

1 JOINT SOUTHCENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ALASKA
2 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5 VOLUME I

6
7 Crowne Plaza Hotel
8 Anchorage, Alaska
9 March 11, 2014

10
11

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

14 SOUTHCENTRAL

15 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
16 Judith Caminer, Secretary
17 Greg Encelewski
18 Andrew McLaughlin
19 Mary Ann Mills
20 Michael Opheim (telephonic)
21 James Showalter
22 William Shuster
23 Gloria Stickwan

24

25

26 SOUTHEAST

27 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
28 Michael Bangs
29 Arthur Bloom
30 Michael Douville
31 Donald Hernandez
32 Aaron Isaacs
33 Kenneth Jackson
34 Harvey Kitka
35 Cathy Needham
36 Patricia Phillips
37 Robert Schroeder
38 Frank Wright
39 John Yeager

40

41

42 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike
43 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

44

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

2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 3/11/2014)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
8 joint session of the Southcentral/Southeast Subsistence
9 Regional Advisory Council meeting back into session
10 this spring.

11
12 And with that, I would like to tell you
13 that what we're going to do in the near future, because
14 of our constraints with this room right here, tomorrow
15 morning Southeastern is going to meet in this room and
16 in the afternoon Southcentral will meet in this room.
17 And then we will have our joint session on Thursday in
18 both these rooms connected, because we've lost the
19 other room. So if that's agreeable to everybody.
20 Southcentral does not have to come in the morning, and
21 Southeast does not have to come in the afternoon.

22
23 And then we'll have our joint session
24 on Thursday.

25
26 Now, with -- oops, we still have
27 Council members to come sit down.

28
29 And, Gloria, would you be willing to
30 open us with prayer for this joint session after
31 everybody get sat down.

32
33 Okay.

34
35 Donald.

36
37 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Donald Mike, Council coordinator.

39
40 Today we have a guest, Mr. Dan Dunaway,
41 he's a member of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
42 Council. And Ms. Molly Chythlook, she serves as the
43 Chair for the Bristol Bay Council, she was going to be
44 here, but I think she'll be here tomorrow or Thursday
45 for the joint session.

46
47 We requested that a representative from
48 Bristol Bay Council attend this joint session. They
49 addressed the customary use process at their meeting
50 last week, and they would like to present their

1 recommendations as far as how they're going to proceed
2 to get some public comments on the customary use
3 process for Southeast and the Federal Subsistence Board
4 to consider.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald. As
9 soon as everybody gets seated, Gloria's going to open
10 us up in prayer, and then we will -- this is kind of a
11 historic meeting in a way to have Southcentral and
12 Southeastern -- boy, when you look at the map, we are
13 awful closely related.

14

15 That's for sure.

16

17 Gloria.

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: Heavenly Father, thank
20 you for this day that you have given to us. I thank
21 you for us being able to meet together, the Southeast
22 RAC and the Southcentral RAC. I pray that you will
23 guide us, help us to make good decisions, to remember
24 who we are representing, rural people. I pray that you
25 will help us to remember to speak clearly and concisely
26 and to think about things before we talk about them,
27 and that you will keep us mindful of our time as we are
28 on a time limit. I thank you for everything you have
29 given us and provided for us. I pray that you will
30 give us a safe trip home and guide us and direct us in
31 this meeting.

32

33 In Jesus' name I pray.

34

35 Amen.

36

37 IN UNISON: Amen.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria.
40 And I didn't mean to be disrespectful. I had my eyes
41 closed and I didn't know everybody else stood up.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that was not meant
46 in disrespect either.

47

48 Okay. With that, Bert.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, the next time

1 that we do that, you're going to stand up, and we'll
2 sit down.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sounds good to me.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I just wanted
9 to maybe make a comment about the way we have the
10 meeting set up for tomorrow so that you'll all
11 understand. You know, it's been a real problem trying
12 to schedule the meeting, because it's a large group
13 here. And we talked a lot about it on the side, and we
14 thought that the best way that we can accommodate, you
15 know, our own meetings would be for Southeast to have
16 our own meeting in the morning and then Southcentral
17 will have theirs in the afternoon.

18

19 And, you know, the question is, will we
20 be able to get through our agenda, you know, in that
21 allotted time. We will do our best, and I guess maybe
22 if we need to stay, you know, or come back a little bit
23 later on, you know, to finish up, that might be an
24 option. I know that was also a discussion is maybe we
25 can go into the evening or something, you know, but
26 we'll do our best, Patty, to try to get thing taken
27 care of.

28

29 And another thing, too, you know, it's
30 a historical think what we're doing here. You have two
31 Chairmens here, so we're fighting over who should be
32 able to conduct, you know, so I did it this morning.
33 It's his turn today. Or this afternoon.

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairmans.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. NEEDHAM: I have a question. I was
40 on the agenda planning committee, the joint agenda
41 planning committee, and one of the things that we had
42 talked about is we have this list of things, of topics
43 that we were going to go through together jointly, and
44 then save time aside at the end of our session in case
45 each individual Council wanted to make or take actions
46 on an agenda topic. And, of course, one of the ones
47 that I can think of right off the top of my head is
48 going to be the C&T stuff, like getting the briefing
49 jointly as the C&T, but we might have a lot of work to
50 do on that. And it seems like this new schedule of us

1 meeting concurrently tomorrow and jointly on the third
2 day goes against that ability to be able to make those
3 decisions that we need to make as a Council
4 independently. And I just wanted to point that out,
5 because I wasn't sure if that was taken into
6 consideration. I understand that it was a room change
7 thing, but I felt that needed to be said.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert, have you got any
10 comment on that one? No.

11

12 It was taken into consideration, and
13 logistics just basically -- we talked about all meeting
14 in -- our whole Council meeting in that other room, and
15 we just couldn't figure out how to do it, so this is
16 the best that they could come up with at this point in
17 time. If we have a problem with it, like Bert says, we
18 may have to go late into an evening.

19

20 With that, we have a bunch of time
21 certain things.

22

23 Mr. Johnson.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 And through the Chair.

27

28 Cathy, one thing I would suggest, I
29 know that there are some joint reports that you're
30 receiving that will influence your individual action.
31 And one thing you could do is just make sure to get
32 through those items today. And if necessary, you could
33 adjust your scheduling or go into the evening a little
34 bit to make sure you got those joint reports that will
35 provide input to your individual Council actions
36 tomorrow.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With
39 that, if we're going to get through these individual
40 reports, we need to get started. And we had one that
41 was time certain for 1:30, but 1:30 is long past, but
42 we'll start anyhow.

43

44 It's a briefing and summary of
45 customary and traditional use determination. And I
46 think it said Pippa? Who is presenting that.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, that's Ms. Pippa
49 Kenner.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I don't see
2 her. Pat. Are we missing our presenter.

3
4 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm not sure where
5 Pippa is, but if you would like, I could give the
6 presentation.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could you take it
9 until she gets here.

10
11 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes. So we start on
12 Page -- this is Pat Petrivelli with the Bureau of
13 Indian Affairs.

14
15 And we start on Page 22. Is it 21?
16 Sorry. Yes, 21. Sorry about that. I was looking at
17 the table of contents. But it starts on page 22.

18
19 And then this briefing, I think you've
20 seen it before, but it just described that the Federal
21 Subsistence Board and the Southeast Regional Advisory
22 Council is asking for inputs from all the different
23 Councils throughout the State. And this topic came up
24 as part of the Secretarial review process, and so this
25 has been before the Councils a couple of times in the
26 past couple of years. Of course, there are some new
27 members on the council.

28
29 But the briefing does cover the
30 background. And, let's see, it goes through the first
31 time all the Councils were asked to review, 9 out of
32 the 10 Councils said it's fine, but the Southeast
33 Council had a problem with the customary and
34 traditional use determination process, and they wanted
35 a more thorough review of customary and traditional use
36 determinations.

37
38 And their main concern was not
39 necessarily how customary and traditional use
40 determinations are made, but why customary and
41 traditional use determinations are made. And they were
42 concerned, because the way ANILCA is, the first step is
43 a rural determination is made, because ANILCA provides
44 a priority use to rural residents on Federal public
45 lands. After that rural determination is made, then
46 when the Board makes a customary and traditional use
47 determination, only those residents of those
48 communities or areas are eligible for subsistence
49 priority on Federal public lands.

50

1 When the Board has not made a customary
2 and traditional use determination, and they've made
3 subsistence regulations, all rural residents are
4 eligible to harvest those resources.

5
6 So they asked -- so they prepared those
7 questions, and last fall the Councils looked at this
8 again, and a summary of their comments starts on Page
9 30 as they went through. And they made different
10 recommendations again, and some of the Councils asked
11 for a more thorough briefing. They wanted more
12 information. And the materials that were prepared
13 under that more information was really -- and I guess
14 it has to relate to what the Southeast Council's -- one
15 of the recommendations was to no longer do customary
16 and traditional use determinations, because they're not
17 specifically required in ANILCA, and only do .804
18 determinations in times of resource shortage, and those
19 are required in ANILCA, where Congress provided three
20 criteria to use to make a priority among subsistence
21 users.

22
23 And so many Councils were concerned
24 about that, and didn't quite understand. So the
25 information on Page 27 and 28 describes what an .804 is
26 and it gives the regulation for .804, the three --
27 well, it says ANILCA Section .804, and on Page 27 it
28 has the actual language. And then the Federal
29 regulations for the Board for implementing that part of
30 the legislations where it says, whenever is necessary
31 to restrict the subsistence taking of fish and wildlife
32 on Federal public lands, and then it just repeats the
33 same criteria. And then those three criteria are
34 customary and direct dependance upon the population as
35 the mainstay of livelihood, local residency, and
36 availability of alternative resources. And then it
37 just has other implementing regulations.

38
39 So some of the Councils have met and
40 looked at this issue some more, and Dan Dunaway's on
41 the Bristol Bay Council, they met two weeks ago, and
42 they discussed this further, and I don't know if he
43 would want to report on that.

44
45 But as each Council meets and looks at
46 the .804 criteria, and the customary and traditional
47 use determinations -- oh, on Page 29 it just gives a
48 side-by-side comparison of .804 and customary and
49 traditional use determinations.

50

1 The Bristol Bay Council asked for
2 another table to be developed, because they're sending
3 out a letter to all their tribes and corporations and
4 Fish and Game Advisory Committees and, well, whomever.
5 They're just looking for a lot of input. But they
6 asked for a comparison of the State customary and
7 traditional use determination and the Federal customary
8 and traditional use determination. So a table was
9 prepared for them. And that's mainly because the
10 Southeast in their summary they said that they were
11 concerned that the Federal program adopted the State
12 process when they really didn't need to. So they just
13 asked for a table that compared the two systems. And
14 so I helped the Council coordinator, and we prepared a
15 table where we laid out the different factors and
16 criteria.

17
18 And under the State system, eight
19 criteria, very similar to the Federal system are used
20 to make determinations, but their determinations are,
21 say, Unit 7 moose. Well, that wouldn't work, because
22 that's a non-subsistence area, so we'll Unit 17 moose
23 is a subsistence resource. And then they proceed to
24 make amounts necessary for subsistence. But that's how
25 the State uses their criteria is to identify an area
26 and a species.

27
28 Under the Federal program, the Federal
29 Board determines the species and the area, but also the
30 communities or areas of rural residents who are
31 eligible to have customary and traditional
32 determinations for that resource, So that's the main
33 difference. And once those determinations are made,
34 only those people have the priority under the Federal
35 subsistence regulations.

36
37 So this process is a flowing process
38 and it's ongoing. And as it keeps going, the Councils
39 will be providing comments to the Federal Board, and I
40 guess we'll be sharing it with the Southeast Council
41 also. And then if it's necessary for -- I don't know
42 if the Southeast Council will be preparing a proposal
43 once they get back their information. I think they
44 are, because I go to their subcommittee meetings, but I
45 don't know if the Council as a whole will submit the
46 proposal, and then the Board would consider -- would
47 listen to the comments from all the different Councils
48 and then -- because they were told to by the Secretary
49 to review Subpart A and B of the regulations with the
50 Councils. And these regulations on Page 29 are in

1 Subpart B of the regulations, and if any changes are
2 made by them, the Board would have to recommend it to
3 the Secretaries, and then there will be a proposed rule
4 published and the Councils and other residents would
5 have the opportunity to make more comments.

6

7 Oh, and Pippa's here, but I don't know
8 if she'd like to come and join me, because we did this
9 together at the Y-K meeting also.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairs.

14

15 Pat, I really sat down. I think you
16 did a really good presentation. I didn't hear the
17 first part of it, but I am also here to do a briefing
18 on rural, so that's why I sat down.

19

20 Thank you, everybody. I'm Pippa
21 Kenner, and I'm with OSM here in Anchorage. I was away
22 from the meeting briefly, because I went and got some
23 copies of a very important analysis that we neglected
24 to bring to the meeting, and that was a short lunch.

25

26 I'll go ahead and just give you my overview,
27 and then you'll get some information twice, but you'll
28 know what's going on. This is not an action item. My
29 presentation is to tell you where we are in our review
30 of the customary and traditional use determination
31 process. The briefing begins on Page 21.

32

33 Just a minute, please.

34

35 I'll start with a short history of the
36 issue. In 2009 the Secretary of the Interior, Ken
37 Salazar, began a review of the Federal Subsistence
38 Program. Part of that review focused on customary and
39 traditional use determinations. A year later, in 2010,
40 the Secretary of the Interior asked the Board to review
41 with Regional Advisory Council input the customary and
42 traditional use determination process and present
43 recommendations for regulatory changes.

44

45 They are based on eight factors, and
46 the eight factors are presented on Page 24, or Appendix
47 A, of your Council book.

48

49 At their 2011 winter meetings, all 10
50 Regional Advisory Councils were asked for their

1 perspectives on customary and traditional use
2 determinations. Nine of the 10 Councils did not
3 suggest changes to the process, and their comments are
4 once again presented for you to see beginning on Page
5 25, Appendix B, of your Council Book.

6
7 The Southeast Council asked the other
8 nine Councils to review the customary and traditional
9 use determination process again. The Southeast
10 Council did not support retaining the current customary
11 and traditional use determination process. Instead,
12 the Southeast Council suggested that when necessary,
13 the Board restrict who can fish, hunt or trap for
14 subsistence by applying ANILCA Section .804 criteria.
15 There are three criteria. One is who has direct
16 dependence on the resource; two is in proximity to the
17 resource; and, three, who has alternative resources
18 available.

19
20 The Southeast Council asked the other
21 Councils to consider whether to, one, eliminate
22 customary and traditional use determinations, and
23 instead, when necessary, use ANILCA Section .804
24 criteria; two, change the way the determinations are
25 made by making areawide customary and traditional use
26 determinations for all animals, not animal by animal;
27 three, make some other change; or, four, make no
28 change.

29
30 At your -- for the Southcentral
31 Council, at your fall meeting, the Council adopted a
32 motion to support alternative number 2, and voted to
33 change the way determinations are made by making
34 areawide customary and traditional use determinations
35 for all fish and wildlife. Your recommendation is
36 described beginning at the bottom of Page 30 in your
37 Council books.

38
39 The recommendations of the other
40 Councils are also in this section of the book.

41
42 The Board will take these
43 recommendations at its April 2014 meeting and have a
44 discussion on whether or not to forward recommendations
45 to the Secretaries to change customary and traditional
46 use determination process.

47
48 The Southeast Council at this meeting
49 will be continuing to work on this.

50

1 And thank you very much, Mr. Chairs,
2 that's the end of my presentation.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And at
5 this point in time, do we have any questions for her.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically where we
10 are right now is we are -- Southeast is going to
11 continue the discussions on it. And we're going to have
12 another look at it ourself, and basically the thing is
13 open for -- it's still open for changes, right?

14
15 MS. KENNER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other -- does
18 anybody have any questions. Gloria.

19
20 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to know
21 where Southeast is in their decision-making process of
22 what they're going to write up; how close they are to
23 writing something up, and what those criteria area or
24 options are for C&T.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm just going to turn
29 that question over to Cathy who has been the chairman
30 of that group.

31
32 And let me just say that Cathy and
33 Patty and Donald, the main committee members here, have
34 worked real hard on this issue. And I just have to
35 compliment them for the fine work that they have done
36 in bringing forth this issue to us in the present form.

37
38 So, Cathy, go head and, you know,
39 answer her question and make any other comments you
40 might have.

41
42 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 Gloria, to answer your question, we
45 have been meeting. We have a work group from the
46 Southeast Council that's been meeting since our last
47 meeting. We were tasked with developing a proposed
48 regulation change that came from our region that would
49 address our concerns regarding C&T. We are prepared to
50 present back to our Council I guess tomorrow.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: To present our work that
4 we have done. We have a proposed regulation change
5 that we have drafted out completely for -- I'm not
6 going to get the right CFR right off of the top of my
7 head, but it ends in .16.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. NEEDHAM: That's the important
12 piece, I guess. But we also have some considerations
13 that some Staff that have been working with the work
14 group have also come up. So our Council will hear the
15 proposed language that we developed. They'll also hear
16 some feedback from Staff on some potential
17 considerations to get our intent across, and I expect
18 that our Council will choose or pick exactly what they
19 want to say and forward a proposal out of the end of
20 our meeting. I hope. Expect.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Cathy. Can
23 I ask you a question. So what you are planning to do,
24 if I understand right, is at your meeting tomorrow
25 you're going to try to come up with a finished proposal
26 so that you'll be able to bring that to the joint
27 Council meeting on Thursday, right?

