yeah, I just wanted to
17 see when would be a good time to testify on that, this
18 afternoon or tomorrow.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What you need to do is
21 fill out one of these.
22
23 MR. SANDERSON: Yeah, I filled it out.
24 I didn't turn it in.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll go ahead
27 and take your testimony right now.
28
29 MR. SANDERSON: Okay.
30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Are we still on ETJ?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're still -- okay.
34 Go ahead.
35
36 MR. KOOKESH: We're concluding ETJ and
37 so we should stay on task.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We should stay on it.
40 We can take your testimony later.
41
42 MR. KOOKESH: Conclude the presentation
43 and we should allow -- but we should stay on task. I
44 have a misunderstanding where we're going.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I agree with you.
47
48 MR. SAMUELSON: I can come back this
49 afternoon.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: This afternoon will be
2 fine. Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

3
4 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5 apologize. I thought you had said anything we've
6 discussed so far and I thought we were done with ETJ.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, we're still on it.

9
10 MR. BANGS: I thought we were moving
11 on.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We've got another
14 person to testify on ETJ yet. I just want to see if
15 the Council, you know, has any ideas how we can move
16 forward. I know that we have a couple letters that Mr.
17 Larson is going to remind us about later, so we can
18 talk about it then. Anything else we need to put in
19 the reminder basket in regards to what we've talked
20 about so far.

21
22 Patty, please.

23
24 MS. PHILLIPS: I would like to add some
25 final comments and that when we were at the joint
26 board, RAC and the Federal Subsistence Board, we heard
27 testimony of the advancement of seine equipment, seine
28 nets and the power of the vessels able to pull much
29 larger nets and the depths of those nets is able to go
30 further down into the water and intercept a greater
31 share of the fish. At the Board of Fish level the
32 regulations haven't kept up with the new advances in
33 technology. To me, that's something that should be
34 addressed. That would have to go into a proposal
35 format, but that wasn't part of our recommendations.

36
37 Also I would recommend that a better
38 outreach occur to the people of Angoon through their
39 Native corporation, through their tribe and through the
40 city of Angoon to make sure that the amounts necessary
41 for subsistence reflect actual needs and I would
42 recommend that the Gold Medal basketball tournament
43 might be a good time for outreach to some of the tribal
44 members, community members.

45
46 What was my final comment. I can't
47 remember. I had one more, but that will have to do.
48 Thanks.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So that means that we

1 will all adjourn to the Gold Medal tournament in order
2 for this to be brought up again.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else like to
7 make a comment or suggestions here.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. We will
12 conclude the discussion on this matter. I'm going to
13 take one more testimony on this particular issue. Mr.
14 Leighton, I appreciate you being here, Ron, and your
15 patience.

16

17 The time is all yours.

18

19 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Council. I have a few more questions than testimony,
21 but I'd like to say that the problem we're having up in
22 Angoon, they're not the only stream that's having a
23 problem. I think every sockeye stream in Southeast
24 Alaska has went down in population or fish stock size.
25 I know that the amount of fish that you can catch daily
26 dropped from McDonald Lake run. I was fishing up there
27 15 years ago. There was 100 fish a day. Now I think
28 it's down to 10. The same with Carta. All your
29 streams have dropped down in your daily catch rate
30 allowance. So there is a problem.

31

32 I have a question here. If subsistence
33 is a priority and the State is mandated to make
34 adjustments to allow for a customary and traditional
35 catch of fish, then how is it that it's able to go this
36 far? Why would Angoon be forced to go and take extra
37 jurisdictional measure? I think there's something
38 broken or ignored on the State level and I think we've
39 got to sit down there and evaluate just exactly what's
40 going on because it has been going on for a long time.

41

42 When the you have to sit down there and
43 adjust the subsistence customary and traditional level
44 of fish that they're allotted, it should be a red flag
45 to the State that there's a problem in their fisheries
46 management. I think that the Board, when they're
47 reviewing the extraterritorial jurisdiction case, they
48 ought to bring that up and maybe try to see what there
49 is to analyze it, see what the problem really is
50 because it's not going away. If they adjust for

1 Angoon, it might pop up down further in Southeast in
2 another area. It's time consuming for everybody. It's
3 time consuming for the Board, it's time consuming for
4 the individual submitting, it's time consuming for the
5 government.

6
7 I think, in my opinion, I commend the
8 RC here in their efforts and I really do appreciate
9 that we have this Federal Subsistence Board and this
10 Regional Advisory Council so that we can come and talk.
11 The State doesn't. The State doesn't have an avenue
12 like this and I think they really do need it, but
13 that's to be taken up on the State level.

14
15 The other thing that I have is we're
16 subsistence gatherers recognized under Federal laws,
17 but the State doesn't recognize our ability to go out
18 and fish. In other words, if there's a stream going
19 through our own corporate ANCSA lands that holds fish
20 in them, those fish are there solely managed by the
21 State, where Federal lands, public lands, if there's
22 fish in there, then it fall under Federal jurisdiction,
23 falls under ANILCA, everything like that, but in the
24 State it's different. We don't have the same avenue of
25 coming forward to subsistence panels to address those
26 issues. We have to go before the State Board of Fish
27 and the State Board of Fish is made up of primarily
28 commercial people.

29
30 In fact, I was up there at one of the
31 meetings and the person says, well, I'm here, I'm a
32 subsistence gatherer but I also commercial fish. So he
33 got the seat for subsistence, but I've got a -- well,
34 one has to wonder where's his true value. When it
35 comes to commercial, he's going to take that avenue
36 even though he's filling a seat. That's why I think
37 that you analyze it and make recommendations to this.

38
39 I'll tell you, ANCSA land and it's
40 given to the tribe, and the State saying they will --
41 the Constitution of State of Alaska says under the
42 disclaimer clause that they will forever disclaim any
43 right over Indian lands or their fishing. So I'm
44 thinking, well, if they forever disclaimed that, why
45 did they -- how did they accept our ANCSA lands under
46 State control and State corporate laws, number one.

47
48 Number two, how is it that they are
49 managing our customary and traditional use in the
50 fishery? So I'm saying that ANCSA lands -- you guys

1 should recommend maybe ANCSA lands be reformulated or
2 put back in under Federal jurisdiction. That will help
3 quite a bit.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ron. I
8 think I'll let Mr. Larson make a comment on that, on
9 the ANCSA land.

10

11 So go ahead, Robert.

12

13 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
14 think it's important that there's no misconceptions
15 regarding Federal jurisdiction for fisheries. For
16 wildlife, it's true that the land needs to belong to
17 the Federal government. It has to be Federal public
18 lands and for the management of wildlife those lands
19 that are not Federal public lands, this program does
20 not have jurisdiction.

21

22 However, for the management of fish,
23 it's different. If you are inside the exterior
24 boundaries of a conservation unit, in this case it's
25 the Tongass National Forest, all waters that are not
26 marine waters are subject to jurisdiction of this
27 program. So whether the land alongside of the stream
28 belongs to a Federal or a State or a Federal
29 government, it makes no difference. All those waters
30 and the fish within those waters are the jurisdiction
31 of the Federal subsistence management program.

32

33 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Thanks for
34 answering that because it was somewhat confusing.

35

36 MR. LARSON: It is very confusing. If
37 I could, the State has jurisdiction as well, so we have
38 two completely separate management agencies where the
39 State controls the sport fishery, the commercial
40 fishery, the personal use fishery and the subsistence
41 fishery all under State rules and regulations.
42 However, the Federal government only has jurisdiction
43 for management of the subsistence fishery for rural
44 residents. Anyway, the two systems are separate, but
45 they both have jurisdiction.

46

47 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

48

49 MR. LARSON: It's confusing, but we do
50 have jurisdiction for those lands.

1 MR. LEIGHTON: In other words, even
2 though the fishery is done on adjacent State land or
3 private land, then we could still file under extra
4 jurisdictional -- or extraterritorial jurisdiction?

5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: Get a lawyer.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10
11 MR. LARSON: No, I think you missed the
12 point. We have regulations -- subsistence fishing
13 regulations that are valid on those waters for those
14 fish.

15
16 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just to answer another
19 part of your question there on Native corporations.
20 They're private land, so they fall under State
21 jurisdiction. I heard you mention that a couple times.

22
23
24 And then maybe the question that you
25 started right at the beginning of your discussion here
26 as to why did we get this far. Angoon had made
27 repeated -- I don't think there was any proposals, but
28 requests to the State to address the lack of Angoon
29 meeting their subsistence needs for the salmon in that
30 particular area. Since it's in State water, you know,
31 it's the State's jurisdiction and their ability to open
32 and close those areas. They weren't getting any
33 satisfaction. I don't know, Floyd, was it four or five
34 years or something like that?

35
36 MR. KOOKESH: Uh-huh.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, as a result of
39 that, they submitted this petition for extraterritorial
40 jurisdiction and that's how come we're here right now
41 to try to help them solve that.

42
43 MR. LEIGHTON: No, I understand that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

46
47 MR. LEIGHTON: My question was how did
48 it get that far. If, under State law, subsistence is
49 priority, then they should have been listening to the
50 subsistence users and everybody involved the adjust the

1 other user groups or consumer groups' fisheries.
2 That's my question.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

5

6 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ron. It's
9 always a pleasure to have you here. Anyone have any
10 questions for -- Tim, do you have a question for Ron.

11

12 Go ahead.

13

14 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Ron. You bring up a very interesting subject. I'm
16 sure a lot of you folks have heard of the five landless
17 communities in Southeast. Very interesting subject.
18 Haines being one of the landless communities, when
19 ANCSA was first formed, they were left out I guess you
20 could say. So what we had in Haines was a -- they
21 didn't join ANCSA, they didn't sign on to ANCSA. So
22 now, as far as I know, this is still an option that's
23 being discussed. Lisa Murkowski just put a bill in to
24 Congress to help the five landless communities.

25

26 Everything in Haines under 200 feet in
27 elevation belonged to the State of Alaska for quite
28 some time. Everything over the elevation of 200 feet
29 belonged to the Federal government. Now given that the
30 tribe was given the opportunity to make the acquisition
31 of land selections, they didn't follow through with it,
32 so the State of Alaska made the acquisition of all the
33 lands up there minus the Klukwan claims on the side of
34 the mountain and the river. The fish actually go
35 through part of their reservation up there. Yeah,
36 really interesting.

37

38 Now these folks, it would be real
39 interesting to watch this because when you're denied
40 your basic right to vote on giving your fishing rights
41 and your rights to the land in a situation where nobody
42 got to vote on this, one person took all rights away.
43 You weren't able to vote on it. You had no knowledge
44 of what you were voting on. So this is what Lisa
45 Murkowski's bill is. Very interesting subject though.
46 I could just keep going.

47

48 Yeah, Ron, thanks for bringing that up.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we can't keep

1 going too far here. It's almost lunchtime. Thank you,
2 Ron, for your testimony. We appreciate it.

3

4 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: At this time we want
7 to introduce Tony Christianson, who is a member of the
8 Federal Subsistence Board. Tony, you have a
9 presentation. We're going to take your presentation
10 right after lunch, okay.

11

12 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, appreciate it

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would that be all
15 right?

16

17 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you guys for
18 accommodating me. I appreciate it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You bet. And then we
21 have Don Larsen here to do a presentation for us right
22 at this point before lunch and then we're going to
23 adjourn. Okay, Don.

24

25 MR. LARSEN: Doug.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Doug. I'm sorry.
28 Doug. I called you Don.

29

30 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
31 and Council members. Don is not a bad name, but my
32 name is Doug Larsen.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. LARSEN: I'm a distant cousin of
37 Robert Larson, although he spells his wrong. You know,
38 it's O-N instead of the E-N.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, yours is spelled
41 wrong. I got D-A-W-N.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's why I called
46 you Don.

47

48 MR. LARSEN: Let me start by saying
49 thank you for the opportunity to be here and for
50 accommodating my schedule. A special welcome and thank

1 you to Mr. Jackson and Mr. Isaacs, two new members.
2 It's always good to come before this Council and share
3 what we can what's going on in the State side and
4 certainly we appreciate the cooperative activities we
5 have with the Federal system.

6
7 I was going to share with you a little
8 bit about the Board of Game and what happened at the
9 January 11 - 15 meeting in Sitka, which we appreciated
10 having Terry Suminski there and also Mr. Kitka. I
11 appreciated you being at that meeting as well and
12 participating. There were actually 39 proposals that
13 the Board deliberated on and of those there was
14 actually just a handful that they passed. So what I
15 wanted to do today was share with you what they passed
16 and some of the implications behind those.

17
18 There's really only one that I'm aware
19 of in talking with the other Mr. Larson about what the
20 RAC may want to take up in terms of having a similar
21 regulation put in place and I'll get to that in just a
22 moment.

23
24 So the first proposal that the Board
25 passed was to open a youth only deer hunt in Unit 5A,
26 which, of course, is up in your area, Mr. Chairman, in
27 Yakutat. That's something the Department and the Board
28 certainly appreciated and welcomed that opportunity to
29 create an extra opportunity for youth. So that allows
30 for young people between 10 and 17 to hunt deer two
31 weeks earlier than the regular season opens. So that
32 was the one thing that we thought was a good thing and
33 the Board agreed.

34
35 The second one that passed was to
36 extend the brown bear season in Berners Bay. There was
37 actually a proposal to extend the season dates. That
38 did not pass, but what did pass was to make that
39 particular season for brown bears in that drainage a
40 one bear every year instead of the normal one bear
41 every four years, which is what we have across the rest
42 of the region. That's a proposal that's come before
43 the Board several times in the past.

44
45 We recently were able to, thanks to
46 some funding from the Juneau Access Project, do a
47 pretty extensive research project on brown bears in
48 Berners Bay. We came up with a population estimate
49 with very tight confidence intervals, which means we're
50 confident in the numbers of bears that are in there.

1 It's not very many. We're talking about roughly 60,
2 but in terms of the access it's difficult, so the Board
3 felt that as long as we were keeping an eye on the
4 monitoring of the harvest that we always have the
5 emergency order option if we need it and they went
6 ahead and passed it. So we'll be watching that closely
7 obviously as we go forward to see just how much
8 activity and harvest that results in because we don't
9 have a huge amount of harvest available in that area.

10
11 There was a proposal to allow the
12 incidental take of fishers in Unit 1C and that was
13 passed. It's a proposal again that's been brought to
14 the Department in the past. In the past, we didn't
15 like the notion of harvesting fishers, which are very
16 limited in Southeast Alaska. There's only a handful of
17 records of them. But as we thought more about it, it
18 seemed to us that really what we were dealing with was
19 a lose-lose because trappers would catch them
20 incidental to marten trapping. They weren't allowed to
21 keep them. So, in some cases, we knew second hand that
22 people wouldn't turn them in and who could blame them.

23
24
25 So we felt like, you know, if we have a
26 season, people can bring their pelts in, we'll have
27 them sealed, we'll get a better understanding of where
28 exactly these fishers are occurring. I mean they're
29 unique and let's find out something about them rather
30 than have them put in a freezer or put away somewhere
31 because people are not interested or willing to bring
32 them forward. So that passed and we'll see how that
33 goes.

34
35 We had three reauthorizations for
36 antlerless moose hunts. One in Berners Bay, one in the
37 Gustavus area and one up on the Nunatak Bench up in 5A
38 and all those passed, which means that the Department
39 can implement antlerless hunts in those areas. However,
40 right now, given the status of the moose populations in
41 those places we don't intend to exercise any antlerless
42 hunts at this time.

43
44 There was a proposal to modify the elk
45 hunt in Unit 3 to exclude Zarembo Island and close the
46 general season on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and
47 Kashevarof and that passed. The reason for that
48 proposal which the Department brought forward was that
49 we have limited elk in Southeast. To the best of our
50 ability to count elk, we figure there's roughly 250 on

1 Etolin and probably only about 25 on Zarembo. So one of
2 the things that we had heard about through the
3 enforcement agencies is that people had harvested elk
4 on Zarembo, but then claimed to have harvested them on
5 Bushy or Shrubby. So one way to close that loophole
6 the Board believed, along with us, was to close those
7 areas so that that couldn't be used as a scapegoat.
8

9 When elk were brought into Southeast
10 Alaska in 1987, there were reservations by both the
11 Federal system as well as the State system about their
12 introduction and what that would mean for resident deer
13 and we still have some questions about the long-term
14 impacts, but to date we really haven't seen anything
15 overly negative in terms of the populations of deer as
16 a result of those introduced elk. Nonetheless, we
17 obviously don't want to see them expand too far, but we
18 also want to enable them to do as well as possible on
19 Etolin and Zarembo. So that's the intent behind
20 passing that regulation.
21

22 There was a proposal to decrease the
23 length and bag limit for deer in Unit 3 on the
24 Lindenburg Peninsula. This is one where I think it
25 would be useful if the RAC was to give this
26 consideration. Mr. Hernandez spoke yesterday about the
27 Lindenburg and his experience there with deer and our
28 information and all we know about that area is very
29 much the same. Very low numbers. It's an area where
30 we have had in the past a limited harvest, deer numbers
31 increased. The hunting season and bag limit was
32 increased in accordance with that, but now we're
33 looking at again a low number and I think it would be
34 appropriate to reduce that. What the State did was
35 reduce it from two bucks to one and changed the season,
36 which was August 1 through November 30 to now have a
37 season that would be two weeks and it would be October
38 15 to October 31.
39

40 There was a proposal to lengthen the
41 coyote trapping season in Units 1 through 5 and that
42 did pass. I talked again with Mr. Larson about whether
43 that was something that the RAC may want to consider
44 and he pointed out to me that already under Federal
45 regulation that an animal taken incidental to wolf
46 trapping in this case is legal, so it doesn't seem to
47 me that there's any need necessarily for the RAC to act
48 on that specifically at this point, but just as an FYI
49 that's what the Board did.
50

1 There were several proposals that came
2 before the Board having to do with Unit 4 brown bears.
3 Just as a little bit of history for the RAC, and I know
4 many of you are aware of this, back in 2000 there was a
5 group of stakeholders that came together, agencies,
6 Native corporation and individuals. There were
7 conservation groups, there were hunting guides, a wide
8 variety of interest came together as part of what was
9 called the Brown Bear Management team and they put
10 together a strategy for Unit 4 brown bears. It's
11 actually done very well in terms of our ability
12 collectively to manage brown bears in that unit, which
13 is obviously a very important resource to a lot of
14 people.

15
16 What the Board did was first of all
17 they held an evening session because there were a lot
18 of opinions that we, the Department, and the Board felt
19 needed to be heard, so there was an evening session and
20 in that session everybody had an opportunity to speak
21 about the plan, about Unit 4 bears and the consensus
22 was that the plan was still working, that we should all
23 hold tight to it, that if we were going to make any
24 revisions or modifications to it that it should be done
25 collectively just like it was done originally when it
26 was developed. That was, I think, a really good --
27 some good feedback that we received across the board.

28
29 The Board also said there's some things
30 that we'd like to make sure are clarified, that the
31 plan lays out what we want to make sure we're adhering
32 to. The first was the wounding loss. When hunters are
33 hunting bears, as we all know, there's wounding that
34 occurs and in some cases those wounded bears are
35 recovered and in some cases they're not.

36
37 Well, we had adopted -- that is the
38 Department had adopted a way of asking hunters if they
39 had wounded a bear, if they did and they felt confident
40 that, yes, it probably died but we didn't find it, we
41 would add it to the total number of dead bears. Well,
42 in reading back on the management plan, the reason that
43 we have a low harvest rate put in that plan, which is 4
44 percent across the board, which is a conservative
45 harvest, was to account for some of that wounding loss
46 that we wouldn't really be able to get a good handle on
47 and it was never intended that we would actually try
48 and enumerate all those wounded bears and add them in
49 the harvest.

50

1 So we went back to what the plan said
2 and that actually takes a few bears off the table. The
3 reason that was important is because the management
4 strategy has some guideline harvest levels for
5 Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof that need to be
6 adhered to and we were getting right up against those.
7 So, by taking that out, as the plan intended, that
8 actually brought us back down some to where we're under
9 those harvest limits.

10
11 The other thing that the guides brought
12 forward, pretty much a self-imposed thing, was they
13 said to the extent that we're harvesting females, more
14 females than we should, we need to try and get a handle
15 on that or stop that. What they proposed to the Board
16 was that a minimum skull size for females be adopted at
17 some point if necessary and that if a guided hunter,
18 not a resident, took a bear that was under that size
19 for females, they would lose a hunt the following
20 season, which is pretty big. As we know, guided hunts
21 are worth a lot of money. They were willing to take
22 that on as part of their way of helping to reduce that
23 female harvest.

24
25 At this point, with the modifications
26 that have been made, we don't see that that's
27 necessary, but the Board asked us, the Department, to
28 stand ready to implement something like that if and
29 when it did become necessary. So we are working on
30 that and developing that piece that can be held in
31 abeyance until we need it.

32
33 Then the other thing the Board asked us
34 to do, which I think was appropriate, was to go back
35 and take the most recent data that we have for
36 Northeast Chichagof where we did some research in the
37 early 2000s, I think it was 2002, and use that
38 population estimate to come up with a new number for
39 the harvestable surplus for Northeast Chichagof. When
40 we did that, it accounted for about six more bears that
41 could be harvested, so that was added in as well.

42
43 So with all those things that were done
44 -- oh, and one other thing. There was a recommendation
45 that the Department require any hunter that's going in
46 the field to hunt brown bear is that they be required
47 to take a look at a video called take a closer look,
48 which talks about male/female bears and how to
49 differentiate them. Again, in the effort of trying to
50 focus the harvest on males rather than females.

1 With all those things put in place, I
2 think collectively the Department and the stakeholders
3 felt like we're on the right track and our management
4 strategy that has been good to this point will continue
5 to be good with those modifications. So that's where
6 we are with that.

7
8 The other thing I wanted to mention was
9 at the Board meeting -- and I know there's been some
10 interest in the RAC and I appreciate that interest, is
11 on intensive management. I certainly don't want to
12 bore you with a lot of details, but I think it's
13 important to at least lay out what intensive management
14 means on the State side.

15
16 In 1994, the State legislature passed a
17 law, which is called the Intensive Management Law, and
18 that law requires that the Board of Game identify
19 populations of moose, caribou and deer across the
20 state, not all populations of moose, caribou and deer,
21 but in those cases where they felt that those were
22 populations that should be managed to provide for high
23 level of human consumption. So that's been done and we
24 have several populations of deer here in Southeast that
25 fall into that intensive management category. For
26 those the Board had us identify population and harvest
27 objectives for those populations.

