

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

2

3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

4

5 PUBLIC MEETING

6

7 VOLUME I

8

9 Juneau, Alaska

10 March 20, 2012

11 9:00 a.m.

12

13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15

16 Bertrand Adams, Chairman

17 Timothy Ackerman

18 Michael Bangs

19 Michael Douville

20 Merle Hawkins

21 Donald Hernandez

22 Harvey Kitka

23 Floyd Kookesh

24 Frederick Nielsen

25 Cathy Needham

26 Patricia Phillips

27 Frank Wright

28 John Yeager

29

30

31 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

32

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Juneau, Alaska - 3/20/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll call this meeting to order, please. I've got about eight minutes after nine on March 19th [sic], 2012.

Before we begin, it's always appropriate, or I've always liked to have an opening prayer before we start. It's not put on the agenda, but I always ask somebody if they're willing to. At this time, you know, Mr. Robert Loescher has agreed to give a prayer for us. So let's all rise while he offers a prayer for this meeting.

Go ahead, Robert.

MR. LOESCHER: Thank you.

(Prayer)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.
Gunalcheesh.

We'll have our secretary now do the roll call.

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim Ackerman.

MR. ACKERMAN: Here.

MR. KITKA: Frank Wright.

MR. WRIGHT: Here.

MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: Here.

MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka's here. Bert Adams.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Here.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Here.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Frederick Archie Nielsen.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I saw him yesterday.
14
15 MR. KITKA: I know he's here, but he's
16 not here. Merle Hawkins.
17
18 MS. HAWKINS: Here.
19
20 MR. KITKA: John Yeager.
21
22 MR. YEAGER: Here.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
25
26 MR. BANGS: Here.
27
28 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
29
30 MS. NEEDHAM: Here.
31
32 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, there's a quorum.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
35 And welcome, Council members. It's always good to have
36 these meetings and have a chance to associate and meet
37 with you and discuss things, you know, during the
38 meetings and, you know, on the sides.
39
40 So I want to just welcome Mr. Kookesh
41 back to the fold. Congratulations for your victory.
42
43 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You are always been in
46 our prayers.
47
48 And thank you, Mr. Loescher, for your
49 beautiful prayer.
50

1 The next thing we have to do is the
2 welcome and introductions. First I will introduce myself
3 and then we'll go ahead and go through the Council
4 members.

5
6 (In Tlingit) I just told you that my
7 Tlingit name was Kadashan, and that I am a (In Tlingit)
8 or Raven, and that my father comes from Sitka, as well as
9 one of my grandfathers. However, my grandfather on my
10 mother's side is Swedish. So I'm real proud of my
11 heritage.

12
13 But, anyhow, I come from Yakutat, and
14 presently serving as your Chair for this body.

15
16 So we'll go on in this order here for
17 introductions. Mr. Kitka, please.

18
19 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
20 name is Harvey Kitka, and I represent Sitka.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
25 name is Mike Bangs. I live in Petersburg, and I'm a
26 commercial fisherman and an avid subsistence user.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
31 name is Frank Wright. I'm from Hoonah. I'm a commercial
32 fisherman, subsistence user, and everything that goes
33 with it.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
38 name is John Yeager, and I'm from Wrangell.

39
40 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 My name is Cathy Needham. I live in Juneau. I'm a
42 consultant, and on this Council I represent subsistence
43 users.

44
45 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
46 name is Mike Douville. I'm from Craig. I'm a Craig city
47 councilman. I'm also a member of the Craig Advisory
48 Committee. I'm a subsistence user, and I represents
49 subsistence. I'm also a full-time commercial fisherman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Hernandez, yes,
2 please.

3
4 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Don Hernandez.
5 I'm from Point Baker on Prince of Wales Island, also a
6 full-time commercial fisherman and active subsistence
7 harvester.

8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Good morning.
10 I'm Patricia Phillips. I'm from Pelican, Alaska. I'm
11 also the chair of the Pelican Fish and Game Advisory
12 Committee, and on the board of directors of Southeast
13 Conference. And my husband and I have a commercial
14 fishing business, and we also subsistence harvest.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

19
20 MR. ACKERMAN: Yes, good morning. Tim
21 Ackerman from (In Tlingit) or Haines as the Presbyterian
22 ministers would like to call it. My Tlingit name is (in
23 Tlingit), second name is (in Tlingit). I'm Coho-Raven,
24 (in Tlingit). And that I just said there was I am a
25 house speaker for the Whale House. And I am a
26 representative of the north end, all the way up into
27 Klukshu, Whitehorse and Kwandandun, First Nations, Yukon
28 River folks, the Gunanah. We all communicate, so I like
29 to share information with them as well as the Skagway
30 folks and all there.

31
32 Thanks.

33
34 MS. HAWKINS: Good morning. Merle Nancy
35 Hawkins. I'm from Ketchikan, Alaska. My mother was from
36 Hydaburg, and my grandmother was from the Village of
37 Howcan, so Prince of Wales Island. Born and raised in
38 Ketchikan. Was the tribal leader with KIC for 10 years.
39 It's going to be my 12th year as a delegate for Tlingit
40 and Haida. So glad to be here to represent the interests
41 of Southeast Alaska.

42
43 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah. Good morning. My
44 name is Floyd Kookesh. I've been a member of the
45 Southeast Regional Advisory Council since September of
46 1999. I'm currently the chairman of Kootznoowoo,
47 Incorporate, the village corporation for Angoon. I was
48 selected out of Angoon, but I believe our role here is to
49 represent our region. I have dual residency I believe.
50 I'm from both Juneau and Angoon.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. That
4 completes the introduction of our Council.

5

6 Before we go into Staff and people from
7 the public, I would just like to say (in Tlingit). It
8 means honorable people, or people of honor. And I regard
9 these people here on this Board in that category, as well
10 as you all.

11

12 And so we'll go ahead and start with
13 Staff and we'll probably give Mr. Larson an opportunity
14 to introduce himself. He's fighting with the phone right
15 now, but let's go out to the audience. If there's any
16 Staff out there, please stand and introduce yourself.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: Cal Casipit. I'm the
19 subsistence staff biologist for the Forest Service here
20 in Juneau.

21

22 MR. SCHENCK: Good morning. I'm Ted
23 Schenck, the staff officer for the Tongass National
24 Forest at Ketchikan for subsistence, wildlife and
25 planning. Patty, good to see you again.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Who's
28 next? Any other Staff members?

29

30 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning. I'm Terry
31 Suminski with the Forest Service. I'm the subsistence
32 program leader for the Tongass National Forest.

33

34 MR. CAPRA: I'm Jim Capra with the
35 National Park Service. I'm the area ranger for Dry Bay,
36 out of Yakutat, and the subsistence coordinator.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other Federal
39 Staff people. Okay.

40

41 MS. PETERSHORE: Good morning. My name
42 is Lilian Petershore. I'm the tribal relations
43 specialist in the regional office, and I this past year
44 had the privilege of working on the subsistence
45 consultation policy work group. Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

48

49 MR. REEVES: I'm Jeff Reeves. I'm the
50 subsistence biologist with the Forest Service.

1 MR. LORRIGAN: Jack Lorrigan, subsistence
2 biologist for the Sitka Ranger District.
3
4 MR. KOHLER: Good morning. My name is
5 Justin Kohler. I'm a fisheries biologist for subsistence
6 in the Sitka Ranger District.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning.
9
10 MS. MARSHALL: Hi. I'm Marti Marshall.
11 I'm Juneau district ranger, and I was asked to say
12 welcome to the Council.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll save you for after
15 the introductions, okay. Thank you.
16
17 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. They were urging me
18 forward.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any one else from the
25 Federal people.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we have any State
30 people. I see a redhead over there that's from the
31 State.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Jennifer Yuhas, State of Alaska. I'm the subsistence
37 liaison team leader to the Federal Board.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay.
40 Anyone -- okay. go ahead.
41
42 MS. SILL: Laurin Sill, Department of
43 Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome. Anyone else.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll take
50 introductions from the public. And why don't we start

1 from there and then just work right across the room over
2 there.
3
4 MR. BELL: I'm Jeff Bell. I'm here on
5 behalf of OVK.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Welcome.
8
9 MR. REEVES: I'm Joseph Reeves. I'm the
10 Ketchikan Indian Committee Tribal Council treasurer.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good. Welcome, sir.
13
14 MR. THOMAS: Sam Thomas, tribal president
15 for the Craig Tribal Association.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome. I know you.
18
19 MR. LEIGHTON: Ron Leighton, vice
20 president, Kasaan.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
23
24 MR. SANDERSON: Rob Sanderson, Jr.
25 Central Council Executive Committee.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome, Rob.
28
29 Anyone else from the public. Rob -- I
30 mean, Bob.
31
32 MR. LOESCHER: Yeah. Bob Loescher with
33 the Alaska Native Grand Camps, Subsistence Committee.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Gunalcheesh.
36 There's some people back here, please.
37
38 MR. GARRISON: My name's Lon Garrison.
39 I'm the aquaculture and fisheries director for the Sitka
40 Sound Science Center and adjunct faculty with UAS, and
41 I'm here with some UAS students.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good. We'll have them
44 introduce themselves, too.
45
46 MR. HEATHMAN: I'm Zack Heathman. I'm
47 here from Sitka, and a student at UAS.
48
49 MS. LITTLEFIELD: Kassy Littlefield,
50 student at UAS.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. You.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm Don Hernandez's wife.
6 My name is Andrea.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome. Oh, yeah. I'm
9 not going to leave you out.

10

11 MR. THORSTENSON: Bob Thorstenson. I'm
12 the executive director of Southeast Seiners, and I'm a
13 35-year purse seiner in Southeast. I live in Juneau and
14 Kupreanof.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Welcome, Bob.

17

18 I guess that completes everybody. Okay.
19 So we'll go ahead and move on with the agenda.

20

21 Let me say that, you know, we've got a
22 lot of things that we have to do during our days here,
23 and then meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board, you
24 know, is a real big thing involving Angoon's territorial
25 jurisdiction issue. So we're going to tory to move the
26 meeting along as quickly as we can, so we'd appreciate,
27 you know, when you come make your statements, please do
28 so, but be to the point. And then if there's any
29 questions from the Council, you know, please remain at
30 the microphone until, you know, they offer those
31 questions to you. But we do want to move the meeting
32 along as quickly as possible in order that we can go
33 through the agenda. As much as we can anyhow. So we
34 dearly appreciate, you know, your cooperation in keeping
35 your statements as concise and short as possible.

36

37 I do have, and I'm the only one that has
38 it, I do have this shut-off button. Okay. So if I think
39 you're talking too long, I just might shut you off. I
40 haven't done it yet, but, you know, we do love to hear
41 from your areas and your statements and everything, but
42 we ask your cooperation in this.

43

44 So let's go on with the other part of the
45 -- the next part of the agenda, and that is to review and
46 adopt the agenda.

47

48 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

1 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. I move that we
2 adopt the agenda as a guide.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.
5
6 MR. BANGS: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do I hear a second.
9
10 MR. BANGS: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs seconded it.
13 Discussion. Is there any part of the agenda that you'd
14 like to, you know, add, subtract or take from. Cathy.
15
16 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 was -- I didn't see on the agenda where we might be
18 discussing the rural determination process. It's still
19 open for comment period, and I was wondering if that's
20 something we should add.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we could do that.
23 Would that be under.....
24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: It's number 3.
26
27 MR. LARSON: It's under 3 under agency.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is it number 3?
30
31 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I could maybe do
32 it at.....
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please, do.
35
36 MR. LARSON:agency report. Mr.
37 Chair. The topic of rural determination might be best
38 covered in the OSM's presentation. I'll just make sure
39 that they cover that topic. So the actions have already
40 been done and it's not an action item on the agenda for
41 the Council at this time, but when Pete talks to the
42 Council, he can mention that and make sure we're all on
43 the same page and up to speed.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Cathy?
48
49 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.
50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Kookesh.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I thought --
6 it's my understanding that when we do our agenda that it
7 follows a certain format, and I was wondering why we
8 moved the election of officers right up front.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll have Mr. Larson
11 address that.
12
13 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Yes. The
14 Southeast Council has typically done election of officers
15 at the end of their winter meeting. The other Council
16 members -- or the other Councils have done theirs at the
17 beginning. They wanted to have a standard format and so
18 they've asked us to do our elections early so that
19 there'd be uniformity in the way that the Council
20 meetings are conducted.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 MR. KOOKESH: Follow up.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, go ahead.
27
28 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Are we
29 going to go through this process of changing our charter
30 or are we just going to do what the other Councils tell
31 us to do? Maybe I'm misunderstanding our process here.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know. What does
34 the Charter say about the election process in our
35 meetings?
36
37 MR. KOOKESH: You're supposed to defer to
38 your.....
39
40 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The Charter does
41 not specify at what portion of the meeting the meeting
42 the elections would occur. That is a recommendation by
43 the Office of Subsistence Management for uniformity and
44 conformation to a standard that they would like us to
45 attain.
46
47 Thanks.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That was the
50 question I was going to ask you, too, when you said they.