28

29 MS. NEEDHAM: If that's the will of the
30 Councils. I think originally it wasn't necessarily in
31 that order, but I guess there is an opportunity to be
32 able to do that if the Council does make a decision on
33 the proposed language. And it might be important to
34 note that the work group is, and this is our Council's
35 just hearing this for the first time from me, but we
36 did propose regulation changes to that regulation
37 rather than choosing what was originally -- that came
38 out of our region as Alternative 1, which was just to
39 propose getting rid of C&T regulation process
40 altogether. That was one of our original
41 recommendations. Our work group did not -- is not
42 planning on forwarding that recommendation any further
43 to our Council.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Cathy, and
46 I didn't mean to put you on the spot, and I realize
47 that you'll only bring it forward if your Council
48 agrees to bring it forward, if your Council
49 accomplishes what they want to accomplish. If there's
50 no agreement I wouldn't expect you to bring us anything

1 forward. But we would appreciate it, if you do get a
2 finished or almost finished product that you're willing
3 to share, South Central would appreciate having a
4 chance to look at it, because that would give us
5 something then to go from.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that,
10 we're trying to keep with a schedule today. Bert,
11 that's pretty hard for you and me. I was informed I
12 had five minutes three minutes ago, so.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, you're in
15 charge, so it's all up the hill.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we have two minutes
20 out, but we're already over. So if there's no further
21 discussion on customary and traditional. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 I'll try to keep it brief.

25

26 Dan Dunaway with the Bristol Bay RAC.

27

28 Donald's encouraging me to make you
29 aware that we wrestled with this for a while. A number
30 of us think that what Southeast is bringing up, we
31 can't ignore that, you know, the subsistence culture
32 used everything that was available, no doubt about it.
33 But we were hesitant to move too far ahead, because we
34 didn't really have much response from any of the local
35 tribes. tribal organizations or SRCs from the Federal
36 areas. So we resolved to compose a letter and solicit
37 input from -- that we were going to mail to every tribe
38 and whoever else out here, and then try to take this
39 back up in the fall. I suppose we could make this
40 letter available to anybody interested.

41

42 I've been doing a lot of stuff since
43 the meetings, I've kind of been on the run, so I'm a
44 little foggy on -- I thought we had a motion, but I
45 think we ended up not really taking more action. I
46 know there was concerns expressed about how would
47 introduced species be viewed under this, especially
48 depending on the funding and the agency, and maybe the
49 reason for the introduction or reintroduction.

50

1 Personally I'm concerned about
2 unforeseen consequences. That's one thing I've voiced.
3 And would this somehow create some conflicts with other
4 user groups.

5
6 But at this point, we're just going to
7 send this letter out as soon as we can get Molly's
8 signature, and give the various tribes time to comment
9 and get back to us.

10
11 Did I cover it all?

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this will be sent
14 to all the Councils then, too, right?

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: (Nods affirmative)

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you.
19 With that, if there's no further comments on C&T, we're
20 going to go on to coordination with North Pacific
21 Fishery Management Council. It's going to be presented
22 by, and correct me if I'm wrong, but Jane DiCosimo. Am
23 I right? And Diana Evans. How bad did I massacre the
24 name.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. EVANS: Dicosimo, and she's
29 (Indiscernible - away from microphones).

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Dicosimo. Okay.

32
33 MS. EVANS: Oh, sorry, there we go. So
34 members of the Council, my name is Diana Evans. I work
35 for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and
36 my colleague, Jane, and I are going to do this
37 presentation together, but in order to advance slides,
38 I'll do the first half, and she'll do the second half.

39
40 So we're here to give you a short
41 presentation on the North Pacific Fishery Management
42 Council does, its responsibilities, and then also
43 focusing on some of the issues that we are dealing with
44 that may be of interest to this group. So we chose to
45 focus on some the salmon and halibut issues that the
46 North Pacific Council is dealing with.

47
48 So who we are. North Pacific Fishery
49 Management Council is responsible jointly in
50 partnership with National Marine Fisheries Service for

1 managing offshore Federal fisheries off Alaska, so
2 fisheries that occur between 3 and 200 miles. The
3 North Pacific Fishery Management Council makes
4 recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service,
5 who has responsibility for approving, implementing, and
6 enforcing those recommendations.

7
8 The fisheries that occur in the
9 offshore area, primarily groundfish and halibut
10 fisheries, those are governed under the Magnuson-
11 Stevens Act. That's the authorizing Federal law for
12 offshore fisheries.

13
14 As we get our technical difficulties --
15 the next slide just talks about who exactly is on the
16 Council, and the membership is designated specifically
17 in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. There are 15 members, 11
18 of them are voting members, and four non-voting
19 members. And each of these -- as I say each of the
20 seats are specifically designated in the Magnuson Act.
21 There are four seats for fisheries agencies, so
22 National Marine Fisheries Service, and then the
23 Commissioners for the Alaska Department of Fish and
24 Game, and the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish
25 and Wildlife. Those are four of the 11 voting seats.
26 And then there are seven appointed seats, and these are
27 seats that are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
28 from names that are provided by the governors of Alaska
29 and Washington. So there are five Alaska seats, and
30 two Washington seats.

31
32 And the way that works you can see up
33 here in terms of Council membership. The Alaskan
34 governor puts forward a short list of three names that
35 are recommended, then the Secretary of Commerce picks
36 one of those three names that are put forward.

37
38 So this sort of shows the map of how
39 our Council members are set up. And you can see on the
40 bottom left, moving around the table then, we have the
41 NMFS Alaska region representatives, the National Marine
42 Fisheries Service. Department of Fish and Wildlife for
43 Washington. Duncan Fields from Kodiak is one of the
44 Alaska appointees. Also Dan Hull from Anchorage. John
45 Henderschedt from Seattle is one of the Washington
46 Governor's appointees. Roy Hyder is a representative
47 of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Craig
48 cross is a Washington appointee. Eric Olson is another
49 of the Alaska members appointed by the Secretary of
50 Commerce at the recommendation of the Governor. Dave

1 Hanson on the top is the Pacific States Marine Fisheries
2 Commission, they're one of the non-voting members on
3 the Council. Dave Long is another of the appointed
4 members. We have the Commissioner of Alaska Department
5 of Fish and Game, Cora Campbell. Another Alaska
6 appointee. And then on the bottom right you can see
7 there are three positions that are all non-voting: The
8 Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S.
9 Department of State. And that constitutes the Council
10 membership for the North Pacific Council.

11
12 We have five meetings a year, three of
13 them occur in Anchorage, one in an Alaska fishing
14 community, and one occurs either in Seattle or
15 Portland. And each meeting lasts about eight days.
16 They're all open to the public and we have numerous
17 opportunities for public comment, including written
18 testimony for each agenda item. Probably similar to
19 the process that you have here.

20
21 We have recently in the last years
22 instituted an audio link so that people who are remote
23 can listen to the Council, and in real time. They can
24 also access now our documents and motions, because we
25 have all of our briefing books in an electronic format
26 online.

27
28 So this just walks you through kind of
29 the work of the Council if you like, how we go from the
30 process of a proposal coming forward to a change
31 actually made in the fisheries in the water. So in
32 general our proposals come from the public. They can
33 either be submitted as public testimony or from
34 individual Council members. They are reviewed by the
35 Council. This often is an iterative process. It can
36 take several times viewing a particular proposal at the
37 Council, but the Council will develop what they
38 consider to be the problem, what are some alternatives
39 for addressing that problem, maybe some discussion
40 papers to tease out what are the real issues.
41 Sometimes there's committees that provide input. Then
42 we have an analysis that we put forward that's reviewed
43 twice before the Council selects a preferred
44 alternative.

45
46 Above the dotted line, that's what the
47 Council part of the decisionmaking process. Below the
48 dotted line, that's primarily National Marine Fisheries
49 Services' role. So they begin, once the Council has
50 provided a recommended preferred alternative, they

1 begin a rule-making process with the proposed rule and
2 public comment, final rule that's finally referred and
3 approved the Secretary of Commerce, and then is
4 implemented in the water. So that's how the
5 partnership works between the Council and National
6 Marine Fisheries Service.

7
8 And one important thing to say here is
9 that because the Magnuson Act identifies how the
10 fishery management process will work for offshore
11 fisheries, that one of the big drivers of that process
12 is public input. So there's opportunities for public
13 input at every single of the steps that you see up here
14 as we move through the process of changing a regulation
15 or a management measure, both from the proposal being
16 able to come forward from the public and then at all
17 the different stages of review and analysis and rule-
18 making.

19
20 So as I mentioned, the Magnuson-Stevens
21 Act is the guiding law for fishery management. It has
22 -- it identifies how the Council process will work.
23 But also in terms of evaluation how we move forward
24 with these analyses on changes to fishery management,
25 there are 10 national standards identified in the
26 Magnuson Act, and the Council and NMFS must consider
27 all of them when they're evaluating a particular
28 action.

29
30 Some that are particularly relevant for
31 the suite of issues that we're going to talk about
32 today that the Council is dealing with, there's three
33 that we just highlighted here for you. There's a
34 national standard to minimize bycatch to the extent
35 practicable. So in the fisheries that we manage, our
36 groundfish fisheries, salmon and halibut are both
37 bycatch in those fisheries, and so that is one of the
38 national standards that the Council has to take into
39 account.

40
41 A second important one is to prevent
42 over-fishing while achieving optimum yields. So we're
43 trying to achieve optimum yield for the fisheries that
44 the Council manages.

45
46 And then a third national standard
47 that's particularly relevant is to provide for
48 sustained participation of communities, fishing
49 communities and minimize adverse impacts to those
50 fishing communities.

1 So those are some of the key tensions
2 that the Council wrestles with when they're looking at
3 actions, particularly the salmon and the halibut
4 actions.

5
6 So as I say, we focused specifically on
7 salmon and halibut for this group. The agendas and our
8 other management actions that we deal with might be,
9 you know, allocative actions within the ground fish
10 fisheries or, you know, habitat, conservation actions.
11 There are other things the Council deals with, but we
12 focused specifically on the salmon and halibut ones
13 here.

14
15 So with respect to salmon bycatch, I
16 would note that for those of you that might have been
17 in the RACs three years ago, I came and gave
18 presentation to both of these groups three years ago
19 with respect to the action that we're talking about
20 here, salmon bycatch in the Gulf groundfish fisheries.
21 We've actually taken -- the Council's taken a lot of
22 action in the last three years, but you may have seen
23 some of this information before. So with respect to
24 salmon bycatch, the Council doesn't actually regulate
25 salmon fisheries. That's a State of Alaska
26 responsibility, but we do obviously have a
27 responsibility for salmon bycatch that occurs in the
28 offshore groundfish fisheries. And the fisheries that
29 catch salmon are the trawl fisheries in the Gulf, so
30 mostly in the pollock fishery, but also some in the
31 fisheries for flatfish, Pacific cod, and rockfish
32 fisheries. And by law, bycatch in those fisheries
33 cannot be retained. It must be counted, but cannot be
34 retained or sold.

35
36 So this just gives you a graphic of
37 what levels of bycatch we have in the Gulf groundfish
38 fisheries, Gulf groundfish trawl fisheries. Looking
39 back through time, you can see that the bycatch levels
40 are pretty variable from year to year. The lighter --
41 in the top left graph, the lighter line is identifying
42 what the bycatch limit that was recently instituted in
43 the pollock fishery is at a level of 25,000 Chinook
44 salmon. So where does that fall compared to the
45 interannual variability of the estimated bycatch
46 amounts by year going back from 1991. You can see that
47 comparison on the graph. And on the bottom right it
48 splits out the bycatch that accrues from the pollock
49 target fishery versus other groundfish trawl fisheries.
50 You can see that the bycatch really does come in the

1 pollock fishery. That's the blue in the bottom right
2 graph.

3
4 So the two actions that the Council had
5 taken recently are just summarized in the next two
6 slides. This first one talks about the pollock fishery.
7 The Council put in place -- the last time I spoke with
8 these RACs, the Council was considering a bycatch cap
9 for the pollock fishery, and that's now been
10 implemented, in fact both acted on and implemented. It
11 was implemented in mid 2012. The overall cap is 25,000
12 fish for the Western and Central Gulf trawl fisheries,
13 but it's actually split out between those two areas.
14 And when each area reaches their portion of the limit,
15 it closes the pollock fishery in that area.

16
17 The pollock fishing is an onshore
18 fishery, so all catch is delivered onshore, so this is
19 a limit that applies to catcher vessels.

20
21 And one of the changes as part of this
22 program was to actually require that all the salmon
23 that are caught are brought to shore, and that's again
24 for the purposes of counting them, and to allow for
25 biological sampling, because one of the things that we
26 discovered through the process of doing this analysis
27 that we put together to establish the bycatch cap was
28 that we don't know a lot about where the salmon that
29 are being caught in the gulf fisheries are originating.
30 So their stock of origin. So the Council was very
31 interested, and it's a very high priority for the
32 Council to institute a sampling, a robust sampling
33 program in the Gulf. There's been a lot more work --
34 had been work prior to that in the Bering Sea, but in
35 the Gulf of Alaska, we now have systematic sampling in
36 the pollock fisheries, and we're starting to get a
37 little bit of information about the stock of origin,
38 and we'll be getting more and more information about
39 that in years to come as that sampling program -- as we
40 get the results from the sampling that's currently now
41 occurring.

42
43 So a similar action, a parallel action
44 was taken a couple years later, last year, for the non-
45 pollock fisheries, a smaller cap, 7,500 fish, and it's
46 split a little bit differently. It's split among
47 catcher/processors and catcher vessels, because there
48 is a catcher/processor component of the non-pollock
49 fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. And there's also an
50 incentive aspect to the bycatch cap. That means that

1 if you stay below a threshold in one year, you can
2 access some additional bycatch allowances in the
3 following year. That sort of buffers against the risk
4 of a particularly high salmon bycatch year, but also
5 provides incentive for the fleet to minimize their
6 bycatch to the extent practicable.

7
8 And then this final slide on salmon
9 just looks at the impact of bycatch on Chinook stocks.
10 As I said before, because we don't have a lot of
11 information about stock composition of the bycatch, we
12 have uncertainty about the relationship between bycatch
13 in the fisheries and status of Chinook stocks in the
14 Gulf. But we have more information than we did last
15 time I spoke with you, so we now have -- the most
16 recent information we have is from the bycatch samples
17 from 2011. And just to give you a context, there were
18 about 240 samples that were analyzed in 2011. 2012's
19 data would be coming out in the next couple of months,
20 and I think we increased our sample size to about 400
21 samples in 2012. Hopefully that number will keep
22 increasing as we have now instituted this better
23 sampling protocol in terms of getting the number of
24 samples.

25
26 But in 2011 the information generally
27 shows that about 66, about two-thirds of the bycatch
28 samples were fish from the Pacific Northwest and
29 British Columbia, and then about 15 percent were from
30 coastal Southeast Alaska stocks, and 15 percent from
31 northwest Gulf of Alaska stocks. We don't have a
32 resolution beyond those bigger areas, but that's the
33 information we have for 2011. It's generally
34 consistent with even smaller samples that we had for
35 2010. So that seems to, so far at least, to be good
36 information for the limited information we have.

37
38 And jus the last comment there is that
39 although we don't have -- we don't know exactly the
40 relationship between the bycatch and the stocks on
41 land, or stocks on the rivers, we at least have bycatch
42 limits in place now to control bycatch, particularly in
43 years where there's high bycatch occurring.

44
45 And I think with that we're going to
46 switch to halibut and I'm going to switch places with
47 Jane and do the.....

48
49 MS. DICOSIMO: So this slide is a
50 snapshot from 2012 in the distribution of the different

1 types of halibut removals that occur in different types
2 of fisheries. You'll just about 60 percent of halibut
3 in 2012 came from the commercial individual fishing
4 quota or IFQ program. About 23 percent was bycatch in
5 commercial ground fish fisheries. About three percent
6 was wastage in the commercial IFQ fishery. Less than
7 two percent is removed as subsistence harvest, with
8 sport taking up the balance of a little bit less than
9 13 percent.

10

11 And as Diana mentioned, we're focusing
12 the presentation just because of your limited time, and
13 our estimation of the topics that would be of most
14 interest and relevance to the RACs.

15

16 So what the Council undertook in the
17 last several years was an examination of those bycatch
18 amounts that I showed you in that slide, in the
19 previous slide showing the amount of removals that come
20 from bycatch in the commercial groundfish fisheries.
21 The Council placed a priority beginning in around 2010
22 to further investigate the effects of that bycatch
23 removals on the declining halibut resource. And what
24 it ultimately decided on was a program that I'm
25 describing in this slid, and that is, over the next
26 three years, starting with 2014, the Council has
27 recommended and NMFS has implemented a program to
28 reduce commercial halibut bycatch by 15 percent over
29 the next three years, between 2014 and 2016. The trawl
30 sector limits are decreasing by 15 percent, 7 percent
31 this year, 5 percent -- an additional 5 percent in
32 2015, and the final 3 percent in 2016. The
33 catcher/processor longline halibut bycatch limit
34 decreased seven percent all in one step this year. And
35 the catcher vessel longline sector limits also will
36 decrease over a three-year timeframe of 15 percent.
37 Also, there's a one metric ton or about a 2200 pound
38 reduction in halibut bycatch allowed in the demersal
39 shelf rockfish fishery program.

40

41 As Diana mentioned, there are tradeoffs
42 in Council management. The Council was charged with
43 maximizing the yield of the fish in the water to bring
44 in to benefit the population, the people population,
45 the fishermen, the folks that eat the fish, et cetera.
46 But it also is charged with reducing bycatch to the
47 extent that it can. And so it does have this tradeoff,
48 and one of the tradeoffs is increased allocation to the
49 directed fisheries sector as a result of reducing
50 bycatch. There's a fixed amount of fish allowed to

1 come out of the water, and then its an allocation issue
2 in terms of who does the Council determine will be able
3 to take what percent.

4

5 And so by dropping the cap on bycatch
6 fisheries, it ultimately increases the cap to a lesser
7 degree, it's not a one-to-one relationship, but there
8 is an increase that occurs to the directed IFQ fishery,
9 the sport fisheries, and the subsistence fishery. The
10 increased wholesale gross revenue, the dollars
11 associated with that 15 percent reduction to the
12 groundfish fleet is approximately a little over \$2
13 million.

14

15 You see a much less effect in
16 Southeast, because trawling is already prohibited in
17 Southeast, and so you're not getting as much of a
18 benefit, because it's already banned. But in
19 Southcentral Alaska, and in the Western Gulf, you can
20 see \$1.4 million associated with increased revenue from
21 high quotas, and \$875,000 annually associated with
22 higher quotas for the Western Gulf.

