

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5 VOLUME II

6
7 Crowne Plaza Hotel
8 Anchorage, Alaska
9 March 13, 2014

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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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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/13/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning, brothers and sisters. In my language we say yak'ei ts'ootaat. Right, Ken? That means good morning. This is a fairly new invention. We didn't have -- I don't know if there was a word for good morning. However, you know, students have been going to the universities in Juneau and came forth with that word. It just took yak'ei, which means good, ts'ootaat means morning, and put it together. So I would like to have everybody say yak'ei ts'ootaat.

IN UNISON: Yak'ei ts'ootaat.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. What's yours?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yak'ei du (ph).

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Everybody say Yak'ei du.

IN UNISON: Yak'ei du.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Let me see here. We want to have -- you know, it's really I think a historical moment that we have a joint meeting of the Southcentral and the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. I know that at the beginning of our joint session the other day we did have an opening prayer and I would like to maybe begin this last day of our joint session with a prayer and I've asked Greg if he would be willing to do that for us. Everyone please rise.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: (Prayer)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I forgot to follow through with something that I said. You know, after we had our prayer last, when was it, Tuesday or thereabouts, when we had it, you know, everyone rose except Ralph here.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I shut my eyes.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I mentioned, if you

1 remember, that the next time we have a joint prayer
2 like this that everyone would sit and he would stand
3 but I forgot to do that.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyhow, there will be
8 other times.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I'll take you
11 up on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me see. I think
14 this joint session -- we've been talking back here a
15 little bit. We might be pretty well completed with the
16 joint session, you know, around noon-ish if everything
17 goes well. And then Southeast is going to have a short
18 meeting. We didn't complete our agenda because Ralph
19 came in about 12:00 noon yesterday at our meeting and
20 he sat there and he just sat there and he just sat
21 there waiting for us to get out of there so his group
22 can come in. You know, it's his fault that we didn't
23 finish our agenda.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we're going to have
28 a short meeting after lunch to continue on with our
29 agenda. Anyhow, let's get started. It's 8:15 now.
30 We're supposed to have Steve and Terry, I guess, to
31 come forth and talk about delegation of authority.

32
33 Steve, I apologize for missing the
34 event last night. I understand the king salmon was
35 very good. Not as good as Copper River or Dry Bay
36 though.

37
38 MR. KESSLER: No comment.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Or Stikine.

43
44 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, Mr.
45 Chairman. Members of the Southeast and Southcentral
46 Councils. I'm Steve Kessler. I'm the Forest Service
47 subsistence program leader. I also serve on the
48 Interagency Staff Committee. With me is Terry Suminski
49 from the Tongass National Forest.

50

1 I was asked to give an overview of
2 delegation of authority to perhaps begin a little bit
3 of discussion between the two Councils. I provided a
4 one-page piece of paper here that each of you should
5 have in front of you and I'm just going to go over
6 what's on that piece of paper.

7
8 Under 36 CFR and 50 CFR parts 10(d)(6),
9 the Federal Subsistence Board is authorized to delegate
10 agency field officials certain management authorities.
11 Since you all have this in front of you, you can read
12 what part 6 actually says. One important aspect of
13 that regulation is the last phrase, within frameworks
14 established by the Board. The framework is established
15 by the Board in letters of delegation or by specific
16 regulations. Over the past 20-plus years the Board has
17 issued many delegations.

18
19 With the beginning of the Federal
20 program management of fisheries in navigable waters in
21 the year 2000, the Board chose to delegate fisheries
22 authority across the entire state to inseason managers.
23 The Board chose to do this because fisheries must often
24 be managed on an emergency basis. That is if a salmon
25 run doesn't return to stream or river, then immediate
26 action must be taken. Delay resulting from waiting for
27 the Board to act may be too long.

28
29 Fisheries delegations are on an area
30 basis, such that, for example, there's one inseason
31 manager for the entire Kenai Peninsula and one inseason
32 manager for the entire Copper River even though there
33 are multiple Federal land agencies involved. Until
34 recently, most wildlife delegated authorities had been
35 by specified codified regulations. The exception has
36 been for emergency special actions.

37
38 As a reminder, emergency actions are no
39 more than 60 days in length with authority delegated to
40 the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
41 Subsistence Management and only after Staff analysis of
42 the potential action and unanimous consent of the
43 Interagency Staff Committee. That delegation of
44 authority letter can be found on Page 46 of your
45 Council book.

46
47 Other wildlife delegations can be found
48 throughout the regulations as shown beginning on Page
49 49 of your Council book. Some, and perhaps all of
50 those delegations include a letter to the manager which

1 lays out the manager's responsibilities associated with
2 the delegated management.

3

4 For the U.S. Forest Service in
5 Southeast Alaska, there are comprehensive delegations
6 that have been issued by letter from the Federal
7 Subsistence Board to all 10 district rangers of the
8 Tongass National Forest. These delegations are the
9 same for every district ranger for fish but vary for
10 wildlife management. These delegations can be found
11 beginning on Page 51 of your Council book.

12

13 These wildlife delegations were
14 initially requested.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kessler, would you just
17 take it easy for a moment. I just got informed that
18 one of our Council members, Aaron Isaacs, was taken to
19 the hospital this morning. So I just wanted to
20 announce that so we could think about him in our
21 prayers and thoughts, okay.

22

23 Go ahead, Mr. Kessler.

24

25 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Let me start over about the U.S. Forest Service. In
27 Southeast Alaska, there are comprehensive delegations
28 that have been issued by letter from the Federal
29 Subsistence Board to all 10 district rangers. These
30 delegations are the same for every district ranger for
31 fish but they vary for wildlife management. These
32 delegations can be found on Page 51 of your book.

33

34 These wildlife delegations were
35 initially requested by the Southeast Council in
36 development of the final scope of the delegations was
37 closely coordinated with the Council. Contact with the
38 Council Chairman and local Council members prior to any
39 action is an important part of the process for
40 implementing the delegated authorities.

41

42 Also at every fall meeting the Forest
43 Service reports to the Council on each action taken
44 under the delegated authority. On Page 68 you could
45 see a list for the calendar year 2013 of the special
46 actions that were taken under the delegated authority
47 although there is at least one in here, maybe only one,
48 that was taken by the Federal Subsistence Board and
49 that relates to the Stikine River, but all these others
50 were taken by individual district rangers. So this

1 report is provided every fall to the Council.

2

3

4 As these delegation of authority
5 letters to district rangers have been established, many
6 of the codified regulations have been actually removed.
7 So, as the letters are written, those items that are on
8 Page 49 and 50, many of those have been removed for
9 Southeast Alaska and this results in a much more
10 streamlined system.

11

12 Note that a list of these delegations
13 is included in our so-called Handy Dandy regulatory
14 book and that's to inform you and the public about
15 these delegations. So if you have a copy of your Handy
16 Dandy book, on Page 136 is a listing of what those
17 delegations are and that's to inform everybody that
18 these exist since they aren't in the codified
19 regulations.

20

21 So the list in the current regulatory
22 book is quite out of date, but it's expected to be
23 updated with the issuance of the 2014-2016 wildlife
24 regulatory book and should be up to date as of that
25 point.

26

27 That's all I have. Just sort of an
28 overview of where we are on delegation of authority.
29 I'm ready for any specific questions.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions, anyone.
32 Before we go on to questions though, is there anyone
33 online that we need to be aware of?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there anyone
38 online? I'll give you another chance to identify
39 yourself.

40

41 MS. HANSEN: This is Kathy Hansen with
42 Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
45 Kathy. Is there anyone else?

46

47 MR. REIFENSTUHL: This is Steve
48 Reifenstuhl. I announced earlier.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Who else?

51

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.
4
5 Welcome. Questions for Mr. Kessler
6 from either Council.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.
9
10 MS. CAMINER: I was going to say if
11 there aren't any questions for Steve, I can give the
12 background about why this item is on the agenda and
13 some of the maybe thought-provoking questions that we
14 came up with for discussion.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm always interested
17 in thought-provoking questions, so go ahead.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Well, certainly
22 the joint meeting has been an excellent opportunity to
23 see similarities but also many differences, so I think
24 our experiences perhaps have been different amongst --
25 with respect to delegation of authority.
26
27 So a couple of questions -- several
28 questions that our group came up with is, for example,
29 when should the board delegate authority to inseason
30 managers, how can the Councils provide direction to the
31 Board and/or to the inseason managers, is the Council
32 adequately informed or consulted prior to decisions,
33 and should the Councils ask for management plans that
34 specify how an inseason management and an inseason
35 manager plans to implement the regs. Then lastly, is
36 the process being implemented consistently.
37
38 So I can go through those again if we
39 care to go through some of these questions and
40 discussion.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.
43
44 Anyone else have any comments.
45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Bert, through the
47 Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah.
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I guess I have to
2 comment because I've been one of the outspoken
3 opponents of delegation of authority, so I would like
4 to put on record my reasons and it's exactly what Judy
5 had come up with. We are much better with
6 communications with the regulators that come and meet
7 with us now if there is a need for one.

8
9 Our concern and my concern was great
10 delegating an authority and they making a decision
11 without the knowledge of the local groups in the local
12 areas and I strongly felt that our Councils are here to
13 set policies and to recommend to the Federal Board for
14 approval for taking of game and fish. Sometimes it
15 gets a little -- you know, to me, we're not doing our
16 duty if we just delegate it out to someone else. If we
17 do delegate it, it should only be an emergency
18 situation with very, very strict guidelines. That's
19 just kind of it in a short nutshell, but that was my
20 concern.

21
22 We had one incident in the past and we
23 forgive past and forget past, but we just don't want
24 that to happen again, so we want to have some clear
25 process.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Greg. I'd
28 just like to follow up on that. I fully agree with you
29 that everyone really should know, especially if it's
30 going to affect the people that you're representing. I
31 think it would be a good idea -- and we've done this in
32 the past where I come from -- is that whenever there is
33 a special action that has to take place that a meeting
34 be held with the tribal council. I was the tribal
35 council president for years and the Forest Service
36 always invited me there to talk about this with State
37 and any other entity that might be interested or part
38 of the process.

39
40 I also think it's really important that
41 the process of including the chairmen of the RACs to be
42 involved. That way I think most everyone is covered if
43 you include those entities in it, particularly to
44 tribal governments because they're the ones who
45 represent most of the people in my little community.
46 So you might make that a note, you know, for Staff to
47 make sure that these things are done.

48
49 Tribal councils, city borough, you
50 know, they are interested in what's happening in their

1 regions and they have a lot of input. I know when I
2 was a tribal president they really relied a lot on my
3 input. Of course, you look at the science, you look
4 at, as I mentioned yesterday, traditional ecological
5 knowledge, that's really important information you can
6 take to the table. So I'd really encourage that.

7

8 Were you going to say something?

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you'll let me.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes
13 the Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I'd just
16 like to comment on some of the things that Bert said
17 and some of the experiences we've had. First of all,
18 it's really interesting to listen to you folks from
19 Southeast and how much -- I'll say how much more of one
20 family you are. You all go back and forth, you all use
21 the same resources, you all have the same ideas. Then
22 we get up into Southcentral and we have all these
23 different cultures and then we have all these other
24 cultures that are on top of these different cultures
25 and things get a little bit more complicated.

26

27 Bert may have the ability and the
28 knowledge to, as Chair, respond to delegations of
29 authority, but sometimes I've been asked on delegations
30 of authority and we're dealing with something that is
31 totally out of my bailiwick for lack of a better way of
32 putting it. I consider myself a Copper Basin person.
33 I've lived from the headwaters down to the coast. But
34 when it comes to a decision on the Kenai, I have my
35 personal feelings as to what should be done, but that
36 really might not reflect what the people on the Kenai
37 think, so we started -- I started just saying, you
38 know, call these guys here, you know, call the people
39 that are in the local area.

40

41 We have areas in our area that aren't
42 even represented by somebody. It's pretty hard to take
43 the authority for that decision and say yes. I think
44 Bert hit on something pretty good there and that's --
45 unless it's an absolute emergency, needs to be done
46 today, the delegation of authority should take into
47 account as wide a variety of other sources in making
48 their decision as they can. It doesn't matter.

49

50 The problem with having delegated

1 authority and making decisions, as we all know, if you
2 make decisions, there are always going to be people who
3 disagree with them, you know. Somewhere along the line
4 the person that's making the delegation of authority --
5 that has the delegation of authority is going to have
6 to be willing to take the brunt of the fact that
7 there's going to be people who don't like what he did
8 and we had an incident like that in our area just this
9 last year. And that's expected because nobody that's
10 in authority that makes decisions is going to please
11 everybody. Then there's always the chance that you've
12 made a decision and then nature, weather and everything
13 else makes your decision not necessary and then, oh,
14 man, you really are the bad guy.

15

16 So I think it's worked. I know that
17 we've had some differences of opinions between some of
18 our Council members and some of our public as to what's
19 happened on certain decisions that have been made, but
20 I think we have to recognize that if you make
21 decisions, you're going to step on somebody's toes
22 someplace, but those decisions still have to be made in
23 the best -- with the best information that can be
24 gathered.

25

26 In our case, the best information that
27 can be gathered and how it relates to subsistence users
28 and that's -- you know, I don't see any other way that
29 we can do it except with delegation of authority on a
30 lot of things. It's really interesting how
31 Southeastern has just -- I mean you guys have been
32 very, very blanket in doing that. It's a little harder
33 in our area simply because we have people that are from
34 -- we're pretty mobile, but we're not mobile with boats
35 back and forth, which gives us a little different
36 attitude than people that can hop in a car and drive
37 around.

38

39 I noticed that in all these lists we
40 don't have anybody from our -- it's all Southeastern
41 lists or other places lists. We don't have any list of
42 our delegation of authority for you guys to look at,
43 but we do have quite a number of delegations of
44 authority in Southcentral.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ralph. Any
49 more comments.

50

1 Bob.

2

3 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Bert.
4 Steve, perhaps you could just briefly go over what
5 policies are in place to consult with and notify
6 Councils concerning inseason actions or other actions
7 that might take place under delegation of authority.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve.

10

11 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
12 Schroeder. The protocols for contact with the
13 different entities are basically laid out in those
14 delegation of authority letters so that if a decision
15 needs to be made on a short-term basis, like for
16 emergency action 60 days or less, then there needs to
17 be contact with Chairman of the Council and local
18 Council members. Also, of course, the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game needs to be made aware.
20 The protocol is that local tribes and any appropriate
21 local city governments or whoever is affected by these
22 decisions are going to be contacted. Eventually all
23 the information goes to the Office of Subsistence
24 Management for the administrative record.

25

26 Once you have an action that needs to
27 take place that's greater than 60 days, then we call
28 that a temporary action instead of an emergency action,
29 then that follows a different set of rules because in
30 that situation you need to have a public hearing within
31 the area that's affected by the special action.

32

33 The delegations of authority in some
34 cases include those temporary actions that are 60 days
35 and over and sometimes not. So, for instance, I
36 discussed -- and there's the letter in the packet that
37 gives the authority to the head of the Office of
38 Subsistence Management to sign off on actions with the
39 unanimous agreement of the Interagency Staff Committee,
40 but that's only for actions that are 60 days or less.
41 So anything that's longer than that needs to go to the
42 Federal Subsistence Board.

43

44 Actually the difference between 68 days
45 and less and over 60 days, that's actually laid out in
46 ANILCA. There's some words about if it's going to be
47 an action over 60 days, ANILCA says you have to have a
48 public hearing, so that's what we do.

49

50 So I don't know how many of those

1 greater than 60-day actions happen every year versus
2 the less than 60-day ones, but I don't think there are
3 very many that are over 60 days in length. It only
4 applies to when there's some pretty long seasons, like
5 for moose hunting or maybe caribou hunting.

6

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

7

8
9 MR. KESSLER: That's all. Does that
10 provide the information you need?

11

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. Thank you.

12

13

Ralph has a question for you.

14

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CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's what I

was asking.

MR. KESSLER: But, you know, in some

cases there are sort of fall hunts and winter hunts
that are separated by a certain period of time and I
believe that there are some times that each of those is
less than 60 days and I think there have been instances
where those have been looked at as two separate
emergency actions, but the intent is that if this is
going to be an action that is lengthy, we need to make
sure that everybody knows what's going on and make sure
that everybody has the opportunity to provide input to
the manager before those decisions are made or to the
Federal Subsistence Board because a lot of those longer
decisions do have to be made by the Federal Subsistence
Board.

In the letters -- and I don't know that
you have a copy of one of these letters, but there's
also instances where the inseason manager may not feel
comfortable making a decision, so the language in here
always says that they can give this decision making
back to the Federal Subsistence Board if they don't
feel comfortable. If it's a highly political decision,

1 then that inseason manager may not be the one to make
2 it unless it really is an emergency, it's gotta happen
3 now, then they're going to have to make that tough
4 decision. But in some cases those decisions would go
5 back to the Federal Subsistence Board.

6

7 Also, the Federal Subsistence Board at
8 any time can take that decision-making authority back
9 for some individual situation from the inseason
10 manager. So, again, if the Federal Subsistence Board
11 recognizes maybe through a couple letters that are
12 received from the public that this is an issue that
13 should be in their court rather than in the inseason
14 manager's court, they can take that back any time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments.

17

18 Mike and then Judy.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman
21 Adams. When we discussed this, there was -- like on my
22 part there was a lot of apprehension about delegating
23 so much authority, but it has worked for us. Whenever
24 one of these actions take place, the biologist is
25 contacted. To me, when things are happening, it seems
26 like Unit 2 is controversial or not controversial but
27 has more of these actions probably than anywhere else.
28 They've always come and explained the problem and the
29 rationale and made a great effort to do so. I've yet
30 to disagree with the actions they want to take. They
31 do a good job in trying to involve RAC members and
32 locals when they do it and it does work for us.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments.

35 Oh, Judy. I'm sorry.

36

37 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 guess from our experience for the most part we see that
39 it's important to have decisions made at the local
40 level with local consultation and we're fortunate when
41 there's good, dedicated staff in place, as is mostly
42 the case, that relationships work well and efforts are
43 definitely made. I think we have seen some examples
44 where the agency may want to do a special action and
45 yet the RAC doesn't hear about it until very, very late
46 in the process where it's difficult, given, at least
47 for Southcentral, sort of how spread and how diverse
48 people are, how available people are.

49

50 So I guess we want to emphasize the

1 importance of that consultation. I think we've kind of
2 moved past some of the perhaps missteps and made a lot
3 of progress. But should personnel change, I guess we
4 wouldn't want to see any slippage backwards.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Judy.
7 Yeah. Thanks for showing up.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Adams.
12 I just kind of had a -- forgive my ignorance of being
13 relatively new for the past couple years on the RAC.
14 Is there a reversal process to delegation of authority?
15 If we learn from the past and find some decisions made
16 in the past didn't suit the needs of the subsistence
17 users, is there a process that the RACs can use or
18 reverse that delegation or put a suggestion out or
19 whatever?

20
21 Is there a process for that, Steve?

22
23 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
24 McLaughlin. There's no official process, but the
25 process would always be for any individual or Regional
26 Advisory Council to go to the Board and say we'd like
27 to see that delegation changed. And then I think that
28 the RAC or any individual would make their case and say
29 this is why we think it needs to be changed. It's all
30 up to the Federal Subsistence Board. It's all
31 delegated directly from them and they can withdraw any
32 delegation just as easily as they provided the
33 delegation, but there is no official process that I
34 know of to make that happen.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Gloria.

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: How are the tribes
39 involved in the delegation of authority? The Federal
40 Board is supposed to have a government-to-government
41 relationship with the tribes. So if they delegate this
42 to an inseason manager, the tribes won't have any
43 insight unless it goes to the Federal Board and then
44 there's a process.

45
46 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
47 Stickwan. The process for consultation with tribes is
48 laid out in the consultation policy that has been
49 developed and approved by the Federal Subsistence Board
50 and in the implementation guidelines that are in draft

1 that each of the Councils has reviewed this week and
2 provided any comments.

