

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Saxman, Alaska
9 March 16, 2010
10 9:00 clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
16 Michael Bangs
17 Michael Douville
18 Merle Hawkins
19 Harvey Kitka
20 Floyd Kookesh
21 Jack Lorrigan
22 Cathy Needham
23 Patricia Phillips
24 Frank Wright
25
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Saxman, Alaska - 3/16/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning, everyone. Would you all please take your seats and we will get our meeting started here.

(In Tlingit)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In my language that means good morning, honorable people or self-respecting people, to the people out in the audience as well as members of the Council.

(In Tlingit)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I introduced myself as (in Tlingit) and that I'm of the Raven (in Tlingit) of the Silver Salmon Clan. That I come from a place called (in Tlingit) it's a little village along the -- about 60 miles away from Yakutat called the Dry Bay area. And that my father was a (in Tlingit) from Sitka and that my grandfather was a (in Tlingit). I try to make it a practice to use my language as much as I can, I'm still learning it, but it's a pleasure to be able to learn it.

And so I want to welcome you all here this morning. We've got a real big agenda before us so hope we can, you know, move right through it without really any problems. And so before we begin I would like to call on Lee Wallace to give an opening prayer for us. So would you all please rise.

MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Bert. Let's bow our heads.

Heavenly Father, we just come to you this morning, Lord Father, and we ask that your presence be in the center of these discussions for the next three days as we discuss issues throughout our Region, Lord, the proposals and, Father, the issues that are at hand throughout the State.

And Lord Father, we just ask that the

1 appointed officials here sitting at
2 Southeast RAC, Lord, that they fulfill
3 their duties to their citizens and
4 bring forth the best possible work to
5 be done on behalf of the citizens, Lord
6 Father.

7
8 And, Father, we just ask that their
9 words may be heard, Father, at the
10 Regional level brought up to the State
11 level or to the FSB, Lord, that the FSB
12 may have a ear open to the knowledge
13 that the Region has, Lord, that will be
14 heard and given value, Lord, and that
15 we could be able to turn things around
16 with the FSB and the current state.

17
18 Father, we just again ask that your
19 presence be here the next three days.
20 In your son's name, Jesus Christ, amen.

21
22 IN UNISON: Amen.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit).

25
26 We appreciate that.

27
28 We'll have our Secretary, Harvey, now
29 take the roll call, please.

30
31 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Richard Stokes.

33
34 (No response)

35
36 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

39
40 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Here.

43
44 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.

45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

47
48 MR. KITKA: Harvey is here. Bert
49 Adams.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Here.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Here.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
8
9 (No response)
10
11 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
12
13 MS. HAWKINS: Here.
14
15 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
16
17 MS. NEEDHAM: Here.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
20
21 MR. BANGS: Here.
22
23 MR. KITKA: Jack Lorrigan.
24
25 MR. LORRIGAN: (In Tlingit)
26
27 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. We have a
28 quorum.
29
30 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I would
31 like to report to the Council that I spoke with Dick
32 Stokes the other day and just yesterday before we came
33 I spoke with his son-in-law. And he is -- he's doing
34 well, he's still in and out of the hospital in
35 Wrangell. And he wishes that he could be here, he's
36 with us at least in spirit and not physically. But no,
37 he seems to be, you know, out of, you know, critical
38 condition there that -- where he was for a while. And
39 now he's resting comfortably.
40
41 So that's a report from Dick.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson,
44 for that report. I hope that we all remember Richard
45 in our prayers and thoughts particularly as we go
46 through this meeting because I know that he really
47 would like to have been here.
48
49 I want to turn the time over now to our
50 coordinator, Robert, who will conduct the election of

1 the Chair.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
4 know, all I -- regarding the roll call, Don Hernandez
5 is in Washington, D.C., he's been invited to provide
6 testimony to a House Subcommittee so those two Council
7 members are the ones that are absent.

8

9 The election of officers is -- we'll do
10 the election of a Chair first and then once the Chair
11 is selected then the new Chair will convene a meeting
12 and conduct an election for the Secretary and the Vice-
13 Chair. Right now the nominations for Chair of the
14 Southeast Advisory Council is open and I'll entertain
15 any nominees.

16

17 Yes. Mr. Bangs.

18

19 MR. BANGS: Thank you. I'd like to
20 nominate Mr. Bert Adams for Chair.

21

22 MR. LARSON: Are there -- are there
23 other nominations.

24

25 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.

28

29 MR. LARSON: Mr. Douville.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 move nominations cease.

33

34 MR. LARSON: Is there any discussion,
35 is there anybody who would have a issue with closing
36 nominations for chairman?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. LARSON: Members of the Council,
41 without having a election or a runoff, having more than
42 one nominee, is there anyone that would object to
43 having Bert Adams as the Chairman for another year of
44 the Southeast Council?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. LARSON: Hearing none,
49 congratulations, Mr. Adams.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
2 And thank you, Members of the Council for putting your
3 trust in me for another term here. I appreciate that
4 very much, you guys.

5
6 I would also at this time recognize
7 some new members. We have Cathy Needham who has been
8 recently appointed. Sop welcome, Cathy. We look
9 forward to your vigorous contribution to the issues
10 that we have before us. And also Jack Lorrigan, I've
11 known him for several years and I know that he is going
12 to be a great asset to this Council. We have two
13 biologists on board now and I think that's a real big
14 plus, you know, for us. So both of you welcome and
15 good luck in your future endeavors as a Council member.

16
17 We'll go ahead and now have the
18 election of the Vice-Chair. The floor is now open for
19 nomination for a Vice-Chair.

20
21 Mr. Douville, please.

22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 nominate Mike Bangs for Vice-Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are there any other
27 nominations.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I move that
34 nominations cease.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any objections to
37 having the nominations cease at this time.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All of those in
42 favor of having Mr. Bangs as Vice-Chair please signify
43 by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
2 Congratulations, Mr. Bangs.
3
4 I want to take this opportunity to
5 thank Mr. Kookesh for serving as the Vice-Chair for
6 many years and we know you'll make some -- continue to
7 make some great contributions to the -- to the cause
8 here, Mr. Kookesh.
9
10 So gunalcheesh and thank you very much.
11
12 We'll open now -- now open the
13 nominations for the Secretary.
14
15 Mr. Bangs.
16
17 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
18 like to nominate Mr. Harvey Kitka.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Harvey Kitka has
21 been nominated. Are there any other nominations.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.
26
27 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Move that nominations cease.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved that
31 the nominations cease. Any objections.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All in favor please
36 signify by saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
45 Congratulations, Mr. Kitka, for another term of -- as
46 our Secretary.
47
48 Okay. With that gone now, we've got
49 our walking orders for the next coming year. Let's
50 move on to the adoption of the agenda. Have you all

1 had a chance to look at the agenda and if you have any
2 questions, comments, changes, editing or so forth
3 please take the time to do that now. We'll take a few
4 moments to go over the agenda if you wish.

5

6 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Larson.

9

10 MR. LARSON: I have some communications
11 with Mr. Jeff DeFreest who has agreed to present the
12 Forest Service oral report and he would appreciate a
13 time certain at 2:00 p.m. to give his report.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What we
16 normally do and I forgot to mention this on the onset
17 was that we always adopt the agenda as a guide so that
18 if there are any situations, you know, like this here
19 that we can move agenda items back and forth and take
20 care of them. So I would really like to continue on
21 with that process. So when you make a motion please
22 remember to adopt it as a guide, please.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I have one
27 more item. We have in the audience Geoff Haskett who
28 is the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and
29 Mr. Doug Burn. They have engagements elsewhere and
30 they will need to be leaving us this afternoon. So if
31 we could move the sea otter discussion to this morning
32 that would be -- that would work out fine with them.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert.
35 We'll have to fit them in here somewhere.

36

37 MR. LARSON: Yeah, the Fish and
38 Wildlife Service report is under 15E.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Under item number 7
41 after the Chair's report, let's put Mr. Burn as item
42 number B and Mr. Haskett as item number C.

43

44 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka. Go ahead.

47

48 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, I move that we
49 adopt the agenda as a guide so we can continue.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you.
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Now we are under
6 discussion. Yes, ma'am.
7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
9 Adams. I would like to add a resolution to the agenda
10 on the Sealaska legislation. I don't have a copy of it
11 with me now. I did send it to Mr. Larson, I'm hoping
12 that we can get a copy of it to the Council before we
13 discuss it.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Fine. We'll put that
16 under item number 17, other business, item 17B. And
17 Mr. Larson I know has it so he's promised that he will
18 find it and have it ready by then.
19
20 Anything else on the agenda.
21
22 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.
25
26 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
27 had spoke with Mr. Larson about the discussion on
28 personal use or free use of lumber. Would that fall
29 under item 15, section 3, where we talk about -- a
30 discussion about forest products, is that where that
31 would go?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.
34
35 MR. BANGS: Okay.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You put that under,
38 let's see, U.S. Forest, item number 6. Mr. Bangs.
39
40 MR. BANGS: Thank you.
41
42 MR. LARSON: It's under B3.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: B3. Is that the one
45 you're talking -- okay. It's on B3.
46
47 MR. BANGS: Okay. We'll be able to
48 discuss under that?
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

1 MR. BANGS: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Anything
4 else.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, are you
9 ready to adopt the agenda as a guide.
10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
14 called. All in favor please say aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
23 Thank you.
24
25 Okay. We want to take this opportunity
26 now to invite Lee Wallace to represent the -- his tribe
27 in a welcome. And then following him will be Jeff
28 DeFreest, he's the director here with the Forest
29 Service.
30
31 So, Lee.
32
33 (In Tlingit)
34
35 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
36 fact, I'd also allow Vice-Mayor Woody Watson to join
37 me.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's fine. For the
40 record state your names when you talk and then continue
41 on with your address.
42
43 MR. WALLACE: Okay. Lee Wallace with
44 the Organized Village of Saxman, tribal president.
45 First of all I'd really like to welcome you guys to
46 Saxman. You know originally the meeting was to be held
47 in Ketchikan and it was upon insistence by me through
48 email with your coordinator, Robert, and then we got
49 Bert in the loop and I said, you know, this is still a
50 rural program as far as -- the last time I looked and I

1 said let's bring it back to Saxman again. And I
2 encourage the Council to each time you have your RAC
3 meetings go to the rural people and that's the service
4 that this organization provides for. And so very
5 important to discuss and have your meetings in rural
6 communities if a all possible.

7
8 But besides that I do welcome you to
9 Saxman for a number of reasons, the main one just
10 stated that we are rural and you are in the area. And
11 decisions are made in -- at this Council level and I
12 want to applaud the Council for support of Saxman's
13 rural status. And we all know that the -- Pat Pourchot
14 was doing a review the last several months. I know the
15 Council Chairs were meeting a couple times in Anchorage
16 and I reviewed the minutes from your last meeting and I
17 seen that Bert was there again supporting Saxman's
18 rural status. And in Pat Pourchot's review he had
19 mentioned that the bullet point was to definitely
20 review Saxman's rural status. And I would suggest that
21 it be in the near future not in the next review period,
22 but I spoke to Mayor Rick Makua earlier this morning,
23 he has family issues with some health problems.
24 Actually someone had died in the family so he wasn't
25 able to make it to this morning's meeting.

26
27 So I'm asking Vice-Mayor Woody Watson
28 just to give you guys a welcome here to Saxman.

29
30 VICE-MAYOR WATSON: Good morning and on
31 behalf of Saxman we'd like to thank everybody for being
32 here. I know a lot of you traveled a great distance
33 and we welcome you guys to the Village of Saxman.

34
35 Thank you very much.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

38
39 Just as a matter of note because I
40 might forget as we go along, the Council does support,
41 you know, Saxman's rural status. And the way that I
42 think that we ought to approach it is to separate
43 Saxman from Ketchikan and then you'll have your rural
44 status, you know, automatically. They brought the
45 threshold, you know, population threshold from 7,000 to
46 11,000 so I think, you know, that maybe even Ketchikan
47 might have a pretty good chance of getting their
48 recognition as well. We know here that Ketchikan, you
49 know, has a core group of subsistence users in the
50 community so there is in my opinion a characteristic

1 there that Ketchikan does have a lot of subsistence
2 users in there. So they should be entitled to be
3 looked at as well. So that's, you know, kind of where
4 I'm coming from at this time. And we do wish you all
5 the luck in being able to accomplish that. If there's
6 anyway that we can help, you know, I'm sure that we'll
7 be there to assist you.

8

9 But anyhow, gunalcheesh, Lee and I hope
10 that you stay through the meeting and have a lot of
11 fun, you know, with us as we go through the proposals
12 today.

13

14 Mr. Jeff DeFreest, are you here, sir.

15

16 MR. DEFREEST: I wanted to welcome the
17 members of the Council to Saxman and to Ketchikan
18 Ranger District on behalf of the Tongass National
19 Forest, the U.S. Forest Service and as I said the
20 Ketchikan Ranger District. I'm the new Ketchikan Misty
21 Fjords District Ranger and I have just started here in
22 Ketchikan about three weeks ago and I'll be -- have
23 moved here from Juneau, I was serving elsewhere on the
24 Tongass and in the region for the last eight or nine
25 years.

26

27 So with that I want to wish you guys
28 welcome and I'll be here part of today and then I'll be
29 making a presentation on behalf of the Forest Service
30 tomorrow at 2:00 o'clock as well.

31

32 Additionally I would like to make a
33 recognition when.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're not one of
36 those in additionals and, you know, furthermore and all
37 that are you?

38

39 MR. DEFREEST: Not too much
40 furthermore.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not too much. Okay.

43

44 MR. DEFREEST: But I was asked this
45 morning to make a delivery to Mr. Larry Dickerson. Is
46 he in the room?

47

48 MR. DICKERSON: Yes, I sure am.

49

50 MR. DEFREEST: This is in recognition

1 of Larry Dickerson for outstanding contributions to
2 subsistence resources and users of the Tongass National
3 Forest. And I'd like to make a presentation to thank
4 you.

5
6 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you.

7
8 (Applause)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don't go there yet,
11 Larry. Speech.

12
13 MR. DEFREEST: And with that
14 furthermore I will clear the space for Mr. Dickerson.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit)

17
18 MR. DICKERSON: Well, thank you Mr.
19 Chairman and the Council. Well, this is quite a
20 surprise, I flew in from Wyoming so I have -- my family
21 and I have moved to Wyoming about two weeks ago so I
22 got to work with the Council and the Board and the
23 Forest Service.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you see what
26 happens when you're gone, don't you?

27
28 MR. DICKERSON: Yes, you get awarded.
29 That's pretty good. I thank you. Well, I'm anxious to
30 talk about four really good proposals and projects that
31 I'm here and -- but I have enjoyed working with the
32 Council, everything, Mr. Chairman and everyone, and
33 they've been very good to me and my family and to be
34 involved in subsistence in Southeast Alaska is a
35 wonderful place. So it'll always be in our hearts too.

36
37 So we'll be talking with you later and
38 I want to thank everybody.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Larry, and
41 congratulations.

42
43 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'd like to continue
46 on with the introductions. We're going to first have
47 the Council introduce themselves to you and then we're
48 going to go out into the audience. So we'll start with
49 Mr. Bangs over there, please.

50

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 My name's Michael Bangs, I live in Petersburg. I am a
3 commercial fisherman and an avid subsistence user. And
4 I sportfish and hunt and I guess you'd say I'm a member
5 of the squarehead clan.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville, I'm from
10 Craig. I'm a commercial fisherman, I do all the
11 subsistence stuff. I also serve on the Craig City
12 Council.

13
14 MR. LORRIGAN: My name's Jack Lorrigan,
15 I'm living out of Sitka right now. Ketchikan was my
16 first home until I was about 10 or 11. So I'm familiar
17 with this area, I have family down here. Biologist by
18 trade, fisherman by passion and I also do customary and
19 traditional gathering.

20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Good morning, my name is
22 Patricia Phillips. My husband and I own the Pacific
23 Dawn, a sable fish and halibut longline operation. We
24 have four sons. I'm also the mayor/administrator for
25 the City of Pelican.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, my name is Frank
30 Wright, I'm from Hoonah. I'm a commercial fisherman,
31 I'm the -- I do black cod, halibut, salmon, crab and I
32 do subsistence. Every summer -- I mean, every fall I
33 do a community subsistence set for the community of
34 Hoonah so that we can bring in food for the people.
35 And I'm also a member of the Hoonah Indian Association.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. KITKA: My name is Harvey Kitka,
40 I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I'm a commercial fisherman by
41 desire, I'm a retired electrician, worked for the State
42 of Alaska for 30 years, subsistence user, was raised in
43 a subsistence lifestyle. I now Chair the Sitka Herring
44 Committee. And that's enough for now.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And of course my name
47 is Bertrand Adams, I'm from Yakutat. I've just been
48 involved in just about everything from commercial
49 fishing to personal use to charter captioning and I'm
50 -- put all of that behind me now. But I want you to

1 know that I'm a full-time subsistence user and you come
2 to my house and you'll find that 90 percent of the
3 foods in our cupboards and our freezers are subsistence
4 foods. And so I'm happy to be here.

5
6 Next, please.

7
8 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, my name is Floyd
9 Kookesh, I'm from Angoon. I'm apparently former Vice-
10 Chair for the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. I'm
11 also an employee of Central Council on Tlingit and
12 Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. I work in their
13 subsistence and sustainable development department.

14
15 MS. HAWKINS: Good morning, my name is
16 Merle Nancy Hawkins. I'm a native artist, also a
17 delegate for Tlingit and Haida Ketchikan Chapter, user
18 of subsistence, ate some wonderful clam chowder last
19 night that I'm still savoring. So glad to be here.

20
21 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, my name is
22 Cathy Needham. I'm originally from Ketchikan, I'm
23 enrolled in Ketchikan Indian Community. I currently
24 reside in Juneau. I am an entrepreneur and have my own
25 business where I'm a biologist and I work with tribes
26 throughout Alaska now. And while I don't -- I'm not a
27 subsistence harvester, I am definitely a subsistence
28 consumer.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy, and
31 welcome to the fold here.

32
33 I just want to congratulate Floyd on
34 his new job and I know he'll do well. So good luck in
35 that endeavor. Mr. Kookesh.

36
37 Let's go out into the audience and
38 let's start with the Federal employees first and then
39 State and then the rest of you people.

40
41 Yes. Got something, Robert.

42
43 MR. LARSON: No, I'll start the Federal
44 employees. My name is Robert Larson. I currently am
45 the Council Coordinator for the Southeast Council. I
46 reside in Petersburg although I spent my first 37 years
47 of my life right here in Ketchikan.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Who's next out there?
50 Go ahead, Susan.

1 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning, my name is
2 Susan Oehlers and I'm a wildlife biologist with the
3 Forest Service based out of Yakutat.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Don't be
6 bashful. Just stand if you would, you don't need to
7 come to the microphone, I don't think.

8
9 MR. PROBASCO: Good morning, Mr. Adams,
10 Council. I'm Pete Probasco, I'm the assistant regional
11 director for the Office of Subsistence Management. And
12 I was raised in Palmer, Alaska.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Next.

15
16 MR. CHESTER: Dennis Chester, wildlife
17 biologist to the Forest Service out of Juneau.

18
19 MR. DICKERSON: Hi, I'm Larry
20 Dickerson, a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service.
21 I have 11 years in Alaska, but now I live in Cody,
22 Wyoming.

23
24 MR. YOUNG: Will Young, I'm with the
25 Forest Service here in Ketchikan. I'm a fisheries
26 biologist by training.

27
28 MR. GERTSON: Good morning, I'm Ken
29 Gertson. I'm a law enforcement supervisor for the
30 Forest Service currently residing in Juneau although I
31 spent the last 10 years of my life here in Ketchikan.
32 I know many of you, having been at these meetings many
33 times and glad to be back this week.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. SKAGGS: This is Brian Skaggs and
38 I'm a law enforcement officer assigned to Ketchikan and
39 lived here about three years.

40
41 MR. CAPRA: Jim Capra, I live in
42 Yakutat, I work for the National Park Service as a park
43 ranger assistance coordinator for Glacier Bay.

44
45 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli and
46 I'm the subsistence anthropologist so I work throughout
47 the State and I'm out of Anchorage. Oh, BIA
48 subsistence anthropologist.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. KENNER: My name's Pippa Kenner, I
2 live in Anchorage and I'm an anthropologist with the
3 Office of Subsistence Management.

4
5 MS. MCKINLEY: Dianne McKinley,
6 National Park Service, Anchorage although Southeast is
7 my home.

8
9 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, my name is
10 Terry Suminski, I'm the Tongass Subsistence Program
11 leader. I live in Sitka.

12
13 MR. EASTLAND: Good morning. I'm
14 Warren Eastland, I'm the wildlife biologist for the
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

16
17 MR. LOGAN: Good morning, I'm Brian
18 Logan, the Forest wildlife biologist for the Tongass
19 out of Juneau.

20
21 MR. HENDERSHOT: I'm Steve Hendershot
22 from the Edna Bay AC.

23
24 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, I'm Steve
25 Kessler, I'm with the Forest Service and their agency
26 staff committee member. I've been away from the
27 program for about a year most of that time working on
28 the Chugach National Forest. I'm glad to be back. I
29 know the Southeast quite well, I've worked at Sitka and
30 Yakutat and Juneau.

31
32 MR. CASIPIT: I'm Cal Casipit, I'm the
33 subsistence Staff biologist in Juneau. I've been with
34 the Forest Service since 1980, most of it here in
35 Alaska on Craig, Prince of Wales Island, other places.

36
37 MR. AUTREY: Good morning, I'm John
38 Autrey, I serve as the tribal relations specialist for
39 the Tongass National Forest.

40
41 MR. OVIATT: Good morning, I'm George
42 Oviatt, I work for the Bureau of Land Management in
43 Anchorage at the State office.

44
45 MR. HASKETT: My name is Geoff Haskett,
46 I'm the regional director for the Fish and Wildlife
47 Service here in Alaska, also on the Federal Subsistence
48 Board. I started with the Service in 1978 so I've been
49 around for a long time. Second time living in Alaska,
50 I spent four years here right after ANILCA in the early

1 '80s and I'm very glad to be back and glad to be here
2 at your meeting.

3
4 MR. BURN: I'm Douglas Burn, the sea
5 otter program leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 Service, the Marine Mammals Management Office based out
7 of the regional office in Anchorage.

8
9 MR. REEVES: Jeff Reeves, assistant
10 fisheries biologist, Prince of Wales Island.

11
12 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm Melinda Hernandez,
13 I work out of Juneau, I'm the social science analyst.

14
15 MR. BROKKEN: I guess I got missed.
16 I'm Barry Brokken, I'm representing the Juneau Douglas
17 AC.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And then that's
20 all of the governmental people. State people. Mr.
21 Porter.

22
23 MR. PORTER: Good morning, Mr.
24 Chairman, Members of the Council. My name's Boyd
25 Porter, I'm the wildlife management biologist for the
26 Ketchikan area and Prince of Wales too.

27
28 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, George
29 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Liaison
30 Team. Good to be here.

31
32 MR. PARMIER: Good morning, my name is
33 William Parmier, I'm from Craig, Alaska. I'm a
34 commercial fisherman and here to represent the Craig
35 AC.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.
38 Anyone else. Tribal leaders. Go ahead, Mr. Sanderson.

39
40 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 And good morning to the rest of the Council. My name's
42 Rob Sanderson, Jr., I represent KIC, Ketchikan Indian
43 Community Tribal Council. I'm also a member of Central
44 Council, Tlingit Haida Community Council delegate. So
45 I just want you to know that we don't recognize that
46 word subsistence in our language, it's our way of life.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. JAMES: Good morning, my name is

1 Franklin James, I'm a retired commercial fisherman in
2 black cod, halibut, seine, Bering fish, all the way
3 from the Bering Sea down to Southern California. And I
4 am the Chairman of the Subsistence for ANB Camp 14. I
5 sit on the Board and the Council out of Porta Rico and
6 North and South America, fighting for our traditional
7 ways for our people in both areas. In fact, there's
8 one taking place in two days in Ecuador, another one in
9 Panama. Some of you guys are invited, if you want to
10 go, I'll get you in there.

11

12 Thank you guys for being here.

13

14 MR. DENNY: I'm Charles Denny, I'm the
15 Saxman AC Chair. We just got reorganized a year ago
16 and we've been dormant for about 10 years. And I also
17 sit on the Ketchikan AC for -- as one of the reps from
18 Saxman. Right now we have a Board of Game -- Board of
19 Fish meeting in Anchorage. Our Vice-Chair we sent and
20 our Ketchikan AC Chair we sent. Hopefully when we get
21 back we'll have a joint meeting and discuss some of the
22 issues that went on.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: My name's Joe Williams.
29 I don't know why I'm here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't either.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Actually I'm here
34 because I heard Bert was coming to town, we're really
35 mad he didn't call me before he came, he and Mr.
36 Kookesh. So appreciate you guys being here. I am on
37 the City Council for the City of Saxman and certainly a
38 subsistence user, a retired commercial fisherman in '65
39 when I gave up the fishing world.

40

41 I really appreciate you guys supporting
42 Saxman as being rural. I know that there was some
43 folks -- you hear about all the specialists sitting
44 behind me, with all the specialties one would think
45 that we'd get something done. But I would appreciate
46 -- I do appreciate you guys supporting us being rural
47 because that's who we are, Saxman is who we are. We're
48 not Ketchikan, we're Saxman. And I just really
49 appreciate you folks supporting that.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Joe.
4 Appreciate your comments. Him and I go back a long,
5 long ways, things that we don't want to talk about
6 these days.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there anyone else.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, good, that's the
15 extent of our introductions.

16

17 Mr. Larson.

18

19 MR. LARSON: This may be a good time to
20 remind everybody that we would appreciate everyone on a
21 daily basis filling in the visitors log that's back at
22 the back table where Melissa is sitting. That -- yeah,
23 that's important to our program. So if everyday you
24 could sign in we'd -- it would be appreciated.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Also is there a sheet
29 up there that they can sign up for if they want to make
30 comments and I -- go ahead and address that if you
31 would, Robert.