23

24 And the tradeoff is in the next bullet,
25 and that is that the commercial groundfish fisheries do
26 take a financial hit, and that is estimated at about
27 \$10 million annually by the time that full 15 percent
28 reduction is in place.

29

30 And so the next thing that the Council
31 moved towards is to develop management tools to help
32 those sectors, the groundfish fisheries that are faced
33 with these reduced bycatch limits with being able to
34 take more groundfish per ton of halibut bycatch. And
35 so what they're looking towards doing is some type of
36 individual bycatch quota program. And they're still at
37 the discussion paper stage, the document just came out
38 today, in terms of reviewing a proposal that the
39 Council has adopted for this discussion paper that is
40 looking at individual bycatch limits for salmon and
41 halibut, and associating them with pollock and cod
42 quota shares, similar to the halibut IFQ program.

43

44 There are options that address catcher
45 vessels that made for voluntary cooperatives to manage
46 their effort and pool the risk of exceeding their
47 individual bycatch caps.

48

49 I'm moving towards a different topic,
50 and that is just a general summary of halibut

1 subsistence program, thinking this may be of particular
2 interest to this group. We haven't had new action or
3 any changes to the regulation of this program since I
4 think 2008. But in summary the Council in 2000
5 adopted a subsistence management program that became in
6 effect in 2003. It include 118 rural communities and
7 123 Federally-recognized tribes, plus residents of
8 designated rural areas, and that was that 2008
9 amendment.

10

11 There are no harvest limits associated
12 with individual subsistence permit holders, but there
13 are some limits for ceremonial use permits, and another
14 type of permit like that. There are no size limits on
15 halibut, so any size halibut may be retained. The gear
16 limits are generally 30 hooks per permit holder. Some
17 areas have 90-hook limit per boat.

18

19 There are -- this program is allowed
20 only in subsistence waters, and therefore the urban
21 areas, so to speak, or the non-subsistence waters are
22 closed.

23

24 Permit holders are required to carry to
25 carry this permit. The acronym for it is a SHARC card.
26 And the program does have reporting requirements
27 associated with it, and the Alaska Department of Fish
28 and Game for the last 10 years has done those surveys
29 in the communities either using local people or sending
30 their Staff to local areas.

31

32 There are over 4,000 fishermen hold
33 subsistence cards. In 2012 there were over 37,000
34 halibut harvested with about 690,000 net pounds being
35 taken. 58 percent of that harvest occurred in
36 Southeast Alaska, 30 percent occurred in
37 Southcentral with the remainder in the westward areas.

38

39 78 percent of the harvest is taken with
40 setline gear, 22 percent with hand-operated gear. And
41 this is just a snapshot. Since 2003, looking at
42 similar information just in graphical form, showing
43 Southeast, which is area 2C in the purple. Southcentral
44 in the burgundy, and the remaining part of Alaska in
45 the yellow.

46

47 I'm moving on now to just a summary
48 slide for a brand new program that is implemented in
49 February. And that is a catch-sharing plan for the
50 charter and commercial halibut sectors. There are --

1 the Council is not managing at all the non-charter or
2 the unguided fleets, so if you're an solely angler and
3 you go out on your own boat, or you go out on your
4 friend's boat, there's -- we're not involved in the
5 management of that sector.

6
7 But the Council has for the last 18
8 years or so been struggling with an optimal program
9 design for managing the charter sector. And since 2004
10 we have been under a guideline harvest level program
11 with an annual review of the appropriate management
12 measures that would be associated with the harvest for
13 that upcoming year under the guideline harvest level
14 program. We've changed that this year to be an actual
15 percentage of a combined charter and commercial quota.
16 And the idea behind that is we're in a phase now, we
17 have been for a number of years, of a declining halibut
18 resource, get the charter guideline harvest level
19 remained the same. There were some stepdowns depending
20 on that halibut resource, but lately the halibut
21 resource levels have been low to the point where only
22 the commercial sector was paying the price for that
23 lower halibut biomass. Now under this catch accounting
24 plan, both will go up and down as the halibut stock
25 changes.

26
27 There is an element to the program
28 that's a new idea, and that is, it's called a guided
29 angler fish program, and GAF program, where a charter
30 halibut permit holder may lease commercial IFQs so that
31 anglers on their fishing boats can keep fish of any
32 size, two fish of any size, basically bringing them
33 equal to an unguided angler restrictions.

34
35 However, under the plan that is going
36 into place in 2014, with the current combined charter
37 and commercial quota, and then the split between the
38 two happens, the measures to manage to that charter
39 allocation in Southeast, their allocation is 3.3
40 million pounds, and it will remain a one-fish bag
41 limit. But the reverse slot limit it's called has
42 changed a little bit. It's now you may keep that one
43 fish must be less or equal to 44 inches, or greater
44 than or equal to 76 inches. And you have to keep the
45 fish so that enforcement can measure it and know that
46 the fish is a legal fish.

47
48 In Southcentral, the charter allocation
49 is 7.3 million pounds. There remains a two-fish bag
50 limit, but one of those two fish must be less than 29

1 inches. Again, you must retain the carcass of the
2 smaller fish to make sure it's legal, and charter
3 vessels are limited to one trip per day.

4
5 And for both areas, there's no halibut
6 retention allowed for skippers and crew.

7
8 So kind of circling back a little bit
9 to the bycatch issues, the next steps in 2014 for
10 salmon and halibut by catch management is -- I
11 mentioned earlier there's a paper that was just
12 released today by our Staff on a review of a proposal
13 that the Council put on the table for a salmon and
14 halibut trawl bycatch quota type program associated
15 with the Pacific cod and pollock fishery in the Gulf.
16 The Council meets in Anchorage in the second week of
17 April, and will decide on what the next steps are for
18 moving that proposal forward. Likely with the next
19 action coming up in October, probably for a subsequent
20 discussion paper.

21
22 For salmon bycatch there will be a
23 report on 2012 stock of origin of Gulf and Bering Sea
24 salmon bycatch. Diana mentioned this. That will
25 happen also at our April meeting. And there will be a
26 report on Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Chinook and chum
27 bycatch at our June meeting. That's going to be in
28 Nome this year.

29
30 For halibut, the next steps for Bering
31 Sea/Aleutian Island halibut bycatch review will be a
32 report by the International Pacific Halibut Commission
33 Staff who are the scientists that study halibut, and
34 manage those fisheries. They'll be reporting back to
35 the Council on the effects of halibut bycatch on the
36 halibut resource in general and on the Bering
37 Sea/Aleutian Island population specifically. That
38 report will occur in April. As well a report from the
39 commercial sectors on their voluntary efforts to reduce
40 halibut bycatch.

41
42 So we at the opening of this
43 presentation talked about all the different steps for
44 when you could provide your comments, and here's a
45 little bit more detail on how to provide those
46 comments, either through our email portal on our
47 website, public testimony at the meetings, sending
48 letters, et cetera.

49
50 We also have a number of documents that

1 are available. I brought about 10 of the navigating
2 the Council process. If anyone is interested in having
3 those, I can leave them here if folks are interested in
4 having that handout.

5
6 Otherwise, Diana and I are available to
7 answer questions if you have them.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are there any Council
12 members who have questions.

13
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Getting back to your
15 halibut bycatch numbers, before this meeting I was
16 reading through the International Pacific Halibut
17 Commission report that they send out, and, I don't
18 know, that seemed to cast some doubts on the numbers
19 that you had up there when you list halibut bycatch as
20 a percentage of the entire catch. They seem to have
21 some concerns that that number isn't very accurate just
22 due to the nature of the fish that are caught with, you
23 know, commercial fish having a size limit of 32 inches,
24 and the bycatch being a big range of fish, a lot of
25 them being smaller fish that -- you know, the numbers
26 of fish is significantly different if you calculate
27 them by weight as opposed to, you know, counting
28 individual fish. And, I don't know, reading their
29 report, it just kind of seemed that they had some
30 doubts about the way the numbers are arrived at, and
31 seemed to want to have that resolved. I don't know if
32 that was reflected in your report or is that something
33 that's coming up in that report that you mentioned the
34 Commission is going to be putting out, or I don't know
35 if you guys want to.....

36
37 MS. DICOSIMO: Right. The numbers that
38 I presented here are the numbers from the Halibut
39 Commission. So my presentation my presentation is
40 consistent with their estimates.

41
42 The issue that the Halibut Commission
43 has raised has to do with the accuracy of the
44 information that comes in through the observer program,
45 or the old observer program. So there are some issues
46 as you mentioned about the size of fish et cetera, but
47 we now -- starting in 2013, was the first year of the
48 restructured observer program, and Diana is our Staff
49 expert on that. And so I might turn to her in terms of
50 the halibut numbers or steps forward.

1 And I don't know whether that level of
2 detail is what you want in general right now, or just
3 to let you know that the Council does use the numbers
4 that come from the Commission, or we're using the same
5 set of numbers. The numbers actually come to some
6 degree from the National Marine Fisheries Service
7 through their catch accounting system, which is the
8 fish ticket program, as well as the observer program.
9 And the observer program is in the process or has
10 already shifted to a new way to collect data.
11 Primarily it will affect or improve the quality and
12 accuracy of the information that we're getting on
13 halibut, particularly in the Gulf of Alaska, on the
14 smaller boats.

15
16 So I'm hoping -- that's a general
17 response, and if you have something more specific you'd
18 like us to speak to, maybe either Diana or I could try
19 again.

20
21 MR. HERNANDEZ: That's okay. It's
22 fine.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

25
26 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 My question is, you know, I know you
29 have the observer program, but do you also have on the
30 fishing boat, is that self-regulated? They say how
31 much the bycatch or how is that regulated?

32
33 MS. EVANS: So it does depend on the --
34 the individual vessels are required to fill out -- to
35 report information back to the National Marine
36 Fisheries Service either by filling out a fish ticket
37 if they're a larger boat, or by reporting their amount
38 of -- it's a little bit different for some of the
39 smaller boats that are just fishing IFQ.

40
41 Beginning in 2013, the Council
42 instituted some changes to the observer program to
43 capture -- before 2013, only vessels that 60 feet or
44 greater were required to have observer coverage, and
45 now we're covering vessels all the way down to 40 feet,
46 so it does bring in a lot of the smaller directed
47 halibut fishing boats, IFQ boats, that weren't getting
48 coverage before. They're getting coverage -- there's a
49 couple of different systems in place for how you get
50 coverage, and it's I think on approximately -- we're

1 targeting about 10 to 14, 12 to 16 percent coverage
2 rate. So certainly it's not every instance of fishing
3 that's being observed by an observer, to verify the
4 information that's provided by the captain to report
5 back, but we do get a -- we feel that that coverage
6 rate, particularly on the larger boats is getting a
7 good basis of data from which to be able to estimate
8 overall catch rates, especially across the fleet.

9
10 One of the issues that you run into
11 with some species, particularly, you know, salmon is
12 one of the cases, where instances of salmon bycatch,
13 running into salmon can be -- there are more rare
14 species in our groundfish fisheries. And so it's --
15 the data that we might get from a 12, 16 percent
16 observer coverage rate are going to be a little less
17 precise than you might do if you had -- than you would
18 get for the target species particularly. So the
19 coverage rate that we have we feel is very good for
20 groundfish species, and therefore it is a good cross
21 check to the information that's self-reported by
22 captains on their fish tickets or other systems.

23
24 MS. DICOSIMO: And there also is
25 enforcement either at the dock or Coast Guard on the
26 water.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Patty.

29
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 I'm wondering about, well, your
33 PowerPoint showed designated seats, and then you talked
34 about the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it is to be
35 representative of communities. And so where is
36 subsistence representation? We should have sustained
37 participation, because, you know, those of us of the
38 rural areas, it seems to me that were misrepresented,
39 or under-represented in your facts and figures. And I
40 see a declining harvest of subsistence harvest, and
41 yet, you know, we're always there anyway. And it's
42 based on the overall take of everyone else is reducing
43 the amount of fish available to those of us in the
44 rural areas, and yet we're the ones without the
45 multiple alternatives to feed ourselves. I mean, in my
46 community, we don't have a store. So we go get deer,
47 we go get fish. I mean, those are our options. We
48 have fishermen, yeah, but it's seasonal in nature, so
49 we rely on, you know, going to get some of these
50 natural resources of our area. And yet we're under-

1 represented at the North Pacific Fishery Management
2 Council level.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. DICOSIMO: The halibut numbers that
7 you saw are -- in terms of the subsistence harvest have
8 been declining over the last several years. But that's
9 indicative of halibut abundance overall. In every
10 sector you're seeing halibut catch go down.

11

12 In terms of representation, the
13 nominations -- anyone is free to be nominated through
14 the Governor's Office to be on the Council. It's the
15 Governor's Office who selects who are his three
16 nominations, and then it's the Secretary that picks
17 among those three. So from the Staff perspective, we
18 don't have any comments in terms of the political
19 process involved with those type of nominations.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Patty. Okay. We have
24 just a couple minutes.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I'll keep it
27 very short.

28

29 And I'm not going to argue or I'm not
30 going to, you know, debate with you I mean, because you
31 are Staff, but, you know, if it's the Governor who
32 makes the selection, and it's based on maximum yield, I
33 mean, where is the subsistence, you know, the economics
34 of the subsistence harvester in that maximum yield
35 equation.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

40

41 We've got one more minute, Judy.

42

43 MS. CAMINER: I'll do a quick follow up
44 if I might, because one of our members who is
45 unfortunately not here today, the reason he wanted a
46 presentation from you today was this concerns about
47 having a designated subsistence seat, not a State of
48 Alaska seat. And so I guess maybe a different
49 question, same intent, but a different way to phrase
50 it, what would it take from our Council or the Federal

1 Subsistence Board to ask that there be a change in your
2 regulations that would, through your regulation, not
3 through Alaska's appointments, designate a subsistence
4 seat, or any suggestions you might provide us, to
5 working through your system to achieve that.

6

7 MS. EVANS: So the way that that would
8 need to occur would be through a change to the
9 Magnuson-Stevens Act, which is currently being re-
10 authorized, so that those discussions are happening at
11 a national level. As I said in the presentation, we
12 have 15 seats, and they're all specifically designated,
13 so the seven Alaska seats, one of them for the
14 Commission, but five of them specifically are appointed
15 by the Governor. If there were to be something that
16 was designated specifically for subsistence interests,
17 that would need to be a change in the Act that would
18 direct either the Governor or whomever to appoint
19 somebody to that seat with those particular interests
20 in mind.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Thank you,
23 Judy for asking that question, and thank you for your
24 presentation. I know that we could sit here -- I could
25 sit here for another half hour and ask you questions,
26 but we have to go on. And I hope you're around in the
27 audience, and on a break we can ask you some questions
28 if you're around.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 Bert.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just a comment. Thank
35 you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 If you'll notice, you know, the seating
38 arrangements, we talked about whether we should have,
39 you know, the Southcentral Council on one side, and
40 Southeast on the other, but we thought it would be
41 better if we had you mingle. So what I'm encouraging
42 you to do, you know, is you maybe have a few minutes,
43 you know, get acquainted with one other, because we all
44 have the same interests, and, you know, it would be
45 nice for you to talk to one another and get acquainted,
46 so I encourage that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that,
49 we're not going to take a break yet. We're going to go
50 right on to a briefing of sea otter management from the

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And I know that this
2 is very interesting to both Southeastern and parts of
3 Southcentral. If you need to take a break, take a
4 break voluntarily by yourself. We'll go on to U.S.
5 Fish and Wildlife Service, sea otter management. And
6 nobody will hold it against you if you get up and take
7 a break.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If everybody wants to
12 sit down so we can have our presentation on sea otters.
13 As soon as Donald Mike gets the papers handed out.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm going to ask you
18 to introduce yourself, and we'll get started. And I
19 don't know what's happened. All of a sudden things
20 have -- so with that, if you can introduce yourself and
21 we'll -- you'll have to put up with a little bit of
22 confusion right now.

23

24 MR. HAMMOND: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. My name is Forrest Hammond. I'm with the U.S.
26 Fish and Wildlife Service, and I'll be giving the
27 briefing on significantly altered.

28

29 MS. KOHOUT: Good afternoon. My name
30 is Jennifer Kohout. I'm a program manager in our
31 Alaska regional office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and
32 I'm here to help if you have questions, and support
33 Forrest. It looks like we're getting our PowerPoint up
34 and going still.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ah, I know what that
37 creature is.

38

39 MR. HAMMOND: Perfect. So as you can
40 see on the screen, what we're going to be talking about
41 today is significantly altered.

42

43 Next slide. So Alaska Native people
44 have been hunting sea otters for generations, and this
45 activity continues today under the Marine Mammal
46 Protection Act. The Act's intent is to conserve marine
47 mammals, but protect and allow for non-wasteful harvest
48 of sea otters by coastal dwelling Alaska Native
49 peoples.

50

1 The Marine Mammal Protection Act
2 protects Native hunters' rights. Non-wasteful harvest
3 may be done for subsistence purposes, to make sea otter
4 handicrafts for commercial and non-commercial uses.

5
6 Next slide. When a hunter harvests a
7 sea otter, the hunter must bring the hide and skull to
8 a Fish and Wildlife Service representative within 30
9 days for tagging. There are taggers in most coastal
10 communities who are contracted by the U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service.

12
13 This information gathered by taggers
14 allows biologists to obtain biological information on
15 each individual otter harvested, and helps us to
16 monitor the sea otter harvest.

17
18 Next slide. After a hide has been
19 tagged, Alaska Native peoples may give, trade, or sell
20 the sea otter hide or hide parts to other Native
21 peoples.

22
23 Next slide. Significantly altered. A
24 sea otter handicraft may be sold to non-Native people
25 once an item is handicraft and is considered
26 significantly altered. Significantly altered has been
27 confusing, so therefore the Fish and Wildlife Service
28 has issued new guidance.

29
30 Next slide. In November 2013, the term
31 significantly altered was clarified in new guidance and
32 issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This
33 guidance says that a sea otter hide is significantly
34 altered when it is no longer recognizable as a whole
35 sea otter hide, and has been made into a handicraft or
36 article of clothing as identified in the following
37 slides.