3

4 I don't have that consultation policy
5 or the implementation guidelines in front of me, but I
6 think it's fairly laid out for special actions where
7 specific tribes would be affected that, if at all
8 possible, those tribes should be consulted prior to any
9 action.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: I think they're
12 consulted over the phone, but there isn't really a
13 public meeting for them to meet. It's just if they're
14 going to do something, they say it at a teleconference.
15 That's the way it's been done in the past. It's just
16 like you meet with one or two Federal Board members and
17 then that's it. I mean you talk to them over the
18 phone.

19

20 MR. KESSLER: I think that what needs
21 to happen is that the tribe needs to work with the
22 manager and the manager needs to work with the tribe
23 and they need to work out what works. So, for
24 instance, we've had a number of special actions in
25 Southeast Alaska associated with the eulachon there and
26 our managers on the Tongass have worked very closely
27 multiple times with the tribe from Metlakatla. We know
28 that they have a great interest in this. There have
29 been a number of trips to Metlakatla to have these
30 discussions, so that's an area of great interest and a
31 huge amount of coordination in that situation with the
32 tribe.

33

34 It's incumbent on us all to -- and us
35 all being the Federal Subsistence Program and those
36 inseason managers -- to coordinate with tribes. Now
37 sometimes there might be the possibility of face-to-
38 face meeting and sometimes it's going to be by
39 telephone because that's the only thing that might work
40 in a timely fashion. Emergencies, these special
41 actions, by definition need to be taken care of
42 quickly.

43

44 A lot of these special actions are to
45 provide more opportunity also, so it's not just --
46 special actions just don't take back opportunity
47 because fish runs may not have come back, but it might
48 be to add opportunity. For instances, users had
49 trouble getting moose because of the weather, so a lot
50 of these actions that we've done have actually added

1 opportunity. Now those normally go through the Federal
2 Subsistence Board because the Federal Subsistence Board
3 only has delegated authority within the seasons that
4 are established in regulations.

5
6 What there should be is a considerable
7 amount of communication back and forth between the
8 tribes and the managers. I can't speak specifically to
9 your area because I'm just not familiar enough with
10 those special actions in the area that you reside, but
11 perhaps somebody else here can talk about that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Gloria and
14 Steve. Aside from face-to-face meetings and telephone,
15 email is a real good thing to use too because the email
16 you can read that proposal and then have a better
17 understanding of it rather than just having it
18 discussed on the phone and so forth.

19
20 Mr. Kitka.

21
22 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 kind of had a follow up to that last question and
24 basically it was noting the time of special actions for
25 the tribes. When Sitka tribe tried this a few times
26 and asked for emergency closures, it was told it would
27 take about three to four months by the time the people
28 were done and it called for a lot of paperwork.

29
30 We also noticed that if the State of
31 Alaska asked for a closure, it happened right away. I
32 assume that the Federal government has taken a lot TEK
33 testimony and we were told at one time that it equaled
34 the same as scientific. When we look at it from our
35 point of view, it doesn't seem to happen that way and
36 we're just wondering why.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Terry.

39
40 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Kitka, through the
41 Chair. I was just trying to remember or trying to
42 think of an instance where that occurred. I think the
43 only thing I can come up with is the herring closure.
44 Other than that I don't think there's anything else.
45 Typically if we do identify an issue with conservation
46 concern or something inseason, we address it as quickly
47 as we can. The situation with herring is that the
48 action that was asked for wouldn't have been effective
49 because it would have happened after the commercial
50 fishery. In that case, I believe that was also one of

1 those issues that was elevated from the inseason
2 manager to the Federal Subsistence Board, so that's why
3 it took a little bit longer.

4
5 If you have any further follow up.

6
7 I'm just trying to think about what
8 you're asking.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. KITKA: Follow up. We were just
13 wondering why it took longer for us when we asked for
14 an emergency closure. It didn't happen as fast as we
15 wanted it to. It just seemed like over the last seven
16 or eight years, seven out of the eight years we haven't
17 met our subsistence needs on herring and the last two
18 years the spawn was so quick and such a small area that
19 it's really getting to be a scary thing. When we asked
20 for an emergency closure, even if it's on Federal
21 waters, it seemed like it takes forever to get a
22 response.

23
24 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair, Mr.
25 Kitka. We've been dealing with herring since 2006/2007
26 and I'm not sure if we have the time to go into the
27 details of why that is. I guess I'd leave it up to the
28 Chair. There are reasons that we did not close that
29 area mainly. Mainly based on the healthy herring
30 abundance. To do that, to have a closure, we would
31 have to do it preseason. We'd have to do it before any
32 herring fishing started. The abundance estimates that
33 we've been working with over the years have not shown
34 that there's a conservation concern that we can deal
35 with. Without going into a lot more detail I think
36 I'll probably leave it at that. Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You okay, Harvey?

39
40 MR. KITKA: No.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Greg.

45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair. I
47 just felt I needed to make one more comment if I may.
48 I'll try to keep it quick. I said I wasn't going to go
49 back to specifics, but I need to to kind of enlighten
50 what happened in our area. We had a special action on

1 a closure of a moose hunt and we had only taken three
2 moose in the subsistence hunt and we felt there was
3 more room locally to take more moose like that in that
4 season, so that was kind of a controversy thing and it
5 was last minute notice.

6
7 The other one was on a fishery closure
8 that the fisheries got closed even before the State and
9 the State was still opening the fishery and it was a
10 last-minute closure, so those two things prompted some
11 of the disheartenment of these closures and when the
12 locals and the tribes responded to them. Since then
13 that has greatly improved. As you've seen, Jeff
14 Anderson was here talking to us yesterday and he came
15 in four months in advance already of a potential
16 closure.

17
18 So we've worked through those issues
19 and I think I'm much more comfortable with them, but I
20 still really liked hearing Mr. Kitka's testimony there
21 or talking because that's exactly some of the issues
22 we've had. We've tried to close other things and you
23 can't -- it only works one way. It's kind of like a
24 diode.

25
26 Anyway, the delegation of authority to
27 me comes from the RAC and the Federal Board under very
28 good consultation before it's passed on.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Greg.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One more comment.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got a comment?

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have a comment.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've been glad to hear
43 the comments on the consultation and that's where I see
44 that unless it's an absolute emergency, I was listening
45 to what Gloria was saying and the thought of
46 consultation with tribes, consultation with Fish and
47 Game Advisory Committees, consultation with communities
48 and things like that on something like what we were
49 just talking about, the king salmon closure or the
50 closure we had in Cordova and that. Unless it's an

1 emergency, it's hard to be put on -- you know, and I've
2 made decisions, I've okayed things on the spot. In
3 other words, I was consulted and off the top of my head
4 said, yes. You know, you consulted me and it sounds
5 reasonable to me, that's good.

6
7 But I think that if we have time, you
8 know, to consult one or two people at the tribe or
9 somebody, you have to give the tribe time to get
10 together and discuss theirs as a group. It can't just
11 be that you got a hold of one person there and he said
12 just like me, fine. The same way with the Advisory
13 Council. You need to at least give them time to have a
14 meeting if they want to -- unless it is something that
15 has to be done today. If you're in the middle of a
16 fish run and the fish run collapses, you better close
17 it today.

18
19 If you're thinking of something that
20 you need to do a month from now, you should have time
21 to consult with a lot of different groups. Just like
22 what he was saying when Jeff came and consulted with us
23 over a potential king salmon closure that we all
24 recognized probably will happen, it's nice to know that
25 ahead of time so it doesn't come as a surprise.

26
27 I think as we work through this we're
28 going to have -- we're even going to have better
29 success in Southcentral. Like I said, I'm really
30 impressed with Southeastern. You guys just really seem
31 to work together as -- and I'll use the word family and
32 that's really an interesting concept.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ralph.

35
36 Robert, did you have something to add
37 to this.

38
39 MR. LARSON: Yeah, just a quick comment
40 that one of the reasons that we don't seem to have
41 controversies regarding the inseason management
42 authorities and delegations is that the Council feels
43 that the inseason managers are doing the will of the
44 Council. So there's no surprises when there's an
45 inseason management action that is implemented because
46 that issue and those discussions have already taken
47 place.

48
49 We make sure that we have a place in
50 our agenda every fall that we flesh these things out.

1 Here's what the situations are, here's what we're
2 expected to do about it if and when. So there's a
3 question and answer, there's expectations that the
4 inseason managers will, in fact, do this to implement
5 the regulations.

6

7 I think it evolves around
8 communications and making sure that everyone feels like
9 they're part of the process. If you have issues with
10 the way things are done, put it on your agenda, make it
11 a priority to talk about them, have some expectations,
12 so there shouldn't be a surprise when these are done.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert. I
17 used to feel a lot like Greg did when these special
18 actions came for us and State's emergency orders, but
19 when I got invited to a meeting to be involved in the
20 process, my question was why, why, why, why, okay. In
21 our area, in Yakutat, we have a region that comes from
22 Yakutat all the way down to Dry Bay. That's almost 100
23 miles of moose territory.

24

25 Then I learned about the bull:cow
26 ratio. For every 100 cows I was told that we need 25
27 bulls to keep the herd healthy. They told me there's a
28 lot of moose in the area. There's no problem with the
29 population thing. It's the bull:cow ratio. It's
30 pretty healthy down from Dangerous River to Dry Bay
31 because it's a lot more challenging to get there. On
32 the west side of the Dangerous River it's a lot easier
33 but close to the village of Yakutat, so it's really
34 heavily hunted. So the bull:cow ratio in that area was
35 several years ago about 10 to every 100 cows. That
36 opened my eyes a lot.

37

38 I said, okay, if we want to preserve
39 the herd, we're going to have to deal with this. So
40 it's always been my question, now what's the bull:cow
41 ratio like coming up like this year. For the last
42 couple years, you know, on the western side of the
43 Dangerous River we've kept it down. Instead of 30
44 moose, it's 25 to try to build that up. That's just an
45 example of how my eyes were opened as far as these
46 emergency orders were concerned.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 Yes, Greg.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: If I could make one
2 comment there. I fully agree with you on that. The
3 science involved, I agree 100 percent with the
4 conservation. In the case of our moose -- and I just
5 want the Southeastern RAC people to understand here --
6 we have a little different situation. We have 300 to
7 400 moose, it's a little less this year, that get
8 killed on the roads annually. So for us, for
9 subsistence moose, getting three moose, it's a whole
10 different story.

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that.

12 Any more comments.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one more
15 comment.

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty. Ladies first.

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You bet.

18 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't like sitting
19 here. He can't see me raise my hand.

20 (Laughter)

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 In the annual report of the Southcentral response, it
23 says the Council is welcome to make specific
24 suggestions to the Board on implementing a general
25 review policy regarding all delegation letters. You
26 make it sound like we're a good working family, which
27 maybe we are, but in some cases we're like a family and
28 that maybe you don't really know what's going on with
29 us.

30 (Laughter)

31 MS. PHILLIPS: So we do have a review
32 policy, but is it a written review policy? I don't
33 know, but we do have a good policy in place that's
34 working where we review these delegation of
35 authorities. I would say that our subsistence person
36 from U.S. Forest Service really does a good job of
37 outreach to the communities and asks very specific
38 questions about, you know, the stock that the
39 delegation is about, so that we, as a RAC, who have
40 that local knowledge can get -- okay, this is what I'm
41 seeing in my community, I'm seeing this come in or it's

1 not as bad as it is down in your area because you have
2 more people. We don't have the dynamics like your area
3 does, but the bottom line is it's about the
4 resource. It's about the long-term sustainability of
5 the resource.

6
7 There are these tribal consultation
8 processes that we're reviewing and giving our support
9 to, but the tribe also needs to take ownership and
10 being familiar with the issues too so that they can
11 take advantage of these consultation opportunities and
12 perhaps tell the agencies, you know, okay, if there's a
13 delegation coming up, we want to know about it so that
14 we can give you our feedback. Right now we have a
15 policy in place and, for us, it seems to be working.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Mr.
20 Wright. I always found that Mr. Wright was always
21 right.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 think this authority delegation works for -- an
27 example, it was in Hoonah. We had a very, very bad
28 winter. We had a big deer kill. So we were shut down
29 a couple two, three years for does. We couldn't shoot
30 does. But right now we've had a couple good winters and
31 our deer population has rebounded very well.

32
33 So, you know, Terry would call me and
34 ask me how things were going. One time there was a
35 notice put up on the walls and my name was in it,
36 closure of does.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: I said uh-oh. My nephew
41 would ask me why are you closing it and I said, well,
42 we have to build it back. He said there's a lot of
43 does out there and I said, well, we have to build it
44 back. So the closure on north Chichagof Island was a
45 very good thing because right now the deer have
46 rebounded very well.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Frank.

1 Ken.

2

3 MR. JACKSON: I too agree with Frank.
4 I would like to thank Staff for submitting information
5 about the streams and management of fish and wildlife.
6 It's really helpful. At first when I came to this
7 board I used to think that we'd do more about the areas
8 because you guys have the materials and the equipment
9 to actually go out and look for these things and tell
10 us where these things are falling down or building up.
11 So my thanks to the Staff and the administration.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Ken.
16 Okay, we're going to let Mr. Vice Chairman make a
17 comment and then we're going to have to wind up.

18

19 Go ahead.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just have one
22 question for the rest of the Council that's sitting
23 here. We've been talking about this as Council, we've
24 been listening to Staff. We have people out in the
25 audience that have to make these delegated decisions
26 and I was just wondering if the rest of the Council
27 would think it would be worthwhile to hear from them
28 and see if they've got any ideas from what we
29 discussed. Not discuss decisions they've made in the
30 past, but whether they've learned from this process,
31 whether they're going to take something back home with
32 them and whether this process was valuable to them. If
33 it's okay with the rest of the Council, we can ask them
34 to do that. If it's not, we can go on to something
35 else.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: As I mentioned before
38 I let you take the microphone, we need to wind up here.

39

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But if there is
46 somebody out there that would like to come forth and
47 make a comment about what we've been talking about so
48 far, we might give you 30 seconds or maybe more.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve and Terry, are
2 you all completed now? Are you all done, satisfied, and
3 ready to sit down?

4
5 MR. KESSLER: Yes, sir. I think that -
6 - well, maybe not.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. KESSLER: I think one thing that
11 you might want to think about is what are those things
12 that might really work well in Southeast that maybe
13 should be more universal across the state. I think
14 that perhaps you, as the Council, with what you heard -
15 - let me just give one example that I think helps the
16 Southeast Council, is that there's a report on special
17 actions taken every fall so that the Council is fully
18 aware, has a list of all those special actions that are
19 taken so there could be a discussion of those special
20 actions so everyone is fully informed.

21
22 Well, that's not something that we do
23 statewide. It's something that we established here for
24 the Southeast Council to better communicate on the
25 special actions taken. Because otherwise it's just
26 sort of hit and miss. You get a little bit of this,
27 you get a little bit of that, but you don't know what
28 the big picture is and that's what we try to give the
29 Southeast Council, is the big picture.

30
31 You know, that's something that you
32 could potentially request statewide. It is a little
33 more complicated elsewhere because in Southeast Alaska
34 there's only one management entity and that's the U.S.
35 Forest Service, whereas every other region has multiple
36 managers and multiple entities, so it's not as simple.
37 So I think for Southeast it works. It may be more
38 difficult for the rest of the state, but maybe that's
39 something that you want to talk about and encourage the
40 Office of Subsistence Management to coordinate.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Greg.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I would like
45 to respond to that, if I may.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

48
49 MS. PHILLIPS: Please, I beg of you.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: The idea of where you
4 have multiple agencies and so I would suggest a
5 designated responsible agency who deals with that in
6 the fall then. That's their duty to do every fall.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.
9 Okay. Are we done, Steve.
10
11 MR. KESSLER:
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Kaayagajeit ganu. Go
14 back to your chairs and sit down.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Milo. Gidahaan.
19 Haagu.
20
21 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
22 Forest, living in Cordova. I was just going to make
23 one real quick comment. I've considered it a failing
24 in the program to see the cynicism in Southcentral over
25 delegated authority in recent years. And I was really
26 glad to see this conversation take place because I know
27 it's worked in Southeast and to have you guys present
28 why it works is a great conversation that the managers
29 can learn from what they've done to make it work and
30 the trust that exists between the Council and the
31 managers to make it work, so I think we've both learned
32 from this.
33
34 So anyway, yeah, I was glad this
35 conversation took place and hopefully it's something
36 that we can make work in Southcentral too.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Milo. Is
39 anyone on the Council wanting to put Milo in the hot
40 spot? That's what he's sitting there for.
41
42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I would love to, but I
43 know we need to move on, so thank you.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead. Ask him a
48 question.
49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I just want to --

1 you know, Milo, I know we've come a long ways and we've
2 got a lot of trust with what you're doing there, but I
3 don't want to forget the points I made. You know, to
4 me, those decisions should be made at our RACs and at
5 the Federal Board level and we should know well in
6 advance if there needs a special action.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 And it's not cynicism, it's corrective
11 action.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

16

17 Anyone else.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Milo.

22 Appreciate it.

23

24 Any final comments.

25

26 MR. DOUVILLE: You don't look over here
27 though.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did you have a
30 question for him, Mike?

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: A long time ago. I
33 might make a brief statement.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Go ahead.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: This concerns what
38 Harvey was talking about. They've been asking -- the
39 tribe has been asking for closures and I would have to
40 assume that the Forest Service is using data produced
41 by the Department for the herring stocks. In the last
42 couple years, we all know that they've missed very
43 badly, so the tribe did have a valid reason, but based
44 on that information it makes a really difficult
45 situation, but that's what Harvey was talking about.
46 So they did have a valid request it turned out, but the
47 way the data is done and what the Forest Service has to
48 work with makes it a very difficult situation.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Mr.

1 Bangs, are you going to.....
2
3 MR. BANGS: (shakes head negatively)
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you sure? It
6 looked like you were going to go like that.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. BANGS: Nope.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Judy.
13
14 MS. CAMINER: No, I'm done.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry if I can't
17 see you all, so I'm going to make it a point to try to
18 -- you know. I was watching Mike conduct yesterday and
19 he has that peripheral vision that I thought is pretty
20 neat. I don't have that.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It comes with age.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So we have a
27 10:00 appointment in regards to climate change. The
28 guy is not here, I guess. So what we're going to do,
29 folks, is we're going to go into.....
30
31 MR. LARSON: He is here.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He is here?
34
35 MR. LARSON: We could do it now or we
36 could do it.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you ready to do
39 that now?
40
41 MR. HEYWARD: I'm ready whenever you
42 are.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Haagu. That means
45 come here. Ganu means sit down. Eet kuwahaa means
46 it's your turn.
47
48 MR. HEYWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
49 for inviting me. I hope my overview on climate change
50 will be at a level that's helpful to you and stimulates

1 questions, that sort of thing. I was asked to give an
2 overview of what the Forest Service is doing.

3

4 MR. LARSON: Hey, Greg.

5

6 MR. HEYWARD: Yeah?

7

8 MR. LARSON: If you could quickly
9 introduce yourself and what your position is.

10

11 MR. HEYWARD: Okay. So I'm Greg
12 Hayward. I'm the Regional and Forest wildlife
13 ecologist, so the Alaska Region and also the Chugach
14 and the Tongass National Forest wildlife ecologist.
15 I've been one of the persons helping coordinate work by
16 the Forest Service on climate change for this region,
17 so that's why Robert asked me if I'd give a quick
18 overview of the direction the Forest Service is taking
19 on climate change. Is that enough? Great. Thanks.

20

21 So I think what I'm going to try to do
22 is give you a bunch of background, but I want to do it
23 quickly enough that it gives you plenty of time for
24 questions. If there's questions of clarification or
25 something burning while I'm giving the overview, try to
26 wave me down and ask the question.

27

28 The Forest Service, from the Washington
29 office down to the district level is taking climate
30 change very seriously, but I think if you look at the
31 Forest Service compared to other Federal agencies,
32 we're taking a fairly different approach to climate
33 change.