28
29 Well, two of those populations that are
30 identified, one is in sub-Unit 1A down by Ketchikan and
31 the other is in Unit 3 in Central Southeast around
32 Petersburg/Wrangell area. We aren't meeting the
33 objectives, the population or the harvest objectives in
34 either of those places. The law requires that we, the
35 Department, investigate why that is. What's keeping us
36 from getting high numbers of deer in this instance.

37
38 So what we've done is we've put
39 together, first of all, what's called a feasibility
40 assessment and that's required by law that we do, which
41 means that we came forward at the Board of Game meeting
42 and said, okay, we know there's a lot of variables
43 involved in these populations, there's weather, there's
44 predation, habitat changes. Those are all influencing
45 deer numbers.

46
47 To what extent is one or another
48 playing significant roles, we don't know necessarily,
49 but one of our things in our feasibility assessment
50 that we brought to the Board was we said we would begin

1 to intensify our look at those areas in terms of those
2 variables to find out what is the contributing factors
3 and what can we do to increase those numbers.

4
5 So the feasibility assessment was
6 brought to the Board at this January meeting. The
7 Board said, okay, based on what you're presenting it's
8 feasible to get some more information. It may be feasible
9 to take some action if it turns out that predation is
10 the primary factor.

11
12 So, where we are now, as a follow up to
13 that, the Board asked us to put together an operational
14 plan, which is the next step in this whole process and
15 to put together regulatory language that we could bring
16 to the Board and, in fact, the reason that I'm sitting
17 here today and not Neil Barten, who I know you've had
18 sit before you in the past, is because Neil, as we
19 speak, is working with our area biologist to get those
20 data and presentations put together so that we can
21 present those this coming weekend in Kenai to the Board
22 with the operations plans and the regulatory language.

23
24 What that means is if those two items,
25 the operational plan and the regulatory language, are
26 adopted by the Board, if they pass that, then we will
27 have an intensive management program adopted in
28 regulation. Now that doesn't mean that we have to or
29 should necessarily go out and start killing bears or
30 killing wolves. What it does mean is that we need to
31 go and figure out as best we can what actions would be
32 most appropriate in these areas.

33
34 So one of the things that we're already
35 initiating is additional information about deer
36 abundance. We're implementing some new techniques.
37 One using DNA on deer pellets. We're doing habitat
38 plots to get some sense for how much browse is being
39 used in these habitats. We're looking at Forest
40 Service maps to look at what timber harvests have
41 occurred subsequent to when these guidelines were put
42 in place. All those things obviously have big
43 implications for these deer populations, so we're
44 looking into that.

45
46 Ultimately, it may be that reduction of
47 wolves may be an appropriate step to take. We think at
48 this point it's premature to go there, but I think it's
49 something that we should certainly consider as a
50 possibility in the future.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can I interrupt you on
2 that subject.

3
4 MR. LARSEN: Sure.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How would that take
7 place? What would happen? What would you do in order
8 to take care of the wolf population?

9
10 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 That's a really good point. In our operational plan,
12 what we talk about is actually hiring some trappers who
13 are from the area, likely from the area that are
14 experienced, so therefore likely from the area, that we
15 would have them target more intensively in some very
16 specific areas. In fact, what we would look at is
17 having what we would call a treatment area and a
18 comparison area. The treatment area we would go in and
19 have these trappers hit these areas harder than they
20 would otherwise.

21
22 Part of the issue with harvesting
23 wolves, and I know Mr. Douville, for example, is very
24 active in trapping and has been over the years, it's a
25 cost issue. I mean the amount of money you have to
26 spend to go out and actually harvest the resource can
27 be pretty high, so by actually hiring people on,
28 providing them salaries, gas, all the things that they
29 would need, our thinking there would be that we would
30 have more chance of having people actually go out who
31 have the skill and ability to do that, to go out and
32 actually intensify the amount of harvest in these
33 treatment areas. So that's how we would do that, Mr.
34 Chairman.

35
36 That's actually the end of my report,
37 so if you have any follow-up questions, I'd be happy to
38 address those.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Appreciate
41 that. Just a comment and then we'll let Mr. Bangs have
42 a question. In Wrangell-St. Elias we had that same
43 issue come before us, the wolf issues, and there were
44 many people who wanted to do something like what the
45 State would do, but the Park Service doesn't have a
46 policy for predator control. We looked at what was
47 already on the books and trapping was -- it was legal
48 to trap them, so we tried to get the word out to the
49 villages that this is how you can control the wolves is
50 by using what's already on the books. I just wanted to

1 make that comment.

2

3 Mr. Bangs.

4

5 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Mr. Larsen, what role does the State play in the
7 environmental impact studies that the Forest Service
8 does on proposed timber sales in areas that you're
9 concerned about?

10

11 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Member
12 Bangs. We, meaning our area biologist, are called upon
13 to provide comments. What implications or impacts
14 would we anticipate happening to wildlife, since that's
15 our business, if these sales were to occur. So we do
16 that. We provide comments that go through our division
17 into the Habitat Division, our sister division, who
18 then compiles those comments. They are then put
19 forward to DNR, who also provides comments and then
20 collectively we have a set of comments that come out
21 under the State's signature.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

24

25 I'll take Don and then Aaron.

26

27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. Doug, I guess I'm assuming that your wolf
29 trapping efforts will fall within all existing trapping
30 regulations and bag limits and whatnot. Do you feel
31 that that's going to be adequate to take the number of
32 wolves that -- I know it's all kind of speculative, but
33 to be effective can you do that within existing
34 regulation? Do you anticipate any changes to wolf
35 regulation? That could also affect what Federal
36 management might be.

37

38 MR. LARSEN: Sure. Through the Chair,
39 Mr. Hernandez. Actually one of the comments you made,
40 Mr. Chairman, relative to St. Elias is that we're
41 obviously working with the Forest Service in this
42 effort because they are, after all, the land managers.
43 One of the things that we've talked about with the
44 Forest Service is what would the Forest Service feel
45 comfortable allowing for on their lands and they are
46 comfortable, at least at this point, with having this
47 kind of activity occur within the existing seasons and
48 regulations that are in place.

49

50 So I think for that reason alone I

1 think we need to at least start there because we have
2 the cooperative buy-in from the land managers. So
3 that's where we intend to start. Whether or not we
4 need to change the bag limits, bag limits wouldn't take
5 effect in this instance because what we've identified,
6 for example in Unit 3 in the treatment areas, if and
7 when we were to take this on, we would be looking at
8 trying to reduce the number of wolves, which means we
9 have to figure out as best we can how many there are,
10 try to eliminate 80 percent of the wolves in the
11 treatment area.

12
13 So your question, Mr. Hernandez, is a
14 good one. Can we get there? We don't know. That's
15 part of this whole feasible assessment that we've laid
16 out to the Board is, you know, it's one thing that we
17 could try. We certainly know that there are some
18 trappers who in the past have been very effective.
19 Whether or not providing the things that I mentioned
20 earlier with salaries and fuel costs, that kind of
21 thing, whether that would get us there, really we don't
22 know. We believe it would be at least a reasonable
23 first step in trying to address that. Again, I need to
24 emphasize if it's determined that that is, in fact, the
25 issue we need to focus on.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Isaacs.

28
29 MR. ISAACS: Yes, Doug. Would you be
30 sure that this Council receives copies of the new
31 regulations that you've been referring to?

32
33 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
34 Isaacs. Absolutely. Yes, absolutely.

35
36 MR. ISAACS: The reason I'm asking that
37 is I know that there's some people on that Fish and
38 Game Board that are not overly concerned with
39 subsistence that this Council is needed for. So please
40 make sure we do get a copy of those.

41
42 MR. LARSEN: Absolutely. Thank you,
43 Mr. Isaacs.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions.
46 Patty and then Tim.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 This might be an opportunity to compact with the
50 tribes. I mean if you're wanting to reduce the number

1 of wolves. We have compacts for salmon streams.
2 You've got to look for those opportunities where you
3 can. Work with tribes and rebuild some trust.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
8 Phillips. Thank you for that comment. Certainly if
9 there are members in the tribes that have skills that
10 we could bring into something like this, we would
11 absolutely welcome that.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Tim.

16

17 MR. ACKERMAN: Mr. Chairman, thanks.
18 I'd like to share some information from the hunters
19 guides up in the Haines area there. What they have
20 noticed in you would say your intensive management,
21 getting the maximum out of the animals, the moose hunt
22 up there in Haines is one of the most difficult ones
23 there is because if you do not have the right antler
24 configuration, age, sex and the whole nine yards, you
25 can't shoot that moose. Multiple moose get taken each
26 year that don't meet the requirements and they get
27 forfeited.

28

29 The moose genetic makeup, I guess,
30 everybody is looking for the big racks all the time.
31 So what happened over the course of many years is that
32 all the big moose have been shot so that bunch of moose
33 there is gone, the DNA, genetic makeup. They're gone.
34 So we have a whole population of moose with antler
35 configurations that's going to take them many, many,
36 many years to meet the criteria for shooting that
37 moose. We take a picture of the moose, send it to our
38 lawyer, our lawyer emails us back and says you can
39 shoot the moose.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43

44 MR. ACKERMAN: That's what it comes
45 down to. One guy counted 20 moose. He still couldn't
46 pull the trigger after 20 moose. It comes to the point
47 where they can't eat for the winter because the
48 scientific regulation behind the moose harvest doesn't
49 allow you to take that moose. In regards to moose,
50 that's just what we've noticed and some of the

1 suggestions from people up in my region there.

2

3 The other thing is from some of the
4 bear guides up in the Haines area there. Everybody
5 wants the big bear, so it's the same thing. There are
6 fewer and fewer tracks being noticed by the guides and
7 other locals of the bigger bears because that whole
8 population has been altered because they've taken some
9 of the biggest bears out in the area. Chilkoot Lake,
10 the second biggest bear in the world I believe is
11 within one inch of the world record. So this whole
12 population has been changed. There's concerns now in
13 the area up there, but I'm sure the advisory group will
14 get together up there and figure it out sooner or
15 later. Just an observation and some information passed
16 down to me from the people up in my region.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim.

19

20 Any more questions.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Are you done?

23

24 MR. LARSEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I did
25 have a Prince of Wales or Unit 2 wolf research update
26 and I don't know if you want to do that after lunch.
27 I'd be happy to wait, but I'll leave that to your
28 discretion.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you supposed to
31 leave today?

32

33 MR. LARSEN: Yeah. I'm supposed to be
34 on Flight 67, which means I think I catch the 2:45
35 ferry. But again, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to
36 inconvenience the Board any more than is necessary.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How long will your
39 presentation take?

40

41 MR. LARSEN: For the wolf stuff? I
42 would think I could do it in 10 minutes. That depends
43 on how much discussion there is.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I think -- Patty,
46 go ahead.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: I wanted to ask about
49 your previous presentation you went through on the
50 bears. What percentage is the guided take of the

1 annual overall harvest of bear in Unit 4?

2

3 MR. LARSEN: I think it's about 70
4 percent.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: That Take a Closer Look
7 video, how long is that?

8

9 MR. LARSEN: I can't remember exactly,
10 but I want to say like 45 minutes.

11

12 MS. PHILLIPS: I mean because if
13 someone from Pelican wants to get a bear tag, I mean so
14 now they've got to watch a video. Could they watch it
15 like on youtube or something?

16

17 MR. LARSEN: Yes. We made it available
18 as broadly as possible. So we think we've covered that
19 base pretty well. Certainly if you have anybody that
20 shares with you that they're having trouble, please let
21 us know.

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In regards to your
26 other report, Mr. Larsen, I think we'll go ahead and
27 let you do the report. As you said, it might take 10
28 minutes and we will try to adjourn here at 12:30 so we
29 can go to lunch, okay.

30

31 MR. LARSEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman, for the indulgence. I appreciate that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: John, did you have a
35 question in regards to the other subject? Go ahead.

36

37 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Real quickly. I'm sorry if you already mentioned the
39 timeline of your feasibility study and when you think
40 you may implement some kind of management effort in the
41 treatment area for wolves.

42

43 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
44 Yeager. We don't know for sure at this point because a
45 lot of it is figuring out what kinds of things we can
46 actually implement in the near term versus longer term.
47 I guess it's fair to say in general that I wouldn't
48 anticipate taking any kind of active management in
49 terms of actually going in like I've talked about with
50 these additional trappers until the fall of 2014. So I

1 would think that would be the earliest.

2

3 MR. YEAGER: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Don, go ahead.

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just one more quick
8 question. Is the area that this is involved, are you
9 limiting it to the Lindenburg Peninsula as intensive
10 management or would it cover the rest of Unit 3?

11

12 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
13 Hernandez. It would actually be parts of Mitkof and
14 Kupreanof. Again, the treatment area would be on
15 Kupreanof and the comparison area on Mitkof, I think is
16 how Rich has it set up.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Does it only apply to
19 areas that have this two week one buck bag limit then?
20 Is that kind of the criteria that we have to have for
21 intensive management that it has a pretty severely
22 restricted bag limit and season?

23

24 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
25 Hernandez. There is a guideline that in order for
26 intensive management to kick in there has to have been
27 some sort of reduction in season and bag limits
28 associated first. The truth of the matter is Unit 3
29 has very, very restrictive seasons and bag limits
30 already. So I think it's fair to say that anywhere
31 within there would qualify. So then it was a matter of
32 Rich Lowell, who is the area biologist there,
33 identifying with locals some of the areas that seem to
34 be the biggest hot spots if you will and that's where
35 we would target.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll let you
38 go on with your other report and we'll give you 10
39 minutes to do that and then we'll allow five minutes
40 for the Council for questions. Okay.

41

42 MR. LARSEN: Okay. Thank you very much
43 again, Mr. Chairman. I came to the Council a couple
44 years ago I think it's been now and explained that the
45 Department working with Forest Service was engaging in
46 a wolf study on Prince of Wales that would very much
47 mimic what Dave Person did back in the '90s to get a
48 population estimate.

49

50 Let me just say the reason that that's

1 so critical, obviously the more we know about wolves
2 across the region the better and any wildlife for that
3 matter, but it's especially critical in Unit 2 because
4 the regulations both on the Federal and State side
5 require that we manage a harvest that is 30 percent of
6 the estimated population level. Well, obviously, to
7 get that 30 percent we have to know what the population
8 is. So, to the best of our ability we want to do that.
9 Well, it's difficult to get those kind of counts.

10

11 What I explained I think a couple years
12 ago to the RAC was there's three parts to this study.
13 One is to do what Dave did back in the '90s and that is
14 to capture wolves, radio collar them. Of course, today
15 we have new technology. GPS collars rather than the
16 VHF collars, so we get way more data points, way more
17 information about movements and so forth than we would
18 have back then, so that's good, but it requires time
19 and effort to catch these wolves, get them collared and
20 so forth.

21

22 To this point from June through
23 September of 2012 we captured -- I should say our Staff
24 captured eight wolves, one of which was a pup, so it
25 was not collared. The other seven wolves were radio
26 collared. The GPS provide four locations daily. They
27 actually take in through the GPS unit four to 12
28 locations daily, so we're going to continue to do that
29 through this next spring. We'll be doing some more
30 collaring and also again in the fall to get additional
31 collars out and then that will be the end of the actual
32 collaring aspect.

33

34 The area where we're working is in the
35 central Prince of Wales area. There are five wildlife
36 analysis areas; 1315, 1319, 1420, 1421 and 1422, which
37 coincide with the Honker Divide, Staney, Luck Lake,
38 that general area, which is where Dave did the work
39 back in the '90s, so we're duplicating that.

40

41 The second part of the study is to
42 actually try and collect some DNA from animals, which
43 again with new technology is allowing us to get
44 information that we couldn't in the past. So what that
45 involves is actually setting up hair traps. So they're
46 small 6"x9" pieces of wood that have strips of barbed
47 wire on them. They're lured with a scent that attracts
48 wolves. Of course, wolves come to it, they roll on it
49 and they get hair stuck on there and we use that to
50 then identify individual animals to help us again

1 figure out how many there are in specific areas.

2

3 So during this last period the team put
4 out 183 hair traps at 37 sampling nodes and they have
5 four to five traps at each node with the idea that if
6 more than one wolf shows up you want to try to capture
7 hair from as many as possible, so if one is rolling on
8 one board, you're hoping that others are rolling on
9 other boards. We also set up cameras in association
10 with these to get some sense for the behavior of the
11 animals as they approach these boards, so we have some
12 idea of how they approach them, are they rolling on
13 them and, in fact, the photos show that they are using
14 them and we are getting samples from them.

15

16 They check the boards every 10 days and
17 what they found is they've gotten hair samples from
18 wolves, which is good. We've also gotten samples from
19 bears, which is not necessarily good. It interferes
20 with this and that's why there's sort of a narrow
21 window when we use these boards because you're trying
22 to do it as the bears are starting to go into their
23 dens, but you can't do it too late because then you get
24 into snow and snow compounds the issue with the barbed
25 wire, so it's a pretty tight time frame. It seems to
26 be pretty effective.

27

28 We've collected, I think, 40 some hair
29 samples from wolves, which, according to Dave, should
30 be enough to give us some pretty good information
31 relative to the collaring work that's being done and
32 this will be used to compare to some of the aerial
33 counts that are happening.

34

35 Then the third part is a harvester
36 survey and I think I shared this again the last time I
37 spoke with the RAC about this project and this is a new
38 part. Actually the hair trapping is a new part as
39 well, but this new part is an intriguing one for me as
40 a manager because what it is is we've got our
41 Subsistence Division working with us together with
42 Federal Subsistence, Terry's been helping with this as
43 well, to set up a harvester survey whereby we will have
44 staff that will talk with people who have harvested
45 wolves in the last 10 years in the unit, so presumably
46 they have some knowledge and experience. The idea
47 being that we'll get information from them on what
48 their feelings are. I mean they're on the landscape
49 every day or during the trapping season. Obviously
50 they're spending time there. So, to figure out from

1 them what kind of numbers they think are actually
2 present, then we can compare those to what we find
3 through these other techniques that I've described.

4
5 The great thing is if it turns out that
6 there's some sort of correlation between what people
7 are telling us and what we're able to determine through
8 these other approaches, boy it really will help us down
9 the road on a more timely basis keeping a handle on
10 what that estimated population is and then what our
11 harvest should be at the 30 percent level. So we're
12 really hopeful that this will pan out in a way that we
13 can have that as a way to gather this kind of
14 information because obviously it's way less intrusive,
15 it's way less costly and it's more timely in getting
16 that information.

17
18 So that's our hope at this point and,
19 again, it's all experimental, so we'll see where it
20 goes, but in terms of a study design I think it's
21 certainly the best that we could come up with at this
22 point to try to figure out a method to get that kind of
23 information, which is obviously critical for the
24 reasons I mentioned, but then we've got other issues as
25 we all know on a broader scale with the whole petition
26 to list the wolf and what the ramifications are there
27 and so forth.

28
29 Mr. Chairman, that's what I have to
30 share on that. I'd be happy to entertain questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Thank you, Mr.
33 Larsen.

34
35 Questions from the Council.

36
37 Tim.

38
39 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Is there any wolves on Baranof Island?

41
42 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Mr.
43 Ackerman. No, not that we're aware of.

44
45 MR. ACKERMAN: Okay. I spent quite a
46 deal of time down there hunting in Peril Straits and
47 southern Chichagof area there. I witnessed a pack of
48 probably eight running on the beach on Baranof. We
49 assumed by the coloration of these animals that they
50 were dogs, dogs being brought to the island by the

1 loggers and disappearing into the forest, maintaining a
2 pack order. So there was eight or nine of them I
3 witnessed. I've seen wild dogs before up north in
4 Delta Junction when I lived there and I was kid down
5 the pipeline. Same thing, just one right after the
6 other, just like a pack of wolves. The coloration you
7 could tell that they're not wolves, they're wild dogs.
8 So just for your information I thought I'd pass that
9 on.

10

11 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Member
12 Ackerman. I appreciate that. Actually there was a
13 similar report from south Admiralty a few years ago
14 down around Eliza Harbor and people did get photos and
15 they sent them in. The consensus was they were dogs
16 and not wolves. We certainly appreciate it if anybody
17 gets anecdotal information like that hearing about it.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are the dogs just as
22 bad as wolves?

23

24 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chair. They're
25 certainly canines and they're certainly capable of
26 killing, but whether or not they could be successful
27 over the long term. I think the argument I would make
28 is if they were going to be successful they would have
29 established populations and we haven't seen that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So their populations
32 are very small then. We have wild dogs up on Kahntaak
33 Island in Yakutat there, but there's only maybe no more
34 than five, you know.

35

36 Any more questions anyone. Tim.

37

38 MR. ACKERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Just a quick one. Up in the Haines area we have wolves
40 and coyotes eating the dogs now just for your
41 information.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's pretty good
44 predator control.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48

49 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman. Actually
50 we've had that and I appreciate that very much, Mr.

1 Ackerman. I can say that across the region where
2 wolves occur we have had wolves feed on pets. In fact,
3 when I was the area biologist here in Ketchikan years
4 ago we had one particular wolf that was coming in and
5 snatching dogs out of yards and in the end, a
6 homeowner, a dog owner, killed that wolf and it turned
7 out it was a 10-year-old male that was extremely
8 emaciated and clearly trying to get some easy food.

9

10 Mr. Chairman, as I wrap up, and I
11 really again want to thank you for the time and
12 indulgence. I wanted to thank you for your story this
13 morning. It reminded me of when I heard that Pete
14 Probasco had become a Board of Game member I was
15 thinking, my goodness, Pete's gone to the State.....

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. LARSEN:and it wasn't until I
20 went to the Board meeting and realized it was senior
21 that I realized what was happening and I actually
22 enjoyed working with Pete Probasco, Sr. at the Board
23 meetings.

24

25 Again, thank you very much.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I'm sure that
28 people who are seniors and juniors have pretty similar
29 problems. I appreciate your comment about my story.

30

31 Why don't we go ahead and break for
32 lunch. Was an hour and a half enough for you guys
33 yesterday? I think we've still got a lot of time to
34 finish our agenda. So why don't we go ahead and
35 reconvene here at 2:00. Our vice chair is going to
36 take over after lunch.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 VICE CHAIR BANGS: We've got to get
43 started here. We have a time constraint, so everybody
44 take their seats, please.

45

46 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I'd request that you ask people to shut their cell
48 phone ringers off.