32

33 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. That
34 is correct. The Southeast Council's had a long history
35 of allowing lots of flexibility in a person's ability
36 to testify and provide testimony before the Council.
37 There will be a public comment period when we get into
38 deliberating proposals. And you can speak on that
39 topic or a topic of your own desire. And if you would
40 make out a green sheet at the back of the rooms with
41 your name and if there's a time that is particularly
42 important to you that would be appropriate to include
43 it there. And we'll make sure that you get heard.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just one housekeeping
48 item that I witnessed personally before we got the
49 meeting started. I went in to use the little boy's
50 room and the signs up there that says women and men

1 aren't big enough and I found myself going into the
2 other place. So, you know, just keep that in mind, you
3 know, when you go in there, make sure you read the
4 signs.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But anyhow I just
9 wanted to warn you. Okay.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Let's move
14 on. We now have the -- let's see, the minutes before
15 us. So if you'd like to take a five minutes at ease
16 here for the Council to review the minutes and then
17 we'll come back into session.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're back in
24 the session. We were on the minutes.

25
26 Heidi. Go ahead.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
29 add an item to the agenda, would it be appropriate to
30 do so now or wait for.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. No, we're still
33 on discussion. Yeah, go ahead.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 move to add a rural determination for Saxman and
37 Ketchikan to the agenda.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. You're making
40 this into a motion?

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is there a
45 second.

46
47 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been seconded.
50 Discussion.

1 MR. KITKA: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
4 called. All in favor please say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion's carried. Mr.
13 Kookesh.
14
15 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, that was my
16 question. Ms. Hopkins asked where are we going to be
17 adding it. The reason why I'm asking is because if
18 we're going to be putting it at the very end then we're
19 all going to be running out the door at the -- before
20 the meeting ends. I'd like to know where it's going on
21 the agenda.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think Patty had a
24 suggestion where it would go. Okay.
25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Mr. Kookesh. I'd like to add it to the agenda as soon
28 as reasonably possible.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. You didn't have
31 a suggestion as to where on the agenda you would like
32 to see it? So let me see.
33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, go ahead.
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: If it's appropriate
39 after the review and approval of the minutes.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll make that
42 item number 7 then.
43
44 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.
47
48 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chair. In the
49 following process I would really like to believe that
50 as a Council that we be given the opportunity to do our

1 reports prior to this, that we take care of our little
2 housekeeping items before we get into the meat of the
3 issues. I don't mind listening to Fish and Wildlife
4 Service on sea otter, but we should move this one
5 further down, past -- like past our annual report, like
6 past 10, that's my recommendation.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I see where you're
9 coming from, Mr. Kookesh. Is there any objection to
10 that, Patty, if we just move it down a couple places
11 down on the agenda.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Fine.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. After the
16 annual report then, we'll make that item number 11.

17
18 MR. LARSON: Unless we want to include
19 it to the annual report.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can do that too, we
22 can include it in the annual report. Let's make it
23 number 10a.

24
25 Okay. How we doing, anything else.

26
27 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

30
31 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 We usually hear from the Central Tribal Council on
33 updates on what they're doing and I don't see it on the
34 agenda and I was wondering if there was -- I know we
35 had talked to Ms. Carrie Sykes about the sea otter
36 issue and they were working on that. I was wondering
37 if there was anybody that was going to be able to give
38 us an update on that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh now has
41 that position.

42
43 MR. BANGS: Oh.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So would you be able
46 to do something like that later, you know, down the
47 line there, Mr. Kookesh?

48
49 MR. KOOKESH: It's Central Council
50 Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Mr. Vice-Chair.

1 And at this time I believe we were going to allow Mr.
2 Doug Burns [sic] to be doing a lot of the discussion
3 concerning sea otter.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And if -- it's
6 appropriate, too, Mr. Kookesh, if you would like to
7 make a comment during that period. Maybe what we'll do
8 is we'll just, you know, give you time to do that if
9 you so wish. Okay.

10

11 Anything else on the minutes.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, all in
16 favor of approval of the minutes as amended please
17 signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 Next thing is the Chair's report.
30 About a week or so ago I sent a report, I emailed a
31 report to Mr. Larson and he in turn, you know, made
32 sure that you all got a copy. Did you all get a copy
33 of the report?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So there's several
38 here, one is a report that was made on December 8, 2009
39 after the first review of the Federal subsistence
40 issues with Pat Pourchot. And then there was another
41 one that was sent in just last week. The meetings --
42 the reviews in my opinion were pretty much the same
43 although I think that for a three hour that was
44 allotted for the meeting both times, it started at
45 9:00, ended at noon, really wasn't enough because we
46 had 10 Regional Advisory Council Chairs there and I
47 don't really think that we had enough time to cover all
48 of the issues that we all had, you know, from our own
49 regions. And in some cases, you know, like my report I
50 had to really try to go through it as quickly as I can.

1 But the purpose of those meetings was
2 to conduct a review from -- of -- what the Secretary
3 wanted was the Regional Advisory Council Chairs to
4 share issues on subsistence that are ministered --
5 administered in rural Alaska. So having had the
6 opportunity, you know, I was able to share some
7 thoughts with him. But one of the things that I said
8 is that we have faced for near two decades now with
9 dual management, the State. This has been a serious
10 problem as we all know, you know, since the State came
11 out of compliance with ANILCA. And having been out on
12 the field myself many times, we can see where
13 subsistence users are really confused about which laws
14 or regulations they need to abide by. In many cases in
15 my area some of them on the early onset was afraid to
16 go out and hunt moose and -- particularly moose because
17 they thought they were going to violate some kind of
18 law not knowing, you know, the rules, you know, with
19 the State and with the Federal. So this is still a
20 very serious problem and I've not been bashful about
21 reminding the State that if they really want to manage
22 subsistence issues in Alaska all they need to do is
23 come in compliance. And having talked with many of the
24 Board members themselves, they said that they really
25 don't want that responsibility, it really should go to
26 the State. Now I know that many Native groups
27 throughout Alaska are pushing more and more for, you
28 know, the Federal programs to take over, but -- and it
29 doesn't seem, you know, like the State is ever going to
30 come in compliance, you know, it's going to take a
31 long, long, long time for that to happen. But when
32 they sit there and complain, you know, or try to
33 influence regulations, you know, it's hard for me to
34 really say to them yes, or no on that issue that if you
35 want to do this then you need to come in compliance.

36
37 I also brought up the fact that RACs
38 are no longer able to do RFRs. And having been bashful
39 about, you know, making that known, I bring it up every
40 time at the Federal Subsistence Board meetings that I
41 sometimes sound like a broken record, you know, going
42 over these issues over and over and over again.

43
44 Another issue was the 70/30 rule. And
45 then the Saxman and Ketchikan rural determination issue
46 was mentioned. And I really made it known that I think
47 that Saxman needs to be separated from Ketchikan. And
48 when that is accomplished then Saxman will have its
49 rural determination issue settled. I also feel that
50 since the threshold has been raised by 7,000 to 11,000

1 that even Ketchikan might be a little bit more than
2 that, but I think they have the characteristics of
3 being a subsistence community and there's a pretty good
4 chance it could be given its rural preference as well.
5 And we'll probably be addressing that here a little bit
6 later as we go through the agenda.

7
8 It's really sad to see that the Federal
9 Subsistence Board is not giving, you know, proper
10 deference, you know, to the RACs. We do a lot of work
11 on the ground level here and as proposals are presented
12 to us we look at the analyses and we have a criteria
13 that we follow to make sure that what we are
14 addressing, you know, does not have any conservation
15 concern, that there is a lot of data to support that,
16 that it doesn't adversely affect subsistence users or
17 even non-subsistence users. And to have the Federal
18 Subsistence Board, you know, deny us any of -- some of
19 those proposals such as Saxman and the Makhmati Island
20 issue, you know, to use as an example it's really not
21 very -- you know, it's very discouraging to me as I try
22 to address these issues and then have the Board don't
23 -- not give deference to our issues.

24
25 Also talked a little bit about our
26 issue with the subsistence budget, you know. I know
27 the Forest Service which you work under is -- their
28 budget has been cut drastically and so because of that
29 they have been requiring us to use hub communities, you
30 know, for our meetings which makes it impossible for us
31 to go into places like Hoonah and Angoon, some of the
32 smaller communities that we really need to go out and
33 visit and hear those people's concerns right from, you
34 know, the ground up. And so I think that is one of the
35 things we really need to bring back into the fold
36 again. With that we -- with those kinds of cuts, you
37 know, into our budgets, it just makes it almost
38 impossible to do what ANILCA mandates us to do.

39
40 We do have -- mentioned also the sea
41 otter issues in Southeast Alaska. We'll be having a
42 report from Mr. Doug Burn sometime today, hopefully it
43 will be a report that will offer some solutions as to
44 how we can handle these populations.

45
46 King salmon bycatch, another big issue.
47 Not only, you know, concern for us, but people on the
48 Yukon and the Kuskokwim River, the Chairs of those
49 areas, you know, are really experiencing some low
50 returns. And to have many of these king salmon, you

1 know, intercepted out in the high seas really does
2 drastically make it impossible for them to go back into
3 their spawning areas and do their business.

4
5 I also reminded -- and this is one of
6 the things that I didn't have a chance to do, I had a
7 whole bunch of letters that were written by all of the
8 Native communities, Central Council, AFN, AITC and
9 NARF, but I just reminded him that these various groups
10 have some very serious concerns about the way the
11 Federal Subsistence Board is being run these days and
12 if he really wanted to know what is coming from the
13 Native communities that it would be well for him to
14 review those and take those letters very seriously.

15
16 Many of the tribal governments think
17 that -- many of the Chairs think that tribal
18 governments should really have more -- be more involved
19 in subsistence issues, but one of the things that I
20 know from working with my own tribal organization,
21 their budgets are really small. I think our Yakutat
22 Tlingit tribe only has about a \$1,200 budget for
23 subsistence, you know, for a year. And that's really
24 not enough to address this -- the issues. And so it's
25 very -- it's hard for them to be involved. I know that
26 Central Council, you know, has been working off a grant
27 and I don't know if that's going to sunset pretty soon,
28 but if that does then, you know, Floyd's position is
29 going to be a very hard one to fill or, you know, I
30 really think that Central Council has a very important
31 place to play in subsistence programs in Southeast
32 Alaska, they are the ones who can bring all of the
33 tribal organizations together and be more and more
34 involved in that manner. But for other self-governing
35 tribes, difficult like, you know, Yakutat Tlingit tribe
36 has only a very small budget. And I've encouraged, you
37 know, our Council to see if they kind find more -- more
38 funds to be more involved. Another thing is the
39 personnel to be put into those positions when they are
40 created.

41
42 Mr. Pourchot said that a search for a
43 new Chair is in process and that he would know who that
44 is in the next couple of months. Now that's been a
45 couple of months already and we haven't heard. I just
46 learned recently that there were about 15 applications
47 that were submitted and there were eight who qualified.
48 So what they are going to do now is they're going to
49 narrow those down to three people and then they're
50 going to be invited to DC for interviews.

1 I'm really interested in the eulachons
2 and have been watching for the eulachons to return in
3 the Yakutat area. Because, you know, several years ago
4 when the Unuk River was closed down because of, you
5 know, low returns and almost went extinct as far as I
6 understand, they -- it concerns me because I kind of
7 watched for a pattern that was happening, you know,
8 through -- up along the coast and we don't see some of
9 the eulachons, you know, in the rivers from Dry Bay up
10 to Yakutat as they have in the past. And I'm -- I was
11 really concerned about the Situk River because the
12 Situk River is accessed by a road from the community
13 and it's real easy, you know, for people to go out
14 there and get their supply of eulachons. Now we get
15 our eulachons from Akweyay River or, you know, some of
16 those other rivers, there's a lot of eulachons in the
17 Akweyay. And last Friday I went out and flew Susan
18 with Nate and the weather was really bad, we got up
19 above, you know, the -- that -- what they call Black
20 Sand Island or the divide and we saw a lot of sea gull
21 activity, you know, there and the eulachons are kind of
22 heading to Seal Creek right now. Hopefully when I get
23 back, you know, we'll be able to go out and actually
24 get some.

25
26 That's the extent of my report, ladies
27 and gentlemen and if you have any questions I'd be
28 happy to answer them for you.

29
30 MS. HAWKINS: A motion to approve the
31 Chair's report -- accept, I mean.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle. Is
34 there a second.

35
36 MR. BANGS: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs seconded.
39 Discussion.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All in favor please
44 say aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
2 Thank you.

3
4 Correspondence, Mr. Larson, please.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. We have for
7 the first time in a long time we have a number of
8 representatives from the Advisory Committees that have
9 sent us the results of their meetings where they have
10 addressed issues important to the Federal subsistence
11 program. We have been in communication with that group
12 for a number of years and this is really the first time
13 that we've had, you know, some feedback and some
14 interactions with the Advisory Committees. And we're
15 very excited to see that. And you'll during the course
16 of their deliberations will have either oral reports or
17 I will read to you the letters that they've written to
18 us.

19
20 Regarding other communications that
21 we've received since our last meeting, we have a report
22 from the Wrangell-St. Elias, their Subsistence
23 Resource Commission. They reviewed wildlife proposals
24 at their meeting in Copper Center two weeks ago. The
25 Sitka Tribe has sent the Council a letter asking for
26 help in redefining some waters of Makhnati Island as
27 Federal jurisdiction. When we come to that part of the
28 agenda if we'd like to take that up, it -- I -- it's
29 actually a moot point, I believe that the Federal
30 program has moved to do a -- to include those waters
31 under Federal jurisdiction so their request is actually
32 not timely.

33
34 We have received some replies to
35 letters that the Council wrote at their last meeting,
36 one from the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding sea
37 otter management that Doug Burn can speak to. We have
38 letters regarding the sockeye management in Chatham
39 Straits from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
40 in that letter they have, you know, offered to work
41 with the Council and the Federal program to populate
42 their genetic data base for sockeye identifications.
43 In there the -- you'll see that there's some cost
44 estimates and we expect at some point they'll be some
45 proposals for fisheries programs -- the fisheries
46 monitoring program to really get that Chatham Strait
47 stock identification down using the genetic markers.

48
49 The Eastern and Western and the Lower
50 Yukon, the Yukon Delta Kuskokwim Advisory Committees

1 are very concerned about Bering Sea bycatch. The --
2 one of the items that I sent you since their is --
3 since their last meeting is a letter from the Board to
4 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
5 regarding the cap on the pollock fishery in the Bering
6 Sea.

7

8 And, of course, there's three special
9 action items for wildlife that were proposed by the
10 Council at their last meeting. And the Board has sent
11 back letters of action items for those three special
12 actions.

13

14 And I think that covers our
15 correspondence.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
18 Any questions of Mr. Larson on any of the letters that
19 he has shared with us.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we'll go ahead
24 and move on. I want to invite Mr. Burn up here. He's
25 leaving today so we moved him up so he can give his
26 report on sea otters. I am really, really interested
27 in hearing this.

28

29 Mr. Burn.

30

31 MR. BURN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
32 Council Members.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And just for your
35 information, Mr. Haskett, you're going to follow Mr.
36 Burn. Okay.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. BURN: And I do want to thank the
41 Council for being flexible and allowing for my
42 scheduling needs. I'll be in Dillingham on Thursday
43 speaking to the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay
44 Native Association. So thank you very much for
45 scheduling me this morning.

46

47 We talked, I guess, in October in
48 Yakutat, I'll give you some update on some of the
49 things that we're doing relative to sea otters in
50 Southeast Alaska. So I'd pretty much like to provide

1 you with another update this morning and then take any
2 questions that you may have.

3

4 Since the meeting in October we've had
5 three meetings now with representatives of Alaska
6 Native organizations who we signed a memorandum of
7 understanding with last summer to develop an Alaska
8 Native Sea Otter Co-Management Committee. Two of the
9 organizations that we're working with are from
10 Southeast Alaska, one is the Central Council Tlingit
11 Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and they're being
12 represented by Mr. Richard George. And the second is
13 the Sitka Marine Mammal Commission which is being
14 represented by their executive director, Mike Miller.
15 And at our most recent meeting, a two day meeting at
16 the end of January and the Committee drafted a set of
17 bylaws and -- for their operation and those bylaws are
18 going to be sent back to their respective organizations
19 for review and comment and hopefully concurrence. And
20 then we hope to have the Committee up and running very
21 shortly.

22

23 At the last meeting we did discuss
24 potential projects that we could work on together under
25 the co-management section of the Marine Mammal
26 Protection Act. And I did raise the issue of the need
27 for a sea otter management plan in Southeast Alaska.
28 And all the parties there agreed that that was an
29 important need and were committed to working on that
30 issue under co-management in the Marine Mammal
31 Protection Act. So there's some encouraging
32 developments there.

33

34 The second issue that I'd like to
35 update you on is our progress towards repeating a
36 population survey of sea otters for Southeast Alaska.
37 The last survey was done over two years, 2002 and 2003,
38 by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Alaska Science
39 Center. Southeast Alaska is such a big area that you
40 have to break it up into sections to do the survey.
41 And one of the biggest challenges we've been having on
42 that front is since that survey was done the pilot who
43 had flown those surveys and was basically the pilot for
44 most of the sea otter surveys that we do, had left the
45 State and so we've been working with our -- I think
46 it's -- they've changed their acronym, I think it's now
47 the Aviation Management Division to locate another
48 pilot and aircraft that's suitable for that survey
49 design. And we think we found one and we're working
50 through the contracting process to be able to hire them

1 to do -- to at least start that survey this summer. So
2 it's -- until we have the contracts in place, you know,
3 and we're not certain, but we're doing everything we
4 can to at least start that survey this summer. And
5 then so we would part of it this year, part of it next
6 year and we'd have an updated population estimate and
7 an updated picture of sea otter distribution from the
8 previous survey in 2002 and 2003.

9

10 So those are just some of the
11 developments that I wanted to update you on and then,
12 you know, available for any questions that you have.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I have a question,
15 Doug. This management plan that you're kind of, you
16 know, proposing or have envisioned, do you have an idea
17 what that might look like?

18

19 MR. BURN: I have some ideas, but I
20 think because the Marine Mammal Protection Act has us
21 working at the population scale and so for Southeast
22 Alaska that includes Yakutat all the way to the Canada
23 border, the management plan would have to, I think, be
24 comprehensive over that scale, but within that range
25 there are many Alaska Native tribes and so it would
26 have to integrate say the tribal scale together across
27 that broader scale. You can't -- it wouldn't make
28 sense if each -- if they weren't coordinated because
29 you could have a number of say local management plans
30 that together do not make for a practical regional
31 management plan. So it's going to take a lot of
32 discussion and a lot of coordination with the various
33 tribes with Southeast Alaska.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And the reason why I
36 ask that is because, you know, several years ago --
37 many, many years ago when Sitka developed a sea otter
38 management plan and I thought that was a real good
39 model for other tribal organizations throughout, you
40 know, Southeast to follow. And this was when I was the
41 president of the Yakutat Tlingit tribe and so we
42 started developing a sea mammal, you know, management
43 plan and then I left and no one picked it up after
44 that. The vision that we saw was that each -- and it
45 involves tribes, okay, each tribe like Yakutat has
46 jurisdiction all the way from Cape Suckling down to
47 Lituya Bay. Okay. And then there must be some
48 boundaries, you know, whether it's organized or
49 unorganized boroughs, you know, for Hoonah or Angoon
50 or, you know, some of those smaller communities. We

1 thought it would be real proper if they had their own
2 management plan. And somehow or another, you know,
3 work on a -- you know, by region, but also cooperating
4 one with another.

5
6 I'll give you a real good example of
7 how Sitka did theirs and maybe Jack will, you know,
8 kind of correct me if I'm wrong, there never used to be
9 any sea otters here, but there are a lot of sea otter
10 hunters. So what they would do is they'd go up into
11 this -- the Sitka area and they would have to check in
12 with the tribe and get these tags and go out and hunt
13 their otters and then come back, turn in the tags. And
14 so they had a pretty good idea of how much, you know,
15 otters were taken out of there because you had to check
16 in at the tribe. And then they would come back home
17 and process.

18
19 So I thought was really a -- a really
20 neat method. And it could be done, you know, with
21 other regions as well, you know, using that as a model.
22 But I don't know, you know, what your final product
23 will come out to, but I would hope have it look
24 something like that. You got to work with tribes, you
25 know.

26
27 MR. BURN: Absolutely. And this -- the
28 -- I referred to Section .119 of the Marine Mammal
29 Protection Act which has to do with conservation and
30 co-management and I think that this issue is an ideal
31 issue to be addressed throughout co-management. So
32 we're hopeful that we can continue to make progress
33 with the Co-Management Committee that's in development
34 and then be able to actually put some resources into
35 development of a management plan.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. So again, you
38 know, just like subsistence, you know, the budgets for
39 tribes is very small. They have no budget for this
40 kind of a program, but, you know, whether it's working
41 on a co-management, you know, situation or otherwise,
42 some kind of budget or funding is going to have to be
43 provided to them in order to co-manage.

44
45 MR. BURN: Exactly. And there is
46 funding that is.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

49
50 MR. BURN:appropriated every year

1 for these co-management activities. And so it's a
2 matter of jointly developing a proposal for the work to
3 be done and then putting together a cooperative
4 agreement which is the mechanism for funding --
5 actually funding the work. So we did discuss that at
6 the January meeting and the groups were in support of
7 that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you.
10 I'm done with my questions. I'm sure that there are
11 others who have a lot of questions. So who's next.

12

13 Mr. Wright.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
16 glad that we're putting some kind of management plan
17 together because I'm getting kind of worried about, you
18 know, Icy Straits area because we have -- I see sea
19 otters all the way up to Sisters Island which is pretty
20 close to our cockle beds on home shore side.

21

22 But another thing I'm, you know, I was
23 wondering, you know, with a management plan that, you
24 know, since we have to include the tribes, if there's a
25 way that, you know, you already have some kind of MOA
26 with three tribes as you said?

27

28 MR. BURN: It's a memorandum of
29 understanding.....

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: MOU.

32

33 MR. BURN: MOU. It's similar. And it
34 has four organizations that are signatories, the Aleut
35 Marine Mammal Commission and the Cook Inlet Marine
36 Mammal Commission and then the Central Council and
37 Sitka and on Thursday I'll be talking to the Board of
38 Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association about
39 their participation. So there are some regions within
40 the range of sea otters that have not yet signed onto
41 this MOU and this Committee.

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. Have you
44 contacted any of the local, you know, tribes on working
45 on this so that, you know, we can have some input on
46 some -- the management plan because, you know, I was
47 hand trolling out by Idaho Inlet and I just happened to
48 be going by one point, you know, and I see about 17,
49 18, sea otters just digging up everything that they can
50 get their hands on. So I think that if we work with

1 the tribes so that, you know, we know what's happening
2 or at least keep in contact with the tribes so that we
3 could, you know, at least make comment on any kind of
4 decisions that may come down from making up the
5 management plan because I think that would, you know,
6 help a lot. If we can't -- we don't have the money to
7 participate or did you say there was some money for
8 participation with the tribes?

9

10 MR. BURN: There is some funding
11 available and I want to say that nothing has actually
12 -- no work has actually begun on the management plan
13 yet. And I completely agree with what you've said and
14 also what Mr. Adams said about tribal involvement, I
15 mean, I think I would envision that this management
16 plan would probably have a section, you know, for each
17 tribe that would be developed in conjunction with --
18 you know, with that tribe, with their participation,
19 with their involvement. And then together the entire
20 plan would add up to be a management plan for the
21 entire Southeast Alaska population.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, thank you. I'm glad
24 this management plan's coming in because it's -- you
25 know, in Hoonah we love our cockles and we love our
26 clams and it's getting to the point where they're
27 digging up the whole world.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Wright.
32 Mr. Kitka, please.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
35 Burn. I'm -- in listening I like the idea of getting
36 the tribes involved in these different things. Is
37 there a place or -- that they can write or where we can
38 make contact, can you supply us with the information
39 that we can take back to the tribes and tell them this
40 is where to get in contact with you so that they can
41 start getting involved with this?

42

43 MR. BURN: At this point I would be the
44 contact from the Fish and Wildlife Service, but in this
45 region I would say that the point of contact on the
46 Alaska Native side would be the Central Council, it
47 would be Richard George and then for Sitka it would be
48 Mike Miller from the Sitka tribe. That would be the
49 contact on the Alaska Native side of the co-management
50 relationship.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Mr. Burn. What is the name of the organization you say
5 is newly formed, the Alaska.....
6
7 MR. BURN: The Alaska Native Sea Otter
8 Co-Management Committee.
9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Alaska Native Sea Otter
11 Co-Management.
12
13 MR. BURN: And basically what it is is
14 throughout the range of sea otters there are a number
15 of ANCSA regions and many of them have their own
16 regional Marine Mammal Commission like the Aleut Marine
17 Mammal Commission is from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands
18 region. The Cook Inlet Marine Mammal Commission or
19 maybe the C is Council, I can't remember, the Cook
20 Inlet one is for the Cook Inlet region. And so what
21 this committee would be is a committee of
22 representatives from these regional commissions so that
23 we have broad coverage across the range of sea otters.
24 And the four signatories on the memorandum of
25 understanding now, they also are members of an
26 organization called the Indigenous People's Council for
27 Marine Mammals which is abbreviated as IPCoMM. And
28 that's sort of a consortium group of Alaska Native
29 organizations who are working on marine mammal issues
30 from across the state.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.
33
34 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 There was some surveys done in Craig by the tribes, did
36 you get that information or have you used it and I
37 don't know if that is still ongoing or not, but it
38 seemed to me like a pretty good thing and real good
39 hands-on information.
40
41 MR. BURN: Yeah, that -- those surveys
42 were actually funded through Section .119 of the Marine
43 Mammal Protection Act. I can't remember the years that
44 they were conducted. I actually did do some of the
45 data processing for that and but those surveys have not
46 continued. I think they went on for two, possibly
47 three years. And I can get you more specific
48 information, I don't have all the details with me at
49 the time.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: More.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Do you feel that the
4 information that was in those surveys was of value and
5 is there a -- would there be any interest in pursuing
6 the same type of thing in the future or would there be
7 funding available and so on?