38
39 Next slide. To be considered
40 significantly altered, a tanned, dried, cured or
41 preserved sea otter hide devoid of head, feet, and
42 tail, i.e. blocked, that is substantially changed by
43 any of the following, but is not limited to, weaving,
44 carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing,
45 painting, other decorative fashion, or made into
46 another material or medium, and cannot be easily
47 converted back to an unaltered hide or piece of hide.

48
49 Next slide. An example of
50 significantly altered would be these slippers with a

1 sea otter trim.

2

3 Next slide. Significantly altered,
4 these mittens which are made from sea otter.

5

6 Next slide. This item would not be
7 considered significantly altered due to the fact that
8 there is no stitching or lining, so therefore it's not
9 significantly altered.

10

11 Next slide. This cape is not blocked,
12 stitched or lined, and would not be considered
13 significantly altered.

14

15 Next slide. Secondly, to be considered
16 significantly altered, a tanned, dried, cured or
17 preserved sea otter head, tail, or feet or other part
18 devoid of the remainder of the hide, which includes any
19 of the following, but is not limited to, weaving,
20 carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing,
21 or painting, other decorative fashion, or made into
22 another material or medium. An example would be a sea
23 otter foot turned into a key chain.

24

25 Next slide. The Fish and Wildlife
26 Service would like to thank ITCOM (ph) and hunters and
27 artisans and many others who helped with this new
28 guidance. And this is a photo of all those individuals
29 who participated in the new guidance.

30

31 Next slide. And with that, I'll take
32 any questions you may have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Aaron.

35

36 MR. ISAACS: I'm trying to read over
37 this real quickly, but does it mention the method of
38 harvesting.

39

40 MR. HAMMOND: No. Mr. Chair. No, it
41 doesn't mention a method of harvesting.

42

43 MR. ISAACS: What method then would be
44 prohibited?

45

46 MS. KOHOUT: There are no restrictions
47 on the method of take.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Could you maybe point
2 out some of what's changed in this new guidance as
3 compared to previously.

4
5 MS. KOHOUT: In terms of previous
6 guidance or -- actually there was no previous
7 guidances. I mean, previously what we had was the
8 statute and then the regulatory language. So this was
9 an attempt to elaborate on what the regulation said.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Patty.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. What
16 happens -- I mean, if somebody -- like that scarf, that
17 long scarf, and you guys said it wasn't significantly
18 altered because it didn't have a lining. So happens
19 if, you know, somebody makes that not knowing that it
20 has to have a lining? Do they get thrown in jail? Do
21 they get fined? Or what. I mean, everybody's still
22 trying to learn the rules.

23
24 MS. KOHOUT: Yes. If Forrest will hit
25 the next slide, and you'll see a link to our website.
26 I mean, we're always available for questions, so if
27 people are unsure as to whether or not what they've
28 done is significantly altered, we and our law
29 enforcement folks are happy to answer questions. The
30 goal is to avoid selling something that hasn't been
31 significantly altered, and so that would be the concern
32 in terms of the product.

33
34 MR. HAMMOND: And to further that, any
35 artisan that has any questions about that, they can
36 feel free to call our office at the 1-800 number or
37 actually law enforcement will field questions, too, if
38 there's any concerns.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Aaron.

41
42 MR. ISAACS: Yeah, a follow up question
43 to my earlier question. Is there a number of -- a
44 limit, you know, today?

45
46 MR. HAMMOND: No, sir, there's no
47 limits or restrictions on sea otter harvest.

48
49 MR. ISAACS: The reason why I'm asking
50 these initial questions is, I spend a lot of time out

1 on the waters around Craig/Klawock area, and there's
2 been times when we've spotted -- you can at any moment
3 and snap a picture, you'll see 50, 75 sea otters
4 fishing in an area.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Forrest, is that
9 -- that strip of sea otter fur, could you put that into
10 a ruff and would that be considered significantly
11 altered if that got put on a ruff (indiscernible - away
12 from microphones).

13
14 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, if that strip of fur
15 was made into a ruff for a jacket, just much like the
16 trim on the slippers, therefore it would be considered
17 significantly altered.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

20
21 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 The question that was asked by the one
24 lady down the table was what would happen if somebody
25 breaks the law and didn't know. What would be the
26 penalty? Would they go to a Federal penitentiary
27 or.....

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. MILLS: And also my other question
32 is, I wasn't sure if a keychain out of the foot of the
33 animal would be considered altered or not.

34
35 MR. HAMMOND: Right. So the answer to
36 your first question, it's really a question for law
37 enforcement, but like we said, education is our main
38 priority, to get this information out there and to keep
39 people out of trouble. So we'll do that any way we
40 can, and that's why we've provided the 1-800 number for
41 folks to call, and just to educate individuals,
42 artisans are welcome to call us and call law
43 enforcement if they ever have questions.

44
45 And the answer to your second question
46 is, yes, a keychain would be -- a sea otter foot made
47 into a keychain would be considered significantly
48 altered.

49
50 MR. ISAACS: Would be what?

1 MR. HAMMOND: Would be considered
2 significantly altered according to the new guidance.
3
4 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, just a simple
5 question. I heard you talking about they can trade or
6 sell to Natives. I think when you were doing the
7 presentation, you skipped over it, it said Alaska
8 Natives, but you said Natives, so is there any.....
9
10 MR. HAMMOND: Oh, sorry. Yeah, I might
11 have missed that, but it's Alaska Natives, that is
12 correct.
13
14 MR. JACKSON: All right. Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And from that
17 standpoint, significantly altered only applies if it's
18 sold to non-Natives, right?
19
20 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, Mr. Chair. That's
21 correct.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat.
24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.
26
27 Can American Indians harvest sea
28 otters?
29
30 MR. HAMMOND: No, ma'am. It is for
31 only Alaska Native people that are one-quarter in blood
32 quantum, and that dwell on the coast of Alaska.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.
35
36 MS. MILLS: Gee, I'm glad you said
37 one-quarter Alaska Native, because we were told that if
38 you were a member of a Federally-recognized tribe, that
39 you could participate in this, in the taking of sea
40 otter.
41
42 MR. HAMMOND: No, ma'am. Under 50 CFR
43 18.23 of the regulation, it specifically states Alaska
44 Native and the blood quantum.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.
47
48 MS. CAMINER: I appreciate your
49 presentation today. And I think one of the reasons
50 again one of our members wanted this on the agenda,

1 wanted to talk about sea otters was, as you've been
2 mentioning, the very high populations of sea otters and
3 what that's doing to the fisheries. So I don't know if
4 you can comment on their impacts that they're having on
5 the fisheries, that was certainly our main concern, and
6 what might be able to be done about that.

7

8 MS. KOHOUT: You know, we'd be happy to
9 do that. Forrest and I probably aren't the right
10 people to give that presentation. We are aware that,
11 right, there's been an increase in sea otter
12 populations in Southeast Alaska, and can certainly come
13 back to the group if that would be helpful to talk
14 about that in more detail.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe I'll phrase the
19 question a little different. I guess what we're
20 looking for is some effort that might try and, you
21 know, might succeed in increasing the harvest rate of
22 the sea otters in a legal way.

23

24 I guess maybe you worked with the folks
25 in that picture on the guidance team. Was there any
26 expectation from them or anybody else that these new
27 guidance levels or anything else, any other actions
28 you've taken recently will help to increase that
29 harvest rate.

30

31 MS. KOHOUT: Well, certainly part of
32 the goal of this undertaking was to eliminate any
33 concerns that folks -- some folks were expressing
34 concern that there was uncertainty about what the
35 regulation was, and that that was inhibiting them from
36 harvesting sea otters. So that's what we've tried to
37 address here.

38

39 You know, in terms of the Marine Mammal
40 Protection Act and our role, it isn't necessarily to
41 facilitate harvest, it's just to ensure that Alaska
42 Native harvest under the law is recognized and is
43 facilitated.

44

45 But I think what you're getting at is
46 more sea otter regulation and management, and I guess
47 that's what I was expressing isn't necessarily our
48 charge, although we, you know, have been talking to
49 folks about options.

50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, I know there is
2 no management per se other than the Native harvest, you
3 know, for handicrafts. So like I say, I guess what
4 we're looking for is some indication that, you know,
5 any actions that have been taken will be effective in,
6 you know, increasing that harvest. And I don't know if
7 we have any way to judge that or not, but that's what
8 we hope for.

9
10 MS. KOHOUT: I mean, we are happy to
11 come back I think in terms of reporting on the amount
12 of harvest that has been happening recently. And with
13 this guidance in place, I think we have seen an
14 increase in terms of the harvest numbers. So, I mean,
15 there is some information that might be useful to the
16 group that we'd be happy to share.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I think
19 that's what he was -- that's one of the things we were
20 wondering was what kind of increase have we seen, and
21 has there been an increase, and is there anything in
22 place that -- I mean, at this point in time, if I
23 understand correctly, there is no limit, but there is
24 -- so there is no management either one direction or
25 the other direction in place. I mean, there's no goal
26 to keep the sea otter down to a certain population, but
27 there's no goal to prevent them from over-harvesting
28 either. And that's I think what -- we'd have to go
29 through the National Marine -- what would we have to go
30 through to get regulations changed.

31
32 MS. KOHOUT: So there are provisions in
33 the Marine Mammal Protection Act that do allow for
34 regulation of harvest, which is a little different
35 though than regulating sea otters, which I think is
36 what you're speaking to. So it's a little tricky to
37 hit that balance. I appreciate what you're saying.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So there are no
40 management objectives for sea otters.

41
42 MS. KOHOUT: There's a concept of
43 optimum sustainable population, and that's a function
44 of the carrying capacity of the area that you're
45 looking at, so that is one of the kind of levels that
46 we look at in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. But
47 there's no immediate provision to say that you manage
48 down to that level.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So there's no

1 management provisions for effect on ecosystem or
2 subsistence users or anything like that. It's -- the
3 management's for maximum sustained -- maximum amount,
4 but if it's over maximum amount, there's nothing to
5 take care of that.

6

7 MS. KOHOUT: There's not currently
8 anything in the MMPA that would do that, yeah.

9

10 MR. JACKSON: Yes, one last question.
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 If it's regulated the way it is now,
14 and the seal is also a mammal, do we have to do those
15 things if we want to make something out of a seal or
16 sea lion. Do we have to significantly alter that also.

17

18 MR. HAMMOND: That would be a question
19 for NMFS. Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't manage the
20 harvest of seals.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Frank.

23

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

25

26 You had that one piece up there that
27 didn't have any altered -- wasn't altered, just had the
28 skin.

29

30 MR. HAMMOND: Right. Right.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: So if you put a piece of
33 cloth on and stitch it on there, then that would be
34 altered?

35

36 MR. HAMMOND: Yes.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: And so if you had a whole
39 skin and you put a piece of cloth on the inside of it,
40 that would be altered?

41

42 MR. HAMMOND: Well, sir, it has to be
43 blocked, so therefore the head and the feet and the
44 tails would have to be cut.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Would have to be off.
47 Yeah.

48

49 MR. HAMMOND: Right, And then it could
50 be lined, and then it would be significantly altered.

1 MR. WRIGHT: You know, I'm pretty sure
2 there are some hunters that have plenty of sea otters,
3 but don't know what to do with them. And another thing
4 is that, you know, I didn't know any of this, you know,
5 and I -- but a lot of people are probably worried that
6 they might get in trouble, because being altered, all
7 of a sudden there was a whole definition of what being
8 altered is, is kind of scary to some people about
9 getting thrown in jail, because even some law
10 enforcement probably don't even know what it is. So I
11 think that if there's a way it can be gotten out to the
12 tribes and stuff so that the tribal government or
13 whoever can put up something, okay, this is altered,
14 this is not altered. And then the tribal members that
15 are doing the hunting and doing the processing of the
16 hide, then there wouldn't be any doubt. And then if a
17 law enforcement officer comes to one of the hunters and
18 says, hey, that's against the law, then, okay, let's go
19 to the tribal government, and they'll tell you that
20 it's not. So I think that will be helpful, and then I
21 think a lot more tribal members would be able to help
22 decrease the population of these -- the sea otter,
23 because they are not worried about being in trouble for
24 it.

25
26 That's just a thought I've had.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

31
32 Cathy.

33
34 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 Our Southeast Council has been working
37 quite a bit on the sea otter issue over the past few
38 years, and tomorrow we're going to have an action item
39 on our concurrent agenda. And I'm just wondering if
40 you guys -- you say you would be available to come
41 back, and you might have been thinking about that in
42 context of our meeting in six months, but I'm wondering
43 if somebody from your office would be able to answer
44 some of the questions that you might not be able to
45 answer for the benefit of us for tomorrow so that we
46 can take our action item.

47
48 MS. KOHOUT: Yeah. You know,
49 unfortunately the best person would be Raina Gill, and
50 she's out this week. But I would be happy to follow up

1 with you afterwards to find a time.....

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: And she's who I was
4 thinking of, and I'm wondering, is it possible if we
5 pass you some questions, you might be able to find out
6 from her and somebody could come and answer those for
7 us? And I'd give you an agenda time, but I really
8 don't quite understand what it would be right now, so I
9 think it's going to be tomorrow morning some time that
10 we would do it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

13

14 Any other further questions for them.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for the
19 presentation, and I really appreciate the -- oops.

20

21 Aaron.

22

23 MR. ISAACS: Just a real quick
24 question. Like any other species we're hunting or
25 harvesting, what about a small sea otter. Is
26 there.....

27

28 MR. HAMMOND: Currently there's no
29 restrictions on size or age.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Does the U.S. Fish and
38 Wildlife Service. fall under the Secretary of Interior?

39

40 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, ma'am. That's
41 right.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: So we could write a
44 letter to the Secretary and ask for an amendment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think the
47 Marine Mammal Act falls under the Secretary of
48 Interior, but possibly they could correct me on that.
49 I think he just administers it. the Marine Mammal Act
50 was by Congress if I remember right.

1 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, Mr. Chair. That's
2 correct.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I think in order to
5 amend the Marine Mammal Act, we have to go all the way
6 -- I think we have to go all the way to Congress to get
7 it amended, don't we?
8
9 MR. HAMMOND: Correct.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So any other
12 questions. Aaron.
13
14 MR. ISAACS: Again does the Alaska
15 state troopers or Fish and Game officers have any
16 authority dealing with this issue.
17
18 MR. HAMMOND: That would be a question
19 for our law enforcement. They might have some
20 deputized officers, but I can't speak to that. That
21 would be a question for our OLE department.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if there's no
24 further questions, I'd like to thank you for your
25 presentation, and a star. Again, like I was saying
26 before, I think you put out a very informative piece of
27 paper right here, and I'd recommend that everybody
28 that's at all interested in sea otters read this piece
29 of paper, and I think it will answer a lot of
30 questions.
31
32 And if you don't have anything else
33 you'd like to add, I'll excuse you.
34
35 MR. HAMMOND: No, Mr. Chair. Thank
36 you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, I'd like to
39 take a moment to acknowledge somebody that's here. We
40 have a member of the Federal Subsistence Board here,
41 Bud Cribley.
42
43 (Applause)
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this is one of the
46 guys that will end up making decisions on what we
47 recommend, so be nice to him.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. CRIBLEY: I was wondering, Mr.
2 Chairman, if I could just make a few statements to the
3 Boards while I have that opportunity.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're more than
6 welcome.

7
8 MR. CRIBLEY: Okay. Number 1, the
9 first thing I should do is apologize for not being able
10 -- or scheduling my time better to more actively
11 participate in this joint session that you're having
12 these two days. As a matter of fact, I didn't find out
13 about it until this morning, and it was kind of a panic
14 of clearing my calendar so that I could at least come
15 over for this afternoon's joint session and listen to
16 the dialogue on these important issues that you do have
17 on your calendar, or on your schedule. And I guess do
18 feel that they're very important to subsistence
19 management, and the task that the RACs have been given
20 as far as looking at some of the issues for Federal
21 subsistence in Alaska.

22
23 And one of the things I want to do is
24 particularly -- a couple of issues very important to me
25 right now from being a part of the Federal Subsistence
26 Board and making decisions on Federal subsistence in
27 Alaska, the customary and traditional use determination
28 issue that Southeast RAC is kind of I guess championing
29 right now. I had an opportunity to go and sit in on
30 the RAC meeting down in Juneau a while back. I can't
31 even remember when it was. It could have been last
32 week or it could have been a year ago. I'm not sure
33 any more. But they made a very good -- had a very good
34 presentation and discussion on the importance of
35 addressing that issue and taking advantage of an
36 opportunity right now where the Secretary has opened
37 the door to look at that process and to make that
38 process better and more applicable to Federal
39 subsistence.

40
41 And I guess it has become -- I've kind
42 of jumped on the bandwagon with them and are supportive
43 of what they're doing, and hopefully they can make the
44 case with the rest of the RACs in the State to look at
45 what's being proposed and what the opportunity is. And
46 I think the Secretary has opened the door for the RACs
47 to make recommendations on helping to simplify the
48 subsistence program here, the Federal subsistence
49 program in Alaska, and this is one example of that
50 where they can make it more simple and also make it

1 more useful for Federal subsistence users.

2

3 The other one, I'm looking forward to
4 the discussion on rural determination. That's another
5 big issue that we are dealing -- you folks are dealing
6 with and we're dealing with. And I think we have a
7 really big opportunity to make some changes in how that
8 rural determination is made, and to provide some level
9 of security and assurance to rural subsistence users on
10 what their status is going to be today and in the
11 future, so they're not having to worry all the time of
12 whether they're going to lose that, or if that status
13 is going to change. And I know myself and the rest of
14 the Board members are -- we're going to have a meeting
15 in April to look at the comments that have been
16 provided, and I feel that is very important. We have a
17 big responsibility here, take it seriously, and look
18 forward to the public comments, the comments back from
19 the Boards, and to maybe move that forward to make that
20 more fair to everybody in all the rural communities in
21 Alaska and stuff.

22

23 But I'm just pleased to be able to sit
24 in and to listen to the dialogue and the discussion
25 here, and I appreciate the few minutes to talk to you.