49

50 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

1 Douville. We usually go over this at the beginning of
2 the meeting. If you could turn your ringers off on
3 your cell phones and that would be appreciated. I
4 think Mr. Cal Casipit has something to share with us.

5
6 MR. CASIPIT: Cal Casipit, subsistence
7 staff biologist for the Forest Service in Juneau.
8 Before we brought Tony up, I just wanted to mention to
9 the Council that recently it was announced out of our
10 Washington office that Tony was a national award winner
11 for tribal partnership accomplishments with the Forest
12 Service. It was the first award for this ever granted
13 by the chief and it went to Tony. It's well deserved.
14 As you know, over 10 years he's been incorporating
15 traditional ecological knowledge with Western science
16 in his project in Hydaburg and it was recognized by our
17 chief's office, so he will be traveling to Washington,
18 D.C. hopefully in May to receive his award. So I just
19 wanted to mention that.

20
21 (Applause)

22
23 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Very nice. I guess
24 we'll get on with your presentation, Tony, and
25 congratulations.

26
27 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Thanks,
28 Cal, for that introduction. I appreciate that. Not
29 possible without FIS funding. Anthony Christianson.
30 I'm here representing the Hydaburg Cooperative
31 Association as principal investigator on the Hetta Lake
32 stock assessment project funded by the OSM office under
33 the Fisheries Information System program.

34
35 The last time we came to the meeting in
36 Sitka we kind of got cut short and I'm under the same
37 gun again here today, but we did get a presentation
38 ready for you guys. It has a little more of the
39 technical components of our project, The Hetta Lake
40 Sockeye Stock Assessment Project. We've been running
41 the project for about 10 years at the Hetta Lake
42 system. It's become a part of the community and has
43 really grown on the tribe and the community members in
44 Hydaburg. That's just a part of what we do to maintain
45 local control over resources and engaging management of
46 critical resources that the community needs,
47 specifically sockeye.

48
49 Again, I'd just like to thank this
50 Regional Advisory Council for their continued support

1 on this project. It does have to go through the
2 vetting process and this board is the first line that
3 looks at these proposals and sets regional priorities,
4 sockeye being the main one. We listen to some of the
5 other issues like the petition earlier, Southeast
6 numbers falling across the region and how important
7 this resource is to all the region tribal membership
8 and rural residents for subsistence needs.

9
10 So it continues to be a vital part of
11 our community and the subsistence needs. We're just
12 fortunate to have the community support the project to
13 the level they have supported it both in volunteer and
14 in changing the way that they customary and
15 traditionally harvest and when they do. That was just
16 through continued education, continued support from
17 them and keeping them informed and abreast about what
18 the project is and what that information is used for,
19 both by us as local managers and Federal and State
20 agencies as well.

21
22 I'm going to move this computer by
23 Cathy because I don't want to be responsible for
24 crashing her second one.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. NEEDHAM: This is Cal's computer.

29
30 MR. CHRISTIANSON: That was just a
31 joke. I'm sorry.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. CHRISTIANSON: It's not a funny one
36 to Cathy, but I thought what the heck. It probably had
37 my next proposal on it too, so it might not be that
38 funny.

39
40 Well, the background for it is on the
41 board there. We did some numerous TEK projects in
42 Hydaburg, Hetta Lake obviously being the primary system
43 that we use for sockeye. For the region, they've been
44 prioritized as the number one species to collect data
45 on. It's also an important area for commercial
46 fisheries. We need a little more information on that
47 side of the fence as you heard some of the testimony
48 earlier. We may have some of those similar issues
49 throughout Southeast with commercial fisheries and
50 subsistence fisheries occurring in the same body of

1 water, so we look at that as just part of it and try to
2 work with the area biologist in those areas.

3
4 So the Hydaburg Cooperative
5 Association, we've been working on this since 2001.
6 Since 2005 we've had a weir on that system. We started
7 in the early years with mark and recapture methods and
8 it wasn't giving us adequate escapement index because
9 the majority of the system was a lake spawn and it
10 didn't work with that system to try to seine fish in a
11 lake with a lot of wood debris. We have four or five
12 seasonal fish crew that work -- that are all hired from
13 the community of Hydaburg and we do use this
14 information to help Federal and State agencies in
15 management of these subsistence resources.

16
17 This map here just for area, I'll give
18 you an idea of where we are located in Southeast
19 Alaska. Hydaburg is up there on the far left-hand
20 side. Up in the corner, just below Prince of Wales,
21 there's Hydaburg and we do have two systems in the
22 immediate area seven miles and 14 miles from the
23 community, Hetta Lake being about 14 miles from the
24 community.

25
26 This is a picture of the beautiful
27 shack that is located down in Hetta looks like and the
28 tripods and the weir system. We're fortunate that the
29 stream isn't very big. It's not a long stream. It's
30 about less than a half mile from saltwater to the
31 freshwater lake. The fish, when they do come in, they
32 come in really fast and hard and in big numbers. We
33 have to operate this weir based by tide and timing, so
34 we've got to keep it manned as best we could 24 hours a
35 day. The guys do a pretty good job at keeping it
36 manned.

37
38 Current project objectives is to survey
39 everybody who is fishing on the grounds, so we do try
40 to get 100 percent. We do this by getting everybody
41 educated about what the project is about and why it's
42 important for them to let us know what they're
43 harvesting. So we keep somebody on staff out there all
44 year as long as the fishery is open and keep track of
45 the sockeye that they're harvesting out of not only the
46 Hetta Lake but also Eek, Kasook, Hunter Bay and
47 Manhattan has been added to that list recently and we
48 did this through the TEK knowledge and surveying these
49 older systems that we had used historically for what
50 their run timing is and if there were still some stocks

1 in there and trying to spread that harvest out to other
2 systems that may have not been impacted by such high
3 harvest pressure.

4
5 We also try to count the number of
6 sockeye returning to the Hetta Lake through a weir and
7 throughout as much of the spawning migration as
8 feasible. We put the weir in the first part of June
9 and operated almost up to the last week of September,
10 so it's a lengthy weir operation. We estimate the age,
11 length and sex of the fish returning there and try to
12 get a composition of what that stock looks like that's
13 escaping to the spawning grounds. We get a rough
14 estimate of the escapement of the early run sockeye by
15 using a method of 20 percent mark so we can go back up
16 and do a mark recapture on the early stock. We can
17 only do that because those go to an inlet stream, a
18 feeder stream that comes into the lake, so the two
19 early stocks go to the streams to spawn in. The later
20 stock spawns around the lake.

21
22 The primary method is the survey. We
23 interview every subsistence harvester on the fishing
24 grounds or back in the community. If we fail to catch
25 them on the ground, we go to their house. If we fail
26 to catch them there, then we wait until we hear what
27 they caught through rumor.

28
29 (laughter)

30
31 MR. CHRISTIANSON: So it's the effort
32 we have to make sure we can get as much of that harvest
33 information as we can. We use a fish weir to count all
34 the fish that migrate into the lake beginning in June
35 and end in September again. We try to do a scale
36 sample to determine gender of the subset of sockeye at
37 the weir and over the course of the entire run to get
38 an age, sex and length on the fish. We found out some
39 interesting stuff sitting over lunch today that
40 composition of those fish switch year to year and how
41 some brood stocks save some years where there would be
42 some low return, it's good that they have an overlap in
43 four to five year old and figure out themselves how to
44 make sure there's enough escapement.

45
46 So we do survey questions about when
47 they're harvesting, what type of interview type,
48 whether it's on the ground, harbor or follow up, what
49 type of gear they use, number of hours fished, number
50 of sets and the fish caught by species. Through all of

1 this we've had some high years of harvest and low years
2 of harvest and looking at it we've come up with the
3 best years where we had the least amount of feedback
4 from the community that their needs weren't being met
5 was the year we harvested about 10,000 sockeye. We
6 haven't had that type of harvest over the last few
7 years mainly because we've had community buy-in on the
8 sensitive stocks and have limited harvest of those
9 stocks.

10
11 In the last couple of years we've got
12 the community to stop fishing the month of June and we
13 had returns of three, four and five hundred before that
14 and the last couple of years we've got over 2,000 fish.
15 This last year before we even fished the stock we had
16 an escapement of 5,000 fish return through the weir
17 before we even subsisted on the stock. So the
18 community is really supporting the project and has seen
19 the benefit of it and I think we'll continue to see the
20 benefit as these sensitive unique stocks get more fish
21 into the lake to do some spawning and hopefully those
22 numbers will start to grow over time and we can see
23 that impact in the future.

24
25 This here is a subsistence harvest and
26 estimated return by year since 2005 since we put the
27 weir into 2012. You can see we average somewhere
28 between 20 and 25,000 sockeye returning with the
29 harvest. The one peak year was 2006. We had harvested
30 10,500 fish. The rest of the years we've been
31 averaging about 5,000 for the community harvest. Keep
32 in mind that's not meeting the needs for subsistence
33 sockeye. We use a lot of other species to make sure
34 that the salmon need is met by the coho and king salmon
35 stocks that are readily available.

36
37 Community needs are most likely
38 reflected in 2006 harvest, which is closer to the
39 10,500 and that this level has not been reached since
40 then and there is several reasons. Again, stating that
41 there is voluntary diversion from the harvest in the
42 early season. Loss of efficient harvesters. We've had
43 several guys who were key subsistence harvesters either
44 move from the community or have passed on at relatively
45 young ages.

46
47 I know three of them personally that
48 were probably 40-year-olds that did a bulk of the
49 harvest that are gone and those three guys were
50 catching 5-6,000 sockeye a year and those guys are

1 gone. It's almost funny to look at the data -- not
2 funny, but a realization that those guys aren't there
3 and the number of harvest is specific to those
4 harvesters. You don't just replace people like that in
5 the community that are that efficient and that willing
6 to share the resource.

7

8 And then also cost of accessing it.
9 Low economies and high fuel prices and the distance we
10 have to travel to get that resource puts additional
11 burden on the community. That again is important in
12 this resource management because fish isn't the only
13 resource in subsistence that needs to be noted and
14 taken care of. It's also personal finances and making
15 sure you can afford it and do it in a manner that isn't
16 going to sink your ship and go broke doing it.

17

18 So we've been able to help the
19 community know when the fish are there, when they're
20 not there and when it's a good time to go down and
21 fish. It's helped them reduce their overall cost as
22 well and be more effective in harvesting and meeting
23 their needs, so the project has a lot of positive
24 attributes in that sense.

25

26 These are just pictures. This is what
27 our cage looks like. This is what a basketful of
28 sockeye look like and probably the guys behind us are
29 saying that's not what it's supposed to look like,
30 there's supposed to be none in there.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34

35 MR. CHRISTIANSON: But you have to lock
36 them up and do this if you're going to get the age, sex
37 and length data. You have to pull some up in there and
38 let it fill up to -- start pulling them out of there
39 and it takes time to measure each one of them, pull
40 scales, and get that data.

41

42 This is our field leader, Lee Charles.
43 He's been on the project since it started in 2001, so
44 we have 10 years of experience right there. The other
45 guys have been on the project for eight years and every
46 one on the staff minus Pete has a couple of sons and
47 some kids and they've basically grown up on this weir.
48 They've become a part of the project. They are
49 efficient in assisting in the management of this stock.
50 They can operate the weir. They can take care of the

1 day-to-day operations of the camp. It's the unseen
2 positive part of this that we see in the community.

3
4 We grew up with a different mindset.
5 Who in their right mind would want to work with an
6 agency, the Federal agency or State agency, and put a
7 weir on our subsistence stock fishery. I mean I grew
8 up under that and now these kids are growing up under,
9 hey, we've got weirs, we work with agencies and we're
10 managing resources ourselves. So there's been a big
11 shift in the social aspect of what this project has
12 brought to the community besides just employment and
13 opportunity to work. It's brought a change in how we
14 view the resource and what we're willing to do to
15 maintain that resource and make sure there's enough for
16 the future generations that they can continue to
17 subsist.

18
19 This is where I turn it over to Cathy
20 because we start to get into the cool lines and graphs
21 and the stuff that she's responsible for. It just
22 speaks to the peak timings and the separate stocks that
23 we have identified in the lake system and I'll let her
24 do some explaining on the graph.

25
26 MS. NEEDHAM: Thanks, Tony. My name is
27 Cathy Needham for the record. I'm just going to go
28 through quickly the data aspect of what Hydaburg is
29 collecting and then turn it back over to Tony so that
30 he can talk a little bit more about how the data
31 specifically is used within the community on some of
32 the closing slides.

33
34 Hydaburg Cooperative Association has
35 taken over this project in full starting in 2010, so
36 that's why this first graph is representing 2010. This
37 is when they had the full data set that they're working
38 themselves with in terms of their reporting and
39 managing off of it.

40
41 What this graph shows is -- the red
42 lines represent the number of fish per day. Each bar
43 is a fish per day. The blue line is actually water
44 level. If you look on the left-hand side of the graph,
45 that actually looks at the numbers, so the scale on
46 this particular one goes from 0 to 3,000 fish and then
47 it's over time. So on the left-hand side is where they
48 first started counting fish for the 2010 season to the
49 right-hand side.

50

1 The two key points that we'd like to
2 make about this slide is, as Tony mentioned earlier,
3 they have fish that spawn in the inlet creek and then
4 they have fish that spawn on the lakeshore. Through
5 genetic studies that they had done previously when the
6 project was in cooperation with the Alaska Department
7 of Fish and Game show that the run timing at Hetta is
8 pretty distinct. That first part of the graph on the
9 left-hand side where you see just a little few fish
10 trickling in all under the 500 mark, that's the portion
11 of the run that is the stream spawners and then on the
12 right-hand side where you see the larger spikes and
13 more numbers of fish, those are the lakeshore spawners.

14
15 So in 2011 we kind of see the same
16 trend. The scale on this graph is different than the
17 other one because on the left-hand side you can see
18 that it goes from 0 fish to 6,000 and in mid August
19 they had a day -- I'm sorry, the scale goes 0 to 7,000
20 and in August they had a day where over 6,000 sockeye
21 were passed through the weir on one day, so that kind
22 of shifts the scale of the graph, but I'm going to
23 overlay these at the end so you can kind of see the
24 trends over the three years together. Again you can
25 still see they have in the early side in the June and
26 July portion very few fish numbers and then these big
27 spikes in numbers in the August portion of the run.

28
29 And then this is 2012. The scale on
30 the left-hand side is from 0 to 2,000 fish, but it was
31 a pretty steady fish return and you don't see that
32 difference that we saw in the last two graphs, the
33 spike in the later part and August. We don't see any
34 more than 1,800 fish in one day, which is not what the
35 trend has been in the past. Then the other thing to
36 know is we have more fish coming in on that early part
37 of the run. A lot of how we would interpret this is
38 that Hydaburg has been successful in hoping this early
39 portion of the run come back by diverting their
40 harvest. They're not harvesting the early fish that
41 come in, so now, after a number of years, we see that
42 portion of that run actually expanding, which is great
43 news.

44
45 So then this is all three years, the
46 run timings put together. The yellow line represents
47 2010, the blue line is 2011 and the red line is 2012.
48 I don't know, Tony, if you want to speak more towards
49 whether or not there's community concerns about the
50 lakeshore spawning aspect of this. We brought back the

1 early run, but now we're not seeing these big spikes in
2 August like we had been before where the numbers were
3 3,000 to 6,000 fish and overall escapement for it, or
4 should we just move to the escapement numbers?

5
6 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I guess that gets us
7 into the area where you were discussing early about the
8 commercial interception. That's just speculation on
9 our part, but when you end up with a trend over 10
10 years and all of a sudden the trend disappears and
11 there was an opening 10 days earlier in the area, then
12 we can only assume what happened.

13
14 All we can do at this time is just
15 continue to work with the area biologist and hope to
16 get some consideration on that knowing full well that
17 maybe they're not -- not everybody is on the same page
18 as what's happening socially within the community and
19 that we're waiting to harvest fish so that there are
20 larger returns earlier in the system, but that's
21 because we're trying to build a run here and we're
22 trying to build a stock. We just want to continue to
23 work with the agencies and try to see if we can come up
24 with a management plan to make sure that all the stocks
25 have some protection and some possible escapement time.
26 So that's what we're looking at it as.

27
28 I witnessed the interception on several
29 occasions. That actually led to an exclusion zone
30 being expanded on both Hetta and Eek Lakes by the Fish
31 and Game, which we're grateful for. It did great for
32 the run of sockeye there. It moved the salmon fishing
33 basically a mile away instead of 500 yards and there
34 was less interception. They opened it up a little
35 earlier this year and I think there were still some
36 fish that were migrating up the middle of the bay that
37 weren't to the exclusion zone yet. Again, that's all
38 we can do is speculate that.

39
40 MS. NEEDHAM: This table just shows
41 that since the weir has been in at the Hetta Lake
42 system from 2005 to 2012 it gives us a weir count, the
43 estimated harvest and then the total estimated return.
44 Maybe one thing to note is that the lower estimated
45 return in 2008 was 8,000 fish and then we see an
46 increase in numbers with 2011 having 28,471 sockeye
47 coming back and then in 2012 it started to drop off a
48 little bit more again, but it's still bigger numbers
49 than we saw in 2005 and 2008.

50

1 Tony also mentioned the age, sex,
2 length portion of it, so I'll present a little bit
3 about that. This is a picture depicting the crew.
4 They go in and sample the fish, put them in that box,
5 measure them and then they take scales off of them and
6 mount them on cards and those cards are sent to Fish
7 and Game who actually read the scales and put together
8 the dataset for the ASL for the project.

9
10 This is just a preliminary run looking
11 at the age, sex, length data over the last three years
12 and a little bit further back. Our report isn't due
13 until May, so we haven't done a huge data compilation
14 yet for the 2012 season for that report. So 55 percent
15 of the fish that were sampled were female and on an
16 average almost 545 millimeters long, 45 percent were
17 male with an average length of 561 millimeters. The
18 way the datasets in the past had been averaged I didn't
19 have access to that yesterday to include the lengths on
20 the 2010 and '11 portion of it, but the one thing I
21 noted was that in 2010 and 2011 a larger proportion of
22 males came back than females, so it was a little bit of
23 a shift in 2012.

24
25 When they're aged in 2012, 92.5 percent
26 of the fish that were sampled came back as age 1.3,
27 which is actually a 5-year-old fish, so that means
28 those fish, 92.5 percent of the fish that were sampled,
29 came from brood year 2007. In the past in 2001,
30 69 percent of the fish sampled were 1.3 and 2.2, which
31 are both year classes that are 5-year-old fish that
32 came from brood year 2006. The other portion of that
33 to make 100 percent came from other years like 2005 and
34 2007.

35
36 In 2010, 84 percent of the fish sampled
37 were 1.2, so that means a larger proportion of the fish
38 that came back were four year olds. Previously, until
39 Tony and I sat down and looked at this over lunch, I
40 had thought that most of the fish returning to Hetta
41 were four-year-old fish, but it turns out if you look
42 at past years to 2003 when they started doing ASL for
43 the Hetta Lake system, only 2008 through 2010 came back
44 as four-year-old fish and all the remaining years that
45 we have data for came back as five year olds.

46
47 At this time I'll hand it back over to
48 Tony.

49
50 MR. CHRISTIANSON: So the result of the

1 project is that because of longer term data collection
2 we're able to refine the project to make it more
3 efficient and accurate. We're starting to get
4 information that we can use to just get an idea of what
5 the run timing is, what the composition of the fish
6 stock is and what we can expect if we get a good
7 population of spawners in the lake. It gives us a good
8 dataset to use for the community. The data also shows
9 that Hetta Lake is still a primary system for sockeye
10 subsistence harvest by Hydaburg residents and the data
11 is used by our tribe, Federal and State entities to
12 make in-season management decisions for that resource.
13 We'll continue to use it to make predictions regarding
14 future returning stocks to that system.

15
16 Here's a picture of our weir on a nice
17 sunny day and there's one on a not so sunny day. You
18 can see the table those guys were working on is
19 completely submerged. This is when the work starts
20 right here. This is probably more often than not what
21 the system looks like because a bulk of the return is
22 late August, early September and that's been the
23 history of the return, so it provides the community
24 with some reliable seasonal jobs. The success of this
25 program has helped build other natural resource
26 opportunities that increase job opportunities for local
27 hire.

28
29 Being engaged in fishery management, we
30 started to apply for southeast sustainable salmon fund
31 grants to do stream classifications and have nominated
32 just this last year six additional systems in these
33 drainage to be considered for reclassification. It
34 gives us a stakeholder feeling to the resource. We
35 feel we own the resource being the local area managers,
36 the community closest to that primary stock and having
37 maintained an historical ownership that's documented
38 through our TEK. Selling that sense of ownership to
39 the community is where you get the buy-in. That's what
40 local management is about. It's about having that
41 ownership. So it gives the community that opportunity
42 to manage important resources at the local level.

43
44 The community management side of it
45 we've been able to divert some of the harvest to other
46 systems. We've been able to scale back the harvest at
47 certain times and through the help of ADF&G, this was
48 back when Julie was actually working on it, she was
49 critical in helping us establish that exclusion zone
50 with the area biologist to extend the lines out in

1 protection area around Hetta so that we had less
2 interception from the commercial fleet.

3

4 That concludes our Hetta Lake
5 presentation. Again, I'd like to thank the Regional
6 Advisory Council for their continued support and noting
7 how critical sockeye is to the Southeast region and we
8 can hear from north to south about stocks that are
9 being depleted and intercepted or having trouble in
10 meeting the needs and demands of the rural residents of
11 Southeast, it just goes to show how important this
12 information can be to help change the primary user
13 group, which is the subsistence users. That's us, the
14 people that lives in these communities, live off the
15 resource and are the ones who are going to benefit from
16 the long term health of those stocks. If it went away,
17 I don't know where our community would be.

18

19 I really have to reach out to Angoon
20 residents and some of those northern communities that
21 have a problem reaching their goals as far as what
22 their subsistence needs are. I don't know where our
23 community would be if we didn't have that high point in
24 our season because it is the primary resource of the
25 community. It's the highlight of the season and it
26 basically is what we revolve around our lives. It's
27 what we make a point to invest all of our money into
28 and make sure that we're ready for that time of the
29 season. Now that we have some understanding of what
30 management is, it's becoming even more important.