8

9 MR. BURN: There could be funding
10 available depending on if that would be -- I think if
11 the Committee would think that that was a high enough
12 priority. As far as the value of it, I -- if I
13 remember correctly the surveys were done around the
14 community and so they would give subsistence users from
15 Craig an idea of where sea otters are more abundant
16 within, you know, that area and it might give them a
17 good idea of where they might want to concentrate their
18 hunting efforts. So from a local subsistence hunter
19 perspective they could be valuable, yes. How that
20 would integrate into a broader management plan I'm not
21 sure, but certainly from a local level it could be
22 useful.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Mr. Burn. On the hiring the pilot, is that a notice
28 that's posted, you know, for people in the region to
29 apply to be the pilot to do the surveys?

30

31 MR. BURN: When we do this sort of an
32 action it goes out, I think on a -- publicly for
33 proposals, yeah. But that's something where we
34 basically write our requirements, what sort of an
35 airplane are we looking for, what sort of surveys are
36 we doing so pilots have to have certain certifications
37 like low level flight and things like that. And then
38 the Aviation Management Division, they're the ones who
39 handle the announcement and all the mechanics of
40 putting that out for bid. So I don't know a whole lot
41 of details about that end of things.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I'm just
44 wondering if -- was that previous pilot a Southeast
45 Alaska pilot and, you know, because we -- we're having
46 some economic difficulties in our region and, you know,
47 some of our pilots might like an opportunity to put in
48 a bid.

49

50 MR. BURN: The previous pilot was based

1 out of Cordova. And before we put this out for bid we
2 -- one of the requirements is that the Department of
3 Interior, we've got this Aviation Management Division,
4 they'll only let us fly with pilots who have aircraft
5 and -- you know, that is certified to their
6 specifications. And so we did a survey, I think, of
7 what pilots were available for the type of aircraft we
8 need which is a single engine, tandem seating plane on
9 floats and we found, I think, about eight or 10 pilots
10 who were certified. We contacted them all personally
11 and none of them were available or interested in
12 bidding on this particular type of survey. So that's
13 been one of the challenges is you have to find the
14 pilot, the aircraft, the certification, you've got to
15 get all these planets to align and we think we might be
16 close with someone, but, you know, we're crossing our
17 fingers.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Mr. Burn. On the -- I think there might be an
21 opportunity here for some InterAgency collaboration. I
22 mean I -- we've discussed, you know, the sea otter co-
23 management plan or sea otter management plan for
24 Southeast Alaska and I think it would be good that --
25 towards capacity building in our region that a
26 principal leader of a co-management committee be
27 Alaskan Native and work with, you know, some of -- you
28 know, like yourself or someone from the U.S. Forest
29 Service overseeing this region wide management plan.
30 And, you know, we have the tribes that will be involved
31 and an Alaskan Native could, you know, visit with the
32 tribes in the more rural remote areas that don't --
33 that want to be involved, but don't necessarily have
34 the funding or if it was brought to them in a way that,
35 you know, brings out information rather than oh, it's
36 just another group, you know, let's move on. A lot of
37 times we'll have a lack of involvement in the rural
38 remote areas not because they don't care, but it's just
39 that they got too many other things going on and so,
40 you know, this doesn't look important to me, I'm just
41 going to keep doing what I'm doing regardless of what
42 they do. But if you're actively searching out
43 information at the local level with someone that they
44 can trust, you're more likely to get information that
45 will really bring beneficial information to the
46 program.

47

48 And also the -- you know, I've been
49 talking about this, like I mentioned it in Yakutat, if
50 we build a base of information, which we have, we're

1 talking about these other surveys that have gone on,
2 that's a base of information, but let's build on that,
3 let's, you know, bring the level of information we need
4 to another level so that we can continue to do that.
5 And if we have local buy in then we have that building
6 of information, but if we have out -- you know, if we
7 have non-locals, you know, trying to fester out
8 information, you know, you might not get the best
9 information you could. And there may be a piece of the
10 -- you know, a piece of agency or organization at the
11 university level that might be able to provide some
12 collaboration in your process. So you have U.S. Fish
13 and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, tribes, you
14 know, a co-leader in an Alaskan Native and the
15 university, I think you could come up with a good
16 management plan.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. BURN: Yeah, absolutely I agree
21 with you. And I think in some of the correspondence
22 that we've had with the Council we've -- we recognize
23 that, you know, we don't have all the answers and that
24 we're -- it's going to take a partnership between Fish
25 and Wildlife Service and perhaps other Federal agencies
26 and certainly Alaska Native tribes and organizations,
27 it's going to be a real partnership to address this
28 issue absolutely.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

31

32 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
33 just wanted to mention that the meeting we had in
34 Petersburg, there was a gentleman who was a biologist
35 for the State Fish and Game and he came to us through
36 the Marine Advisory Program to get our support for
37 funding for a sea otter -- he was doing more than a
38 survey, he wanted to document where they are, what they
39 eat, how much they eat and all that. Anyway I just
40 want to mention he did get the funding for part of his
41 project and it's -- he's starting now and I was hoping
42 that you would be aware of that as well.

43

44 MR. BURN: Yeah, I am and I forgot to
45 mention that. But another thing that follows on to
46 that I had forgotten to mention was that the North
47 Pacific Research Board which funds marine research
48 across the state and one of their initiatives in this
49 year's funding cycle was to address sea otter issues in
50 Southeast Alaska. And I believe the person you're

1 talking about his name is Zack Hoyt and Zack along with
2 someone on my Staff co-authored a proposal to get some
3 additional funding to support the work you're talking
4 about. So I completely overlooked that in my earlier
5 remarks, but that is some additional resources and some
6 additional research that's going to be directed at sea
7 otters here in Southeast Alaska.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

12

13 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Burn. Under the
14 management plan that hasn't been written yet, one of
15 the issues that really needs to be brought out here is,
16 and it's not uncommon for us, is that we spend too much
17 time studying these issues, studying sea otters, you
18 know, we start studying their eating patterns when we
19 already know that they're turning bays into deserts and
20 at some point we have to start doing something. And a
21 good partner for you is Sealaska and I say Sealaska
22 because I've had the discussions, I had the privilege
23 of having -- Albert Kookesh is my brother, the chairman
24 of Sealaska. And his -- and Sealaska's strongest
25 desire is to see economic development for our
26 communities. They have more of the -- Sealaska's taken
27 more of a direct approach, I don't know if they've met
28 with you, but Sealaska's taken more of a direct
29 approach as to insisting that something be done instead
30 of something be studied again. And I completely concur
31 with him that we need to work like we talked, work
32 within the regulations to make this work because when I
33 talk to my brother the recommendation he said is let's
34 build another one of them tanneries and let's put a
35 bounty on these things because we recognize the impact
36 that they're having to our resources. It's also having
37 I believe -- I don't know if I'm correct, if it was the
38 Southeast Seiners or United Fisherman of Alaska who
39 came out with a letter asking that something be done
40 about the resource, the sea otters. So we're not only
41 ones in the Native community. But for Sealaska's part,
42 what they're doing like I said, they want economic
43 development in our communities because to them that's
44 important, that one role that they do more for those
45 communities they represent. I believe that Sealaska
46 when they talk about sea otters is talking about hand
47 in hand doing oyster farming. And you can't develop
48 oyster farming if you have a sea otter population
49 impacting it. I know that when they're doing their
50 studies they're trying to make sure they stay out of

1 high impact areas like Sitka, but there is a desire and
2 I'm hoping that we don't -- that we can start working
3 within the regulations and I'm happy to look at it with
4 you, the management plan that you're talking about.

5

6 MR. BURN: Thank you.

7

8 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

11

12 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, Mr. Burn. Thank
13 you for being here. I just wanted to ask within this
14 co-management committee I hope that there will be
15 something where the Federal agencies and the
16 departments and divisions within the agencies will work
17 together. My concern is with the overzealous law
18 enforcement. You know as Alaska Natives we're
19 encouraged to harvest sea otter and it's a part of our
20 culture, but then I know there's a couple individuals
21 here in the Ketchikan area that their homes were raided
22 and their pelts were taken and they were high
23 harvesters. So I see in one hand we're encouraged to
24 partake in the harvest of sea otters, but then the guys
25 that do it are harassed. Is there a place where I can
26 go and look and see what the charges were and what the
27 outcome was because I can hear the story from that
28 individual, but, you know, it might be different than
29 what actually happened. But I would just hope that the
30 -- in the co-management the divisions and the
31 departments and sea otter management would work
32 together because there are people that make a career
33 out of it and we want to continue to encourage them.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Jack,
38 please.

39

40 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I was co-author of the Sitka Marine Management -- Sitka
42 Marine Mammal Management Plan with Dr. Garza back in
43 the late '90s. We worked with the Alaska Sea Otter
44 Commission and the Stellar Sea Lion Commission on a lot
45 of these issues that we're talking about still. One of
46 the things that keeps coming up is what happens with
47 the hides once they're taken and the problem is
48 marketing or getting the perception that the marine
49 mammals are endangered. I think Mr. Kookesh's comments
50 about Sealaska would be great. One of the things we

1 explored was partnering with the Indian casinos down in
2 the Lower 48 in the giftshops. We had the Mash and
3 Tuckett Pequat (ph) tribe come back and they were
4 delighted with some of our stuff. They came and
5 visited and the ladies that were negotiating with us
6 bought everything we had for their own use.

7

8 So the Marine Mammal Protection Act was
9 written for a different time, for a different
10 circumstance, it needs to be changed to allow for more
11 marketing opportunities, to relax some of the
12 regulations because we have plenty of otters now and we
13 need to be able to get them moving because that's the
14 hang up I've had, that's the hang up a lot of people
15 have had is we're selling locally where people have a
16 lot of access to otter, it's the Lower 48, I think, is
17 where your market's going to be. We're losing ships so
18 we have to be more proactive and reach out to other
19 communities. And I suggest the gaming casinos, the
20 casinos -- you know, if people are winning money and
21 they're going to go in the giftshop and they're going
22 to see made in Alaska handicrafts and I think sea otter
23 items would go really well because they don't have the
24 -- a lot of them are not going to have the anti-fur
25 stigma, I mean, these are traditional cultures, they're
26 going to -- they're going to really love these products
27 and I think that's something that should be explored.
28 I think Sealaska or any other corporation should --
29 this would be a great marketing opportunity for our
30 people if Sealaska were to choose that, but that's one
31 avenue to get this stuff out of state and into a market
32 down south. We have plenty of otters now and it would
33 be nice to see them go away for a little bit.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great comment, Jack, I
38 appreciate that. Anyone else.

39

40 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, then Mr.
43 Wright.

44

45 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I'd just like to point out that I know that points that
47 Mr. Kookesh made about we need to do something and
48 we've studied it, you know, a lot in the past, but I
49 think it's important that we have recent studies and I
50 think it's important for just the marketing aspect that

1 we have something to educate people in the Lower 48 so
2 that they understand what's happening and how's it's
3 impacting us and that there are plenty, just like what
4 Mr. Lorrigan was saying that I think it's a
5 misconception by the Lower 48 that they're endangered
6 and, you know, that would hinder the marketing of them.
7 So I think these studies and whatever we can gather for
8 information is going to help us eventually, you know,
9 to reach some sort of a higher level of harvest and
10 marketing for Southeast.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Frank, go ahead.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 was wondering, you know, the U.S. Forest Service, you
18 know, they hire locals to go up the rivers and count
19 fish and I was -- you know, it would -- I would have a
20 wonderful time running out there and start counting sea
21 otters with my cruiser and having a good time and just
22 being out there, you know. And, you know, the way the
23 economy is in the local communities, you know, would it
24 be possible to hire locals to, you know, be trained how
25 to count, you know, because, you know, running from
26 Hoonah to South Pass, you know, you always see them
27 around and then up into Glacier Bay, you always -- you
28 know, Glacier Bay people are -- I mean, they're getting
29 concerned about the sea otter going up into that area,
30 you know, and even running out toward, you know, out
31 toward the outside waters and you can run on the
32 inside, you know, through Lisianski and run -- you
33 know, be cruising. Is there a reason why only --
34 you're using planes instead of local hire to do -- I
35 mean, I know the management is not really all there
36 yet, but, you know, would it be possible to do
37 something like that so we could get local hire to, you
38 know, like I said I'd love to go cruise around counting
39 pelts that I possibly can get.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. BURN: Yes, it would be possible
44 and as Mr. Douville talked about that has been done in
45 some communities. And the intent -- my understanding
46 was the intent of those surveys, those local surveys,
47 was to provide information that could be the basis for
48 a local management plan, in some cases the information
49 was collected, but was never used for any management
50 planning. So I think the most important question would

1 be if you're going to collect information how is it
2 going to be used. And so, you know, that could
3 potentially be a component of a management plan to say
4 that for a specific geographic area we're going to base
5 the, you know, harvest level for that geographic area
6 based on surveys of that area done by local residents.
7 That could be a component of the management plan, but
8 again that's something that again has to be put
9 together, it's not something that the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service is going to develop and then come down and just
11 drop off and say here's your management plan. It's got
12 to be developed with the local involvement in order to
13 have the buy in that I think Patty was talking about,
14 you've got to have that buy in or else it's never going
15 to go anywhere.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Lorrigan, please.

18

19 MR. LORRIGAN: When I was a biologist
20 for the tribes -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was
21 part of our management plan was to -- we had training
22 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I think one
23 of Marine Mammal Commissions from up north, they came
24 down and we had community members from all over
25 Southeast come and train for their communities to do
26 sea otter surveys via small vessel. It had its snags,
27 but the idea was that people were trained to go out and
28 observe and gather, you know, do baseline transects and
29 observe everything including birds and other marine
30 mammals. And then they were also -- we were also
31 taught how to do necropsies on dead animals, whether we
32 found them on the beach or we shot them. And there was
33 a lot of information gathered from that at the time
34 when it was active, but I'm not sure how active that is
35 anymore, I'm sure funding has something to do with it.
36 But again the hang up has been moving the hides, people
37 have hides sitting around their house they can't get
38 rid of. And so that's I think the log jam right now.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jack. I
41 have a grandson who does sea otter hunting and, you
42 know, he's having a hard time moving it as well. He
43 took some up to the Fur Rondy and I haven't heard, you
44 know, how well he's done, but yeah, he's having
45 trouble, you know, getting the products moved. And he
46 makes sure, you know, that they're well taken care of,
47 but there's just no demand for it, you know, for now.

48

49 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Jack is hitting on the right thing, but what we need to
5 do is to relax the rules so that a qualified person can
6 harvest two or three or four or whatever sea otter and
7 simply have a special tag that could be issued to put
8 on those. And you could market them other than the
9 restrictive market we have which is only amongst
10 ourselves and something as simple as that could harvest
11 a certain amount of sea otter per year depending on,
12 you know, how you would design it, you know, X amount
13 of tags a year could be issued for other than Native
14 uses. But, you know, like a planning process is what
15 scares me is you can plan for 20 years and never get
16 anything done, but the otter is still moving forward.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think what we're
19 looking for is balance, you know, so that we can keep
20 the population at a good level where we don't have to
21 compete with our -- for our subsistence foods, you
22 know. And I think that's the crucial thing is to be
23 able to -- and we've had, you know, just oodles and
24 oodles of those little critters, you know, coming into
25 Southeast Alaska now and, you know, it's causing real
26 big problem.

27

28 Patty, please.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Mr. Burn. When's the next regulatory review for the
32 sea otters regulations.

33

34 MR. BURN: There really isn't any
35 scheduled regulatory review. The Marine Mammal
36 Protection Act was last reauthorized in 1994 for a
37 period of four years so it's up for reauthorization in
38 1998. There -- I think at least two different
39 Congresses have held hearings on amending and
40 reauthorizing the Act. One of the amendments that is
41 in the package that the Fish and Wildlife Service or
42 Department of Interior had put together was to allow
43 for harvest management prior to depletion. One of the
44 things about the way the Act is written now is that the
45 Federal government can't regulate harvest until the
46 population has become -- the term is depleted, it's
47 below a certain threshold level. So basically you
48 can't manage until a problem is detected. And so this
49 amendment is to allow for some management prior to that
50 point and a more proactive approach. For example in

1 Southeast Alaska we think there's probably about 10,500
2 sea otters from the last survey which again was some
3 years ago, there's probably more than that now. And
4 then when you -- we do the stock assessment reports
5 periodically that estimate something called potential
6 biological removal. What that is the level that you
7 think the population -- that can be removed from the
8 population without driving it below that depletion
9 level. And so I think the potential biological removal
10 for Southeast Alaska is close to 1,000 sea otters. But
11 according to our tagging program where we tag the hide,
12 I think the harvest from Southeast Alaska has been
13 maybe between three to 400 otters per year over the
14 last decade or so. So, you know, there's the potential
15 that the harvest could be larger without driving the
16 population to depletion, but I think this gets back to
17 some of the points that Jack and Michael have been
18 saying is that if there's no demand for the hides, no
19 market or not enough demand for the handicraft items,
20 that seems to be a bottleneck.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And did I hear you say
23 that a management scheme will jerk in when you get a
24 population threshold that goes down below a certain
25 amount, what about when you get too many?

26

27 MR. BURN: The Marine Mammal Protection
28 Act doesn't say anything about that. It basically says
29 that the populations are -- you want to maintain the
30 populations above that level, but it doesn't say where
31 above that level.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Very interesting.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Patty.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Mr. Burn. Would this -- the reauthorization and the
41 recommendation to add a harvest management plan prior
42 to depletion allow for the relaxation of regulations to
43 allow, you know, more marketing options for the pelts,
44 would that.....

45

46 MR. BURN: I don't believe.....

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS:would that
49 provision.....

50

1 MR. BURN:I don't believe that's
2 been a part of the -- I don't believe that's been a
3 part of the amendment package in the past.

4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: I think we should make a
10 recommendation that -- you know, that regulations be
11 relaxed to allow, you know, the selling of sea otter
12 parts -- pelts to be expanded from not only -- you
13 know, not just Alaska Native to Alaska Native, but as
14 Mr. Douville was, you know, giving an example of
15 expanding that market to other areas with a -- you
16 know, with a tag -- a harvest tag that provides that.
17 I'm not sure how to say it. Am I getting my point
18 across?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Clearly. And I think
21 you're right, I think we need to maybe come up with
22 some kind of recommendation. And I would entertain a
23 motion to that effect right now or if you want to think
24 about it a little bit, we can come up with something
25 later.

26
27 Jack, go ahead.

28
29 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. Thank
30 you. I would suggest that we take some time and maybe
31 look at the Marine Mammal Protection Act and then pick
32 out those points we'd like to change or ask to change
33 and relax and craft something comprehensive to suggest.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a great idea.
38 And, Jack, would you and Patty and maybe Cathy, you
39 know, serve as a committee to do that for us?

40
41 MR. LORRIGAN: I'd be delighted.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And get Floyd involved
44 as well so there'll be four of you. Okay.

45
46 MR. KOOKESH: I decline.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You decline. But
49 anyhow if you can do that for us we do appreciate it.
50

1 Mr. Burn.

2

3 MR. BURN: Mr. Chairman. I think in
4 some of the correspondence that we've had in the last
5 couple of years you had asked about the laws and the
6 regulations and I believe I had sent -- we had sent you
7 the parts of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, but also
8 the parts of the Code of Federal Regulations. But if,
9 you know, you do need that I can help find that
10 information for you again if.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Very good. Thank you.

13

14 MR. BURN:you don't have it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
17 Burn, appreciate it. Very interesting subject.

18

19 MR. BURN: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're going to take a
22 break because the -- if you don't mind, Mr. Haskett.
23 The Cape Fox Dancers has some snacks out there and they
24 would like us to come out and enjoy that. There's also
25 a donation container out there for it, they're raising
26 some money. So why don't we go ahead and take a break.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you
33 everyone. Hope you had a nice little snack, I know
34 it's kind of close to lunch so hopefully we didn't
35 spoil your lunch, but, you know, we needed to support
36 the Cape Fox Dancers in their fund raising activities.
37 So I appreciate that.

38

39 The next person that we want to hear --
40 oh, before we do go any further I know that Patty's
41 going to need some help, you know, with putting these
42 together, the sea otter issue. So I'd like maybe Cathy
43 and Jack, you know, to assist her in that, you know,
44 kind of come up with something that we can use here
45 sometime later during this meeting. So I'd really
46 appreciate that.

47

48 We're lucky to have two biologists on
49 board and you can already tell we can make every use of
50 you that we possibly can. So thank you.

1 Mr. Geoff Haskett, the new district --
2 ranger district for -- is it Fish and Wildlife Service?

3

4 MR. HASKETT: Yeah, it's Fish and
5 Wildlife Service.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
8 Congratulations, sir, and I -- we'll give you some time
9 here to share your thoughts with us.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. HASKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
14 Council Members. My name is Geoff Haskett, I'm the
15 regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service and I'm also on the Federal Subsistence Board
17 so I think it's good for me to be here and hear the
18 discussion that's been going on this morning. I've
19 been in my job for almost a year and a half now and
20 what I've tried to do in the time I've been here is get
21 out to, you know, different RAC meetings, I've been
22 trying to get all over the state and meet with
23 different Native folks. Unfortunately today I would
24 have like to have spent a longer time, I have a
25 doctor's appointment tomorrow morning so I have to
26 leave tonight, so I am able to spend this morning here
27 though and this afternoon get a chance to tour Saxman.
28 I know there's lot of discussions here on the rural
29 status so I would like to get out and just kind of get
30 a sense of that for when I go back and there's
31 discussions at the Board meeting.

32

33 I don't have a long prepared
34 presentation for you all, mostly I want to come and
35 listen and try and educate myself to the issues that
36 are important to you and this morning was very, very
37 interesting, I'm glad I got to do that. Other than --
38 I already mentioned that I've been at this work for 32
39 years so I'm not a novice to it, like I said this is my
40 second time in Alaska. I lived in Anchorage for almost
41 four years in the early '80s, I was really excited to
42 come back.

43

44 One of the major issues that I've been
45 involved in that kind of spreads across everything I
46 work on is subsistence issues whether it's endangered
47 species, whether it's on refuges, whether it's predator
48 control, just everything I ever get involved in has to
49 do with subsistence and clearly that's an area that I'm
50 trying to stay very involved in and get to meet all the

1 different players across the state. So mostly it's a
2 chance for me to come introduce myself, say hello,
3 listen in and thank you for letting me be part of your
4 session. And I don't know if you all have questions
5 for me or not.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Thank you.
8 Thank you, Geoff. I just need to mention too, I forgot
9 to say that you were a member of the Board too. So
10 welcome in that capacity as well.

11
12 I want you to know that this group of
13 people right here, they're really top notch. I mean
14 other RACs, you know, look to Southeast, you know, for
15 leadership when it comes time for that. So I want to,
16 you know, introduce you to these group of people,
17 they're really on top of things and I really appreciate
18 working for them. They provide me with all the
19 information that I need to go to your Board meetings
20 and testify on behalf of Southeast region. So I just
21 want to, you know, give them all a pat on the back
22 while you're here, sir.

23
24 MR. HASKETT: Excellent.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions. Mr.
27 Kitka.

28
29 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Geoff, I just wanted to mention something about what
31 Councilman Floyd Kookesh said to me on the way out this
32 morning. On the way out he saw a sign on the road that
33 said leaving Ketchikan, Saxman one and half miles away.
34 So they're separate community.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
39 Patty.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Thank you for being here, Mr. Haskett. We have been in
43 existence since what, 1994 or longer. And there's been
44 a lot of deliberations at the Southeast Regional
45 Advisory Council level and quite a few of the positions
46 that we've taken, I'm sure many of us would like to
47 reaffirm those positions, especially since there's been
48 a turnover at the Federal Subsistence Board, I don't
49 know how many times. But if you could familiarize
50 yourself with past actions of the Federal Subsistence

1 Board and the position statements of our current Chair,
2 Mr. Adams, and former Chairmen of our RAC, you would
3 find we take a pretty firm position on some of the
4 topics of discussion that come before you and they
5 represent us well.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

MR. HASKETT: No, thank you. I will
10 try and do that. And actually before all the Board
11 meetings, Pete Probasco who you all know for a very
12 long time very well, him and his folks attempt to get
13 me briefed up as well as they can on all the different
14 issues. So they do a real good job of that, if I'm not
15 up on it that's my fault not theirs so I will try and
16 make sure I am up on all the past kind of decisions
17 you've been involved in.

18

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MR. HASKETT: Okay. Now that we know

1 that -- what our position was previously, I don't feel
2 bound by previous positions, but obviously I will --
3 again when this comes up I'll be looking for
4 recommendations from Pete and his folks, but I also
5 like to make up my own mind on things. So I do have
6 the opportunity to go look around this afternoon and
7 kind of get some sense and listen to as much of the
8 discussion as I can so we'll see how I vote when it
9 comes up again.

10

11 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else have any
14 questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Thank you, Mr.
19 Haskett, appreciate you being here.

20

21 MR. HASKETT: No, thank you very much.
22 I really appreciate the opportunity to come. And next
23 time -- like I said I have a doctor's appointment
24 tomorrow I need to be back for, but next time I'll plan
25 to spend a couple days and more time with you all. I
26 really do appreciate the opportunity to be here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, good luck with
29 the doctor. Hope it's nothing serious.

30

31 MR. HASKETT: It's nothing, not a big
32 deal.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

35

36 MS. HASKETT: Just something I need to
37 be there for.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

40

41 MR. HASKETT: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need you here for a
44 while.

45

46 MR. HASKETT: Right. That would be
47 good, I would like that too.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you
50 very much. It's 12:00 noon now, we're scheduled to

1 adjourn at 12:15, you know, and then come back at 1:00,
2 but I see Willard Jackson here, he's the Grand Camp
3 president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

4
5 Mr. Jackson, I'd like to invite you up
6 to the mic and make some comments if you would.

7
8 MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much. My
9 name is Willard Jackson, I'm the Grand Camp ANB
10 president, I'm also a TVR for the tribe, a veteran's
11 rep. I'm also a Council member for KIC. I was born
12 and raised in the Village of Saxman. President
13 Wallace, Lee Wallace, good morning, sir.

14
15 I'm here on behalf of the Alaska Native
16 Brotherhood which extends all the way to California in
17 different camps. I'm here on behalf of many villages,
18 rural villages, to include the Organized Village of
19 Saxman. Even though we're two miles from the City of
20 Ketchikan, Ketchikan was a Tlingit Village, it was
21 where my family came from.