26

27 And also I want to take the opportunity
28 to thank all of you for the time that you put into
29 this. I know coming up to Alaska from working in the
30 Lesser 48 States, Alaska is committee intensive from
31 the standpoint there's more meetings and committees and
32 board and councils than any place I've ever worked in
33 my Federal career. And there's only so many people in
34 this state.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. CRIBLEY: And I don't know how you
39 guys sustain yourselves and how you do anything else
40 other than go to meetings. You know, I get paid to go
41 to go to meetings, you folks don't, but you continue to
42 do that. But that's how our system works. It's an
43 opportunity and you commit yourselves to doing that,
44 and I truly appreciate the effort and the time that you
45 put into that. And hopefully in my role on the
46 Subsistence Board to make it worth your while.

47

48 Thank you

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Cribley, just to

1 -- you know, the C&T issues that our Council has been
2 working on, the working group has done some very, you
3 know, extensive and a lot of work on it. And I would
4 like for you to place names with some of the faces of
5 people who are working on it.

6

7 We have Mr. Don Hernandez over there.

8

9 MR. CRIBLEY: Uh-huh.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we have Cathy
12 Needham right there.

13

14 MR. CRIBLEY: Uh-huh.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And Patty Phillips.
17 And, you know, the vice chairman has chimed in with a
18 lot of the teleconferences. And then I would once in a
19 while. So these -- you know, just so you, when that
20 issues comes to the Board, you'll be able to connect
21 faces with people who worked on this.

22

23 MR. CRIBLEY: Cool. Thank you very
24 much. And I do appreciate the work that you're putting
25 into that. I recognize that, and hopefully we can make
26 it worth your while.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, I'd like to
31 call a short recess so everybody's got a chance to get
32 a cup of coffee or get rid of a cup of coffee or
33 something on that order.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. At this point
42 in time we're going to have a briefing on rural
43 determination.

44

45 Pippa.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let me have exactly
50 how I'm supposed to pronounce your name.

1 MS. KENNER: My name is Pippa.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pippa. Okay.

4

5 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
6 name is Pippa Kenner, and I work with the Office of
7 Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

8

9 And today I'm going to present for you
10 an overview of where we are in our rural determination
11 review. This is not an action item. My presentation
12 is just to update you, and the briefing begins on Page
13 38 of your Council books.

14

15 The public comment period closed in
16 December, and the recommendations from the 10 Councils,
17 tribal and ANCSA corporation consultations, and
18 comments from the public will be presented to the
19 Federal Subsistence Board at its meeting next month in
20 April.

21

22 For the next step, the Board may
23 recommend to improve the process to the Secretary of
24 the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

25

26 Your Council comments are on Page 38 of
27 your Council books, and the recommendations from other
28 Councils are also in that section of the Council book.

29

30 So again I just want to remind people
31 that this is a review of the rural determination
32 process. The process is our review occurs every 10
33 years. There are some aspects of the process that
34 involve the population of communities and other
35 characteristics. So we are not reviewing the rural
36 determinations of communities at this time.

37

38 That's the end of my presentation. I'd
39 be happy to answer your questions.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically what
42 you're saying is we are reviewing the process, not
43 rural determinations; am I correct.

44

45 MS. KENNER: That's correct, Mr.
46 Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you kind of have a
49 little synopsis or feeling from your review that you've
50 gotten to this point in time how do -- what would be a

1 general consensus of how the feelings of the Councils
2 are going?

3

4 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
5 that question. I have read the Council comments, and I
6 did attend some of the Council meetings, and actually
7 the comments from the Councils are wide ranging.
8 Additionally, we do have Staff at the office now
9 working on developing an analysis of all the comments
10 that came in from everybody.

11

12 The Council comments have included by
13 and large statements such there should be Advisory
14 Council deference on this issue. That the population
15 parameters that are used should continue not to be
16 used. Those are the two that I remember popping up
17 most often in the Council reviews.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

20

21 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 Pippa, I'm looking at Page 39. I don't
24 think those are all of Southcentral's comments. In
25 fact, I think at least for the population threshold and
26 information sources, it's Bristol Bay's.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Through the
29 Chair. Thank you, Mrs. Caminer. I think that is a
30 typo. Did you say for the Southcentral Council?

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Correct. Yes.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Yeah. I think the
35 Southcentral's comments actually begin -- okay. Yes,
36 it does. Okay. So even though there is a typo under
37 population thresholds or information sources, it says
38 Bristol Bay.

39

40 I'm sorry, go ahead with your comment
41 then.

42

43 MS. CAMINER: My comment is, I don't
44 believe the three categories shown at the top of 39 --
45 or excuse me, two of them, population thresholds and
46 information sources, I don't think we said that. I
47 would encourage you to go back and look at our minutes
48 and review our actual comments.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.

1 Any other comments from any other
2 Council members.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'd just like to make
5 a comment.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not on this issue, Mr.
10 Chairman. But I'd just like to acknowledge John Yeager
11 who just came to join our meeting. He's on our
12 Council, and he got an excuse to come a day late
13 because of, you know, personal issues. Thanks for
14 coming, John. Welcome.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for
17 Pippa.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know, the ones
22 that I seem to have heard from everybody is a fear that
23 places that are rural could lose their rural status as
24 the populations and everything around them change and
25 things like that. And that's -- I just was wondering
26 how much that had shown up in the comments that you
27 heard from other Councils.
28
29 MS. KENNER: In my cursory review of
30 the comments that are now in front of you, I believe it
31 comes up in almost all of the Council discussions.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Pat.
34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.
36
37 Pippa, so it went out to public comment
38 and then that public comment period closed. So what's
39 the best -- I mean, the next steps. What's the
40 timeline looking like.
41
42 MS. KENNER: Ms. Phillips through the
43 Chair. Okay. The timeline. Right now we are -- Staff
44 are analyzing all the comments to put them in a format
45 that we can present before the Federal Subsistence
46 Board next month, rather than just giving them a pile
47 of comments. So they're reviewing all the comments
48 from the corporations, from the tribes, from the public
49 and from the Councils to be presented.
50

1 So at its meeting the Federal
2 Subsistence Board in the public meeting will review the
3 comments and the Staff analysis of the comments. And
4 they may draft recommendations to the Secretaries on
5 the possible changes to improve the process. If they
6 decide to do that at the April 2014 meeting, there will
7 be a proposed rule drafted, and with the Secretaries'
8 direction, and that might be drafted as soon as the end
9 of April 2014, next month, or it may take a couple of
10 months into June, and we have a published proposed rule
11 that following this timeline would be in the Federal
12 Register from April 2014 -- excuse me, from July 2014
13 to October 2014 for public comment. And, of course,
14 there would be a round of Council review of any
15 proposed rules that were made.

16

17 And then there would be a review of
18 those comments and then the Federal Subsistence Board
19 would meet again. And the whole process of that review
20 is scheduled to end in April 2015.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the goal is a final
25 rule by 2015.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Correct. The steps in the
28 rural review process review are at the website, and I
29 have a copy of it right here. And I'd be happy to make
30 a copy and give it to you, so you can see exactly what
31 I'm looking at.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
34 questions for Pippa. Aaron.

35

36 MR. ISAACS: Is it a possibility that
37 the population threshold might be eliminated.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. ISAACS: Or definition.

42

43 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Isaacs.
44 Through the Chair.

45

46 Right now there is no guidance in
47 recommendations. Yes, the population thresholds could
48 be changed or eliminated. That is possible.

49

50 MR. ISAACS: The reason I ask the

1 question though, it is so arbitrary as it relates to
2 subsistence users.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Isaac -- I
5 mean, Aaron.

6

7 Greg.

8

9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd just like to
10 make one comment through the Chair, Pippa. And I just
11 wanted to reiterate what Judy said there, because I
12 know our Council, we had a pretty intense and
13 passionate discussion on the rural determination. And
14 we had a pretty detailed list, and actually when we
15 went to public comment, we asked that part of that be
16 included in part of our list, too, so if you would just
17 double check that, I'd appreciate it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.

20

21 Any other comments, questions.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pippa.

26

27 Carl, are you ready to do yours?

28

29 We're going to skip the delegation of
30 authority and we're going to put that on the agenda for
31 Thursday, and so at this point in time we're going to
32 go on to Council members attending other Council and
33 Board meetings. Carl.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Council members. Carl Johnson, Council Coordination
37 Division chief at OSM.

38

39 So I was asked to talk to you all about
40 what the policy is regarding having Council members
41 visiting other Councils. And I'm happy to report there
42 is absolutely no policy whatsoever. However, there is
43 some guidance. Our assistant regional director has
44 given us some guidance. It can be, obviously, it is
45 possible for Council members to visit other Council
46 meetings. Recently Chair Adams and Council Member
47 Needham from the Southeast Council visited the
48 Southcentral Council. We have a visiting Council
49 member over here.

50

1 And essentially what we're looking for
2 is, first, some kind of discussion on the record from
3 the Council about the need and the desire to visit
4 another Council.

5
6 Second, what really would be the
7 justification? What objective does the Council hope to
8 achieve by having a Council member visit. What are
9 they going to bring back to your Council, and how is
10 that going to help your Council conduct its business
11 and fulfill its mission for, you know, meeting
12 subsistence needs in your region.

13
14 And finally, as with everything, there
15 will be a budget check. Do we have the travel budget
16 available at the time to accommodate that particular
17 request. And that's just up to your Council
18 coordinator to prepare a cost estimate, what it would
19 be for that travel to occur, and we compare that with
20 where we're at on our travel cap for that particular
21 part of the year. And that's submitted to the
22 assistant regional director for his approval. And
23 that's really what it all boils down to.

24
25 And there's obviously a lot of interest
26 and need for this. I was talking to the
27 Kodiak/Aleutians Council Chair about this recently, and
28 they're definitely in there, and more interaction with
29 the Southcentral and the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
30 Councils. So there are a lot of things that can be
31 done to help the Councils accomplish their missions.
32 And this is definitely one of those potential tools.

33
34 So it's something that we are willing
35 to accommodate when the need arises, and with those
36 guidelines being met.

37
38 And I'm happy to answer any questions
39 there may be, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Does that, what you just described, apply to attending
45 the Board of Fish meetings or the Board of Game
46 meetings by RAC.

47
48 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. We have in the past
49 -- there's always been a practice of supporting Council
50 members attending other organizational meetings. Like

1 for the Yukon Councils attending YRDFA meetings. In
2 the past there was the tri-RAC committee that met among
3 the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Y-K Delta
4 Councils to formulate fisheries customary trade
5 proposal. And the same could also be said for
6 attending meetings like that.

7
8 Again, we're really looking for the
9 council expressing on the record a desire to send
10 somebody to that. And the some kind of discussion
11 about the justification, what the objectives would be
12 rather than just going and attending, and coming back
13 and giving a report, you know, what really concrete
14 does the Council need that could be accomplished by
15 that member attending that meeting.

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman. I mean like so we're supportive, the RAC,
24 Southeast RAC is supportive of the Transboundary
25 Treaty, or the salmon treaty. I mean, we put it in our
26 record, you know, that that's important to us. And we
27 have -- where's John? We have Mr. Yeager and then our
28 coordinator, you know, who went to a previous meeting,
29 and we want to continue to support that. So you're
30 telling us, so what have we got to do to make sure that
31 happens?

32
33 MR. JOHNSON: Just have a discussion on
34 the record that the Council has that desire for that
35 member to continue attending that meeting or attend a
36 meeting. State the objectives, and then to have your
37 Council coordinator after the meeting submit a request
38 to me along with a budget estimate, and then I forward
39 that to the assistant regional director for his
40 approval.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: My turn? Okay. You
43 know, several years ago, I can't remember, three, four
44 years ago, maybe even sooner than that, Mr. Lohse came
45 to our Council meeting in Sitka, and that kind of
46 spearheaded, you know, the idea we should have a joint
47 meeting together. So I just wanted to share that with
48 you.

49
50 There's also been talk about, you know,

1 maybe Council members going to Board meetings. You
2 know, the Chairs are the ones who attend the Board
3 meetings. And I think I've heard some ideas that maybe
4 a member or the Vice Chair, you know, attend those
5 meetings as well. So what do you think of that idea.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Chair Adams. There are a
10 lot of things that I think that are a great idea. Of
11 course, we're always up against a budget wall, so that
12 in the end that would be the determination. Yeah, if
13 you want to have, just as a suggestion, if you want to
14 have more Council member exposure to the Board process
15 and being involved in that, you could voluntarily
16 rotate other people to attend in your stead. But we
17 definitely would keep it limited. We wouldn't want to
18 have five people from the Southeast Council attending a
19 Board meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, but it wouldn't
22 be fun.....

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:with Mr. Lohse
27 and I up there, because we like to, you know, really
28 give the Board a bad time, and they know it, too.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But, yeah, we're not
33 going to stay broke forever, are we?

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: I would certainly hope
36 not. I certainly have a lot of ideas as to how our
37 budget should be handled, but I'm a little bit too low
38 in the food chain for my ideas to really matter.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: And, you know, budget is
43 always going to be an issue, but hopefully in the years
44 to come we will come up with creative new ways to
45 adapt, and perhaps even do better with the continued
46 budget situation. We just have to figure it out.

47

48 Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.

1 Cathy.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 I just wanted to make a comment, it's
6 not really a question. When Bert and I were invited to
7 come up to meet with the Southcentral group, to talk
8 about the C&T determination, you know, we were asked to
9 come up to give them more information about what our
10 Council has been working on. But a side benefit of
11 that for me, for somebody who's relatively new to the
12 Southeast Council, it was a huge educational
13 experience, and extremely valuable in seeing how other
14 Councils operate. And, you know, I made those comments
15 in my Council report this morning during our Southeast
16 meeting, but I wanted to make them again on the record
17 with the benefit of both Councils here, because I think
18 maybe in knowing that, that might be something we could
19 add to our respective annual reports, making sure that
20 the Federal Subsistence Board understands the value
21 that we have in sort of that cross-learning and ability
22 to go to these other meetings and work within those
23 systems, especially like Board of Fish and Board of
24 Game meetings if we're putting proposals forward
25 through. You know we're going to be talking about
26 doing that, but I have no idea how to walk a proposal
27 through a Board of Game meeting, and it would be
28 interesting to go and see that process before you're
29 just handed your charge to go kind of thing.

30

31 And so -- and the reason why I said
32 maybe in the annual report, maybe there's a better
33 place for it in there's a better lace for it in terms
34 of writing a letter, but making sure that we keep that
35 awareness out there so that we can continue to make
36 sure that that budget is there to be able to
37 participate in those kinds of things.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl.

40

41 MR. JOHNSON: Those are some very
42 excellent points. And I think one thing I would
43 encourage the Councils to do is if they do have a
44 Council member who attends another Regional Council
45 meeting or a Board of Fish meeting, one thing that
46 would really be helpful is have the Council write a
47 letter expressing how useful and how beneficial that
48 travel was to your Council, and what did the Council
49 get out of it. Something tangible that kind of hammers
50 again the message of the value of these other meetings

1 and how they contribute.

2

3 And I also think that's a very valuable
4 point, too, about the intangible learning and
5 networking aspects of attending these other meetings.

6

7 Many of the Councils are actively
8 involved in commenting on and sometimes even submitting
9 proposals to the State Board of Game and Board of Fish
10 process. And if you can better understand how those
11 processes work, then you can also be more effective in
12 your advocacy on behalf of subsistence users in your
13 region, even if it is through the State process instead
14 of the Federal process.

15

16 So I think those are all valuable
17 points. And I think however the Councils choose to
18 communicate the value of that back to the Office of
19 Subsistence Management is going to be helpful.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.

22

23 MS. BERNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 This may not pertain to this exact
26 subject, but it has along the same lines. I'm
27 wondering if this isn't the appropriate time to go on
28 record saying that we went on record saying this
29 before, that if we don't get our books in an
30 appropriate manner before the meeting, then we're less
31 effective at the meeting, and it's really frustrating
32 as Council member to not have the materials in a timely
33 fashion.

34

35 Anyway, I just wanted to go on record
36 and say that I'm real disappointed in the whole process
37 this go around.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: And I would like to say
44 that I am as well. And I apologize to you and also to
45 the other Council members. You know, ideally, I would
46 like for you to get these meeting books a month in
47 advance.

48

49 As you may know, we did lose our
50 subsistence outreach coordinator last fall in the

1 middle of the meeting cycle, and that is the position
2 that is responsible typically for assembling these
3 books and distributing them. But I am pleased to
4 report that we have made a recent hiring decision
5 that's been forwarded, and we will have that position
6 fill, and that person will be running and ready to go
7 for the next meeting cycle.

8

9 And there are a lot of things that
10 right now I can attribute honestly to staffing
11 shortages. I don't want them to be seen as an excuse,
12 but I want you all to know that if there are areas
13 where we are not supporting you, it is not from a lack
14 of desire. And we are taking steps to improve our
15 staffing. You'll actually get a full report on this
16 during the OSM report, and you'll be pleased to see
17 that we're making a lot of positive steps in that
18 regard.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.

21

22 Any other comments, questions. Bert.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Cribley asked me
25 out in the hallway a little while ago why I was so
26 quiet.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But I need to bring up
31 this issue of our per diems, because, you know, it was
32 a long time since our last meeting that I know I got
33 mine, you know, deposited into my account. It takes a
34 long time. We need to remind you that we are all
35 volunteers, you know. We're not on a regular payroll
36 schedule like you guys are or other people here. And
37 so I think it's really important, you know, that our
38 per diems, you know, are given to us in a timely
39 manner. We get, you know, part of it, you know, right
40 now, but there's another part of it that will come
41 later, and I think it's really important that -- you
42 know, I really didn't need it. I was surprised when
43 Mr. Larson emailed, said that your per diem is on its
44 way. And I had forgotten all about it, you know. so
45 just another thing.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was a spring bonus,
48 Bert, just look at it that way. It was just a spring
49 bonus.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I have any other
4 questions for Carl, any other comments for Carl.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl, I'd just like to
9 thank OSM for all the work that they have put in. And,
10 you know, I've been in this program for a long time,
11 and I really do appreciate the amount of work that goes
12 into preparing for these meetings, presenting these
13 meetings and everything else. And all I can say is,
14 I'm glad I'm on this side of the table instead of on
15 that side of the table, because if I was on that side
16 of the table, things would be a lot worse.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not having anybody
21 else to comment or question Carl.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 And thank you, Council members.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, I think
31 we're going to go on to J7, and see what the time is,
32 which is the status of the Secretarial review. Is
33 David Jenkins here to give us that.