1 MR. LARSON: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That means the Office of
4 Subsistence Management then. Okay.
5
6 MR. KOOKESH: That's it.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.
9
10 Let's go on. Any more comments about the
11 agenda.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For the audience, we
16 adopt the agenda as a guide just in case there's
17 something that pops up that needs to be switched here and
18 there. So we have that ability because of the guide
19 idea. There was a second. Are you ready for the vote.
20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
24 called. All in favor say aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
33 Thank you.
34
35 We now go into the election of officers.
36 And we'll turn the time over to our coordinator. Robert.
37
38 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 At this time I will entertain nominations
41 for Chair of the Southeast Council. Mr. Douville.
42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 nominate Bert Adams.
45
46 MR. BANGS: Second.
47
48 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Bangs. Is
49 there additional nominations.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. LARSON: Hearing none, then we don't
4 need a roll -- well, I think we should have a roll call
5 vote in any case. Mr. Secretary. So we're going to have
6 a roll call vote to elect -- well, let's -- Mr. Douville,
7 yes.
8
9 MR. DOUVILLE: I'll move that nominations
10 cease.
11
12 MR. BANGS: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's the way to cover
15 it.
16
17 MR. LARSON: Yeah. So is there any
18 concern about -- any other nominations.
19
20 MS. HAWKINS: Robert. Make a motion that
21 we have unanimous consent to put Bert Adams as our Chair.
22
23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
24
25 MR. LARSON: Any discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. LARSON: Or any opposition to
30 unanimous consent for Bert Adams as our new Chair.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. You have the
35 floor.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
38 It's the old new Chair.
39
40 Well, I appreciate the confidence that
41 the Council has placed in me. I've really enjoyed doing
42 this portion of the work, and, you know, representing
43 Southeast Alaska, you know, when we attend the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. And you have always prepared me well
45 to represent you well, so I hope I can continue to do
46 that. Gunalcheesh.
47
48 Okay. We're going to now open
49 nominations for a vice chair. The nominations are now
50 open. Cathy.

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I nominate
2 Michael Bangs.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Is there --
5 are there any more nominations.
6
7 MR. KITKA: I'll second that.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We don't need a second.
10 Okay.
11
12 Any more nominations.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.
19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: I move to close
21 nominations.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved to close
24 the nominations. Now we need a second.
25
26 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville seconded.
29
30 All in favor say aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
39
40
41 Next we have the floor open for
42 nominations for a secretary. We need a nomination. Mr.
43 Bangs. Okay.
44
45 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 nominate Harvey Kitka for secretary.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more
49 nomination.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
4 nominations. Mr. Douville.
5
6 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 move that nominations close.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I need a second.
10
11 MS. HAWKINS: Second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Who seconded?
14
15 MS. HAWKINS: I did. Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle. Okay. All in
18 favor say aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
27 Good. Congratulations, Mr. Bangs and Mr. Kitka.
28
29 Okay. The next thing is to review and
30 approve the minutes from September 27th, 2010 [sic]
31 meeting. So you want to.....
32
33 Oh, okay. Before we go and do that, we
34 want to give Mr. Thomas an opportunity to welcome the
35 Council to his community.
36
37 And then, Marti, you'll be right after
38 him, okay?
39
40 MR. THOMAS: Pardon me while I sit down
41 so I can use the mic for the record.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MR. THOMAS: I notice that before he
46 allowed me to introduce myself, he said make your
47 comments short and concise.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And I know, Ed, that,
50 you know, it's pretty tough to keep a Tlingit shut up for

1 any length of time.

2

3 MR. THOMAS: Especially when you get a
4 mic in front of us.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Go ahead.

7

8 MR. THOMAS. (In Tlingit) Honorable
9 people of this land. (In Tlingit) My Tlingit name is (In
10 Tlingit) at birth, and I also have another name of (In
11 Tlingit), and I'm honored to have a Haida name of (In
12 Tlingit).

13

14 I want to extend a welcome to you on
15 behalf of Tlingit-Haida Central Council. We have
16 approximately 27,000 tribal citizens nationwide. And
17 Southeast Alaska is the ancestral home of the Tlingit and
18 Haida people, and later the Tsimshian. And we've always
19 lived off the resources of this land, and we're very
20 proud that our ancestors had a sustained yield attitude
21 that protected the resources from the beginning of time
22 until now.

23

24 And now that we have competing resource
25 -- or competition for the resources from commercial and
26 sports people, your job has become more and more
27 important to the well-being of our people who originate
28 from this land. And so we commend you for all the work
29 that you have done to preserve our lifestyle and our way
30 of life.

31

32 When we talk about subsistence, we see
33 that the debate immediately goes to resource management,
34 and it often comes across as though we're talking about
35 subsistence as a priority all the time, instead of when
36 there's declining resource or a need to protect a
37 resource. And as a result we end up getting crossways
38 with those people who we need to work cooperatively with
39 on subsistence, meaning the commercial and the sports.

40

41 And I think that as we go forward, we're
42 going to see a new era of Federal involvement, primarily
43 because the State did not embrace subsistence, a rural
44 subsistence priority in its constitution.

45

46 But I think that when we look at the term
47 management, we've got to look at it in its entirety. One
48 of the weakness of Federal management is not a clear
49 identity of the management plan and a budget that goes
50 along with it. We heard some introductions today of

1 people who are involved in subsistence resource
2 management from the Federal side, but that stuff is not
3 readily available to the common place, every day
4 subsistence users. Nor is it the common knowledge when
5 you're out there in the field. We get more interaction
6 from the State people than we do from the Federal people
7 on subsistence management of the resource.

8

9 And so these things we really hope that
10 your committee will look into and be a part of.

11

12 And back to the welcome. I really
13 appreciate you having this meeting here in Juneau. We
14 have approximately 5,000 or 5 to 7,000 Tlingit and Haida
15 citizens in this community, and subsistence is becoming
16 more and more of a challenge for us as a people. And
17 when you look at some of the regulations on determining
18 subsistence priority for a rural community, you've got to
19 really look at subsistence as a priority there also,
20 because a community like Saxman, where we have decades of
21 dependence on subsistence resources all of a sudden
22 brought into question by people that are not informed, or
23 people that are informed, but choose not to be, you know,
24 empathetic to the people that rely on the resources as
25 they do.

26

27 And I think that as we look at the new
28 era of two more subsistence users on the Federal
29 Subsistence Board, I believe that your voice is going to
30 be louder, meaning this Board. I have looked at some of
31 the past recommendations from the Southeast Subsistence
32 Board that did not get consideration by the Federal
33 Subsistence Board, and with a lot of disappointment. I
34 think there are new areas that we'll look at. The issue
35 of sea otter. The issue of things like eulachon oil,
36 seal oil. Things that normally you would not want to
37 spend a lot of time on, because we have a full agenda
38 dealing with strictly salmon and deer.

39

40 So I really once in conclusion commend
41 you for your hard work over the years. I wish you well
42 going forward. I'm hopeful that as you go forward that
43 we will see that your recommendations will indeed become
44 policy and policy that we all can live by.

45

46 With that, Mr. Chairman, thanks for the
47 opportunity of welcoming you. I really do have a longer
48 speech, but I'll cut it short now, and good to see all of
49 you. I know most of you on the Board, and I wish you
50 well here.

1 Gunalcheesh howa.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Just stay
4 there a minute. There might be some questions. If you
5 do want to make a longer speech, you can fill out one of
6 these here.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And then we'll have you
11 up again.
12
13 Any questions, anyone.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. THOMAS: Your agenda is too short.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyhow, you know, I just
22 wanted to make just one little comment about, you know,
23 you're saying that we spend a lot of time on salmon One
24 of the species that we have been really concerned about
25 is the eulachon, particularly down in (In Tlingit). And
26 I understand that there is some runs coming in right now,
27 so that's really good news.
28
29 And up in the Yakutat area, we got a
30 four-year grant to do some surveys on, oh, about 18 or 19
31 rivers from Yakutat all the way down to Dry Bay. And the
32 past couple years there's only been one river that has
33 been really producing well, and that's the Akwe River,
34 but we are more concerned about the Situk River, because
35 it's shorter and there's a road to it, you know, and we
36 -- and the people from the community can go out there and
37 get theirs needs met there. But they have been dwindling
38 as well. So we are keeping closer track on as many of
39 those resources as we possibly can, Mr. Thomas.
40
41 So appreciate your comments.
42
43 Mr. Kookesh has a comment or a question
44 for you.
45
46 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah. I notice -- and
47 thank you for your introduction. I noticed that you
48 mentioned that we have more Southeast Natives, maybe
49 Natives from up north coming down to Juneau and
50 relocating here. I'm just wondering in this process that

1 we're in, is there at some point -- what are we going to
2 do to make subsistence opportunities available to them,
3 or are we just going to force them by regulation to
4 become, as the terminology we always use here, spaghetti
5 eaters. I'm just wondering and hoping that we can start
6 a process here where we can kind of answer the question
7 that seems to be out there about making opportunities
8 available. I'm just hoping that with Ed and the tribal
9 governments being out there, hopefully they can have a
10 role with the Forest Service in taking over the
11 management so that we can start addressing it, because we
12 don't seem to be going anywhere with it ourselves, other
13 than regulating our traditional lifestyle away. And I'm
14 hoping that through Ed we can do that.

15
16 And thank you for that comment. It
17 sparked something in me that I had forgot to write down
18 that seems to keep coming up about our people relocating.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. That's a
21 real good point, and would you like to respond to that,
22 Mr. Thomas?

23
24 MR. THOMAS: Well, one thing about the
25 Alaska policy is that those of us that live in urban
26 centers are given opportunities through State law and
27 they really do have a subsistence priority, just got to
28 participate it.

29
30 I think that when you look at people that
31 go to other communities, however, I think that we really
32 need to make sure that we have more local involvement in
33 the management plan. And I'm not going to act as though
34 I know all about the subsistence policies in Juneau. I
35 don't serve on the Board and I don't know what the
36 challenges are, but I'm just speaking as a person that
37 participates in subsistence myself. I, you know, get the
38 permits and abide by the State policies, and personal use
39 and sportsfish.

40
41 I speak for all sportsmen though. and I
42 get to speak for all the sportsmen though. I have been
43 a sportsfisherman since I was 16 years old, and had a
44 license ever since., so I get to speak for all the
45 sportsmen when it comes to subsistence. So whatever I
46 say counts.

47
48 I think -- let me quickly comment.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

1 MR. THOMAS:about the eulachon. I
2 think that when you look at the issue of eulachon, we see
3 added pressure on the species of eulachon by other
4 predators. Now we see more and more seals in the rivers
5 when the eulachon's coming. And what's happening is we
6 have the sense that we have an unlimited stock of
7 herring. We keep increasing the quotas on the harvest of
8 herring in Sitka Sound, for example, based on policies
9 they use for managing in Puget Sound. And guess what
10 happened in Puget Sound? There's no more fish there, no
11 more herring.

12
13 And I think this is an area you can't
14 ignore as a group of policies makers, is you've got to
15 address the issue of the total resource management. And
16 herring is really under fire commercially, and we can't
17 ignore it. It's just -- we don't have any control areas.
18 Wherever the herring show up in good numbers, they send
19 a fleet there to harvest it. You've got to have control
20 areas.

21
22 And I don't want to say that because we
23 have so much pressure on the herring that all of a sudden
24 we're not going to eulachons. That's not the way it
25 works. But I think the combination thereof, we have less
26 harvest of seals than we did in traditional times. So
27 there really is a lot more predation of those species
28 when they do read the river head. And you live up in
29 Yakutat, you can see the seals that, you know, harvest up
30 the river there. And you can see them up here. They're
31 more and more into the rivers than they ever used to be.
32 And I think that over-harvest of herring has something to
33 do with it.

34
35 And getting back to the other comment
36 made about the people from up north, I'm one of those
37 that feel we should allow them to harvest the whales out
38 here, too. There's just too many whales in our area.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Anyone.
41 You have a question. Mr. Kitka.

42
43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi,
44 Ed. Thank you for your comments.

45
46 I had some very big concerns over the
47 people in Ketchikan and Juneau. Even though they're
48 considered urban areas, they're still only supplied by
49 air or boat, which in my mind makes them rural
50 communities. Most of your rural communities are -- if

1 any of those things fail or falter, then they're just
2 like the rest of us. We're cut off from the rest of the
3 world.

4
5 This was something that we tried to
6 address I think in the Sitka meeting. We asked that the
7 Federal go back and maybe revamp the State -- the way the
8 State looked at these things, and have the Federal do it.

9
10
11 Basically that was one of my concerns
12 with -- and also I wanted to thank you on your comments
13 on the herring. It's not only Washington that suffered
14 from the herring, but the First Nations in Canada, all
15 the way from Washington to Ketchikan. Right now they're
16 opened three areas for gillnetting in the Canadian side
17 of the border and they still haven't reached their quota
18 for the roe. And the last I heard, they were going to
19 open a fourth area, and hopefully they can make their
20 6,000-ton quota. And 6,000 ton is not all that much when
21 you think about it, and that's a big area that they're --
22 because the First Nations people said there's absolutely
23 no herring left in a lot of the places.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Ed, you have a
28 response. Then that has to be the last one. We've got
29 to move on with the agenda. But if you have a comment
30 about that, go ahead.

31
32 MR. THOMAS: Well, I think that where we
33 run into issues on the herring and subsistence, if you
34 look at the history of the herring harvest in Sitka
35 Sound, they never used to come close to the islands where
36 they rely on subsistence utilization by setting branches
37 where the herring are spawning. Now they're right up to
38 the beach there. And they say, well, gee, there's so
39 much biomass out there, we can increase another, you
40 know, six, seven ton per year, and they can't. And the
41 percentage of usable roe is going way down. It used to
42 be let -- they used to limit the harvest. If you did not
43 get 14 percent, they would not allow the fisheries. Now
44 we're down to about nine percent. And you've got to say,
45 what's wrong with this science.

46
47 And, well, we say, well, we need to limit
48 more of the subsistence. We've got to put more
49 regulations. You've got to have people only harvest 50
50 pounds worth of herring for personal use or subsistence.

1 And that's not the answer.

2

3 And I think that the State is being
4 stubborn on this. I think they probably know a little
5 bit better. They should. You know, they're pretty well
6 educated. But it's going to be a big problem for us as
7 a people dealing with the absence of good policies on
8 resource management, particularly herring, because not
9 only are the predation of the seals, et cetera, but we
10 have salmon that depend on it for a livelihood also, and
11 so -- you know, for their existence I meant to say.

12

13 And so I think that the issues of
14 resource management of herring in Sitka Sound is not an
15 issue you can sidestep, because when they're gone, then
16 where are they going to go next? That becomes the issue.
17 And it's a big issue.