22
23 I was at this table a little more than
24 eight years ago where we established a halibut card and
25 some of you were still on the Board. Mike, I
26 appreciate your support. Mr. Kitka was there, Bert was
27 there and I believe Merle. Merle Hawkins is a great
28 supporter of subsistence as we sit and wait patiently
29 for the herring spawn that's coming up in the Sitka
30 area and the herring spawn that's been depleted south
31 of here in Foggy Bay which was once under the ownership
32 of the Organized Village of Saxman (in Tlingit), it's
33 no longer being fished anymore because of being fished
34 out. There are other areas within our region here in
35 the Saxman area, we're holding on and squeezing onto
36 Bostwick which is being used by Saxman, Ketchikan and
37 Metlakatla. It's the only subsistence area that we
38 have today other than what Bill Thomas used to say, I'm
39 going to have to pull out my gunnysack and go supply
40 and get food for my family.

41
42 To my brothers behind me from the many
43 other agencies, the men and women of power that are
44 sitting behind me, you hold the laws in your hand what
45 today in 2010 with the recession that the world, the
46 United States is in, today I feed a family of 15, those
47 are my grandchildren and my children. It doesn't mean
48 they're living at my house, they come to eat. And
49 that's what we're looking at today is when the tide is
50 out our table is set, we feed our people from there to

1 the woods. And the Unuk River was one of them to where
2 the (in Tlingit), the house you're sitting in today
3 originated out of, the (in Tlingit), the brown bear,
4 came out of that same area. I shared that same story
5 to you folks eight years ago or longer which gave us
6 that little green card to do our fishing for halibut
7 and I really appreciate that.

8

9 I think with everything that's
10 happening today and I'm glad it's happening in the
11 Village of Saxman, as a Council person I've always
12 supported Saxman on their subsistence and their way of
13 life. They're a small village, they're a village that
14 moved here in early 1892 along with the Tongass Tribe,
15 the Teikweidi and the (In Tlingit). If you travel
16 through this village you're going to see the history on
17 the posts, if you happen to go down to where President
18 Wallace has his office you're going to find an old
19 school building. That school building was put there in
20 the late 1800s and early 1900s when our people were
21 through moving and migrating into the Ketchikan area.

22

23 Saxman wasn't labeled at the time until
24 the missing of William Saxman in the late 1800s. It
25 established Saxman -- when that building went up it was
26 a church and it was placed there by Sheldon Jackson and
27 was the school. And when that building was put up the
28 Kixksaidees, the (in Tlingit) built their houses around
29 it so our people could get educated and be where we're
30 at today.

31

32 Life today is not the same as it used
33 to be 40 or 50 years ago, but there are a lot of us in
34 this building live off our traditional land and uses
35 and some of my brothers and sisters are sitting at this
36 table. And we utilize that to the best of our ability.

37

38 Gunalcheesh. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh,
41 Willard. We appreciate you being here. Does anyone
42 have a question of Willard.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Glad you're
47 here.

48

49 We're going to be picking up the
50 discussion of Saxman and Ketchikan this afternoon. And

1 we're going to develop something that will be a little
2 bit stronger in support of your rural determination for
3 both Saxman and Ketchikan. So if you're able to be
4 here, you know, we would encourage you to be here.

5
6 Let me see, where are we on the agenda.
7 Council member reports. We're scheduled to, you know,
8 break for lunch at 12:15 so why don't we just go ahead
9 and, you know, start that and if we need to we can
10 finish up after lunch.

11
12 Let's start with Mr. Bangs. Okay.

13
14 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Petersburg is -- well, we're all -- I think the whole
16 region's real thankful for the mild winter to allow for
17 the deer to rebound. That was a concern the last
18 couple years and it seems like this is a good start for
19 rehabilitation of those stocks.

20
21 One of the concerns that was mentioned
22 a little bit earlier in correspondence was the
23 interception of king salmon. And a big concern with
24 the local people in Petersburg and I'm sure elsewhere
25 is the -- not only king salmon are being intercepted,
26 but halibut is -- are being intercepted in large
27 quantities and we're trying to figure out, you know,
28 what -- how to mitigate that and work towards a
29 solution that doesn't economically hurt the draggers
30 and all the different people that are intercepting
31 them.

32
33 Another issue that came to the people
34 in the region was the change in the antler
35 restrictions, everyone was real thrilled about being
36 able to get two bow-tine moose, but there was concern
37 and I think there still is a apprehension about what
38 will happen to the population. So that's been a --
39 quite a bit of discussion talking about the moose
40 population. We're hoping that we can keep an eye on it
41 and maybe do some changes if there is going to be a
42 problem, catch it before it happens.

43
44 And once again the sea otters, you
45 know, have become a topic, more and more so. They're
46 getting real close to town, they're -- you know, the
47 Dungeness grounds are being gobbled up and it -- the
48 subsistence users, the commercial fleet, are all
49 getting compressed. And that's going to be something
50 that's not going to go away real soon I don't think.

1 But other than that I think everything
2 is going real well. We're kind of concerned with the
3 light snowfall that there might not be the runoff that
4 we need this summer if have a dry summer so that's
5 something that we're going to have to keep -- you know,
6 just hope that we get some more snow maybe up high and
7 a little more rain. And that's about all I have.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
12 The other Michael.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Congratulations on being reelected, we appreciate what
16 you do for us.

17

18 Unit 2 deer seem to be healthy. I have
19 some concerns which we will discuss about the force of
20 the free use permit for timber. It seems that the
21 Tongass is not exempt from the roadless as of October
22 it was explained to me and that created some issues
23 with that permitting system.

24

25 The other issue is Unit 2 has a
26 Sealaska land bill which will change some things, but
27 one thing that nobody mentioned is Mental Health also
28 wants 50,000 acres on Prince of Wales in exchange for
29 lands that they own around Ketchikan, Wrangell,
30 Petersburg and so on.

31

32 And the other thing that I will be
33 watching closely this year is we've had no spawn on
34 Fish Egg Island for three years, it'll be interesting
35 to see what happens this year. And while we can't
36 address it, it is of concern.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.
41 Jack, just for your information we -- each council
42 member has an opportunity at this time, you know, to
43 talk about issues in their communities and their areas.
44 So, you know, if you have anything to share with us,
45 please do.

46

47 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 And actually I do. I hold a subsistence seat for the
49 Sitka Advisory Council in Sitka. I went to the Board
50 of Game meeting in Anchorage in February and had a good

1 talk with Mr. Littlefield, a former member of this
2 body, and what I want to bring to your attention -- is
3 Mr. Barton here?

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He'll be here in the
6 morning.

7
8 MR. LORRIGAN: Okay. I'm going to
9 steal a little bit of his thunder, I think.

10
11 What I want to bring to your attention
12 is that the Board of Game at the direction of the
13 Supreme Court for Freedom of Religion, recently passed
14 this new funerary and potlatch for religious ceremonies
15 law. And basically what we have here is the new
16 reading. The bold is the new language, the all caps is
17 the removed language. And -- yeah, so with that I'd
18 like to point out that the Department has found that we
19 had big game replaced with game since certain cultures
20 use beaver or porcupine or what have you for a funeral
21 potlatch. And then at John's request because the
22 original law had tribal chief or village council
23 president, our cultural structure in Southeast is
24 through the clans, and the clan leaders and Native
25 heads of family be inserted to make sure that it
26 complied with our tribal structures down here. And I
27 have copies for the public and the tribes and the ACs
28 here too if you want to take a look at that, I'll put
29 it out on that table. But basically what it's saying
30 is that when somebody dies that we have the right to go
31 and harvest game for the funeral that don't -- it's not
32 a subsistence take.

33
34 The tribe -- there was a workgroup --
35 there was a heated discussion between the different
36 villages around Anchorage because there's a lot of
37 competition for those moose that are used for these
38 ceremonies. But it extends throughout all of Alaska.
39 And I thought that this body should be aware that
40 people now have the ability to go out and get game in
41 honor of the deceased in a manner that's befitting the
42 deceased. It's to allow them to hunt in their name,
43 honor and memory. And everybody was pretty happy with
44 it the way it came out and the Board of Game, you know,
45 were more of less compelled to do this because of the
46 Supreme Court ruling. And they had a list of findings
47 which I didn't have copied off, if you'd like that I
48 could give that to you too, but I think this -- this is
49 a step in the right direction as far as the State's
50 concerned and it's also something like I'd like to use

1 to address the -- on what of the proposals that address
2 cultural education camps. So I'll talk to that then,
3 but that's for your consideration.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jack. We
8 really appreciate that. That is a step in the right
9 direction so thanks for sharing that with us.

10

11 Patty.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 We -- you know, winter came in like a lamb and is
15 leaving like a lion. We actually started out with a
16 really cold winter, probably hovering around zero and
17 the ice came down the inlet further and about a foot
18 thick all the way to the islands in front of town. And
19 so the people up at Phonograph Area got iced in and
20 didn't get to get out of there for about 10 days. And
21 so if you -- if you ran the ice edge you got to see the
22 seals and the sea otters hauled out and basking on the
23 ice. And we actually had skim ice in front of town all
24 the way down to almost Lisianski Straits. So it's been
25 a long time since the ice had iced over the inlet that
26 much. And we've had -- we had a fairly mild winter
27 after that really cold spell and even the skunk cabbage
28 and the blueberry buds were starting to come out and
29 then we about three weeks ago -- about two weeks the
30 snow started and started piling up. And I'm hoping we
31 have blueberries this year after all the snow we've
32 had.

33

34 The fishermen -- the trollers are
35 noticing a healthy run of capelin that comes in usually
36 in February and it brings the king salmon in closer to
37 town, they're feeding on the capelin. And I noticed
38 there's more murrelets in the inlet when the capelin --
39 capelin, whatever, show up and so we have a good -- you
40 know, we usually have a fairly good king salmon showing
41 this time of year.

42

43 We had a moose that was documented in
44 our area this last summer and it traveled through over
45 to Hoonah Sound in -- what is that, that movie website,
46 what is that called, U-Tube, in U-Tube you can see
47 pictures of the moose that went through our area. It
48 was a nice big moose with a big rack.

49

50 Our deer are definitely depleted and --

1 but I'm seeing good doe and fawn recruitment and it's
2 harder to get a buck for sure, but you get lucky now
3 and then and you get a buck.

4
5 So, you know, we -- there's still the
6 -- you know, I've brought this up at previous meetings
7 and I notice Mr. Hernandez brought it up at our last
8 meeting, but there's still the concern about residency,
9 you know, what is a resident, who qualifies for
10 subsistence, to be able to go subsistence hunt or fish
11 and, you know, the criteria to subsistence harvest
12 wildlife or fish is 12 consecutive months which is a
13 total definition then what, you know, you're eligible
14 as a registered voter, if you want to be a voter
15 registered in Pelican you only need to live in Pelican
16 for 30 days. So we have people who live elsewhere for
17 11 months of the year, but they're registered voters in
18 Pelican who can -- who think they're residents of our
19 community and have -- should enjoy the same rights as
20 those of us who live there day in and day out, 12
21 months of the year, 24/7. And we're looking at them
22 going why are they able to do that, they don't -- you
23 know, they don't meet the criteria. But we're a people
24 who like to share especially with those in need, but,
25 you know, those that only in Pelican two weeks a year,
26 we're their second or third home, they're not
27 necessarily in need as, you know, someone like from
28 another adjoining community that might come over to our
29 area to hunt or fish. So anyways, I think like Mr.
30 Hernandez says, that's one of the things that we need
31 to button up or get squared away.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. I
36 think we're going to take our lunch break now. I know
37 that there is some Council members who want to go into
38 town and cash their per diem checks. Dinner is --
39 lunch is scheduled for 12:30 so, Melinda, do you have
40 transportation into town? Okay, you do.

41
42 So we'll go ahead and adjourn and be
43 back here by 1:00 o'clock, please -- quarter after
44 1:00.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, good afternoon,

1 folks. We're back in session now. I trust you all had
2 a nice lunch and went out there and supported the
3 cause. We appreciate the opportunity to do that
4 whenever we can.

5
6 We're still on the Council member
7 reports and we left off with Patty so, Mr. Frank
8 Wright, you're next, please.

9
10 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 First off I'd like to thank the cooks, no disrespect,
12 but almost as good as my mom's. The deer stew was
13 excellent. Gunalcheesh.

14
15 We're still having a deer problem
16 within our area, you know. I know a lot of hunters
17 always talk to me about well, there's a lot of does.
18 One guy told me, he said well, there's -- I saw a lot
19 of does from Crisp Point to Eagle Point and I told him,
20 I said well, the reason why the deer are there is
21 because there's no forest behind them, just a little
22 buffer strip, that's the reason why they're on the
23 beach. So a lot of people are complaining because we
24 -- they still couldn't shoot does this winter. And one
25 of them -- one of them was my nephew, you know, he
26 keeps telling me that and I just well, the sign says
27 this and we can't be doing what we don't want -- what
28 our people have never done before is deplete a
29 resource. So that's -- I'm hoping that this mild
30 winter makes a big difference in what's going to be
31 coming for us in the future because with the economy
32 the way it is in Hoonah, it's -- we definitely need
33 some meat in our meat lockers so that people can eat
34 good again. So the deer issue in Hoonah.

35
36 And one issue that came up about the
37 deer was that, you know, there was a -- we were talking
38 residency. You know I was on a ferry coming over from
39 Juneau to Hoonah and there was people that live in
40 Juneau now and bring -- come over to Hoonah to hunt.
41 And I'm saying man, there's a lot of people that live
42 in Juneau that come over to Hoonah because most of
43 Hoonah moved over to Juneau, I think. But, you know,
44 you talk about residency and hunting and I didn't say
45 anything because I just -- traditionally that's what
46 they are.

47
48 We'll always come back to the sea
49 otter, you know, because there's got to be a solution,
50 there's got to be because, you know, our resources

1 that, you know, we all say when the tide goes down our
2 food locker opens up. Because if you think about it
3 our people live off the land, live off the water, go
4 down to the beach and feed yourself. So we -- you
5 know, and if the sea otter's going to deplete
6 everything that, you know, even if our -- I'm worried
7 about our subsistence area for the crab, dunge crab,
8 when you see them out by Hoonah Island, you see a sea
9 otter out there and right by Hoonah Island there's -- I
10 mean, Hoonah Island, Halibut Island, there's -- I
11 always put my Dunge pots there, try to catch some. So
12 you know that they're getting too close for comfort.
13 And right around Crisp Point, right by Gallagher Flats
14 I used to catch -- get dungen there and you know the
15 sea otters are there. So there's got to be -- this co-
16 management of this animal is put in place and we
17 certainly got to do it quick because we can't be hoping
18 it's going to go away because it's not going to go
19 away. You know when I was a kid we used to fish out in
20 Indian Islands and I've never seen this -- I never saw
21 a sea otter. When they closed the Indian Islands out
22 in -- down in 1976 and I didn't even know what a sea
23 otter looked like. You know that's -- you know, then
24 all of a sudden they're like an infestation of the --
25 of our area and our resources are just getting depleted
26 because of it. So I hope when we come up with some
27 kind of solution for this predators.

28

29 You know when I was in -- when I went
30 to Hawaii this fall, you know, the tourists were
31 looking at whales and my wife says there's a whale over
32 there. And I says I don't want to look at no sticking
33 whale. Whales are -- you know, day before yesterday I
34 was talking to a guy that works, you know, I guess you
35 call NCR, some hatcheries, fisheries, he was talking
36 about it seems like the whales know exactly when
37 there's going to be a release. So when I'm fishing and
38 you see 20 whales coming down the way and you know the
39 little salmon are coming out of the rivers. And you
40 know those whales are feeding on something. Those
41 little salmons got to be getting in the way. So we
42 wonder why our salmon fishery is getting bad, maybe
43 there's a reason, the increase in whales in our area is
44 just leaps and bounds, I mean, it's like I can't even
45 make a purse seine set without a whale coming into my
46 seine. I mean it's getting to a point where, you know,
47 you watch for them and last year I was just -- I made a
48 set and all of a sudden there was six whales in the
49 middle of my seine. And I watched them and I said oh,
50 going down too close to the seine, put a -- put about a

1 10 fathom rip in my seine. So you know whales are
2 there when the salmon, little baby salmon, are coming
3 out of the rivers. So they got to be feeding on
4 something so I'm thinking I want to start a whale hunt.
5 No.

6
7 Sea lions, they certainly are not
8 endangered within our area. I can't even throw a
9 herring overboard to go trolling without a sea lion
10 following me. They know what's going on. I mean
11 they're just all over the place. You got -- I think it
12 was last spring, I don't know if I brought this up, but
13 I -- my wife and I went trolling, throw two herring
14 over, went trolling and then what the heck there's two
15 sea lions following me in the back. So I pulled my
16 lines up and left, went about 10 miles further up,
17 threw my herring overboard, there's another sea lion
18 following me around. So they certainly are starting to
19 become a pest. To me they are anyway because I just --
20 I'm sure that power trollers are feeling the same way
21 because we got his humongous mammal that just tears
22 fish away when people are trying to make a living.

23
24 Well, that's about all I have, I guess,
25 because we have a lot of issues that we're going to be
26 dealing with, you know, seems like I'm dealing mostly
27 -- thinking on mammals, but it's part of it.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Frank. I'd
32 have to say that was a whale of a story.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka, next.

37
38 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
39 problems we have in Sitka basically is -- will always
40 be the herring until we come to some understanding with
41 the State and the fishermen. I tried last year to
42 attend more of the AC meetings and when they closed
43 down this spring I -- or in the summer I never got to
44 make it back because personal things happened within
45 the family so I couldn't attend. So I -- I'm afraid I
46 don't really have a whole lot other than the herring
47 and probably what I have is the herring and the sea
48 otter which is an ongoing thing within the Sitka Sound.

49
50 I know I talked with some of the

1 hatchery people that are in the hatchery business and
2 they did tell me that the whales are starting to time
3 the release of the little salmon. The increase of
4 whales within Sitka Sound has increased dramatically
5 over the last five years. We have had almost 28 whales
6 that stayed year round and the effects of that is going
7 to be -- we'll have to look at down the line.

8

9 And that's about all I have to say at
10 this point. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
13 Most of my report I gave, you know, during the
14 Chairman's report, but there's a couple, three other
15 things that I'd like to address. I failed to mention
16 that there's some documents that I sent to the Council
17 as well in regards to what actions we did in the
18 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. I
19 want to thank the Council for, you know, appointing me
20 to serve on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
21 Commission. For Jack and Cathy's, you know,
22 information, this Commission is comprised of nine
23 people, three are appointed by the Secretary of
24 Interior, three by the Governor and three by the
25 Regional Advisory Councils. And this Council has seen
26 fit that I would represent them, you know, on that
27 body. Ever since I became a member of this Council and
28 it's been quite an experience to also Chair both of
29 these organizations. So and the reason why that I'm
30 Chairing the Resource Commission is because I grew up,
31 you know, in the ANB and how to conduct meetings,
32 parliamentary procedure and all that, you know, and so
33 they needed that there. And so that's why I've been
34 serving in that capacity. But I did submit some
35 letters and a report on what we had done so that's
36 there for your review. Robert has forwarded those to
37 you when I submitted them.

38

39 We dealt with things like in the
40 Wrangell-St. Elias, some of the things that come to
41 mind, trespass is a real big issue. Wrangell-St. Elias
42 has -- is a real big -- it's about 13 million acres,
43 it's the largest national park service and preserve in
44 the country. And within it there are all these
45 different, you know, land user groups. And one of the
46 problems that is being hard to deal with there was the
47 trespass issue because many of the corporations like
48 AETNA, for instance, you know, has land in that area.
49 And we have hunters and fishers that come into that
50 area, you know, to do hunting and fishing and they'll

1 squat on those private properties. And they're not
2 left in very good condition after they're gone. And so
3 because it is private property it's a State issue and
4 the State doesn't have enough enforcement, you know, to
5 take care of this issue. So it's a real big issue.

6
7 And I suppose some of the other SRCs
8 are experiencing the same problems. User conflict is
9 really another big discussion where we have all of
10 these different user groups, you know, trying to
11 compete for the same resources and everything. And so
12 that's another big issue that we've been talking about.

13
14 Firewood, use of chainsaws in the Park.
15 Some people complain that it causes too much noise and
16 so they want, you know, a little bit of peace and quiet
17 out there when they're out camping and so forth, but
18 that's a real touchy one.

19
20 But those are some of the issues, you
21 know, that I think -- you know, I can think of right
22 now from the top of my head. There are a whole host of
23 other things, but those are some that I think that are
24 pretty significant.

25
26 In the Yakutat area we are experiencing
27 much of the same things that you guys are all
28 complaining about, the sea otters, you know, the deer.
29 I'm really -- I hope we can hear from -- or we will be
30 hearing from -- Susan Oehlers here just in a little bit
31 about what the deer situation in Yakutat is. I know
32 when the snows are really low, you know, the chances of
33 deer increasing is pretty good. Our winter in Yakutat
34 was fairly good for most of the time until like Patty
35 says about two weeks ago, we got a tremendous amount of
36 snow, but I don't think it affected, you know, the deer
37 population very much. That still remains to be seen,
38 but I feel pretty confident about that.

39
40 They're presently doing some moose
41 surveys. Hopefully we'll hear, you know, how that's
42 going. Is it Neil that's going to come in tomorrow or
43 -- okay.

44
45 And the thing that we have always been
46 conscious of is the eulachons. If you remember six or
47 seven years ago, you know, Unuk River has -- was closed
48 off because the returns just weren't healthy and almost
49 went down to nothing. And so the Council has been
50 really cognizant of the pattern that might be moving up

1 the coast. And I have been particularly interested in
2 the Situk River because in the past three, four, maybe
3 -- yeah, about the last three or four years we have
4 seen the eulachons just almost go down to nothing
5 there. It's accessed by road and it's a lot easy --
6 it's pretty easy for the people to go out -- drive out
7 to the Situk River and get their supply of eulachon,
8 but we haven't been able to do that over the years.

9
10 And I had the privilege of being
11 invited by Susan to go on some flight trips. As you
12 know, last year -- in our last Council meeting in
13 Yakutat there was a proposal that had been approved for
14 the next four years to do some seal -- I mean, eulachon
15 surveys all the way down from Coho Creek to Dry Bay.
16 There's about 18 rivers that will be surveyed over the
17 next four years. And this has been the first year.
18 And so I had an opportunity to go last Friday, we got
19 as far as Upper Ahrnklin and did see evidence of sea
20 gulls, you know, on the Ahrnklin side of the river. We
21 saw evidence of eulachons going in Seal Creek and the
22 weather sopped in on us, minimums was below standards
23 and so we had to turn back and go back home. But
24 hopefully when I get back we'll be able to -- I'll be
25 able to go along with them on a trip or two and
26 actually bring back some eulachons. I'm looking
27 forward to that.

28
29 Let me see, that's about all that I
30 have at this point. So we'll turn the time over to Mr.
31 Kookesh.

32
33 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 And before we begin I wanted to recognize Lee for all
35 the work he did with us, I was actually starting to
36 feel bad because I had hoped that we would have
37 continued to have people like Lee sit on our Council.
38 And with him being replaced, I really wish we would
39 have did a better way of honoring him as he moved on to
40 brighter and better things hopefully. But also I want
41 to make sure to welcome the new Council members, I'm
42 willing to work with you too. So just because Lee's
43 gone doesn't mean that our work stops.

44
45 I've been representing Angoon for over
46 10 years now and I have a lot of -- I take a lot of
47 pride in the fact of what I've done for our community
48 and what I continue to do. I think often times a
49 discussion comes up that I'm not Angoon's
50 representative anymore, but when I go home which I do

1 four months out of the year at least to hunt and fish,
2 I'm welcomed back there and I always listen. I know
3 what the issues are in our community and it slightly
4 bothers me that people think I'm from Juneau. But I
5 also say that even though I'm from Juneau I'm still
6 there to represent the needs of Juneau because the
7 residents I represent in Angoon are also living in
8 Juneau or moving to Juneau, to the urban areas.

9
10 My brother Matt and I, for those of you
11 that don't know this, have our names in the hat for
12 Federal Subsistence Board Chair. We've done the
13 interviews and we want to see how this process works or
14 plays out. We do have a question as to how the short
15 list is going to be determined and who's going to be
16 doing the interviewing and what the criteria is going
17 to be for the selection. I believe those are all very
18 valid questions that we all should be aware of or
19 should be asking because we can't let this process just
20 be treated as a Chair got picked, it needs to be a
21 really good process and should have been done over a
22 month ago, the selection. But we are there, we did
23 throw our name in there, and we want to see this
24 process be done right. My brother and I we have the
25 hearts of the communities when we're -- in this
26 process. Like I said I've been here over 10 years and
27 I enjoy what I am doing even though we do have our
28 differences, at least I walk away from this knowing
29 that I -- after this is over my work is never over, I
30 continue to do subsistence regardless.

31
32 And to go to that part of the
33 discussion is Central Council offered me a position
34 with them to work under subsistence and sustainable
35 development coordinator -- as a coordinator for them.
36 And to me this was just another step to helping making
37 sure that our subsistence issues are there and that
38 they receive consideration and we accomplish something.
39 When I was listening to the discussion I kind of was
40 thinking maybe I should have recorded my last year's
41 discussion or six months ago because it almost mirrors
42 this, it's like we keep coming back and discussing the
43 same issues, we're not -- we don't seem to make as
44 much progress as I'd like to see. I do know though
45 that in the 10 years that I've been doing this, we are
46 discussing more issues such as sea otter, sea lions and
47 possibly like mariculture, oyster farming, is going to
48 be issues we're going to start discussing here.

49
50 And like I said I am an employee of

1 Central Council, I am there to serve the unfortunate
2 part of that whole process is we don't have enough
3 money for subsistence. I view myself as a -- as like a
4 one man army, it almost amounts to that. Bert was
5 telling us that he had a \$1,200 budget for subsistence.
6 Well, in viewing that and looking at subsistence from
7 the Central Council point of view, under the compact we
8 have 36,000 for the tribe. What needs to be
9 accomplished is the tribes need to start buying into
10 subsistence. As my daughter -- my oldest daughter
11 asked me what I was going to do on subsistence, what's
12 going to happen. And I told her that subsistence needs
13 to grow up and we need to grow up right along with it.
14 The tribes need to step up to the plate. We can't talk
15 about how much subsistence means to us and not put our
16 money where our mouths are. That's what I'd like to
17 see us do as a people because I know that I don't have
18 the State of Alaska's subsistence department/division
19 working for me, we just have one person and that's not
20 right, one person representing 27,000 Natives.
21 Something has to change and hopefully it will change at
22 our next tribal assembly which is coming up.