34

35 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

38

39 MR. LARSON: If I could, I could speak
40 to that. The J7 agenda topic, there's nobody here to
41 really address that, and it's an informational item.
42 We will provide information regarding the status of the
43 Secretarial review when there is information. It will
44 be done through a written meas. I'll just send you,
45 Donald will send you an email and we'll talk about
46 that, and where we are with that prior to the next
47 Council meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
50 Larson. How about the next one, the climate change

1 one.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Climate change is
4 hopefully, my suggestion, I've been in communications
5 at Greg Hayward, and he is available to do that 10:00
6 a.m. tomorrow morning. 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning --
7 or 10:00 a.m. on Thursday rather. Excuse me, I've got
8 my days confused here.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. LARSON: It's 10:00 a.m. on
13 Thursday morning, he could have that presentation.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
16 Is there any one of these agenda items, seeing as we
17 have a little time left, is there any one or two of
18 these agenda items that we could handle at this point
19 in time.

20

21 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The food
22 security agenda item is self-generated by the agenda
23 steering committee. There is a briefing where that
24 topic is -- there's some information that I put
25 together, and the topic was put here to generate some
26 discussions to see what it is, and if the Councils are
27 interested in it. If the Council members themselves
28 are ready to discuss that, I would suggest they could
29 look at that briefing statement.

30

31 Those on the agenda steering committee
32 I think may have some ideas about why they thought it
33 was appropriate. So we could talk about that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that look like
36 about the only one that we have left here that we could
37 handle today, if we were going to handle one today.
38 Briefing on fisheries management I don't think that it
39 is.....

40

41 MR. LARSON: Well, is Cal ready to talk
42 this afternoon?

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

45

46 MR. LARSON: Then Cal is ready to talk
47 this afternoon.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. LARSON: So he could actually speak
2 to that issue right now, and we can postpone food
3 security until later.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think if everybody
6 has a chance, the food security one is in our booklet,
7 isn't it?

8
9 MR. LARSON: It is.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And so if everybody
12 can just have a chance to look at that, and make sure
13 they're up to date on that, we can handle that later.

14
15 If Cal's willing to present us with the
16 Fisheries Monitoring Program at this point in time, I
17 think that would be a good thing to take.

18
19 And you were going to ask me something.

20
21 MR. KITKA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 The climate change, what was written in
24 our books was Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but it's going
27 to be Thursday now, because we're not going to do
28 the.....

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you ready, Cal.

33
34 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, Mr. Chair. I can
35 start while Mr. Larson gets my PowerPoint loaded if you
36 would like.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. If you can
39 start, that would be a good idea.

40
41 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chair. For the record my name is Calvin Casipit. I'm
43 the subsistence staff biologist for the Forest Service
44 based out of Juneau.

45
46 In your books, starting on Page 57 is a
47 short briefing on how the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
48 Program works. I think most Council members.....

49
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's 55.

1 MR. CASIPIT: 57. Oh, I'm sorry. The
2 table of contents is wrong. The briefing actually
3 starts on Page 57.

4
5 So what I wanted to do was just briefly
6 go over this briefing paper. It talks about -- you
7 know, it gives you a little overview of the program,
8 tells you how we've managed the funding. We've broken
9 up the State into six reasons, and they're -- and
10 that's how we do the funding. They go by those six
11 regions.

12
13 Basically as far as the future goes,
14 the next call for proposals will be -- the next chance
15 for your Council to talk about call for proposals will
16 be next fall. Well, winter 2014 and fall of 2015
17 Council meetings. We're on this two-year funding
18 cycle, that's why you'll see them next year.

19
20 How the system works, and I'll get into
21 it -- well, let's just go to my slides.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. CASIPIT: So what I'm going to
26 present here is just a real brief on how this program
27 works, and kind of focusing on the work that my agency
28 does, the Forest Service does with Alaska tribal
29 governments.

30
31 Next slide. You can kind of see Alaska
32 there broken up, but again I will kind of be focusing
33 in on the Forest Service's areas, which is Southcentral
34 and Southeast Alaska, specifically the Tongass and the
35 Chugach National Forests. Of course, these two
36 Regional Councils have a lot to do with those Federal
37 areas.

38
39 Next slide, please. This is where we
40 get -- this is where our Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Program comes about, it's specifically prescribed in
42 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.
43 Section .812 actually directs the Secretary to
44 cooperate with State, Federal agencies, and others,
45 local residents, tribes, in doing this work.

46
47 Next slide. Something -- a little bit
48 about the program. I'm going to kind of quickly go
49 over the cycle.

50

1 Hit the clicker there, Robert.

2

3 It was established in 2000 after
4 expanded jurisdiction with the Katie John Rule.

5

6 Next. We are to supplement on-going
7 research and monitoring efforts. It's not to replace
8 anything or to replace agency funding for long-term
9 projects. It's supposed to supplement on-going
10 efforts.

11

12 Next one. We are to focus on capacity
13 building with affected tribal governments in
14 cooperation with the State and other Federal agencies.

15

16 Next one. And we've focused on stock
17 statuses, trends, harvest monitoring, and traditional
18 ecological knowledge studies, TEK.

19

20 Next one. A little bit about the
21 program.

22

23 Go ahead, next one. We have this
24 biannual call for proposals. Usually the first call
25 comes out in the fall of -- it would be the odd-
26 numbered years.

27

28 Next one. A proposal's submitted and
29 it's analyzed by the Office of Subsistence Management,
30 by their Fisheries Division, and then the Technical
31 Review Committee evaluates those as well. I represent
32 the Forest Service on the Technical Review Committee.

33

34 Next one. This Technical Review
35 Committee recommends projects, and they're forwarded to
36 the Regional Advisory Councils for their
37 recommendation.

38

39 Next one. Those Regional Advisory
40 Councils recommend projects and they are forwarded to
41 the Federal Subsistence Board for final approval. So a
42 recommendation goes to the RAC, the RAC looks at those
43 recommendations, decides if that's right or not for
44 their area, and then that's forwarded to the Board for
45 the final approval.

46

47 Next slide. And then we at some point
48 in the spring after that Board meeting, we will award
49 contracts or agreements in the case of Department of
50 Interior.

1 Next one. This focusing down on Forest
2 Service, and you can kind of see the tracking in
3 dollars going to tribal governments. Early on in the
4 program we built up a pretty strong program, you know,
5 pretty close to one and a half million dollars.

6
7 Next slide. And with budget cuts we
8 see that slide down again. So we're down at the level
9 at -- down below the level where we started back in
10 2000.

11
12 Next slide. This is a list of the
13 various tribal governments that we work with in both
14 Southcentral and Southeast Alaska.

15
16 Next one. I wanted to talk a little
17 bit about some of this cooperative monitoring that we
18 have been doing. It builds -- this one builds capacity
19 in tribal governments for fisheries monitoring and
20 management. And that's both on the State and Federal
21 sides. We provide local jobs. It also gives tribes a
22 seat at the table in regulatory decisionmaking, both at
23 the State level and the Federal level. It provides
24 real time estimates of abundance and subsistence
25 harvests for in-season management by both the State and
26 Federal governments.

27
28 Next slide. Again, we provide critical
29 information to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
30 Board of Fish in decisionmaking. And this is -- I'll
31 talk more about this, but TEK ends up organically
32 getting designed into executing completing these stock
33 status and trends projects. It involves tribes, it
34 builds trust between the agency and tribes.

35
36 Next slide. I have two case studies.
37 The first one here is the Copper River Chinook
38 fishwheel project. I think folks in Southcentral are
39 pretty aware of this one. Next click. This is a mark
40 and recapture project. Next slide. Fish are caught at
41 the Baird Canyon, low in the river, and they're sampled
42 and marked. Next slide. Later on up the river just
43 below the bridge at Chitina, the fish are caught in
44 another fish wheel and the marked fraction of those
45 fish, marked to unmarked, is used to estimate the
46 escapement.

47
48 Next slide. Along with that, they've
49 been doing -- or have been doing -- next click, they've
50 been including radio tagging to figure out distribution

1 and run timing. Also they did some DNA sampling for
2 genetic stock identification.

3

4 And then I wanted to -- wanted a
5 specific example of how TEK improved a stock status and
6 trends project.

7

8 Next slide. We had this fishwheel that
9 was traditionally designed. Native Village of Eyak is
10 the prime contractor on this. They basically carry out
11 the project from beginning to end. But basically they
12 had this fishwheel, and it's traditionally designed and
13 constructed and placed on the direction of an Ahtna
14 elder. And it outfished the other three fishwheels
15 four to one combined.

16

17 So, you know, here we had the
18 scientists come up with these big giant ones for the
19 lower river, they weren't working too good. In the
20 upper river, this Ahtna elder came in and said, hey, I
21 know how to make this work for you guys. And that's an
22 example of how TEK gets organically included in these
23 projects if you have this strong relationship with your
24 tribal government.

25

26 Okay. The next one. Oh, greatly
27 improved the statistically validity of the study. In
28 fact, that act alone of getting a better fishwheel on
29 the upper river to get the recaptures up saved that
30 project I would say.

31

32 Next one. I wanted to talk a little
33 bit about the Hetta Lake project. And I know Cathy
34 knows a lot about this, but here's -- it's down in
35 Hydaburg.

36

37 Next slide. You can see there -- oh.
38 You can see where Hydaburg is there. Oh, boy, I don't
39 have a slide, but Hydaburg is up towards the top of the
40 map there, right in the middle, and had a lake. If you
41 go -- there you go. There you go. And it had a lake
42 that's kind of straight across the peninsula over into
43 -- yeah, there you go. There's Hetta Lake right there.

44

45 So they have this -- thank you. Thank
46 you, Robert.

47

48 So you can see where -- just how well
49 it fits out on there on the south end of Prince of
50 Wales.

1 Next slide. So there were some
2 traditional knowledge studies in Hydaburg that
3 identified Hetta Lake as a primary subsistence sockeye
4 system for the community. There were some past
5 monitoring efforts in the early 80s. This project
6 started out as a mark and recapture project and it
7 moved to a weir in 2005 based on the community of
8 Hydaburg saying we need to move to a weir. And then
9 also because of the operation of the weir by Hydaburg
10 Cooperative Association, the tribal government, they
11 noticed right away a potential issue of over-harvest of
12 the June component of the run, of the sockeye run at
13 Hetta Lake.

14
15 Next one. You can kind of see that
16 there. There we go. Is that it? Oh, okay. Blind
17 myself why don't I.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. CASIPIT: But you can see here we
22 had -- you have these little bumps here at the
23 beginning of the run of -- like most systems in
24 Southeast, it's a bi-modal return. You have an earlier
25 run that spawns in the cooler tributaries going into
26 the lake, and then you get these bigger bumps of lake
27 spawners. And Hydaburg noticed right away that this
28 early run was not as numerous and this is actually the
29 time when the people in Hydaburg preferred to fish,
30 because they didn't have to sort as many kings
31 basically.

32
33 Next slide. And so you can see from
34 2005 they ran this weir. You can kind of see the
35 returns. We kind of had a bad return last year,
36 because of several different reasons, but you can see
37 the runs, they get a weir count, validated by mark and
38 recapture every year. They get estimated harvest. I
39 didn't have time to fill this all out, and then you get
40 an actual estimated return which is just harvest plus
41 weir counts. And this all comes from Hydaburg
42 Cooperative Association.

43
44 Next slide. So I'll be happy to answer
45 questions or should I talk more? I'm sure Cathy can
46 add her own perspective about the project if she wanted
47 to, too.

48
49 But I just wanted to finish this off by
50 saying that I believe and I think my agency believes

1 that there's a real value to having these cooperative
2 relationships with tribes to do this work. I found
3 that, you know, as a contracting officer's
4 representative for these projects, when the tribe
5 really gets involved, and they're the ones that are the
6 principal -- they hire the principal investigator,
7 they're doing all the work, they're doing all the
8 reporting, all the administrative work, it really
9 builds the ability in these tribal governments, even
10 small ones like Hydaburg, to really get involved in
11 management in their own backyards, and it kind of
12 honors the traditional way that tribes managed -- I
13 don't even want to say managed. How tribes had
14 engagement with the streams that they harvested from.
15 It honors that traditional way of knowing and engaging
16 with salmon.

17

18 And so I'll just kind of leave it at
19 that. I'm happy in answering questions.

20

21 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Cal. Thanks for
22 the presentation by the way. But my question is, is
23 there any optimism in the future funding for this
24 program.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. CASIPIT: I'm eternally optimistic.

29

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. CASIPIT: You know, the only thing
34 I can do is to spread this message around, how
35 important it is to local communities and to the users
36 to have this kind of work done, kind of spreading the
37 gospel. I know I'm kind of preaching the choir now.
38 But wherever I go, I always try to talk to people about
39 the benefits of this kind of work, and how it means a
40 lot to these small communities that -- you know,
41 they're dealing with all kinds of things. They're
42 dealing with competition from, you know, outside
43 fisheries in the commercial fisheries. They're dealing
44 with, you know, chronic unemployment in their
45 communities. They're dealing with how to keep young
46 people involved and want to come back and live in the
47 communities.

48

49 Well, I think that projects like this
50 has a way to address all those things. And getting

1 young people back. You can involve the young people on
2 the weir. You can involve the young people in the mark
3 and recapture study. You can get them charged up about
4 going to college and getting a degree and coming back
5 and working for their tribe or working for their
6 community.

7

8 You know, it gets tribes involved in
9 the decisionmaking processes, either the State Board of
10 Fish or, you know, the Federal Subsistence Board.

11

12 It helps with unemployment. It helps
13 with getting jobs in communities. And that's -- even
14 in harvesting, you know. It kind of takes money to buy
15 the bullets and get the nets and buy the rifle and the
16 gas for our boat. Well, if you've got a job like this,
17 that kind of supports that. So I think there's lots of
18 side benefits to this, and it's one of those things
19 that, you know, as long as I'm around, I'm going to be
20 pushing. So that's kind of how it is.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Cathy.

23

24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25

26

27 Cal, I was on the agenda planning
28 committee, and one of the reasons why we had asked for
29 this particular item to be on the joint session is one
30 of the questions we had were how funds are allocated
31 between regions, especially with it looks like most of
32 the FRMP funds come down through the Forest Service,
33 and so you have -- with the Tongass National Forest and
34 then the Chugach National Forest. And so could you
35 give a brief explanation of how those funds allocated
36 between Councils? And then also whether or not there's
37 a relationship between having wildlife assessments done
38 through funding.

39

40 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. That's a pretty --
41 I'll try to get to all those.

42

43 When we started the program, when we
44 had good budgets, the Forest Service funded virtually
45 all the FRMP in Southeast, and I believe probably about
46 half to 60 percent of the work in Southcentral. When
47 the big budget cuts started coming between '05 and '08,
48 basically what happened is that the Forest Service had
49 to drop out of funding projects in Southcentral.
50 That's why Forest Service funding dried up for that

1 fishwheel project on NVE. Thankfully there was some
2 budget flexibility with Department of Interior, and
3 they actually picked up the NVE stuff that Forest
4 Service used to be funding.

5
6 So now today virtually the Forest
7 Service, Department of Agriculture, we fund the FRMP in
8 Southeast, and then what happens in Southcentral is
9 basically DOI.

10
11 The wildlife.....

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. CASIPIT: Steve said he's going to
16 answer about wildlife.

17
18 MR. KESSLER: Thank you. Steve Kessler
19 with the Forest Service, InterAgency Staff Committee,
20 and the subsistence program leader for the Forest
21 Service for the entire region.

22
23 I did want to get up and talk a little
24 bit about wildlife, because I think that many of you
25 who have been around since about 2005 know that back
26 then the Forest Service developed a parallel monitoring
27 program, which we called the Wildlife Resource
28 Monitoring Program. And with the idea that on national
29 forest lands we would be able to do something very
30 similar to what we do for fisheries. And in 2005 the
31 Forest Service had received a bump in funding to about
32 \$5.9 million. Just as reference right now we get about
33 two and a half million dollars today.

34
35 So with that bump to \$5.9 million, the
36 Forest Service decided, and talking with the Councils,
37 that the number 1 priority was to get some wildlife
38 monitoring going. And so just like in the fisheries
39 program, back then we developed a strategic plan for
40 wildlife, and looked at the strategic priorities for
41 wildlife monitoring for both of the forests. It
42 involved both of the Regional Advisory Councils.

43
44 Soon, like within two years, our
45 budgets started dropping precipitously. Before they
46 dropped precipitously, we were able to find a number of
47 different projects, both in Southcentral and Southeast.
48 I think four projects -- three or four projects, I
49 can't remember.

50

1 Now let's jump forward. Both of your
2 Councils in your annual letters to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board, last year I believe your annual
4 letters requested that some sort of wildlife monitoring
5 be started. And the response from the Federal
6 Subsistence Board to both or your Councils was
7 essentially the same, recognizing that the Forest
8 Service had had a monitoring program for wildlife in
9 the past, and that the Forest Service does have some
10 flexibility if the Councils wish, to take some the
11 limited funds that we send right now on fish and move
12 them over to wildlife.

13
14 The Department of Interior has less
15 flexibility, because the money that they use for the
16 monitoring program specifically comes from fisheries
17 dollars. Ours is not specified for fisheries dollars.
18 It's generally for subsistence purposes.

19
20 So if the Councils would like to see
21 our limited dollars, you know, prioritized in some
22 different way, so that a portion of those dollars went
23 from fisheries over to wildlife, that would be possible
24 to do. And it would be important for the Councils sort
25 of to have that discussion, because we want to do what
26 would be the most beneficial for the subsistence users
27 and for the subsistence resources on the national
28 forests.