18

19 And I don't want to take all your time,
20 but I think that some of these areas of resource
21 management have to be on the table here. We at the
22 tribal level are trying our best to take your advice on
23 issues and take them further if we feel that it would do
24 some good. And I think that in the future we are going
25 to see your voice be stronger. I've just got that
26 feeling.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I'm going to
29 allow one more question, but before I allow Tim to ask a
30 question of you, I'm just going to make a comment about
31 the herring in Yakutat.

32

33 We used to have enough up there in
34 earlier years, you know, just to meet our local needs.
35 And then the 1950s they came in and did a test run there,
36 and they made three sweeps of seining around Knight
37 Island. Wiped out our whole herring stock. And it's
38 taken 50 years, more than 50 years now for it to start
39 coming back. So, you know, we've got to be really
40 cautious and careful, you know, about the use of those
41 resources and make sure that we make good judgments on
42 some of those smaller stocks that could be in danger, you
43 know, real quick.

44

45 So thank you.

46

47 But I'll allow Tim to ask you a question.

48

49 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

50 Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Provided that Tim makes
2 it a short question.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. ACKERMAN: Okay. Yeah, I've just got
7 a couple comment on what you bring into the table here.

8
9 As Western civilization moved into Alaska
10 and started controlling and harvesting all the aboriginal
11 foods per se, what happens is after thousands of years of
12 maintaining a diet of all the seafood and land animals
13 that we have been eating, and now we are changing our
14 diets which has detrimental effects on the generations
15 that are just now happening here.

16
17 We have saying up in Haines that we 4,000
18 hungry Tlingits for fish down in Juneau, but they've got
19 WalMart and Fred Meyer's, and they can go in there and
20 buy their fish, when we have a net and a skiff up in
21 Haines that we catch and are able to subsistence off of
22 salmon up there. But it's your subsistence area is
23 WalMart and Fred Meyer's is what we call it up in Haines.
24 You know, it's a running joke there.

25
26 But we try to catch as much fish and send
27 it down. And seal, we've sent seal down here quite a
28 bit. But, yeah, after thousands of years of aboriginal
29 diets, it's really hard for these folks to change their
30 diets. It has detrimental effects on us. It's not a
31 matter of, oh, what you would say sportsman or any of
32 that. It's a necessary diet in the Tlingit and Haida
33 people of Southeastern Alaska to maintain this diet as
34 much as they can, because after thousands of years, we
35 just can't convert over to beer and hot dogs and pizza.
36 So, yeah.

37
38 Thanks.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

41
42 MR. THOMAS: Thank you very much. I'm
43 going to go ahead and close now, but I want to say that
44 when I first ran for re-election of the Tlingit and
45 Haida, one of my promises, that we would have gink in
46 every pot.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Alrighty.

1 MR. THOMAS: So if you don't vote
2 Tlingit.....
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. THOMAS: So I got re-elected.
7 Thanks.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Mr. Thomas.
10
11
12 Okay. Marti, you are next.
13
14 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Thomas is a hard act
15 to follow, and I'm not even going to sit down. I want to
16 make this short.
17
18 But, Mr. Chairman, Council. Thank you
19 for having this meeting in Juneau. I echo Mr. Thomas'
20 comments. I think it is important.
21
22 I'm the Juneau District Ranger, the local
23 district ranger for three and a half million acres. It's
24 the largest ranger district in the nation, and on the
25 largest national forest in the nation. My district goes
26 from north of Skagway, down Berners Bay through to Port
27 Hooten (ph), including the Taku River. So there's some
28 important areas, and I think sometimes we get
29 overshadowed by the regional office here in Juneau.
30
31 Our office is on Back Loop Road. I share
32 the office and staff with Chad Van Armor, the Admiralty
33 Island National Monument ranger. And you will meet him
34 tomorrow. He's been involved in a lot of discussions
35 with Kootznoowoo Corporation, and the extraterritorial
36 jurisdiction petition.
37
38 So this is going to be an exciting week
39 with the Federal Subsistence Board joint conversations
40 and, of course, Gold Metal. But I do hope you take an
41 opportunity to get out and see some of Juneau. I invite
42 you out to our ranger district, our co-located ranger
43 district on Back Loop Road. And of course, Mendenhall
44 Glacier visitor's center is incredible in this kind of
45 weather. It's going fast, so better go out and see it
46 while you can.
47
48 So thank you for inviting me, and enjoy
49 your week. I'll be in here quite a bit.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone have
4 a question for her.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Okay. Yeah, this
9 will be, in my opinion, a very exciting week, because I
10 don't know if this is the first time this has ever
11 happened before where a Regional Advisory Council has had
12 a meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board at the same
13 time. So there's a lot of interesting things that's
14 going to be happening in the next few days, and I look
15 forward to it.

16

17 Moving on now, we'll go review the
18 minutes of our previous meeting.

19

20 We'll take a five-minute break, folks,
21 for the Council to review the minutes. And then Robert
22 will try to get the phone working.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Will the Council
29 members please take their seats. We want to get started
30 here in a bit.

31

32 (pause)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll call this
35 meeting back into session. I want to thank Mike Douville
36 for, you know, the persuader here. It's easy to throw,
37 you know, so if anyone gets out of line, instead of
38 hitting you on the head with a gavel, I can throw it.
39 But anyhow he made this for the Chairman, and I really
40 appreciate it.

41

42 We're at the minutes, so is there any --
43 have you had a chance to look at the minutes and make any
44 changes or recommendations. I think the proper way to do
45 it would be to, please, you know, make a motion to accept
46 the minutes, second it, and then we can go into
47 discussion.

48

49 Mr. Bangs.

50

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 move to approve the minutes of the meeting from September
3 27th, 2007.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Do I hear a
6 second.
7
8 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka seconds. So
11 we're now in discussion. So go ahead.
12
13 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson.
16
17 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I have one
18 little correction. I misspelled a name of the State's
19 subsistence representative. I have him down as David,
20 his real name is Davin. And I apologize for that. We'll
21 fix it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I hope you're ashamed of
24 yourself.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
29 comments, please.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If not, we'll.....
34
35 MR. KITKA: Call the question.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
38 called for. So all in favor of accepting the minutes,
39 excuse me, please say aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, nay.
44
45 (No opposing votes)
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion carries.
48 Thank you.
49
50 Let's move on. Reports.

1 MR. LARSON: Maybe I should.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, let me see. I'm
4 going to have Robert, our coordinator, you know, do some
5 housekeeping announcements here at this time.
6
7 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8
9 For the members of the audience that
10 don't know me, my name is Robert Larson. I work for the
11 Forest Service. I'm the Council's coordinator.
12
13 If you have issues that need to be
14 addressed concerning the conduct of the meeting or if you
15 need to have special accommodations regarding
16 teleconference, just go ahead and contact me and I'll
17 take care of whatever you need.
18
19 I would like to note that the restroom
20 facilities are out this door and around on the back side
21 of the elevators.
22
23 I would ask that all of you sign in when
24 you come in. If you'd like to address and provide public
25 comments to the Council, there are some blue cards that
26 look like this at the back table. And sign up and we'll
27 take you in the order of which the cards are received.
28
29 Tomorrow at 1:00 o'clock we will meet
30 with the Board in this room and at this table. We'll
31 just expand these tables out. There will be room for 25
32 people at the head table. We'll have Council members and
33 Board members interspersed complete with our attorneys
34 from both DOI and Agriculture, and conduct a meeting
35 regarding ETJ at that point.
36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
40
41 So the next item on our agenda, folks, is
42 to listen to Council reports. And we -- pardon?
43
44 MR. KOOKESH: Public.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Number 7. Let me see.
47 Where are we at. Okay. that was not on the agenda that
48 I had in front of me.
49
50 Okay. We can take public comments at

1 this time. Mr. Larson, do we have -- I see where we have
2 a bunch of people who are wanting to make comments. So
3 let's take those at this time.

4
5 The first is Mr. Robert Loescher. Mr.
6 Loescher.

7
8 MR. LARSON: There's going to be an
9 opportunity for public comment tomorrow to the Board also
10 on ETJ. So I would recommend that if that's what they
11 want to talk about.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I see. Okay.

14
15 MR. LOESCHER: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before we go any
18 further, Robert, I just want to make a comment here that
19 if you want to make -- you know, these comments, you
20 know, are for anything on the agenda or not on the
21 agenda, but for tomorrow when we go over the territorial
22 jurisdiction, if you have a comment to make about that,
23 we hope you'll reserve your comments until that time
24 comes.

25
26 But anyhow, go ahead, Mr. Loescher.

27
28 MR. LOESCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 My name is Bob Loescher. I'm the chairman of the Alaska
30 Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand
31 Camp Subsistence Committee.

32
33 And we are proud to work with the Central
34 Council, and we have a working group of over 140 people
35 across Southeast Alaska communities and are very active
36 on providing input. We provided input to the Secretary
37 of Interior and Agriculture after the Secretary had made
38 the statement that subsistence was broken at the Alaska
39 Federation of Natives convention.

40
41 And we sent them two letter, and I would
42 like to say to you folks that in several years now that
43 we've sent those letters, we have not ever received a
44 response from the Department of the Interior or the
45 Department of Agriculture on our comments that were
46 diligently worked on by the people of Southeastern
47 Alaska.

48
49 Not only did we provide comments, but we
50 asked for the opportunity to work with the government on

1 a number of issues, administrative policy issues,
2 legislative issues and issues dealing with the Federal
3 Subsistence Board. We understand that the government
4 told us that they weren't interested in working on
5 legislation and certainly we have the capacity to work on
6 those ourselves with the Congress and with the people at
7 the White House and the Secretary level. And we'll do
8 so. But we are a bit chagrined that we have not been
9 able to get any attention to the many issues that we put
10 forward in the review comments. And we bring this up
11 because they were made by the people of our communities
12 throughout the region.

13

14 And we have come to the conclusion that
15 it's probably better for us to work with the Regional
16 Advisory Council, and probably begin to have those issues
17 addressed here. And so in the next year or two, we plan
18 to come forward to you with some of those issues that had
19 advanced to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the
20 Secretary's office.

21

22 We also believe that it's more important.
23 and the people in our communities are telling us, that we
24 want to bring the management and the administration of
25 subsistence closer to the communities at the local level.
26 And we believe that we were going to have a better input
27 into the administration and management and regulation of
28 subsistence if we do that, and working with the RAC is
29 probably the forum that we would like to have better
30 input into.

31

32 A number of things have occurred, and I'd
33 just like to take time to comment on. Because we've not
34 had much attention by the Federal Subsistence Board, the
35 Alaska Native Brotherhood executive committee has passed
36 a resolution about a month ago to ask for Congressional
37 oversight hearings and join in what Senator Begich had
38 requested, that we might consider Federal oversight
39 hearings. And there are a number of issues that we
40 believe need attention by Congress to reconcile some of
41 the differences that we're seeing on how the State of
42 Alaska sees things and how the Native people sees things,
43 and how the Federal Subsistence Board sees things. And
44 I think it's time to go back to the Congress and take a
45 look at what's occurring.

46

47 Southeastern Alaska has some particular
48 things that are occurring that probably will need
49 Congressional oversight, but I'm really happy that you
50 are here today in this hall which I've been very much a

1 part of over the last 50 years. Many decisions have been
2 made in this hall that have been landmark and have
3 accelerated the drum beat of the Tlingit and Haida people
4 in terms of policy direction across the State and in
5 Washington, D.C.

6

7 And one of the things that is occurring
8 that I would like to raise with you and ask that you
9 consider paying some attention to in the near future is
10 this. Our people have been harassed and we believe that
11 their civil rights have been violated with regard to
12 their ability to hunt and fish and gather natural
13 resources for their foods, something that they've done
14 traditionally for thousands of years. And Congress had
15 dealt with -- or began to deal with in the Alaska Claim
16 Settlement Act.

17

18 I was there in Washington, D.C. in 1969,
19 '70, and '71 when ANCSA was being worked on. I
20 represented the tribe and Native people in those lobbying
21 efforts. And we had always left on the table that our
22 traditional hunting, fishing and gathering was something
23 we wanted a part of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
24 And Congress was not able to complete and include
25 subsistence in the 1971 act. But there was a promise
26 that Congress would address that and it would be a part
27 of the Settlement Act.

28

29 In 1980 again I was in Washington, D.C.
30 with SEAlaska Corporation Staff, and was a part of the
31 lobby team, and we worked hard on subsistence. And it
32 came into ANILCA. And it was understood, at least I was
33 there and I was a person of our tribe, that dealing with
34 traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering as
35 subsistence was an equity issue. It was a part of our
36 settlement. And the Native people all were to benefit
37 from subsistence.

38

39 And as time has gone by, some people in the bureaucracy,
40 both State and Federal, and some of our leaders maybe,
41 have forgotten that subsistence is equity. It belongs to
42 us. It's a part of our Settlement Act.

43

44 All Congress did was change the form our
45 equity. They created -- they took it away as a part of
46 our hunting and fishing rights, and they gave it back to
47 us in a different form called Title VIII of ANILCA. And
48 if you read the first paragraphs of Title VIII of ANILCA,
49 it says Alaska Natives and rural residents. And somehow
50 in the last number of years the bureaucracy has created

1 CFRs and done this and done that, they've forgotten that
2 subsistence is a part of our equity, and that it belongs
3 to us as Native people.

4
5 And, you know, time has evolved and I
6 really believe that we need to come back and rethink as
7 Native people, and we're going to advocate to you, that
8 we want to bring subsistence back within the control of
9 Alaska Native people and rural residents. But Alaska
10 Native people are part of the equation. We need to have
11 a stronger voice about what's most important to us, our
12 food security. And that's one of the basic premises that
13 the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native
14 Sisterhood see. And as our working group works forward,
15 we want to enunciate and proclaim to the world that this
16 is our right, it's in our indigenous rights that we have
17 food security and we have access to our traditional and
18 customary foods.