23
24 On the issues for our communities, one
25 of the things I've always talked about is being a
26 representative for the region and I know that when we
27 talk about subsistence and we're talking about some of
28 the issues that keep coming up to me is the issue of
29 citations. The fact that Albert Kookesh was cited, my
30 brother. The issue comes up. What we did at our last
31 Native Issues Forum in June with the Governor, we asked
32 the Governor if he'd grant amnesty until the Federal
33 review is actually done, to take a positive approach
34 and look at this issue the right way. We don't believe
35 that it -- that that's going to occur. That what we'd
36 like to do from this point on is we have a gentleman by
37 the name of Johnny Muller who is going to be
38 representing the Governor's office, he's the special
39 assistant to the Governor on rural affairs, I believe
40 they call him the rural affairs advisor. He's going to
41 be doing Native issues this week. And the question to
42 Johnny Muller was following the first discussion we had
43 with the Governor two weeks ago is that a letter came
44 out with the Governor on his position on subsistence.
45 And the Governor's position, he asked that the new
46 Federal Subsistence Chair should be a unbiased person
47 when it comes to Native -- when it comes to subsistence
48 or game management. So what Angoon has done is they've
49 taken and crafted a letter along with Kootznoowoo to
50 Salazar and saying in part of the letter that if the

1 Governor's going to take a position of asking for an
2 unbiased chair for Federal subsistence, then we'd like
3 him to put that practice into his own administration,
4 to allow that test to occur that if we're going to do
5 it, then the State of Alaska should be doing it. So
6 that's the letter going out, I believe the letter went
7 out yesterday to Salazar on subsistence.

8

9 And on the Unit 4 deer we had a very
10 mild winter, in fact, I had the opportunity to go back
11 home and we got 12 in two days. So I didn't see us
12 having a deer problem out there at this stage. But the
13 mild -- thankfully for the mild winter we are probably
14 going to have a really good deer population out there.
15 And hopefully Hoonah will also.

16

17 Like I said I could have turned -- we
18 could have turned the tape on because the issues of sea
19 otter and sea lions keeps coming up. We need to
20 address it. We shouldn't have to -- as I said before,
21 we shouldn't have to be studying these issues until we
22 know everything about them without -- and have nothing
23 left. Because I remember telling Bert Adams one time,
24 I said, you know, if we continue to study this, I said
25 I hate to sit here and have to talk and say remember
26 when. I don't want our -- I don't want the resource to
27 come to that point where we're sitting here and saying
28 remember when, you know, we used to get crab here, we
29 used to get --we need to not allow that to occur. And
30 hopefully we'll fix that.

31

32 On the Sealaska bill, I know that
33 there's some strong opposition to it, communities like
34 Petersburg and communities all around Prince of Wales
35 Island had opposed it. And it was real unfortunate
36 that in my following the process legislatively, even
37 going up on Capital Hill and testifying, is that when
38 you read the blogs it's very disheartening to know that
39 under the blogs we've allowed people the opportunity to
40 really tear up the Sealaska issue. And when I went to
41 testify I went there with the idea that all of these
42 bloggers would be there and this adds to their
43 credibility for all of you here, is when I went and
44 testified on the Sealaska lands bill up at Capital
45 Hill, not one blogger was up there. They all talk
46 tough and we let that information get to us through the
47 blogging system. Hopefully we can do something with
48 the blogging system and just eliminate it because if
49 you have something to say, like I always say, get the
50 hell up the Hill and quit talking, you know, talking in

1 this forum that is very damaging to us. It makes one
2 feel very bad about the issue.

3
4 And on the issue of the Federal review,
5 I believe Angoon welcomes the Federal review. We're
6 hoping that the idea that when we have a fix that it's
7 a real fix and not just a superficial fix, that
8 something actually comes out of it, where we benefit,
9 where we're not criminals in our own fathers -- in our
10 own grandfathers' land.

11
12 I was speaking to -- one of the -- a
13 gentleman by the name of Glenn Hate (ph), says they're
14 forming a Juneau Fisheries Committee and had asked me
15 if I'd like to sit on it. And I said I'd be happy to
16 sit on it because I told him that we have issues out
17 there -- I sent him an email, we have issues on the
18 regulations that surround the urban area. I told him
19 that's because when you come from the rural areas, I
20 told him you -- that doesn't make us automatically
21 spaghetti eaters. We're bringing with you our way of
22 life. And the Juneau -- hopefully this Juneau
23 Fisheries Committee recognizes that we shouldn't --
24 that we need to address the regulations so we don't
25 have to go 40 miles to drop a halibut skate for
26 subsistence. That we could be able to fish right in
27 our own backyards like how we did when we lived in our
28 rural communities. The regulations shouldn't be such
29 that we're criminals, it needs to work for us. We're
30 still the same people when we came out of those
31 communities. Just because we choose Juneau doesn't
32 mean that we've changed, it just means that we've
33 relocated, but our needs are still the same.

34
35 I also have, Mr. Chairman, in closing.
36 I sit on the Southeast Salmon Mitigation Advisory Panel
37 which is -- works with the State of Alaska in
38 determining where \$7.5 million is going to go to in
39 Southeast. And a lot of our discussion has been
40 focusing on should 100 percent of the money go to
41 compensate the fishermen directly or should it be
42 broken out into marketing and research and
43 infrastructure development like cold storage and ice
44 units and, you know, like I said hatcheries that make
45 -- giving infrastructure to develop hatcheries so that
46 they can go and produce more salmon. So I sit in
47 there, I don't have the -- I didn't pencil in the
48 percentages, but I do know that 20 percent goes for
49 infrastructure and 20 percent is for compensation for
50 the fishermen.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.

4 Kookesh. Merle.

5

6 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 And congratulations on being re-elected as the Chair

8 and congratulations to Michael and to our new Committee

9 members. And I'd like to publicly thank Lee Wallace

10 for his years of service on this Board.

11

12 For myself I'm worried that -- about

13 our herring eggs because I know Sitka sent out a letter

14 asking for financial support from tribes and other

15 people, our local Ketchikan Tlingit and Haida chapter

16 did vote to send \$500 for that and that's a good thing

17 because as we all know that's our last big herring

18 place in Southeast Alaska. And I just heard recently

19 that the Board of Fisheries increased the sac roe

20 harvest quota so it's like -- that's the bottom of our

21 foodchain and we've seen throughout Southeast the

22 herring fishing go away as we've seen the eulachon

23 fishery go away. So I still have a lot of concern and

24 so we're there to support Sitka Tribe in their

25 protecting that last important customary and

26 traditional herring egg harvest.

27

28 And also as far as halibut goes it's

29 the same thing, here in Ketchikan you have to travel so

30 far to do a subsistence halibut fishery. So we have to

31 depend on people that go out and bring the food back

32 and we give them gas money to help them get out there

33 and do that. Like I said I was lucky enough to get a

34 yearly bucket of clams and they came from Point

35 Davidson, Annette Island so probably some of the and

36 best clams in the world. So I really enjoyed that.

37

38 Glad to hear that Saxman has an

39 Advisory Committee and I've encouraged other leaders --

40 tribal leaders in the community get involved in the

41 Boards that actually make decisions and make

42 recommendations.

43

44 I'm also on the Forest Service Regional

45 Advisory Council where we decide what projects we're

46 going to fund. The new Ward Lake Shelter was an

47 example and with all this stimulus money we have a pot

48 of money there to work with. So I like to be on the

49 Boards that make decisions.

50

1 I recently with to the Tongass Futures
2 Roundtable meeting in Juneau, representing Ketchikan
3 Tlingit and Haida delegates. This probably reminds me
4 of this meeting, it's very frustrating to sit there for
5 days and try to come to compromises, the environmental
6 groups just don't know what balance is.

7
8 So also Sealaska, the Chair -- the
9 Committee Chair for the House of Congress was here on
10 Thursday so I did go out and testify in support of the
11 Sealaska lands legislation. There was quite a good
12 turnout and so we heard from people on both sides, they
13 spoke about our sacred sites that Sealaska wants to
14 select, just under 300 of them. Here in Southeast
15 Alaska there's more than 900 village and sacred sites,
16 cultural sites that are important to Alaska Natives.
17 So I think for us to ask for just one-third of those is
18 not asking for much at all and certainly willing to
19 compromise. There was comments on both sides so I can
20 discuss that more on the agenda item.

21
22 Next month is the Central Council
23 tribal assembly in Juneau so I'm looking forward to
24 those meetings. Seems like we still have trouble
25 scheduling this meeting because I know there's a
26 conflict with the Board of Fisheries meeting which is
27 in Anchorage, but I think just about anytime we select
28 meeting dates there's going to be conflicts so we can't
29 know what other meetings are going to be meeting at the
30 same time.

31
32 And also it's my understanding that
33 Saxman still has rural status. So Ketchikan and Saxman
34 as of right now are still separate. So that's a good
35 thing and it's going to be a sad day when Saxman loses
36 their rural status and we'll have time on the agenda to
37 discuss that.

38
39 Also when I was in Seattle recently I
40 was down at the public market which I like to walk
41 through and saw some of our beach asparagus there. I
42 don't know where they gather it, but it was \$20 a
43 pound. And I remember being on a fieldtrip with Dr.
44 Esther Shea and she was concerned about me teaching
45 people about our Native foods and how to gather them
46 and I never thought it was any big deal, but now as I
47 look back, you know, there is more demand for different
48 or unique foods. And so I'm glad that I'm on this
49 Board and can remind people that subsistence does have
50 priority.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ms.
4 Hawkins. Ms. Needham, you're next. You've already by
5 now got a pretty good idea of what to talk about
6 hopefully so the time is yours.

7

8 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 I appreciate your patience and the Council's patience
10 as I learn the process and take the time to listen to
11 all of the issues that we're discussing during these
12 meetings.

13

14 I would like to speak on behalf of an
15 organization that I used to work with in my former
16 career. I was the natural resources director for the
17 Organized Village of Kasaan since 2003 and we built a
18 pretty strong natural resources department over those
19 years and have been working on fishery sockeye project
20 for some time. And as the tribe was able to diversify
21 out into working on additional resources, they've, you
22 know, started to really look at all of their
23 subsistence.

24

25 And the issue that I'd like to bring
26 sort of to light, I know some of you are familiar with,
27 is that Dungeness crab in Kasaan Bay have been an
28 important subsistence resource for the Village of
29 Kasaan for many years. And last spring in 2009 the
30 Board of Fish opened a commercial Dungeness crab
31 fishery that has been historically closed because of a
32 conservation concern and also to allow for the harvest
33 of crabs that can be useable during the summer months.
34 And many of you may know tribal council member from the
35 Organized Village of Kasaan, Ron Layton, who is a
36 subsistence user from Saltery Cove which is in Kasaan
37 Bay, has been on the Council for the past year and has
38 been working towards trying to educate many of the
39 local communities about how the -- this fishery's
40 opening has impacted their subsistence harvest. And he
41 kept track over this past summer to find out exactly
42 how much of the resource has been -- how much of it has
43 been impacted in terms of what he has been able to
44 harvest in the past and what he was able to harvest
45 this year and it was significantly lower. And based on
46 the information and his going out there and making sure
47 that, you know, he kept track of the information and
48 how long his sets were and everything like that, the
49 Board of -- he's this week meeting with the Board of
50 Fish on the issue of this opening and how it has

1 impacted them. And hopefully they will get some
2 resolution out of these meetings and be able to close
3 the summer crab fishery again. Dungeness crab is
4 allowable for commercial harvest in the fall. So the
5 -- it's the summer that's impeding the subsistence use.
6

7 As a secondary issue to that, another
8 point is that when they opened the commercial fishery,
9 commercial fishermen set their pots and sort of as a
10 secondary affect those commercial pots were in the way
11 of the Village of Kasaan being able to actually access
12 their traditional sockeye subsistence grounds. So not
13 only was there a direct effect to Dungeness crab as a
14 fishery, but there was also a secondary effect toward
15 access for subsistence in sockeye.
16

17 And so I think if the -- I hope it's an
18 issue that can come to resolution in the near future
19 for them, but I think it's the one thing that I have
20 been working with them on making sure that they are
21 able to continue to be that voice and be able to
22 advocate for their resources that they've used. So
23 hopefully at some point in time if the issue continues
24 we can hear from them directly, from the tribal
25 council.
26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy.
28 Appreciate that. So that's the extent of the comments
29 from the tribal Council members. I do have a request
30 that Willard would like to come back up again. I'll
31 allow it. And then we'll hear some public testimony.
32

33 MR. JACKSON: Gunalcheesh, Mr. Chair.
34 I just wanted to respond to the lunch that we had with
35 the Cape Fox (In Tlingit). My grandfather was from
36 Angoon, Floyd is my tribal brother and the Teikweidi go
37 from Tongass Island clean up in the Yakutat area. We
38 each have our massive area.
39

40 He told me this story, he had gone to a
41 meal just like we went to this afternoon, those eat and
42 gather, some of you had to go in town and take care of
43 some other business. But this old Tlingit man had come
44 to a luncheon just like we were at today and a young
45 lady was bussing the tables brought him his first
46 plate. And every time the old Tlingit man brought his
47 food to his mouth, he cupped his hand under his chin.
48 He completed that plate, she bussed the table again and
49 brought him his desert. And the old Tlingit man
50 continued to eat his meal, feed himself and cup his

1 hand under his chin with his other hand. She cleaned
2 that table and now brought him some tea, but this time
3 she sat right across from him. And her comments to
4 this old Tlingit man was I was overwhelmed by watching
5 you eat your meal. And every time you put your food to
6 your mouth you cupped your chin, your hand under your
7 chin, why would you do that. And the old Tlingit man
8 said I didn't want any of your goodness to fall on the
9 floor.

10

11 To the Cape Fox people, we don't want
12 any of that goodness of fall on the floor.
13 Gunalcheesh.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Willard.
16 Gunalcheesh.

17

18 Okay. We're going to go into public
19 testimony now and I have before us a Mr. Barry Brokken,
20 is he here?

21

22 (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There you go, sir. I
25 understand you're going to testify on all of these
26 proposals here. Would you have a problem with waiting
27 until we come to that part of the agenda, are you going
28 to be here for the duration or would you like to do
29 your testimony now? You can turn that thing on.

30

31 MR. BROKKEN: No, that would be fine.
32 I wasn't sure what forum that particular action would
33 fall under.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You bet. So if it's
36 all right with you we'll take your -- we'll have you
37 come before, you know, just as we hit that part of the
38 agenda.

39

40 MR. BROKKEN: Thank you very much.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Lee
43 Wallace, are you here.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. LARSON: He's driving Geoff Haskett
48 around, he's being a tour guide.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. He's coming in

1 right now. Let's take the next one, Steve Hendershot,
2 are you here.

3

4 Welcome, Steve. Would you please give
5 your name, rank and serial number for the recorder,
6 please.

7

8 MR. HENDERSHOT: Okay. My name is
9 Steve Hendershot, I'm with the Edna Bay AC. We just
10 had a few things that really had some smoking guns
11 firing there. We just had a couple extra -- a few
12 objects that we really felt needed commenting on. And
13 number 1 would be on the acquisition or attempted
14 acquisition of that area out there, Kosciusko, with the
15 new Sealaska bill that's being represented. We really
16 think -- feel that with the way that the roads are set
17 up and the way that -- where they're wanting to use as
18 a long transfer area and other ideas here, really they
19 just split the bay right in half and basically the only
20 way to get to areas where you can subsistence hunt, you
21 need those roads that will become theirs if this thing
22 goes through. And we just felt that it would be better
23 that they stayed within the parameters that were
24 originally spoken for for the assigned lands and it's
25 really, really would have a big impact on us out there
26 for being able to hunt and keep ourselves fed that way.

27

28 There's a couple other things, one of
29 them was just real simple, the lack of information that
30 we were able to get before the meeting about the
31 meeting, I mean, we didn't feel there was a lot of time
32 involved in being able to get it to us where we had
33 time to really hash it over amongst us. It was
34 basically we had a site that we could onto on the
35 computer, but as far as having books, they weren't
36 available. And we felt that maybe in the future if you
37 guys could get it a little bit quicker, get it out to
38 us where we'll have time to have meetings and be able
39 to discuss things and what impact they're going to have
40 on us.

41

42 And I guess a little bit on the sea
43 otter deal is just we don't have hardly anything out
44 there where it used to be you could get abalone, you
45 could get crab, you could get clams. And it's just
46 with the amount of sea otters that have been in there
47 and are still in there, we have a problem with being
48 able to get any of those resources.

49

50 And I was just asked to relay a few of

1 those ideas. There's if -- maybe in the system that we
2 could get it addressed or possibly deal with it to the
3 point where we have a little more of the use of the
4 subsistence rules and regulations. I mean the -- we
5 did have a hunter that was regularly coming out, a
6 Native hunter that came out and harvested sea otters
7 and we immediately started noticing smaller -- I mean,
8 some more crab coming back and a few things like that.
9 But then I -- for some reason, I'm not sure why, but
10 they shut him down. And he kind of handled all sea
11 otter sound area all the way from Heceta, Kosciusko,
12 Green Island. There's all the way basically from
13 Makhnati west and as far south as Heceta and I think as
14 far north as the north end of Kosciusko. And we just
15 -- we wondered if maybe if there's someone that would
16 be interested in doing it again, if -- you know, if we
17 get those rules set up to where it could be done again.
18 For -- this guy what he harvested, a lot of times he
19 made into handicrafts and he was a good hunter, it was
20 a humane -- when he did it it was humane and I saw a
21 lot of the animals that come in and it was one shot,
22 one kill type thing where we felt it was real good to
23 be able to have someone and be able to be a part of
24 that. And now we don't have that action.

25

26 So basically that's about all I had.
27 If any of these things have a comment or something that
28 we could -- another route that we could possibly do
29 dealing with this -- the acquisition of the Native land
30 transfer, we'd certainly like to hear about it.
31 Because we have testified in several of the meetings
32 and basically myself -- I'm speaking of myself, not my
33 Committee at this time, I did raise my hand and
34 addressed things that basically once my statement was
35 done it was right onto the next person, there was never
36 questions answered. And they promised, you know, use
37 of those roads by permit, but at the same time when we
38 research that a little further, that's been promised in
39 a lot of instances where it's never happened due to
40 their insurance policies or their interests or whatever
41 it may be.

42

43 They actually -- the way the road and
44 the patten number that they put in their proposal for
45 that acquisition on the land actually divides the
46 community itself in half because the road comes down
47 and there's half -- there's a three mile -- we cover
48 mostly a three mile area and on one side we have the
49 boat dock and like five different families, on the
50 other side the majority of the people actually live.

1 And they wouldn't be able to get over there unless they
2 drove to the area where the transfer's at, get in the
3 skiff and go over to catch any flights coming in for
4 mail or passengers or access to their boat. And we do
5 have a lot of fishermen that live in the bay so, you
6 know, just trying to look for options where maybe on
7 the Federal level that you guys can see and identify
8 with what kind of problems we have because it's -- they
9 -- if that's allowed to happen, they're going to come
10 in and cut the trees, there won't be any local deer
11 although -- I mean, it's just going to be gone. And
12 then further north if you go to the north end of the
13 island it's all designated wilderness, it doesn't have
14 road access anyway.

15

16 So it just basically throws us into a
17 position where if we're going to use deer for
18 subsistence we have to go to a different island or
19 somewhere else where it's not being affected. And when
20 that happens and you get the cost, I mean, we might as
21 well just order beef because you're -- you know, the
22 costwise of having to get there and spend the time
23 hunting and fishing and then come back to process it,
24 it's just -- I don't see -- the whole community, we've
25 had meetings in the Advisory Committee as well as the
26 community to deal with these and we just haven't found
27 any answers other than for the individuals not looking
28 at us in a -- from a corporation's point of view
29 because on the north end, north -- west side of the
30 Kosciusko there, there are a lot of -- there's over 200
31 pictograms, hieroglyphics, whatever you want to call
32 them that have to do with the history of -- I mean, it
33 goes all the way when they figure dating, talking with
34 Terry Fifield, with -- the archeologist out of Craig
35 said that they pretty much can gauge it from before the
36 time of Christ all the way up to the point where they
37 start putting sails on their boats, that's the last
38 one. And to be able to -- in order for that to -- I
39 mean, there's no talk of what they're going to do with
40 that, you know, if they harvest right up to it just
41 what will happen there.

42

43 And so there's that and the car system,
44 we have a real overwhelming car system there and if it
45 comes in against the law to the degree that has been
46 shown in the past Sealaska does, those things are not
47 going to be protected at all. They have -- they'll be
48 cutting down the trees that have the location markers
49 on them basically is what we're seeing from looking at
50 history of where they have processed land. And so it's

1 just a great concern.

2

3 And I thank you guys for the
4 opportunity to speak and I hope perhaps we can get a
5 little better idea or some reassurance or something
6 that I can carry back to deal with things, you know, in
7 any way possible.

8

9 And if you have any questions I'd be
10 happy to answer them.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that,
13 Steve. I'm just wondering, you said that your Advisory
14 Council, you know, has brought up all these issues and
15 everything, but have they -- and I think I heard you
16 say that you haven't had any answers yet. But do you
17 know if they have offered any solutions to some of
18 these problems, I think that would be very helpful for
19 us if we had your idea, you know, about what should be
20 done about these problems.

21

22 MR. HENDERSHOT: Well, the only issue
23 when you say Fish and Game, I was reassured that we
24 wouldn't have a problem with the fish area, the
25 subsistence part, because that's in the water, there's
26 no trees that grow there. But as far as the rest of
27 that, you know, the only way that Sealaska has
28 addressed us is saying that they will give us a written
29 permit to access -- there's only one road with their --
30 with the way they have their plan is the only other
31 road that's available to get into these areas is
32 privately owned and the gentleman is not real favorable
33 to providing, you know, constant access to there. But
34 what we have found with our research and that's
35 questioning different areas where Sealaska has come and
36 dealt with things, that after all the papers are signed
37 and they start working that it's no longer -- the
38 promise that was made beforehand is no longer honored
39 because they say and some of the reasons are -- have
40 been insurance purposes, security purposes.

41

42 And that would just -- if you look at
43 dividing the bay and then taking the only road that
44 has, you know, the access to different parts of the
45 island where we're not harvesting directly in the
46 community, you know, those animals in our community we
47 -- where we're at they actually spend the winter,
48 that's where they come for their wintertime or a good
49 share of them do. And it's just -- to be able to have
50 to travel somewhere else, there's a lot of people that

1 don't have access or machines to do that. And it's
2 just not feasible from the community point of view to
3 have or be allowed -- we're trying everything we can to
4 see -- for them to look -- everyone to look and see
5 just exactly why we speak like we do.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you,
8 again. Is there any questions or comments by Council
9 members?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MR. HENDERSHOT: Okay, sir. Well, we
14 thank you very much.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Steve,
17 appreciate it.

18
19 Willard, are you going to be here for
20 the rest of the.....

21
22 MR. JACKSON: (Nods negatively)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You won't be here.
25 Okay. Because we were going to be bringing up brown
26 bear claws, you know, in one of our proposals, but if
27 you would like to you can do your testimony right now
28 and.....

29
30 MR. JACKSON: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Come on.

33
34 MR. JACKSON: Gunalcheesh, Mr. Chair.
35 To my Tlingit brothers and sisters, (in Tlingit). To
36 my Haida brothers and sisters, (in Haida). To my
37 Tsimshian brothers and sisters, (in Tsimshian). I love
38 you.

39
40 This land that we stand on is still
41 ours, it's still Tlingit. The history that you see on
42 the wall is (In Tlingit), Saxman, my grandchildren.
43 The brown bear (In Tlingit) is my clan emblem. (In
44 Tlingit) where my brother comes from, we're connected.
45 Yakutat, if you look at the history of Yakutat it was
46 the Teikweidi in one of their last battles there. Duke
47 Island is an incredible island where there are a lot of
48 artifacts that are (In Tlingit) Hydaburg, Haida nation
49 and (In Tlingit) nation. The Haidas have an emblem of
50 the Teikweidi, brown bear. The Teikweidi, as you look

1 at history today, you know, the river and the (In
2 Tlingit) and the river to the south of us, the (In
3 Tlingit), the Noth River, over the history of time
4 that's where we originated from. If you look at your
5 maps and you study your history you're going to find
6 out that the (In Tlingit) area of Ketchikan wasn't even
7 recognized in the Land Claims Act in '71. If you look
8 further in your history you're going to find the
9 Tongass National Forest was named after the Tongass
10 Tribe when they first originated in Saxman with the (In
11 Tlingit) in 1892. If you look further in your history
12 in 1897 and 1867 when the U.S. government was done
13 putting our brothers and sisters on the plains in the
14 replacement camps they came north. The first landing
15 post in existence in the Territory of Alaska at that
16 particular time was placed on Tongass Island which the
17 U.S. government renamed Fort Tongass.

18
19 Our history as Tlingit people is very
20 important to those of us that are Tlingit. It's very
21 important to us of those that are Haida decedents.
22 It's very important to us those that are (In Tlingit)
23 decedents. It identifies us to where we came from and
24 the direction that we're supposed to be going today. I
25 truly believe as a Teikweidi brown bear and I was going
26 to wear my bear necklace today, but something stopped
27 me and now I know why, now I know why I didn't put it
28 on. If you sit here long enough you're going to hear
29 the rain hitting this roof. We're not the only ones
30 here, our ancestors are here. And they're letting you
31 know they're here. That's part of our history and who
32 we are. And those bears, the Teikweidi, if you go down
33 to the Park which is less than a block and a half away
34 from here you can see the bear markings going up the
35 tree or the pole. That's (In Tlingit). (In Tlingit)
36 is a story of our great migration when we came out of
37 the Unuk, we came out of there and we came out of the
38 Noth River. It's our history, our documented history.
39 As we split up and went our different ways. If you
40 look at Sitka where my brother's from, Mr. Kitka, Mount
41 Edgecombe, where our people migrated out and were
42 heading north. The stories tell us of the blinking
43 eye, the eruption of Mount Edgecombe. They called it
44 the blinking eye.