31

32 Looking at it from the top down,
33 funding becoming an issue on every level of Federal
34 funding, even the job that pays me at home, not this
35 one, but my main job. You know, this sequester, I
36 can't even say it because it's got me baffled. I don't
37 know. It's like when they talk 10 percent or 5 percent
38 across the board and you've got several grants open,
39 that means jobs and families and feeding people and
40 meeting the needs of paying your bills. This has
41 provided for five to six residents seasonally and
42 they're happy getting unemployment too because it also
43 does that and makes sure that they can make it through
44 the winter and have that subsistence resource to fall
45 back on.

46

47 Again, I appreciate your guys's time in
48 letting me come here and do this presentation and show
49 you the technical side of it and also speak to the
50 social side of it and how important it has been to the

1 community of Hydaburg and surrounding communities
2 because Hydaburg isn't the only user group that
3 benefits from Hetta. That resource goes statewide. It
4 goes to Anchorage, it goes to Seattle, it goes to
5 Klawock and Craig and Ketchikan and is shared by our
6 families, to our extended families. We all know how
7 that network works. So it's that important that we
8 continue to get this data, know what it is and that way
9 we can make sure we continue to protect that resource
10 for everybody to enjoy. Again, thank you guys for your
11 support.

12
13 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you very much
14 Tony and Cathy. I know you're under a time constraint.
15 Do you have time for any questions?

16
17 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I have a few
18 minutes.

19
20 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Is there any
21 questions from the Council. Harvey.

22
23 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Tony, in all your studies, did you notice anything in
25 the lakes where they spawn, did they spawn in streams
26 or did they spawn in kind of water that's running off
27 the hills and just around the lake?

28
29 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, in Hetta Lake
30 there's three separate stocks, June, July, August,
31 September. The two early ones primarily spawn in the
32 tributary systems that feed the lake and nowhere else.
33 I mean we did mark recapture for several years and they
34 all spawned in stream. There's like a cut-off day
35 sometime in July and it drops off and no fish come in
36 for about a week and then the spike comes and they
37 start to trickle back in and almost 100 percent of
38 those fish are lake spawn and they find those upwelling
39 waters and springs that come off of the mountain fed,
40 you know, those run offs, and it seems like anywhere
41 there's some percolation of water they're spawning in
42 these little pockets of sand in and around logs and
43 areas.

44
45 Our primary reason why -- you know,
46 Hetta Lake is 100 percent private land owned by
47 Sealaska and recently we're fortunate that they went
48 through a public process in the community to garner
49 support for a logging in there. They seem to benefit
50 of that resource and stayed true to their word and

1 didn't log and shut down their operation in there. So
2 we're fortunate that our regional corporation seen the
3 benefit of that to this date because if they had logged
4 it, a bulk of the run is lake spawn and there isn't a
5 protection zone for lake spawn salmon. It doesn't hold
6 the same as a tributary stream. There isn't a required
7 buffer zone.

8

9 I feel your -- I know what you're
10 getting at and I would be highly concerned and really
11 engaged in seeing what you guys can do to maximize the
12 protection of that resource that you're concerned
13 about.

14

15 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

16

17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Bert.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. I think
20 the previous presentation you made I was really
21 impressed because you guys took ownership of that and
22 now you're actually managing that
23 project and I think that's something all tribal
24 governments in particularly Southeast Alaska need to
25 strive for. Our issue is funding.

26

27 I know several years ago our tribe was
28 trying to do something in that manner. One of the very
29 first things we wanted to do is recruit a highly
30 qualified fish biologist and that guy sitting right
31 over there our tribe was going to try and take him away
32 from Sitka and bring him up to Yakutat so he could work
33 for us, but it didn't work out.

34

35 Anyhow, give me some information if you
36 might how you went ahead and got your funding and so
37 forth to do your work.

38

39 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, the funding
40 came from FIS, Office of Subsistence Management, in a
41 call for proposals way back in '99 or 2000 was the
42 first time it was available and, you know, having
43 subsistence stocks that we rely on and not knowing
44 anything about them. We started the application
45 process and through that application process we found
46 out we needed partnering agencies with experience and
47 that experience wasn't in our hands other than
48 traditional knowledge and local information.

49

50 We had to partner with Alaska

1 Department of Fish and Game for several years and
2 convince the community that it was a step in the right
3 direction and that was a hard sell, you know, but we
4 had to fall back on the experts. They had all the
5 information in fish management. We took their word for
6 it and moved forward with it and eventually graduated
7 out of that partnership and stand alone now as the
8 principal investigator. It took several years of
9 having to work with other agencies that had that
10 knowledge base. When you do that, then you hire
11 fishery biologists that are highly skilled to write the
12 report.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Aaron, did you have
17 a comment.

18

19 MR. ISAACS: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman. Tony, was most of this application process
21 and all that done by Haida Corp, is that correct?

22

23 MR. CHRISTIANSON: It's done by the
24 tribe, Hydaburg Cooperative Association.

25

26 MR. ISAACS: Oh, the tribe.

27

28 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. It would be
29 equivalent to the.....

30

31 MR. ISAACS: IRA.

32

33 MR. CHRISTIANSON: The IRA, yeah.

34

35 MR. ISAACS: Okay.

36

37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Ms. Phillips.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
40 Bangs and Mr. Mayor. You said in the 2012 season that
41 you guys purposely don't fish on the stock and then
42 there was a fishery off of Hetta or you said that there
43 was an opening and that it likely could have -- because
44 of the numbers we seen on the screen that the count was
45 decreased. So how far away was that fishery from the
46 entrance to Hetta Inlet and is there a way to determine
47 the number of fish harvested by the comm fish fleet
48 from the area outside of Hetta Inlet.

49

50 Also, I would like to say that I'm very

1 proud of you and Hydaburg Cooperative Association and
2 the capacity building that you have done with your
3 tribe to take over management of that project. So
4 thank you very much.

5
6 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate your
7 last comment. I'll back up to -- the exclusion zone is
8 about a mile long and maybe, I don't know, I'd say a
9 half mile offshore. It's made a big difference and we
10 really appreciate that. But the opening goes right
11 past up to Jumbo Island, which is about four miles past
12 it and it's just a long inlet, maybe two miles wide,
13 mile and a half at most. It's not very wide. They
14 open it up, I guess, stat week 33 would be the number
15 if I remember correctly.

16
17 We did have a decent escapement. As we
18 did contact the area biologist at the time we opened
19 it, we did have 15,000 sockeye by the weir, but there
20 were some factories that weren't incorporated into the
21 whole like, you know, not fishing for the first 5,000
22 of them and then some peak high waters that, you know,
23 when it rains it pours and all the fish go up. Well,
24 the boats don't make it out there either. Believe me,
25 as a local area manager, when all the fish went up and
26 there's 10,000 buy-in, people only got 1,500 so far,
27 feeling like you might have made the wrong decision for
28 your community and meeting its needs too.

29
30 So it's a delicate balance in how we
31 convinced the community on one hand to do this and then
32 all of a sudden you're sitting there biting your nails,
33 are they going to catch their fish because we know how
34 many went by and that could have been all of them from
35 some of the historic levels. It was more than we've
36 had in certain years return to it. Some of the data
37 said we weren't going to have this huge return and it
38 ended up coming out where we would wish it did, but we
39 didn't get that late peak that we were accustomed to.
40 We can only speculate why it didn't happen.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

43
44 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Patty

45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
47 Bangs. Do you know the number of fish harvested by the
48 comm fish fleet from the area outside the Hetta Inlet?
49 Is there a way to make that determination?

50

1 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, it's really
2 hard to make that determination because in an area like
3 Cordova Bay they fish one day and then they move. They
4 could go deliver their fish in Ketchikan, they could
5 deliver them in Craig, they can spread out their effort
6 to -- with refrigeration and stuff like that it's hard
7 to say the vessels in this area caught this composition
8 of fish. We've been trying to tease that information
9 out, but you get a couple hundred sockeye reported on
10 the harvest. It doesn't look like it's substantial.

11
12 So it's just hard when they come and
13 they fish one day and then usually it's a one day and
14 then they move and go fish another area. They could
15 end up on Outer Dall the next day, so we don't really
16 get that information. It's there and available and you
17 can pull it out of the records, but again it's a hard
18 one to say they're catching X amount here and they're
19 probably those fish because there's also Eek, Kasook,
20 Hunter Bay. I mean there's a multitude of other
21 sockeye systems in the area and it would be hard to say
22 that it's that specific sockeye stream that it's coming
23 from. So we don't have that data right now.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Quick follow up.

26
27 VICE CHAIR BANGS: (Nods affirmatively)

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
30 Bangs. Do they genetic sample those fish that are
31 caught from those fleets, you know?

32
33 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I don't know what
34 they're doing in our area and I don't think they are.
35 I don't think so. We did one year of genetic sampling
36 and that was it. It's something we want to add to our
37 next grant application and add a few other things to
38 try to help. As you go through this process, you learn
39 things and genetic sampling it seems like the next
40 thing that we need to do both of the commercial fleet
41 and of our subsistence stock and see if there is some
42 type of comparison.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

45
46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thanks, Patty.

47
48 Ken.

49
50 MR. JACKSON: I wanted to thank you

1 guys for your work. It's been nice listening to you and
2 listening to how you guys have enhanced the fish coming
3 in. Around Kake -- this is a question. Have you
4 noticed that the fish are starting to come up earlier?
5 Because we noticed around Kake they're coming in almost
6 two to three weeks earlier than they did historically.
7 We went out there in August and there was no sockeye.
8 They had already come up and the guys just missed them.
9 I just wanted to know if you guys noticed that.

10

11 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, maybe that's
12 what happened. You know, that's why I said we can't
13 100 percent sure those guys out there intercepted it.
14 Maybe they just came in two weeks earlier because we
15 had those high rainfalls and they were just waiting for
16 that opportunity to push the stream and we got our
17 20,000. I like to play devil's advocate to myself all
18 the time and give the benefit of the doubt to
19 everybody. It's a hard one. But we've witnessed that
20 interception as far as timing. I think everything
21 comes a little earlier. Then on that same note last
22 year the humpies down there, the pinks came in in the
23 first week of September, which was a couple weeks late.
24 So there's been a couple of things we've noticed in the
25 last couple of years with the salmon. They've been
26 early and then really late. They just haven't been
27 consistent in their return.

28

29 MR. JACKSON: Gunalcheesh and haw'aa.

30

31 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Any other questions
32 for -- Floyd.

33

34 MR. KOOKESH: I have one. Are you
35 going to start watching the trends the seiners are
36 making around your community as you watch the decrease
37 in your fishing?

38

39 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's kind of
40 where we keep talking about how we're going to do that.
41 You know, how do we get that information, how do we
42 pull it all together so we can have a comprehensive
43 management plan where everybody is on the same page.
44 We all have the same goal in mind, you know, enough
45 resource for everybody. So we're trying to work on
46 just how do we do that. What we're fortunate about is
47 we have three or four local guys that are seiners and
48 last year they were the ones who walked into our office
49 with the concern about the fishery and the lines being
50 moved up.

1 It didn't come out of my office. It
2 would have happened the next day. The concern came
3 from three local seiners that said, hey, we're going to
4 be down here fishing in August and we're concerned
5 about that as local residents. That prompted calls to
6 people. That's all we can do is educate area
7 biologists and each other about what the stock is doing
8 and what our concerns are and hopefully mature into a
9 better cooperative partnership that needs to be in
10 place to protect these stocks.

11
12 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Anyone else. Any
13 other questions for either Cathy or.....

14
15 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I would hate to cut
16 you guys off right now, but I've really got to go catch
17 a plane.

18
19 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. Thank you
20 very much.

21
22 Once again, congratulations.

23
24 MR. ISAACS: Now you sound like the
25 BIA.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, gee. This is
30 the first time I've ever done this. My head was this
31 big today.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate it, you
36 guys.

37
38 VICE CHAIR BANGS: We're going to take
39 some public testimony now. We have a few people here
40 and we're going to start with Rob Sanderson. Oh, we
41 have a junior. We have a whole bunch of juniors.

42
43 MR. SANDERSON: Chairman Adams, members
44 of the RAC Council. Thank you for having me today. My
45 name is Rob Sanderson, Jr. I am Haida. I live in
46 Ketchikan. My home town is Hydaburg. I'd also like to
47 acknowledge my elder from Prince of Wales, Aaron
48 Isaacs, Jr. I'm glad to see him there. A shout out to
49 him.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Sanderson.

2

3 MR. SANDERSON: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please address the
6 Chair. He's conducting the Chair at this time.

7

8 MR. SANDERSON: Oh, he's going to be
9 the Chair this time. Okay. All right. Mr. Bangs,
10 okay. All right. Thank you. I appreciate the time
11 here. I'm in denial now, as you can see. I have to
12 start using reading glasses now.

13

14 Anyway, I serve as the area president
15 for the local chapter of the Tlingit and Haida Indian
16 Tribes of Alaska. I serve as the second vice chair of
17 the Tlingit and Haida Central Council. I also serve as
18 the vice president of the Ketchikan Indian Community,
19 KIC.

20

21 At the last RAC meeting I testified in
22 Sitka before you guys on this very same issue that I'm
23 going to testify on today. That is the KSM mine in
24 north Ketchikan. For those of you that don't know
25 exactly where that mine is at, it's about 78 miles
26 north/northwest of Ketchikan. It's 40 miles north of
27 Stewart, B.C., which is only two miles from Hyder, so
28 that gives you a pretty close idea of where this mine
29 is at.

30

31 The KSM mine, there's three proposed
32 mines that are going to be up in operations by 2016.
33 They do have power plants being built right now,
34 bridges, tunnels. They have two 14-mile tunnels that
35 are going to be going under glaciers to the tailing
36 deposit sites. Two of which will produce over two --
37 the information as it stands right now is two tailing
38 dams, which will go into the height of over 800 feet
39 high. To give you an idea of how big that is, you look
40 at the Space Needle that's only 620 feet. That's a lot
41 of tailings.

42

43 As you all know, we live in a very
44 unstable region here in Southeast Alaska with these two
45 earthquakes; one outside of Haida Gwaii and one 60
46 miles west of Craig.

47

48 These two mines pose a clear and
49 present danger to our way of life here in Southeast
50 Alaska. To our way of life, which the State likes to

1 claim as subsistence. That's our way of life. That
2 was our economy. That's how things got done back in
3 the day. They traded, they bartered. Of course,
4 things are different now.

5
6 I have heartache over this because of
7 the fact there's really nobody else that seems to be
8 bothered by what's going on. Maybe it's a lack of
9 education on others that reside in Southeast Alaska.
10 The tribes are on it. In reality, this is going to
11 have to come -- in my belief, it's a tribal issue, a
12 Federal issue, transboundary.

13
14 I'm here today to ask the Southeast RAC
15 to forward a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
16 with a resolution opposing these mines. The KSM mine
17 is just one mine that is being proposed. Well, it's
18 being built right now. Operational 2016. But there
19 are 12 mines. Maybe not so big in size, but you've got
20 the Stikine River and the Unuk River, where all these
21 river -- you know, down even into southern B.C. around
22 Stewart and all these other places. Everything is in
23 danger, everything.

24
25 At the last RAC meeting in Sitka it was
26 mentioned that eulachons were indeed being found in
27 some smaller streams on Prince of Wales Island.
28 Something is going on. They've had small-scale mining
29 above the Unuk River. That was just recently shut down
30 a little bit ago. We had a eulachon run that showed up
31 in George Inlet south of town here. What's going on?
32 We don't know that. The eulachon is a glacially --
33 they go for the cold water, glacial water. They spawn
34 in that.

35
36 That's not the only fishery that
37 thrives in the Unuk River and these major river systems
38 coming off the mainland. The Stikine Rivers is another
39 example. There's a lot of concern up there too about
40 the mines. All the way up and down the transboundary
41 all the way up to the Taku River. We know what
42 happened up there and what's going on there in the
43 Taku.

44
45 Where is the help from the rest of the
46 people? Why aren't they educating themselves on this
47 issue? The seiners association, the trawlers, the
48 black coddgers. This is going to affect all of us. We
49 know it all goes downhill. All it would take is one
50 good quake to knock those tailing dams out of whack and

1 everything is going to be flowing down these rivers.

2

3 We oppose these mines. I'll make it
4 real clear for the record that the groups I mentioned
5 I'm involved with we support responsible mining here in
6 Southeast Alaska. We don't oppose mining. What we do
7 oppose is the ill-responsible mining of these large-
8 scale mines behind the B.C. border because of what
9 would happen on the receiving end here in Southeast
10 Alaska. That's something I'm going to keep pushing on
11 throughout these RAC meetings and whoever will hear us.

12

13 I think the State of Alaska needs to be
14 more involved in what's going on behind the border.
15 All the ore will be shipped out to Asia. We don't have
16 any smelters here in Southeast Alaska or even in the
17 United States on the west coast.

18

19 There's another concern that I'd like
20 to talk about here and that's the proposed oil pipeline
21 that's going to be built from the Alberta Oil sand
22 fields to Kitimat, B.C. This is dirty, oily sand,
23 crude oil. The tankers that are going to be built for
24 this special type of oil, dirty oil that's coming out
25 of Alberta right down in the Kitimat are super tankers.
26 Lord forbid if anything like this runs aground. We
27 know what happened up in Prince William Sound with the
28 Exxon Valdez. These tankers are a hell of a lot
29 bigger. If that ever does come about, let's hope
30 they're double hulled. The tribes in Canada, the First
31 Nations people, they're fighting this hard and they're
32 so far on the losing end of it.

33

34 So, with that, that's what's coming
35 down the pike. We always hear about the Pebble Mine
36 out west, but this KSM mine will rival that in size.
37 Again, I hate to sound repetitive, but we all know what
38 flows downhill and we're target zero right here in
39 southern Southeast Alaska in our waterways.

40

41 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
46 Sanderson.

47

48 Any questions.

49

50 Tim.

1 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, very interesting
2 that you talk about all these mines and stuff like
3 that. I was just discussing with our tribe up at the
4 northern Lynn Canal. We have shipments and those
5 shipments that come off the barges on a daily, monthly
6 basis. We have tons of arsenic that is used to
7 separate the gold from the ore and all the other
8 minerals. Tons and tons of arsenic is being shipped
9 through our highways. Not only arsenic, but we have
10 the blasting agent also shipped through our highways.
11 Not only arsenic, blasting agent, Tovex water gel
12 explosive is what they call it, and we have thousands
13 of gallons of diesel that is driven by trucks up to the
14 North Slope because it is cost prohibitive for the
15 North Slope producers to buy diesel from the Fairbanks
16 refineries. It's too expensive, so they ship it in at
17 our port in Haines there and it's all trucked up to the
18 North Slope.

19
20 So what we're talking about is having a
21 First Responder incident in the unlikely event or
22 highly likely event that the arsenic truck crashes and
23 burns into the river, the water gel explosive that's
24 being shipped, if that crashes and burns in the water,
25 in the rivers, much less we've had one diesel truck
26 that already went on its side right above Klukwan and
27 if that would have leaked down it goes right into the
28 Chilkat River. Guaranteed if any of these events
29 happen, the entire Chilkat River will be destroyed.
30 There's no amount of cleanup that will get that arsenic
31 out of the water table, out of the spawning beds,
32 nothing. It will be history.

33
34 This is something that I'm talking to
35 the tribe with. We are looking into the future. What
36 if. You have a very good point there. Thanks.

37
38 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair. Before I
39 leave this table, I'd also like to say that, you know,
40 this is expected to yield 120,000 to 180,000 tons of
41 rock per day and the life of the mine is 52 years.

42
43 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

44
45 Mr. Kookesh.

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: My question is probably
48 to ourselves. Does the Transboundary Panel talk about
49 any kind of mining issues such as this? Maybe to
50 Robert.

1 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Robert.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. You know, I
4 think that there is a considerable amount of concern by
5 individual panel members to the best of my knowledge at
6 the Transboundary Panel. I think I can speak for the
7 Northern Panel as well. That they confine themselves
8 to the task that they're charged with and they don't go
9 too far afield from that.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Larson.

15

16 Mr. Hernandez.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rob. I know
19 I've read about some efforts from the First People's in
20 Canada to try and stop that pipeline into Kitimat and I
21 think I may have even heard that there was some
22 cooperation between U.S. tribes on that as well. I
23 don't know if that involves any of your involvement.

24

25 My question is do you have allies with
26 the First Peoples in Canada on any of these mining
27 issues that you're working on?

28

29 MR. SANDERSON: We are right now going
30 to start talking with tribes in the First Nations, at
31 least the communities that I serve on here in Ketchikan
32 and Tlingit and Haida. We are hoping to pull other
33 tribal entities in on these talks along with First
34 Nations. We did have a gentleman come over from
35 Canada, but he spoke on an entirely different issue
36 that had to do with mining here in Southeast Alaska.

37

38 As far as meeting face to face, we
39 haven't had none of that yet. That's something we're
40 going to push for, to meet with the First Peoples of
41 Canada and, again, get more of our tribal members
42 involved. Hopefully get all the different fisher
43 groups together too because not just our way of life,
44 it's everybody's way of life that's being threatened
45 here, not just the Natives.

46

47 What I don't understand is why a lot of
48 these large fishing groups aren't up in arms about
49 what's going on. You know, if I was a permit holder
50 for a seiner, trawler or power trawler, I'd be looking

1 into this immediately and getting all the permit
2 holders together and start doing something about this.

3
4 Again, the bottom line is that
5 Southeast Alaska is on the receiving end if anything
6 catastrophic happens.

7
8 That's all I have.

9
10 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

11
12 Mr. Kitka, you have a question.

13
14 MR. KITKA: Not really so much of a
15 question. I thank you, Rob, because I've heard this
16 before on the mining issue. Also it would be nice to
17 realize that -- University of Alaska has this on their
18 information. They had some meetings in Sitka about the
19 mine. I agree with you about the concern of the
20 commercial fishermen. That should be a concern because
21 a lot of this is killing off the salmon in different
22 streams and things. Some of them are wondering why
23 they're disappearing. The water quality is something
24 to really be concerned about.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair. Just one
29 more concern.

30
31 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Sure.

32
33 MR. SANDERSON: This is a Federal
34 issue. It's the chinook bycatch. I believe -- and if
35 this does change, I will let the Chairs know of the
36 RAC. I believe that the final decision on putting the
37 hardcap on the western king salmon bycatch is going to
38 be in April in Anchorage. We were afraid that was
39 going to happen in Portland. When things like that
40 affect our tribes, it seems like these big government
41 agencies like to pull out of state and have their
42 meetings elsewhere so the tribes can't get to them.
43 Thankfully they will be having it in Anchorage in
44 April. We're hoping to get as many tribal members and
45 fisher groups up there in Anchorage to testify and try
46 to get these numbers down and put a hard cap on them.