19
20 So where are we at? Recently we've been
21 following the Katie John case. And it's taken 10, 12
22 years for that to go through the legal process. And
23 thank goodness for the people of the Interior of Alaska
24 and Katie John, who I met, and I think she's a wonderful
25 and beautiful person. And she fought to make sure that
26 off of her Native allotment that she could catch salmon
27 and not be harassed and arrested or dealt with by the
28 United States enforcement people.

29
30 In our region, you know, our people
31 through the Peratrovich family filed a lawsuit. And they
32 wanted to take herring eggs for traditional trade on
33 kelp. And they came to the Federal Subsistence Board and
34 asked for permits, and the Federal Subsistence Board
35 said, no, we don't have any jurisdiction over the
36 submerged lands and navigable waters in Southeastern
37 Alaska, and therefore we can't give you a permit, blah-
38 blah-blah. And this went on for a number of years, and
39 because of the interaction of the Katie John case and the
40 practice of law and all the things that go on with that
41 business, the Peratrovich case was delayed.

42
43 But last year Judge Holland made a
44 decision, and it was an amazing decision. We have to
45 thank the Peratrovich family for what they have done,
46 because that decision, the way we read it, says that the
47 United States has the ownership of the submerged land,
48 and where subsistence, Title VIII is involved, they have
49 authority over the navigable waters. And that's a very,
50 very, very important finding.

1 Of course, there were a whole number of
2 lawsuits in between. One was Alaska versus the United
3 States on Glacier Bay, and as you know, I'm a True Kanadi
4 (ph) from Hoonah and Glacier Bay, and it really hurts me
5 to know that the United States took our subsistence
6 rights by legislation in Glacier Bay, the people in
7 Hoonah.

8
9 And then later to find out that,
10 listening to the court case presentation by the State of
11 Alaska, they were using subsistence as a reason why they
12 wanted to control the waters of Glacier Bay. They wanted
13 it for subsistence purposes. That came out of the mouth
14 of the attorney representing the State of Alaska. What
15 a contradiction.

16
17 You know, in the meantime the people of
18 Hoonah have lost their rights to Glacier Bay and access
19 to subsistence.

20
21 But setting that aside, the case of
22 Alaska versus the United States in Glacier Bay had some
23 additional things in it. It had to do with the United
24 States Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture and
25 Interior, and the U.S. Department of Justice doing away,
26 relinquishure (ph), or setting the ownership interests of
27 the United States in the submerged lands and the
28 navigable waters. And what was going on there was this
29 was an administrative decision. This was not an act of
30 Congress. Only Congress can give away those kinds of
31 assets of the United States.

32
33 And so one of the issues that we have
34 here, combined with the Peratrovich case and that case,
35 we need to go back and have a conversation with Congress
36 and say, look it, it's really funny to me, if the State
37 of Alaska denied at statehood that they did not own the
38 submerged lands and waters of the Tongass Forest, well,
39 then who did? And if they didn't take it away from us in
40 the Tlingit/Haida U.S. Court of Claims case in terms of
41 our aboriginal right, then we must still own it as
42 Tlingit and Haida people.

43
44 So we were wondering, you know, as we
45 look at these cases, you know, where we are. It could be
46 that we still own these waters outside of the three-mile
47 limit from the mainland as Tlingit people.

48
49 But set that aside. It's a novel idea I
50 just articulated. But the bottom line is Peratrovich

1 case is something I would like this Advisory Council to
2 start thinking about, because the way the judge has laid
3 it out is that Title VIII of ANILCA applies to the
4 submerged lands and navigable waters within the interior
5 boundaries of the Tongass Forest, if you read that case
6 that way.

7
8 Now, you would think, you know, if you
9 read that case, and I've read that case over 15 times,
10 that decision. But I went to the Forest Service and I
11 talked to the Forest Service, and they're about to lay
12 out a rulemaking that they're going to identify as
13 reserve waters in the Tongass Forest as a result of the
14 Holland decision, that really those military sites, Coast
15 Guard sites, and, if you can imagine, log transfer
16 facilities before and after the date of statehood. And
17 when I inquire of the government, the way I read the
18 court case, U.S. Forest Service, it says that where Title
19 VIII needs to be applied within the Tongass Forest
20 waters, those should be identified as well. But in the
21 upcoming rulemaking that they're preparing, they are not
22 going to have that in there. And what I'm saying to you
23 folks, as a result of the Holland decision, I honestly
24 believe that the Forest Service and the Department of
25 Agriculture is obligated to include in their rulemaking
26 a call to the public, and the State, and all parties
27 where subsistence should be provided for as a result of
28 Title VIII in all of the submerged lands and navigable
29 waters within the Tongass Forest, And that's a premise
30 that the Native people believe. If we can get that to
31 occur, then the dream of the Tlingit and Haida people of
32 making sure that we have access to the tide lands, the
33 beaches where most of our subsistence food comes from,
34 about half of it, the estuaries and the marine waters
35 within the Tongass Forest out to the ocean would be
36 accessible to our people, we will have accomplished
37 something that we thought we had lost, and something that
38 is so near and dear to us, that this would be a huge
39 accomplishment for our people since the State of Alaska
40 believes that they have ownership and control of the tide
41 lands and the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

42
43 The Peratrovich case changes that. And
44 we really ask you as a rural advisory council to take a
45 hard look at that. We asked the regional forester's
46 office to provide a legal opinion to us as to whether or
47 not our interpretation is what we read in the Holland
48 case. And we have not received that from the regional
49 forester's office, and we've been working with the
50 regional forester's assistant assigned to deal with this

1 issue.

2

3 So I raise that with you, and we're
4 hoping that we'll be able to have your attention on that
5 in the next period of time.

6

7 The last thing I want to speak to, and
8 there's all kinds of things I want to speak to, but we'll
9 deal with those as time goes on, is the sea otter
10 business. The working group, Tlingit/Haida Alaska Native
11 Brotherhood/Sisterhood working group, has also been
12 paying attention to what's going on in the legislature,
13 in Congress, and the forums that Sitka and the intensity
14 that we're seeing from the commercial fishermen on how to
15 resolve dealing with the over-abundance of sea otters.
16 And the Juneau Tlingit/Haida community council working
17 with the working group has put together a resolution, and
18 we'll have it on the table here later today, but it's a
19 resolution that's been worked over by SEALaska
20 Corporation, SEALaska Heritage. We've had input from the
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on parts of the
22 resolution. And then drafting comments from the Sitka
23 Tribes, and a lot of local resident hunters, and hunters
24 throughout the region. And we're paying attention to
25 what the commercial fishermen are saying as well, who are
26 being impacted because the sea otters are impacting the
27 crabs and sea urchins and other valuable species that are
28 being harvested under the State management system.

29

30 But just in brief summary, if you look at
31 our resolution and if you have comments or input, we'd
32 like them, because we're trying to get the best thoughts
33 put together from all of our people in our region before
34 we embark on reducing the population of sea otters. We'd
35 like your input into it.

36

37 At the tribal assembly, we're going to
38 try to adopt the resolution by the tribal assembly of the
39 Central Council, and then ask the Federally-recognized
40 tribes throughout the region if they'll co-endorse the
41 resolution. And hopefully we get an understanding by the
42 Alaska Native people on how they want to work forward on
43 dealing with the sea otters.

44

45 First of all, the resolution says, Mr.
46 Chairman, that the Alaska Native community is not
47 interested in losing the franchise, or extending the
48 franchise in any other way to any others for the purposes
49 of hunting and being able to use the furs. We're not
50 interested in selling pelts like selling round logs to

1 Asia or fish directly to Asia or wherever else in the
2 world that we're selling stuff. We would like to hunt
3 the sea otters, the Alaska Native people, to hunt the sea
4 otters, and also they would like to manufacture and
5 utilized the furs for their own personal use, for
6 tourism, and for the fashion industry. And to have the
7 sea otters, if they have to be reduced in any way, help
8 contribute to our economy and help our people get jobs
9 and have some commerce.

10

11 So to make it perfectly clear, that if
12 there's any intention by anybody to change the law and
13 expand the opportunity to others, we're not going to
14 support that. At least the Alaska Native Brotherhood and
15 Sisterhood would not support that.

16

17 The other thing that's most important is
18 this. We're a little concerned, you know. We've been in
19 harmony with nature for thousands of years, and our
20 culture as Alaska Native people, we have been taught
21 that, and it's been a principle of our life. And we
22 don't intend to see any kind of policy that would change
23 our relationship with nature. We want to make sure that
24 there is a balance between the sea otters and the food
25 supplies that they rely on, and also the same food
26 supplies that we rely on as subsistence foods. And it's
27 important to us that whatever reduction of the sea otters
28 occur, we want to keep that in balance. The numbers of
29 sea otters, their existence, needs to be maintained, and
30 it needs to be in balance with the natural food supply.

31

32 The other thing that we're concerned
33 about, you know, our SEAlaska leaders have told us in
34 Washington, D.C. that we're in danger of getting tangled
35 up with the PETA people, the animal rights people. And
36 we really don't want to do that. We want a responsible
37 production, a reduction of these sea otters, and we don't
38 want to have, you know, the bad feelings with those
39 people around the world.

40

41 The other thing is, Mr. Chairman, that
42 really is bothersome and we need to address with the
43 United States Government, the Department of Interior and
44 Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, is the
45 risk to our people. You know, there are a number of
46 features about these -- getting involved in the sea
47 otters that need to be addressed. One is that it costs
48 a lot of money for bullets and gas and to ship the furs
49 back and forth to the tanneries, and then to hold those
50 furs. That costs a bunch of money, and it's a very risky

1 business for people, and our people don't have enough
2 money to do that. So we need to find a way in terms of
3 program assistance to make that happen.

4

5 The other thing, Mr. Chairman, that we
6 want to work with the Government on, and we have a lot of
7 smart people on that right now, is how in the heck do you
8 define a sea otter pelt. And we're coming down to the
9 notion that it's a head, the skin body and the tail. And
10 somehow we've got to get the government to understand
11 that kind of a definition.

12

13 The other is that we need some
14 flexibility on being able to handicraft these things into
15 products for our personal use, for tourism, and for
16 fashion industry. And we need to work in an expeditious
17 manner with the government to help figure out a better
18 definition for that. And we have some smart people
19 working on that, and we'd like to engage the government
20 in doing that, and ask for the RAC's help as we go
21 forward in doing that as well.

22

23 And then lastly, Mr. -- or two last
24 items. One is that we need, and we've been talking to
25 the U.S. Forest Service, and very thankful to the Forest
26 Service for discussing this with us, they have a program
27 called the cluster initiative for economic development.
28 And working with the Juneau Economic Development Council
29 as their contractor, and I believe that the Central
30 Council and the Alaska Native community would like to
31 work with the Forest Service and JDC on their cluster
32 initiative, and see if we can't turn this sea otter
33 business into an economic enterprise that will help our
34 current situation in our region with the economic
35 distress that we have, and the jobs that we need.

36

37 And so, Mr. Chairman, we're -- in our
38 resolution, we're suggesting, you know, that we want to
39 engage the government in a program to expeditiously help
40 us develop a programmatic mean through the Small Business
41 Administration, or the Rural Development Program, or
42 whatever else there might be in order to activate an
43 aggressive and responsible business program to deal with
44 these sea otters as a part of the economic enterprise.

45

46 And then lastly, Mr Chairman, there's
47 something that adds a risk to Native people going forward
48 with these sea otters and helping to reduce their
49 numbers, is the whole program of law enforcement.
50 Somehow, Mr. Chairman, we have the Federal -- the --

1 what do you call it, the Federal Fish and Wildlife
2 Service over here trying to manage the program and the
3 law and redefine the law, and separate and apart over
4 here we have law enforcement And the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service has been going into our communities and
6 arresting our people, and -- for many infractions , and
7 some of them may be legitimate, and some of them not.
8 But I noticed none has gone to any kind of prosecution.
9 It constitutes harassment the way the government is
10 operating, and it creates a feeling by our people that we
11 shouldn't be shooting those sea otters for any purpose.
12 And that it adds risk to us getting involved. Well, we
13 need to convert this enforcement program into a law
14 enforcement education program and an enforcement program
15 that matches the regulatory requirements for tagging the
16 sea otters and getting them to the tannery, manufacturing
17 properly and marketing properly, and all that, and making
18 sure our people are doing it within the bounds of the law
19 as in a responsible way.

20

21 So we want to bring these law enforcement
22 program and the management program closer together. And
23 if you could help us do that, to get that message to the
24 Federal agencies, and to others who might be involved, I
25 think we could -- I think the Native people will find a
26 way to go forward to help reduce and manage these sea
27 otters and use their pelts to enhance commerce and jobs
28 and the economy.

29

30 So, Mr. Chairman, I have many more things
31 to say to you, but I wanted to share these few thoughts,
32 and certainly the Alaska Native Brotherhood and
33 Sisterhood will provide testimony on the Angoon extra-
34 territorial sockeye salmon issue tomorrow. And we are
35 delighted to do that.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, Mr.
40 Loescher, for your comments. We really appreciate the
41 wisdom that you have shared wit us today. So I just
42 wanted -- I have a couple of questions for you, and maybe
43 some of the Council members have a question, too.

44

45 But those letters that you referred to
46 earlier, did you supply copies to the Regional Advisory
47 Council? And if not, and in the future, you know, some
48 of the things that you have talked about, I think it
49 would be well if you forward that information to our
50 coordinator here. And then somehow or another, you know,

1 those issues could be put on the agenda for discussion in
2 the future. So that's one way of keeping us informed of
3 some of the things that you are doing. Okay? So.....