34

35 There's a fellow named Dave Cleaves in
36 the Washington office who is the climate advisor to the
37 chief of the Forest Service and he's a real pragmatic
38 guy. His approach that he's crafted for the Forest
39 Service is to integrate work on climate change into all
40 of our programs. Rather than having the agency develop
41 new units that are working on climate change, he and
42 the rest of the Forest Service feel it's much more
43 effective to bring climate change into our daily work
44 rather than having separate units.

45

46 One of the best examples of the way
47 that he's tried to implement this is the development of
48 what's called a climate scorecard and it's a very
49 specific evaluation tool that is used to look at how
50 each National Forest -- an evaluation tool for the

1 Forest Supervisor on the Tongass, the Chugach and all
2 the other Forest Service units across the nation that
3 lists 10 items that that leadership official needs to
4 respond to each year to indicate how he or she is
5 integrating climate change into the work of the
6 National Forest.

7

8 So the neat thing about this is it
9 brings it right down to the unit level where action
10 takes place for the Forest Service. So that scorecard
11 demands accountability and through the items that are
12 on the scorecard it implements direction in terms of
13 how the Forest Service should be approaching climate
14 change.

15

16 So a little overview of the sort of
17 things that are on the climate scorecard. One of the
18 first ones is education. Do the people working for the
19 Forest Service understand climate change and the
20 direction the agency is taking, but also what is the
21 agency doing to help its public and those that it
22 interfaces with understand climate change.
23 Coordination with other agencies, how well is that
24 forest unit working with the State, with the
25 neighboring Federal land managers and so forth.

26

27 Two real specific items that relate to
28 how people across the world are responding to climate
29 change is there's a question on whether the Forest has
30 developed what's called a vulnerability assessment and
31 I'll say a bunch more about that in a minute and how
32 they're developing adaptation strategies.

33

34 In the climate change jargon,
35 adaptation refers to what are the management actions
36 that you're doing to respond to climate change and I
37 kind of like a medical example for this. If you look
38 in Africa and ask how are people responding to change
39 in the distribution of mosquitos that carry malaria, an
40 adaptation action is the distribution of mosquito nets.
41 So what are you doing to help the people interacting
42 with that system change their life. In the case of the
43 Forest Service, change our management of resources in
44 response to the changes that are being motivated by
45 climate change.

46

47 So what are the adaptative strategies
48 that the Forest is taking and how is the particular
49 Forest integrating these climate change responses into
50 its overall program. So that's a set of examples of

1 the sort of things that the board supervisor on each
2 Forest is accountable for. So Forrest Cole and Terri
3 Marceron on the Tongass and the Chugach respond each
4 year to that climate scorecard. Over the course of
5 several years the expectation is that they'll have a
6 yes in terms of at least seven out of ten climate
7 scorecard items.

8

9 So I want to spend a little bit of time
10 describing for you a few particulars about how the
11 Tongass and the Chugach are responding to climate
12 change and I want to spend most of my time on climate
13 vulnerability assessments that each of the Forests is
14 developing.

15

16 A climate vulnerability assessment is
17 an evaluation of resources which asks a couple
18 questions. Which resources are likely to respond most
19 dramatically to climate change, are the changes in that
20 resource positive or negative in terms of meeting the
21 goals that society has in terms of that resource, what
22 are the potential consequences of climate change
23 regarding that resource for society, how does it
24 influence the local economy, those sorts of things.

25

26 So a climate vulnerability assessment
27 is asking how are the resources we're using responding
28 to climate change and what are the consequences of
29 that. So both the Tongass and the Chugach are
30 currently involved in developing vulnerability
31 assessments and we see these as a necessary first step.
32 It's fairly ridiculous to start doing a lot of
33 adaptation management actions before you understand the
34 scope of change that might come with climate change.

35

36 In particular, with limited resources,
37 understanding how climate change is going to affect the
38 things that we're managing is really important in terms
39 of deciding where you're going to spend your dollars
40 and your personal time. So we see these vulnerability
41 assessments as quite important.

42

43 So I want to talk a little bit about
44 the specifics and I'll spend most of the time on the
45 Chugach. The reason for that is that they're a little
46 bit further along in their climate vulnerability
47 assessment than the Tongass, so I can give a bit more
48 detail there.

49

50 The approach that the Chugach is taking

1 because we manage a landscape that interfaces with a
2 lot of other agencies and organizations is that we've
3 encouraged others to join us in our effort to evaluate
4 these resources. So University of Alaska Anchorage is
5 a key player with us, SNAP, Scenario Network for Alaska
6 Planning our of Fairbanks, which does climate change
7 modeling, is key to our work. Kenai National Wildlife
8 Refuge, the National Park Service and I could go on and
9 on because we have a lot of partners working with us
10 from the State, Federal and non-government
11 organizations on this assessment in order to get a
12 broader perspective and more different ways of looking
13 at how climate change is influencing the Chugach.

14
15 In developing our vulnerability
16 assessment, if you'll look across the nation at other
17 forests and other organizations, some of them take a
18 real broad brush approach and they try to address all
19 resources. We felt that that would not be effective.
20 We wanted to ask what are the changes and the key
21 things that the Chugach National Forest and then on the
22 Tongass what are the key things that the Forest
23 interfaces with and how are those key things going to
24 change.

25
26 So, as I describe the initial things
27 that we're finding out, you'll note that a lot of the
28 results stem from what are the changes in snow and ice.
29 These are snow and ice driven systems and so we're
30 starting there on both the Tongass and the Chugach.

31
32 The Chugach is very close to completing
33 the initial assessment of the biological and physical
34 portion and we're handing it off to a group of
35 economists so they can ask some questions about how is
36 that going to affect local economy. I use that in a
37 very broad sense. How does it affect culture as well
38 as -- we're not talking about economy just in terms of
39 dollars and sense here.

40
41 The Tongass also is taking a very
42 focused approach. Again, not trying to cover all
43 resources, but they're also taking the approach that's
44 modular, so they haven't initiated one large
45 vulnerability assessment. Instead we've started a snow
46 and ice assessment that asks questions about salmon and
47 recreation and tourism that relate to snow and ice and
48 we're going to then move to other resources on the
49 Tongass. The Chugach is broader than that and I'll
50 spend a bunch of time on that.

1 To give you a sense of what all we're
2 covering, I want to talk about some of the broad
3 results. First of all, globally, when you hear people
4 talk about climate change, sea level rise is a big
5 deal. You would feel that we should ask questions
6 about sea level rise because the Chugach and the
7 Tongass interface with the ocean so much. The
8 interesting thing related to the rest of the globe is
9 that the consequences of the increased water in the
10 ocean is not a big deal for most of this region and
11 there's several reasons for that.

12
13 One, first we're used to lots of
14 changes in water level because of our big tides, so an
15 increase in a couple feet in sea level isn't the same
16 deal here as some place that has a two-foot tide and
17 they're built right up to the edge. More important,
18 because of the loss of glacier mass in the region,
19 what's called isostatic rebound, the earth crust
20 actually rebounding back up, is leading to the
21 consequence that any point on the ground next to the
22 sea is actually rising above sea level. Tectonic
23 changes, like the big earthquake in '64 are way more
24 important in terms of sea level position for this
25 region.

26
27 When you look at the news and hear
28 about how climate change is affecting the world, the
29 Arctic, northern areas are a big deal. Just the way
30 that global climate influences the globe, northern and
31 far southern areas are experiencing much greater change
32 in temperature. So we expect these fairly substantial
33 changes in resources in the Arctic in these northern
34 areas.

35
36 In the areas managed by the Tongass and
37 the Chugach however, the level of change are initial --
38 this is really initial, so hopefully all the media
39 turns off their -- anything that they're recording. We
40 aren't expecting nearly as big of changes in a lot of
41 the systems that we're managing Tongass and Chugach-
42 wise as you would expect way north in the Arctic. I'll
43 say a bit more about this later, but the temperate
44 coastal rain forest that dominates a lot of this area
45 is much more resilient to these changes than a lot of
46 the other -- the environments in the Arctic. So we're
47 fortunate there that that system is going to remain a
48 temperate coastal rain forest. There will be changes
49 in it, but the level of change isn't as substantial as
50 other areas.

1 In terms of salmon and change there,
2 unlike down in Washington, Oregon and the Columbia
3 River Basin, we have intact systems and, therefore,
4 systems that are far more resilient, so we also expect
5 less change in those resources than you would if you
6 were dealing with non-intact systems.

7
8 Thirdly, this region for the last 14,
9 20,000 years has been experiencing a directional change
10 in loss of glaciers and that process. All of Prince
11 William Sound used to be covered by a glacier except
12 for a few nunataks. So climate change is compounding
13 but going in the same direction that this region was
14 experiencing before human-induced climate change.

15
16 So all of that is not to say that there
17 aren't going to be changes and one of the biggest
18 wildcards to keep in mind as you consider the resources
19 that you're dealing with is ocean change. Changes in pH
20 in the ocean are a real wildcard in terms of the food
21 chain and we don't understand those food chains in the
22 ocean nearly as well as we understand, for instance,
23 for salmon what's going on in the freshwater system.
24 So those pH changes, ocean circulation changes, changes
25 in the food chains are a huge wildcard and that could
26 be the piece that influences the aquatic portion of the
27 systems that we're managing to the greatest extent.

28
29 As I mentioned earlier, for both the
30 Tongass and the Chugach, and this whole region, changes
31 in snow and ice are key to things we're going to see
32 change in terms of those properties that our culture
33 and the resources we use relate to. You can imagine
34 how changes in snow are going to influence
35 transportation; whether you can use a snowmobile or
36 not, when break-up is, when it's mush that you're
37 trying to cross out there instead of snow and ice.
38 These changes in snow accumulation and snow retention
39 are going to have a lot of influence on transportation.
40 I think the Iditarod, the last few years, is a little
41 insight into that. How much of the time did you see
42 pictures of them going across bare ground. Some of the
43 sorts of changes you can expect.

44
45 In terms of the Chugach, some figures
46 on that in terms of our modeling. The biggest changes
47 in snow are likely to come in the autumn. There's
48 going to be about a 20 percent decrease in the number
49 of days that we see snow fall in elevations below 500
50 meters in the autumn. So if normally it snowed let's

1 just say for instance on 10 days in the autumn, we
2 should see that decrease to snow on eight days. So the
3 precipitation on the other two are going to be rain
4 now, so snow cover is going to build up more slowly and
5 means you're able to move across snow in terms of
6 transportation later in the season.

7
8 Snow accumulation down at sea level
9 will be reduced by about 30 percent and this is looking
10 at models out to about 2070. On the other hand, an
11 interesting piece is that snow accumulation in the high
12 country is likely to be higher, so those glaciers are
13 going to be experiencing increased mass up at the high
14 elevations, decreased mass at the lower elevation, so a
15 pretty big change there.

16
17 Glacier loss, all of you know from the
18 news, is a big deal in this region. On the Chugach,
19 glaciers are currently losing -- this figure doesn't
20 mean much to our heads, but about 6 cubic kilometers of
21 ice a year. These glaciers power the Alaska coastal
22 current, so that increase in water is going to be
23 changing the pH out there, the rate of the Alaska
24 coastal current, lots of chemical properties, but also
25 nutrient properties. Glaciers actually have lots of
26 nutrients in them and the carbon in those glaciers is
27 very usable for biological systems, so there's actually
28 an increase in input of nutrients from the loss of
29 glaciers.

30
31 Columbia Glacier is expected to retreat
32 another 15 kilometers by 2060 just as an example of the
33 sort of glacial retreat that we should expect. But
34 what does this mean for the resources you guys are
35 using? These glaciers are feeding streams and
36 influence stream temperatures.

37
38 The change in snow is going to be a
39 much bigger deal in our lifetime and our kids' lifetime
40 in terms of extreme temperature than the change in
41 glaciers. Most of the glaciers that we see out there,
42 there's still going to be glaciers there feeding these
43 streams and a lot of the work shows that if a basin has
44 at least 10 percent cover of glaciers, that stream
45 system still has a temperature at a hydrograph that
46 looks like a glacier.

47
48 So that's at least some resilience for
49 these salmon systems, but that change in snowfall can
50 change the stream system from a snow-driven system to a

1 rain-driven system, which can be a big deal for salmon.
2 So those basins that have that shift going on are the
3 ones that are going to be experiencing that change.

4

5 I want to emphasize that that doesn't
6 necessarily mean a negative for salmon. For certain
7 salmon stocks, that could be a positive, so there's a
8 lot of work to do in terms of -- when I'm talking about
9 these things, not all of it is negative for the
10 resources that we're interested in.

11

12 Briefly in terms of changes in
13 vegetation. I already talked a little bit about
14 coastal rain forests being especially stable, one of
15 the more stable systems in North America, so that's a
16 big plus. On the other side, the west side of the
17 Kenai Peninsula, likely to see a very substantial
18 change in forest vegetation. Probably an increase in
19 grassland, a shift in where there's conifers and you
20 can imagine that the shift on the Kenai in vegetation
21 can lead to changes in fire probability and fire risk.

22

23 Most of the indications, and we're just
24 working on this right now, are that fire will increase
25 on the Kenai and that's an area where we have an
26 increase in human population, it's going to influence
27 how people are interacting with that system in terms of
28 fire and so forth.

29

30 Invasive plants. A lot of the changes
31 in climate appear to favor a lot of the non-native
32 plants that are interacting with our system. Some of
33 those non-native plants don't change the system
34 substantially and others do. Elodea is one in this
35 region. It's a water plant that gets into water
36 systems from people emptying their aquariums and the
37 plants that they've had in their aquariums move into
38 that aquatic system. These can change system dynamics
39 substantially and change the conditions for fish and
40 climate change is going to influence how effective
41 elodea can be moving into areas and whether it's a
42 reasonable environment for them. Yellow sweet clover,
43 hogweed, reed canary grass are other species that may
44 be influencing our system to a greater extent.

45

46 In terms of wildlife, shorebirds are an
47 area where there could be some concern, but many of us
48 are questioning how dramatic the change is going to be
49 there. One of the wildcards for them is their use of
50 that intertidal system and how changes in pH in the

1 ocean influence the availability of food for those
2 shorebirds that -- you know, the Copper River Delta
3 experiences the biggest shorebird, waterfowl, et cetera
4 migration event in North America.

5
6 How will changes in climate influence
7 them? Maybe one of the biggest changes will be the
8 change in storm frequencies. One of the things that we
9 see with climate change is that increase in variability
10 in weather and an increase in storm frequency and storm
11 intensity is one of those changes and shorebird
12 migration is strongly influenced by storms because they
13 can be set off course in a bad way with big storms.

14
15 In terms of ungulates, we're beginning
16 some modeling for things like deer and moose. Initial
17 indications for the Chugach will be an improvement in
18 habitat for moose, but the wildcard for moose will be
19 will climate change influence how disease interacts
20 with these species. Some diseases to watch out for:
21 brucellosis, chronic wasting disease, winter tick and
22 meningeal worm. These diseases influence moose
23 populations in a big way other places in North America
24 and the question is how will climate change influence
25 deer, which interface with moose on some of these
26 diseases and how will they just influence movement of
27 those diseases from other places in North America.

28
29 I've talked a little bit about salmon.
30 I've talked about how we have far more resilient
31 systems both in Southeast and Southcentral here than
32 down in the Columbia River region. Right now we're
33 just getting the preliminary results on this question I
34 was asking before in terms of the watersheds
35 transitioning from being snow dominated to rain
36 dominated and we're looking at that real carefully.
37 That may be one of the best indications of changes that
38 we will see, but I'd say currently the bottom -- my
39 perspective, and the salmon folks are discussing this
40 right now, is that we may see changes from dominating -
41 - one species of salmon dominating a system to another
42 in some places, but not necessarily a change in
43 biomass, that sort of thing.

44
45 Some systems are getting -- having
46 problems, as you're well aware, in terms of stream
47 temperature for the fish as they're entering the system
48 and huge changes that can make in reproduction. A lot
49 of the indications are many of our systems are very
50 resilient.

1 I've probably said too much. Why don't
2 we stop there and allow you to ask questions if you
3 want.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mary Ann.

6
7 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Thank you for your report. I have several questions.
9 I'm from the Kenai Peninsula and, of course, we are a
10 coastal community and we have noticed -- we believe the
11 water in Cook Inlet is changing and we are seeing more
12 sharks now than what we have ever seen. And we also
13 have concern with the salinity in the waters because of
14 glacial waters coming into our inlet and into our
15 oceans and we're concerned with the acidity in the
16 water that we believe will be a result of climate
17 change.

18
19 We are also concerned with our coastal
20 areas and we foresee that we will probably be losing
21 land on the coastal areas of the Kenai due to, you
22 know, the melting of the glaciers and more water. As
23 far as the climate change, you know, we've been seeing
24 -- we noticed, our tribal people, for the last 20 or so
25 years an increase in temperature, which was kind of
26 scoffed by some of the scientists.

27
28 So my question is do you also partner
29 with the tribes in the local area to seek their
30 traditional and ecological knowledge and what do you
31 feel that I just brought forward to you with our
32 concern with the land loss and acidity in the water and
33 some of the concerns that I brought forth?

34
35 MR. HEYWARD: Yeah. So why don't I
36 start with the concerns. I want to start with how
37 little we know especially about the marine system,
38 which you said a great deal about. These vulnerability
39 assessments that I described are in their infancy and
40 we're just developing that. I think all the scientists
41 on there are pretty humble. When you're trying to
42 forecast -- and we avoid forecast. We try to develop
43 scenarios for what the future might look like, but when
44 you're trying to do that you're really sticking your
45 neck out, but that's what resource managers have to do
46 all the time. That's what you guys do every year here
47 is to try to say how is the environment changing, how
48 are humans changing in terms of how they interface with
49 it. So you're used to doing that.

50

1 With climate change, because we're
2 trying to go out pretty far, we're sticking our necks
3 out, but in terms of that marine system that definitely
4 is an area where we expect to see change and even
5 regardless of climate change we all know how much the
6 ocean conditions change over time due to patterns in
7 ocean circulation and so forth. So we should expect to
8 see change, but the question is that change can be
9 something we need to adapt to ourselves in terms of the
10 resources that are going to be there. Those pH
11 changes, salinity and those things are definitely
12 happening when you have this much freshwater input
13 coming from glaciers, it is changing that. All of that
14 is real and poorly understood.

15
16 In terms of interfacing with local
17 communities and using traditional ecological knowledge,
18 I think I need to take responsibility for not doing
19 enough of that. Ed DeClava (ph) is the Chugach person
20 that does most of the interface and I brought him into
21 the process but kind of late, so I would say in that
22 area and in terms of the State also we're interfacing
23 with the universities but haven't done a good job with
24 ADF&G. Personnel capacity issues have left us
25 scrambling, but I'm glad you brought it up because it's
26 certainly an area that I haven't done a good job of and
27 it would be good to get some ideas on how I can.

28
29 John Lundquist, who does some of our
30 vegetation work and interfaces better with the Alaska
31 Native communities has noted changes over the years in
32 berry crops, so the things that you're noting are
33 definitely real and likely some of them a consequence
34 of this directional human-induced climate change.

35
36 Thanks for your question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cathy, you're next.

39
40 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Kind of a follow up to that. You know, you're speaking
42 in terms of the Chugach, but I actually had the
43 opportunity to sit in on the vulnerability assessment
44 for the Tongass and I know there was also a
45 representative from Tlingit and Haida that was invited
46 but unable to make it, so I think that that -- and I
47 know there's going to be additional vulnerability
48 assessments that will be coming along, so I encourage
49 you to try to get a hold of tribal members that can
50 participate in those because I think there's

1 opportunity and interested people in it.

2

3 I was invited to that vulnerability
4 assessment to kind of represent a broad view and
5 hopefully I brought to that particular assessment some
6 of the local concerns that I've heard in various
7 different venues working with both tribal organizations
8 and working with subsistence-based issues. So I think
9 identifying or asking maybe even RAC members here who
10 might be good people that can participate in those
11 would be a good idea.