47
48 The western Gulf of Alaska, I believe,
49 and if I'm wrong somebody correct me, that this western
50 Gulf of Alaska bycatch is 100 percent unobserved to

1 where the Bering Sea is 100 percent observed and mostly
2 just by college students. The government is proposing
3 studies on king salmon and where they're all going. To
4 me, it's a very easy question or answer to that. When
5 you're killing off 140,000 kings one year, 60,000 the
6 next, 70,000 the next year and they're not making it
7 back to the mainland rivers in Alaska and western
8 Alaska, to me that's your answer.

9

10 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Mr. Isaacs.

11

12 MR. ISAACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Just a quick question, Rob. Has there been a letter
14 advanced to the committee requesting assistance on this
15 issue basing just on your testimony?

16

17 MR. SANDERSON: In Sitka, we just
18 testified. This is the first time we're requesting a
19 letter, I believe. To my knowledge, we're requesting a
20 letter and maybe a resolution from the Federal
21 Subsistence Board to go to the powers that be, maybe
22 the Department of Interior, wherever that would go from
23 there. Maybe to the State of Alaska, the State
24 department. I wouldn't know. For sure the Department
25 of Interior.

26

27 MR. ISAACS: Was there a letter from
28 KIC to this committee?

29

30 MR. SANDERSON: No, we did not submit a
31 letter. We just testified. We did testify before the
32 main Federal Subsistence Board in Anchorage on this
33 issue too. The reason, again, why I'm here is that
34 we're not going to let this go. That's probably the
35 route we're going to probably have to go.

36

37 MR. ISAACS: Like most of our
38 organizations, we prefer to have a document in front of
39 us to react to and respond to.

40

41 MR. SANDERSON: We do have a
42 transboundary resolution coming out and I'll make sure
43 that it gets to the recording secretary for the RAC to
44 read over and maybe something to go off on. I will be
45 working with our Way of Life Committee with KIC and
46 Central Council and put forth a letter. Before that it
47 would have to be blessed by our tribal council, which
48 it already has been because the resolution is already
49 out there. We have one from Tlingit and Haida Central
50 Council already that was brought out from the Ketchikan

1 local chapter here and that's something that we can
2 forward to this RAC here and see if you guys would like
3 to use it as a template to further down to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Isaacs. That's
7 something that we'll get right on.

8
9 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I think Mr. Larson
10 would be the person to.....

11
12 MR. SANDERSON: Oh, Mr. Larson. Okay.

13
14 VICE CHAIR BANGS:give that
15 letter to. Cathy.

16
17 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
18 also wanted to add that in our annual letter that goes
19 to the Federal Subsistence Board we actually included
20 your testimony as a bullet point to them from when you
21 testified back in Sitka as an issue that's been raised
22 in the region and the comments that came out of some of
23 that discussion is also included there. This Council,
24 I think, has heard you and has heard some of the
25 concerns and we are trying to forward that on up to
26 that next level.

27
28 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you, Cathy. I
29 was looking back in the minutes and I did see that,
30 yes. Just to let this RAC know that we're going to be
31 coming back every time you guys meet because we do want
32 to be heard and we want our voices heard all the way to
33 the top.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

36
37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Patty.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Sanderson, I'm a
40 little bit puzzled about when you talked about this KSM
41 mine. You said that things are already in construction
42 and moving on. I mean in our region there's a whole
43 NEPA process that has to be followed. Don't they have
44 something like that in Canada so the public can put in
45 remarks? It sounds like things are already in the
46 pipeline. How do we react other than our State
47 Department of the United States talk to their State
48 Department?

49
50 MR. SANDERSON: Well, that brings forth

1 a good question. Once you look at the size of this
2 project, it takes years to get up online. For them to
3 be up online in 2016 is an amazing feat in its own
4 right. When you're having two 14-mile tunnels bored
5 one way from the tailing site to the mine site, you're
6 talking something that's probably going to be bigger
7 than the Pebble Mine. You're talking probably the
8 largest open pit mine in the world and that's the
9 reason why it takes so long.

10

11 As far as the mining and the laws in
12 Canada, I'm not really up to speed on their laws. I
13 believe that our laws are a lot more strict than what
14 B.C. has put in place right now. It's obvious, you
15 know. Take a look at B.C. It's up for sale. If not,
16 it's been sold off already. You just need to take a
17 look at the mining maps and the tracts of land that
18 were sold. It just goes all the way up to the border,
19 Juneau and beyond. That's all.

20

21 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Kookesh.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: Kind of to Patty's. When
24 we followed the Tulsequah Mine in Juneau on the Taku
25 River, one of the things I learned was the Canadians
26 don't want to listen to us. They don't have to listen
27 to us. They're going to do what they want to do. Kind
28 of going back to what Robert said was the Transboundary
29 Panel is just focused on what they're supposed to do.
30 They need to understand -- the Transboundary Panel
31 needs to understand that if they don't start looking at
32 the mine, they're not going to have anything to do. If
33 you want to get it right and continue to do it right,
34 maybe they ought to start putting their -- getting
35 their heads straight and start focusing on the issue
36 that Mr. Sanderson is bringing to our table.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you, Floyd.

41

42 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Anyone else.

43

44 Tim.

45

46 MR. ACKERMAN: I'd just like one more
47 comment. We made the decision to start recording our
48 tribe up there, the water quality as it is each month.
49 We have water quality tests that we're starting. So if
50 they open up a mine up above us and we note a heavy

1 metal difference in levels going up in the water, then
2 that will raise the alarm. So we're starting now
3 before they even open up anything up above our
4 watershed.

5
6 The other real concern was the mineral
7 load has what they call copper sulfate. When mixed
8 with water is really deadly. So that was up above us.
9 We know what's coming down the pike. So we're starting
10 water quality tests now, not later, so the deep water,
11 everything, it will be recorded. Thanks.

12
13 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair. I thank you
14 -- oh, okay.

15
16 MS. KELLEY: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just a comment. The
19 mining issue, we've heard it before from you and
20 several other people who are really concerned about it.
21 It was mentioned that it is in our annual report that
22 goes to the Federal Subsistence Board. When they get
23 it, they respond back on every one of those points that
24 we have in the annual report. In my opinion, that item
25 being in the annual report is just as good as a letter
26 or a resolution. There's ways that we can track it as
27 well. I hope you can be satisfied with that. If you
28 want Council to address it in any other way, you can
29 make yourself known, but I think it's already addressed
30 in our annual report.

31
32 MR. SANDERSON: Okay. The next time
33 they do have a Federal Subsistence Board we'll be there
34 too. Again, thank you for hearing me -- okay, sorry.

35
36 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Bert.
37 Thank you, Mr. Sanderson. We have someone online who
38 wants to ask a question or make a comment.

39
40 MS. KELLEY: Is that me?

41
42 REPORTER: Yes.

43
44 MS. KELLEY: This is Dale Kelley again,
45 Alaska Trollers Association. I don't want to belabor
46 your mining issue. I'm really glad that somebody has
47 brought it to the table. I am a member of the
48 Transboundary River Panel, U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty.
49 I've also been very involved in the Tulsequah Chief
50 Mine where we've got a task force appointed by the

1 Legislature the year before last. These are big issues
2 to our industry, so I don't want anybody to think that
3 they're not.

4
5 The Canadians briefed us at our last
6 panel meeting in February. I have the PowerPoint
7 presentation that I had requested as a panel member and
8 I'm happy to share that with anybody who would like it
9 to see what's going on with their mining, particularly
10 up the Stikine. So I just wanted to point that out and
11 let folks know as a point of contact feel free to call
12 me, Dale Kelley, Alaska Trollers Association, and I'm
13 happy to work with the RAC if they intend to engage in
14 figuring out what's going on with Canada and mining.

15
16 I think it could be very effective
17 actually if the RAC not only wrote to the governor
18 about it, but also if they worked with the local
19 tribes, like the Tlingits and the Thaltans on the
20 Stikine. There are folks who have been engaged on our
21 Transboundary River Panel who are equally concerned on
22 each side of the border. Maybe together we can make a
23 difference.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. Is there
28 anyone else that has any comments or questions for Mr.
29 Sanderson.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you very much.

34
35 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 I appreciate each and every one of you and the tribes
37 do too. Anyway, with that, when you do travel,
38 blessings for a safe travel home.

39
40 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Aaron. We have one
41 more.

42
43 MR. ISAACS: I remembered to turn it on
44 this time.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48
49 MR. ISAACS: This question would be
50 posed to the committee. Does anyone know how bluestone

1 -- is it manufactured or is it mined? Anybody know
2 anything about bluestone?

3

4 (Council shakes head negatively)

5

6 MR. ISAACS: The reason I ask is that
7 years ago, '40s and '50s, us creek robbers used to put
8 it in a gunnysack and walk across the streams. Chases
9 the fish out of the stream. Then they found out that
10 bluestone stays on the rocks and those streams become
11 dead. Fish don't go up there anymore. Of course, we
12 were resourceful. We found out dump Clorox in there to
13 drive the fish out and the Clorox will wash off too.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17

18 MR. ISAACS: But if it's something
19 that's mined and it ends up in the tailings, then I
20 think there's a valid concern there.

21

22 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you for those
23 comments. A good point. Thank you, Mr. Sanderson. I
24 guess we'll move on here. I don't know of anybody that
25 knows about bluestone.

26

27 MR. SANDERSON: Bluestone, I believe,
28 is what they used to soak their nets in, the purse
29 seine net.

30

31 MR. ISAACS: Thank you.

32

33 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Next we have --
34 we've got a few more to get through here, so we want to
35 keep it moving.

36

37 Holly Burns Churchill.

38

39 MS. CHURCHILL: (In Tlingit)

40

41 I'm Holly, a Churchill girl locally
42 homegrown around here. My concern is also mining upon
43 the Unuk cross-boundary borders. Primarily what I want
44 to speak on is the past mining that has been closed two
45 years ago, maybe three now, but was opened 12 years ago
46 on the Unuk. And after that mined we saw little to no
47 return of the eulachons. So the river is hot. We need
48 to have a baseline water -- thank you for bringing that
49 up because I had forgotten what I came for after
50 listening to everyone, so many interesting subjects.

1 We really do need a baseline water
2 quality to be able to have that monitored, but what we
3 need from you is we need you to go ahead and make a
4 motion within your own board to work towards the
5 concerns on this mine on the Canadian side. I guess
6 feet work for most of you guys that have built boats
7 and hammered a few nails in wood, but the size of Deer
8 Mountain out here when you walk outside, that's Deer
9 Mountain, the glacier's removal for those mines are
10 going to be three of Deer Mountain leveled. The size
11 of the tailing is the size of Niagra Falls, is the
12 reservoir.

13
14 That's the concern, is that recently
15 we've seen a lot of earthquakes here down in Haida
16 Gwaii to the Prince of Wales Island and we've had the
17 showing of tsunami and wash-up of all this debris, but
18 we're talking about two things here, the mining and the
19 oil that's just south of Kitimat. Both of those are
20 concerns for our salmon, for our way of life, for human
21 consumption, obesity, depression, all of these things
22 with the loss of the eulachons in our diets. It's
23 killing our people. We're being ethnicized. I'd use
24 genocized but the Jewish people like to use it, so I
25 don't want you to think anybody else is getting killed
26 by the loss of our resource.

27
28 It's important that we have a board
29 that we can talk to, that can make motions, can make
30 recommendations. I'm of Tlingit and Haida Ketchikan
31 Chapter and I'm also on Robby's Way of Life Committee,
32 but I'm also of Tongass Conservation Society. All of
33 these is a people concern, it's a fishery concern. At
34 one time there used to be a fishing union from Canada
35 before we were a territory and everybody all along the
36 Pacific Coast belonged to this fishing union and this
37 fisherman union would get together and they'd make a
38 lot of policies and you had these talks between
39 Canadian and American decisions.

40
41 Now we don't have that conversation
42 because the Canadian government do not listen to their
43 Indians. Now they might write traditional knowledge
44 and say that they consulted with the Indians, but that
45 really, when it comes to mining, any top resources,
46 that's not happening. Clark has just wiped out the
47 laws for fishing and for mining here in this last bit
48 of time. My sister April is the vice president of the
49 Haida Nation, so the pipeline right now is the First
50 Nation's main priority. One pipeline is going to be

1 the dissolvent that's coming from China. It's a route
2 right directly on the upper side of Haida Gwaii going
3 to the pipeline to Kitimat.

4
5 The other pipeline is after the
6 dissolvent goes to the tar sands is coming from the
7 south end of Haida Gwaii and these large tankers are
8 ocean tankers. They're not navigational tankers.
9 They're expected to go into -- Prince Rupert didn't
10 want it. They didn't want the harbor. They have
11 decided on Kitimat and Kitimat is going through all
12 these little islands and it's not if, it's when the
13 spill happens, whether it's the dissolvent or the oil.

14
15 The same thing with the mining up
16 above. Five of our rivers that are coming off of that
17 cross-boundaries are all going to be affected. The
18 concern that I have because I'm obese, I have
19 depression, I know as soon as eulachons were out of my
20 diet those illnesses had occurred and I started
21 recognizing it. Now it's so hard to get eulachons from
22 Canada because of the restrictions they have for
23 bartering, so we have to figure out how we save those
24 rivers before our people are -- you know, I flew up
25 there with National Geographic. Let's see, it was July
26 -- I left Hydaburg from subsistence fishing there. I
27 brought a guy from National Geographic up to the Unuk.
28 They were photographing, putting cameras on their
29 airplanes to start documenting what was going on in the
30 rivers and what isn't happening. These brown bear were
31 so scrawny. It wasn't until August 5th that one salmon
32 showed up on the Unuk and that's just terrible. That's
33 a terrible reality. Our brown bear are suffering for
34 it, our humans and our fish.

35
36 We're responsible for the salmon to go
37 back to Canada. We have treaties that we're obligated
38 to uphold and we really have to have your help. I know
39 you're there for us. I'm here to plead with you to
40 come up with a resolution. I know you're saying what
41 kind of letter do you have, but when you have so many
42 different Southeast Native groups, it's really hard to
43 get everyone on the same page or even in the same room,
44 so we have boards of you that will assist us.

45
46 So haw'aa. Is there any questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MS. CHURCHILL: Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Holly.
2 We just have a couple more here and then we'll take a
3 break.
4
5 Victoria McDonald.
6
7 MR. KOOKESH: Can I ask a quick
8 question.
9
10 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I'm sorry. Mr.
11 Kookesh.
12
13 MR. KOOKESH: Before you start, can I
14 ask Robert to respond to the request for resolutions
15 from the RAC and letter.
16
17 MS. MCDONALD: I think he left. He
18 said he.....
19
20 MR. KOOKESH: This Robert.
21
22 MS. MCDONALD: Oh, this Robert.
23 There's more than one Robert.
24
25 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Larson, do you
26 have a response.
27
28 MR. LARSON: In my experience, and it's
29 my suggestion that it stays the same, that items of
30 interest to the Council are best done by motion and not
31 by resolution. I think that was Floyd's question and
32 that would be my suggested course. If the Council
33 wants to act on a topic, that it's best done by motion
34 and a resultant letter or some other action that's
35 contained within the motion and not by resolution.
36
37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Robert.
38 Did that answer your question?
39
40 MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)
41
42 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Floyd.
43
44 Okay, Victoria.
45
46 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
47 and members of the committee. I fished with Mike Bangs
48 a long time ago. So this is again another Unuk -- an
49 anti-Unuk diatribe. We became aware of -- I became
50 aware of this KSM, Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell, those are

1 the three river systems that are affected, October
2 2011. The company sent down a very slick presenter.
3 These guys are well paid, they're well schooled in how
4 to promote mines and how safe these mines will be.
5 This man guaranteed that these rock piles, these
6 tailing ponds will be contained in perpetuity, which is
7 a long period of time.

8
9 My sons live in Montana. Montana, of
10 course, has been heavily mined, so I contacted a man
11 names Jim Kuipers who is a world class mining expert.
12 He said when you attempt to line a tailings pond or a
13 rock facility, there is not a liner made that can
14 contain things for very long. He said you go talk to
15 the liner companies because here the mining companies
16 say these acid drainage piles will be protected.
17 That's not possible. I think all this promotion of
18 safety really is just the industry's means of saying we
19 can do it, let us go ahead, please. So there's no
20 guarantees.

21
22 I'd like to talk about the Tulsequah
23 Chief, which, of course, has been draining into the
24 Taku for years and the Canadian mining company says,
25 well, we can't curtail the acid drainage because
26 there's no money coming out of it. So, you know, these
27 mining companies have a tendency to pull all this money
28 out, pay their shareholders and then they declare
29 bankruptcy. Whoops, there's no money left for cleanup.

30
31 As for the NEPA process in Canada,
32 Premier Harper has eliminated -- this is according to
33 Rivers Without Borders, which is a Canadian/American --
34 it's not a corporation, it's a non-profit. Premier
35 Harper has eliminated 37 of the 40 agencies that would
36 comment on environmental degradation. So he's pretty
37 much gutted things. So industry is free to do as it
38 wishes and there will be elections in Canada in May,
39 but right now the industries in Canada are going full
40 bore mining before we catch on, I believe.

41
42 Precipitation. Mines actually work
43 fairly well in the desert. This is according to Jim
44 Kuipers. We all know that Southeast Alaska is about
45 the last thing from a desert. So that amount of
46 precipitation that goes into these rock piles, into
47 these tailings ponds, that just increases the load. Of
48 course, as has been mentioned, you get an earthquake or
49 just a heavy amount of rainfall, these things will go.
50

1 I was a commercial fisherman for years.
2 I started fishing in 1974 and the Magnuson-Stevens Act
3 got rid of the foreign fleets. Somehow they got them
4 off our shores and away, so they came in. In 1996,
5 there was an amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Act that
6 specifically protected spawning habitat. The first
7 time I read it I thought, well, we're here, but I have
8 contacted the State and no one seems to think that
9 Magnuson-Stevens has any teeth. So I'm really curious
10 as to why we have no protection for our waters that we
11 would allow a foreign country to come in and pollute
12 our waters and affect -- I'm not Native, but I
13 definitely depend on salmon.

14
15 Again, I just hope that there's
16 somebody in Southeast, a lot of somebodies, who will
17 step forward and say this needs to stop. Once it gets
18 going it's very, very difficult to pull back. The
19 roads are going in, the hydropower lines are being
20 established every summer.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Victoria.

25
26 Are there any questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you very much
31 for your comments. Oh, Tim. Wait a minute, Victoria.
32 I think we have a question.

33
34 MR. ACKERMAN: It's just a comment.
35 Maybe the Canadians would get upset if some of that oil
36 spilled into their brewery. Do you think they would be
37 upset?

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. Okay.
42 We have one more here and then we'll take a break.

43
44 Norman Arriola. Is that right?

45
46 MR. ARRIOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank
47 you.

48
49 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

50

1 MR. ARRIOLA: Good afternoon, Mr.
2 Chair. Thank you. RAC board members, thank you for
3 allowing me to speak before you today. I'm glad the
4 sockeye issue was discussed prior to you addressing
5 those that wanted to speak. Hydaburg did a very good
6 job in making a presentation. I was really impressed.
7 That's time-consuming work and study.

8
9 The sockeye here in Southeast Alaska
10 they are becoming few and far between. On my own
11 personal experience with sockeye, I love sockeye. I'm
12 sure everybody sitting in this room loves their sockeye
13 or love to put up their sockeye. With all the sockeye
14 I get, I normally got from either gillnetters, I buy it
15 from them if they would sell me a few, or I'd get them
16 from the seiners or the packers. In the last two years
17 I've had to go to cold storage to buy sockeye so I
18 could have a few cases of sockeye to enjoy during the
19 winter months. That's embarrassing.

20
21 Alaska is supposed to be rich in all
22 five species of salmon, but we're not. I'm glad board
23 member Ackerman mentioned the outside purse seiners
24 that are coming up from the Lower 48, as far away as
25 California, Oregon and Washington, to fish during our
26 prime season. They usually get up here about a week
27 before the season starts and they don't leave until
28 probably about mid September. That I have a problem
29 with. How that happened, I don't know. I don't know
30 why the State allowed those boats that are having their
31 own fishing issues along the Pacific Northwest allowed
32 them to come into our state.

33
34 I won't talk too much about this mining
35 issue. When I was president of Ketchikan Indian
36 Community back in 2011, I addressed the mining issue,
37 the KSM mine issue, with our Alaska delegation and the
38 response I got from each one of them, Senator Lisa
39 Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, and Congressman Don
40 Young, was that this is an international issue. He
41 said you have to get all your ducks in line, get all
42 your T's crossed, your I's dotted and your commas and
43 spelling right in place and address it with the then
44 Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Until such
45 time that you have documentation and have something
46 down in writing that she can address, then and only
47 then they'll address it.

48
49 I mean no disrespect to the two that
50 got up here and spoke on the KSM issue, but that's the

1 bottom line. It's international. I'm sorry. The Unuk
2 River, we're all aware of the eulachon run and any
3 other species that goes up there, those mines -- the
4 KSM mine that was referenced to, they shut down I think
5 somewhere around 2008 and left all their equipment
6 there, but the holding ponds are running over. Not in
7 any great length, but when it rains hard over there
8 just as it does here. The only ponds are trickling
9 over. Where does that? Into the ocean, into the
10 rivers.

11
12 The new mine that they're talking about
13 building, it's a big mountain. I can't recall the name
14 of it as we speak. In the last two years they've been
15 building a big power plant over there and the mountain
16 they're going to tear down is going to take a long time
17 and the First Nations people over there are concerned
18 about the Nash River and they get a lot of sockeye
19 there. Of course, we've heard about the Pebble Mine.
20 I would definitely be opposed because that is the last
21 big prime sockeye tributary that we have in the state
22 of Alaska. If they allow that Pebble Mine to go
23 through, there's no stopping the contamination from the
24 minerals that they mine to go into that tributary and
25 wipe out that whole sockeye run area.

26
27 I thank you for your time. I find this
28 very interesting. Subsistence is a way of life. Has
29 been for time immemorial and I look forward to hearing
30 some more good conversations from this board and I
31 thank you to everybody that's serving.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Norman.

36
37 Are there any questions.