4

5 MR. LOESCHER: Gunalcheesh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And in regards to the
8 sea otter, one of my great friends comes from your
9 community many years ago, Richard Dalton, came up to
10 Yakutat. And we were talking about the sea otter issue
11 up there, and wondering what we can do about it. And he
12 gave me -- he gave us some very interesting -- a very
13 interesting story. He says, you know, a long time ago
14 those sea otters used to be out on the Fairweather bench.
15 That's where we kept them, because if we let them come
16 into the mainland, then they are going to compete with us
17 for our subsistence foods. I thought that was a very
18 interesting statement. And he talked about how when they
19 went out hunting sea otter that they were so far out that
20 they could barely see the tops of the mountains. That's
21 how far they kept out there. And then when the Russians
22 came and they wiped them all out. I think it was in the
23 1960s when the sea otters were transferred from the
24 Aleutians, and where did they put them? They put them on
25 the mainlands and the islands in our area. And since
26 then, you know, they have been multiplying and growing in
27 great numbers.

28

29 So I thought that might be an
30 interesting, you know, thought that came from one of your
31 members of your community. And I really appreciate it.
32 It's always been a part of my comments, you know, when we
33 talk about sea otters.

34

35 Gunalcheesh and thank you very much.

36

37 Anyone have a question for Mr. -- go
38 ahead, Tim.

39

40 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah. I'll make this very
41 fast. Yeah, I'd just like to comment on your sea otter
42 issue there. We have an on-line Facebook page, it's
43 called Alaska Native hunters, sewers and skin, And we
44 are in effect getting multiple questions about the laws
45 pertaining to the sea otters for people that don't know.
46 We post -- my niece posts numerous Federal laws on their
47 in regards to sea otters.

48

49 So I think it's a big step that we have
50 taken to try and fill that void that the Federal

1 government has failed to educate these people in all the
2 laws which are plain and simple. Instead of a 10-page
3 document we try to shorten it down to just a couple
4 pages. So we have taken a step to help educate the
5 hunters throughout Southeast, and we try to answer all
6 their questions for them. And it's a sharing thing now
7 that should have happened 40 years ago when all this came
8 out. So, yeah, we're trying to work the situation out
9 here.

10

Thanks.

12

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim.

14

Any more questions. Comments. Mr.

16 Hernandez.

17

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

19 Chairman..

20

21 Mr. Loescher, I really appreciate your
22 comments here today. Very informative, and I really
23 appreciate your historical perspective on the writing of
24 the ANCSA and ANILCA legislation.

25

26 And when you said that, you know, you
27 sent a letter saying that you thought that subsistence
28 was broken, I think that was pretty significant, and to
29 some degree I think there are a lot of things that do
30 need fixing for sure.

31

32 And Mr. Thomas brought up this very
33 important issue, and you mentioned it also of the issue
34 of equity and the Native peoples having a right to
35 practice their subsistence ways, and now that has not
36 been fully realized since the passage of the legislation.
37 The issue of urban Natives I think really needs to be
38 addressed.

39

40 As a non-Native living in a rural
41 community who feels really privileged to have this
42 opportunity to live this way of life, which to me, I know
43 it's very important to the Native people, but I also
44 deeply feel that it's a human connection that we all have
45 with nature. And for me to be able to come to Alaska and
46 my desire was always to live in a remote place and live
47 this way of life, and to have that protected by Federal
48 law I think is really important to me and to a lot of
49 people that I know. And without your efforts and the
50 Natives' efforts, it would not happen. It's a uniquely

1 Alaskan privilege that we have. And I really appreciate
2 it. And it bothers me somewhat that there are Native
3 people that don't -- that aren't afforded that same
4 privilege.

5
6 And if subsistence is broken, I guess my
7 question to you is, you know, are there failings within
8 the legislation that need to be addressed. And you say
9 you want to work with the Council, you know, to try and
10 solve these issue, and it's a really important topic, and
11 we need to work on it. How to go about that could be
12 very difficult, you know, in the future. And, you know,
13 I just don't think it's right. It's a failing in the
14 legislation where a person could move to Sitka, get -- or
15 let's say Hoonah, let's use Hoonah as an example. Can
16 get hired on with the Forest Service or hired on as a
17 teacher say, and they're automatically afforded this
18 priority status for subsistence harvesting, whereas a
19 young man or a young woman who moves from Hoonah to
20 Juneau loses that privilege. It's just not right, and,
21 you know, we have to figure out a way to try and fix
22 that. And I just don't know if, you know, with your
23 historical perspective here, if we -- do we need to be
24 taking a new look at the legislation itself or -- you
25 know, your thoughts, are there other ways that we can
26 accomplish this, you know, working within the statutes
27 that we have. It would be interesting to hear, you know,
28 your thoughts on that, if you could do that briefly. It
29 may be a long conversation for the future.

30
31 MR. LOESCHER: Yeah. In short, Mr.
32 Chairman, I'm not a lawyer, but I've been around a lot of
33 them.. And if you look at the plain meaning of the
34 statute, you know, it recognizes that Anchorage,
35 Fairbanks and Juneau, you know, should be communities
36 that not participate, to be classified as non-rural. And
37 somehow we got talked into a CFR or a regulation or
38 something that expanded that interpretation. And I think
39 we need to re-look at that from our Regional Counsel, our
40 Native community, from our Southeast Alaska perspective.

41
42 The other thing is we need to go back to
43 Congress and address that issue again, and I think we
44 should. And my preference would be to eliminate this
45 urban/rural classification, and deal with subsistence on
46 a different basis.

47
48 The other thing, Mr. Chairman, I could
49 add, in my sea otter presentation, and I appreciated the
50 gentleman's comments about the enforcement side, but I

1 want four sewing machines for six communities in
2 Southeast Alaska, and that's what I'm getting after with
3 these grant and loan problems with the SBA and RDA and
4 whatever else we can get at. If we get four sewing
5 machines per community, we could deal with these sea
6 otters pretty quickly. They would look pretty when we
7 got done with them.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How would you spread
10 four sewing machines through six communities?

11

12 MR. LOESCHER: No, four each.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Four each. Oh, okay.
15 I misunderstood.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. LOESCHER: Okay. Mr. Chairman.

20 We'll have plenty of chance to talk and visit. And I'd
21 be happy to chat with anybody. We have a good working
22 group between the Tlingit-Haida Central Council and the
23 Alaska Native Brotherhood working with Native people
24 throughout the region, and so we want to have more input
25 to you, and provide more of our communications to you.

26

27 So thank you, very much.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I think
30 Harvey has a comment to make. It will be short.

31

32 MR. KITKA: I will sit by you. Thank
33 you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 The only comment I have is for a long
36 time the group of the ANB and ANS, it seemed like it has
37 been missing from our meetings, and I don't know what the
38 reason was or why they didn't come to us and talk to us.
39 But it's nice to have them come back and make comments,
40 because we've been trying for a long time to get this
41 involvement with them, because it's been missing from us.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. LOESCHER: Gunalcheesh. We will be
46 here more often, and we'll put the drum beat of our
47 people forward.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's great, Mr.
50 Loescher, and maybe you can start a process that will

1 spread throughout all of the communities when we go into
2 these various communities and hold our meetings. So,
3 gunalcheesh. Gunalcheesh.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Mr. Wright has a
8 question.

9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 You know, when I first heard the word subsistence, you
12 know, and I was talking to Fish and Game, and I told that
13 Fish and Game person this is pretty simple. And the guy
14 says, no, it's pretty complicated. And I says, well, as
15 a Tlingit person, this is pretty simple. Because that's
16 the way our -- our way of life, you know.

17

18 And I appreciate your comments on
19 protecting resources, because we tend to not address
20 issues until it's already done. Things happen. I know
21 when I was a kid they used to have herring spawn out in
22 Auke Bay, but I don't think they do any more. You know,
23 And Sitka is -- and Auke Bay is a testament about what
24 can happen. And you have to start wondering about what's
25 going to happen in Sitka if the Department of Fish and
26 Game doesn't, you know, take to heart what the tribe is
27 saying, you know.

28

29 And another thing is the sea otters, you
30 know. I think that, you know, Cordova's a perfect
31 example of what can happen to the Dungeness crab when the
32 sea otter took over the place. Now the multi-million
33 dollar industry is gone. And we are concerned in Hoonah,
34 because there's sea otters that are right outside Hoonah
35 Island. And my nephew caught a couple of them.

36

37 But anyway I appreciate your statement.

38

39 One thing I would like to do is see if I
40 can get that Peratrovich case, and I'd like to take a
41 look at that myself.

42

43 Gunalcheesh, Bob.

44

45 MR. LOESCHER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank
46 you. I'm really glad there's somebody from Hoonah on the
47 Subsistence Advisory Council. I really appreciate that.

48

49 We will have a table here. Carrie Sykes
50 from the Tlingit-Haida Central Council will have a lot of

1 materials on it, and the Peratrovich case decision will
2 be on the table.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Thank you
5 again, Mr. Loescher.

6

7 Next we have Mr. Bob Thorstenson. He's
8 going to talk about Southeast Chatham Strait sockeye.

9

10 MR. THORSTENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
11 and members of the Council.

12

13 The last we spoke we were in Kake five
14 years ago and I was staying with the Mayor. And I can
15 appreciate I think how sometimes these processes can be
16 intimidating and people don't like to go speak at the
17 Board of Fish and different processes. And I frankly am
18 one of those kid of people. And I remember feeling so
19 warmly treated. And at the time it was more complicated
20 because the Chatham Strait issue, there weren't as many
21 fish. And I really kind of want to make sure to get a
22 chance to have an opportunity here to give a quick update
23 on purse seine interaction, and particularly with respect
24 to Kanalku sockeye.

25

26 But, yeah, I really -- I have to say
27 that, you know, the meeting I attended, I was just -- the
28 majority of you were there then. I think I probably
29 recall, you know, probably over half of this Board was
30 still -- was exactly the same people, and Floyd what the
31 vice chair at the time. Mr. Kookesh. And you had the
32 same chairman.

33

34 But I just want to say this is -- you
35 guys have done an exceptional job at making all people
36 feel welcome whether they're from a larger community or
37 from a smaller community, whether they're Native, whether
38 they're non-native. And I really appreciate that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bob, before we go any
41 further, would you please identify yourself for the
42 record and who you represent.

43

44 MR. THORSTENSON: Oh, yes, I'm sorry.
45 Bob Thorstenson. Executive director of Southeast
46 Seiners.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

49

50 MR. THORSTENSON: My organization,

1 Southeast Seiners, supports the subsistence priority. We
2 believe that subsistence is the highest priority of use
3 for salmon. You know, naturally we don't believe that
4 means that all the seine, troll and gillnet fisheries
5 need to be shut down until the subsistence is gathered;
6 otherwise we wouldn't have seine, troll and gillnet
7 fisheries until September when it would be a little bit
8 too late to catch some of those fish. But we are --
9 we've always been strong proponents. And, you know,
10 frankly part of the reason we're strong proponents is we
11 really felt back in 1999 that the State should have a
12 rural priority. We did grasp with the other issues, like
13 Aukenoo Bay, or Aukenoo (ph). You've stayed here the whole
14 time, the city grew up around you, and now you're a
15 personal user, not a subsistence user, even though you're
16 Tlingit. You know, we felt that those types of things
17 were vastly unfair, but we really couldn't with how to
18 get around them.

19

20 In the 13 years or 12 years now that the
21 Federal government has dealt with this issue in Alaska,
22 I've really felt compared to the fright we had 12 or 13
23 years ago I think that -- really feel that it's been done
24 well. I mean, we really feel like this -- there's been
25 a good interaction with the State. When there's been
26 issues that have arisen, I believe the State's taken them
27 seriously.

28

29 This one I know we certainly have. I
30 mean, I just want to give a quick update. I'll be brief.
31 But five years ago Kanalku, the numbers looked terrible.
32 You know, we were looking at '02, the '01 and '03, those
33 cycles of escapements were a couple hundred fish, 220
34 fish. Things looked terrible. We didn't know if it was
35 a combination of the lack of having a fish ladder there,
36 you know, which has been documented for 44 years, you
37 know, that we need to have a fish ladder by the Federal
38 government. We just thought without a fish ladder and
39 without things changing there, there's just -- I mean, it
40 was going to take a long time to rebuild this.

41

42 And partly because of the residents of
43 Angoon and the restrictions that they took in their
44 fishery and a big part we believe as well, the way the
45 purse seine fishery doesn't start up until the third week
46 of July in any measure whatsoever. It was -- it's been
47 stunning these past five years how fast this stock has
48 recovered. In 2009 and 2010, these are the largest
49 returns of sockeye to Kanalku that have been documented.
50 Between the subsistence harvest and the escapement

1 through the weir, every one of those fish was counted.
2 There was in the mid 3,000, almost 3,500 sockeye both in
3 2009 and 2010.

4
5 And when I was sitting at this table in
6 Kake and we were talking about 200 sockeye, and I sat
7 there and scratched my head. I thought, well, there's
8 just no way. You know, you could double it and get 400;
9 you could triple it and get 600. You could get -- I
10 mean, it's gone up from those low end cycle, it's gone up
11 15 fold. And what's the most remarkable with our purse
12 seine, with fishery interaction, I know some of you are
13 familiar with that here, and we actually have a purse
14 seine captain from Hoonah here, Mr. Wright with the
15 Vagabond Queen, and it's just been -- it's been stunning,
16 the reversal, and how fast these sockeye came back.

17
18 And the most stunning example I think is
19 2009 and 2010. In 2009 there was the most highly
20 prosecuted fishery that I've witnessed along the Angoon
21 shoreline beginning with about the 22nd, 23rd of July.
22 That year there was almost 3,500 sockeye, which was the
23 record of all time in Angoon. I'm sure there were other
24 records that were better before records were kept, but
25 these are the only ones we have that are counted on
26 record historically.

27
28 But the next year, this is almost like a
29 science class in a way. I don't think the State did this
30 on purpose, but 2008 and 2010 both had been subjected to
31 a tough winter on pinks, and unless we get six or eight
32 million pink salmon to start a fishery with, the State
33 won't even open the fishery. And so as you know from
34 Hoonah especially, you can sit around most of July anyway
35 most years, even if there is a big pink run, because
36 you're waiting for the sockeyes to go by.