29
30 So, Cathy, that was a long answer, but,
31 you know, we do have some flexibility, and if the
32 Councils together, since we have both Councils here,
33 would like to look at some opportunities, I don't think
34 we could make any changes probably for I would guess
35 probably three years, because we just have gone through
36 this fisheries monitoring cycle where we've identified
37 projects for funding, which will fully fund using the
38 national forest funds for the next, well, really four
39 years, but we should have some flexibility at that
40 point to move dollars for other purposes. But we don't
41 really want to do that unless that's what these
42 Councils want to do, because it's very limited money
43 right now, and we have more projects on the fish end to
44 fund than we have dollars.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve. I
47 have one question on that. When it comes to
48 subsistence use, I've seen some graphs on it, but I
49 don't remember what it is, and you might, what is the
50 percentage of subsistence food that comes from fish

1 versus the percentage of subsistence food that comes
2 from game.

3

4 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. We really
5 are not quite sure of the answer of that, but likely
6 more comes from wildlife than from fish, because a lot
7 of the fish on the national forests are actually
8 harvested in State waters. So we do a lot of work in
9 monitoring. Some of that benefits -- I mean, it all
10 benefits subsistence users, but some that is -- the
11 subsistence users may be harvesting more in State
12 waters than in Federal waters.

13

14 So it's a little hard to figure out. I
15 mean, if you want an exact answer, we'll work on that
16 exact answer with all the caveats associated with it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve.
19 Well, that's what I was wondering, because I was just
20 wondering if that kind of proportion could be allocated
21 to how the dollars were spent.

22

23 Cathy.

24

25 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 I appreciate you walking us through
28 that process, because sometimes we don't always know,
29 and I know that our Council, the Southeast Council in
30 the past has spoken on whether or not we want to
31 potentially allocate some of the funding that's
32 available to go towards wildlife, and we always choose
33 not to, because of the greater need for having
34 fisheries wildlife funds.

35

36 What else could we be doing as Councils
37 to continue to beat this drum that more money is needed
38 for monitoring, and getting information that we need to
39 be able to use in order to set regulations regarding
40 the take of fish and wildlife.

41

42 MR. KESSLER: Ms. Needham, of course,
43 we don't lobby, but, you know, it does take money to do
44 that.

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: Right.

47

48 MR. KESSLER: And the Southeast Council
49 has in the past written a letter to the Secretary of
50 Agriculture, you know, pointing out the importance of

1 the program and the importance of money for the
2 monitoring program, which the Secretary kindly
3 answered, responded to. I think that was about four
4 years ago if I remember correctly. And the Council can
5 choose to do what the Council wishes, but I'm not going
6 to advise the Council on how to go about doing that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

11

12 Steve, so just so we all understand
13 this, so the Forest Service in Southeast provides some
14 money for fisheries monitoring studies as well as
15 wildlife studies, and in Southcentral provides money
16 for wildlife research or studies.

17

18 MR. KESSLER: Well, it's not exactly
19 that simple.

20

21 Under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
22 Program for the last four years only funds have gone to
23 Southeast Alaska, Forest Service funds, you know,
24 allocated from Congress, and none have gone to
25 Southcentral.

26

27 There are other funds that both forests
28 get that can be used for sort of little projects that
29 don't come up to as high a -- to where it would be part
30 of a bigger strategic resource monitoring program. So,
31 for instance, I think, I wasn't here, but I think Milo
32 probably talked about how King's Bay was flown with a
33 small contract to the State of Alaska. So those were
34 dollars that are sort of equivalent to monitoring, find
35 out what's actually happening as far as moose there.
36 In Southcentral Milo has a number of different
37 projects, which he could talk to a little bit better,
38 to look at goat numbers and look at moose numbers, but
39 these are very small amounts of funds. And these
40 projects don't have the rigor of the Fisheries Resource
41 Monitoring Program, going through a technical review
42 committee and all that. So those funds are really
43 pretty limited, you know, on the order of maybe a
44 maximum in Southcentral of \$20,000 a year. But they're
45 used for priority work where we really need to know
46 information.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions or
49 comments for our presenters.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Cal, I was -- I'll
4 make a comment to something you said about some of the
5 side benefits that come from having resource
6 monitoring, small resource monitoring with tribes and
7 small communities and stuff like that. The thing that
8 I've seen more than anything else has been this feeling
9 of ownership that develops in the people that are doing
10 it, to the point where all of a sudden they're the best
11 protectors of the fish around. They get pretty
12 protective for the fish resources in a real fast hurry.
13 And I think that's pretty neat, and I think that that
14 ownership is something that -- and I don't mean
15 ownership like you own it, but just the kids get
16 interested, and they actually realize there's different
17 fish and different parts of fish and stuff like that,
18 and they become involved in it, and that ownership ends
19 up they become very protective of the resource. And I
20 think that that's something that's missing, is that
21 protective of the resource.

22

23 Any other comments or questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

28

29 Carl, are you capable of presenting one
30 more thing for us?

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I asked him already.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, you did. Good.
37 Man, Bert just informed me that he out-guessed me.

38

39 Okay. Carl. Council nomination
40 processes and outreach.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 First I'm just going to kind of go over
45 kind of the overview of the nominations process.
46 Obviously this is something that you're all familiar
47 with personally, but to the benefit of anybody who may
48 be listening on the teleconference.

49

50 Right now under both your charters and

1 under Secretarial regulations, the Council seats, the
2 Council membership terms are for three years. And the
3 way it's designed right now, we have an annual
4 nominations process where roughly one-third of council
5 seats are up for appointment or reappointment every
6 year. And the additional, which was alluded to earlier
7 during your training, is that there is a desire to have
8 a diversity of viewpoints so there's a goal of having a
9 certain amount of subsistence users who bring the
10 subsistence perspective, and then also commercial/sport
11 users to bring that perspective to your decisionmaking
12 process.

13

14 How the process works is right now, and
15 we've been doing it in recent years, is the
16 nominations, the application process begins in the fall
17 with the beginning of the fall meeting cycle, and then
18 proceeds through -- we used to cut it off around mid
19 February, but the last couple of years, and including
20 this year, we've extended it through the end of the
21 winter meeting cycle, so that allows for two different
22 meeting cycles to have discussions and opportunities
23 for outreach for new applications.

24

25 Part of what we do for outreach during
26 that process is we work a lot, we use the opportunity
27 of the public meetings, the message about the
28 opportunity for applications, but then there's also a
29 specific advertising push that happens. We use all the
30 major regional papers for about a five-week period
31 towards the end of a cycle. We do public radio
32 announcements. We also have online ads on some of the
33 online newspapers that are often used. And then also
34 we even have an ad on GCI Channel 1, because we get a
35 lot of feedback, and I listen to people who are
36 applying, and I ask them, where did you hear about our
37 Regional Advisory Council process, and they tell us.
38 So we try to maximize as much as we can what is
39 effective.

40

41 Then once the application process
42 closes, the next step your Council coordinators in
43 connection with Staff from the five different agencies
44 that comprise the Federal Subsistence Management
45 Program conduct interviews of the applicants. They
46 interview references that are cited on the
47 applications, and then make a recommendation to the
48 InterAgency Staff Committee which then recommends to
49 the Federal Subsistence Board. Then that Board meets
50 somewhere about mid to late summer, and then the Board

1 makes its recommendations to the Secretaries.

2

3 And that's where we've been running to
4 some snags. As all of you know, this year and last
5 year the appointment letters went out late. As a
6 matter of fact, even today, even though terms expired
7 on December 2nd, 2013, even today we still have eight
8 appointment decisions we're waiting to hear from that
9 the final decision has not been made in D.C.

10

11 And we're trying to figure out what's
12 going on with that process and what we can do to
13 improve it. But one of the things that goes on, and
14 this is when we get into where we're talking about how
15 they make the sausage, is that once those names are
16 forwarded to Washington, D.C., there is a vetting
17 process that is undertaken in D.C. where they look at
18 people's backgrounds, and they make calls to ask
19 questions about that might show up in people's
20 backgrounds, and then people are either cleared for
21 appointment or not cleared, and that is one of those
22 things that happens that we have little control over.
23 But I'm trying to work at understanding how it works.

24

25 One other thing that you'll see, if you
26 go to -- the materials for this start on Page 61, but
27 in all reality, what I want to bring to your attention
28 is Page 63. You'll see a table that shows the number
29 of applications by region over the years. And you'll
30 be seeing that the numbers of those applications have
31 been dropping steadily over the years, and particularly
32 in the last, you know, five to seven years or so.

33

34 We have a particular problem with
35 applications in the northern regions, so North Slope,
36 Northwest Arctic, Eastern and Western Interior, and
37 then also Seward Peninsula. And Southeast, however,
38 and Southcentral often have very robust numbers of
39 applications.

40

41 One of the things we rely on a lot is
42 kind of the unofficial outreach. What can we do to
43 improve outreach other than through those advertising
44 methods. And one of our greatest resources is you.
45 You are all actively engaged in your communities, and
46 hopefully you know some people who you think would make
47 break additions to your Councils, or the tribal
48 governments that you affiliate with, they may know
49 someone who they think would be a good addition to the
50 Council. And there is the opportunity for you to

1 encourage people and suggest that they apply.

2

3 But also an under-utilized aspect of
4 this process is people can be nominated to serve on a
5 Regional Advisory Council. They themselves do not have
6 to submit the application. It could be one of your
7 tribal councils or organizations or any group you're
8 affiliated with may know someone who they think would
9 be good, and they can submit a nomination for somebody
10 to serve. Now, last year out of 73 applications, only
11 five of them were actually nominations. So this is an
12 area where we could improve on getting more people
13 actively involved. And I know from my own personal
14 experience, and I know other people have said this to
15 me as well, it's really nice to be asked. People
16 appreciate it that their knowledge and their experience
17 is respected to the point where they're being asked to
18 come and serve.

19

20 That's kind of the highlights of kind
21 of the overall I had for you on the nominations
22 process, and how we're currently conducting outreach.
23 And there are definitely ways for us to improve.

24

25 And I'm particularly concerned about
26 this year, because as of yesterday, we've only received
27 20 applications total for all 10 Regional Advisory
28 Councils. Only three for Southeast Region, and I think
29 we're up to four for Southcentral Region. And I know
30 that there are some sitting Council members who have
31 not yet submitted their applications for reappointment.
32 Now, perhaps maybe you feel like you've done your time,
33 but if you're still interested in serving, hopefully
34 we'll see your application soon.

35

36 But it's definitely a concern that I
37 have that these applications are dropping. It's also a
38 I have with the process. Sometimes it is confusing.
39 With our current annual nominations process, right now
40 we -- even in a good year, if we do get those
41 appointments in early December, we're still in the
42 middle of an application period, so we have this cross-
43 over where we have a new nominations process that
44 hasn't concluded yet, and yet the next one is already
45 starting to open up. If we open up applications in
46 August and it goes through March, somewhere in the
47 middle of that, the previous appointment period has
48 ended.

49

50 There are a variety of suggestions that

1 I have identified as to how we can improve our
2 nominations and appointment process. And those are
3 going to be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board
4 this year, and then hopefully maybe at your fall
5 meeting cycle you might have a discussion on how we can
6 change our current nominations and appointment process
7 to improve it.

8

9 But at this time I am happy to answer
10 any questions that any of the Council members may have.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions. Cathy.

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 During the lag time on these
17 reappointments, the ones that are coming very late, is
18 there any mechanism in place to have people who
19 currently hold those seats continue to hold those seats
20 until a reappointment is made, past the December
21 timeframe.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Through the Chair.
24 There is currently not a mechanism in place; however, I
25 do know that the Western Interior Council at its recent
26 meeting suggested an amendment to your charters to
27 provide that if a sitting Council members is not
28 reappointed -- or there is that lag in appointments
29 like you've identified, that that sitting council
30 member would stay appointed so that there was not a lag
31 in membership. And that if necessary for the Council,
32 it can still conduct its business until such time as
33 the appointment letter is actually issued.

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Follow up.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Cathy.

38

39 MS. NEEDHAM: So Western Interior's
40 letter that I had a chance to read and hopefully other
41 people did, too, and it was distributed. But what
42 would it take -- I mean, to have the charters amended?
43 That's what -- I mean, you're saying that's essentially
44 what it's going to take to do it, is action from other
45 Councils to support Western Interior's asking that? Is
46 that something that our Councils can consider doing if
47 we support that idea.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the Western
50 Interior's suggestion is pretty new, and you're one of

1 the first Councils that's really had a chance to
2 respond to their letter, because again it's fairly
3 recent. There would have to be a charter amendment.
4 Basically all of the issues regarding your membership
5 status, how long your terms are, how often there's a
6 review process, how long you retain your seats, it's
7 all either in the charter or both in the charter and in
8 Secretarial regulation, which means some aspects of
9 that can't be changed by the Federal Subsistence Board
10 itself. It would actually have to be done by the
11 Secretaries.

12
13 Additionally, amendments to charters,
14 if you were to say amend your charter now, they have to
15 be renewed every two years. So I have determined that
16 you can amend your charters out of cycle, but still
17 that amendment would only be effective until the next
18 renewal date. And you just had your charters renewed
19 in December of 2013, so if any amendments happen within
20 the next year, there would still have to be another
21 part of renewing that charter by December of 2015.

22
23 And also I'll note there are FACA
24 limitations as to what the charters -- the Councils
25 themselves can change about their charters. You can
26 change the name of your Council, you can change the
27 number of members on your Council, if you wanted to go
28 from 10 to 8 or 10 to 13. And you can also change your
29 process for Council member removal. But any other
30 aspects about changing the charters would have to come
31 from OSM or the Federal Subsistence Board as a
32 recommendation to the Secretaries.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
35 for Carl.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl, one of the
40 things I've always wondered about, you know, we seek
41 input from Council members for nominations, but at the
42 same time we tried to keep diversity. And if you take
43 a look at Southeastern right here, you don't see any
44 two people from the same community. They're all from a
45 different community. And it's pretty hard, you know,
46 when you're trying to do that, and to think of putting
47 in your name as another Council member, because that's
48 two of you from the same place. And the way it is, we
49 have a big enough area that to diversify, it's pretty
50 hard to give every place representation.

1 So I know I've hesitated myself. I've
2 had a few people that I thought would be good to get
3 started in this, because I really think that what we
4 really need to do, and I look at all of us around here,
5 and there's an awful lot of us that have got hair
6 that's just about the same color as mine. And, you
7 know, I'm looking at the ones that I would want to be
8 putting on here, they're 25, they're 27, they're 32,
9 they're that age right there, because that's what's
10 going to be needed.

11
12 But at the same time, I don't want to
13 put them on if it means that that's two of us from the
14 same place, and then I don't have to be there any more,
15 you know.

16
17 Carl.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. That's
20 an excellent point. And one of the things that the
21 InterAgency Staff Committee does consider in its
22 deliberative process is geographical diversity. And
23 often we don't get geographical diversity in the
24 applications that come in. I definitely want to
25 recognize your comment about the Southeast Council,
26 because the Southeast Council really is unique in that
27 they're pretty much -- all of the Regional Councils
28 with the exception of Southeast has at least one
29 community with at least two members from that
30 community. And so they're very well distributed
31 geographically.

32
33 Your region is very centered to the
34 eastern side, the Wrangell-St. Elias, Prince William
35 Sound, Kenai Peninsula region, but you have absolutely
36 no representation from the western part of your region.
37 And what you identify is, you know, knowing people in
38 your community and being torn between recommending them
39 versus wanting more geographical diversity is a good
40 point. But if you have also broader contacts within
41 your region, perhaps maybe someone in Southcentral
42 Council knows somebody from the Cantwell area. Maybe
43 encourage them to apply. But, yeah, definitely there
44 are some tensions, and there's definitely some holes
45 that we can hopefully find a way to fill those.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Frankly, Ralph, I
50 would like to see another person from Yakutat on this

1 Council. And the reason is because, you know, I don't
2 know how long I'm going to be on here. I'll stay as
3 long as, you know, I'm healthy and able and willing to.
4 But if for some reason I have to leave, you know, or
5 kick the bucket or something like that, you know, it
6 would be nice to have somebody from my community on
7 here.

8

9 And here's the reason why. This
10 Council -- what are you laughing about.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: This Council appoints
15 me to be on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
16 Commission, and I think, you know, that any member
17 could serve in that position, but I think they do that,
18 because I'm from Yakutat, and Wrangell-St. Elias begins
19 on the other side of Yakutat Bay. And I think it would
20 be, you know, a good thing if we can have, you know,
21 somebody from Yakutat actually serving, appointed by
22 this Council to serve on the Wrangell-St. Elias,
23 although they can appoint somebody else whenever they
24 want, you know, but I just feel that way, you know.
25 It's okay I think to have more than one person from a
26 community on the Council. Younger people for me, so
27 that we can train them.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, see, that was
30 the next point I was going to get at. Now, see, I
31 don't disagree with Bert that it would not be bad to
32 have two people from the same community on the Council,
33 but I would like to see, and I know funding is a
34 problem and everything else. But like I said, I see a
35 lot of us that, well, I'll just say Bert and I anyhow,
36 have our hair matches each other pretty good. And what
37 we really need is we need some way to have an
38 apprenticeship program. We need some way that, okay,
39 Bert's from Yakutat. He should be -- there should be
40 some way that he can have one of these young people,
41 that means somebody under 50, you know as an apprentice
42 or to sit in as an alternate or something like that.
43 Because somewhere along the line we're going to need to
44 bring some young people into this, or our numbers of
45 people applying are going to go down, our interest is
46 going to get down. And they're the ones, you know, I
47 don't know about the rest of you, but most of us I
48 think are in at least, I'll say at my age, I won't
49 comment on Bert's age.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But the only reason
4 we're even doing this is for our kids and our
5 grandkids, you know. I mean it's -- I'm not too
6 worried about whether I get another moose or another
7 deer or get to go take this or go take that. But I
8 sure want my kids to, and I want my grandkids to. And
9 maybe their grandkids, you know. And from that
10 standpoint, somehow or another we have to figure out a
11 way to bring young people into this program. And
12 whether it's as apprentices, whether it's -- I've tried
13 to.....

14

15 Mike, I've got a couple kids out there
16 I've tried to talk them into sitting into this meeting.
17 I wish I would have corralled them before the last
18 reports we had, and had them sit there, because it
19 applied to them. The sea otters applied to them, the
20 National Marine Fisheries applied to them. They need
21 to know that. Somehow we've got to bring them in. And
22 somehow we've got to make them feel welcome to be in.