45
46 I really feel today that as a Teikweidi
47 that our bear claws, our bear robes, our (In Tlingit)
48 the belongings on our back identifies who we are and
49 where we came from. That's our history. As you
50 witness tonight the (In Tlingit) people coming out,

1 you're going to see them coming out backwards through
2 these doors as they first enter and that signifies who
3 they are and where they came from and where they're
4 going to go. So are the bear claws that you see today
5 that are possibly being sold in the world. I truly
6 feel that today there's a great burden placed on this
7 Board and other Boards to give direction and to bring
8 law to the world. And that would be for myself as a
9 Teikweidi and for my grandchildren that are coming up,
10 that the stories we share with them is to protect that.
11 Yes, some of our people (indiscernible) but yes, there
12 are others doing that too. I truly value who I am and
13 where I came from. Tateae Ester, my mother, once said
14 I can't wash this brown away it was the way I was born,
15 it's the way I'm going to live. It's like going from
16 here and going home, going to your home that now we go
17 to that I have to rent, but yet I'm from this Village
18 of Saxman, this is my home. Some of my brothers are
19 from Hoonah, some of my brothers are from Yakutat and
20 Sitka, Metlakatla. We have to value what we have left,
21 the world is changing, it's changing as we sit here,
22 it's rapidly changing and there has to be some laws put
23 in place to protect these bear hides, bear claws, laws
24 have to be provided. Law enforcement cannot come into
25 our doors to collect our feathers, yet they did a few
26 years ago in this village, walked right through my
27 brother's house. We need to look and revisit and
28 change some laws.

29

30 Gunalcheesh. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Willard.

33 You know, my wife is a Teikweidi and she values you
34 people very highly because of that. And, you know,
35 Roger Williams who now lives in Angoon, she's always
36 talking about him, you know, because that's her
37 father's people. So I'll relay the message that you
38 gave to us today to her, she'll really appreciate that.

39

40 Gunalcheesh.

41

42 Any other public testimonies.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Lee Wallace is not
47 here yet. At anytime, you know, make it known to the
48 public that if you want to make a -- do a testimony,
49 you know, there's a form to fill out. It needs to be
50 filled and brought up here and then we'll recognize you

1 at anytime during the process of this meeting. So if
2 you can get the word out.

3

4 MR. SANDERSON: Are you going to be
5 taking public testimony tomorrow?

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You bet, we'll be
8 taking public testimony throughout the whole process of
9 the meeting, that's what I was just explaining. So if
10 you do have, you know, something, just make sure you
11 fill this out. Let us know what it's in reference to
12 so that we can bring you up at the proper time. Okay.

13

14 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

17

18 Okay. I think we're all done with that
19 portion. We're now into the annual report. And
20 included in the annual report we need to include a
21 discussion on Saxman Ketchikan rural determination. So
22 are you prepared to, Council Members, take up this
23 issue at this time or would you like a few minutes to
24 go over it and fix it out in your mind? What's the
25 wish of the Council, do you want to dive right into it
26 or take a few minutes break?

27

28 Yeah, let's take five minutes. Okay.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (On record)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're back into
35 session and we're on the annual report now. Hopefully
36 you've all had a chance to look it over and there's
37 going to be a couple other items that we are going to
38 be talking about to include in the annual report. But
39 and that is, you know, Saxman's rural determination and
40 then Mr. Kitka had something that he wanted to add on
41 to it; is that correct? Or into it.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Underneath
44 the 2009 annual report issues, issue one had to do with
45 the pollock fishery and the taking of salmon.
46 Realizing, of course, they are monitoring some of the
47 salmon that is being killed, but they're not monitoring
48 the amount of herring that are getting -- that are
49 getting squashed and dying in the same process.

50

1 I know there was a study that was done
2 on sea lions when they fed them pollock and one bunch
3 when they fed them herring. The ones they fed pollock
4 to were -- got real skinny, lost a lot of weight. The
5 ones they fed herring to got very healthy. So when
6 they start talking about the sea lions disappearing in
7 the Aleutians, it raises a question to mind on just how
8 much herring they're killing at the same time that is
9 not being reported. And I'd be very curious to see if
10 there's anything that can be said or done about that.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
15 What I think I'll do right now is I'll just kind of
16 briefly go through the annual report for the benefit of
17 the audience out there and then we'll go into, you
18 know, how we want to address it. You know there's
19 discussion on the deer management strategies and in-
20 season management of wildlife. On the in-service
21 management of wildlife, one of our proposals, Proposal
22 number 22 is going to cover that. So we'll be going
23 through that, you know, during this meeting.

24

25 And then the 2009 annual report issues,
26 Harvey just got through talking about, you know, the
27 bycatch in the pollock histories as in regards to king
28 salmon. But he also wants to add into it the herring.
29 He says that there is a lot of herring that are being
30 intercepted by the same fishery. Now I know that there
31 was a hardcap put on this real -- just recently, I got
32 -- I remember reading a letter and I don't know whether
33 you Council Members have received that or not. But I
34 think it's something like about 29,363 or something
35 like that for a cap on the taking of these fisheries.

36

37 And issue number 2 is a .804 herring
38 spawn issue that they're trying to.....

39

40 Yes, sir.

41

42 MR. SANDERSON: Rob Sanderson, Jr.,
43 Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Council. On your
44 annual report, you know, that bycatch issue on the
45 chums -- I mean, on the king salmon, they estimate that
46 10 percent of that king salmon that is being taken in
47 the bycatch in the Bristol Bay, Bering Sea pollock
48 history is about 10 percent of that fish is destined
49 for Southeast waters, king salmon. I just wanted to
50 clarify that.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that,
2 Mr. Sanderson. Appreciate it.
3
4 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And then moving on,
7 there's also a problem with the issue of sockeye
8 interception in Chatham Straits. They believe, you
9 know, that there is a lot of interception taken --
10 being taken by the commercial fisheries.
11
12 So, you know, just skipping through
13 here, the budget cuts is something that the annual
14 report is going to talk about as well.
15
16 So, you know, I just wanted to
17 highlight those few issues there and I would really,
18 you know, turn it over to the Council now to address
19 the annual report and some of these other issues that
20 you would like to see added to it.
21
22 Gunalcheesh. Who would like to start
23 off with this. Mr. Bangs.
24
25 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, before we go any
28 further I want to thank Staff for rearranging the
29 tables so I can see everybody on each side of me.
30
31 Gunalcheesh. Go ahead.
32
33 MR. BANGS: Thank you. I was wondering
34 if we could consider adding halibut bycatch as a
35 concern in the off shore fisheries. They came out with
36 some information that there was literally millions of
37 pounds of halibut caught and, you know, we're
38 struggling with halibut in the subsistence.
39
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
42 Bangs. Mr. Larson, you can add that on to the annual
43 report, please.
44
45 Anything else.
46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: On Page 14, is this a
2 draft or is this the one that went out last year?

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry. It's a
5 draft.

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
8 On item -- issue three on Page 15 there's a need to
9 identify the contribution of Chatham
10 Strait stock-of-origin sockeye salmon to the Southeast
11 Alaska Region's commercial fishery. And I mentioned
12 this when we were in Yakutat, I believe, that -- and I
13 was talking to Cathy Needham about that, is two of us
14 Regional Council Members, Mr. Kitka and myself, sat in
15 on -- was it a Fisheries Research Monitoring -- do.....

16
17 Cathy, could you give me the name of
18 that that we sat through and why you were involved.

19
20 MS. NEEDHAM: Thanks, Mr. Chair. It's a
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the meeting
22 that you're referring to that we spoke about was the
23 strategic planning that they have to set priorities for
24 how fisheries resource monitoring projects are funded
25 through the fisheries information services. And I was
26 involved -- I was representing the Organized Village of
27 Kasaan at that point.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Cathy. Thank
30 you, Mr. Chair. The reason I brought that up is
31 because we had, and I believe that was in 2006 Cathy
32 reminded me, it was prioritized that genetic markers
33 for salmon stock identification was a number one
34 priority. And here we are in 2010 still asking for
35 that in our annual report. And so I think we should,
36 you know, state that as part of the issue.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. So
41 noted, Mr. Larson. I want to make sure that we've got
42 it covered in the annual report. Okay. Would you like
43 her to repeat it?

44
45 MR. LARSON: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please repeat
48 yourself.

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I will

1 repeat myself, but it will be in the transcript. Okay.
2 In 2006 the RAC was asked to participate in a fisheries
3 resource monitoring strategic planning process where
4 you prioritize research, specific fish resources. Mr.
5 Kitka and myself sat as representatives of the RAC at
6 that strategic planning process. One of the -- genetic
7 markers for salmon stock identification was ranked as a
8 number one priority of that strategic planning process.
9 And here we are in 2010 doing the -- asking for those
10 genetic markers still.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. And
15 it goes along with what Mr. Kookesh said earlier, you
16 know, that five, 10 years from now we'll still be
17 talking about these same issues and so forth.

18

19 And, you know, just for the record, Mr.
20 Larson, I would like for that to be entered into the
21 annual report so that we can actually see something
22 happen from this as well.

23

24 Thank you. Any other comments. Do you
25 have a comment? Go ahead.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Just to
28 be clear, the issues that we've identified as a Council
29 regarding sockeyes and stock identification has been
30 wrapped up in the technology available to really do
31 this work. And until recently the decision about
32 whether or not it is, in fact, useful for the questions
33 at hand has been debatable. I would remind the Council
34 that one of the letters that was written by the Council
35 at their last meeting was to the Commissioner of Fish
36 and Game. And in that they made an inquiry to the
37 usefulness, whether or not it was timely to go down
38 this road of filling out the genetic marker data base
39 and whether or not the technology was available and --
40 first was it available and second was it at all of some
41 economic value, you know, was it -- there was some cost
42 benefit analysis to do this work. And in the response
43 to the Board from Mr. Lloyd and Department of Fish and
44 Game, he indicated that, in fact, it was a timely
45 request and the completion of the data base was, in
46 fact, started. And in his letter he gave estimates of
47 cost to complete the sampling.

48

49 If the Council, and I'm trying to
50 capture your intent and put it in the right format to

1 be the most effective, so at the last meeting the
2 Council also approved a list of fisheries monitoring
3 projects that did not include a salmon stock
4 identification component. But what they did add was a
5 herring component for Sitka Sound that could be taken
6 up out of cycle.

7
8 My question and my suggestion to the
9 Council is that it seems to me that it is a timely
10 request to act upon the letter received from the
11 Department of Fish and Game with the analysis of
12 exactly how many samples are required to fill out this
13 genetic data base from which systems and which years
14 and if the Council wanted to influence the Federal
15 program to do exactly what is proposed as a need and
16 identified as a need by the Department of Fish and Game
17 that would certainly be an appropriate thing. And
18 there is an option for having an out of cycle funding
19 request.

20
21 So that would be -- I'm trying to
22 visualize in my own mind how best to accomplish what
23 Patty wanted. And it seems to me that there is an
24 avenue that could, you know, more specific direction
25 here that could be included in this annual report. And
26 that's my suggestion.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. And that --
31 yeah, let me just make a comment here first and then
32 you're next, Patty.

33
34 On that issue three, you know, at the
35 very bottom, the last paragraph, it addresses exactly
36 what the -- Mr. Larson's referring to. If an
37 information is needed -- is identified by the State,
38 the Council recommends the Board request a proposal for
39 out-of-cycle funding. Maybe we can, you know, a little
40 bit -- be a little bit more stronger in emphasizing
41 that to make sure that we -- it happens some way or
42 another.

43
44 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. At the time
45 that the -- we -- the Council drafted the annual report
46 and included it as an issue, we did not have the
47 benefit of this analysis of need produced by the Alaska
48 Department Fish and Game. So my suggestion was to use
49 this response to craft a proposal, funding proposals
50 for something that can be done out-of-cycle.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So the proposal would
4 come from us.

5

6 MR. LARSON: Well, it -- the -- what
7 the action would be would be to have a call for
8 proposals that would include sockeye genetic marking
9 data base as its focus. And then there would be an
10 opportunity for some agency, some tribal organization,
11 it would be essentially the same as one of the other
12 fisheries monitoring projects, only it would be focused
13 on filling out this genetic data base.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So perhaps we can
16 include in this annual report, Patty, that we will be
17 submitting a call for proposals to address this issue.
18 Is that all right?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Larson.
25 I'm ecstatic, I am mentally stimulated, I've got to
26 tell you. You know, how -- you know, how do we get our
27 point across that, you know, what we're trying to say
28 and try to get those into action and Mr. Larson because
29 he's been involved in this process as our coordinator
30 and prior to that as a fisheries biologist, is able to
31 encapsulate just -- you know, he knows what I'm getting
32 at even though I might not be very well articulating it
33 and he's bringing it forward and here's a solution that
34 you could follow through on. And I agree 100 percent
35 with what he was saying, that, you know, he asked
36 what's the format to be most effective and then he
37 gives a solution. And, you know, how many samples do
38 we need, from which systems in which year and that we
39 need to have an out-of-cycle funding request. Call for
40 a proposal for sockeye genetic basing data base. This
41 is where, you know, we need to go and I really
42 appreciate that.

43

44 Thank you very much.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you for
47 bringing it up. And we'll proceed in that manner then.

48

49 Anything else from the Council on any
50 part of the annual report. Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I -- would
2 this be appropriate now to add the rural determination
3 for Saxman and Ketchikan.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: I would like to add an
8 item, an issue in our annual report that either we pass
9 a resolution or write a letter or include in the annual
10 report and send it to Pat Pourchot as well, asking to
11 raise the population threshold from 7,000 to 11,000 and
12 to revisit the Saxman and Ketchikan population and
13 rural determinations previously made and begin a new
14 rulemaking to implement regulatory changes to reinstate
15 Saxman's rural determination and implement rural
16 determination for Ketchikan.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just as a matter of
19 information, Patty, the threshold has been raised from
20 7,000 to 11,000. Okay. So that part of it is already
21 done.

22
23 MR. PROBASCO: Not quite.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not quite.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: Not quite.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pete, get me
30 straightened out here.

31
32 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chairman, I wanted
33 to wait because I knew you were going to bring this to
34 the Saxman issue. The Federal Subsistence Board did
35 make a request to the Secretary's office to ask for
36 consideration of that threshold. And if you recall the
37 Secretary's office responded back that they wanted the
38 subsistence review to be completed first and then he
39 would revisit that recommendation at the Board. So
40 it's still at the current level. What the future holds
41 will be dependent upon the subsistence review and then
42 subsequent action by the Secretary.

43
44 Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I am not correct in
47 assuming then that that letter I received where it said
48 that the threshold will be raised from 7,000 to 11,000?
49

50 MR. PROBASCO: You're -- Mr. Chair, Mr.

1 Adams. You're not incorrect. There was a
2 miscommunication. As you know this program is both --
3 administered by both the Secretary from Ag and
4 Secretary of Interior and the communication back in
5 D.C. between those two entities, there was a
6 miscommunication and the letter went out with incorrect
7 information as far as where the decision was at.

8

9 Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
12 Pete. So we'll -- is a letter going to come out to
13 correct it?

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Pat
16 Pourchot did send a letter and it was circulated
17 clarifying that there was a miscommunication between
18 the two, Secretary of Ag and Secretary of Interior.
19 And we can provide copies again for that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'd appreciate that.

22

23 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Thank you.

26 Mr. Douville.

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 have a question. When does Saxman -- when does their
30 five years expire?

31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Douville, I was
33 going -- that was going through my mind today when we
34 were starting to talk about it. I believe there's
35 still two years remaining, but I'm not certain. But it
36 is five years that they have from -- if a decision is
37 made to change them from rural to non-rural, but I
38 don't have the exact date, but I could get it to you by
39 tomorrow.

40

41 Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So that would be 2012?

44

45 MR. PROBASCO: Again you're trying to
46 put me on a.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I know it.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. PROBASCO: And I said I would like
2 to get back to you with the exact date.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

5
6 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike and then Patty.

9
10 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess maybe there is a
11 little bit of time, but I was worried that Saxman's
12 rural status would expire before this review is
13 completed or the decision is made on the population
14 threshold. I as a RAC member still support our
15 previous stand on Saxman's rural status. I don't know
16 if we need to take further action than that to reaffirm
17 our position on it and certainly it should be reviewed.
18 However if this decision takes longer than it would --
19 than the time that their status would expire, then I
20 think it should be extended until that determination is
21 made.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we can do that
24 in our annual report, Michael. It's just reaffirm, you
25 know, our stand with Saxman and Ketchikan's rural
26 determination issues. So that's what we'll probably do
27 then.

28
29 Patty, next.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Mr. Probasco. So are you saying that the threshold has
33 not been raised?

34
35 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Ms.
36 Phillips. That's corrects. It's still at the current
37 regulations which states that a community with a
38 population of 7,000 or greater, and this isn't the
39 exact wording, but would be classified as non-rural
40 unless that community has certain characteristics that
41 would classify it as rural. If you recall, the whole
42 regulation was predicated on the population of
43 Ketchikan and what were the rulemakers looking at, were
44 they looking at the City of Ketchikan or the --
45 Ketchikan as a whole. So that's where the 7,000 versus
46 the 11,000.

47
48 And, Mr. Chair, if I may. Thanks to
49 Mr. Kessler, the non-rural effective date for Saxman is
50 May of 2012.

1 Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Pete. So I
4 wasn't wrong.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. PROBASCO: Your crystal ball was
9 clearer than mine.
10
11 Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. So here's
14 I think -- what I think we ought to do. We ought to
15 reaffirm our position on Saxman being rural. And the
16 way that we need to approach that is to separate -- we
17 need to put it in the annual report, do it by
18 resolution or a motion of some sort, to separate the
19 two communities so that they can be -- I know there's a
20 pretty good chance that there is -- I mean, Saxman will
21 no doubt get its rural determination then. But as I
22 mentioned earlier I think there's a pretty good chance
23 that even Ketchikan would qualify because -- we'll just
24 have to wait for that population threshold to come out
25 and be reaffirmed. So I think that's the approach that
26 we need to take at this point. So that will be put
27 into our annual report unless you want to be stronger
28 and come out with a resolution, you know, of some sort
29 that addresses that issue.
30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.
34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 think it's important that any new rulemaking be
37 initiated so that there's no lag time. If there is to
38 be a population threshold change from seven to 11, the
39 rulemaking be initiated quickly because May, 2012 is a
40 set deadline and the rulemaking process is extensive.
41 But I do agree with what you said about putting it in
42 the annual letter. And I don't know how we could be
43 any more strong -- I don't know why a resolution would
44 be any more stronger because our annual report is our
45 report to the Secretary.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. If it's okay
50 with the Council then we'll just it in the annual

1 report and kind of, you know, make a pretty strong
2 language. Okay.

3

4 Anything else on the annual report.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did we take care of
9 your issue?

10

11 MR. KITKA: (Nods affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. The bycatch.

14 All right. What's the wish of the Council on the
15 annual report.

16

17 MR. LARSON: I've got one more
18 question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Robert. You
21 have a question.

22

23 MR. LARSON: Subsequent to the drafting
24 of this annual report, the next version that you'll see
25 for final approval will likely -- I think it's most
26 appropriate that I'll take the section regarding the
27 deer management and in-season management of wildlife
28 and combine them so it captures the intent of the
29 Council in previous actions, but it'll read a lot
30 better. So not that it would change anything, but I
31 think if I combine those two sections and make that
32 more succinct that it would do two things. It would
33 remind the Board that the Council's already discussed
34 this issue and really what the main items are and that
35 would be more appropriate to the annual report than the
36 way it's written right now. So don't be surprised if
37 -- if it's okay with the Council that I fix that so it
38 reads better.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It'll -- instead of
41 having, you know, four and three in each category,
42 it'll be all combined together and there will be seven
43 items instead of, you know, as indicated there. Okay.

44

45 Any others.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. I think we
50 need a motion to accept the annual report.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: I move to approve the
6 2009 annual report of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
7 Regional Advisory Council as amended today.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 MR. BANGS: Second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Mr. Bangs.
14 Any further discussion.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Call the question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we discussed
19 it enough. Mr. Kitka called for the question. All in
20 favor say aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed the same sign.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
29 Congratulations, folks, good job.
30
31 (Pause)
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We are now on
34 the wildlife issues.
35
36 Mr. Wallace, would you like to come
37 forward and do your testimony now.
38
39 MR. WALLACE: (Nods affirmatively)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, good, it's just on
42 what we just got through talking about so it's
43 appropriate.
44
45 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Thank you, Council. Sorry I wasn't here earlier, but I
47 was giving the grand tour to the director of Fish and
48 Wildlife Service, a look at Saxman. It was typical of
49 any rural village in Southeast Alaska, any rural
50 village in Alaska. And, you know, I brought him to

1 Ketchikan and hopefully he was able to capture a real
2 difference of the two are. And I do hope eventually
3 that maybe Ketchikan will regain their rural status in
4 the future. You know there was much talk about
5 population thresholds, you know, even if the threshold
6 wasn't changed, the threshold again was 7,000 people
7 and you're talking about a little tiny village of 400
8 people here. It's a big enough difference to have
9 consideration for rural status amongst many other
10 things.

11

12 I was sort of getting into kind of the
13 public comment I want during the introduction and
14 welcoming of the Southeast RAC into Saxman. And I do
15 thank you for being out here again. And if at all
16 possible please be in rural communities because it's
17 what this whole thing is all about, rural communities
18 and their way of life, fishing, hunting, gathering of
19 resources in their areas and it's a way of life.

20

21 You know a report last spring in June
22 when I fractured my wrist, I had some vertigo problem
23 and I decided I'd trying getting on a bike and when I
24 got up real quick and got on my bike I had my vertigo
25 problem and I ended up falling. But when I was falling
26 really the two things I was thinking about when I was
27 falling I was thinking about okay, I could fracture
28 something. But the two things I thought about was
29 sockeye season is coming in July and tennis season's
30 coming up. I'm a real avid fan of tennis. But most of
31 the more important was my participation and way of life
32 is going after my sockeye in the Hydaburg area, that's
33 where my family's originally from and that's where I
34 continue to go after my sockeye whether it be in Hetta
35 or Eek or another place in the area.

36

37 And I tried dipnetting with my cast on
38 at Mahoney River and I was using my right hand and I
39 was getting one to two to three to four sockeye at a
40 time. I had my daughters with me and my wife and my
41 oldest daughter said oh, this is just no fun,
42 dipnetting. Let's go to Hydaburg and let's get the
43 seine out and go beach seining for the sockeye. I mean
44 that's where you have the fun, you know, when you do
45 your round set and you do your half purse and you're
46 pulling in the net and you hit them and you can see
47 just the water bubbling and you're full of sockeye and
48 that's where you have your fun. And it's all fun, but
49 it's a lot of hard work, but it's all work that we all
50 do and what we enjoy because that's our way of life.

1 So that was kind of a brief report of
2 what happened in that situation.

3
4 There's a couple of items I want to
5 discuss on your agenda. Item 14, potential Council
6 proposals, number 2, closing of the Unuk subsistence
7 eulachon fishery. There's been a number of discussions
8 at a number of Southeast RAC meetings and also this
9 particular meeting. As tribal president in OVS I had a
10 citizen come in with a letter from one of the users,
11 the biggest user probably up in the Unuk River. And it
12 was in regard to a study that or a question that's been
13 arised a number of times. And I been to one of the
14 presentations from the U.S. Department of Defense. The
15 Navy has a facility out in Back Island and there was
16 questions from individuals and citizens that perhaps
17 the studies of the -- that's being conducted on Back
18 Island was maybe a cause and effect of the decline of
19 the population of eulachon in the Unuk River. And
20 basically the test is really to -- it's a listening
21 station. And so the U.S. Department of Defense says
22 that well, we're not running any sonars and we're just
23 listening to see how quiet the submarines are as
24 they're traveling through our fjord there.

25
26 But probably one thing that's probably
27 not addressed in that issue now that I come to think
28 about it is, you know, those submarines when they are
29 navigating below surface, coming and going in our
30 fjords, they're using sonar for navigation. Now
31 there's been some studies that off California where
32 they're saying that the sonar's affecting mammals in
33 the area with beached whales. And my question is as
34 those submarines are coming into our area in the fjords
35 underwater, navigating with their sonar, who's to say
36 that those sonar beeps are not affecting any wildlife
37 that's under the surface like eulachons or herring or
38 any other fisheries. Maybe those need to be addressed
39 and maybe they have been. If they have definitely
40 citizens would like to know, but when I went to that
41 one meeting there they said well, we're just listening.
42 And yeah, that's what they are, they're trying to
43 listen to just how quiet they could get on board the
44 vessels as they're passing through an area so they
45 won't be detected by another possible adversary.

46
47 The other thing on the eulachon
48 decline, disappearance, it's almost extension, like it
49 was said I think there was -- I think this year there
50 was a few more counted I believe so maybe that's a

1 possibility, but you're just counting on your fingers.
2 I think there was a State biologist a couple years ago
3 that suggested well, maybe there was other factors
4 involved which I don't know if it's been explored, but
5 there's been a number of hatcheries developed in
6 Southeast with different species of salmon and maybe
7 perhaps with the fry of the eulachon leaving the Unuk
8 River and maybe at the same time or just prior to the
9 fingerlings leaving the Unuk River and the fingerlings
10 leaving say a said hatchery, maybe there was a predator
11 species that caused the decline. But the bottom line
12 for all of us, we'd like to know what is the real
13 answer of the disappearance of the eulachon on the Unuk
14 River.

15
16 I appreciate the conversation and
17 information on sea otters. I once had a position being
18 -- a position on Southeast RAC for a couple years and I
19 remember discussions then, two years ago. And with --
20 in every RAC meeting I guess if you look back on the
21 minutes of the RAC meeting there's a discussion of the
22 sea otters and the gaining population. And the same
23 thing, eating up our resources in our different areas
24 in Southeast. And I see this as a area where we sit
25 down and discuss, discuss and there's no action plan
26 and what will be the real action plan here for sea
27 otters.