37
38 And then 2010 came along and all we had
39 was the test fishery at Augusta, one mile of beach for
40 all of Chatham Strait for the entire year. And the same
41 number of sockeyes came back -- 300 more sockeye came
42 back to Kanalku that year. I mean, you know, there was
43 almost exactly the same. That was actually the new
44 record, 2010.

45
46 You know, I don't know if there, you
47 know, there would have been a time -- when we met in
48 2007, there had never been a time since probably 1995
49 that the whole north end was closed to actually get a
50 look at the numbers, what it would be like with a purse

1 seine fishery, what it would be like without a purse
2 seine fishery. So, you know, this is pretty incredible
3 new information. It's almost like we were very
4 fortunate, because if we'd had these 3,000 sockeye come
5 back and the fleet fished the whole time, we'd go, well,
6 gosh, maybe there had been 4 or 5,000, right?

7
8 Unfortunately, that's the other issued we
9 talked about five years ago, there's been no tagging,
10 there's been no genetic studies. We don't actually have
11 a single sockeye that has been counted as having gone to
12 Kanalku that's ever been caught in the fishery. And so
13 that's one of the things I want to bring to the table
14 here. And I know these are issues that surround the
15 petition, but really these are issues I think that are
16 going to be -- that we need to solve this week,
17 regardless of what happens with the petition. We need
18 genetic stock ID. We need to know if a sockeye's going
19 through a fishery, whether it's gillnet fishery or purse
20 seine fishery, if that sockeye's going to a system down
21 at Prince of Wales that's not very health; if it's going
22 to a system in Chatham that's not very healthy, then we
23 would have that information. You know, right now we have
24 a pretty good idea of about where the sockeye are,
25 because Taku River's so big it kind of overwhelms the
26 whole portfolio of the north, and Chilkat, Chilkoot are
27 also large rivers. I mean, you're going to -- you have
28 300,000 sockeye come back to the Taku, and you've got
29 3,000 coming back to Kanalku it's probably a hundred
30 times greater chance you're going to get one coming back
31 to Taku.

32
33 But we don't have -- I mean, we can't
34 make a fishery decision without at least basic scientific
35 baseline, and we don't have a single number, not a single
36 fish that's ever been taken in the fishery, and so it's
37 hard to make adjustments and do any documentation based
38 upon speculation. You know, it's likely. We know it's
39 likely. That's why we have huge closure areas from
40 Parker Point all the way down to Killisnoo Island for the
41 Kanalku, and three miles along the shore from Basket Bay.
42 And that's why we don't start until the 20th or 25th of
43 July generally on seasons when we do fish Chatham Strait.

44
45 This coming summer will be another good
46 example to find out exactly what's coming back to Chatham
47 Strait sockeye systems, because there will not be a
48 fishery. I don't want to get in front of the Fish and
49 Game on this, but we didn't have a fisher in 2008, we
50 didn't have a fishery in 2010, and we had a terrible

1 winter, three deep freezes, and the projections for the
2 north end are the worse they've been throughout those
3 cycles. So it's not likely we're going to have a fishery
4 this summer either. And if we have any fishery, it will
5 be a very minimal fishery that will occur a long ways
6 away from Angoon.

7
8 So, you know, I want to make sure that
9 there's something that's not lost in this whole week.
10 Genetic stock ID, getting back to the fish ladder at
11 Kanalku that, you know, we -- actually you can just look
12 it up on the internet. There's black and white photos of
13 the Federal government trying to do some blasting and
14 dynamiting in Kanalku Falls to make passes for sockeye
15 easier. That was 11 sockeye cycles ago. Here we are 44
16 years later. And that's what's really stunning to us.
17 I mean, learned so much more about Kanalku, and my good
18 friend Mr. Kookesh has been following there, and I've
19 been too busy during the summer to get there. And I
20 really want to go there, because I'd like to help the
21 sockeye system by doing some sport angling on the
22 cutthroat in the lake.

23
24 But without the fish ladder, we had the
25 two biggest returns ever documented. And, you know, what
26 we're finding, and I'm sure that the people from Angoon
27 probably knew this a long time before, years of high
28 water flow really push the fish out, and when the Federal
29 scientists studied it, they were finding that 60 or 70
30 percent of the fish that they tagged at the mouth of the
31 creek would die before they got to the lake, because
32 there was a 16-foot jump on the falls. Therefore we
33 always thought we've got to have a fish ladder. Well, in
34 2009/2010, when there's 3,500 fish going through the
35 system, there wasn't any fish that got lost in those
36 years. Obviously all the fish made it up in 2009 and
37 2010. And so, you know, I don't know if it's going to be
38 a fish ladder that's going to be needed and then shut
39 down on years when the water's dry, and just it open it
40 up when you have high water flows. But, I mean, That's
41 a frustrating part of dealing with, you know, the Federal
42 government I guess.

43
44 We've got to study that Bill Thomas put
45 a quarter million dollars of State funds forward to a
46 study, and I hope you guys have seen that study. Has it
47 been available to the RAC? It's about a quarter inch,
48 about a half inch thick, U.S. Forest Service study on
49 Kanalku Falls. It just took place, they got it this
50 year. And it's got the actions, no actions, all those

1 types of things that the Federal government has in there.
2 And I think that's a really important thing, if the RAC
3 hasn't seen that.

4
5 You know, we believed in 2007 that was
6 the only solution, the fish ladder was the only solution.
7 Well, now after five years with no fish ladder, and we've
8 had the two biggest years on record, obviously the fish
9 ladder is a partial solution, but it looks like the
10 conduct of the fishery, having these examples of years
11 where there's zero fishing, and years where there's
12 intensive fishing and having the same numbers come out,
13 it looks good, but it's still not proof. And we need
14 proof.

15
16 And I really think that it's incumbent
17 upon both the fishermen who are conducting the fishery --
18 I'd hate to see Hoonah fishermen be curtailed from
19 fishing time, with saying that there's -- likely that
20 there could be fish, but we don't know.

21
22 We need to have genetic stock
23 identification. I think it's only fair to the community
24 of Angoon to have genetic stock. If we're catching
25 sockeye in late July and August and they're bound for
26 Angoon, and that's stopping subsistence activity, we need
27 to know that. I mean, that's -- then we can make a
28 decision. If there's a dozen being caught out of 3500,
29 but there was less than that in 2010, but there's
30 probably more than that in 2009, you know, what if there
31 was a 100? What if there's 1,000? What if there's
32 10,000 sockeye bound for Angoon that we don't know about,
33 and we were catching them all in the purse seine fishery?
34 You know, we don't know that. We don't believe that, but
35 we all deserve I believe the opportunity to actually
36 have numbers to work with, then we can make decisions
37 from those numbers.

38
39 Anyway, I appreciate -- I'll be -- I'll
40 let it go at that, but I really -- I mean, I'm very
41 curst. I mean on the one hand I know that it's
42 frustrating for some people here this week, the way the
43 processes work and all the other different goals and
44 objectives people have. But for me, after looking at
45 this issue five years ago and being with you in Kake, and
46 now coming here, instead of looking at 200 Kanalku
47 sockeye, looking at 3500 Kanalku sockeye, you know, I
48 don't think that the lake's got the kind of growth to
49 have 10 or 20,000 sockeye, but certainly we've got --
50 we're starting to get into a range where, you know, I

1 think that we'd probably be comfortable on the high end
2 of an escapement range. In fact, I believe, if I may be
3 so bold to say that my friend's brother, the senator,
4 have we had up to date exact real time management, which
5 is -- it's tough, but had we had an escapement goal, had
6 we had genetic stock ID, had we had this in place in
7 2009, I don't think we'd have a 15-fish limit. I mean,
8 we escaped 2650 sockeyes over the weir that year. All
9 the (indiscernible) I've talked to say, well, gee, 1500,
10 2000, 2500's kind of on the high end. I mean, we would
11 have at least taken the last couple hundred out of there.
12 And I think we probably would have. You know, that's a
13 year where I believe we probably with better information,
14 better technology that we have available to us if we'd
15 just spend the money for it, I think that's the type of
16 year if -- we could have actually had higher limits in
17 2009 and 2010 as well.

18
19 2011 wasn't as good a year, only had
20 about 1,000 return. But that was off a cycle that's been
21 a dominantly weak cycle. It started with '99. Something
22 happened in '99, I don't know what it was. But in 2003,
23 2007, 2011, that four-year cycle has been a weak cycle.
24 But that's rebuilding it. It was up 80 percent from 2004
25 to 2007, and 2007 was the first year of Kanalku return
26 after we met in Kake. And that was a weak one, too. It
27 was only about 465 or 500 sockeye. This last year it was
28 over 700, so it's another 40 percent increase. But
29 that's not enough. That cycle we've got to get back on
30 track.

31
32 But the other cycles right now, you know,
33 they're probably right in the top end of the escapement
34 range and shooting up. And we've got another year this
35 year coming up that's most likely going to be one of
36 those laboratory type years where there will be no purse
37 seining so we know exactly what got back, whatever
38 doesn't get eaten by seals or seal otters or -- or not
39 sea otters, but seals, or sea lions, or whatever, they're
40 not going to get caught by the troll fleet. They catch
41 very few sockeye. So we'll have a pretty good example,
42 a good laboratory for this year to see exactly what's
43 going to come back again.

44
45 Anyway, so I'm excited about this. I
46 think that five years ago if you had told me that five
47 years from now we'd have well over 3,000 sockeye return
48 to the Kanalku, I would have told you -- I thought it
49 would have taken us 30 years to get here. It's just
50 amazing how resilient that stock is.

1 And I -- and, of course, sometimes I get
2 caught up in talking about the purse seine fleet's
3 sacrifices and the time we've spent on the beach to allow
4 these fish to get by, but as well, there's a great
5 sacrifice by the Community of Angoon, and a great
6 patience to wait for these years and not have subsistence
7 fishing in great numbers. And now we're back to the
8 point like in '09 and '010, I think the last four years,
9 since se left -- or five years since we left Kake
10 together, it's been about a 450 to 500 fish average was
11 what the reported subsistence harvest is at Kanalku. And
12 when we last met, there hadn't been a subsistence harvest
13 for five years. You know, I mean, 10 or 20 or 50. You
14 know, it's -- there was no harvest, and it was a
15 voluntary closure by Angoon.

16
17 And so I really -- not to prejudice my
18 position necessarily on ETJ, but I really am excited
19 about the rebuilding and what's been taking place, and
20 the sacrifice that the subsistence users unfortunately
21 had to make, as well as the sacrifice that the purse
22 seine fleet has to make.

23
24 I'd like to also before closing just --
25 you know, sometimes we get this subsistence versus
26 commercial, urban versus rural. You know, 20 percent of
27 my members are Tlingits and Haidas. They are all
28 subsistence users. We have many other subsistence users
29 from small towns in Southeast. And I think I really
30 appreciate what -- through the Chair, I really appreciate
31 what Don had to say earlier. I mean, I got caught in the
32 census this last year in Kupreanof, because I have a home
33 there, but I really live in Juneau. And I don't take the
34 privilege of having a Kupreanof residence to take
35 subsistence privileges. I consider myself a personal
36 user, but I don't even use personal use, because I just
37 take that off my boat if I'm going to eat fish, when I
38 eat fish.

39
40 But it's amazing the privilege you feel
41 just, you know, being in this land, and being in this
42 country. And in Petersburg we count it by -- you know,
43 start counting at 1899, and my family starts counting in
44 1903. And we felt the people that moved there after the
45 30s weren't really true Alaskans. And I really
46 appreciate how, with the way Don put it, you know, we
47 feel just as privileged to live here in this country that
48 the Tlingits and Haidas have been for anywhere between 9
49 and 13 or 14,000 years, depending upon who you listen to.
50 And we just feel it's a great privilege. We've learned

1 how to fish, we've learned how to hunt, we've learned how
2 to commercial fish from the Native people here in
3 Southeast. And we just consider what is a right, we
4 believe is a right for people, for certain people, is
5 only -- we can only rise to that level of a privilege, I
6 think. And that's kind of the way I think. Don
7 described it and that's the way I feel about it as well.

8

9 And thank you so much for your time.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. As I
12 listened to your testimony, I was -- did you intend to
13 have -- do your testimony at this particular point in
14 time?

15

16 MR. THORSTENSON: Yeah. I have a whole
17 different set of testimony for tomorrow.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Because I see
20 where it related a lot, you know, to the Angoon issue, so
21 I was just wondering if, you know, you wanted to do that
22 today, and then reserve, you know, comments for the
23 extra-territorial jurisdiction with Angoon.

24

25 But, anyhow, thank you for your comments.

26

27 And is there any questions. Cathy, go
28 ahead.

29

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

31

32 Mr. Thorstenson, I really appreciate your
33 comments today, and I appreciate you bringing up this
34 issue of genetic stock ID. And my question to you would
35 be, is do you feel the only reason why this is not
36 something that's being done is funding? And if it is
37 funding, do you have any creative solutions towards
38 meeting those needs in order to have a genetic stock ID
39 program put in place?

40

41 MR. THORSTENSON: I would have to defer
42 that to the Department. I know that we've -- it takes
43 quite a bit of funding. We did a genetic stock ID
44 program for the U.S./Canada salmon treaty in 1999 and we
45 -- you know, it probably took us about five or six years
46 to really rough through it. And then, of course, we had
47 a real intense scale sampling for sockeye that we
48 replaced with GSI. So I'd have to defer on the funds to
49 the Department.

50

1 But I don't think -- I think between the
2 State and the Federal government, if we can't -- you
3 know, if we're going to be talking about sockeye swimming
4 around, and we're going to be making decisions on
5 fisheries, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of
6 fisheries, and communities like Hoonah and Angoon, which
7 still have, you know, real vibrant purse seine fisheries.
8 I mean Hoonah and Kake, excuse me. We need to have the
9 numbers, and so, I mean, I believe there's enough of an
10 urgency and hopefully this week and the discussion of
11 these issues will create enough urgency that will have
12 support. I mean, I know we'll have support to do it from
13 the State. I don't know if we'll have the financial
14 support, but I think that between the State and Federal
15 government, I can't imagine we wouldn't get the financial
16 support.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions.