12

13 MR. HEYWARD: Cathy, thanks for the
14 comment because I think that I didn't do a very good
15 job of describing the difference in the approach on the
16 Chugach and the Tongass and Cathy is pointing out the
17 approach we're taking on the Tongass is to take a
18 narrow group of related resources and put together
19 workshops where we bring in an array of managers,
20 scientists, local users. In terms of the one that
21 Cathy attended related to ice, snow and salmon in
22 particular and how changes in glaciers and snow and so
23 forth are going to influence salmon.

24

25 So that workshop environment gives us a
26 really good opportunity to bring in a broad array of
27 folks who understand this system because they're
28 interfacing with it daily, so that approach has worked
29 well for bringing in the Alaska Native community, the
30 other users, along with the scientist to get a broad
31 perspective and then that information is brought
32 together along with the formal science that's been done
33 to develop an understanding of how the resource might
34 be reacting.

35

36 The Chugach, because of the forest plan
37 development and the need to develop a vulnerability
38 assessment more rapidly and we all know that you do a
39 better job when you do the interface that Cathy was
40 talking about, but you all know that that takes a lot
41 of time. So the Chugach we didn't feel we could take
42 that direction and there's definitely some negatives
43 related to that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Judy.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Thank you for being here today. Climate change has
49 been of interest to these groups for many many years.
50 So I guess we'd just ask that as any studies are

1 completed or even in draft available to the public,
2 please forward them on. We're interested in really any
3 information on the effects of climate change on
4 subsistence uses or subsistence resources.

5
6 MR. HEYWARD: I really appreciate your
7 comment. Especially in the Chugach when we were asking
8 the question which resources should we highlight, one
9 of our working ideas was in addition to those things
10 that the Chugach itself is managing right now, what
11 might the associated public be most interested in
12 learning. The Chugach has really -- the Tongass as
13 well -- embraced this idea that in addition to managing
14 these resources the agency has a responsibility to
15 interface strongly with the communities that use our
16 resources and together, not just us providing
17 information, but together to learn about them. The
18 Children's Forest on the Chugach is a great example of
19 that.

20
21 So we're trying to highlight things
22 that will be of interest to the public and help the
23 public make decisions. Should you be upgrading the
24 boat that you're using for salmon right now or should
25 you be switching to something else. Things like that
26 that should be happening. So that is our plan, but I
27 appreciate the encouragement to get this information
28 out as quickly as we can.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

31
32 Ralph, you got something?

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Thank you. I
35 was interested in your reply to Mary Ann because you
36 used the word that I would say comes with climate
37 change and that is adapt. Climate change isn't
38 something we're going to change. Climate change is
39 something that has gone on since the beginning of the
40 earth, however you want to put it that way, and man has
41 adapted in the past.

42
43 And as we see these changes that Mary
44 Ann was talking about and as you've been talking about,
45 and just like you said on the salmon fishery right
46 there, the question is going to be whether we can get
47 information soon enough to aid the human population to
48 adapt to the changes that are coming in our direction.
49 It's not that we're going to be able to change the
50 directions they're going, but it's nice to have the

1 forewarning or the information so that you can make the
2 adaptive decisions that you need to make to live within
3 that ecosystem.

4

5 MR. HEYWARD: You're pointing out the
6 key use of the vulnerability assessment, is to try to
7 get the information pooled together in one place
8 regarding potential futures that we could experience so
9 people can do their own risk analysis in terms of what
10 changes they should be making and so governments can do
11 that risk analysis. I appreciate what you're saying
12 because I think that's the direction we're trying to
13 take.

14

15 Your question about soon enough is an
16 important one and I've felt all along that in
17 particular on the Chugach the rate at which I've
18 accomplished this task with this great group of people
19 has been all too slow and part of that is, you know,
20 the troubles anyone has with coordination and capacity
21 of the agencies, but we really haven't gotten it done
22 as fast as we should and I'd like to get it out to you
23 sooner.

24

25 In terms of your point on adaptation is
26 just another example. In terms of snow, should that
27 operator be investing in another helicopter in terms of
28 skiing or going on glaciers and those sorts of thing or
29 what direction should they be taking there. So there's
30 a lot of changes that individual businesses need to
31 consider that may interface with snow line. Are you
32 going to be renting as many cross country skis to
33 people if the snow line goes up substantially. Sales
34 of snowmobiles and so forth.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think you have
37 to feel bad about the speed with which you're taking
38 because while we talk about climate change being
39 accomplished at a much faster rate than it has been for
40 let's say the last couple 100 years or 400 years or
41 something like that, you were talking about by 2070. I
42 mean you're talking 60 years. You're talking a
43 generation. This isn't something that you're going to
44 solve in the next week or come up with all of the
45 information in the next month. This is something
46 that's going to have to be ongoing.

47

48 It doesn't have to proceed any faster
49 than climate change is proceeding and that's not -- you
50 know, I mean it's not that climate change hasn't sped

1 up and so you need to go a little faster, but it's not
2 something that you have to apologize for the fact that
3 you're this far at this point in time. It's nice to
4 know that you are doing something at this point in time
5 and that the information will accumulate and probably
6 accumulate faster than the climate change will
7 accumulate.

8

9 MR. HEYWARD: Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.

12

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Greg, I was wondering, are you doing a vulnerability
15 assessment for forest disease and infestation?

16

17 MR. HEYWARD: I missed the word right
18 after forest.

19

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Disease and
21 infestation.

22

23 MR. HEYWARD: Oh, disease. Okay,
24 sorry. Yeah. So I mentioned John Lundquist that works
25 in State and private forestry and what he looks at are
26 things that affect trees; different diseases, insects
27 and so forth. Those are a fairly substantial piece in
28 our assessment and John is one of the best, I think, at
29 communicating with the common person rather than using
30 jargon.

31

32 It looks a bit at the rate of change in
33 distribution of bark beetles and a bunch of defoliating
34 insects across the state and does a pretty good
35 overview for the Chugach region in terms of the
36 dominant insects, in particular deciduous species,
37 defoliators and how those are influencing the systems
38 in the Chugach area. So it does include that and we
39 think it's an important piece.

40

41 I mentioned blueberries a bit ago and
42 one of the defoliators that he works on several years
43 ago had a defoliation event on the Kenai with
44 huckleberries that reduced the crop substantially for a
45 couple years, so he's looking into that sort of thing.
46 So we do have some work in that area. Of course
47 there's been a lot of work on bark beetle, particularly
48 spruce beetle, over the last few decades. Some
49 interesting stuff there showing that through long
50 periods, thousands of years, there's been big bark

1 beetle events. So certainly what we saw isn't
2 categorically different, but it was major and
3 potentially more extensive than past ones. So there
4 was probably a climate change signal there, but we have
5 seen -- not seen, experienced -- the environment has
6 experienced bark beetle events like that in the past.

7

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Follow up.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, please.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. You seem to be
13 focusing on the Chugach there and I know that Chugach
14 has had some major problems, but I live down on the
15 Tongass and I just would hope that maybe there's been
16 some monitoring and some awareness of possible problems
17 that might be happening down there as well.

18

19 MR. HEYWARD: My comments have been
20 more on the Chugach because that assessment is further
21 along. But when I talked about the scorecard both
22 Forest supervisors are responding to that same set of
23 demands by the agency. The Tongass is -- just
24 yesterday I was reviewing the very first write-up from
25 the workshop that Cathy attended with us on snow and
26 ice and salmon -- when I say ice, I mean glaciers in
27 particular -- for the Tongass. As we work through that
28 assessment, we want to look at what worked and what
29 didn't and then we want to move to other resources on
30 the Tongass and explore those with this workshop sort
31 of approach if we find, when we get that report, that
32 our collaborators feel it's a valuable approach. So
33 we're definitely interested in it.

34

35 You've, I'm sure, heard about change in
36 yellow cedar in the Tongass region. I didn't talk
37 virtually at all about Forest Service research. The
38 research arm of the Forest Service has been looking at
39 climate change for well over 30 years, far before it
40 became an international issue. On the Tongass there's
41 some really good people looking at forest processes and
42 how especially this change in snow cover influences the
43 vulnerability of different tree species to different
44 diseases and that yellow cedar it's the freezing of
45 those roots when they don't have snow cover that seems
46 to be one of the major problems.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

49

50 We need to kind of wind this up, but go

1 ahead.

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Quick question about research and vulnerability. Is
5 there studies on ocean acidification and plankton, in
6 particular calcium? I was reading calcium with that
7 and it entirely affects everything from mountain goats
8 to the salmon, bringing the nutrients back upstream,
9 everything about plankton. I'm curious.

10

11 MR. HEYWARD: Yeah. I'm way out of my
12 league talking about marine science, but there is a lot
13 of work going on on the physical properties in the
14 ocean, ocean circulation, salinity, pH changes and so
15 forth. In the last couple months there's been several
16 webinars, a nice learning environment, where scientists
17 have been reviewing what they've been learning in that
18 area. Different plankton have exoskeletons that are
19 made out of different substances, so they react to
20 changes in pH differently, but there's certainly a wide
21 array of plankton that are influenced strongly by the
22 pH of the water that they're in. So there certainly
23 are major changes going on there.

24

25 An interesting piece, just to help us
26 understand variability and how important that is in our
27 perspective on climate change. I was talking to one of
28 the physical scientists who has done a bit in Prince
29 William Sound. When I asked him about pH changes
30 there, he said over the short term, the next 10, 20
31 years, he's not as concerned about pH changes there
32 because that environment has such huge variation in pH
33 because it's a system with all this freshwater input,
34 major pieces of the Alaska coastal current interfacing
35 with it, different depths having different pH's and so
36 forth. In certain portions of the ocean system we're
37 going to start seeing changes more rapidly than in
38 others and it probably relates a bit to how much
39 variation those systems have had in the past.

40

41 What you're focusing on in terms of
42 bottom of the food chain plankton reaction is a major
43 question about how these systems are going to respond
44 and they are responding. Go down to off the Washington
45 coast and there's been -- I can't remember now if it
46 was oyster or clam farms, but that have had major die-
47 offs because of changes in ocean conditions and
48 circulation down there. So the changes are real.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Like I said, we need

1 to wind up here, but I'll allow you to go ahead.
2 Anyone else like to make a comment after Mary?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

7

8 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
9 know, I do agree with the adaptation is going to be a
10 big portion or a big challenge for us. You know, we
11 are all connected. Whether we're only talking about
12 this Tongass or Chugach, we're all connected and we can
13 see, I think, today what is happening because of
14 climate change with the storms, with the heat in the
15 summertime because the glaciers are like an air
16 conditioner for the world.

17

18 I look at places like Shishmaref and
19 Kivalina where there is going to be no adaptation for
20 them. So what the people on those coastal areas up
21 north need is support to help their communities
22 relocate. So there's going to need to be a lot of
23 changes with the governmental policies because as it is
24 now they're having a very difficult time up north just
25 for the relocation because of the way that the laws are
26 written. It excludes our villages up there.

27

28 And I know the predictions with regard
29 to the gases rising from the oceans, the acidic gases
30 could be very detrimental, you know, to humankind. So
31 those are the concerns I have and even though we are
32 looking at just our area, it has huge impacts.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I hate to move
37 it, but we've got to move on. Thank you, Mr. Heyward,
38 for your report. It's been very enlightening. It
39 would be nice if we could figure out how we could
40 manage mosquitoes out of extinction.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyhow, we're going
45 to take a break right now. Before we do that, I just
46 need to announce that we did get a report about Aaron.
47 He was admitted into the hospital and he seems to be
48 doing okay. So a sigh of relief here. And then Robert
49 has an announcement to make.

50

1 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Really quick. We're going to be doing a distribution
3 of some materials, but it's going to be exclusively to
4 the Southeast Council members. This is pre-work for
5 their final meeting here at the end, so we're not just
6 picking on Southcentral.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. LARSON: I just wanted you to know
11 that there's going to be distribution, but it's for
12 Southeast only.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

17
18 We'll take a 10 minute recess.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll come back into
25 session. I want to recognize Molly Chythlook and
26 welcome. She's out there in the audience. She's the
27 chairman of the Bristol Bay RAC.

28
29 I also need to recognize one of our
30 Council members and past chair from Southeast, John
31 Littlefield. He is having some issues right now and I
32 do hope that we'll be able to remember him in our
33 thoughts and our prayers. A very fantastic person. I
34 followed him as chair and I've always said the chairs
35 that were before me are very big shoes to fill. I try
36 my best to follow their example. But I really
37 appreciated Mr. Littlefield and the work he has done
38 for the RAC.

39
40 The next thing on our agenda is the
41 food security issue. Who is going to do that? Is that
42 you?

43
44 MR. LARSON: That's me. Thank you, Mr.
45 Chair. I would like to acknowledge the work of the
46 Agenda Steering Committee. We had several.....

47
48 (Interruption)

49
50 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

1 would like to acknowledge that the work of the Agenda
2 Steering Committee and one of their topics was an
3 emerging issue and it's called food security. I took
4 an opportunity to put together a briefing paper for the
5 Council's consideration. It introduces the topic and
6 it has just some -- I've cut and pasted off of a number
7 of different information sources that discusses food
8 security, what it is. It's not our intention or the
9 intention of the Steering Committee to make this into
10 an action item, but it's instead designed to introduce
11 the concept.

12

13 If you look at the top of the page on
14 Page 55 in my book and maybe I'll just read the.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we have the same
17 book as you?

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. LARSON: Well, I hope so.
22 Sometimes, depending on the printing, it's one page
23 more or less.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mr. Larson.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Okay. As you're looking
28 for it, I'll just read what we feel the issue and the
29 topic is. It is an emerging issue and is closely
30 linked to land management activities, climate change
31 and the management of wild renewable resources. The
32 following information is provided to introduce the
33 subject to those not familiar with this issue.

34

35 There's a definition. The World Health
36 Organization defines food security as "when all people
37 at all times have access to
38 sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy
39 and active life."

40

41 If you go down through this document
42 you'll see that there's some links to additional
43 information. The idea of makes food
44 vulnerable. There's some accountability, agency
45 policies. If you look at the next page, there's some
46 current events, how different agencies and
47 organizations have incorporated the concept of food
48 security into their processes, into their
49 organizations.

50

1 I invite you to just look at this
2 document and think about it. I'm sure, and it's the
3 thoughts from the Agenda Committee, that this issue
4 will be discussed in the future and it will be
5 incorporated into a lot of the discussions we have on
6 related issues.

7
8 I think that Mary Ann or Cathy would
9 like to speak to it.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes
14 Mary.

15
16 MS. MILLS: Can I do it right from
17 here?

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, you can do it
20 right there.

21
22 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
23 EPA recently submitted its report opposing Pebble Mine
24 because of environmental degradation it would create
25 and the effects it would have on the salmon.
26 Recognized in this report is the scientific fact that
27 the DNA of salmon is the same DNA that is found in the
28 Alaska Native people. The report also stated to
29 deprive the Alaska Natives their salmon is to deprive
30 us of who we are genetically.

31
32 Title VIII of ANILCA for all purposes
33 is Indian law and it would not have been put in there
34 had it not been for the Alaska Natives. Its purpose
35 was to protect subsistence rights for Alaska Native
36 people. However, it did include non-Natives under a
37 rural preference. The fiduciary responsibility of the
38 Secretary of Interior is to protect subsistence rights
39 for all Native peoples.

40
41 Section I(2) of the International
42 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that in
43 no case may a people be deprived of its own means of
44 subsistence. This U.N. treaty was ratified by Congress
45 and carries the same weight as the U.S. Constitution,
46 thus becoming the law of the land.

47
48 The issue of food security and its
49 implication specific to indigenous peoples worldwide is
50 an ongoing issue of concern at the United Nations and

1 it has been for many years. The Alaskan indigenous
2 peoples are included in this U.N. report and it may be
3 found online under the following indigenous peoples
4 food systems and well being, interventions and policies
5 for healthy communities, Food and Agricultural
6 Organization of the U.N. You can find this on
7 www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3144e/i3144e00.htm.

8
9 In a scientific study, the prevalence
10 of total anemia among Inuit preschoolers illustrate the
11 potential for traditional foods to ameliorate food
12 insecurity. Children who had consumed no traditional
13 food the previous day were food insecure, based on the
14 United States Department of Agriculture assessment tool
15 for food insecurity, had the highest prevalence of
16 anemia while iron deficiency anemia prevalence was low
17 among children who had consumed traditional food the
18 previous day regardless of the food insecurity status.

19
20 Scientific studies also show a high
21 rate of DM, diabetes and heart disease among indigenous
22 people who are deprived of their traditional foods.
23 Food security is fundamental to population health.
24 People are concerned food insecure when there is a
25 limited availability of or ability to acquire
26 culturally accepted, nutritionally adequate and safe
27 foods on a sustainable basis. That is found in FAO
28 1996.

29
30 For indigenous peoples, the current
31 definition of food security are inadequate as they rely
32 entirely on the assessment of monetary access to market
33 food, whereas indigenous peoples also consume
34 traditional foods. Given the role of traditional food
35 systems and food sharing networks and contributing to
36 food security, nutrient intakes and cultural identity,
37 the definition of food security for indigenous peoples
38 should include assessment of traditional food intake
39 and the sustainability of access to traditional foods.

40
41
42 Almost daily reports of environmental
43 problems with impacts on human nutrition through, one,
44 exploitation of major fish stocks; two, habitat loss
45 from urbanization and the industrialization of
46 landscapes; three, invasive species; four, pollution
47 and degradation of land, waterways and the food they
48 produce; and, five, global climate change.

49
50 The World Conference on Human Rights

1 state that all human rights are universal, inalienable,
2 indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, thereby
3 ensuring that the right to adequate food is understood
4 in the context of all other human rights, including,
5 when applicable, indigenous peoples' rights.

6
7 The human right to adequate food can be
8 understood as a right to food security. The U.N.
9 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the
10 International Labor Organization Convention on
11 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' special right to enjoy
12 their specific culture. This includes the right to
13 enjoy their traditional food as food traditions are at
14 the core of indigenous identities, cultures and
15 economics.

16
17 Food security exists when all people at
18 all time have physical and economic access to
19 sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their
20 dietary needs and food preferences for an active and
21 healthy life. This is really particularly important
22 for Alaska's Native people because there have been many
23 scientific reports that have been done on our
24 traditional food and disease.

25
26 An elder, Fred Erasmus, from
27 Yellowknives Dene First Nation states, "Our elders say
28 we need to have our own food to be healthy and to be
29 who we are." Human rights may be threatened by the
30 state itself or by individuals or entities that the
31 state has an obligation to regulate. The respect and
32 promotion of the right to food is key to the future of
33 indigenous peoples who rely on their local food system
34 for their food security. The right to food should be
35 respected, protected, facilitated and fulfilled by the
36 state. These recommendations are based on sound
37 nutrition science.

38
39 In a letter dated February 18, 2014,
40 the United States State Department is requesting all
41 levels of government, Federal, State, local, insular
42 and tribal, to help in implementing U.S. human rights
43 obligations, consulting with the public about these
44 issues and identifying areas of improvement.

45
46 The Southeast RAC and the Southcentral
47 RAC is an appropriate entity to assist in promoting
48 food security in Alaska through submitting
49 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board, the
50 Secretary of Interior and Department of State. This

1 action will assist the United States to implement its
2 obligations under the International Covenant on Civil
3 and Political Rights consistent with their human rights
4 and international obligations and consistent with the
5 letter of request from the United States Department of
6 State.

7

8 I did bring the letter. I did not make
9 copies, but I can make copies for those if you wish me
10 to make them. So that is my recommendation. If you
11 have a chance, please go on the website and review the
12 work that has been done. This is ongoing work that has
13 had worldwide attention for many years and it's finally
14 to the point of recognition.

15

16 This is very important for the tribes
17 in the Cook Inlet because we are the first tribe. The
18 Kenaitze Indian Tribe was the first tribe to lose its
19 subsistence and it has been very much a challenge for
20 us and we feel that it is impacting the health of our
21 people not only physically but also culturally.