28
29 Actually I feel quite comfortable
30 sitting in the audience versus sitting at the table.
31 I'm looking at a different viewpoint and looking at
32 different areas. And when I was sitting back here
33 listening to the discussion I've been writing notes and
34 I guess I brought myself back into a time of my great-
35 grandfather. Now in my great-grandfather's time, that
36 was probably the days before BIA, Fish and Wildlife
37 Service, Park Service, all these Federal agencies in
38 our aboriginal lands and waters. And I looked at the
39 individuals sitting on the Council and I said okay,
40 we're all from different areas from Southeast, there's
41 some Haidas, there's Tlingits, there's somebody from
42 Sitka, there's somebody from Ketchikan, there's
43 somebody from Yakutat and Pelican and POW and Craig and
44 Klawock area. And I said, you know, what our leaders
45 would do back then, we'd address the problem and we
46 wouldn't sit there and talk about it for years. As we
47 sit and talk about it there's a herd of those sea
48 otters munching away on our clams and our cockles and
49 our crabs and any other shellfish that we could
50 possibly gather in the future. And one of the criteria

1 that you ask when you go through a proposal is --
2 there's four real criterias you ask. Is it going to
3 affect subsistence users, is it going to affect other
4 users. So definitely yes, the answer is yes, the sea
5 otters are affecting subsistence users, they're eating
6 up our resources right now as we speak.

7
8 And just a minute ago about Saxman's
9 rural status, we -- Patty asked well, how should we
10 really go about this. Tribal governments -- our
11 strongest way of addressing a problem is a resolution.
12 So on that fact with you guys' annual report supporting
13 Saxman and their rural status is that we will draw up a
14 resolution, I will contact other tribal governments in
15 Southeast Alaska to have supporting documents of
16 resolution supporting our rural status. So that's --
17 again that's the tribe's strongest way of communicating
18 with the Federal government or municipal governments or
19 any other government or entities, that resolution
20 process is our strongest way of communication. And so
21 yes, you'll put out your annual report and along it
22 hopefully we'll see other resolutions from other
23 Federally recognized tribes in Southeast Alaska.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before you go any
26 further, Lee, just thank you for that because those
27 resolutions will support our annual report and just
28 make it that much more stronger. So we look forward to
29 receiving those.

30
31 Continue on.

32
33 MR. WALLACE: Thank you. Again my next
34 paragraph is actually thanking you, Bert, as the
35 Chairperson for supporting us as well as the RAC
36 members. Again in Pat Pourchot's letter there
37 definitely is a bullet point there to definitely
38 revisit Saxman's rural status. And I had a brief
39 conversation with your coordinator and he said yeah,
40 well, it's up for review. I said well, I hope it's up
41 for review much quicker than the next decennial
42 periods. That my envision of Secretary Salazar's
43 initial announcement back in the AFN that, you know,
44 we're going to review the FSB process and what's been
45 going on. And so it's really my desire to hopefully
46 have this resolved prior to the next review.

47
48 And I thank Steve for bringing up the
49 date. I know I've always thought it was 2012 when it
50 came to effect, but my vice president said no, it's

1 2011. My tribal administrator said it's 2011 too and I
2 said well, okay, I'm wrong, but hey, I'm right, it's
3 2012.

4
5 But at our last tribal Council meeting
6 it was a directive from the Council to move forward in
7 a direction of possible going after the litigation
8 process. And like it was mentioned from Bert earlier,
9 a lot of the tribal governments that are small like
10 Saxman, we have very limited operating funds and we
11 don't have funds to hire a high powered attorney to
12 fight the Federal government on this issue and
13 hopefully we'll get support from NARF and also at AFN
14 the announcement of a defense fund for subsistence.
15 That was on the floor of AFN and there's a number of
16 corporations submitted some money for a defense fund
17 for subsistence issues. And hopefully we're going to
18 seek those out through AFN, Sealaska or Central Council
19 or any other entity that may have a pot of money that
20 could us in the litigation process. Again the real
21 world I'm -- or the dream world is I'm thinking that's
22 it's going to be reviewed and that it's going to be
23 overturned, but let's not hold our breath.

24
25 One thing I should have did during the
26 welcoming of you folks was to announce don't drink the
27 water in Saxman. Okay. How many individuals went to
28 -- have journeyed off to Mexico, can you raise your
29 hands, just raise them up real quick. There's one --
30 anymore from Mexico. Okay. All right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I've heard that about
33 Mexican water.

34
35 MR. WALLACE: There's a few things.
36 Yeah, I hear you go to Mexico it says don't drink the
37 water or ice cubes because you don't know where they
38 came from. Well, Saxman's in that same situation.
39 It's been in that situation for a number of years.
40 We're on a boil water notice. And my point is do you
41 have -- ever have a boil water issue in Ketchikan,
42 Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau. Those are non-rural
43 communities that I just mentioned and probably the last
44 time a large city like Anchorage had a boil water
45 notice was probably during the 1964 earthquake. And
46 Saxman's much -- is not different than any other small
47 village in rural Alaska is that you'll find that many
48 rural Alaska communities are on a boil water notice.
49 And it's because of -- a lot of the monies go to
50 larger, urban centers for a lot of things,

1 infrastructure of roads, water and sewer, you know, the
2 large urban centers get those large monies and rural
3 communities like Saxman, they don't get those monies as
4 quickly to upgrade our water system so it's up to a
5 level of the quality of water that you'd find in larger
6 urban centers. So there's another little argument
7 that, you know, we are a little different community
8 than Ketchikan is, that we wouldn't be doing that in
9 Ketchikan.

10
11 Another quick issue which segways off a
12 little bit from really what we're all here for, but,
13 you know, in my initial review of the State and Federal
14 governments, those particular governments make it
15 harder for citizens to go out and do their way of life,
16 to do their fish and game, to gather resources. Let me
17 pick on the State right now. Okay. To go out and dig
18 cockles or clams, what is that little permit you got to
19 go get, a little sportfishing license to say you're
20 going to dig cockles or clams. You know it's not a
21 sport for us, it's not a sport at all, it's a way of
22 life.

23
24 And getting down to another recent
25 issue in the Ketchikan area is that for a tribal
26 citizen there was a fundraiser recently. And the State
27 comes at him and says no, you can't bring your Native
28 subsistence food to this public gathering. It's a
29 fundraiser for the medical cost of this individual, but
30 here's the State, an entity of the State, saying you
31 can't do that, you got to bring commercial fish and
32 game into that setting. But here we are like if you
33 live in Hoonah or Yakutat you'd do fundraising because
34 you have this love and compassion for a tribal
35 neighbor, citizen and here the State says you can't to
36 that. It's not going to pass the rules and regulations
37 that you should be feeding the general public. So it
38 just makes it harder for us, they make it hard to catch
39 and gather and now they're making it really hard just
40 to share it with somebody for a good cause.

41
42 The comment on the pollock fisheries,
43 that's been at the Council table for a number of times
44 also and the bycatches whether it be king salmon, chum
45 salmon or any other species that may be a bycatch.
46 Maybe another bycatch would be the eulachon. Who
47 knows. You know the fishery is the largest money
48 making fishery in the State of Alaska. They set their
49 nets out, they're going to catch anything, everything
50 that's in its path without really any conscious of what

1 they're catching. It really shows that what happens on
2 the Yukon River that, you know, they had a dismal run
3 of their chum salmon and was it really the direct
4 result of the fishery in the Bering Sea and the area,
5 the pollock fishery. You know who's out there watching
6 what species are being, you know, caught. They need a
7 -- there needs to be more individuals watching that
8 particular fishery.

9

10 I think I -- well, let me turn the
11 page. I'm getting close. Oh, I read the short
12 version, now I got to go through the longer version.
13 And let me see. Okay. I already touched on the sea
14 otters.

15

16 I'll just make comment on the comments
17 I heard throughout the Council earlier. Jack made some
18 great comments, Patricia and Floyd. Floyd seems like
19 he's gone most of the time here. But one of the
20 comments he made was regarding the otter was perhaps
21 there should be a bounty. You know years ago in the
22 beginning salmon fishery during the time of my father
23 was that there was a bounty on eagles because the
24 salmon fishery individuals thought well, they're eating
25 all the salmon. You know they weren't, they're eating
26 the carcasses after they go up to creek and spawn and
27 that's where they were. So but definitely that was a
28 bad decision in government to do bounties on eagles,
29 but right now I see the otters are eating our
30 resources. And we need action. Floyd's always one
31 that says let's not react, but let's be -- let's not be
32 reactive, but.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Proactive.

35

36 MR. WALLACE:proactive. That's
37 what the Council needs to be and that's what our tribal
38 governments need to be and that's what individuals need
39 to be is let's do something about it.

40

41 I'm going to share this in closing
42 here. I mentioned it to Bob earlier that when I met
43 him this morning, you know, Saxman is rural. You leave
44 the city limits of Ketchikan, you're coming into a
45 village. And I said, that, you know, I think there's
46 possibly two nets -- two herring nets out in the bay,
47 right in front of the bay here. Do you know what
48 they're doing, they're practicing their sovereignty.
49 They're looking at a fishery that's dying in Southeast
50 Alaska. Bob grew up here in the Ketchikan area and

1 Cathy did too. I remember as a child the herring boats
2 fishing right off city float, the Lady Alice. And
3 throughout this whole area there used to be herring
4 spawn and several years ago with the State said oh
5 let's -- the West Beam Canal herring stock's
6 increasing, let's go have a fishery. Instead of really
7 just saying hey, let the fishery grow, let's go out and
8 catch them and let's kill for economic development for
9 fishermen, commercial fishermen. And I'm fully
10 supportive of Sitka and any Makhnati Island herring
11 spawn that they have, you know, that's our last
12 remaining stand of good herring spawn in Southeast
13 Alaska. You know we used to have one down here by Cat
14 Island, that's no longer there. I hear from the Craig
15 area that seems to be really declining.

16

17 And so for not only Southeast Alaska,
18 throughout the State of Alaska and our tribal brothers
19 and sisters who elect to go to the Lower 48 and live, a
20 lot of that herring in Sitka is sent all over the
21 place. So it's sharing. You know you could leave
22 Sitka, but guess what if you're a Tlingit you're a
23 Tlingit no matter where you go. If you're a Haida and
24 you leave Hydaburg, you go to San Francisco, guess
25 what, you're still a Haida and you still rely on your
26 way of life. And most often if those are physically
27 able to go out and gather and practice their way of
28 life that is inherent in us through genetics, that's
29 what we do.

30

31 And I really support the local level,
32 listening to the local level. You know when you really
33 look at Title VIII, you know, it's really supposed to
34 rely on what's happening on the local level, what's the
35 input from the local level. And that's the function of
36 the Southeast RAC is to travel to each and every
37 community in Southeast and receive local information.
38 And what you're supposed to bring up to the FSB level
39 is that local level input and it's supposed to have
40 that heavier weight than the different agency Staff
41 that sits up in Anchorage and who may have never had
42 the lifestyle of -- way of life of gathering and
43 hunting and fishing in this area.

44

45 And I guess I'll close with that and I
46 thank you for the public -- the availability to have
47 public comment. And from the looks like it, looks like
48 you guys are behind the gun on your agenda so I'm going
49 to close and let you guys get down to business.

50

1 Gunalcheesh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Lee.
4 Really appreciated your words. I hung on everything
5 that you said so I really appreciate that.

6

7 Thank you. Is Melvin Chester in the
8 room? Melvin Charles. I'm sorry, Melvin Charles.

9

10 (In Tlingit)

11

12 MR. CHARLES: Gunalcheesh. My name is
13 Melvin Charles and I have great thanks for you and I
14 hope that you guys are most successful in what you're
15 doing.

16

17 And as I read in the law books in the
18 past that subsistence -- what I read in the law books,
19 subsistence is for the majority or the total control of
20 the common people of the land and at no time did it say
21 rule or non-rule. There's a great number of people
22 living out of town, out of Saxman, living in Ketchikan,
23 who desire to live in Saxman and wish they cannot.
24 There should not be any restrictions on where you live
25 for the majority of our Native people have been
26 displaced from their natural habitat.

27

28 For the herring fisheries I am totally
29 against herring fisheries. The herring could spawn for
30 11 years which would produce great numbers of eggs. I
31 was talking to Fish and Game and they said there's
32 great abundance of herring out here and I said where.
33 I said where is there a great abundance of herring
34 here, there is none. In my younger years they were
35 boiling up here all through the winter. And I logged
36 for the majority of my life and flying on the plane you
37 could see the herring boiling all over the place. Now
38 it is never seen.

39

40 As a commercial fisherman and a
41 troller, never in my life -- I have fished for many
42 years and I have never, ever seen in my life seen king
43 salmon eating bowheads and black cod.

44

45 The herring fishery has got to be
46 stopped now. And as you are
47 traveling around I would appreciate it, it would be
48 great if you could start a petition now to stop this
49 herring fishery. Sitka is the very last place, when
50 that is depleted there's going to be no more. The last

1 spawn that they had there in Sitka was a great big
2 spawn, the whole area was all white, but it was all
3 mostly males, no eggs. The people that are sending up
4 their egg branches got their branches back and there
5 was nothing on it.

6
7 And for our fishing for sockeyes. We
8 have to go a great abundance of miles away from here
9 and we're risking our lives to go out and get sockeyes.
10 We are harassed by the Fish and Game at all times and
11 they're counting our fish. When I go out there to get
12 fish I go out and get fish in great abundance and I do
13 not waste one fish. I give to our people, I give to
14 all of our people. And for the past few years I come
15 back I cannot give any fish to many people, I can't.
16 If I have any more fish than what I'm supposed to then
17 I'll get a citation. That is wrong. For each and
18 every person to get their 10, 12, 20 sockeyes, they
19 have to have a skiff, a seine and they have to go out
20 and do it. What about the elderly people, they can't
21 do it, the disabled people, they can't get it. A lot
22 of people cannot get it. Our people is common for us
23 to share our food. There should not be any
24 restrictions, they should bring this up, the
25 subsistence, for our subsistence people. The
26 subsistence the State says is for all of the people,
27 all of the people. So the commercial fishermen are
28 getting 95 percent of the catch, 95 percent. That's 2
29 and a half percent for subsistence, 2 and a half
30 percent for the sportfishermen. So that's 5 percent
31 and 95 percent for commercial harvest. Cut that down
32 and raise the subsistence for the common people of the
33 land. The law books does not say rural or non-rural,
34 it says for the common people of the land is the
35 majority or total control. What do we have, nothing.
36 They have taken away our rights for commercial harvest
37 of salmon and all types, IFQs, everything taken away
38 from us.

39
40 I was called by the -- and they asked
41 me what is your opinion on the economy, are you happy
42 with the economy. I said no, they want to start this
43 here mining. I am totally against this here mining.
44 He says what is wrong with the economy. I said yes, I
45 said I am (In Tlingit). I said I am stuck here. I
46 said I'm used to fishing all the time, commercial
47 fishing. Now how many Natives do you see seining,
48 halibut fishing, crabbing, gillnetting, how many. How
49 many. How many. Do you see them. You don't see
50 Natives out there running seine boats and gillnetters,

1 trollers, very few of them. But they're right, we have
2 got to get our right back now, right now. If they give
3 us our right to fish we'd take a lot of people off food
4 stamps. There's no reason for me to be drawing food
5 stamps. I am capable of running a boat. I'm very good
6 at it. I'm very good at trolling, seining,
7 gillnetting, crabbing.

8

9 I have more things to say and I did not
10 know that this meeting was coming up, I read about it
11 in the newspaper. And I will probably make more
12 comments here again. And we need to harness herring
13 fishing now, not next year, every year it comes up
14 right at the last minute and we're arguing about
15 herring fishing. Every year. This has got to be
16 stopped now, right now.

17

18 So God bless you, take care. Thank
19 you. Gunalcheesh.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

22 Gunalcheesh.

23

24 Next year we're going to be having our
25 fisheries meeting in Sitka and he says, you know, take
26 care of this right now and I fully agree with him.
27 But, Mr. Larson, I want his testimony, you know,
28 included in our testimonies for next year, if you can
29 just make sure that it's brought up and entered into
30 the record for next year.

31

32 Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

33

34 MR. LARSON: September of this year?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, September of
37 this year. I'm sorry.

38

39 So let me see, let's move on to
40 wildlife issues. We need to -- we're going to try to
41 get out of here by 5:00 o'clock so we can have a chance
42 to go in and freshen up a little bit and come back.
43 What time is the performance tonight. Melinda.

44

45 MS. HERNANDEZ: They're going to -- the
46 dancers are going to be ready to go at 5:30, but
47 they're going to have food here at 5:00 officially.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Does the
50 Council need to go into town for any reason or should

1 we just stick around here? Okay. There's going to be
2 a dinner and there's going to be a performance. Okay.
3 So we'll go until, you know, you say 5:00 o'clock.

4
5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Why don't you go until
6 about 5:15 and then we'll eat really quick and we'll
7 have dancers.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That's how
10 we'll do it, we'll go until 5:15. So let's go ahead
11 and take a little break. Okay. I think we need one
12 right now.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (On record)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's get started now.
19 I guess I'm going to have to move because that thing is
20 on my forehead. But, Susan, are you ready to do your
21 part so most of us will step off to the side. And go
22 right ahead and make your report.

23
24 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 And for the record I'm Susan Oehlers with the Forest
26 Service out of Yakutat. And I'm just going to be going
27 through a brief review of the special actions for the
28 regulatory year 2009 and 2010. It's actually wildlife
29 and fisheries. And just briefly to address -- Mr.
30 Chairman asked some questions about deer in Yakutat
31 earlier. I don't have any concrete data right now,
32 we're not planning any pallet surveys for the Yakutat
33 area this year, they're going to be concentrating their
34 efforts in other regions. But, you know, by all
35 accounts and similarly to what Mr. Kookesh reported,
36 I'm expecting with the mild winter to see some, you
37 know, hopefully recovery of our populations. And I
38 haven't gotten reports this year like I did in the last
39 couple years of deer down on the beaches, eating
40 seaweed, that kind of thing. So I'm definitely hoping
41 this mild winter will help.

42
43 So that's really all I have kind of
44 for, you know, wildlife issues. And just, you know,
45 you can kind of connect the dots. If we did a special
46 action you can kind of assume that there was an issue
47 with that particular area or species.

48
49 So again this is for 2009/2010, Fish
50 and Wildlife Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. And this is

1 just again just a review of the special actions just to
2 refresh everyone's memory and may be kind of pertinent
3 to some of the proposals we discuss.

4
5 The first one, special action 09-01 was
6 for moose in Units 1B and 3, and I think we discussed
7 this a little bit earlier and that amended the
8 definition of a legal moose in 1B and 3, and a portion
9 of Unit C to include moose with two bow tines on each
10 antler. And that was through the Federal Subsistence
11 Board.

12
13 09-02 was for goats in Unit 5A, the
14 portion of Unit 5A known as Nunatak Bench. And that
15 closed the current season, 2009, August 1 through
16 January 31st, 2010. And again that was through the
17 Federal Subsistence Board.

18
19 09-03 for marten in Unit 3 which closed
20 the Federal public lands in Unit 3, that -- the Kuiu
21 Island portion of Unit 3 to trapping or taking of
22 marten, December 1st through February 15th, authorized
23 by the Board.

24
25 09-04 for moose in Unit 5A. And that
26 delegated authority to the Forest Service District
27 Ranger in Yakutat to establish the quota for moose in
28 that area of Unit 5A excluding Nunatak Bench. And that
29 was in consultation with Fish and Game, the Chair of
30 the RAC and also to be able to close the season once
31 the quota was reached. And that was authorized by the
32 Federal Subsistence Board.

33
34 Special action -- oh, boy, I'm going to
35 have to read all these numbers or you can read it.
36 Unit 5A moose. And this was to reduce the quota in
37 Unit 5A from 60 to 55 and from 30 to 25 on the public
38 lands west of the Dangerous River excluding the Nunatak
39 Bench for the 2009 season which is October 8th through
40 November 15th. And this was authorized by the Forest
41 Service District Ranger in Yakutat through authority
42 delegated to him by the Federal Subsistence Board.

43
44 Special action 09-05 for Unit 4 deer.
45 And this was requested to close the Federal public
46 lands of Unit 4 draining into Chatham Strait, Peril
47 Strait and Icy Strait including Tenakee Inlet to the
48 harvest of female deer by non-Federally qualified users
49 for December in 2009. And this request was not
50 accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board and just

1 briefly the Board stated that the existing information
2 indicates that, you know, current use is sustainable
3 and they didn't see a conservation concern for the deer
4 population in this area.

5
6 There was a closure for Unit 4 deer
7 which closed the Federal public lands of the NECCUA
8 from September 14th -- I'm sorry, to the taking of
9 female deer from September 14th to November 13th, 2009.
10 And that was authorized by the Sitka and Hoonah
11 District Rangers of the Forest Service by authority
12 delegated by the Board.

13
14 And there was a similar closure in Unit
15 4, deer, 09-10 which essentially extended that closure
16 within the NECCUA to the harvest of female deer from
17 November 14th through December 31st. And that was
18 authorized by the Federal Board.

19
20 Special action for fisheries, Section
21 1D, Unuk River eulachon. Closed the river to the
22 taking of eulachon starting February 22nd until April
23 23rd of 2009. And that was authorized by the Forest
24 Service District Ranger in Ketchikan by delegated
25 authority.

26
27 09-03 for Klawock River sockeye salmon.
28 This extended the season closing date for the Federal
29 subsistence sockeye salmon in the Klawock River from
30 July 31st to August 7th of '09. Authorized by the
31 Board.

32
33 And in District 6 Hatchery Creek
34 sockeye salmon. Reduced the limit for sockeye salmon
35 in the Hatchery Creek drainage to three sockeye per day
36 and set an annual limit of nine sockeye salmon from
37 June 1st until June 28th in 2009. This also closed a
38 portion of the Hatchery Creek drainage from 100 feet
39 upstream of the Upper Falls to 100 feet downstream of
40 the Lower Falls to all subsistence fishing and closed
41 the remainder of the drainage to the harvest of sockeye
42 salmon and restricted fishing gear to rod and reel and
43 dipnet from June 29th to July 31st in '09. And this
44 was authorized by the Forest Service District Ranger in
45 Craig.

46
47 And there's two more special actions
48 related to Hatchery Creek sockeye salmon. This next
49 one basically extended the closure I just referred to
50 with the closure relative to the Upper and Lower Falls

1 and the restrictions in fishing gear, moved that back
2 to June 20th. So it is now June 20th until July 31st
3 of '09. Again authorized by the Craig District Ranger.

4
5 And then finally a similar closure and
6 restriction in fishing gear that extended that from
7 August 1st until August 16th of 2009, again authorized
8 by the Craig Forest Service District Ranger.

9
10 And that's all I have. And you can't
11 really see, but that's a pool of salmon in the Ahrnklin
12 River in Yakutat. So if you have any questions I'd be
13 happy to try and entertain them or with some help of
14 some other Staff we could help, but, you know, it's
15 just intended for a review.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan. Is
20 there any questions from the Council.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tell me, maybe you can
25 share. How's the special action, you know, issues been
26 working, do you find them to be effective or does it
27 address the situation?

28
29 MS. OEHLERS: Oh, are the special
30 actions -- the process in general working or I'm not
31 sure of the question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. How do you
34 think they have been working, these special actions,
35 you know, so far?

36
37 MS. OEHLERS: You know the ones that
38 I've -- I haven't been involved in all of them,
39 particularly I haven't been involved in any of the
40 fisheries ones, I can't really address those. The ones
41 that I was involved in, you know, for Yakutat, you
42 know, seem to work, I mean, you know, we were able to
43 accomplish what we needed to in time -- you know, in a
44 timely manner. So I haven't really seen any problems
45 with the process per se.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Thank you.
48 Because, you know, we are going to be addressing these,
49 you know, in some of our proposals later on. So I was
50 just kind of curious, you know, to hear from you and

1 see how they were working out.

2

3 Any questions by anyone else. Mr.
4 Douville and then Patty. Normally it's ladies first,
5 but I saw his hand come up first. Okay.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 You can see me first. But there was some effort to do
11 some work on the Falls here, is -- I was wondering what
12 the status of that was. And during these closures I
13 was -- I also have a question about what the State
14 season was doing at that time.

15

16 MS. OEHLERS: I'll defer that.

17

18 MR. REEVES: Mr. Chair. Mr. Douville.
19 Jeff Reeves, U.S. Forest Service. I can definitely
20 answer the first part of the -- your first question.
21 And yes, there is plans to go in and build a structure
22 to help fish get over those falls. And right now it's
23 in a EA form, there's been onsite visits and if
24 everything goes through -- the timing window to build
25 this is going to be a little different than a normal
26 late summer timing window. It would probably be built
27 in the late spring. If it doesn't get in this year
28 then it would be in the following year.

29

30 And if you could repeat the second
31 question.

32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: I didn't hear what you
34 said.

35

36 MR. REEVES: I need you to repeat the
37 second question, I didn't quite catch it as I was
38 walking up.

39

40 MR. DOUVILLE: The second question was
41 what was the State season doing at the time that these
42 Federal closures were happening.

43

44 MR. REEVES: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
45 Douville. The first special action was actually lining
46 up our season with the State season. And at -- when
47 the second one for Hatchery Creek came in at that time
48 the State was closing their personal use fishery. And
49 so those two actually did coincide. The third one,
50 when we extended that further closure into August, the

1 State has a sportfishing regulation that has that area
2 shut down through the end of July and they also did an
3 EO to extend the sportfishing closure there too. So
4 pretty much all the actions were jointly done.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Ms. Oehlers. On the Nunatak Bench or the moose in the
10 Yakutat area, the special action dropped the quota
11 from, you know, dropped it by five. Was that -- did I
12 see that right. So did it do -- I mean, has the
13 population stabilized or.....

14

15 MS. OEHLERS: I'll just ask you to
16 verify are we talking about the goats in the Nunatak
17 Bench or.....

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Moose in the Yakutat
20 area.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: She's probably talking
23 about Unit 5.

24

25 MS. OEHLERS: The Unit 5 moose before
26 we dropped the quota?

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you.