19
20 MS. NEEDHAM: I have a follow-up.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got a follow-up?
23 Okay.

24
25 Excuse me, I was just passed a note here
26 that they can hear on the phone when Robert whispers to
27 me, so I'm going to turn the microphone off.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. Now I'm forgetting
32 what my follow-up was. Oh. My understanding and I know
33 you probably can't answer this question, but through --
34 on the Federal side of things we have the Office of
35 Subsistence Management runs Fisheries Resource Monitoring
36 Program. And I know that genetic stock ID was -- it
37 wasn't one of the highest strategic priorities, but it
38 was within the strategic priorities. And I know from
39 that side of things, on the Federal program, that the
40 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is essentially
41 going away. The budget is becoming less and less. And
42 so I'm wondering if, when I ask for creative funding
43 solutions, if there's -- if you see anything maybe
44 potentially coming out of industry that can help
45 supplement. We know -- I mean, I'm assuming the reason
46 why it's not being done on the State side of things is
47 funding.

48
49 And it just seems a shame that it's one
50 of the -- it seems like it's a really big need, and not

1 just for Angoon, but for other communities in southern
2 Southeast Alaska. It's an issue that we worked on over
3 10 years ago in terms of knowing how sockeye are -- when
4 they're fished in mixed stock fishery, where they're
5 destined, in order to manage those local streams and
6 stuff.

7

8 Again, I appreciate you bringing that up,
9 and if you do have any thoughts about how to potentially
10 hopefully get industry involved in it as well, I think
11 that would be important discussions to have.

12

13 MR. THORSTENSON: Thank you. Through the
14 Chair, you know, the one issue and it's hard -- you can't
15 blame -- I can't personally blame the State or the
16 Federal government for not being too up to speed, because
17 like a decade ago genetic stock ID was kind of -- you
18 know, we really hadn't accepted it yet. I mean, we
19 actually had to go through a five-year process led by
20 Juneau's on Joe Sheldon, who was commissioner at the
21 time, an arduous process with Gazy and English, the guys
22 who wrote the -- were doing the genetic modeling at the
23 time for the Stikine and the 'Nas, and we -- there was a
24 whole bunch of different bugs that had to be worked out.
25 And so I think, you know, the last bugs we probably
26 kicked out of there was probably just before we
27 renegotiated, you know, five years ago. We probably had
28 worked out the bugs for the PSC, Pacific Salmon
29 Commission, when we met in Kake in 2007, but, you know,
30 to translate that, and then to try to do the rest of the
31 stocks and the rest of the systems, I don't think the
32 State's really had the -- I mean, they've had to kind of
33 parcel their funding out for different management actions
34 and purposes.

35

36 And it hasn't been -- so, you know, it's
37 a really relatively recent, and as you probably know, I
38 mean, it's a relatively recent phenomenon, and I don't
39 know if the State -- you know, just to -- the State's --
40 it's going to cost money. And I frankly think this week
41 of all the positive things that are going to come out of
42 this week, I'm very hopeful that that's going to be one
43 of them. I believe the State will make a commitment and
44 I believe the State will come up with funds or the
45 Federal Government will come up with the funds.

46

47 I don't know where the funds would come
48 from industry, unless, you know, there were processors or
49 people with deeper pockets than I that would pay, you
50 know. We're just -- you know, we're still trying to get

1 our boats all fixed up after all the years we fished for
2 five cents for pink salmon.

3
4 That's the other -- I mean, the other
5 great piece of information here, you know, really in 2007
6 in the wintertime, the price for salmon, all species, and
7 the vibrancy of our communities, and we were meeting in
8 Kake at the time, and Kake's plant was closed. Now
9 SEAlaska is running the plant in Kake. The price of
10 pinks is 50 cents instead of 5 cents. You know, sockeyes
11 and cohos and -- I mean, all of the fisheries that we
12 sustain ourselves on economically as well, socio-
13 economically in these small communities, has been a
14 resounding success. I mean, you couldn't afford to live
15 in Point Baker or Point Protection when cohos are 50
16 cents a pound. You could afford to live there, or
17 Pelican for that matter, I mean, there's a lot of small
18 communities that in 2007, you know, you were -- not that
19 today's economic future is just perfect or rosy, but in
20 2007 things were pretty tough all over.

21
22 So, anyway, thank you so much for your
23 time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

26
27 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

30
31 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Thorstenson, Bobby, one
32 of the questions I want to ask, it was going to be in my
33 community report was I don't really have the kind of
34 data, but you'll probably know it right off the top.
35 What happened to the stockpiles of herring that were held
36 from the year before? The herring fishery occurred last
37 year, and what happened to the last all of that roe that
38 was caught last year? Was it all sold or was it turned
39 into chicken feed, or can you tell me what's going to
40 happen -- what happened to that roe?

41
42 MR. THORSTENSON: I'm not a herring
43 expert. The only major issue that I've worked on with
44 herring, in fact, is with your former vice chair, Mr.
45 Kookesh. We both worked on trying to slow the race to
46 fish down in Sitka and try to have an equal harvest share
47 fishery so that both would quit T-boning each other and
48 the boats would quit stirring up the fish and the spawn.
49 And we felt that there would be better opportunity for
50 subsistence users to be gathering their branches without

1 having these boats, and all of it's two-hour notice and
2 you're out with your branches, and the next thing you
3 know, big boat wakes are coming by, and there's smoke and
4 everything. It is exciting for some people. It's pretty
5 disconcerting for some people. And if I was trying to do
6 some other kind of activity out on the water with that
7 fleet going by, I don't like being in those kind of --
8 Frank gets all the fish when we go into the bay together,
9 because I just leave him, and he goes and gets them. The
10 last time we were there, I went about two miles away and
11 he got the boat load.

12
13 But, you know, I believe that there's
14 developing markets for the Sitka herring, and I think
15 that the only positive -- the most positive thing I think
16 that's going to come out of these large numbers -- as you
17 know the quota this year is 29,000 tons, and five years
18 ago when we last talked I think the Sitka quota was about
19 10,000 tons or 9,000 tons. So it's been a substantial
20 increase, and there's been a substantial increase in the
21 biomass as well.

22
23 But, you know, there's going to come a
24 time when we need to find something, yeah, with -- to do
25 with the herring. I mean, the herring themselves, the
26 meat itself has not been seen as the number 1 issue.
27 It's always been the roe for the last -- you know, ever
28 since the fishery started in 1971. But one thing that's
29 happening now with the roe markets are so poor, that the
30 processors have to find a use for the meat, for the
31 herring. And that's what -- I believe that's why they're
32 actually going to harvest the quota this year. We never
33 actually thought -- you know, most industry watchers,
34 when you have a 29,000-ton quota, that usually means you
35 take 15 or 20 and you leave the rest, you don't even
36 bother getting them, because you can't sell them. And
37 it's astounding how they have developed markets or are
38 developing markets still at poor prices, but they'll be
39 using the protein I believe a lot more now.

40
41 But, yeah, I'm glad that -- I'm glad you
42 brought the topic up. Mr. Chairman -- through the Chair,
43 the Chairman of Kootznoowoo, because that -- you know, I
44 really believe that fishery could be used much better for
45 meat and for better purposes interacting with the
46 subsistence harvest over there if we had an equal harvest
47 share fishery. I don't believe other fisheries in the
48 State deserve to be equal harvest share. I think that
49 people -- you know, people harvest what they harvest. If
50 you want to get up earlier in the morning to catch your

1 fish. If you want to sleep in, you know, the guy that
2 gets up at 6:00 a.m. doesn't get them for you and split
3 them in half. You know, whether you're a subsistence
4 harvester or anything else, you've got to come out and
5 pick some fish.

6
7 But there are fishery that I think are
8 delicate, and I think a forage fish like herring should
9 be treated delicately enough, even though we've got the
10 science. It's been good. I don't believe the State's
11 made a mistake at Sitka, but we've had other stocks that
12 have disappeared over the years, and the older school
13 management from 30, 40 or 50 years ago either wasn't
14 appropriate, you know, or else those stocks were too
15 delicate in Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and other
16 locations. And other locations in Southeast Alaska. You
17 know, Auke Bay is a good example.

18
19 But, you know, I believe the management
20 and the fishery's strong, but, you know, Mr. Kookesh and
21 I worked on trying to have this equal harvest share
22 management, and that would not only help provide for
23 subsistence, but if the stock started to crash, we
24 wouldn't have these boats all racing after these big
25 sets. At the same time, if the stock starts going the
26 other way, we can slow the fishery down and we can adjust
27 accordingly. And hopefully that's something that will
28 happen in the future. We've tried it through the Board
29 of Fish three cycles in a row, and we're not even getting
30 the same votes any more. But that's going to be a big
31 issue I think for the Southeast RAC as well.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up?

34
35 MR. KOOKESH: Yes. So what happened to
36 the last year's stockpile and the -- or last year's
37 herring roe and the one that was stockpiled in the
38 previous year? Did they turn it into chicken feed
39 or.....

40
41 MR. THORSTENSON: The herring roe?

42
43 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.

44
45 MR. THORSTENSON: No, they had to have
46 sold it, because I can't imagine they would have paid
47 people for the herring and not -- but I do not know. I
48 don't -- I'm not a herring industry expert. It's just I
49 just support that management style. But I don't know.
50 If I can -- I can make some phone calls and try to get

1 the answer through the Chair to the Chairman of
2 Kootznoowoo.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions. Mr.
5 Wright.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 For the cycle of the sockeye that's going
10 to be going to Kanalku, was that about three years ago,
11 four years ago that's going to be coming back this year?

12

13 MR. THORSTENSON: Yeah.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: What were the numbers that
16 went up the.....

17

18 MR. THORSTENSON: 2008 wasn't -- you
19 know, the first -- the 2007 year is that weak cycle, '03,
20 '07, '011, but the 2008 cycle, while not as robust as
21 2009, 2010, the 2008 cycle was a huge jump from 2004. I
22 mean, I think -- I can't remember. I think it was about
23 -- you know, it was a good number, you know, 1200, 1300
24 escapement.

25

26 One of the problems we had in some of
27 those earlier year escapements, and, you know, even all
28 these ones now, without the ladder, if you have a year of
29 a lot of hydraulic pressure, a lot of water flow, you
30 know, we're not going to get all the sockeyes in the
31 lake. You know, you're just not going to. You know, and
32 it was one of the most remarkable things, and really I'm
33 very pleased that Ben Van Allen worked on this. We don't
34 always agree on some of our other fishing philosophy or
35 management philosophy, or numbers that can be derived
36 from other numbers, but as far as the studies that he did
37 at Kanalku Falls and in the creek, you know, even though
38 -- you know, he -- some of those tags might have got
39 lost. You know, he had some numbers where, you know 70
40 percent of the fish were dying before they got to the
41 lake. Well, you know, even if those weren't right, there
42 was definitely some subset of fish on years of high water
43 flow that don't make it. We know that. His numbers were
44 70 percent one year, I think it was 60 percent one year.
45 There were large numbers there weren't making it by his
46 studies. And that's a very important thing. You know,
47 I mean, not just the documentation that the U.S. Forest
48 Service felt in 1968, 44 years ago, that it was important
49 to put a fish ladder in there, obviously there was some
50 issues with the falls back then as well. But especially

1 with Ben Van Allen using acoustic tags in the stream and
2 then not getting there, you know, some of those could
3 have been caught by bears. You know, it could have had
4 some other issues. There's some mortality issues
5 associated with tagging that you've got to watch out for.
6 But unquestionably some number was not making it.

7
8 And in 2008, you know, we'll see what
9 comes back this year, but it was -- for the answer, the
10 2008, you know, was a healthy cycle, started the
11 subsistence fishery that year back again. I think there
12 were a couple hundred or 400 fish caught that year or
13 something like that. I mean, it was a nice -- it kind of
14 got rolling again.

15
16 So it was -- but, yeah, it's going to be
17 -- it should be another strong one. I mean, I can
18 imagine, you know, if we get less than a couple thousand
19 back, it would be kind of surprising, especially
20 considering there probably won't be any kind of fishery
21 at all, even if we're only catching a dozen of them going
22 by, there's not likely to be any fishery. And I'm sorry
23 to guess that -- or project that, through the Chair, Mr.
24 Wright, because I know that, you know, living in Hoonah,
25 there's just nothing like a bad winter freeze and then
26 not being able to fish most of the year, and you're going
27 to be lined up on one mile of beach by Sofia, one mile
28 beach by Augusta, and that's unfortunate, but that's
29 really kind of what it looks like.

30
31 But, yeah, the 2008 was good, but the big
32 one's are going -- the exciting parts are going to be
33 when the 2009 cycle comes back in 2013 and the 2010 cycle
34 comes back in 2014. Those are going to be -- we'll see
35 how much fish we can get back by putting 25 or 2900 in
36 the system.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We need to kind
39 of move around here. I'll allow one more question from
40 the Counsel, if anyone likes to make a comment.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. THORSTENSON: Thank you so much for
45 your time.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Have a good
48 day.

49
50 Okay. Next we have Ron Leighton. When

1 I was over there shaking his hand a little while ago, he
2 said he was going to twist my ear. So, Ron, please twist
3 all of our ears.

4

5 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. Good morning.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And introduce yourself,
8 please.

9

10 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. My name's Ron
11 Leighton. I'm the vice president of the Organized
12 Village of Kasaan and also their chair for their
13 customary and traditional use.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We have two blue slips
16 here for you.

17

18 MR. LEIGHTON: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You want to take care of
21 both of them at the same time?

22

23 MR. LEIGHTON: I will.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 MR. LEIGHTON: I'll try to make this
28 short.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

31

32 MR. LEIGHTON: First of all, I'd like to
33 know the procedure for requesting reconsideration on that
34 bear claw issue. I know that it's been acted on up in
35 Anchorage. Also I'd like to know how many Advisory
36 Councils weighed in on this issue and the votes of those
37 Councils. Is there a total of seven Advisory Councils in
38 the State? Do you know, or what?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's 10.