22

23 Thank you so much for your time.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for your
26 report. You mentioned that -- you said that this was
27 your recommendation.

28

29 MS. MILLS: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there something
32 that you wanted this body to do in regards to your
33 report?

34

35 MS. MILLS: I would like to have this
36 as a topic and a recommendation to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board as well as a recommendation from
38 Southeast RAC and also Southcentral RAC to address
39 these issues.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

42

43 MS. MILLS: And it is appropriate to do
44 because of the letter of request that we just received.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you could get us
47 all of that information and we will talk about it in
48 one of our RAC meetings.

49

50 Thank you, Mary.

1 Appreciate it.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much.
4
5 Any questions or comments.
6
7 Judy.
8
9 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mary Ann, for
10 that report. Mary Ann had suggested this as a topic
11 for our joint meeting and I really appreciate the
12 detail that you've gone into here as well as the
13 specifics of what we can do. I know I don't know the
14 scope of what Mary Ann does, but I know she has spoken
15 to some of these groups at the U.N. and
16 internationally, et cetera, so we really appreciate the
17 efforts that you make and the effort that you're making
18 to educate us about this important issue.
19
20 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Judy.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there any more
23 comments.
24
25 Greg.
26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just want to
28 make one brief comment. Through the Chair. Thank
29 you, Mary Ann. I attended as well as Mary Ann and some
30 others. We had a summit with AFN on subsistence and it
31 was a leadership summit and this was one of the issues
32 that came up. Senator Begich spoke at that conference
33 and he talked on food securities and he said back in
34 Washington they recognize food security. They don't
35 recognize subsistence. I found that very interesting,
36 so I just wanted to report that.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more
41 comments.
42
43 Patty.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 just wanted to tell you how much I'm impressed with
47 your quality of research and your presentation and
48 thank you for bringing that to our attention.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 When this word subsistence first came, you know, I was
3 in city office in Hoonah and they came to talk to us
4 about the word subsistence and I said to the people
5 there that were telling us about subsistence, I said
6 there's nothing complicated about it. They didn't
7 understand what I was talking about. What I was
8 talking about was my indigenous right to be able to
9 hunt and fish, but I didn't know there was going to be
10 laws dictating my right to hunt and fish.

11
12 The guy that I said that to, he says,
13 no, it's complicated. I was standing there looking at
14 him. I said what is complicated about it, thinking of
15 just myself as a Tlingit Indian.

16
17 I'm glad you brought this up because
18 when I was on the SEARHC board, I had talked to the
19 board telling them, you know, happiness is healing, so
20 I think if we as a Native organization take our
21 indigenous food into the hospital to elders, you can
22 see the smile on their face because they are getting
23 tired of hospital food. Like this board, the Southeast
24 RAC, always says, I am what I eat.

25
26 So I'm glad you brought this up because
27 I always wrestled with the fact that subsistence is a
28 word that is not our word. We are indigenous people
29 and the food that comes to our table is from the earth,
30 from the water, everything that is there. So I think
31 that the person that said it was a complicated issue,
32 he made it complicated. To me it was what's
33 complicated about it. I'm here. So I'm glad you
34 brought it up.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Gunalcheesh.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Frank, for
41 your comments. I'll recognize you, Ken, but I just
42 need to say this. We can go anywhere into Anchorage
43 here and we can eat Italian food, Chinese food, we can
44 eat all these various foods that are available for us
45 and we need to recognize our traditional way of
46 providing our food to us in the same manner, you know.
47 It's no different as far as I'm concerned.

48
49 Ken, go ahead.

50

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Thank you for your report. We in Southeast are a little
3 different. We all live on separate islands, so
4 everybody has sometimes a different opinion about
5 things, but when we come together we talk about the
6 things that are the same. Last year I brought up the
7 fact that the tour ships were dumping waste within the
8 islands because they were three miles off the island
9 and they could do that. For the last 20 or 25 years
10 I've watched and sometimes those waste streams would be
11 about five miles long. Our halibut, our seaweed
12 everything is in there.

13
14 We've had more than our share of cancer
15 and I think probably you guys have too, and diabetes
16 and everything else. I'm not blaming that, but somehow
17 we need to get a hold of it because we're talking about
18 the mines now up in Canada that feed into the waters of
19 Alaska. But tour ship dumping could probably be done
20 someplace else.

21
22 About 25 years ago the Forest Service
23 and Fish and Game came to Kake and I told them, well,
24 there's lesions starting to show up on our seals on the
25 inside and they sort of laughed and said, no, that
26 doesn't happen, it's not happening. Now that's getting
27 more prevalent and I don't know what causes it because
28 I'm not informed about stuff like that.

29
30 No, I really want to thank you for
31 bringing this up. The Organized Village of Kake, where
32 I come from, is going to put a proposal in for this
33 board to work on. I'm learning about this place
34 because I just started last year and they're teaching
35 me a lot here. I really appreciate the RAC.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ken.

40
41 Any more comments.

42
43 Judy.

44
45 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Mary Ann,
46 your presentation really hit everybody. So, a couple
47 of thoughts. If you could maybe email to the
48 coordinators those websites for the other reports or
49 possibly even your own report to us, I think people
50 might really appreciate being able to study it a little

1 bit more and research it on our own too.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. To add to that,
4 Mary Ann, we need all of the information that you
5 shared with us today so that we can have it for our
6 next meeting.

7

8 Any more comments.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that.
13 We're going to move on now. The next item that we have
14 is J(12) Partner briefing preview. I was wondering why
15 this young lady was sitting there all these days and
16 what she was going to do for us.

17

18 Now I know.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MS. HYER: Good morning, Chairman and
23 Council members. This is just a really brief
24 introduction to a call for proposals we have coming out
25 this fall. The Department of Interior through the
26 Office of OSM funds Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
27 Program and that program is in Southcentral Alaska. So
28 we have funded -- one you heard yesterday from the
29 Native Village of Eyak and we funded a partner in that
30 organization. We've funded actually a fisheries
31 biologist currently there, but the program funds
32 fisheries biologists, anthropologists and educators
33 that actually work in those organizations. The funding
34 is up to four years. These positions help coordinate
35 with our Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects.

36

37 I just wanted to let the Council know
38 that a call will be coming out this fall. We don't
39 have the exact dates yet, but I just wanted you to be
40 aware of it so you can pass on the information to
41 people in your communities.

42

43 That's all I had. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, that's a very
46 short report for you just sitting there and waiting to
47 do it. Do you have a comment to make?

48

49 MS. HYER: No. I was just going to say
50 there are other things I have been doing.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All right.
4 What about the gentleman beside you? He came there to
5 support you or maybe to do something.
6
7 MS. HYER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm Karen
8 Hyer with OSM.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, yeah. Well,
11 that's my job to make you say that.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, thank you.
16 Questions for Karen.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Appreciate
21 it.
22
23 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
26
27 MR. LARSON: I would like to
28 acknowledge that Karen is the Acting Assistant Regional
29 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management. The
30 deputy. Yes, the deputy.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Do
33 we have any more here? Did we do the Council
34 nomination process? I think we did.
35
36 So we're going to go down to agency
37 reports next.
38
39 OSM.
40
41 You understand that you're going to
42 just make a one-minute presentation and then we're
43 going to do two minutes for questions and comments.
44 The floor is all yours.
45
46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, members of the
47 Councils. Again, this will be real short. I gave a
48 briefing to the Southcentral Council yesterday
49 afternoon, but I'll just follow up since we have
50 everybody here this morning.

1 OSM has a lot of vacancies right now.
2 About 40 percent of our positions are vacant, 14
3 vacancies in total. Lots of people are in acting
4 status. The young lady who just talked to you is our
5 acting Chief of Staff. She's doing an excellent job.
6 Other people that have talked to you have been in
7 acting status as well. Again, we're trying to get that
8 situation rectified.

9
10 Carl mentioned two days ago that the
11 person that does the Council books transferred last
12 fall and they've been working to get that position
13 filled. Again, we'll do better in the future.

14
15 Basically, a standard thing in
16 government is if there's a shortage of budget, you
17 reduce travel, you freeze hiring. I've seen that
18 happen and that's what we're going through right now.
19 Basically in the Fish and Wildlife Service that's
20 happened, in OSM that's happened. We have to get a
21 waiver from Washington, D.C. to fill any positions
22 during this hiring freeze and we're working on that.
23 We're working on recruiting. But, again, just wanted
24 to let you know that we're really short-handed right
25 now and we will do better in the future.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 Gunalcheesh.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Any
32 questions or comments from anyone.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. You're
37 excused. U.S. Forest Service next. You're on, Steve.
38 Okay. I see you need a lot of support there, huh,
39 Steve.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, Mr.
44 Chairman and members of the Southeast and Southcentral
45 Councils. It's a wonderful opportunity to give one
46 agency report to both Councils. Of course this is
47 historic because that's the first time.

48
49 What I would like to do is -- maybe I
50 didn't introduce myself. Yeah, I did, Steve Kessler.

1 So I'm the program leader for the Forest Service. I
2 cover the entire state. I also serve on the
3 Interagency Staff Committee, so I'm aware of what's
4 going on across the entire state.

5
6 The people that are with me are from
7 the Chugach National Forest and from the Tongass
8 National Forest and they're the ones who are more on-
9 the-ground people. Also with us is Chris Lampshire on
10 the far right and Chris is with our law enforcement and
11 investigations, LEI. He's going to speak with you a
12 little bit also.

13
14 What I'm going to first do is I'll give
15 you a little bit of a budget update and a couple little
16 personnel items, then we'll move from there. I think
17 we'll go to Chris next and then maybe to Chugach and
18 maybe the Tongass. So just a little bit of some
19 updates.

20
21 For the Forest Service, we still don't
22 have our final budget for this fiscal year 2014, but
23 we're expecting to be essentially flat from last year,
24 from 2013. Maybe just a little bit of an increase. We
25 expect to fund most of the projects, probably 70 or 80
26 percent of the projects in the Fisheries Resource
27 Monitoring Program for Southeast Alaska. I think we
28 had a discussion earlier that at this point we don't
29 have any projects that we fund in the Southcentral
30 area.

31
32 For the 2015 budget, the President's
33 Budget Request came out earlier this month, and, once
34 again, that budget request proposes to zero out the
35 Forest Service line item and appropriations for our
36 Forest Service subsistence management. There's
37 language, as part of the justification, that would
38 maintain the level at essentially what we have in 2014,
39 but just in a different manner. So instead of having
40 this line item appropriation, it would come from
41 regular Forest Service funds.

42
43 This has been done probably in the
44 President's Budget Request four or five times out of
45 the last five or six years. Every time that has
46 happened Congress has rejected that change. We have no
47 idea what's going to happen, of course, as Congress
48 wrestles with the 2015 budget.

49
50 Another item I'd like to let you know

1 personnel-wise for the regional office, Cal Casipit,
2 who Southeast knows very well, and Southcentral has
3 seen a few times, he's back here in the audience. Cal
4 is our regional subsistence fisheries biologist and
5 he's also temporarily acting as the natural resource
6 and planning staff officer on the Chugach National
7 Forest. So it seems like similar to OSM we have people
8 acting in different positions. So Cal is going to
9 continue to do the contracting work for the Fisheries
10 Resource Monitoring Program and theoretically will be
11 back in his regular job full time starting about May.

12

13 I'm also in an acting position too, so
14 I was asked to be the acting forest planning team
15 leader for the Chugach National Forest along with my
16 regular job also, so I'm spreading myself between those
17 positions right now. That just started a couple weeks
18 ago. That will continue until Cal is able to hire a
19 permanent full-time person who will be the planning
20 staff officer.

21

22 Once we get into the Chugach report,
23 I'll report a little bit on where we are on planning
24 and the revision of the Chugach Forest Plan. So that's
25 sort of my overview. I'm going to go to Chris
26 Lampshire next because he's going to also give sort of
27 a -- be discussing law enforcement statewide or across
28 both National Forests and then we'll go to Milo and to
29 Terry. So Chris. If we can, we can take questions at
30 the end.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right now the Chair
33 recognizes Chris.

34

35 MR. LAMPSHIRE: Good morning, Mr. Chair
36 and members of the Southcentral and Southeast Councils.
37 It's an honor to be here today. I've only attended one
38 of these in the past. Many of you probably remember
39 Jeff Bryden, who has been here in the past and has been
40 unable to make this meeting due to some annual leave
41 vacation scheduled. So he was planning on being here,
42 but unfortunately he could not be here.

43

44 I was asked to be here on behalf of
45 Jeff just to open up to discussion more as a service to
46 you guys as to what law enforcement can provide, what
47 you'd like to see us do, if there's any changes in what
48 we've done or anything we could improve upon as far as
49 law enforcement coverage, education to tribal members
50 or local community members.

1 Jeff still has an active role just in
2 the Cooper Landing and Hope area assisting with some
3 licensing, meetings there for the caribou and moose.
4 Due to funding purposes and stuff like that, he's been
5 unable to attend Southeast stuff and do emphasis
6 patrols as far as subsistence use and things like that
7 to curtail unauthorized take of animals for non-
8 subsistence qualified folks in all the hunting seasons,
9 whether it be from Yakutat, Southeast or Cordova.

10

11 We hope to see some funding changes in
12 the next couple years, but our law enforcement budget
13 has taken a giant hit. Like Steve said, subsistence
14 management funding has gone down and law enforcement in
15 particular this year has taken a rather large hit as
16 well.

17

18 At the end of this, I'd like to just
19 open it up to see what you guys' thoughts are, concerns
20 and questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Chris.
23 We'll save the questions until after their
24 presentation.

25

26 Who's next?

27

28 MR. BURCHAM: Hello, everybody. Milo
29 Burcham, Chugach National Forest subsistence lead based
30 in Cordova. Several different things I want to talk to
31 you about today. I'll save the Forest Plan revision
32 until the end of my little list here, but not that it's
33 in any order of importance.

34

35 Probably the most important thing to
36 point out to you guys is we are going through some
37 turnover. I won't quite say vacancies, but just a lot
38 of change in the Chugach structure right now. It's not
39 to say it's all changing. There is some stability.
40 I'm still here and I'm not going anywhere in the near
41 future.

42

43 Robert Stovall, the deputy district
44 ranger in Seward, is still in place and has some
45 supervisory role over subsistence on the Kenai. That's
46 the main thing that's staying the same. Steve is still
47 in his position, but he's doing some double duty, so
48 he's going to be spread a little bit thin right now.

49

50 We have lost Ruth D'Amico. She was our

1 subsistence biologist with a fisheries emphasis on the
2 Kenai based in Moose Pass. She's taken a job with the
3 Forest Service in Oregon, a fisheries position, so
4 she's left.

5
6 That's part of why Chris is here right
7 now. Law enforcement is stepping up -- we're actually
8 providing some funding for Jeff Bryden's time, four
9 weeks I think, to step into some of her duties on the
10 Kenai issuing fisheries permits to the towns of Hope
11 and Cooper Landing and other administrative things,
12 meeting people in the field and things like that. So,
13 anyway, law enforcement will be playing a greater role
14 helping out the subsistence program on the Kenai
15 helping to make up for Ruth's absence.

16
17 The next is -- unseen to you guys, I
18 think, is my supervisor, Tim Joyce, oversees a large
19 part of the subsistence program and the budget. He's
20 retiring and he's also acting district ranger in
21 Cordova right now, which is an inseason manager for
22 fisheries. He played previously a role as a
23 subsistence fisheries biologist on the Cordova
24 district, so he has sort of a legacy of knowledge of
25 subsistence and has been very helpful to me in this
26 position. Anyway, he's retiring. I'll be taking over
27 some budget responsibility for the Subsistence Program
28 on the Chugach.

29
30 We'll be hiring a new district ranger.
31 In fact, we've hired a new district ranger. He is not
32 in place yet. I'm not going to come up with his last
33 name.

34
35 MR. KESSLER: Skorkowski.

36
37 MR. BURCHAM: Robert Skorkowsky, yeah.
38 He'll be in place in the first week of May and he will
39 have inseason authority over fisheries management that
40 exists with the Cordova District Ranger. So he'll be
41 playing a role in the program, but will need to be
42 brought up to speed on exactly how subsistence works.
43 He's coming from Colorado.

44
45 I think that's all I have to say on
46 personnel right now. I always try to provide you with
47 some harvest update. I think you got some of that at
48 the fall meeting. I don't have that much new to
49 report. I think Ruth reported that in the moose season
50 in Unit 7 on the Kenai one moose was harvested by a

1 Cooper Landing resident and one by a Hope resident, so
2 there were two harvested in the subsistence program
3 this year, which is significant. It's often been zero
4 or one, but two were taken this year.

5
6 No caribou were harvested in the
7 caribou season that I'm aware of. Jeff Anderson
8 reported the Russian River harvest I think at the fall
9 meeting. Our moose season in Unit 6C on the Copper
10 River Delta is complete now. There were 74 permits
11 issued this past season. 46 of the 50 cow permits were
12 taken or filled and 21 of the 24 bull permits were
13 filled.

14
15 I've been working with Fish and Game.
16 We're very close for doing the random drawing for
17 permits for 2014. I'll probably do it here in the next
18 week or two. It looks like from population information
19 that we'll be issuing 20 cow tags and 40 bull tags.
20 Well, that's combined. All 20 cow tags will be in the
21 Federal Subsistence Program and 75 percent, so 30 of
22 the 40 bull tags will be in the Federal Subsistence
23 Program.

24
25 Anyway, in a nutshell, the population
26 in Unit 6C looks pretty good. We contracted with the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to do survey work in
28 Kings Bay and in Unit 6C. I reported yesterday about
29 the Kings Bay survey, kind of the bad news for what's
30 going on with that small moose population or
31 nonexistent moose population at the moment possibly.

32
33 In Unit 6C, it's much different. Our
34 population is increasing. The bull:cow ratio, which
35 was low in the last few years, looks like it's very
36 good right now. Those bulls are getting older and
37 we're starting to get more mature animals in there. I
38 don't have the final population estimate right now.
39 She's working up the report, the local biologist, but
40 it looks like we're near 600 moose in the total
41 population. Our population objective has been 400.
42 We're also looking at changing that, upping that, so
43 things look pretty good and we have a pretty healthy
44 harvest scheduled for this year.

45
46 I just mentioned contracting with
47 Department of Fish and Game for the survey work in
48 Kings Bay in Unit 6C. I think the only other thing
49 that I have is new to Cordova this spring are a set of
50 Federal subsistence migratory bird regulations.

1 They're implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 Service, not OSM. What Cordova residents will be
3 allowed that they haven't had before is a spring
4 waterfowl season.

5
6 So on Barrier Islands -- it's very
7 specific where this is going to take place. This
8 proposal came from the Native Village of Eyak and they
9 worked with the Migratory Bird Working Group to develop
10 a set of regulations that would not impact some of the
11 other wildlife resources, like waterfowl or shorebirds
12 on the Copper River Delta.

13
14 Anyway, they've come up with a set of
15 regulations that will apply only to the Barrier Islands
16 on the Copper River Flats and it will allow waterfowl
17 harvest from April 2nd through the end of April and it
18 will include most waterfowl. It will exclude a few
19 species, like Trumpeter Swans and Canada Goose. Canada
20 Goose because there's a subspecies of Canada Goose that
21 nests only on the Copper River Delta that can be
22 confused with other migrating geese.

23
24 Anyway, that's a brand-new opportunity.
25 The other thing that it opens up is egg take on Barrier
26 Islands, gull egg take, which is a traditional practice
27 that has happened in Cordova for a long time. It's
28 been completely illegal for a good period of time. I
29 think law enforcement has often turned their heads
30 towards recognizing some levels of it have taken place.
31 But, anyway, now it's official in regulation that egg
32 take can take place during the month of May on the
33 Barrier Islands, which is a traditional egg-gathering
34 area for -- it's a nesting area for Glaucous-winged
35 gulls, mew gulls. Those are the two main species that
36 eggs will be taken from. Anyway, I was just going to
37 update you guys that this is coming down the pike.