38
39 Mr. Hernandez.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Probably more of a
42 comment. Maybe a question that could be answered, not
43 by Mr. Arriola, but maybe Staff. I mean you're exactly
44 right. This is an international issue. Eventually our
45 concerns have to go to the State department. It's
46 probably important to note that the Natives, I think,
47 have a very powerful voice in this because tribes do
48 and corporations do have a government-to-government
49 relationship. That could be very effective. I don't
50 know if you're using that voice to try and get to the

1 State department as well, if that's possible within
2 your powers, but I think that would be important if you
3 could.

4

5 As far as our role, we communicate
6 directly with the Board, the Board communicates with
7 the Secretaries. Is there some communication possible
8 with the State department through our Secretaries if we
9 request that?

10

11 MR. ARRIOLA: When I did go back to
12 D.C., I had two sets of maps for all three of our
13 Alaska delegation. I pointed out the areas, all marked
14 off. If you've ever been to D.C., you only get 15
15 minutes with them, so you've got to talk fast and
16 you've got to make sure you have your facts down and
17 you've got to make sure that you have the questions you
18 want to ask them in place because they have a staffer
19 that sits and watches the clock and they tap the table
20 and say, oh, I got to go, thank you for your time, have
21 a safe trip back home.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25

26 MR. ARRIOLA: But, yes, the Secretary
27 of State, who is Mr. Kerry now, if this mining issue
28 with Canada is going to continue to be pursued, whoever
29 is going to address it, and I would encourage all 229
30 Federally recognized tribes in this state to have some
31 kind of a position paper along with documentation and
32 send it to the Secretary of the Interior -- or
33 Secretary of State, excuse me. Even them, even the
34 resources people back there, and let them know exactly
35 what's going on in our state.

36

37 One other thing as far as Unuk goes.
38 There's a gentleman that's homesteading on the Unuk.
39 Two years ago he observed during the summer months when
40 there's prime spawning season these jet boats that only
41 need about maybe, what, a foot of water, if that, to go
42 up those. They said when those salmon are trying to
43 make it upstream to spawn, they're just scattered.
44 Every one of those jet boats just blow right over them.

45

46 Whoever is in charge of the Unuk,
47 whether it's the State or Feds, I'd shut that river
48 down for any boating activity until after the spawning
49 season is over.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
4 Arriola.
5
6 Any other questions.
7
8 MA. PHILLIPA: Mr. Chair.
9
10 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Patty.
11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. How many
13 miles away is that mine from Ketchikan, do you know?
14
15 MR. ARRIOLA: No. I heard Mr.
16 Sanderson mention it was something like 78 miles.
17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Is it wilderness area or
19 what kind of land use is it?
20
21 MR. ARRIOLA: That I couldn't answer
22 you, ma'am, but thank you for the questions.
23
24 MS. CHURCHILL: It's a National
25 Monument.
26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Thank you.
28
29 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Patty.
30
31 Thank you, Mr. Arriola.
32
33 No other questions.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I know I briefly
38 touched on this out of order a while back, but I think
39 that this warrants a a little more than just being
40 included in our annual report. I don't know how the
41 Council feels, but maybe after this break -- you know,
42 we could talk about it during the break and see if we
43 do want to make a motion to write a letter to other
44 entities such as the Secretary of Interior, Secretary
45 of State or whatever.
46
47 Anyway, we're going to take a 15-minute
48 break. We'll be back at five minutes to 4:00.
49
50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. If everybody
4 could take their seats. We've talked about carrying
5 the meeting until 6:00 tonight and then we'll try to
6 start earlier tomorrow. We still have a lot of stuff
7 to go over before we adjourn. Right now I'd like to
8 let Mr. Kessler and our other old Council member.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 Go ahead.

13

14 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Jack Lorrigan and I are here to respond to Don's
16 question about contacting the Secretary of State
17 through the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior
18 about these mining issues.

19

20 Did I get that correct?

21

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 MR. KESSLER: What I'd like to just let
25 you know is that in the review that the Secretaries did
26 of the Federal Subsistence program, three or four years
27 ago, one of the actions that they identified as part of
28 the review was to -- I'll quote it exactly here.
29 Direct the Federal Subsistence Board to ensure the
30 Secretaries are informed when non-DOI/SDA rule-making
31 entities develop regulations that may adversely affect
32 subsistence users.

33

34 I remember the discussions about this
35 item. The discussions were that the Secretaries wanted
36 to know about activities that affect subsistence uses
37 and subsistence users that are within the authority of
38 other Secretaries. It seems that this is exactly what
39 we're talking about here. The Secretaries want to be
40 made aware, in this case the mining issues, even though
41 it's not in their jurisdiction. It's in the
42 jurisdiction of the Department of State.

43

44 So we discussed this earlier during the
45 break and we think that it's perfectly appropriate for
46 the Council to write a letter to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board and request that the Federal
48 Subsistence Board forward that up the chain to the
49 Secretaries and then that letter would request that the
50 Secretaries contact the Secretary of State over this

1 issue because of the potential effect on the Federal
2 subsistence uses in Southeast.

3

4 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

5

6 Did you have something, Jack.

7

8 MR. LORRIGAN: No. Steve brought this
9 to my attention. He's got the seniority in terms of
10 having been here longer than I have.....

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. LORRIGAN:so he's far more
15 aware of this than I was.

16

17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

18

19 Are there any questions.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

22

23 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Ms. Phillips.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: So our annual letter
26 says the Council would like for the Board to be aware
27 that area residents are very interested in the
28 following issues and the first bullet is there are a
29 number of large-scale mining projects planned in Canada
30 on the headwaters of rivers flowing into waters of the
31 United States. These activities have the potential for
32 serious negative impacts on U.S. fisheries. Someone
33 said it's in our annual letter and it is. What more
34 are we proposing?

35

36 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Hernandez.

37

38 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would propose that we
39 state specifically that we would like these concerns
40 passed to other Secretaries, specifically Secretary of
41 State, whose jurisdiction these international issues
42 falls under. I think if we were specific in making
43 that request I think it would be important.

44

45 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Donald.

46

47 Mr. Kookesh.

48

49 MR. KOOKESH: And we're talking
50 specific just to the mining, right?

1 MS. PHILLIPS: That's what it says.
2
3 VICE CHAIR BANGS: That's what the
4 issue is I think we're talking about right now is
5 specifically to the mining activities in the
6 transboundary rivers.
7
8 Tim.
9
10 MR. ACKERMAN: Mr. Chairman. Patricia.
11 In the letter, if we could add that the northern Lynn
12 Canal is also possibly going to be affected as well by
13 mining activity possibly from the Canadian and the
14 other new mine that's coming up. So that would be
15 great. Thanks.
16
17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Ms. Phillips.
18
19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
20 Bangs. The letter doesn't specify any names, so I
21 think we should specify the headwaters of transboundary
22 rivers flowing into the waters of the United States in
23 our bullet.
24
25 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Any other ideas or
26 things we want put in this letter. Floyd.
27
28 MR. KOOKESH: So am I understanding
29 correctly we're taking the first bullet away from the
30 other five bullets and creating a whole new?
31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: No.
33
34 VICE CHAIR BANGS: It's my
35 understanding we're leaving it in the annual report,
36 but we're crafting a letter using those words and
37 adding in transboundary rivers and crafting a letter
38 that we can send through the Office of Subsistence
39 Management to the Federal Board and then recommend that
40 it's forwarded to the Secretaries of State. That's
41 what I'm thinking we're doing.
42
43 Ms. Phillips.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
46 Bangs. I would agree with your summary and also Mr.
47 Douville suggested that we add Southeast Alaska
48 transboundary rivers.
49
50 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Frank.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair. Do we have to
2 make a motion to do this?

3
4 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, I believe we
5 need to make a motion and then carry through the
6 process. Robert.

7
8 MR. LARSON: I need some clarification
9 to get my mind straight around this issue. Are we
10 talking -- is it your intent and Patty's intent to
11 amend the annual report and that's the document that
12 we're talking about?

13
14 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I think that what
15 they're referring to, and correct me if I'm wrong, is
16 they want to amend the annual report, but craft a
17 letter as well. Is that right?

18
19 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I think
20 that's right. Honestly, it was Mr. Hernandez's
21 suggestion that we entertain crafting a letter to be
22 sent on, a separate letter outside of our annual
23 report, to be sent on to the Federal Subsistence Board,
24 forwarded to the Secretaries, requesting them to bring
25 the issue to Secretaries outside of Interior and
26 Agriculture.

27
28 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. In that case,
29 it would require a separate motion.

30
31 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
32 Larson.

33
34 Don.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: If we're going to
37 continue this topic, I'd be glad to make a motion now
38 if we want to address it now.

39
40 MR. LARSON: That would be great.

41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. I would move
43 that the Council write a letter to the Board stating
44 our concerns over mining issues in Canada which affect
45 transboundary rivers and potential negative effects to
46 fish runs on transboundary rivers. State in the letter
47 that we have heard numerous concerns at public
48 testimony on this issue and request that the Board
49 forward these concerns to the Secretaries of
50 Agriculture and Interior and also ask those Secretaries

1 if they would forward those concerns to the Secretary
2 of State if they deemed that that was necessary to have
3 these concerns addressed.

4

5 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Donald.

6

7 Mr. Adams.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I guess you need a
10 second, so I'll second it, but I would also like to
11 maybe without an amendment but with the concurrence of
12 the maker of the motion indicate in the letter that
13 it's referenced in our annual report as well.

14

15 VICE CHAIR BANGS: There was some
16 additional wording, I think, that was included with
17 mentioning Southeast Alaska, is that correct?

18

19 Ms. Phillips.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Those
22 comments were to amend the annual letter that we have
23 yet not approved.

24

25 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. I just wanted
26 to make sure that that wasn't to be included in the
27 letter as well. Mr. Isaacs.

28

29 MR. ISAACS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. During
30 the break Ron mentioned some language in the Magnuson
31 Act. Can you help us with that.

32

33 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Wait just a minute.
34 You need to come up and be recognized on the record.

35

36 MR. LEIGHTON: Ron Leighton from
37 Kasaan. As near as I know, and I read the Magnuson
38 Act, especially the part that mentions habitat and I do
39 believe the Magnuson Act would cover this. Somebody
40 said, well, the Magnuson Act doesn't have any weight,
41 but it does because any offending nation of the
42 Magnuson Act is subject to embargo through the Pelly
43 Amendment. So that there would give us some teeth if
44 somebody back there in the State Department will get
45 with the Attorney General back there or whatever and
46 just have him interpret whether or not that can be
47 done. I'm reasonably certain it can, so that would be
48 a good tool or a question to ask him, is whether or not
49 the Magnuson Act will apply.

50

1 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
2 Leighton, for those comments.
3
4 Mr. Douville, did you have a comment.
5
6 MR. DOUVILLE: No.
7
8 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Mr. Jackson.
9
10 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Nor have I heard it mentioned the word Canada in the
12 bullet or any amendments. Do we have to put that in
13 there?
14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: It's in there.
16
17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I think it's in
18 there under Canadian mine.
19
20 MR. JACKSON: Okay, thank you. I stand
21 corrected.
22
23 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Anyone else.
24
25 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, Steve
26 read some information -- Tom Kron with OSM. Mr.
27 Kessler read into the record the wording from the
28 Secretarial Review. I guess my question is would the
29 letter reference that specific wording based on the
30 Secretary's request at that time? This seems to be
31 very consistent with that.
32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34
35 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.
36
37 Any other comments on this.
38
39 Ms. Phillips.
40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Could you say that
42 again, please.
43
44 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Phillips.
45 Mr. Kessler read into the record the wording from the
46 Secretarial Review and the wording that came from the
47 Secretaries on this issue. They basically were asking
48 the Regional Councils to let them know if there are
49 things that the Regional Councils saw that were
50 affecting subsistence uses. I guess my question was do

1 you want to reference this request in your letter.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 Thank you, Ms. Phillips.

6

7 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you for the
8 clarification. I think that would be appropriate.

9

10 Mr. Hernandez.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: I was just going to say
13 we could direct our coordinator, who will write the
14 letter, to also reference that and that would probably
15 be a good idea. Hopefully you have the main points of
16 what we want to put in the letter and Mr. Jackson had a
17 good point that we should maybe specifically mention
18 Canadian mining operations as well. As long as we can
19 get all that in a letter, but the main idea is to make
20 sure that our concerns are -- request that those
21 concerns be forwarded to the appropriate Secretary
22 level that can address this concern.

23

24 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Donald.

25

26 Tim.

27

28 MR. ACKERMAN: Also if we could include
29 the Yukon River, which is also transboundary river
30 there that is already being affected by, I do believe,
31 some mining that is in close proximity to that, that
32 would be a good one.

33

34 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Larson.

35

36 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Ackerman.
37 My advice would be to focus this letter on the region
38 of which you have jurisdiction. When you look at our
39 correspondence policy, it's very specific to that.
40 It's one of the tenants of how and why we write
41 letters. If we could make sure that it stays within
42 our area of responsibility, that would be great.

43

44 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, thank you.

45

46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tom Kron with
47 OSM. I would wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Larson on
48 this. I think he provides some very good advice. I
49 served as co-Chair of the panel for the Yukon years
50 ago. They have mining issues up there for sure, but,

1 again, I think it would be those Councils, the Yukon
2 Councils, that would be the ones to put this forward if
3 they were to choose to.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. We have
8 a motion on the floor and a letter. We have the
9 wording of the letter to be crafted by Mr. Larson. So
10 any other -- a question has been called for. All in
11 favor of sending this -- crafting this letter -- oh,
12 excuse me. Mr. Douville.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman.
15 Did Bert not offer some amendment that we didn't
16 address or haven't followed through on?

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville, all I
19 asked when I seconded the motion that if it would be
20 okay with the maker of the motion to include in the
21 letter a reference that it is in our annual report and
22 he agreed.

23

24 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Douville.

25

26 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. I think it said
27 transboundary rivers and I would like to be specific to
28 Southeast transboundary rivers.

29

30 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, that's going to
31 be in the letter. Okay. We have a motion, seconded
32 and we have a question. All those in favor of the
33 transboundary river issue with mining letter to be
34 sent, all those in favor say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Opposed, nay.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. Very good.

43

44 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

45

46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Mr. Larson.

47

48 MR. LARSON: If I could. Since this
49 letter is really going to need to be carefully
50 constructed and required review, I will not have this

1 as a final work product at this meeting. I have the
2 notes very clearly in my mind and on paper and I will
3 get that for your signature when I can, but it's not
4 going to be tomorrow.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 just have one comment that come to mind while we were
12 talking out there in the hall and that was basically
13 somewhere down the line we're going to need a baseline
14 on the water quality. So somewhere along the line we
15 might need to make a motion that somebody do some
16 baseline testing on these rivers so that anything comes
17 up then we can go back and show that baseline and then
18 move on it.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Hernandez.

23

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. Harvey makes a good point there. That might
26 be an issue that we might want to add to the annual
27 report. That might be a good way to address that. I
28 don't know what the feeling of the rest of the Council
29 is.

30

31 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Anyone else have any
32 comments towards that. Maybe put it in the annual
33 report that we'd like to see that baseline started.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. Any other
38 discussion. Robert.

39

40 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Although I
41 think that having water quality studies is a really
42 good idea, I would suggest that this Council is
43 probably not the first body to make that observation.
44 I think that we might better focus our efforts if you
45 gave me a chance to look and maybe provide some
46 background on what kind of water quality is being done
47 by whom. I suspect that this is a fairly large
48 question and it's already being done by a number of
49 agencies. I'm wondering if that message is best
50 conveyed in our annual report. So that's just my

1 observation. We'll put in anything you want to put in
2 there.

3

4 VICE CHAIR BANGS: How does the rest of
5 the Council feel. Patty.

6

7 MS. PHILLIPS: I agree with the
8 sentiments of our Council Coordinator. I don't want
9 our more scarce funding to be detoured from some of the
10 really good work that is already going on. They're
11 worried about like the Hetta project. We're asking for
12 genetic sampling. We're asking a lot and there's less
13 and less money coming at us. We're putting in our
14 annual report that the mines on the other side are
15 affecting our transboundary rivers and have a negative
16 effect on our harvest subsistence of salmon. I'm just
17 worried that if we get spread too thin that we're going
18 to lose some of the key things that we've honed in on
19 over all these years.

20

21 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

22

23 John.

24

25 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 agree with Mr. Larson as well. There's data out there
27 on water testing and I've personally been chartered on
28 the Stikine River by a company that does this type of
29 thing, so that information is out there and it can be
30 obtained. That as an action item, I think, instead of
31 something that we need to really put in and drive home
32 here. We can find that on the internet probably fairly
33 easy.

34

35 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, John.

36

37 Anyone else.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Is there anymore
42 discussion on this? I think we can move on to -- I'm
43 not sure on the status of our draft of our annual
44 report. Do we want to wait until tomorrow to review a
45 draft copy of that?

46

47 MR. LARSON: That is completely up to
48 you. I have distributed a copy. I don't think I made
49 a copy for every Council member. Hopefully the Council
50 members have seen the ones that I printed and

1 distributed and they have the changes to issue one and
2 the additional bullet item as suggested during our
3 previous discussions of the annual report. It's
4 completely up to you. I can make those few changes
5 that we need to item number one and print a final copy
6 for your review or we can finalize it without seeing
7 it.

8

9 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Let's just move
10 along here. I think Cathy has some comments.

11

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I was going
13 to recommend that we close it out here now. I can make
14 a motion to make the two changes, we can vote and then
15 we can approve the annual report and we're done. We
16 don't have to come back and visit it.

17

18 VICE CHAIR BANGS: That sounds good.

19

20 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. I move we add on
21 Page number 2 of the draft annual report bullet number
22 1 should read there are a number of large-scale mining
23 projects planned in Canada on the headwaters of
24 Southeast Alaska transboundary rivers flowing into the
25 waters of the United States, keep the rest of that
26 bullet as is, and add a bullet that reads the Council
27 would like to recognize that genetic sampling and
28 analysis is an important component of managing sockeye
29 fisheries and that funding is needed to comprehensively
30 address this information component.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

33

34 VICE CHAIR BANGS: We have a motion and
35 it's seconded and it's to approve our annual letter, so
36 we can entertain a vote. We can call for the question.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Question.

39

40 VICE CHAIR BANGS: The question has
41 been called for. All those in favor of the annual
42 report say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: All those opposed
47 nay.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. It
2 passes. Okay. We got that out of the way. I think
3 we're going to move along to Unit 5A moose.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Now that we have
6 completed that, Mr. Chairman, I trust Mr. Larson will
7 have copies of that letter for us by end of today --
8 tomorrow.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

13
14 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. Cathy.

15
16 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. Quick
17 question. Do we need to close out or do we need to
18 actually vote on approving the annual letter now? We
19 just approved the changes to the annual letter.

20
21 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I thought you were
22 reading the final draft and that's what we approved.
23 Is that right, Robert?

24
25 MR. LARSON: That's my understanding
26 and I think your Council action is adequate to approve
27 the annual report.

28
29 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

30
31 Mr. Suminski.

32
33 MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon, Mr.
34 Chairman. Council members. I'll be talking about
35 wildlife closure reviews. We'll start with a briefing
36 and then we have one closure review for this area to
37 address. I'm Terry Suminski with the Forest Service.

38
39 As called for in the Closure Policy,
40 the Office of Subsistence Management is reviewing
41 existing wildlife closures to determine whether the
42 original justifications for closure continue to apply.
43 You can find this briefing on Page 90 in your books.
44 These reviews are being conducted in accordance with
45 guidance found in the Federal Subsistence Board s
46 Policy on
47 Closures to Hunting, Trapping and Fishing on Federal
48 Public Lands and Waters in Alaska, which was adopted in
49 2007. According to the policy, existing closures will
50 be reviewed at least every three years, and are

1 typically completed on a three-year rotational
2 schedule. Most of the closures being reviewed this
3 cycle were last reviewed by the Federal Subsistence
4 Board in 2008.

5
6 A summary of the current closure
7 reviews which are applicable to your Regional Advisory
8 Council are provided. Title VIII of the Alaska
9 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)
10 establishes a priority for taking of fish and wildlife
11 on Federal public lands and waters for non-wasteful
12 subsistence uses over the taking of fish and wildlife
13 for other purposes as contained in Section .804.

14
15 The Federal Subsistence Board is
16 authorized to restrict or close the taking of fish and
17 wildlife by subsistence and non-subsistence uses in
18 Federal public lands and waters when necessary for the
19 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
20 wildlife, and to continue subsistence uses of such
21 populations. Examples of existing closures are as
22 follows: The closure for the hunting of muskox in Unit
23 26 because of low muskox population and the closure for
24 deer in Unit 2 was adopted because rural residents
25 provided substantial evidence that they were unable to
26 meet their subsistence needs because of competition
27 from other users of the resource.

28
29 In addition, the Board may also close
30 Federal public lands and waters to taking of fish and
31 wildlife for reasons of public safety administration or
32 to assure the continued viability of such populations.

33
34 Distribution and abundance of fish and
35 wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based upon
36 a variety of factors such as weather patterns,
37 management actions, habitat changes, predation, harvest
38 activities, and disease. Subsistence use patterns are
39 also known to change over time in response to many
40 factors including resource abundance, human population
41 changes, among others. It is for these reasons that
42 the Board decided in 2007 to conduct reviews every
43 three years or earlier if new information becomes
44 available that would potentially allow the closures to
45 be lifted.

46
47 The Wildlife Closure Review contain a
48 brief history of why a closure was implemented, along
49 with a summary of the current resource condition and
50 the OSM recommendation as to whether the

1 closure should be continued or lifted. Councils are
2 asked to consider the OSM recommendation and share
3 their views on the
4 issue. Input from the Councils is critical to the
5 development of regulatory proposals needed to address
6 adjustments to regulations.

7
8 After the RAC reviews the closure
9 review, they make a recommendation to either maintain
10 the status quo, modify or rescind the regulation. If
11 the RAC recommends lifting or modifying the closure,
12 they should submit a proposal as a separate action
13 item. Regardless of the RAC recommendation, closures
14 remain in effect until changed by the Federal
15 Subsistence Board. Any regulatory proposals that may
16 result from this review process will be considered
17 through the normal regulatory cycle. The current
18 window for wildlife proposals closes on March 29, 2013.

19
20 Are there any questions on the
21 briefing?

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 The one closure that we have for your
26 review and recommendation today is located on Page 95.
27 This is regarding Unit 5A moose. The Federal season
28 opens on October 8th, seven days before the State
29 season opens on October 15th. From October 15th to
30 October 21 Federal lands are closed to taking of moose,
31 except by residents of Unit 5A. This closure was last
32 reviewed in 2009. The original justification for
33 closure was to assure a preferential subsistence
34 opportunity of rural Alaska residents with C&T.