23

24 Mr. Bangs.

25

26 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 I've been on the Council now for a
29 little over 10 years. And my first meeting was in
30 Sitka, and I recall at the end of the meeting asking
31 the group, where are the children. And since then I've
32 always thought there should be a mechanism to be able
33 to maybe have a student seat on the Council, you know,
34 where you have somebody in high school that's
35 recommended by the school. I don't know, it's just a
36 thought that what you're saying is right along those
37 lines, because I think that's crucial to the program is
38 to introduce younger people into it. And I don't know
39 how the OSM would feel about a student seat on a
40 Council, but I personally think it would be a good
41 experience for them as well as us to get their
42 perspective, too.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
47 just want to go a little further with Mike's comment.
48 And I think if we had a student seat from each
49 community we're meeting in, maybe we wouldn't have to
50 take them out of the community. That might work a

1 little better.

2

3 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 Something the Regional Councils could
6 consider when they come up with the meeting schedule is
7 trying to keep it more a diverse rotation throughout
8 the communities to develop some for the Councils.
9 Granted, funding and ability to get to some of the more
10 remote locations might be more difficult than for
11 others, but I just think trying to expose ourselves to
12 more communities would be a good way to get the word
13 out.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ken.

18

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

20

21 I think the ways a lot of the students
22 work is that they -- like the organized village where I
23 come from, Kake, could get some grand funding to send a
24 student with the representative, and possibly get
25 training, and just alternate them if they have to, but
26 get them interested and that point. But we do need to
27 get the information out there, because I agree with you
28 that, you know, some of us probably won't be here, you
29 know, within the next four or five years. But I,
30 myself, I'll go back and I'll talk to the Organized
31 Village of Kake about possibly getting a grant to send
32 up students to this, and then, you know, pay for -- so
33 OSM doesn't have to worry about it, but pay for their
34 room and their -- I don't know about meeting fees, but
35 their travel.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we did try what
42 -- or we were doing what Mr. Yeager was suggesting
43 here, but with the Board wanting us to have our
44 meetings in hub areas, you know, that kind of shot that
45 down. We used to go to Hoonah, we've had a meeting in
46 Kake, you know, and I don't remember Angoon.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: We met in Angoon,

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We did? Okay. I know

1 we hit every one of them then.

2

3 And, you know, one of the things that
4 we did, I know since I've been chairman, is I've always
5 encouraged the schools to send kids to the meetings,
6 whether its just, you know, a period, you know, a short
7 time, just so that they can get an idea of that this is
8 all about.

9

10 I really admire Sitka a few years ago,
11 they were sending students up to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board meeting, and then they came to our
13 meetings when we were there. And, you know, if we can
14 get more and more of that working, then I think we
15 might have a better chance of getting more people
16 interested. Right now I know it's difficult to get,
17 you know, people submitting applications, because -- I
18 don't know why, but anyhow.....

19

20 I don't have mine in, but I'll get it.
21 I'll probably put it in your back pocket before you
22 leave.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl and then Pat.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: I just want to reflect a
27 little bit on some of the comments I've been year.
28 What I'm hearing here I've also heard from other
29 Councils as well. One of the northern Councils, and I
30 think maybe even Northwest Arctic, also suggested the
31 idea of having a student mentorship program where there
32 could be a student seat on the Council.

33

34 And just one idea off the top of my
35 head would be having that person could sit at a table
36 as a non-voting member and still participate and learn
37 from the program.

38

39 We have tried some pilot things in
40 different communities in connections with the meetings
41 to engage -- to do presentations at the schools in
42 conjunction with the Council meeting. And also we've
43 had success in taking advantage of local radio
44 programming, and trying to get the local public radio
45 station to take a chunk of time out of its programming
46 during the Council meeting. We had in Kotzebue a good
47 three or four hours of the Council meeting broadcasted
48 simultaneously, so it went out on the radio, and it was
49 also on the web streaming. So that gave another chance
50 for the community to get exposed to the Council and its

1 business.

2

3 I think there's a lot of opportunity to
4 explore a lot of these different options. And
5 definitely it will be one thing I will be encouraging
6 our new subsistence outreach coordinator to work on
7 with the Council coordinators in trying to enhance
8 opportunity to get youth interested and involved in the
9 meetings, you know, in connection with school, or
10 having students come to the Council meeting, which
11 we've also seen before.

12

13 So I just wanted to reflect and comment
14 on that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 I would encourage you to ask those
23 people in your community to go ahead and apply. I
24 mean, we've had two members from Sitka on the RAC. We
25 have two members from Juneau on the RAC. We've had two
26 members from Ketchikan on the RAC. I mean, it's like
27 go ahead, let them apply.

28

29 But what I want to say is that the
30 application process has gotten really extensive. I
31 mean, from the time that I first applied to know, I
32 mean it's really -- it's almost a barrier I think to
33 some people applying. You've got to come up with
34 people who support you, you know, you've got to give
35 names. You've got to write an essay about all your
36 subsistence experience, you know. So, I mean, for me,
37 I can handle that. It's not a problem to me.

38

39 But also when we brought in FRMP,
40 people in the field come to our RAC meetings and give
41 us, you know, their -- tell us about their Fisheries
42 Resource Monitoring Program. Those are young people.
43 They get excited. They like -- they're watching us,
44 and they go back to the communities. And even what Mr.
45 Yeager was saying, is that, you know, when we go to the
46 rural communities, people get excited about coming to
47 our meeting and seeing what we're going.

48

49 I think it's one reason why the Federal
50 Subsistence Board has Anthony Christianson as a Board

1 member is because of our RAC going to his community and
2 seeing our interaction.

3

4 And as part of, you know, building
5 capacity, and then maybe there should be a consultation
6 back to the tribe, saying, hey, we need young people.
7 When you're going your consultation on the phone, say,
8 hey, we need people to apply, you know, maybe someone
9 from your tribal natural resources department could
10 apply. I mean, just give it back to them, let them
11 know we're in need of applications.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bert.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I have a question.
18 Our school is going to have a career day. I think it's
19 in April, and where they bring in, you know,
20 businesses, Government agencies and everything, and
21 they talk about jobs. And I was wondering -- I always
22 thought it would be a good idea if, you know, the
23 Regional Advisory Council had a workshop table set up
24 there. And maybe you can answer a question, you know,
25 how would we go about doing that, and who would attend.
26 Or who would be there, you know, to do it from our
27 side.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

30

31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just want to make a
32 quick comment. My bladder can't take much more.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And I've got to go.
37 But, you know, this is a very universal problem. And
38 I'll tell you, in the community, in Ninilchik, it's
39 extremely hard to get the youth involved. And there's
40 some reasons for it, and there's some good things. You
41 know, the tribal council there has employed just about
42 every youth and good person around. They've got 40 on
43 their tribal payroll actually.

44

45 And one of the things that I see in a
46 lot of these communities is disparity because of the
47 fishery and moose and the hunting resources. And what
48 I'm getting by that is, you know, we have people on
49 this RAC here from the Southcentral and Kenai that are
50 every bit as much of a subsistence user as I am that

1 are not qualified. We have a shortage. We have James
2 from another area that is not qualified. So people
3 lose an interest in it is where I'm going.

4
5 And we don't have the moose, we don't
6 have the opportunity, we don't have the kings. We lost
7 our clams. We lost our crab. We lost our shrimp. The
8 opportunities, you know. And to get them involve and
9 to rebuild us and make it work is tough. And working
10 from the AFN side and other sides, that they want
11 change. People want change. They want dual
12 management; they want to have a say so at the table.

13
14 So I'm just expressing that. It's an
15 issue that we all need to work on.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.

20
21 And, Carl, I guess somehow or another I
22 missed what I was trying to get across, too.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that was, I
27 listened to Bert, and I listened to everybody, and
28 they're all talking about these young people that are
29 in high school and in school. When I was talking about
30 young people, I meant those 30 and 40 and 50 year olds.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Me, too.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I wasn't talking about
39 17-year-olds, you know.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But we do need to get
44 the real young like that in, because they're the
45 future. But right at the moment what we need is we
46 need those 20 and 30 and 40-year olds. We need the
47 ones that are actually active out there and actually
48 doing things and have the energy and everything, and
49 can see the use of the resource. And that's where I'm
50 seeing we're missing it. And I don't mean that to an

1 insult to those of you that are 40 and 50, but I mean,
2 it's just those are the ones that I'd like to see us
3 somehow have an outreach to, so that, you know, that we
4 get those 20 and 30 and 40-year-olds in here. And then
5 we can train -- or at least the high schools can at
6 least train for it. But what we need is we need those
7 voting age young people that can actually make
8 decisions on the Councils.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: I wanted to respond to
11 Bert's question. I think he left the room.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: But I'll open this out to
16 all of you who were thinking of the younger youth. If
17 there are opportunities in your communities where you
18 feel like it would be helpful to have a presentation
19 about the Federal Subsistence Program, whether it would
20 be a table, explaining about the Federal Subsistence
21 Program, or a table where there might be information
22 about careers in resource management, let your Council
23 coordinators know, because, you know, again we do talk
24 a lot about this tight budget environment, but there
25 might -- you never know if there might be an
26 opportunity for someone to come to your community to do
27 a presentation. Donald Mike, your Council coordinator,
28 has done -- has been requested to do presentations. He
29 did one out in Dillingham a year before last to a
30 school, and went and talked about the Federal
31 subsistence process and the Regional Advisory Councils.

32

33 So there could be an opportunity. We
34 just need to learn about it, and all of you are our
35 greatest resources of information for what's happening
36 in your communities.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.

39

40 Any other questions. Frank.

41

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

43

44 What is the process. You said you can
45 nominate a person. So would the nomination be coming
46 from the tribe, or where would it come from. And then
47 after that, you know, because when we went through the
48 question and all this kind of stuff, you know, so if I
49 nominate someone, do they have to go through all that.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: I'll answer both of your
4 questions. First, the nomination can come from anyone.
5 It can come from the tribe, it could come from an
6 individual. And they would use the exact same
7 application form that you yourself filled out to seek
8 membership on the Council. There's a line where it can
9 designate that you're nominating someone and who the
10 person is making the nomination. And, of course, it's
11 always a good idea to let that person know and to
12 consult with them about your nomination, because we
13 have in the past had people decline nominations, and
14 while I didn't ask, I suspect that it was because those
15 people weren't consulted when the nomination was made.
16

17 And then to answer you other question,
18 yes, the person who is nominated would then be called
19 by a member of the interagency nominations panel to ask
20 questions, which kind of ties in with what was said
21 earlier about how complicated these applications are.
22 Really there's a reason why we do the dual process of
23 the applications as well as the interviews. When you
24 hear the questions, they're essentially the same
25 questions, but what we're trying to do is respond to
26 people who share information differently. So they may
27 fill out their application in a very simple and kind of
28 cursory manner, and really the most important thing for
29 us to know is who they are and how we can contact them,
30 and do they have references. They can fill out very
31 minimal information on the rest of that application,
32 and then it's up to the interview process to then learn
33 more about them, and understand who they are and what
34 their knowledge is of subsistence resource information.
35

36 One of the things that we are stuck
37 with is that the form we use for the applications has
38 to be approved by the OMB, the Office of Management and
39 budget, and it's a three-year process to review those
40 forms.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: So we just had our new
45 form updated in 2013. But one of the things I've had
46 some minimal discussion with that I would like to
47 pursue in the next -- in the interim before we have to
48 approve our forms again, is put together a small
49 committee of people, probably individuals who have
50 served on the interagency nominations panels and are

1 experienced with interviewing people, but I would also
2 welcome Council members to join in, and that is to see
3 if I can design the questions that are better suited to
4 be answered from the perspective of a subsistence user,
5 that takes into account cultural differences and
6 different ways of communicating, so
7 that it's not as burdensome, and also not as intrusive,
8 because again we run into different issues and
9 cultures, and not only how they communicate, but
10 whether or not it's appropriate to ask certain
11 questions of you. We don't talk about that; I don't
12 brag about how much fish and wildlife I take, or all
13 that sort of thing.

14

15 So we want to have a process that's
16 better for everyone, and that's something I would like
17 to pursue in the interim before we have to have our
18 next form approved.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say we
23 have a career day in our region, too. So that would be
24 a good opportunity if someone could come out and give a
25 presentation or put posters, or you know, whatever.

26

27 The other thing I was thinking about
28 was Facebook. A lot of people in our region are on
29 Facebook. We have an Ahtna Facebook. And if you can
30 just -- I know how to -- I personally don't know how on
31 Facebook put the RAC application onto my Facebook so I
32 can share it. I would do that if I could. But I do
33 send it out to all the villages. And I've been talking
34 to Cantwell and they have been talking to a young man
35 there who's in his 20s that hopefully will apply. I
36 hope.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: And actually thank you
39 for bringing up Facebook. The Federal Subsistence
40 Management Program is itself new to Facebook, but we do
41 have a facebook page now, and we are trying to start to
42 use it as an effective communication tool. And we
43 recently ask -- we have one admin person who updates
44 that and posts information to it. And one of the
45 things we did ask him to do is to provide updates on
46 how much time is left in the application process, to
47 have a link on our Facebook page to where on the OSM
48 website you can find the application.

49

50 So the easy way is if you can just post

1 a link to where it is on the OSM website, or if you can
2 maybe get your organization to like the Federal
3 Subsistence Management Program's Facebook page, then
4 that way that can be a way of connecting the
5 information that's on the Federal Subsistence Program
6 Facebook page to what is going on on your Facebook
7 page.

8

9 Now also about the career day, let
10 Donald know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Kitka.

13

14 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 I just had one question, and that was,
17 some of the Council had been reapplying for years and
18 having to go through the whole process of filling
19 everything out. Sometimes it seems kind of cumbersome.
20 I just was wondering why we -- all our things probably
21 haven't changed a whole lot, and to have to fill out
22 the complete form is sometimes I think a little much.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Well, there's kind of two
25 answers in that for me. One, the reason why incumbents
26 fill out the same application as everyone else is that
27 the individuals who serve on the interagency
28 nominations panel are instructed to treat all -- treat
29 all applicants equally. So we don't have a system in
30 place where you have a different application, because
31 the idea is to treat everybody who's applying in an
32 equal way.

33

34 But, again, you don't have to have a
35 full War and Peace essay on your application.
36 Essentially, you know, fill it out to the best of your
37 ability, but if there's a lot more information that you
38 want to share, then you can save it for the interview
39 and you don't have to spend as much time on the
40 application filling out everything. Maybe even just
41 use it as an opportunity to provide updates if
42 anything's changed in the last three years since you
43 were previously appointed.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

46

47 I think it's about time to start
48 thinking of wrapping this up.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: I'll be quick. It's not

1 a question.

2

3 Because of OSM's limited funding, if
4 you're having career days, or if your organization is
5 having a meeting, you most likely have local Staff, a
6 lot of them are in the audience here, who could speak
7 to what the RACs do, what the Federal Subsistence
8 Program is. Invite them to come and try to explain and
9 help recruit new members that way, and then we have no
10 travel costs.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Michael.

15

16 MR. BANGS: Just real quick. I think
17 we'd have a lot more applications if we took more field
18 trips,

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl, do you have
23 anything more you'd like to share with us before we
24 break.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: No, I just wanted to
29 thank the Council members for the opportunity to
30 discuss this with you. I've heard a lot of great ideas
31 today, and hopefully if we do get some specific
32 recommendations before the Councils this fall, that
33 could be another opportunity for us to discuss ways of
34 improving participation in this process.

35

36 So thank you.

37

38 MR. LARSON: I've got some housekeeping
39 stuff I want to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Bert.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I think it's
44 time for us to wind up now, but I want my Council
45 members to know that we're going to start at 8:00
46 o'clock tomorrow morning here, and we're going to work
47 diligently until 1:00, at which time, you know,
48 Southcentral will want to come in and take over, you
49 know, 30 seconds after we're gone. So be here at 8:00
50 and Robert has some housekeeping issues to talk with

1 you about.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let me finish what I
4 was going to say then. He said they're getting out at
5 1:00. I want my Council out in the hall here at 12:45.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And so we will be
10 ready to come in and start when they walk out.

11

12 Okay. Robert.

13

14 MR. LARSON: Thank you.

15

16 I would like to mention that tomorrow
17 this is not our room. We are meeting in the room next
18 door. It's the smaller room.

19

20 Tomorrow the Southeast Council is going
21 to hear a discussion of the extended jurisdiction
22 petition issues. The Southcentral Council is perfectly
23 willing, and they might find it pretty darn interesting
24 to see where we are in that process. So we're
25 extending -- the petition is to extend Federal
26 jurisdiction into the waters of Chatham Straits. And
27 so we'll have an update on that at noon tomorrow. Time
28 certain.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Time certain at noon?

31

32 MR. LARSON: Yes. On Thursday we have
33 left in our agenda delegation of authority, the climate
34 change, food security, and the Board action on the FRMP
35 projects, and a Partners briefing, and a call for
36 proposals. We also have the agenda reports to go
37 through on Thursday. These are all as joint meetings.

38

39 At that time we have two time certain
40 presentations. We'll do the delegation of authority at
41 8:00, we'll start with that. And at 10:00 we'll do
42 climate change.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you're saying the
45 meeting starts Thursday at 8:00 in the morning, right?

46

47 MR. LARSON: That's my understanding,
48 yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I just want

1 everybody to understand that. 8:00 o'clock Thursday
2 morning. And it's 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning for
3 you guys.

4
5 MR. LARSON: Yes. And if we could have
6 the Southeast Council members stop by and visit with me
7 before you leave the room today, that would be great.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess what we will
10 do is -- Donald.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 On our joint session on Thursday, the
15 State Division of Subsistence would like to address
16 both Councils in the joint session. They want to
17 present a research project to both Councils. So we may
18 have to add that to the agenda on Thursday.

19
20 And I'd like to acknowledge and thank
21 Mr. Dan Dunaway from Bristol Bay Council for attending
22 the joint meeting today.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you Donald.
27 Judy.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Well, Mr. Chair,
30 Thursday's agenda, we have a lot of agency reports
31 scheduled. We still have quite a bit on the agenda, so
32 we'll ask everyone to keep it as brief and thorough as
33 possible.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And with that, we
40 will recess for today.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