38
39 That's most of what I have. I guess
40 I'll point to Steve now to give you guys an update on
41 the Forest Plan Revision.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve, back to you.

44
45 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Milo. Steve
46 Kessler, acting Forest Plan Revision team leader. I
47 think at the last three Southcentral council meetings
48 there have been updates that have been provided to you
49 about the revision of the Chugach Forest Plan. Since
50 your last meeting, I don't think that there has been a

1 whole bunch of progress. There were a series of public
2 meetings around the Southcentral area to provide
3 information on where we are in the process to start
4 some discussion on the assessment of the Chugach
5 National Forest and the need for changes to the Forest
6 Plan.

7
8 The assessment should be complete in
9 the next month and a half or so and that assessment
10 will be posted on the Chugach Forest Planning website
11 and there will be an invitation for any comment on that
12 assessment. So that assessment is used to help us
13 determine -- to provide a background on the resources
14 of the Chugach National Forest, but more importantly to
15 help us figure out what sort of changes are needed in
16 the Forest Plan.

17
18 So after that is done the next thing
19 that's developed is the need for change. That need for
20 change will be available to the public also and then a
21 draft plan and environmental impact statement are
22 prepared. During this whole process, if I'm not
23 mistaken, there are probably at least four additional
24 opportunities for public input into the process and
25 then I assume for the Southcentral Council, assuming
26 that it is your desires, of course, there's also the
27 opportunity for the Council to provide input.

28
29 So it's a very brief amount of
30 information I have for you right now. I anticipate at
31 your fall meeting that there's going to be considerably
32 more. I hope that we might have time to spend a little
33 bit of quality time talking about what sort of changes
34 the Southcentral RAC might consider should be made in
35 the Forest Plan for the Chugach.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

38
39 All right, Terry.

40
41 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Chairmans
42 and Council members. My name is Terry Suminski. I'm
43 the subsistence program leader for the Tongass National
44 Forest and I'm based in Sitka. Just a couple personnel
45 updates. We were finally able to get Justin Koller
46 hired into my old position as the Sitka and Hoonah
47 Ranger District Zone subsistence biologist. There's
48 Justin. And we are currently working on hiring a GS-9
49 Fisheries Resource Information project manager that
50 will assist Ben Van Alen out of Juneau. Hopefully

1 we'll be able to fill that position shortly and
2 definitely before the field season starts.

3

4 One thing I wanted to mention is we
5 have one special action that's not on that list that
6 you have on Page 68. That was the closure of the Unuk
7 River eulachon. It's actually a closure to all of
8 District 1. That was coordinated with the Department
9 of Fish and Game and Metlakatla Indian Association and
10 Ketchikan Indian Association. That closure is
11 effective March 3rd to May 1st. That's been an ongoing
12 issue I'm sure at least the Southeast Council is aware
13 of.

14

15 Right now, as you saw me running around
16 the last couple days, we're working on closing wolf
17 harvest on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2, and we
18 should see a press release on Friday and again working
19 with the Department. They'll have a similar closure
20 that will be announced on Friday and then it will go
21 into effect late Wednesday night.

22

23 We have a meeting planned for the
24 upcoming goat season in Unit 4 on Baranof Island.
25 We've typically done a hearing each year in the last
26 few years to let people know what's going on with that
27 management plan and what the plans are for the upcoming
28 year.

29

30 We also have a deer meeting planned in
31 Hoonah that we don't have dates yet, but we're going to
32 do that preseason as well. We don't anticipate any
33 inseason actions or at least any preseason actions for
34 that hunt, as Frank alluded to earlier, but we do want
35 to go back and update the community on where we're at
36 and the Department will have some new information that
37 they gather this spring and we'd like to share that.
38 Just keep the community up to date with what's going on
39 with the deer and deer management in the Hoonah area.

40

41 I think that's all from my report. If
42 there's anything that you've heard or are wondering
43 about what's going on in the Tongass, I can try to
44 answer those questions or at least go find the
45 information for you because I'm sure I can't answer
46 them all.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you for

1 your reports. Appreciate it. Now the floor is open to
2 ask any one of these four gentlemen questions or make
3 comments. I notice that you've got a few job openings
4 there. That's pretty good. You know, I'll be looking
5 for a job here pretty soon.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know, considering
10 my earlier past, I probably wouldn't pass what they
11 call it, the background check.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Judy.

16

17 MS. CAMINER: A couple quick questions.
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Chris, I was just wondering
19 where you're stationed.

20

21 MR. LAMPSHIRE: Sorry, I forgot to
22 mention that. I'm stationed here in Anchorage. I'm
23 the patrol captain for the Chugach National Forest, so
24 I supervise all the LEOs, the six LEOs, so four on the
25 Kenai and two over in Cordova.

26

27 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. The other
28 follow-up question if I could for Steve or just a
29 suggestion when the draft plan comes out for review. I
30 know for our Council we'd certainly appreciate maybe an
31 email to Donald with a link so we can all look it up
32 and make comments if we care to.

33

34 That would be great.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead. I
39 can't see your name there.

40

41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Andy.

44

45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Just a quick question
46 or comment to Milo. I'd be very interested, in the bad
47 winter we had on the deer population, in the future
48 pellet counts that you do with Fish and Game. Would
49 love to hear the results of that, how it compares to
50 our observations in the communities.

1 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I'll make sure we
2 forward that along. We'll be doing the pellet counts
3 with Fish and Game maybe much earlier this year than we
4 have in the past given how little snow we've gotten
5 this winter. We could do them anywhere from mid May to
6 mid June.

7
8 I did just take a note from Terry's
9 presentation. He mentioned his preseason meeting with
10 residents of Hoonah. Our population was down 70
11 percent from that big winter. It was significant and
12 we took management actions this past year that were
13 controversial among a few people, but that's not a bad
14 idea for us either.

15
16 I can sit down with Fish and Game, we
17 could have a meeting and look at what might be needed
18 in State and/or Federal regulation, if anything, given
19 where we are in the recovery right now. We've had
20 things go very well for us, two mild winters since that
21 big winter, but it still takes just a little while to
22 get back to where we want to be.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes
27 the other Chair.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo, I think that
32 (cough).....

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo, I think that's a
37 good idea and I think two places that you should have
38 those, besides having Fish and Game, it would be nice
39 to have a little presentation at the meeting at the RAC
40 and it would also be nice to have a presentation at the
41 local advisory committee.

42
43 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, that can be done.
44 To have it preseason, it would have to be a special
45 meeting. The advisory committee doesn't usually meet
46 until later in the fall, but some forum like that
47 before the season might not be a bad idea. Some new
48 forum.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Even when it is a

1 little later in the fall, it's still before the time
2 that you'd have to take any action.

3

4 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, yeah.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, John.

9

10 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
11 law enforcement, you guys always are spread super thin,
12 covering large areas. Is there any emphasis for
13 increasing your staffing for that? I understand it's
14 budgetary and that's the big word everywhere. In
15 Southeast in particular, one LEO for such a large area
16 seems to be somewhat overwhelming at times for them.
17 So is there any emphasis in trying to increase your
18 staffing for law enforcement?

19

20 MR. LAMPSHIRE: Mr. Chair and Mr.
21 Yeager. We did have an emphasis a year and a half ago
22 where we hired two extra people in the region. So
23 right now, as far as law enforcement is in Region 10,
24 which consists of the Tongass and the Chugach, we are
25 at full staff and we created two positions with some
26 funding we received a year and a half, two years ago,
27 to fill two positions that we felt were needed, so that
28 was an additional position on the Kenai and another
29 position down in Juneau as well.

30

31 So, with that said, our budget right
32 now -- I'll just give you a real quick. Law
33 enforcement nationally for the Forest Service is \$5.4
34 million in the hole, in the red, so the future of
35 filling or creating any more positions right now is
36 bleak, minimal, probably not going to happen. We try
37 to do what we can with the resources.

38

39 If there's a need or a shortage in
40 resources or if there's something coming up, we try to
41 fill that need for that community with bringing other
42 officers in from other locations. But with that given
43 we're really limited this year on travel and training
44 type funds. So we're going to probably be more
45 reliant on that local LEO to cover everything that they
46 can this year.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, John.

49

50 Any more questions.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Patty.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Also for law
6 enforcement. Do you guys track the type of calls that
7 you handle and where are you seeing the greater -- your
8 time spent?

9

10 MR. LAMPSHIRE: I think that's a good
11 question. We do have a database called LEIMARS. It's
12 a law enforcement database that the Forest Service
13 houses itself and all those incidents get in there so
14 we can track them. I gave briefing information to
15 Steve for an update for the national -- was it the WO,
16 Washington Novice Update, that consisted of wildlife
17 issues. So we can pull up from that database the
18 number of wildlife issues we had.

19

20 So we did see an increase of wildlife
21 stuff this year, but as far as subsistence stuff we
22 haven't had the funding to focus on subsistence, so
23 there was minimal cases that dealt with subsistence,
24 but we can track it. I would think our -- it just
25 varies from year to year and location to location what
26 the emphasis is, but a lot of fish and wildlife stuff
27 for the Tongass, a lot of timber as well, and ATV
28 trespass and off-road use.

29

30 For the Chugach, it's really kind of a
31 mix depending on the season. We have closure
32 violations with snowmachines in the winter. We don't
33 have much ATV traffic on the Chugach per se because we
34 don't have that trail or road system to provide ATV
35 use. So the guys on the Chugach focus with winter off-
36 road use and then summer fishing, Russian River of
37 course, Cordova, fishing over there at Eyak, and then
38 also we have two patrol boats that we get the guys out
39 as often as possible into the Sound to check on cabins,
40 adjacent uses to shore and stuff like that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

43

44 Anyone else.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, gentlemen.
49 Appreciate it. Okay, we'll take the next ones in this
50 order: National Park Service, BLM, ADF&G.

1 MR. LARSON: No BLM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No BLM? Okay.

4

5 National Park Service.

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 I guess I'm going first. My name is Barbara Cellarius.

9 I'm the cultural anthropologist and subsistence

10 coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and

11 Preserve. I'm based in Copper Center, however I work

12 with communities from Healy Lake on the north, Yakutat

13 on the south, so we cover three RAC regions.

14

15 I just wanted to mention something
16 really quickly about delegation of authority and then
17 you should have a handout that has a photograph on the
18 bottom. It's just a one-page handout. A lot of the
19 delegations of authority to Wrangell-St. Elias are
20 pretty closely scripted. There are things like close
21 the goat season in Unit 11 when 45 goats have been
22 harvested.

23

24 One of the things that we've been
25 talking about after reading the section on special
26 actions in the Tribal Consultation Implementation
27 Guidelines is offering for our local tribal councils to
28 come and talk about how we use our special action
29 authority and inseason management authorities, so maybe
30 have a conversation with them ahead of time so they
31 kind of know what the process is and we can ask them
32 how would you like to be contacted. So it's just
33 something that we've been thinking about doing in terms
34 of tribal consultation.

35

36 Like I said, you should have a copy of
37 my report. There were two things that seemed relevant
38 to both Councils, so I was going to talk about them
39 briefly. One is that I am working with some
40 researchers from the Portland State University on what
41 we're calling the Yakutat Tlingit Ethnographic Overview
42 and Assessment. However, at the request of the Yakutat
43 Tlingit Tribe, we're also including Eyak in that, so
44 that covers both Southcentral and Eastern Int -- or
45 Southcentral and Southeast Regions. I was at Eastern
46 Interior last week. I'm a little geographically
47 challenged.

48

49 So that's a project that is ongoing.
50 We hope to be -- the researchers hope to be in Yakutat

1 sometime this spring or summer and do some interviews
2 on the ground with folks there. We hope that the
3 project will be completed in May of 2015, so next year.

4
5 Then the other thing I wanted to talk
6 to you about was the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
7 Subsistence Resource Commission. This commission was
8 created under the provisions of ANILCA, it shares some
9 characteristics with RACs, but is in other ways
10 different from RACs, but the basic purpose of the SRC
11 is to provide a venue for local subsistence users to
12 have input into the management of subsistence resources
13 in the Park. Since the establishment of the Federal
14 program, they've also been making recommendations
15 directly to the Federal Subsistence Board.

16
17 The thing I wanted to talk to you
18 especially about the SRC is that Regional Advisory
19 Councils are one of three appointing sources for the
20 SRC members. So we have three members appointed by the
21 RACs, three members appointed by the Governor and three
22 members appointed by the Secretary. The Southeast RAC
23 appointee to the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC is Bert Adams
24 and his term will expire in November of 2014, so this
25 fall. Gloria Stickwan is the Southcentral RAC
26 appointee to the SRC and her term will also expire in
27 November of this year. So we'll be coming to you at
28 your fall meeting to ask for some action on that
29 appointment.

30
31 One other thing about those
32 appointments. ANILCA is very specific about who can be
33 appointed by a RAC to the SRC. They must be a member
34 of the RAC or a local AC and they must engage in
35 subsistence uses in the National Park, so there's
36 fairly strict criteria.

37
38 I'm actually currently recruiting for
39 applicants for the DOI appointments to the SRC, so if
40 anyone is interested or knows someone who might be
41 interested, get a hold of me. The information is also
42 on the Parks website.

43
44 I think that's about it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Barbara.
47 Before we go to Jim Capra, is there any questions you
48 might have or comments to make on Barbara's report.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's always been a
2 pleasure working with her. She is a hard worker.
3 Sometimes I think she gets overwhelmed. Questions,
4 comments.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One. Go ahead.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What's DOI?
11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Department of the
13 Interior.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that can be
16 anybody? What are the qualifications?
17
18 MS. CELLARIUS: ANILCA is not specific
19 about what the qualifications would be for that
20 particular seat. It doesn't have to be -- it's unlike
21 the RAC. The RAC appointments are very strict. The
22 DOI appointments are fairly general. In general, the
23 information that we forward to the Secretary is similar
24 to the kinds of questions that the RACs look at when
25 you apply for a RAC, the qualifications that would be
26 looked at.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions,
31 comments.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. Mr.
36 Capra. I know Mr. Capra as well.
37
38 MR. CAPRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 My name is Jim Capra. I'm the Dry Bay ranger and
40 subsistence coordinator for Glacier Bay National Park
41 and Preserve. I have just one update that I try to keep
42 the Southeast Council up on for Glacier Bay. It's not
43 a Title VIII issue, but it does affect subsistence.
44 Glacier Bay Park itself is not open to subsistence
45 officially. For six or seven years we've been trying
46 to legislatively fix that and allow the people of
47 Hoonah to take gull eggs and several other resources.
48 Every RAC meeting that I attend usually I explain how
49 the delays are going.
50

1 This last week, it is in Congress, it
2 is being acted on legislatively now. The latest update
3 I have is that it went into Representative Young's
4 committee meeting on Natural Resources and Parks. I
5 don't know if it came out yet. It had also gone into
6 Senator Murkowski's committee meeting. I assume it's
7 fairly close to being voted on by the full House and
8 then Senate. We will need to promulgate regulations on
9 how eggs are harvested after that point in the Park.

10

11 To that end, about three weeks ago our
12 wildlife biologist and our coordinator over at Hoonah
13 met with several harvesters and they're working out a
14 strategy on how eggs will be harvested in the Park and
15 how that will be monitored how the monitoring is going
16 to go before, after and during to see how the affect on
17 the resources -- or what effect there is on the
18 resources and what, if any, changes have to be made in
19 the future when it does happen.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions for Jim.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Jim, if you would,
26 please, rather than me do it, why don't you talk a
27 little bit about the celebration a couple of years ago,
28 what led up to that. Very briefly, please. Then I will
29 connect it to what Barbara is trying to do as well. Go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. CAPRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
33 2011, the Park Service, Forest Service, tribal
34 organizations, Sealaska, Yakutat Kwan and I'm probably
35 missing several organizations there. I know a lot of
36 donations from the public managed to fund the first
37 potlatch in Dry Bay in 109 years. We supported it down
38 there in the ranger station and several local fish
39 camps and the fish plant down there in Dry Bay.
40 Outside of staff, Forest Service and Park Service
41 staff, 135 moved from Yakutat to Dry Bay by air for
42 three days/two nights.

43

44 It was impressive and especially moving
45 to me. We managed to get out on the ground in several
46 areas where old clan houses where some of our local
47 elders had grown up where they hadn't returned in 60
48 years in some points. In some cases, the houses --
49 well, none of the houses are upright. In some cases,
50 the land is even gone where the houses were. It was

1 amazingly moving and people who had never been to Dry
2 Bay who had clan and family ties with Gunaaxoo were in
3 tears when they were down there.

4

5 We have plans to do a smaller visit
6 this year, as we try to do every year, and then we're
7 trying to move forward with plans for another
8 celebration down in Dry Bay and reconnect with the land
9 down there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that,
12 Jim. What happened there -- you know, Yakutat
13 comprises three main stocks of people. You have the
14 Eyaks coming from Copper River area and there was some
15 Athabaskan people as well. They migrated down into the
16 Yakutat area. Then you have the Tlingit people who
17 came up from the Southeast and then the Athabaskans
18 that came up and down the Alsek River and they
19 interfaced with one another, eventually intermarried
20 and then during the war everyone was required to go to
21 Yakutat for security reasons and to educate the
22 children. So then we have what I call the three main
23 stocks of people.

24

25 So, for the Southeast portion of it we
26 had this celebration in Dry Bay to commemorate over 100
27 years since the drumbeat was held there and we found
28 several tribal houses on the Akwe River.

29

30 What Barbara is doing, she's trying to
31 do or get some cooperation to do the same thing for the
32 people who came down from the Copper River area. So I
33 thought that was one of the -- you know, having been
34 involved in it right from the very beginning, it really
35 connected me to my ancestral roots. It made me want to
36 learn the language, made me want to learn more about
37 the culture and the history of that area, so we hope we
38 can do that with what you're trying to do, Barbara.

39

40 Does anyone have any questions or
41 comments. Yes, Mr. Wright.

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: Just a little update on
44 what else is going on in Glacier Bay. A few years back
45 there was a name place put together with Glacier Bay
46 and that name place map did a lot to -- you know, in
47 the past I used to be -- I didn't believe a lot of the
48 stories about Glacier Bay because the glacier moved out
49 and moved back and forth. But when the name place map
50 came out, I started listening to what was going on

1 there. And there was some scientific evidence showing
2 what the name place map meant. The name place map was
3 the names of the -- the landscape was talking about an
4 area and then the scientific information was exactly
5 what the name place map meant. So my doubts
6 disappeared all of a sudden.

7

8 I always wondered about it, but what
9 happened was the name place map came out before the
10 scientific study had come out, so the Tlingit language
11 and the name place map proved that our people were up
12 there. So that sure made me feel good because when the
13 name place was put out by all the elders in Hoonah, it
14 was thought that they didn't know what they were
15 talking about. It was so uplifting.

16

17 So what is happening now is that this
18 spring there's going to be a groundbreaking ceremony in
19 Bartlett Cove where a lot of our people were stationed.
20 We used to have smokehouses there, but they were tore
21 down by the Park Service, which didn't know what they
22 were doing yet.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Now that the Park Service
27 does recognize that our people have been in Glacier
28 Bay. So the groundbreaking ceremony is supposed to be
29 this spring and I'd like to thank the Park Service for
30 helping us get the funding to do something like that.

31

32 I think that, you know, we used to
33 battle with the Park Service, but now we work --
34 government-to-government relationship really works out
35 well. I think that it's going to be -- well, one time
36 a person asked me what's that house going to do for us
37 in Hoonah and I had to sit and listen to the person cut
38 down that building and I just said, well, you know, our
39 people have been there for centuries, but this
40 acknowledges the presence of our people when the
41 tourists come through to look at it and it's not just
42 going to be a house. It's going to be a building with
43 some Tlingit designs on the outside and Tlingit designs
44 on the inside. So the acknowledgment that our people
45 are there is going to be strengthened. So that's just
46 a little update on what's going on.