35
36 Just a short harvest history. The
37 annual moose harvest ranged from 25 to 48 during 2001
38 to 2011 with a mean of 38 moose. You can find that in
39 Table 2. A joint State and Federal permit was
40 implemented for Unit 5A in 2004 to allow for better
41 tracking of hunting effort and harvest and to simplify
42 the permit application and reporting process for the
43 hunters.

44
45 The OSM recommendation is to maintain
46 the status quo on this closure. The Federal closure
47 for Unit 5A moose remains important to the residents of
48 Unit 5A. The majority of the moose harvested are taken
49 by Federally qualified users during the first two weeks
50 of the season. The annual hunt by the Federally

1 qualified users takes place primarily in the western
2 Yakutat Forelands where accessibility by boat or
3 vehicle is much more efficient than in the eastern
4 Yakutat Forelands. Without the closure, it is very
5 likely that non-Federally qualified hunters would hunt
6 early in the season as Yakutat is easily accessible by
7 commercial aircraft.

8
9 The number of moose available for
10 harvest is limited as moose numbers are currently below
11 objectives. 65 percent of the harvestable surplus of
12 this population is being harvested by Federally
13 qualified subsistence users. Maintaining the status
14 quo is consistent with sound management principles and
15 the conservation of healthy populations while providing
16 a priority for subsistence uses over other consumptive
17 uses as provided in Section .815 of ANILCA.

18
19 Again, this is an action item. We're
20 looking for a recommendation of either status quo,
21 modify or rescind.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Terry.
26 Any questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30
31 VICE CHAIR BANGS: So we need to --
32 somebody needs to make a motion.

33
34 Don.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman. In regards to the Unit 5A moose closure I
38 would move that the Council recommend keeping the
39 status quo on this closure with no changes at this
40 time.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Chairman. I'll
43 second.

44
45 VICE CHAIR BANGS: It's been moved and
46 seconded to maintain status quo on the moose closure.
47 Do we have any discussion.

48
49 Ms. Yuhas, do you have something to
50 add.

1 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. I don't want
2 to go out of order here. I was prepared at the other
3 RACs. The report had been given and then the State
4 also added their position, support or oppose, prior to
5 the discussion, so I just wanted your record to reflect
6 that the State supported the status quo and continue to
7 work with our Federal managers on some of the specifics
8 regarding the population. So we're in support of the
9 position.

10

11 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. I'm
12 sorry we didn't recognize you sooner. So we have the
13 motion to remain status quo and it's been seconded.

14

15 Any discussion.

16

17 Patty.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 will vote to support the motion. None of the State's
21 biological or management objectives for the moose
22 population in Unit 5A have been met. The data that
23 came for the Federal Wildlife Closure Review WCR12-02
24 demonstrates that there is -- that they are monitoring
25 the population and taking only what's necessary. A
26 majority of the harvestable surplus of this population
27 is being harvested by Federally qualified subsistence
28 users.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Patty. I
33 think that covers our justification.

34

35 Unless there's any more discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39

40 VICE CHAIR BANGS: We'll go ahead and
41 take a vote on it to stay as status quo for the Unit 5A
42 moose. All those in favor respond by aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Opposed nay.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 VICE CHAIR BANGS: The motion carries.

1 Thank you, Terry. I was just given a reminder here
2 that we need to have a motion to send a letter to OSM
3 requesting the Joint Council meeting with Southcentral
4 to discuss rural status determinations and customary
5 use determination process. It looks the spring of 2014
6 is mutually acceptable. I'm not sure about the
7 location. Did they mention location? It just says
8 location taking into account minimizing expenses. So
9 that's what the plan is, to figure out which is the
10 easiest place to carry the meeting out.

11
12 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I've had
13 a series of emails back and forth with the Office of
14 Subsistence Management and they would entertain a
15 suggestion by the Southeast Council to have a joint
16 meeting. They are concerned about the cost. If the
17 Southeast Council wishes to pursue that idea
18 specifically to have a consensus opinion on rural
19 status determinations and act on a C&T proposal, which
20 I assume will be ready for action at that spring
21 meeting, then they would entertain that suggestion.
22 They are concerned about the cost. There's no
23 guarantee that that would be acceptable, but at least
24 the first step in that process would be a letter with
25 that request.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
30 Larson.

31
32 Would someone like to make motion.

33
34 MR. ISAACS: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

37
38 VICE CHAIR BANGS: The motion has been
39 made to craft a letter to send to OSM and it's been
40 seconded. Discussion.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

43
44 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Patty.

45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: I request that meeting
47 be in Cordova.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Any discussion.
2
3 MR. ISAACS: Call for the question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.
6
7 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Adams.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm going to put a
10 monkey wrench in the machinery. I suggest it be in
11 Yakutat.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: We'll come there next.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was just kidding.
19 I'll go along with Patty.
20
21 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I guess we'll leave
22 that up to the powers that be where the meeting will
23 be, but that would be an acceptable place I would
24 think. Anyway, the motion to send the letter has been
25 made and seconded. All those in favor say aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 VICE CHAIR BANGS: All those opposed
30 nay.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Motion carries.
35 We're on to review and propose changes to subsistence
36 wildlife regulations. It's that time when we can craft
37 a proposal for any changes that we feel we want to make
38 to wildlife. Mr. Larson.
39
40 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. If the Council
41 would like I could distribute a suggested proposal that
42 would suit the needs of the State of Alaska as
43 referenced by Doug Larsen earlier. We've gotten
44 together and crafted one that would be appropriate to
45 have that discussion.
46
47 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
48 Larson.
49
50 Is there any ideas on proposals that

1 anyone would like to put forth from the Council.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5

6 VICE CHAIR BANGS: So we'll take a few
7 minutes and look at this proposal and then we'll act on
8 it and go from there.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Are there any
13 comments from anyone that utilizes that area besides
14 myself and maybe Donald or John who might use that area
15 for hunting.

16

17 MR. ISAACS: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Mr. Isaacs.

20

21 MR. ISAACS: I speak in favor of this
22 change, particularly in item 3, Section 3. There are
23 currently 73 miles of existing road. Whenever you have
24 that many miles of road such as on Prince of Wales you
25 open up the hunting areas, it just pretty near floods
26 the area with hunters. So I speak in support of this.

27

28 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
29 Isaacs. Mr. Jackson, did you have any comments? I
30 know this is adjacent to Kake.

31

32 MR. JACKSON: This is the first time
33 I've ever seen this. It's one antlered deer between
34 October 15th and the 31st. That's a two-week period.
35 I know with everything that's been going on and there
36 really hasn't been that much deer, but I think the
37 moose has sort of given it a lift to be put in place of
38 the deer. I guess I would agree with this. How long is
39 this for? Until it gets built back up?

40

41 VICE CHAIR BANGS: This proposal would
42 change regulation until such time that it was changed
43 back. If you're familiar with the Lindenburg
44 Peninsula, this area was closed. The season was that
45 way for many years. After the deer population on
46 Mitkof crashed from the snow in the '70s they had kept
47 it closed and then they reopened the Lindenburg
48 Peninsula along with Mitkof for a two-week period and
49 the deer population was strengthening on Lindenburg
50 Peninsula, so they extended that season several years

1 ago and now they're looking to return it to the two-
2 week season.

3

4 Mr. Douville.

5

6 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman
7 Bangs. Looking at this proposal, our charge is to
8 provide a rural priority and before we can restrict the
9 rural users in most cases you have to eliminate all the
10 users. This does put a restriction on rural users.
11 Puts a restriction across the board, but specifically
12 rural users. I don't see where it keeps non-residents
13 from hunting or anything like that.

14

15 That is part of our charge.

16

17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Larson.

18

19 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, thank you. I'd
20 like to remind the Council what stage of the process
21 we're at. In order to have a Staff analysis for the
22 Council's deliberations and discussion, you have to
23 start with a proposal. It's not uncommon for
24 especially this Council to submit proposals that
25 they're not necessarily in favor of, but they would
26 like to have a Staff analysis to better understand the
27 issues involved so they could have a more knowledgeable
28 and complete discussion at some later date. So I would
29 caution you not to discuss the merits of the solution
30 that's proposed, but instead whether or not you feel it
31 would be beneficial to have an airing of the issues in
32 the background information that the Board of Game had.
33 So we would develop that similar document.

34

35 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
36 Larson.

37

38 Mr. Douville.

39

40 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you for that.
41 That was a good explanation. I guess my other question
42 would be -- they're asking us to submit this.

43

44 Why doesn't the Department submit it?

45

46 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I can't speak
47 for the Department, but it's my understanding that
48 there will be a proposal of this nature in front of the
49 Council next cycle. Whether it's submitted by this
50 Council or by the Department of Fish and Game or some

1 other person from the public, this proposal will be
2 submitted. If the Council doesn't think that it's
3 appropriate for them to submit it, that's fine.
4 Somebody else will. But it's a major action by the
5 Department of Fish and Game and they want to make sure
6 it gets aired in this process.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

11
12 Ms. Yuhas.

13
14 MS. YUHAS: I do speak for the
15 Department of Fish and Game. While Mr. Larsen gave a
16 report of changes that were made at the Board of Game,
17 the other Mr. Larsen, Mr. Doug Larsen of the
18 Department, gave a report of the changes that were made
19 at the Board of Game, that was a report to you to be
20 aware of them and that some of them were crossovers.
21 There is not a guarantee that a proposal will come
22 forward.

23
24 The proposal internal deadline for
25 considering what we may submit to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board was last week and we are not
27 currently reviewing a Department-sponsored proposal on
28 this issue, so you should be aware of that. Should it
29 come from the public or the RAC, of course there would
30 be support for things that are in tandem with the Board
31 of Game and conservation of the resource, but there is
32 not currently planned a Department sponsored proposal
33 on this. It was simply a report to alert you to
34 crossover issues.

35
36 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you.

37
38 Any questions on this.

39
40 Mr. Hernandez, did you have a comment.

41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do we have a motion to
43 do this yet?

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: No.

46
47 MR. HERNANDEZ: I guess I'm prepared to
48 make a motion that we do submit this proposal. I spent
49 a couple months in Petersburg this winter. I talked to
50 a number of people about this State action and I think

1 I'd have to say that it was somewhat controversial but
2 most of the people I talked to were in support of what
3 the State did and I think they would expect on the
4 Federal side that we would follow their recommendation
5 on this. It is justified at this time, so they're kind
6 of expecting that we would also submit such a proposal,
7 so I'd move that we do.

8

9 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Donald.

10

11 We have a motion to move this proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll second it, Mr.

14 Chair.

15

16 VICE CHAIR BANGS: It's been moved and

17 seconded.

18

19 Any discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Call for the

24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question.

27

28 VICE CHAIR BANGS: The question has
29 been called for. All those in favor of submitting the
30 proposal signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 VICE CHAIR BANGS: All those opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Motion carries.

39 Okay. We have a little time constraint on some public
40 testimony, so I'd like to have -- I don't have.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's Willard. Willard
43 Jackson.

44

45 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Willard Jackson.

46

47 MR. JACKSON: My name is Willard

48 Jackson. I'm born and raised in Ketchikan 65 years.

49 My residence is 910 Park Avenue. I'm Teikweidi brown

50 bear, born and bred in Ketchikan. When we speak of the

1 Unuk River and we speak of the last river, those are
2 migration trails that we came out of. Those are
3 survival trails that our grandparents came out of.
4 When we speak of the Unuk River -- I don't know if Lee
5 is in the building anymore, but my brother Juneau would
6 agree with me, Dan Monteith. The Saanyaa Kwaan came
7 out of that Unuk River. When you go up in the Unuk
8 River you'll see the petroglyphs at a minus tide. It
9 tells our history of who we are and where we came from.

10

11

12 I'm very grateful to see a lot of you
13 again. Some of you are new. I know Mike, I met Mr.
14 Jackson, Harvey, Bert, Floyd and others. Aaron Isaacs
15 and I were in the same 82nd Airborne 505th. I believe
16 when I hear testimony up here in regards to the mining,
17 I'm 65 years old and I'm suffering from Agent Orange.
18 I have an enlarged heart, had my prostate removed, had
19 my stomach tied and now I'm having trouble with my
20 thyroid. When we allow other human beings to come into
21 our area and start mining and placing toxins like
22 they're going to in the future, it's not going to
23 affect me and it's not going to affect you because
24 you'll already be gone. It's going to affect your
25 grandchildren. That's who it's going to affect.

26

27 I appreciate what you're doing in that
28 support letter that Holly was so excited about. I
29 really appreciate that. Last month the State reopened
30 where the tour boats come through inside and outside of
31 Southeast Alaska going out of Canada for dumpage.
32 Dumping and spilling into our ocean. Those of you that
33 live in Prince of Wales during World War II on the very
34 south end of it, they dumped a lot of waste when the
35 Army was here, when World War II was then in a great
36 move. It was a great dumpage area.

37

38 When you look at Hydaburg, Craig,
39 Klawock, you're going to see a great amount of cancer.
40 Young people are getting cancer. My brother's got
41 cancer. I've had cancer. It's from what we consume
42 not only from the ocean but other things we consume
43 from the Lower 48.

44

45 I want to welcome you to Ketchikan. My
46 brother and I were past Grand Camp presidents. My
47 brother Richard is lucky enough to go a second term
48 with him and his wife as Grand Camp president. I'll
49 most likely be chairing the Grand Camp subsistence.
50 Mr. Kookesh, I'd be honored if you sat on that

1 committee with us in the future.

2

3 I really believe that this board and
4 other boards and we had men and women testify in here
5 that were tribal Council members, I really believe
6 their strength at that Council and we can send these
7 letters off in those directions and get them to this
8 table to testify in Washington, D.C. and the State.

9

10 Thank you very much.

11

12 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

13 Jackson.

14

15 Bert.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Willard,
18 for being here today. I'm glad I got you before you
19 went home. I want to apologize to you also for making
20 a mistake and calling you Richard yesterday at the
21 caf . You look alike.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was happy to see you
27 and I actually thought you were Richard. Now, if we
28 were at ANB convention I'd be heavily fined for making
29 such a mistake like that. I want to ask you a
30 question, sir. Is anything being done of that World
31 War II garbage and so forth? Is that still there? Is
32 it being cleaned up?

33

34 MR. JACKSON: When I was on tribal
35 council for KIC, I served six years there. Four years
36 ago we had DOT come in from Washington. We flew down
37 to Tongass Island to look if there was anything visible
38 there when that fort was on there in 1892. A lot of
39 cleanup was done on that island, but as far as I know
40 nothing was done on that edge up south of Prince of
41 Wales.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. You
44 know, our tribe is getting a lot of experience in doing
45 these NALEMP programs and they're getting a lot of
46 funding and they're branching out to help other
47 communities who are experiencing the same problems that
48 we have. I would encourage you to contact the Yakutat
49 Tlingit Tribe and see if they might be able to help you
50 in some of those situations down there, Willard.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're welcome.
4
5 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Bert. Is
6 there any other questions for Mr. Jackson.
7
8 Willard, we have a question here.
9
10 Tim.
11
12 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, we were the
13 recipient of some of those funds to clean up our beach
14 up there at Haines. A grenade was found here in 2007
15 and it had just been thrown on the beach. Nobody
16 pulled the pin, so it was basically still considered a
17 live grenade. They since then have gone through and
18 cleaned up quite a bit of the beach there with metal
19 detectors. As Mr. Adams was saying, there is funds
20 available for that.
21
22 Listening to that in particular when I
23 was working for natural resources at Fort Greeley,
24 Alaska, the very first nuclear generator test site, we
25 did, in fact, find about 14 bricks of C4 explosives
26 that were thrown into a lake. In addition to that,
27 multiple other trash that was left behind by the Army,
28 including an Agent Orange spill that we had come
29 across. I've never smelled anything so bad in my life.
30 Yeah, very interesting. It's ongoing. Thanks.
31
32 MR. JACKSON: Agent Orange is something
33 I suffer with. My children are plagued with it. It's
34 something we shouldn't have ever dealt with in Vietnam
35 and other theaters that we've gone off to. To this
36 Board and some of you I know very well, Harvey.
37 Harvey's father came down and told our history of our
38 Teikweidi and our migration. Mr. Kookesh is my tribal
39 brother. Mr. Douville I know very well as family.
40 You're just like a brother to me.
41
42 There's a story I heard in Juneau when
43 I was on council for KIC and we were dealing with the
44 judicial system for Alaska Natives. An old lady got to
45 the mic. We were struggling with different ideas and
46 how to deal with it. This old lady from Hoonah came to
47 the mic and this is what she said. She told a story
48 about the beginning of time. The elders, as you are a
49 Council of elders, were talking about how they were
50 going to plant the tree back on the mountain. The old

1 lady that was sitting on council had a young
2 granddaughter with her at that same meeting and they
3 were trying to discuss how they were going to plant
4 these trees up on the rocky hills, the mountains, just
5 like your mountain. The young granddaughter was
6 pulling away on her grandma's robe, just pulling away.
7 Grandma, Grandma, I've got an answer, I've got an
8 answer. Grandma jerked her away, go away, go away,
9 we're trying to tend to business.

10

11 So they set the first tree up on that
12 mountain and it planted its roots out on the rock and
13 the very first wind came along and knocked it down.
14 They came back down and sat around the fire. Once
15 again, just like you guys are doing, they were
16 discussing how they were going to plant these trees on
17 the rock, on the mountain. Granddaughter is pulling
18 away on her grandma's robe, Grandma, Grandma, I've got
19 an answer. Grandma jerked her away again.

20

21 This time they sent three trees up and
22 they planted themselves all over that rock. The wind
23 and the rain came and they went down. They came back
24 down and they came around the fire and listened to the
25 council. The little granddaughter did not give up on
26 her grandma. She pulled, pulled, Grandma, Grandma, I
27 have an answer. Grandma finally let in. She said my
28 granddaughter has something to say. Our children have
29 something to say. The little granddaughter stood up in
30 front of the council and said let's take them all up on
31 the mountain and let's all hold hands until we firmly
32 grab Mother Earth, then we can place ourselves and
33 that's what they did.

34

35 We need to continue holding hands with
36 other tribes and other factions. My brother Richard
37 and I got the opportunity to meet with Under Secretary
38 a couple years ago in Juneau and we gave him our
39 concerns about subsistence. Subsistence is broken in
40 different ways. I don't want to blame anybody for
41 anything, but I think for the RAC you're doing a great
42 job and I appreciate what you're doing.

43

44 Gunalcheesh.

45

46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Willard.
47 We have a little bit more time here. We were going to
48 go a little late, but I'd like to get through the
49 public comments.

50

1 Mr. Lee Wallace.

2

3 MR. WALLACE: Lee Wallace from the
4 Organized Village of Saxman. When I seen Tony
5 Christianson was on the agenda to do an overview of the
6 Hetta Project. I said, well, I better bring some Hetta
7 sockeye for you folks and that's what I did, I brought
8 the fish spread.

9

10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

11

12 MR. WALLACE: Someone had said earlier
13 that we got the best quality sockeye. Hetta's got some
14 pretty good quality there too. With that said about
15 bringing fish or food into this facility, mind you
16 you're in an urban center so there's usually some
17 restrictions. Normally when you guys go village to
18 village you're at ANB halls or you're at some facility
19 in the village and a lot of times ANB, ANS are against
20 people who come in and provide you snacks and lunches
21 or dinners or entertainment. I would ask you to
22 definitely consider Saxman the next time you come in
23 the area. I know you folks rotate throughout the
24 region. Sometimes Saxman is just a little bit harder to
25 get to because it is a rural community, rural village,
26 but, hey, you guys can manage. I think you can.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30

31 MR. WALLACE: It's not that far. I
32 wanted to make comment on -- I signed up for the
33 comment period on the mining in Canada. In 2011 I was
34 able to attend the White House Tribal Nations
35 Conference in Washington, D.C. with all the Department
36 heads and different agencies. I signed up for natural
37 resources. I went down to D.C. with some bullet
38 points. The main one for Saxman was our rural
39 determination. I was in belief that it could be an
40 administrative decision and I presented that to the
41 Secretary of Interior and I said you can make that
42 administrative decision and just a stroke of your pen
43 you can make us rural. Of course, that didn't happen.
44 He said let's go through the process.

45

46 The other bullet point I had on there
47 was the Canadian mining. When I went into the breakout
48 session with all the different tribal nations and all
49 the different agencies that were there, definitely I
50 brought up the Canadian issue and I definitely said

1 it's a State issue, Department of the State, because
2 you're dealing with the Canadian government and the
3 United States and the State of Alaska. I'm glad you
4 guys made that action to move in that direction to make
5 it important enough to put into your annual report. So
6 gunalcheesh and haw'aa and thank you on that.

7

8 I know it's late, so I'll keep those
9 comments real brief. But, yeah, next time you're in
10 the area come to Saxman. We've got two beautiful
11 facilities for you guys to meet in. There's certainly
12 the Saxman Community Center. A nice facility. FSB met
13 in there at one point because I invited them down to
14 Saxman to have one of their meetings there. The other
15 nice facility, it's one of our newer ones, it's almost
16 like a \$5.5 million project, our senior housing
17 project. That came about with partnerships between the
18 city, the tribe and Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing
19 Authority. A real nice facility and there's a nice
20 area for you guys to meet there.

21

22 With our shrinking economies like you
23 see with the sequestration going on, we're all faced
24 with losing dollars and a small village, very much like
25 any small village, our economy is very small. With
26 rental of a facility in the village, definitely you're
27 helping out everybody, including non-profits like ANB,
28 ANS and dance groups.

29

30 So haw'aa, gunalcheesh.

31

32 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Lee.

33

34 Any questions or comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I know the meeting
39 that we did have in the -- I think it was the newer
40 facility, but it had an indoor track and it was a
41 really good place to meet in Saxman last time. It was
42 several years ago.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 I think that's the last.

47

48 Ron Leighton left.

49

50 MR. R. JACKSON: Since Kadashan

1 mentioned my name I thought I better say something.
2 Richard Jackson is my name. Executive member of Alaska
3 Native Brotherhood Grand Camp. Past president of KIC.

4
5 The Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand
6 Camp is going to meet this week on the 13th. Also
7 meeting will be the board of directors of the
8 Subsistence Legal Defense Fund and Alaska Traditional
9 Food Security Council. From the past few years it's
10 been Bob Loescher was the chairman of that. While I
11 was sitting there I was thinking about coordination.
12 I'm one of those guys -- I'm a brown bear. I'm
13 coordinated. I like to coordinate meetings. We meet,
14 they meet before us, but we don't meet together, we
15 don't communicate, so it doesn't work. We need to fix
16 that.