29

30 MS. OEHLERS: Right. We haven't
31 actually done any composition surveys since then. Fish
32 and Game was just able to get out, in fact, this
33 weekend, the last couple days and do some population
34 surveys, but at this time we don't have any updated
35 bull to cow ratio data so I can't speak to that.
36 Hopefully we'll be able to get out this fall, get some,
37 you know, early snows and be able to go out and get a
38 better composition ratio. So we'll keep you apprised
39 of that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just a matter of
42 information, when I went out flying on Friday on the
43 western side of the airport as we were circling around,
44 yeah, we saw five moose out there, two bulls and three
45 cows. And then between the airport and Cannon Beach we
46 saw a cow and a calf all bedded down in the snow. So I
47 was encouraged by that because I went there flying, you
48 know, a couple years ago and the bull/cow ratio wasn't
49 very good at that time. And hopefully, you know, it'll
50 start getting better for us.

1 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. Yeah, that's great
2 information. And like I say, I'm not sure what the
3 results of the last survey are and it's not a real good
4 time of year to be doing the sex ratio. And we just
5 haven't had the good weather, you know, the right
6 timing for surveys, but we'll definitely keep tabs on
7 that population.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anymore
10 questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan. She
15 just came back from a vacation.....

16
17 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:so we can't
20 expect her to know anything -- everything by now, you
21 know.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Neil isn't
26 here, is somebody else going to do his report for him?

27
28 Mr. Porter.

29
30 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Council. I'll be giving this portion of the report for
32 Neil Barton, he'll be in first thing tomorrow morning.
33 He apologized for other stuff he had to finish up in
34 Anchorage.

35
36 So we're going to talk about Board of
37 Game actions and most of this is at -- was at the
38 statewide meeting in Anchorage. Before I go down the
39 list -- I wasn't going to go through every one of them,
40 I was going to try to pick those that seemed to affect
41 Southeast people. One point I wanted to make before I
42 go through those is you were interested in whether or
43 not we were going to the three year cycle.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (Nods affirmatively)

46
47 MR. PORTER:there is movement on
48 that and they're actually moving in that direction. I
49 expect to hear something fairly soon and will pass that
50 on to you as soon as we can, but we -- we're definitely

1 going there. It took a lot of maneuvering as you can
2 imagine to fudge around the fish cycle and the Federal
3 cycle, trying to make all those pieces of the puzzle
4 fit in there. So I think they've worked out the
5 details. So as I'm going through these I'll just look
6 up to see if anybody has specific questions about these
7 actions.

8

9 And the one that I guess I thought was
10 of interest, they did pass the sale of black bear parts
11 and this is statewide. So you would be able to -- they
12 don't necessarily have to be made into a regalia or a
13 handicraft item. That's been the regulation up to this
14 point. They would have to have been made into
15 handicraft, they do not require that now.

16

17 They also passed a regulation to
18 require harvest tickets for black bears, just like a
19 deer harvest ticket. Again increasing harvest of black
20 bears across the State and with all the intensive
21 management stuff that's going on, they're just trying
22 to get a handle on how much effort's being expended in
23 black bear hunting arenas and also how many bears are
24 being -- a better measure of how many bears are being
25 taken.

26

27 Boy there's a lot of actions here that
28 I won't go through. You know there's periodically
29 trapping issues pop up across the State and they did
30 have some issues in Chugach State Park where there were
31 user groups trying to close trapping areas especially
32 along trails and roads similar to what Juneau's done in
33 the past to try to alleviate negative interactions with
34 pet owners and with hikers and other users on the
35 forest. And they did pass a regulation in the Chugach
36 to require -- let's see, they closed wolverine trapping
37 in Chugach State Park which is right above Anchorage
38 and then they also prohibited body gripping traps seven
39 inches or greater inside measurement. And again those
40 were to respond to dogs being caught in traps. And not
41 just caught, but these are kill traps. So when a dog
42 gets in one a lot of times they're killed instantly.
43 So trying to relieve some of that negative pressure.
44 And again that's right above Anchorage.

45

46 Palmer area, they -- if you've all
47 followed with some of the changes of administration, we
48 have a new director now and with that new director and
49 our commissioner, it seems like we're going to go into
50 a lot more predator management, predator control areas.

1 In the Palmer area they allow the use of helicopters
2 and no closed season for black bear baiting, no minimum
3 age for the hunter and they're going to allow non-
4 residents to participate in these efforts. Helicopters
5 may be used only to access the bait stations that are
6 designated as intensive management. Intensive
7 management means they've decided that they want to
8 substantially reduce predators, both wolves and black
9 bears and in some cases brown bears. If it has that
10 designation then it comes under this regulation now.

11
12 There are also -- they adopted the use
13 of traps for black bears so we now have a designation
14 for black bears as a furbearer and by changing that
15 designation if the Board of Game decides that they want
16 to establish a predator control effort in a particular
17 area then they would pass a regulation to allow
18 trapping of black bears. They're already doing it in
19 some of the areas and this was a new one. In Unit 16
20 which is directly west of Anchorage most of these black
21 bears are.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Porter.

24
25 MR. PORTER: I'm sorry.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey has a question
28 to ask of you.

29
30 MR. PORTER: Sure.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So sorry about
33 interrupting you.

34
35 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Under the predator control regulations on bears, what
37 did they do with the carcasses in the Park that are
38 taken, is control done by the State or is this done by
39 people?

40
41 MR. PORTER: Member Kitka. They are --
42 depending on the area, some of that's being done by a
43 State biologist, but by passing these regulations
44 they're allowing members of the public to do the
45 trapping and predator control in many cases. If you've
46 followed some of the other predator control includes
47 using members of the public that are given permits to
48 shoot from the air. This is another method that
49 they're utilizing in some areas that -- with black
50 bears. And most of these -- I was going to mention

1 that they are using a leg snare so for the most part
2 they go out, set up the camp, set up bait stations and
3 set these foot snares and they walk it just like a
4 trapline and dispatch the bears.

5
6 In answer to your question what do they
7 do with them, most of them aren't utilized, they do
8 have to bring the hides and the skulls back to have
9 them sealed and by sealing them they're able to get sex
10 and age information from the harvest. They aren't used
11 for food for the most part, it's a predator control
12 action.

13
14 Is there more questions on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I do have a question.

17
18 MR. PORTER: I mean it's a move in a
19 different direction than the Department's ever gone in.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I have a problem
22 with that, you know. If some of us went out and we got
23 a bear and just took the hide we could be cited for
24 wanton waste. So why does the State have the privilege
25 of allowing that to happen?

26
27 MR. PORTER: Well, Mr. Chair, I guess
28 if I were to make any sort of comparison it would be
29 now that they're classified as furbearers and it's
30 established in that area that they are causing decline
31 in moose and/or caribou which are important to the user
32 groups, they're treated as a furbearer and by doing
33 that it would be like your sea otter situation. You
34 know I don't know if there's any traditional use of sea
35 otter meat so you would use -- but usually you're using
36 the hide or utilizing the hide for something. I would
37 imagine some of these, at least the claws, maybe the
38 hides now that you can sell them, there's potential for
39 some market. But also with that sale of bear hides
40 realize that many states allow that already. I don't
41 know how many states, but Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, you
42 know, a black bear hide on the general market is
43 probably only worth a \$100 or so. And so I don't think
44 it's going to cause a great deal of concern for people
45 going out and just killing them to sell them
46 necessarily.

47
48 But does that answer your question, Mr.
49 Kitka?
50

1 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, ma'am.
4
5 MS. KENNER: Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, we have a question
8 here. Please, we'll address that first. Okay.
9
10 Jack, go ahead.
11
12 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Bear parts, does that include the gallbladders?
14
15 MS. KENNER: No, they still can't be
16 sold for trophies and the gallbladders can't be sold
17 specifically, but other parts can.
18
19 MR. LORRIGAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
20 you, they can't?
21
22 MS. KENNER: They can't be sold for --
23 black bear cannot be sold for trophies nor can the
24 gallbladders be sold specifically. Other parts can
25 though.
26
27 MR. LORRIGAN: What's to prevent that?
28
29 MR. PORTER: Mr. Lorrigan. I guess it
30 would come under the same regulations that protect them
31 right now, you know, you couldn't transport it across
32 state line, you couldn't sell it on the open market.
33
34 MR. LORRIGAN: And one more question.
35 If a sow is caught in a snare and the cubs are hanging
36 around I'm assuming they're dispatched also?
37
38 MR. PORTER: Yes.
39
40 MR. LORRIGAN: Okay.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Madam.
43
44 MS. KENNER: For the record my name is
45 Pippa Kenner and I work for the Office of Subsistence
46 Management. I just wanted to clarify to the Chair that
47 this new statewide State of Alaska regulation applies
48 to bear harvested on Federal public lands unless you're
49 hunting in an area closed to other users or you're
50 hunting with a Federal permit. And that -- none of

1 those situations exist in the state right now.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks for that
6 clarification. Appreciate that.

7

8 Mr. Porter, you want to continue.

9

10 MR. PORTER: That concludes the
11 proposals that I had flagged that I thought might be
12 useful. Anybody see proposals or action that they were
13 interested in, I guess you can -- you could catch me at
14 some point.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, you got a
17 question.

18

19 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Mr. Porter. Were there any actions on meat salvage in
21 big game animals, like there were a few proposals that
22 had to do with requirements to salvage meat or the
23 disposal of meat after it had been processed, say it
24 went bad in your freezer and there were a couple
25 proposals that had to do with that. I was wondering if
26 the Board did any -- made any actions on those?

27

28 MR. PORTER: Mr. Bangs. I know they
29 delayed some of that -- those actions and I don't know
30 specifically if it was those salvage issues. Remember
31 the next Board of Game meeting will be here in
32 Southeast in November, I think it's the 5th through the
33 9th here in Ketchikan. Was that in regard to black
34 bears in particular or do you remember?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you think Neil --
37 excuse me, you think Neil might have an answer for that
38 tomorrow when he arrives?

39

40 MR. PORTER: We could certainly
41 research that, yeah, and have more information for you
42 tomorrow. That would be a better way to do that.

43

44 MR. BANGS: Yeah, thank you. I have
45 the proposal numbers, I just don't -- I didn't bring
46 the book with me, but I have all the proposal
47 numbers.....

48

49 MR. PORTER: Okay.

50

1 MR. BANGS:and I have our minutes
2 from our AC meeting.

3
4 MR. PORTER: Okay.

5
6 MR. BANGS: And I was just curious
7 about a few of them there.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. PORTER: Sure, if you give me the
12 numbers I'll research it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
15 questions of Mr. Porter.

16
17 Are you going to handle the next one
18 too, sir, item number C?

19
20 MR. PORTER: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead.

23
24 MR. PORTER: Again filling in for Neil.
25 You had asked for a summary of deer status and trends
26 in Southeast Alaska and I thought it was useful to go
27 through just briefly our history of monitoring deer,
28 how we've done it and sort of the direction that we're
29 going in the near -- in the future and currently we're
30 working on a couple of projects.

31
32 So as many of you know with -- a lot of
33 these issues have come up, we've fallen back on our
34 deer pellet program. That deer pellet program to
35 monitor long term deer trends started in 1981 and we're
36 still continuing that while still looking at some of
37 these other options. The traditional or what we call
38 traditional pellets, because we are looking at some
39 other methods to use deer pellets for monitoring
40 methods, has been a cooperative effort between the
41 State and the Forest Service over a number of years.
42 And by joining efforts we're able to cover a lot of
43 ground in -- across deer range. We've also tried a lot
44 of different things, anything that you can imagine that
45 might give you some indication of how deer numbers are
46 doing, we've probably either thought about it or tried
47 it. We've tried alpine surveys, you know, there's a
48 brief period, a good period before deer season starts
49 in early August that a majority of migratory deer are
50 up in the alpine and we've used those as sort of a

1 trend indicator. We've tried forward looking infrared
2 and looked into the application of that, you know, it
3 -- it's used for polar bears and some other things, it
4 just has some real problems with -- in Southeast with
5 the canopy cover and with the thick hollow hair that
6 deer have it doesn't give out a really good heat
7 signature.

8
9 We recently have started using the
10 technology of DNA markers to -- extracting that from
11 deer pellets and you've heard a little bit about Todd
12 Brinkman's work on Prince of Wales Island. That was
13 successful, he was able to get some really good
14 population estimates from that work. And starting this
15 spring, this April we'll be working on a pilot project
16 on the Northeast Chichagof and looking at estimating
17 deer in one of those drainages. There's also some
18 movement and habitat use work going on there with
19 satellite collars on deer. So that's going to provide
20 us information in a place we've never worked in. You
21 know Prince of Wales gets a lot of the -- has gotten a
22 lot of the effort over the years in terms of deer
23 research and this was an effort that we'll be focusing
24 on Northeast Chich which as you guys know it's suffered
25 some pretty severe winter affects and realizing that
26 we'll be able to estimate deer numbers probably at
27 their low level. What we're hoping to do with this
28 technology and methodology is to be able to take it,
29 we're going to train all of our biologists on the
30 method and we're hoping that we can move that around
31 Southeast Alaska and get point estimates periodically.
32 So it'll give us another indication of how deer are
33 doing over time.

34
35 Working that down into a cost effective
36 method has been the challenge because it's pretty
37 expensive work and labor intense. And that's a mark,
38 recapture so they're actually identifying individual
39 deer from DNA material on the pellet itself and then
40 recapturing those animals as you pick up pellets from
41 that same animal.

42
43 Todd Brinkman also worked on another
44 method that was called the trial method. In our
45 traditional deer pellet monitoring we've used a compass
46 heading so we'd either be at a marked tree that we
47 start the same point on the beach usually and take a
48 compass heading and go straight up the ridge or across
49 the ridge, whatever the compass bearing was, counting
50 pellets across that monitoring area. And in his method

1 he modified that just a little bit, instead of just
2 holding that compass heading he was taking the best
3 trail, deer trail that you encountered on that compass
4 heading. And it was actually improving our estimates
5 of deer in those areas. So that also showed some
6 promise.

7
8 Recently with the hard winters around
9 the Sitka area, Unit 4, Phil and the folks up there
10 have been watching that deer herd really close to try
11 to get a good idea on how well it's rebounding. As you
12 all know there's no black bears, there's no wolves.
13 And so that population is likely to rebound fairly
14 quickly in the absence of another hard winter event
15 like they've had in that area.

16
17 So he's stepped up his efforts, he's
18 doing beach surveys, they're doing some road surveys
19 and he's actually trying some alpine surveys on
20 Northeast Chich to get some -- again some idea of how
21 many are there now and then measuring that change over
22 the next few years. That effort will continue through
23 this year measuring those changes.

24
25 The other work that we usually do is
26 mortality transects and that's really in response to
27 extreme winter events, especially like what we've seen
28 the last couple two or three years. And those are --
29 give us some indication of how many deer have died over
30 the winter. We usually do those along beaches and
31 you're really estimating from those deer along the
32 beaches how many died -- how many may have died in
33 other areas. As you guys know they don't all winter
34 along the beach fringe. So we know there are dead deer
35 other places that we don't detect a lot of times.

36
37 And so then with our hunter survey,
38 again that gives us pretty good indication of numbers
39 of hunters out there, how much time people are spending
40 hunting deer and then also the catch per unit effort,
41 how much time is it taking a hunter to get the same
42 amount of deer so you can measure that over time. And
43 we've talked a lot about our mail out surveys, it's a
44 stratified, random sample of all people who get deer
45 harvest tickets. We send surveys out to about 35
46 percent of the hunters and on average we'd get about 60
47 percent of those hunters would respond and give us good
48 hunting information. So all in all we would end up
49 with about a 21 percent measure of how hunters were
50 doing, how many deer they were killing and use that

1 information to extrapolate what's happening with the
2 rest of the hunters.

3
4 There have been efforts the last few
5 years to get a higher percentage of response from
6 hunters and Larry Dickerson and everyone's been
7 involved in that and that's been successful. We've
8 gotten a better response, but I guess the take home
9 message is we're not sure that we need to put that
10 amount of effort in, we're still running some numbers,
11 some calculations to see how those two sampling
12 strategies compare. And I don't have those numbers for
13 you, we were hoping to have them back to us by now, but
14 I guess that would be a later discussion, whether or
15 not we stick with that or do we stick with the --
16 trying to get 100 percent response or do we go back to
17 our random sample, stratified random sample of hunters.

18
19 Let's see. And just real quick to go
20 through projects we've got going on, we've probably got
21 more deer work going on than we've had in the last 10
22 or 12 years. We've got a fawn mortality study starting
23 on Prince of Wales Island this spring, it's a Ph.D.
24 student that will be working on a project looking at a
25 study area of about 600 square miles in the center of
26 Prince of Wales. There'll be radio collars on fawns
27 and on doe deer so we'll get a lot of information
28 including if you remember a pilot study that we did
29 about six years ago, we were able to get some little
30 expandable collars on deer fawns, neonate fawns less
31 than a month old and a high number of those at the time
32 were killed by black bears within their first 10 days
33 after they were collared. It'll be interesting to see
34 whether that is similar now because on Prince of Wales
35 Island we've increased our harvest intensity on black
36 bears to a point that we're actually concerned that we
37 have damaged part of the population in some of the
38 easily accessible areas, the road system, very easy to
39 get to and lots of particularly non-resident hunters
40 coming up and harvesting black bears. So in terms of
41 black bear numbers we're probably much lower than --
42 the population's probably much lower than it was when
43 we did this pilot before. We'll be looking at all the
44 causes of mortality, whether it be natural, wolf
45 mortality and bear predation, all measures of fawn
46 survival then. And we'll be looking at it by habitat
47 type so what stage of regrowth or old growth are these
48 deer living in and does that change their chance of
49 survival.

50

1 There will also be as I mentioned radio
2 collars on some female deer on Northeast Chich to try
3 to get an idea of habitat use. We don't have much
4 information up there. Again a pretty fragmented
5 habitat up there so that will provide some pretty
6 interesting information aside from what we know about
7 deer on Prince of Wales.

8

9 We'll also have a black bear project
10 going on on Prince of Wales simultaneous to this fawn
11 mortality and trying to get an idea of movement of
12 black bears and habitat use, hopefully some -- have
13 some overlap with black bears and the radio collared
14 deer in that study area.

15

16 And then I'm also working on a
17 mark/recapture using -- pulling hair from black bears
18 and then recapturing them when the hunters harvest
19 them. And we're hoping to get at least a harvest rate
20 from that, black bear harvest rate. In order to expand
21 that sort of a study into a population estimate it
22 would take another several hundred dollars that I --
23 hundred thousand dollars that I don't have right now.
24 So again trying to get more information on sort of the
25 rounded ecosystem there.

26

27 And again some of this black bear work
28 comes in response to high harvest rates that we've seen
29 in the last few years. It's almost the opposite of
30 what's happening in the rest of the State with predator
31 control issues. We've actually had non-residents doing
32 a pretty good job of killing a lot of black bears.

33

34 And that's all I had. Mr. Chair.
35 Council.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Porter.
38 Any questions from Members of the Council or comments.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Mr. Porter. On the Brinkman study is it showing the
46 populations of deer on Prince of Wales above or below
47 what the previous methodology was or is it too soon to
48 say?

49

50 MR. PORTER: Boy, that's a good

1 question, Patricia. They didn't track very well, the
2 estimates were off a little bit and I'm not sure what
3 his final take on that was. He did -- in his three
4 watersheds, he was looking at Maybe So, Steelhead and
5 Staney Creek and he did show that over those three
6 years that he was working in there that there was a
7 slight decline in deer which is interesting. I mean it
8 -- we know that there -- we lost some deer over the
9 last three years, over the last three hard winters so
10 that's not surprising. I guess what's encouraging is
11 that in the same period that he detected those declines
12 or slight declines, we still saw one of the best catch
13 per unit efforts that we've seen in about 15 years on
14 Prince of Wales. Good success and people were
15 reporting, you know, seeing lots of deer, lots of
16 fawns, good productivity.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Patty.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Were those
21 watersheds all managed differently, like were some
22 timber harvested, were some old growth or how were
23 those watersheds managed?

24

25 MR. PORTER: Ms. Phillips. Exactly.
26 He chose those watersheds so that he would have a
27 cross-sample and they are in different ages and all
28 have got some different qualities to them.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
33 else. Mr. Wright.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 In the spring you're going to be doing a deer count in
37 Northeast Chichagof?

38

39 MR. PORTER: I'm sorry.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Are you going to be doing
42 in the spring a Northeast Chichagof Island deer count
43 again, is that what you said?

44

45 MR. PORTER: Right. Plus there will be
46 a research project going on in that same area using
47 this Brinkman technique. So there will be quite a bit
48 of work going on there. And it'll be new information,
49 we haven't spent any time on Northeast Chich.

50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman. So this new
2 system you're using, this is the first time you're
3 using it because, you know, and you said something
4 about it picked up -- you were able to get more deer
5 count by doing -- using this method?

6
7 MR. PORTER: Well, it's a method to
8 estimate population. So we'll have marked animals out
9 there, we'll be using this DNA technique to estimate
10 deer numbers in the watershed. And I apologize, I
11 can't remember the name of the watershed that we're
12 going to be working in, it's not Spaskey. I'll be able
13 to tell you that.

14
15 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I don't know which
16 one you're working in either. So.....

17
18 MR. PORTER: I'll be able to tell you
19 tomorrow.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman. Another
24 question, when you're doing the bear hunts, you know,
25 and the non-residents are doing, is it the same as up
26 north where the meat isn't taken or is it still just
27 left behind?

28
29 MR. PORTER: Member Wright. We -- they
30 have to salvage the meat in the spring. We don't have
31 a salvage requirement in the fall. Many people eat it,
32 quite a few people still eat it, but I think they
33 decided that they couldn't force people to eat it if
34 it's been in the fish stream.

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Yeah, that's just
37 what I wanted to hear. Another question is when you
38 were doing the deer count on the dead deer, was that
39 just the beach side you were looking at and then you
40 were guesstimating on what was happening in the forest?

41
42 MR. PORTER: We have mortality
43 transects we call them or dead deer transects that
44 we've established back in the '80s and we try to go in
45 -- they're mile long stretches of beach line, we take a
46 -- drop two people off and we'll do one person just
47 inside the tree line, the other person's about 30 yards
48 inside the trees and walk that one mile and it gives us
49 some indication of how many dead deer are on that one
50 mile section. It's also usually opposite areas that

1 people hunt all the time. But also it gives us that
2 long term trend index of how many deer have we seen
3 over the last few years that have died. And you can
4 really see it in the years that you have high mortality
5 or high death rates like we've seen in Unit 4 the last
6 few years. Numbers of dead deer go up and it also
7 gives you a chance to look at the carcass and crack a
8 big long bone, any one of the leg bones you can crack
9 them open and you can see one, if that deer died while
10 it was still in good condition early in the fall and
11 was killed by brown bear or in the case of Prince of
12 Wales if it was killed by wolves. Or in extreme cases
13 the marrow will almost run out of the bone and it -- I
14 guess it doesn't matter what happens, even if
15 conditions improve over night, those deer are probably
16 going to die of starvation anyway, they're on a one way
17 cycle.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any --
22 Patty.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: You were saying that the
25 catch per unit effort for POW is the best it's been in
26 years. Can you explain that catch per unit effort,
27 what that -- define that for me?

28

29 MR. PORTER: Yeah, sure. Just numbers
30 of days per deer. And remember we talked quite a bit
31 about that in terms of Unit 2 deer especially. And
32 looking at that over time, Patricia.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Porter.

39

40 MR. PORTER: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We have the
43 resolution that you proposed, Patty, and it'll be
44 distributed to Council members, you know, at the end of
45 our meeting today. So we'll also have a chance to look
46 it over this evening and come tomorrow prepared to
47 address it.

48

49 Mr. Barry Brokken, are you going to be
50 here tomorrow?

1 MR. BROKKEN: Yes, I'll be here all
2 week.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'll tell you
5 how we're going to handle this. Okay. Each proposal
6 is taken one by one and there's an analysis that will
7 be presented. After the analysis is done then we take
8 comments, you know, from the Federal, State, public and
9 so forth. So I think that would be the best way for
10 you to handle all of the ones that you have listed
11 here, just take them one by one, okay.

12
13 MR. BROKKEN: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. And I'll
16 explain it a little bit more to you, you know, if you
17 need it when we get to that point tomorrow. But I
18 think that will be the best way for us to handle your
19 comments.

20
21 And I have a special presentation by
22 Pete Probasco. So if you want to step forward and take
23 care of that for us now, Pete.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. PROBASCOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Council Members. And I'm actually here representing
29 the Federal Subsistence Board and Chairman Fleagle.
30 And it's been a practice for some years now to
31 recognize long service by our Council members,
32 recognizing the fact that they're volunteers and they
33 give a lot of their time and efforts.

34
35 And with that said, they like to give
36 just a token of appreciation for years of service. And
37 the first person we'd like to recognize, we have two
38 Council members that we'd like to recognize, and the
39 first one is Mr. Frank Wright. In recognition of his
40 contribution to the Federal Subsistence Management
41 Program, as a member of the Southeast Alaska
42 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for the years
43 2004 to 2010.

44
45 And, Mr. Wright, Frank, there's a token
46 for that service and we would.....

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. PROBASCOS:like to give that

1 to you.

2

3

(Applause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And before you go any
6 further, Mr. Probasco, I'd just like to make a comment
7 about Frank. You know I know there are times when it
8 was challenging for him to come to RAC meetings because
9 he's a commercial fisherman, he also coached basketball
10 and sometimes our meetings, you know, didn't coincide
11 all together with his schedule. But when he needed to
12 be here he was here. And I just wanted to add that,
13 you know, your comments as well.

14

15 So thank you, Mr. Wright, for your
16 dedication to serving on this body. Gunalcheesh.

17

18

Go ahead.

19

20

21 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 And the last person we'd like to recognize tonight is
23 Mr. Bert Adams, our Chair. And it's for your service
24 from 1999 to 2010. A very long time and we look
25 forward to your continued support and leadership on
26 your Council.

26

27 And there's a little story with your
28 gift. You'll note that it doesn't rattle. In the
29 haste of one of my Staff to make the airplane, they
30 forgot that this gift doesn't make it through security.
31 And so what we will do, Mr. Adams, Mr. Chair, is that
32 your gift will be in the mail.

33

34

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36

(Applause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you very
39 much. We're going to adjourn for the evening. We're
40 going to have -- was it the dinner first and then the
41 performance? I see people coming in.

42

43

(Off record)

44

45

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