47

48 And the gull egg thing, like Jim was
49 saying, was that it's in Congress and it's going to be
50 happening and I volunteered my boat to go up when it

1 happens.

2

3 Gunalcheesh. Thanks for listening.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Gunalcheesh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Yeah,
8 the experience that he just shared with you, I felt the
9 same way, but it would take us a couple days to really
10 share down-to-earth experiences with you. What I have
11 discovered from these visits to the Dry Bay area and
12 discovering these various places where our people
13 actually lived, the stories that the elders had told me
14 about all of these tribal houses and everything, you
15 know, and then having archeologists come in and help us
16 identify those sites, it's a real classic example of
17 how oral history and archaeology has come together and
18 supported one another. It's a very powerful statement.
19 I think we did some fantastic work there and there's a
20 lot more yet to be done.

21

22 Unless there's any more questions.

23

24 Patty, go ahead.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Thank you, Jim, for your report and Barbara too. Jim,
28 has there been any studies that you know of about the
29 number of sea otters in Glacier Bay and the impact to
30 resources?

31

32 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair. Councilwoman
33 Phillips. The only thing I'm aware of at this point is
34 kind of the gross number study, the last survey that
35 the Fish and Wildlife Service did. I know the Park
36 Service hasn't sponsored anything specific on sea otter
37 numbers or their effect on the local resources there.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up. So, I mean
40 it's interesting that the Fish and Wildlife Service has
41 done some population assess -- or over-flies or
42 whatever. Do they have multiple surveys and do those
43 numbers show an increasing number?

44

45 MR. CAPRA: Chairman Adams,
46 Councilwoman Phillips. Quite honestly, the last thing
47 I saw in that was the numbers that were provided at the
48 RAC meeting I was at in 2011, I believe, and that's the
49 most recent information I've seen. I don't have
50 anything further.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Barbara and
8 Jim, for helping us become good stewards over our
9 lands. Okay.
10
11 The next person or people on the agenda
12 would be ADF&G.
13
14 Please come forward.
15
16 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairmen and
17 Councils. Jennifer Yuhás with the Alaska Department of
18 Fish and Game. I'm the Federal subsistence liaison
19 team leader and I'd like to introduce part of our team.
20 Mr. Davin Holen and Ms. Robbin LaVine are here to
21 present a subsistence report for you and then,
22 respecting your time, knowing that both of the Councils
23 still have a few action items left, Drew and I do not
24 have a report. We'll simply be available for
25 questions.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
28
29 MR. HOLEN: Thank you. Again, my name
30 is Davin Holen. I'm the subsistence program manager
31 for southern Alaska and Robbin's been working quite a
32 bit with the Park Service these last couple years and
33 we'll describe that here briefly. Just so you know,
34 there is a slide presentation behind you. I made this
35 quite visual.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How long is this going
38 to take?
39
40 MR. HOLEN: I'll be quick. The reason
41 I'm here is because I wanted to describe the southern
42 region program to you and this is a great opportunity
43 to do this with these two RACs together. I'm in charge
44 of all of southern Alaska from the Aleutian Islands to
45 Southeast in terms of that research program. I wanted
46 to give this presentation to you so that you understand
47 what data is available for customary and traditional
48 use findings that you might be looking at or
49 information that you might need, OSM needs.
50

1 Just very briefly to help you
2 understand who we are. If you don't know, the Division
3 of Subsistence has been around since around 1980. It
4 was established after the 1978 subsistence law. Our
5 main charge is to document customary and traditional
6 use of resources and then define the amounts reasonably
7 necessary for subsistence for each population of game
8 or stock of fish.

9
10 Since its inception over the last 30
11 years or so, we've actually published over 400
12 technical papers and worked in 271 rural communities.
13 That's quite a lot considering I have a staff of about
14 15 people. So that's quite a few communities. But
15 what that means is we don't get to every community
16 every year.

17
18 These are the focus that we have.
19 Seasonality fishing and hunting, you know, when people
20 are doing things, we really focus on sharing
21 subsistence, of course, is an economy where people
22 share quite a bit. We document areas that people are
23 harvesting and cultural, social and economic values
24 associated. Most of us are anthropologists. We study
25 groups of people and their cultural and social values
26 that are attached to the resources and their land. I
27 think I've heard you discuss that quite a bit this
28 morning. It always makes me smile when you talk about
29 your food and how important it is to you. We look at
30 trends over time and then recently we've been doing a
31 lot of research on areas where there might be
32 development projects.

33
34 The methods that we use. We work in
35 local communities and we always work with the local
36 people. This is me actually two weeks ago in Hoonah.
37 We were training some folks to help us with the salmon
38 survey, so it's very important for us to work with
39 local people in the community.

40
41 Our main methodology is to administer a
42 harvest survey and here's one of our research staff
43 working at Chignik Lake with a survey and going over a
44 map with people and documenting some of their areas.

45
46 We also realized that the numbers don't
47 always tell the story, so we try our best to document
48 qualitative information and here's one of our
49 researchers out in Bristol Bay, Ted Krieg, working with
50 the late Mike Delkittie in Nondalton. Mike had been

1 fishing and hunting in that area for over 50 years.
2 Interestingly, his fish camp -- he fished in exactly
3 the same spot for, I think, 55 years, is where his fish
4 camp was. It was great to work with him and his late
5 wife as well. So this really helps us tell the story
6 and fill in the gaps because the numbers don't always
7 tell the story.

8
9 We do some participation. There's
10 Robbin up there helping at a fish camp with Nancy
11 Delkittie. We helped them cut over 100 fish in one
12 day. Not very well by the way. Some of it spoiled in
13 the smokehouse, but we did our best. So we participate
14 and learn about this and ask questions and this is a
15 method that is very unique to anthropology that we try
16 to employ.

17
18 The survey that we use documents
19 demography of the household and also the community.
20 Everything has a summary of that community. We don't
21 give away any information about the actual household.
22 It's all just an average summary of the community. We
23 look at harvest and use, attempting to harvest. If
24 they're attempting, even if they don't harvest it,
25 that's effort that's going into harvesting resources.
26 Giving and receiving, basically sharing resources,
27 harvest amounts and, of course, locations of harvest.
28 We've been doing a lot of spatial data collection in
29 the last few years. Almost all of our projects now
30 have a component where we document locations of
31 harvest, how people are accessing those harvests.

32
33 I got quite fancy and actually had
34 somebody develop an iPad app for us where we can
35 actually do it right on the iPad and dump it straight
36 into a database and that's been very helpful and helped
37 us kind of streamline things and make things more
38 efficient for us.

39
40 We've also started looking at food
41 security. I know you've talked about those issues
42 here. It's starting to become more of a component of
43 our surveys and I'm also part of the State's team to
44 look at health impact assessments throughout the state.
45 The State now has a toolkit to do that. We've looked
46 at the graphic components, you know, timing, trends,
47 things like that.

48
49 If you want to see our information,
50 this is the ADF&G website. You can go to the

1 subsistence area. We have a data report section. We
2 also have the Community Subsistence Information System,
3 which has all this data in the system from the data
4 we've collected over the last 30 years. You can search
5 by a wide variety of things.

6
7 This is the number of surveys that
8 we've done over the last few years. 271 communities
9 are represented. You can see that there's quite a few
10 surveys done about 10 years ago and then it started to
11 decline, but over the last few years we have gone back
12 to doing quite a few surveys and this is based on a lot
13 of the development projects that are going on
14 throughout the state, which I'll describe to you just
15 real briefly here.

16
17 So these are comprehensive or targeted
18 surveys that we've done throughout southern Alaska.
19 This is part of what we call the Susitna Watana
20 Project. You can see it's the asterisk right there in
21 the middle. I did give a little bit of an overview of
22 this to the Southcentral RAC this last fall and talked
23 about some of those findings.

24
25 Robbin is also working on part of this
26 project. This started as part of the Park Service
27 project for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
28 Preserve. Robbin has been working with Barbara on
29 that. We took it over when some large monies came
30 through to update all of these communities.

31
32 Robbin is just briefly going to
33 describe kind of the timeline for that because she'd
34 like to come back and give you a presentation for the
35 Southcentral RAC.

36
37 MS. LAVINE: We started working in
38 partnership with the Park Service to update Copper
39 River Basin communities in 2010 with Chistochina.
40 Since then we have updated the communities of Mentasta
41 Pass, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Gakona, Copper Center,
42 Kenny Lake, Willow Creek, Chitina and McCarthy. Those,
43 actually all the dots that you see, are the communities
44 that we surveyed in partnership with the Park Service.

45
46
47 Our final year three, the last four
48 communities that we surveyed a year ago, the spring of
49 2013, McCarthy, Chitina, Kenny Lake, Willow Creek and
50 Gakona, we are just now conducting community reviews of

1 the preliminary data and we're looking forward to -- I
2 would love to present to the Southcentral RAC our
3 findings this fall as we're producing our final report.

4
5 And I'm here for any questions at the
6 end of Davin's presentation.

7
8 MR. HOLEN: Thank you. You can see on
9 the left there those are the Susitna basic communities.
10 We've also started to develop another project. Looking
11 at all the communities along the proposed Alaska LNG
12 route, we did a lot of these communities a couple of
13 years ago.

14
15 We're going to focus this next year on
16 the Kenai Peninsula looking at the communities
17 especially in the southern part of the Kenai, like
18 Homer, Nikiski, where the site of the LNG plant is
19 proposed. This last winter, about a month ago, we did
20 Tyonek as well. I've worked in there extensively over
21 time.

22
23 For Southeast, over the last few years,
24 I've been to the last Board cycle for the Board of
25 Fisheries. I kept having to tell the Board that, I'm
26 sorry, I don't have information for you because it
27 hadn't been updated in quite a few years, so I got
28 tired of saying that. I found some money to actually
29 do some surveys in Southeast, so these are the
30 communities that you see that have been surveyed.

31
32 We're still working in Sitka right now.
33 We've got about 50 surveys left to do. We have a
34 stratified sample there doing 100 surveys with the
35 Sitka Tribe of Alaska. They've been great partners
36 helping us with this. And then 100 surveys of
37 everybody else in the community, which really breaks
38 out quite nicely into about half the community each.

39
40 You can also see that a couple of those
41 communities we've done salmon surveys. The Alaska
42 Sustainable Salmon Fund has funded us to do surveys in
43 Hoonah and Angoon.

44
45 We've also done salmon surveys in
46 Kodiak. Kodiak city hasn't been surveyed in quite a
47 while. I wanted to basically look at the differences
48 in economy between Kodiak city and some of the rural
49 communities on Kodiak Island, so we've also been
50 working in Larsen Bay and Old Harbor doing kind of how

1 things were similar between the two places and how
2 they're different.

3

4 Looking forward into the next part of
5 what we're going to focus on, I recognize that we've
6 now done a great deal of work filling in data gaps in
7 Southcentral Alaska, both in the Susitna and the Copper
8 Basins. We've filled in quite a few data gaps in
9 Southeast Alaska, but the area I see that there's some
10 real issues is in the Alaska Peninsula where things are
11 quite old. I'm also having to repeat that to the Board
12 -- I'm sorry, I don't have information for you. So
13 we're going to look at a few communities on the Alaska
14 Peninsula and start moving our way westward.

15

16 I would like to mention that the State
17 of Alaska as part of the Governor's Initiative is doing
18 chinook salmon research. The Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game is taking very seriously the declines in
20 chinook salmon across the state. We have identified 12
21 index stocks that we're looking at. You can see like
22 the Yukon, Kuskokwim, for example.

23

24 As part of the southern region effort,
25 we are looking at communities doing two different types
26 of projects. Some of these are harvest assessments
27 such as in the Chignik area, also the Nushagak and then
28 some of them are LTK projects. Mainly LTK projects,
29 local traditional knowledge, documenting people's
30 knowledge of abundance over time of salmon and some
31 issues that they see and things that they have noticed,
32 their own observations, and we're doing this across the
33 state in places like on the Stikine River with
34 Petersburg and Wrangell, up on the Chilkat with people
35 in Haines and Klukwan.

36

37 Robbin is going to be working in Prince
38 William Sound with people in Cordova. That's a fishery
39 we'd like to better understand, is Cordova's use of
40 their subsistence fishery. We've also been working
41 quite a bit in the Chigniks over the last few years.

42

43 The Kenai Peninsula is another area we
44 don't usually work in areas that are non-subsistence
45 areas, but in the last few years we've been trying to
46 document harvests and people's knowledge in urban areas
47 as well because there are also Alaska residents having
48 a great deal of information about their resources they
49 depend on.

50

1 That's all I have for you. I will hand
2 that out here briefly or leave it on the table. I have
3 an update that our research director Jim Fall just
4 finished on 2012 subsistence in Alaska, which has some
5 great statistics about subsistence harvest across the
6 state in a more general sense and I'll leave that for
7 you. If you have any questions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I noticed
10 that all of your surveys is taking place all around
11 Yakutat. Explain yourself.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. HOLEN: You're going to have to ask
16 Barbara about that one.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll secede
19 from the State. Any questions from anyone. Greg.

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair. I
22 just have a question or a comment. You know, we seem
23 to be missed, but the Kenai is a subsistence area.
24 Ninilchik is a subsistence area. I see on your maps
25 from Nikiski to Homer. I don't see Ninilchik. It's
26 definitely a subsistence area and we have a lot of
27 local knowledge to share.

28
29 MR. HOLEN: Just to mention, we didn't
30 include that in the comprehensive survey, but we are
31 doing -- as part of the chinook salmon initiative, we
32 have two staff that will be working with Ninilchik
33 Tribe to do some interviews there. And we did propose
34 a project that included Ninilchik under the OSM call
35 the last time around, but it wasn't funded.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more follow
38 up.

39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just a quick follow
41 up. Yeah, since I'm president of the tribe there, we
42 will be looking forward to that talk.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. HOLEN: Malla Kukkonen will be
47 sending you an email very shortly. We've been putting
48 it together the last couple days.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. The floor is

1 still open for questions or comments. Go ahead,
2 Gloria.

3

4 MS. STICKWAN: I guess it was last fall
5 they had a Governor's Symposium on chinook. Is this
6 part of that monies that you're doing the surveys with
7 and what are they doing with the rest of the -- they
8 were supposed to set up a statewide chinook fund
9 research monies. I was just wondering what's going on
10 with that.

11

12 MR. HOLEN: That's a good question.
13 So, yes, this last fall there was kind of a workshop
14 and the senior scientists from the Department of Fish
15 and Game put together some ideas and then they had a
16 workshop where they invited members of the public to
17 come and look at some presentations as well as give
18 some feedback about some of their goals.

19

20 So the Department does have quite a bit
21 of money that will be used to fund different chinook
22 salmon projects across the state and those will be
23 starting -- most of them -- you can go to the Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game website and right there on
25 the front page is the Chinook Salmon Initiative and if
26 you click on that tab, there's descriptions about all
27 the different projects that are going to be done. The
28 Subsistence Division currently has projects on almost
29 all of the index streams except for a couple in
30 Southeast, but we are doing projects in a lot of those.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anyone else.
33 Andrew.

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. I
36 just wanted to mention, worthy of mention, Tatitlek,
37 Chenega Bay and Prince William Sound also utilize
38 chinook resources. I saw you had Cordova on there and
39 there's a lot of local knowledge about those as well.

40

41 MR. HOLEN: Okay. Thanks, Andy. We'll
42 look at that. We're hoping to get a second year of
43 funding. I know I've been in your community quite a
44 bit and your wife has helped me and it's been great.
45 So we're hoping to get a second year of funding and
46 we'll look at that.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes

1 Mr. Kitka and then Judy.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi,
4 Davin. I just noticed that there was nothing there on
5 herring eggs and I just wondered how far you are on the
6 surveys in Southeast on other communities besides Sitka
7 on whether they got herring eggs or not.

8

9 MR. HOLEN: Thanks, Harvey. Yeah, I
10 didn't put that up there. This is a small component of
11 -- we have, I think, 25 ongoing projects and the
12 herring egg research that we do is less than one
13 percent of my budget, but I can guarantee you I spend
14 more than one percent of my budget on that issue. The
15 surveys will be done -- we do an annual survey.

16

17 Over the last few years since 2009 we
18 have done a great deal of work on understanding
19 conversion factors utilized in that fishery, how much
20 people are harvesting. We are doing our best to work
21 with the tribe to get out to some places -- like boats
22 that come from Hoonah, for example, or other places.
23 So that can be added into the harvest assessment. The
24 tribe, we do provide them with a cooperative agreement
25 where they do all the survey work for us. I'll be in
26 Sitka at the end of the month to help with that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Judy.

29

30 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 had a question for the presenters and then maybe one
32 for Jennifer if we could. Several years ago when the
33 gas pipeline was going the other way into Canada there
34 was money I thought perhaps through the Federal Energy
35 Regulatory Commission, FERC, that was going towards
36 exactly these kinds of studies as well. I thought you
37 had started them, so I'm just wondering were they
38 completed or are they getting folded into these studies
39 or what's the status of that?

40

41 MR. HOLEN: Thank you. That's a great
42 question. Yes, as part of that we did receive quite a
43 bit of funding from the Alaska Pipeline Project through
44 the Department of Natural Resources. FERC's
45 requirement was that all communities within 50 miles of
46 that pipeline route needed to be surveyed and they had
47 to have data that was no less than three years old in
48 terms of subsistence. That's really been applied to a
49 lot of new projects actually.

50

1 We did do some of those communities.
2 Tok, for example, Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Dry Creek. We
3 started to look at places like Tetlin and Northway and
4 those communities. I do know Barbara found funding to
5 do Northway and Tetlin, so that will be part of what's
6 coming up, but once the pipeline route was changed
7 the funding dried up very quickly. But they've come
8 back to us and now we've got a new effort to look along
9 the new proposed route and they've been really great,
10 the proponents, in helping to make sure subsistence is
11 documented adequately.

12
13 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You have follow up?

16
17 MS. CAMINER: With Jennifer when we
18 could.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, sure.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Thanks for being here today. I just wanted to ask you
24 if there are any updates on the MOU between the State
25 and the Federal Board.

26
27 MS. YUHAS: There are no updates at
28 this time.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What seems to be the
35 problem?

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MS. YUHAS: Could you clarify the
40 question, Mr. Chairman.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I wonder why there's
45 no updates. Is there anything happening between the
46 Feds and the State in this regards?

47
48 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. I think that
49 that is a separate question. No activity does not
50 necessarily mean a problem. There's just no update

1 because there has been no activity.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you're not doing
4 anything.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. YUHAS: Correct, Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are not doing
11 anything. Mary Ann.
12
13 MS. MILLS: I noticed in your
14 presentation that you had that in 1978 the State
15 enacted a subsistence law recognizing customary and
16 traditional use in resources. However, the State
17 redefined the legal term customary and traditional. So
18 I would like to know what the reasoning for that is and
19 ask you if you're aware of that discrepancy.
20
21 MR. HOLEN: I don't think I could
22 answer your question. I could try to get back to you
23 on that though.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry. This guy
26 was whispering in my ear and I got distracted.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments or
31 questions.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Gunalcheesh.
36 Appreciate it. I want to take a minute before we go
37 any further and have a little conversation with Ralph
38 here.
39
40 (Pause)
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we have any tribal
43 government people here that would like to address the
44 Councils.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: None. Native
49 organizations.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No. NVE partners.

4 Donald.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
7 Native Village of Eyak I forgot to mention we addressed
8 that in a separate concurrent session.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. So
13 what we're going to do now is we're going to have some
14 closing -- we're done as far as our joint session is
15 concerned.

16

17 MR. LARSON: Carl.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. Carl
20 Johnson, would you please come forward and take care of
21 your little issue with us, please.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 just wanted to update the Councils on a couple issues
25 that were previously discussed during your joint
26 sessions and one is the issue of staffing at OSM.
27 Again, it's just a reminder to Councils that you also
28 have a voice in this. I have a copy of a letter that
29 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council submitted to
30 the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board regarding
31 staffing in the anthropology division, so just to give
32 you an update on that.