17
18 Some of the issues they're going to
19 talk about through the email process, Rosita Worl wants
20 to bring up the sea otter issue, which I think you know
21 about. The discussion has been about a bounty. Does
22 that change regulations? Yes, I think it does, but I
23 don't know where it's going, but I know it needs to be
24 discussed. They're going to review the minutes from
25 the last meeting we had, which I wasn't involved in.
26 The regional Subsistence Legal Defense Fund and the
27 Alaska Traditional Food Security Council did involve
28 Tlingit-Haida, which Floyd was involved in and a few
29 others, to work together on these issues we have.

30
31 I know they're going to talk about
32 comments due in the end of June and talk about comments
33 that in some way looks at mining. You know, Canadian,
34 are they communicating with us? Who's responsible?
35 We're talking about Federal land, Federal Monument
36 land. I think that's the responsibility of the Federal
37 government. The rivers go through the land that they
38 control, they have the stewardship over. So why are we
39 doing all the work. Turn it over to their subsistence
40 group and tell them to get busy.

41
42 They can also talk about the private
43 water rights discussion and the Angoon 4, which you're
44 familiar with, which is what's the State's legal appeal
45 status. Generally we're looking at what's the proposal
46 process, how do we coordinate together. I hear you're
47 asking for proposals and how long is the period open.
48 Can we still affect that process.

49
50 Earlier on at this meeting I heard a

1 discussion about motions or resolutions and I think a
2 resolution is more definitive. It tells you what your
3 concern is and the whereases says why you're going to
4 resolve. It also doesn't make you responsible. You
5 send that to whatever agency there is and they need to
6 respond to you. It could be more than one. It's just
7 a matter of taking possession of that resolution and
8 forwarding to other groups who might agree with it.
9 The Alaska Native Brotherhood does resolutions and they
10 are forwarded to AFN and they sometimes take those
11 resolutions and agree with them and put their name on
12 it, then it becomes part of their property.

13

14 I'm just used to that process and I
15 think we need to, as the Alaska Native Brotherhood,
16 need to look at this Council because you're mandated
17 through law to work with the Federal Subsistence Board
18 who is supposed to hear you, supposed to support or
19 give you reasons why through regulations why they
20 can't. We earlier on, when I was the president, met
21 with Harris Sherman, I think it's USDA, and Mr. Kessler
22 was there and I think he's still involved on the
23 Federal side of Federal management of subsistence.
24 He's the liaison, he hears your concerns and they come
25 from the communities you represent.

26

27 I just wanted you to know the Grand
28 Camp is going to meet tomorrow or the next day and
29 they're going to do the election process and bring up
30 these subjects that I brought up. I will ask my
31 brother to bring the mining issues up. I think if we
32 look at the depth of this issue, it goes -- in Canada
33 right now they're in turmoil because its conservative
34 government is trying to limit their rights or even take
35 them all away. My brother Milton Jackson goes down
36 there every March to go to the All Native Tournament
37 but he meets with the traditional tribes.

38

39 They're concerned about the mining
40 issues and how they are getting too close to the major
41 tributaries, which affect the Nass, the Vicks, the
42 Unuk. The name of the Unuk is actually Joonax, which
43 is my dreams, place of dreams, from the Teikweidi.
44 Shared by the Gaanax.adi from the Taant'a Kwaan, and
45 the Gaanax.adi from the Saanyaa Kwaan, and the
46 Teikweidi from the Saanyaa Kwaan and the Wrangell
47 people. My grandfather was from Wrangell from the
48 Kiks.adi.

49

50 So we look at the depth of these

1 issues. They go back to the original people, but they
2 also concern those who live there now and those who
3 live here, which are you people, Alaskans. So I just
4 want to end this by saying when we talk about my
5 opinion, we talk about Federal Monuments, like where
6 the Unuk River is part of, or even Tongass Lynn. The
7 responsibility lies within the Federal government to do
8 something with all these acts, like the Magnuson Act,
9 which I heard about earlier. They take responsibility,
10 but they won't do it unless they're addressed to do it.

11

12

13 That's where this advisory council can
14 develop those proposals or those letters to the
15 appropriate agencies to do something about this.
16 Hopefully that will happen because as I heard the
17 person that spoke about -- I think it was arsenic.
18 Once they're in the river that's it, a dead river. I'm
19 sure you're going to address this and I'm sure this
20 Council is going to do a good job putting their head
21 together to get these proposals out and hopefully we
22 can coordinate as the Grand Camp with the Council here
23 to represent Southeast Alaska at the Federal
24 Subsistence Board level.

25

26 With that I'd like to thank you for the
27 opportunity to speak to you. Oh, yes, I brought back
28 the gloves that I had from Floyd for three years.

29

30

(Laughter)

31

32

33 MR. R. JACKSON: He left them in my
34 car, so he's happy and I'm happy. He said he put the
35 hex off on me.

36

37

Thank you.

38

39

VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Richard.

40

41

Any questions.

42

43

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I do.

44

45

VICE CHAIR BANGS: Bert.

46

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Richard.
49 Just to remind everyone here and you know that the
50 ANB/ANS convention is going to be in Yakutat this year.
We're looking forward to having that event there. Not

1 just ANB but the whole community is working together to
2 make that a successful one. So just wanted to share
3 that with you. We're preparing as much as we can.

4

5 Gunalcheesh.

6

7 MR. R. JACKSON: Thank you. I really
8 thank you for mentioning that. I forgot to say that.
9 I was involved as a Grand president to rewrite the
10 constitution. We're inclusive. We're not exclusive.
11 Anybody who wants to be a member of that shares a
12 mission of the ANB/ANS are welcome. Our secretary is
13 not a Native. It's a mistake to believe we're
14 exclusive to Natives. We're open to anyone who
15 supports the mission.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Tim.

20

21 MR. ACKERMAN: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
22 Jackson. In October of last year a majority of the
23 people that have hands on with the sea otters we were
24 all invited by IPCoMM, Mike Miller, mediator, and
25 Christy Ruby coordinated a lot of it. All the sewers
26 and hunters, we all got together up in Anchorage and we
27 met with the U.S. Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife
28 there and also their lawyer was there. All the head
29 enforcement people were up there. We all sat down for
30 about three days and discussed the sea otter rules and
31 regulations.

32

33 The outcome of the meeting was pretty
34 interesting. We brought a bunch of our own stuff in
35 that we have made from sea otter hides and we compared
36 that to what they call altered sea otter hides. We
37 came up with some solutions and some possible questions
38 that we wanted answers for. There's a lot of gray
39 areas in there for each enforcement officer that comes
40 into the field. Whether he's green or seasoned he will
41 write a citation and you will go to jail for a gray
42 area that wasn't covered in this. There's a lot of
43 different things there that we hashed out with them for
44 three days. We didn't let a lot of newspapers or
45 anything know about this because we were pretty quiet
46 about it. We didn't let any bureaucrats come to it
47 because it was all the people that are working with the
48 stuff actually. They wanted to hear it right from us.

49

50 So, at the end of all of this and all

1 the modifications to the existing Federal regulations
2 that has to do with marine mammals, all of this went to
3 Congress. Congress will change it, modify it or
4 whatever they see necessary for the moment. Now, if
5 you notice, all 200-some tribes have been possibly
6 asked to comment on the Marine Mammal Protection Act in
7 regards to sea otters. I didn't get a chance to
8 explain this because I was late here for my region
9 report and I would have included that with my region
10 report.

11
12 We have a big long list. I think there
13 was 20-some of us. After I got done with the meeting
14 in Sitka with the RAC here I was approached and sent to
15 Anchorage within like four days after the RAC meeting.
16 So we have a bunch of questions that are being answered
17 by Congress on regulations and rules pertaining to sea
18 otters. I could share that with you. I'll be here at
19 your meeting probably in the next couple days at the
20 ANB meeting.

21
22 MR. R. JACKSON: Thank you. I'll be
23 here tomorrow. The emphasis on the sea otter at the
24 Grand Camp level at the meeting we're going to have is
25 primarily, that I've read, is Rosita Worl who looks at
26 probably the regulation now and what they're trying --
27 I think it's the State that was proposing a bounty
28 because there's an overabundance of sea otter and, at
29 the same time, they put the hunter on the defensive
30 continuously.

31
32 We had these hunters in Southeast
33 Alaska that have been convicted or cited, so we have to
34 understand the regulations as they have changed or they
35 exist in order to do what we have to do or face the
36 consequences of becoming a felon or a cited person and
37 have your otters confiscated. Not to mention public
38 ridicule from those who don't understand the laws.

39
40 So that's our job to understand and not
41 to condemn anyone, but we need to really understand
42 what the process is and what they're trying to do now.
43 I do understand that there's an abundance of sea otters
44 and that was caused because there's no predators
45 against them like there used to be. They punted them
46 out.

47
48 So these type of discussions can take
49 many days and that's the way we should do it and come
50 up with a good consensus. Having been involved with

1 the Grand Camp I understand it takes a while to do many
2 things as long as you do the process as it does here.
3 You have to work with the Federal Subsistence Board.
4 All I have to say is remember you're representing your
5 communities first, Southeastern Alaska.

6

7 Thank you and I'll be here tomorrow.
8 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and I
9 appreciate it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you very much
14 for your comments.

15

16 Anyone else have a question.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you. Okay.
21 We have a couple more things here to cover. If we can
22 get Mr. Jack Lorrigan to give us a review and comment
23 on the draft Tribal Consultation Implementation
24 Guidelines.

25

26 MR. LORRIGAN: Good afternoon, Mr.
27 Chairman. Council. My name is Jack Lorrigan. I'm the
28 Native liaison for OSM. I'm here to give you a
29 briefing on the Tribal Consultation Policy and the
30 Implementation Guidelines in your book. They start on
31 Page 107.

32

33 I'll be going piecemeal through this to
34 give you an overview of how it all went. In January
35 2011 the Secretary of Interior directed the Federal
36 Subsistence Board to consult with federally recognized
37 Tribes in Alaska on actions that have a significant
38 direct impact on tribal interests. As a result, the
39 Board commenced the development of a Tribal
40 Consultation Policy. There were 14 members appointed
41 to the working group, includes seven tribal and seven
42 Federal members. There's a Federal and a tribal co-
43 chair. Eight more members were added later in 2012.

44

45 In developing the policy over the
46 period of 18 months the Board and work group p
47 conducted 16 consultation meetings with over 200 Tribes
48 and more than 15 ANCSA corporations. The work group
49 met in person twice for two to three days each time and
50 once by teleconference, and met twice with the

1 Interagency Staff Committee. A committee is made up of
2 employees from each of the five federal agencies and
3 from the Office of Subsistence Management. And five
4 letters were sent to all Tribes and ANCSA corporations
5 from the Federal Subsistence Board Chairman, Tim
6 Towarak, inviting comments on the policy. Nineteen
7 written
8 comments were received from Tribes and ANCSA
9 corporations during policy development.

10
11 The Board adopted the Tribal
12 Consultation Policy on May 9, 2012. They directed the
13 workgroup to commence writing implementation guidelines
14 and an ANCSA corporation consultation
15 policy for their consideration. That policy is still
16 in development. The workgroup is currently in
17 development of those two documents.

18
19 They started in May 2011 after the
20 Board directed them to do so and they progressed.
21 There's a timeline. Staff from Fish and Wildlife
22 Service and OSM had a teleconference with Federal
23 managers, land managers in particular. The Forest
24 Service rangers and the Refuge managers and such that
25 are in direct contact with tribes on a day-to-day basis
26 when it comes to hunting and fishing in their
27 respective territories or areas. They gave feedback of
28 things that they do and things that work for them on
29 consultation with tribes, so we incorporated into the
30 guidelines.

31
32 In January 2013 the work group met and
33 improved the draft guidelines and the Board at the
34 January meeting gave their approval. They had some
35 minor edits and gave their approval of the guidelines.
36 They were then emailed and mailed to the tribes and the
37 RACs for comment and the corporations. The
38 corporations are a part of this too. The send-out date
39 was February 11th. We're looking for feedback by the
40 29th of March.

41
42 The guidelines start on Page 119 and
43 they follow the regulatory cycle of the Board in
44 regards to proposals. There's a step-by-step process
45 in the guidelines of how the agencies and the Federal
46 managers will interact with the tribes. One of the key
47 points is that tribal consultation is time certain
48 before the Federal Subsistence Board meeting to give an
49 opportunity for the tribes to comment on any proposals
50 in their area that have gone through the analysis and

1 all the research and everything to make sure that the
2 proposal that they're submitting to the Board is in
3 keeping with their desire. So they have a time certain
4 time to have a teleconference with the OSM Staff. We
5 try to have Board representation there also.

6
7 Another point that we'd like to point
8 out is that in training there's some text that asks
9 that Board members make every opportunity to directly
10 participate in or observe subsistence activities out in
11 the field, either hunting or fishing camps with tribes
12 in time allowed. The idea is to give them an idea of
13 what people are going through in the field to live the
14 lifestyles that they're regulating. For people like
15 Charlie Brower and Tony Christianson, we're going to
16 have them follow us around the office for about a week.

17
18 With that, that's an overview of the
19 Implementation Guidelines that are out for review. Mr.
20 Chairman.

21
22 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Lorrigan.

24
25 Any questions, comments.

26
27 Mr. Ackerman.

28
29 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, I'd just like to
30 comment. In some of the tribes I noticed in Southeast
31 they are run more so as a business and there is no
32 culturally affiliated action going on in the tribes
33 themselves. They are an economic provider for
34 employment regardless of race or gender or whatever.
35 It's just something that I noticed, that some tribes
36 don't really want to be involved, I've noticed.

37
38 Thanks.

39
40 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Tim.

41
42 MR. LORRIGAN: With your indulgence,
43 Mr. Chairman, I could combine this briefing with Item
44 12(6). They're kind of one in the same. They kind of
45 weed into each other.

46
47 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I think that would
48 probably be a good idea.

49
50 MR. LORRIGAN: It starts on Page 128.

1 Basically what this is is a briefing on the
2 consultations that did occur in the fiscal year of
3 2012. In particular, there's a paragraph right above
4 item III position of interested parties. That's
5 actually the meat of this particular text. I'll read
6 it into the record if you don't mind.

7
8 Consultations have been ongoing with
9 Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations during the fiscal
10 year of 2012. Several consultations occurred beginning
11 in December of 2011 at the Providers Conference in
12 Anchorage on the guidelines for consultations, on
13 issues of subsistence and regulatory proposals, during
14 the Board and Southeast RAC combined spring meeting in
15 Juneau on the Angoon Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction
16 petition in March, again in May 2012 to consider the
17 draft guidelines and comments, and also a two-day
18 consultation conference call with the Tribes and ANCSA
19 corporations affected by the 2013 2015 proposed
20 fisheries regulations in September 2012. The Regional
21 Advisory Councils were briefed on the Consultation
22 Policy progress at their fall 2012 meetings. These
23 consultations have been entered into the Department of
24 the Interior s data share-point website to satisfy
25 accountability requirements from the Secretaries.

26
27 The feedback from the tribes and
28 corporations have been favorable. Everybody likes the
29 direction we're headed. It's been observed that
30 consultations more than likely take place when
31 regulation or proposal is observed to be prohibitive or
32 restrictive than regulations that liberalize harvest or
33 take.

34
35 Mr. Chairman.

36
37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Jack.
38 Any comments or questions. Harvey.

39
40 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
41 other day I asked about the meaning of consultation. I
42 looked it up and I saw you guys have your definition in
43 there. I just wanted to make sure that -- well, not
44 make sure. The tribes usually have a resource
45 protection office within their tribe and I know in
46 Sitka thats where this consultation will start. From
47 there it will usually goes out into the different
48 culture committees and other committees that are set up
49 to address subsistence depending on what it is. I know
50 in Sitka this is where it would have to go because the

1 tribe will have culture meetings about maybe a couple
2 times a month.

3

4 It's great that I see that we're going
5 to go to this point because by the time it makes it to
6 this regulatory council we will have at least some
7 public input. For a long time we suffered without a
8 lot of the public showing up to our meetings and we
9 suffered with not having a complete picture of what was
10 going on. I feel like the herring issue in Sitka would
11 have changed considerably if we could have gotten more
12 public input from the tribe as far as consultation.
13 Thank you, Jack.

14

15 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Kitka.

16

17 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thank you, Harvey.

18

19 Thank you, Jack.

20

21 Any other comments.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25

26 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Thanks. We have one
27 more item unless you have something further.

28

29 MR. LORRIGAN: Do you want the rural
30 review?

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: You're on a roll, Jack.

33

34 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chair. That's me
35 also.

36

37 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. LORRIGAN: I'm going to read this
40 one into the record because this is not something I've
41 been working on myself. I don't believe you have it in
42 your book. Page 125 is the letter that went out. This
43 is the rural review briefing that all the Regional
44 Advisory Councils are getting around the state, so this
45 is your turn.

46

47 As you know, the Alaska National
48 Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) mandates that
49 rural Alaskans be given a priority for subsistence uses
50 of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands. Only

1 communities or areas that are found to be rural are
2 eligible for the subsistence priority under ANILCA.
3 the Secretaries
4 of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture
5 tasked the Board to review the rural determination
6 process and recommend changes if any are needed.

7
8 The Board decided to start the review
9 with public input. The public comment period will end
10 next November after the fall Regional Advisory Council
11 meetings. At your fall meeting, the rural review will
12 be a topic on your agenda. We anticipate that this RAC
13 will provide guidance to the Board and that there will
14 be significant public input during your fall meeting.
15 At this point we want to alert you to the process and
16 ask that you carefully consider the rural/nonrural
17 issue. As Alaska changes over the coming years, the
18 rural subsistence priority will continue to be an
19 important issue.

20
21 The Board has asked the public for
22 information about how to specify rural areas in order
23 to provide the subsistence priority. The Board has
24 specifically asked for public input on population
25 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation of
26 communities, timelines, and information sources.
27 Comments will be used by the Board to assist in making
28 decisions regarding the scope and nature of possible
29 changes to improve the rural determination process.

30
31 You already are looking at Page 125 of
32 the news release. The Federal Register notice is also
33 available. There are nine general questions you should
34 consider. We'd like to emphasize that you have the
35 opportunity to craft the criteria for rural
36 determination starting with these nine questions.

37
38 Population thresholds. A community or
39 area with a population below 2,500 will be considered
40 rural. A community or area with a population between
41 2,500 and 7,000 will be considered rural or nonrural,
42 based on community characteristics and criteria used to
43 group communities together. Communities with
44 populations more than 7,000 will be considered
45 nonrural, unless such communities possess significant
46 characteristics of a rural nature.

47
48 1. Are these population threshold
49 guidelines useful for determining whether a specific
50 area of Alaska is rural?

1 2. If they are not, please provide
2 population sizes to distinguish between rural and
3 nonrural areas, and the reasons for the population size
4 you believe more accurately reflects rural and nonrural
5 areas in Alaska.

6
7 Rural characteristics. The Board
8 recognizes that population alone is not the only
9 indicator of rural or nonrural status. Other
10 characteristics the Board considers include, but are
11 not limited to, the following: Use of fish and
12 wildlife, development and diversity of the economy,
13 community infrastructure, transportation, and
14 educational institutions.

15
16 3. Are these characteristics useful for
17 determining whether a specific area of Alaska is rural?
18

19
20 4. If they are not, please provide a
21 list of characteristics that better define or enhance
22 rural and nonrural status.

23
24 Aggregation of communities. The Board
25 recognizes that communities and areas of Alaska are
26 connected in diverse ways. Communities that are
27 economically, socially, and communally
28 integrated are considered in the aggregate in
29 determining rural and nonrural status. The aggregation
30 criteria are: 1) Do 30 percent or more of the working
31 people commute from one community to another? 2) Do
32 they share a common high school attendance area? and 3)
33 Are the communities in proximity and road-accessible to
34 one another?

35
36 5. Are these aggregation criteria
37 useful in determining rural and nonrural status?
38

39 6. If they are not, please provide a
40 list of criteria that better specify how communities
41 may be integrated economically, socially, and
42 communally for the purposes of determining rural and
43 nonrural status.

44
45 Timelines. The Board reviews rural
46 determinations on a 10-year cycle, and out of cycle in
47 special circumstances.

48
49 7. Should the Board review rural
50 determinations on a 10-year cycle? If so, why? If

1 not, why not?

2

3 Information sources. Current
4 regulations state that population data from the most
5 recent census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as
6 updated by the Alaska Department of Labor, shall be
7 utilized in the rural determination process. The
8 information collected and the reports generated during
9 the decennial census vary between each census; as such,
10 data used during the Board's rural determination may
11 vary. These information sources as stated in
12 regulations will continue to
13 be the foundation of data used for rural
14 determinations.

15

16 8. Do you have any additional sources
17 you think would be beneficial to use?

18

19 9. In addition to the preceding
20 questions, do you have any additional comments on how
21 to make the rural determination process more effective?

22

23

24 That concludes my briefing.

25

26 VICE CHAIR BANGS: I think it's getting
27 late now and I think this is going to take quite a bit
28 of time once we start discussing it and it might be
29 better if we wait until we're a little bit fresh in our
30 minds.

31

32 Mr. Larson.

33

34 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Before we break I would like to remind you that if the
36 Council has comments on the draft Tribal Consultation
37 Implementation Guidelines, that the -- one of the
38 reasons for bringing it up to the Council at this time
39 is to solicit comments from this Council. If there is
40 comments, the Board would certainly appreciate hearing
41 them.

42

43 So if you wanted to make it an action
44 item, that is certainly appropriate.

45

46 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Yes, Bert.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Chairman. I agree
49 with you that maybe it would be a good time to break
50 right now and we can think about this and come fresh in

1 the morning ready to tackle this. I would go in that
2 direction but it's really up to the Council. If you
3 want to start addressing it now, that's fine with me
4 too.

5

6 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Ms. Phillips.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: I agree with Chairman
9 Adams, Chairman Bangs, and I thought Harvey spoke for
10 us on tribal consultation.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Mr. Hernandez, did
15 you have a comment.

16

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Shakes head
18 negatively)

19

20 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay. I guess we
21 should recess until -- what time do we start in the
22 morning, 8:00 o'clock?

23

24 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, that's your
25 call.

26

27 VICE CHAIR BANGS: Okay, 8:00 o'clock.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