33

34 Two other issues. One, Pat Pourchot,
35 the Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska
36 Affairs met in D.C. this week with the White House
37 Liaison, who is the person principally responsible for
38 doing the final clearing and vetting for appointments
39 for the Regional Advisory Councils. He discussed with
40 her the Western Interior Council's suggestion of
41 amending the charters to allow for appointments to
42 continue even after terms have expired, so basically
43 carryover appointments until a new appointment letter
44 is issued. She is supportive of that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Isn't that what's
47 being done right now?

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: No. Under the current
50 process, once the term expires, you are no longer a

1 sitting Council member until a new appointment letter
2 is issued. So this would provide for that appointment
3 term to carry over until a new appointment letter is
4 issued for that particular seat. So we're going to
5 move forward with seeing what can be done to amend the
6 Council charters to reflect that.

7

8 The other piece I had was the
9 discussion regarding having the Council Chairs meet
10 together in advance of a Federal Subsistence Board
11 meeting. I spoke to Ken Lord, our solicitor, and he
12 said the issue with that before was it wasn't just the
13 Chairs that were meeting, but it was actually the
14 Chairs meeting with the members of the Federal
15 Subsistence Board behind closed doors, so that was the
16 issue because with the Federal Subsistence Board you
17 have the Administrative Procedures Act that governs
18 being a public process unless it's an executive
19 session.

20

21 So there would not be a FACA
22 prohibition to having just the Chairs themselves meet
23 in advance of a Board meeting. So I just wanted to
24 update that issue for the Council members.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's really good
29 news. I really appreciate that. Any questions from
30 anyone.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. We're at
35 the end of our joint session, ladies and gentlemen.
36 What we'd like to do right now is have everyone from
37 the Southeast and Southcentral take an opportunity to
38 make some closing comments. We're going to start with
39 our veteran Council member, Patty, and then we'll go on
40 down and circle like this, okay.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 appreciate that we're able to gather together as joint
44 Regional Advisory Councils and that we had topics of
45 common concern addressed to us during our joint
46 session. As a result of our joint meeting presentation
47 of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, it
48 was brought to our attention about the possibility of
49 moving forward with a request for a subsistence seat on
50 the designated voting subsistence seat on the North

1 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

2

3 So the Southeast RAC passed a motion
4 saying move to send a letter to the Federal Subsistence
5 Board requesting the Board to communicate with the
6 appropriate Secretaries requesting as expeditiously as
7 possible that the Secretaries move forward designating
8 a voting subsistence seat on the North Pacific
9 Fisheries Management Council be included in the
10 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and to send
11 this motion with a letter to all the other RACs
12 requesting their input. We want this information to
13 get to the appropriate Secretaries as quickly as
14 possible.

15

16 This came as a result of this joint
17 meeting and I just want to say thank you for your part
18 in helping bring this to our attention.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

23

24 Okay, next.

25

26 Closing comments.

27

28 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll keep it brief. I
29 thought it was a very enlightening meeting. I
30 appreciated the opportunity to come here and hear what
31 concerns are in another part of the state that's
32 adjacent to us. I think it was very informative. I
33 appreciate all the efforts that were made to make this
34 happen.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
37 Hernandez.

38

39 James.

40

41 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes, I thought this was
42 a real good meeting and getting different information
43 from different Board members is real educational.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

46

47 Greg.

48

49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd just like to
50 make a couple comments. First I want to thank

1 everyone. New friends I got to meet and hear ideas.
2 It's always great to share usage and history, you know,
3 of what truly went on. I think that the reason we're
4 here is because we do have local knowledge and we know
5 use and we know people and we meet with people in our
6 communities and that's our task. So I think we're
7 equal to a lot of the scientific people that presented.
8 I guess that's the only way I know to say it.

9
10 I thank you, Bert, for a beautiful
11 chairing job. I had fun working on that working group
12 to put together some of this stuff and common concerns
13 and I now have a better idea and I hope you guys
14 understand better some of our complex problems on the
15 Kenai too.

16
17 Thank you very much.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Andy.

20
21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 I'd just say it's been very beneficial and enlightening
23 to have the joint meeting and I wish there was more
24 time. The diversity provides us strength and the
25 similarities.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks.

30
31 Mr. Jackson.

32
33 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman. Thank you
34 very much for everybody meeting here. Gunalcheesh.
35 (In Tlingit)

36
37 Gunalcheesh.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Mr.
42 Wright.

43
44 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
45 was enlightening to be here because, you know, we're
46 all here for one purpose and that is our people that
47 are in rural areas that subsist and it's good to hear
48 that we all got the same problem only a different area,
49 but we're here. The reason we're here is because -- we
50 don't get paid for doing what we're doing, but we're

1 here and we love doing it because it's for the people
2 that we represent.

3

4 Gunalcheesh.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Gloria.
7 I've had a long association with her working on the
8 Wrangell-St.Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
9 meeting. She's got a real soft voice, but a real big
10 stick.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gloria, go ahead.

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you. I don't have
17 my big stick today.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say thank
22 you for this opportunity to meet with the Southeast. I
23 think it is very educational for me to hear their side
24 of what they go through and their points of view. It's
25 historical for this to happen for us and I just
26 appreciate the work that was done, for OSM getting this
27 together and for the working group to put this
28 together. Robert Larson did a lot of work.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

33

34 Mr. Kitka.

35

36 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 really want to thank all the people that came and
38 participated in this. It was a very
39 learning experience probably for me as well as for you.
40 We have tremendously different views. I always said we
41 hear things out of different eyes and we see things and
42 our perspective has always been to see the actions of
43 what's going on and live by them and I really
44 appreciate all the help. I hope that OSM and all these
45 other ones will understand and maybe put some more RACs
46 together so that they can have their points of views
47 across each other.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.

2

3 Cathy.

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
6 really appreciated the opportunity to meet jointly and
7 hear the perspective from not only within our own
8 Council, which I get to experience at our meetings, but
9 different perspectives from the Southcentral Council in
10 that they think -- they have different ways about going
11 about business and how things work in their region
12 because their situations are different. That
13 difference gives me the opportunity to sort of expand
14 my mind and try to apply it back to some of the issues
15 in Southeast.

16

17 In terms of measurable success of being
18 able to meet jointly, I'd like to state, like Patty
19 did, that being able to come together and put together
20 -- and hear about the North Pacific Fisheries
21 Management Council. I think that might actually result
22 in some real actions out of the Southeast Council and
23 hopefully the Southcentral Council relatively early.
24 That happened because we had this opportunity to have
25 it presented to us jointly.

26

27 I also think that, you know, in
28 Southeast we have specifically done things with
29 delegation of authority, but after today's discussion,
30 listening to how Southcentral has had more hesitations,
31 I think it gives us that -- it allows us to at least
32 question and reaffirm whether or not we're doing the
33 best thing for our region when it comes to that type of
34 subject. We don't get complacent because we get to
35 hear how other regions have handled it and we realize
36 it doesn't always work for every situation and we can
37 kind of quote/unquote question that and reapply it and
38 reaffirm whether or not it's something that works well.

39

40 Finally, I really appreciate learning
41 something extremely new, like the food security issue
42 that's coming up and Mary Ann has asked both Councils
43 to consider taking action and I think having that on
44 our agenda jointly and going back to our next Council
45 meetings in the fall, I think we'll probably actually
46 hopefully see some action out of that based on her
47 recommendation.

48

49 So those I think are all products of
50 being able to work together at this meeting and I think

1 it needed to be stated that some of the successes to
2 that potentially other -- if this needs to happen
3 again, we can say, well, there was some success in it
4 happening now.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy.

7
8 Mary Ann.

9
10 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Chair. I really
11 enjoyed this session. There was a lot to learn,
12 different perspectives. When you have different
13 perspectives, it makes you more whole. I'd also like
14 to thank everyone here that's on these Councils. Your
15 work is very good, very thorough. I'd like to thank
16 those in the audience, those who came to do their
17 reports for us. Thank you for that. I really enjoyed
18 the combination, the meeting between the two RACs and I
19 learned a great deal.

20
21 Thank you so much.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mary Ann.
24 It's always been a pleasure to listen to you talk so
25 long and that presentation you gave a little bit
26 earlier was a real eye-opener for me.

27
28 So gunalcheesh for that.

29
30 Mr. Yeager from Wrangell.

31
32 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
33 feel very fortunate to have been able to be a part of
34 this. It helped me understand and feel a little more
35 educated on a broader range and region with the joint
36 meeting. I just appreciate everyone's input. I also
37 appreciate all the hard work to make this happen and
38 I've very proud to be a part of this entire group.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, the Vice
43 Chair. I really appreciate him giving me a break once
44 in a while. He does a fantastic job.

45
46 Gunalcheesh.

47
48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
49 just want to thank those who helped us put this
50 together and made it happen. I think that coming

1 together and sharing information between the regions
2 and the state, I think it helps to make the program
3 stronger. I think we should try to continue to reach
4 across to other regions and share information so that
5 we can continue to make the program better and
6 understand each other's problems a little better. I
7 just am really thankful that this happened.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman.
14 It's been a pleasure to meet with Southcentral. It's
15 nice to see other people's ideas. I believe this whole
16 thing may have originated by Patty. I think it was her
17 idea. Thanks to our coordinator for making it happen.
18 It's been a great time. It gives me some things that I
19 want to do, like go communicate with the tribe and try
20 to get them more involved. Maybe we could do it again
21 sometime in the future.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. One
26 of our newest members, Mr. Bob Schroeder, was also our
27 former coordinator before Mr. Larson came on board.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair. Yes, there
30 was a day before Mr. Larson.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. SCHROEDER: I feel really fortunate
35 to be appointed to the Council and I'd really like to
36 thank the Council members for welcoming me back after a
37 brief absence of five or six years. I also would like
38 to really thank the organizing committee for putting
39 together a tight and efficient meeting and for Staff
40 for making that happen.

41

42 Really what makes this system work is
43 the dedication of Council members and the support of
44 Staff. Boy, I just look around the room and so many of
45 the Council members from Southcentral and Southeast
46 have really been at it for quite a while. So really
47 you and hopefully we are the program that keeps
48 subsistence going in Alaska and keeps protecting it.

49

50 Coming back after being away for a

1 while I kind of noticed, well, things change, but it's
2 the same. In a way, that's kind of
3 disheartening, but then in another way it means that
4 subsistence continues to be important for people and it
5 continues to be a very live and active thing.
6 Gunalcheesh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

9

10 Judy.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Like
13 Bob, I used to work in the Federal side of the program
14 and I remember when I first started. Meeting Bill
15 Thomas and seeing how he conducted himself at the
16 Federal Board meetings. One of the things I really
17 wanted to do quickly was get to a Southeast RAC meeting
18 because I knew and I did learn a lot about not only how
19 Southeast conducts the meetings and how some of you
20 long-time members interacted with him and thoroughly
21 discussed many issues.

22

23 So when it was first proposed to have a
24 joint meeting, I think it maybe took some of the
25 Southcentral folks by surprise in the sense that we
26 often have overlapping proposals with regions north of
27 us. But I think we've shown this was very, very
28 valuable and a great example again for encouragement
29 that other regions meet jointly.

30

31 I know the opportunity now for RAC
32 Chairs perhaps to talk before the next Federal Board
33 meeting next month would be terrific. It sounds like a
34 formal meeting can't understandably be organized before
35 then, but I certainly hope the Chairs will make every
36 effort to interact with each other.

37

38 Patty, likewise, we will in
39 Southcentral have a recommendation on the North Pacific
40 Fisheries Council seat that we would like to see a
41 subsistence seat on that council.

42

43 A special thanks to Robert who did a
44 huge amount of work on this, Donald's support, the
45 working committee and I think we all really need to
46 commend our Chairs because they did an excellent job on
47 keeping to a timeframe of which maybe some people were
48 skeptical, but they really came through here and we
49 definitely appreciate it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Judy.
2
3 You know, that just comes naturally to
4 us.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Bill, please.
9
10 MR. SHUSTER: Okay. I've been honored
11 to have been seated on this Council and I wish I could
12 continue to work further on this. However, I have to
13 move out of state, so this is the last meeting I can
14 participate in.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry to hear
19 that, Bill. Thank you very much. Before we go on to
20 the Chair's comments, I would like to have our
21 coordinators make a comment or two.
22
23 We'll start with Donald, if you would,
24 please.
25
26 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
27 Adams and Mr. Chair Lohse. I really would like to
28 acknowledge the tireless effort of our Southeast
29 Regional Advisory Council coordinator, Mr. Robert
30 Larson. He did a lot of work and I did a lot of
31 assistance on it. It's just I had two meetings to plan
32 for and I tried to provide my input as far as getting
33 this meeting together. A lot of the recognition goes
34 to the Planning Committee. They're the people that
35 made this meeting really happen and get items together.
36
37 Working with the Southcentral Council,
38 you know, you've got this Yup'ik coordinator. I work
39 with the Ahtna folks and the Kenaitze and the Gussocks
40 and it's be a very, very, very.....
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. MIKE:good experience and I
45 really enjoyed working with the Chair. Quyana tailuci,
46 thanks for all coming.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald.
49 You know, those coordinators, they're the behind the
50 scenes people and they're the ones that help us keep

1 the agenda online and everything, so thank you, Donald.

2

3

Mr. Larson, please, would you mind.

4

5

MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Short and sweet. You know, Donald and I had a lot of
7 fun putting this together and it was really enjoyable
8 having an Agenda Steering Committee that had time and
9 interest and opportunity to develop the agenda topics.
10 I think at one point we had 30 or 40 agenda topics that
11 we were considering and the process of whittling those
12 down and doing whatever pre-work was necessary to keep
13 the Councils informed and the Staff organized. It was
14 quite a pleasant experience. I enjoyed it very much.

15

16

I like this setting, I like this
17 hotel. I like the idea that we were able to have the
18 right people at the right place to inform the Councils.
19 I thought the discussion about how delegated
20 authorities were perceived and how they were
21 implemented was really valuable to all the Council
22 members discussions of what's in regulation, what's in
23 letters of delegation.

24

25

Where is the role of the Council. I
26 think we will all benefit from that discussion as we
27 move forward in evaluating the role of the Council and
28 coordinating the organization, Office of Subsistence
29 Management, with actual protections of the resources on
30 the ground and the continuation of subsistence uses.
31 So the Councils are that glue that holds that all
32 together.

33

34

I thing these have been excellent
35 discussions and I'm glad to be a part of it.

36

37

Thank you.

38

39

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

40 So I'll make my comments now and then we'll save the
41 best for last.

42

43

(Laughter)

44

45

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I really do -- I was
46 looking forward to this meeting for a long time and so
47 I really want to say thank you to the people, the
48 committee who was on it to do the planning and so
49 forth, but my appreciation is to the coordinators.
50 Like I said earlier, they're the ones that do all the

1 background work and keep us, as Chairpersons, on a
2 straight and narrow path. So they do all of the work
3 and everything, you know. As Judy said, she
4 complimented the Chairs. Well, they do all of the
5 work, but we take credit for it, okay.

6
7 So this meeting to me was very
8 informative. It was a pleasure to be able to seat you
9 all together so that you have a chance to get to know
10 one another. I hope that took place. We had not had
11 very much time to visit one with another, but I hope
12 you were communicating with your neighbor next to you
13 and getting acquainted. So I'm going to go home pretty
14 well satisfied that we accomplished a lot here.

15
16 One of the things when we first started
17 talking about having a joint meeting with Southcentral
18 is that we had to show OSM that we had things in
19 common. Some of you have talked about how different we
20 are, but there are similarities that we both had and
21 that's what prompted us to be able to -- they allowed
22 us to be able to meet together and I think it's
23 historic. I think we have maybe set a precedent. I
24 hope we have. Other Councils will be able to take
25 advantage of these things because learning from one
26 another from various regions is, to me, very important.

27
28 I want to wish you all very well as you
29 return home and that you can think about what happened
30 here the past few days and realize how important it is
31 to be able to talk together about subsistence issues
32 that we all have in common.

33
34 Thank you and gunalcheesh very much.
35 Instead of very much I would say gunalcheesh tlein,
36 which means big thank you. I'll go ahead and have Mr.
37 Lohse give his comments. As I said, I'm saving the
38 best for last, so do your best, sir.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bert.
41 Thank you for keeping us on schedule. There really
42 isn't much that I can say about the meeting because you
43 guys have said it all. So I'm just going to make a
44 little philosophical statement. It goes along with
45 what Mary was saying before. It goes along with what I
46 look at this as.

47
48 I look at our job as dealing with --
49 I'll use the word that Mary used, food security, for
50 the rural residents, indigenous and non-indigenous in

1 the state of Alaska. I recognized that all real food
2 doesn't come out of chemical processing plants, doesn't
3 come out of, I'll say, the industry that we have in our
4 country. All real food comes from the land and water
5 that surrounds us. I look at it as our job to be good
6 stewards of that land and that water and the food
7 resources it produces and be good stewards for the
8 people that are around us.

9

10 I really believe that if we maintain
11 that good stewardship, then there's going to be good
12 food available for my children and my grandchildren and
13 your children and your grandchildren and it's going to
14 be there for our cultural health, it's going to be
15 there for our spiritual health, it's going to be there
16 for our physical health.

17

18 I look around and most of us, I think,
19 have had the opportunity to eat real food. Most of us
20 know what real food is. We have a generation coming up
21 behind us that has access to so much food that, I'll
22 use the word, isn't real food, that we need to do our
23 part in training them to make good choices because we
24 can have all the good food, all of the real food
25 available that we need and if we don't make good
26 choices and we don't choose that food and we don't know
27 how to use that food and we don't use that food, we're
28 going to suffer the consequences or they're going to
29 suffer the consequences. Most of us, like I said, have
30 had the opportunity to eat real food, eat good food,
31 catch our own food, prepare our own food, but we have a
32 generation after us that a lot of them don't even have
33 any idea how to prepare anything. I think we have to
34 recognize that it's our job as we go out not only to
35 preserve the availability of that, but to pass on the
36 knowledge of how to use it and the desire to use it.
37 We can have all the berries in the world sitting right
38 in our front yard and if the kids that were around have
39 no urge to go out and pick berries, no urge to eat
40 berries, they're not going to get any benefit from
41 them. The same goes for all the rest of it.

42

43 So I really appreciate the work of the
44 Council and I think that most of us here have that kind
45 of a philosophy and I just hope that we can all carry
46 it into our communities and our kids and our grandkids
47 and do our parts when this stuff is available for our
48 kids and our grandkids in the future.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ralph. So

1 Southeast is going to break for lunch now, but,
2 Southeast, do we want to meet here after lunch and
3 finish up our agenda. I understand Southcentral will
4 have that other half of the building as well.

5
6 I do want to recognize one person.
7 Tina over there. She doesn't like to be recognized,
8 you know, but I can't ignore her. She is very important
9 to the process of getting everything recorded for us.
10 I would be interested to see how she recorded all of
11 the Tlingit language that was spoken here today.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So thank you, Tina,
16 very much.

17
18 Go ahead.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I'd like to tell
21 my Council that we don't even have an hour until 1:30
22 like we were planning on and everybody needs to go to
23 lunch. If it's agreeable to the Council, let's meet at
24 2:00. Donald, do we have much to take care of?

25
26 MR. MIKE: No, Mr. Chair. We just have
27 one specific agency report and a couple of items we'll
28 go through. One final comment, Mr. Ralph Lohse, I
29 appreciate him being the Chair for all these years. In
30 Yup'ik society, you know, we have a hunter/gatherer in
31 our communities that we describe as the (in Yup'ik) and
32 that usually indicates a good hunter and gatherer. Mr.
33 Lohse, I know he provides very well for his family, but
34 he also provides for the subsistence users in the
35 region and I'd like to acknowledge that.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. With that,
40 Southeast will meet here at 2:00 o'clock and then we'll
41 finish up our agenda as quickly as we possibly can.
42 2:00 o'clock.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The same for
45 Southcentral.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 93 through 195 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL/SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 13th day of March in Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of April 2014.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14