41

42 MR. LEIGHTON: Ten. Okay. And there's
43 three that voted, am I right?

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know what the
46 votes were, Ron, but we can find out.

47

48 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. The reason why I'm
49 asking that -- I also would like to find -- or you'll
50 find out for me if there is no action or no vote from the

1 Advisory Councils on a particular issue, how their vote
2 is weighed in? By no response, does the -- can the Board
3 interpret that as a vote or do they disregard it?
4 Because it's my understanding on this bear claw issue
5 that the three Councils weighed in on this all rejected
6 that proposal, and that the Board then considered to
7 adopt the State's recommendation. So I'd like to have
8 that information.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let me answer
11 your question about -- or request for reconsideration.
12 If you have an organization like your tribal
13 organization, they can submit an RFR and they can also
14 use the resources of, you know, the Staff here to help
15 with that process.

16

17 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Enough said on
22 that.

23

24 There was a lot of talk here on the
25 herring in Southeast Alaska and the stocks that were
26 depleted down to almost extinction. And I would like
27 answers from the Board of when they open up another
28 fishery, such as West Beam Canal, why aren't they coming
29 into -- I know that we have consultation policies drafted
30 for the government, U.S. government, and there's some
31 that are consultation policies set by the State, too,
32 where they have to consult with tribes. And for the most
33 part it is our tribal customary food, the herring eggs.

34

35 And this East Beam Canal, the herring
36 spawn that I've seen out there in any areas were not
37 great enough in my determination to even open a
38 commercial harvest, because it's not great enough to
39 support a subsistence harvest of herring eggs. It's
40 considered a one layer spawn. What I mean by that is
41 it's just a sprinkle of herring eggs on the rocks, on the
42 kelp, or whatever. And in order to be the minimum for
43 subsistence, I would say it would be an 11-egg spawn.
44 It's 11-egg layer thick. And that's the minimum. So
45 when they go to open up a commercial fisheries, they're
46 completely ignoring the possibility of that herring stock
47 ever coming back to a size that would afford us an
48 opportunity to go out and get our subsistence herring
49 eggs.

50

1 So I would like the Board to sit down
2 there and maybe consider drafting up a policy in this
3 area, consulting with the tribes, maybe sending out a
4 letter to each and every tribe in Southeast Alaska, or
5 for that matter in the State that depends on herring eggs
6 and getting a determination as to the thickness of the
7 layers that would support them. And I'm serious when --
8 I've seen the herring eggs when it's maybe three layers
9 thick on a kelp, and that's not real good subsistence
10 herring eggs. But you go into 11 layers, then that there
11 is starting to become acceptable. So I think we have to
12 start setting our standards on this so that the State
13 when they try to come in and open up fisheries, and they
14 realize that there's not enough spawn on the rocks and
15 stuff like that for a subsistence gatherer, then that
16 should be taken into consideration.

17

18 Also.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me stop you right
21 here before I forget, okay? If you want, you know, the
22 Federal Subsistence Board to address this issue, it would
23 be proper -- you can do it one of two ways. You can
24 submit a proposal to address that issue, or you can have
25 your tribal organization do so, and I think it's better
26 if your tribe does it. And then we will consider it and
27 then take it up, you know, the ladder for adoption.
28 That's a process that you can go through.

29

30 Or maybe you can request that this body,
31 you know, submit a proposal to address that. There's
32 various ways on how you can do it. I think it would come
33 better from the local people myself.

34

35 MR. LEIGHTON: Well, I'm requesting from
36 you to maybe go into this area. I think if you was to
37 under tribal consultation to address and write letters
38 off to the tribe and asking them, and they respond back,
39 then you have a pretty good idea. But I think you're
40 going to be astounded by what response you get back and
41 what it takes for a good herring roe subsistence. Right
42 now most of the pressure's put on Sitka for herring eggs
43 for all of Southeast. You know that, and it's pretty
44 over-taxing.

45

46 And I was appalled at this last fisheries
47 down there in West Beam Canal where the State opened it
48 up for commercial harvest for gillnet one year, seine the
49 next. And there's not enough herring eggs on the beaches
50 down there to even support it.

1 About 130 years ago the Haidas of the
2 Queen Charlotte's realized for three years straight that
3 their herring weren't coming back. So they took every
4 man, woman and child, they even carved out special canoes
5 in order to make this venture, but they went over to the
6 Tree Point area, fell trees into the water. The herring
7 spawned on them, and they waited for fertilization. They
8 had a window of four days in which to bring them back to
9 the Queen Charlotte's and put them into the areas where
10 they knew that they had traditionally spawned. They did
11 this and the herring respawned, imprinted and came back.

12
13 I started researching this, and on the
14 East Coast of the United States they had several areas
15 back there that they did the same type stuff. And what
16 I would like to see is -- there's so much of our resource
17 that depends on the herring in general, and when you
18 don't have the biomass of herring, then you have
19 predation on salmon species, other marine life that the
20 herring would normally be their main stock of survival if
21 the biomass was there, but because it's not there now,
22 they shop around. You have the sea lions going up eating
23 the steelhead. You have the sea otters eating what all
24 they want. But if you had the biomass of herring and
25 stuff like that, you wouldn't have that mass of predation
26 on all our stocks.

27
28 So I would like to see maybe work with
29 the Board on getting a policy put in place, or something
30 put in place, or maybe finding and entertaining and
31 finding funds to start a process. We have Lynn Canal, we
32 have some places around Hoonah, some places in Sitka,
33 Craig, and Annette Island that have enough herring spawn
34 to go ahead and start spreading this out and kick-
35 starting the other areas, because the other areas are
36 depleted down to a certain level to where the predation
37 are keeping them at that level and they won't rebound
38 unless you do this. And I've spoken with the Governor's
39 staff up there, and they're for it. I've spoken with
40 NOAA and asking them about a grant for this, and we're
41 working on that. But I would like to suggest to the
42 Board that maybe we entertain something there to get
43 something started.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Well, thank you.
46 You know, what I think you should do is -- see that
47 beautiful red head over there?

48
49 MR. LEIGHTON: Uh-huh.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not over there.
2
3 MR. LEIGHTON: I see her.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But this one right
6 there. Why don't you talk with her about your issue.
7 You know, we don't have very much jurisdiction for that
8 area, so it's under the State, so, you know, if you would
9 like to meet with her some time.
10
11 MR. LEIGHTON: Again, you know, I've
12 talked to you guys about certain issues and stuff like
13 that, but you are a subsistence board, and the problem
14 here that I'm talking about would correct and enhance
15 other subsistence issues. All I'm asking, not power and
16 authority, I'm asking if you'd come on board and support
17 this and maybe going up to the Secretary of Interior or
18 something like that, and passing this information on,
19 because I think it's a must.
20
21 There's another area.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It would probably be a
24 matter of writing letters and so forth, which this body,
25 I'm sure will be able to help you.
26
27 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Another area here
28 is the.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me. Did you have
31 a question of him, Floyd. Go ahead.
32
33 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
34
35 One of the things I'd like to also to be
36 part of this process, I'd like to hear what the State of
37 Alaska has to say about this transplanting issue, because
38 I've heard this story from elders who have told me
39 they've done the same thing. And if the genetics of the
40 herring are no different in Sitka than they are up in
41 Lynn Canal or Berners Bay, use that as an example, then
42 I'd like to hear that that's a real solution from the
43 biologists and everybody instead of just having Mr.
44 Leighton going and talking on his own. I'd like to hear
45 it for the public so that we can know what we can do
46 besides him having to continue this process alone. We
47 need to be part of this process, because it is an issue.
48 We'd like to grow our own chicken feed in our back yard.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Of course. Okay.
2 When you wind up here, maybe -- Jennifer, would you be
3 able to come forward and respond to that now or would you
4 like some time? But anyhow why don't we let Ron wind up,
5 and then you can do it.

6
7 What. Yes, ma'am.

8
9 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. I had an answer for
10 your question about the brown bear claw, and the 10
11 Councils, I did go to the Federal Subsistence Board
12 meeting in Anchorage in January, so if we could get Staff
13 from Tlingit and Haida, maybe they can make a copy of
14 this packet. It has how that vote went, and all the
15 information, the documentation.....

16
17 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Good.

18
19 MS. HAWKINS:of the Staff report.
20 So we'll see that you get a copy of that.

21
22 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. Good. Thank you.

23
24 The other thing that came to my
25 attention, it came to my attention here this last hunting
26 season on Prince of Wales Island, and the doe season. I
27 feel that we should probably go to eliminate the doe
28 season entirely, because it came to my attention that it
29 is being abused by certain people. And there was one
30 family of 10 -- or a family of 8, they went out. The
31 wife got a hunting license, or deer tags, the husband got
32 the deer tags, and each one of their six children got
33 deer tags. The guy doesn't know how to hunt or anything
34 like that. So he went out along the road system and he
35 shot eight does, most of them having fawns with them.
36 Those fawns did not make it through the winter. And it's
37 all legal in the eyes of the law and everything like
38 that, it's all legal, but I'd like to just eliminate
39 that. There's no sense in going out and killing does and
40 -- I don't know how, I guess write a proposal to your
41 next Board.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We have been
44 addressing that issue, you know, but you haven't been
45 permanently closed I don't think. So I'm sure that our
46 Counsel here would be happy to take that issue up.

47
48 Yes, ma'am, .

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

1 And view public testimony as a time for
2 the public to address the Counsel, and for us to hear
3 what their concerns are, but for us to take part in a
4 back and forth discussion on something that we're not
5 prepared to, you know, really put some real thought into,
6 I think it's inappropriate to ask the State to come to
7 the table and address Mr. Leighton's concern.

8
9 And, Mr. Leighton, I'd like to say that
10 this Title VIII structure, subsistence structure is law,
11 Public Law 96-487. And it says it's to enable rural
12 residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions
13 to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and
14 wildlife. But the way for us to have that meaningful
15 role is you identified a problem in your area, and I'm
16 not saying whether I disagree or agree with it, but if
17 you could put that in writing in the form of a proposal,
18 then what that does is it gets a Staff analysis done so
19 that the State and the Feds and the RAC and the members
20 of the public have something concrete they can read and
21 have deliberations on.

22
23 And so I would encourage you to submit
24 proposals about the herring. You know, it should be 11
25 layer before you a subsistence harvest on. Put that in
26 a proposal. You know, I never heard that. I never heard
27 that. You know, a three isn't enough, but 11 is. That's
28 really good information.

29
30 But we need this structure to work by
31 people like you putting in proposals so that we share the
32 burden. It shouldn't just be us 13. It should be all of
33 us.

34
35 So, Mr. Chairman, that's my comment.
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. This
39 was what I was trying to advocate earlier, you know, and
40 you seem to think that you wanted this body to handle it.
41 But I agree with Patty. And, you know, our Staff will be
42 willing to help you, you know, develop that proposal.
43 And if you want to start from that perspective, I think
44 it would be better.

45
46 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. I guess I'm going
47 to have to look at your tribal consultation policy, too,
48 because I thought that's what maybe I could be doing
49 here, you know.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Okay. Anything
2 else, sir.
3
4 MR. LEIGHTON: No, thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ron. I
7 appreciate it very much.
8
9 And I also agree with Patty that I don't
10 think that we should put, you know, Ms. Yuhas in a
11 position where she can answer this problem right now. So
12 think about it, and maybe sometime later we can do that.
13
14 Mr. Kookesh.
15
16 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Just
17 a point here. One of the things I do as a chairman, I'm
18 chairman of Kootznoowoo Corporation. I allow -- whenever
19 I have public testimony occurring, I allow the Council or
20 my board of directors to ask the questions. I don't take
21 it upon myself to start asking questions ahead of the
22 Council or the board. And kind of the process you're
23 going through that we've been observing. We need to
24 allow this forum to carry the discussion. If I have
25 questions, I move and give the vice chair my seat and
26 then I ask questions instead of just being straight
27 forward coming out.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
30 Kookesh.
31
32 It's about 12 minutes to 12. Would the
33 Council like to take a lunch break now and reconvene at
34 maybe -- what time? How much time do you need for lunch?
35
36 MR. LARSON: There's one more. There's
37 only one.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll tell you what.
40 We've got Sam Thomas?
41
42 MR. S. THOMAS: Here.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you like to come
45 forward and do you're presentation right now? Tell us
46 your name for the record, and who you represent. And
47 then we'll adjourn for lunch.
48
49 MR. S. THOMAS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
50 Members of the Council. My name is Sam Thomas. I'm the

1 tribal president for the Craig Tribal Association. I
2 hope you're not planning to go to lunch any time soon.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. S. THOMAS: No, I'm not as long
7 winded as my dad.

8

9 Kind of deal with ANILCA as Patty spoke
10 to, and what before we had spoke to, that it's broken.
11 And I have a little thicker skin than Ron, and I won't be
12 scared away from someone speaking against what I have to
13 say. So I'm here to speak; I didn't come here just to
14 just sit. I came here to listen.

15

16 But enforcement and harassment is pretty
17 widespread throughout the region. We have people being
18 harassed for going out and gathering clams, seaweed, and
19 everything that are traditionally harvested by our
20 people. I think that it's they're told that they need to
21 get -- go and acquire a fishing license to do that. We
22 don't feel, and I don't feel that that is the way to go.
23 That would be like me going and gathering berries, but
24 before I had to do that, I'd have to go get a hunting
25 license.

26

27 So with that being said, I just think
28 there's some real issues with Title VIII of ANILCA, like
29 it is broken.

30

31 Sea otter. There's a tribal leader
32 letter I just got from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
33 identified that they're partnering with the University of
34 Alaska to do some more research. How much more research
35 do we need? We've seen the McDowell Group's study on --
36 it's not the first one of McDowell Group, but the recent
37 one they just did, identifies that there is a 13 to 21
38 percent reproduction of the sea otter in any given year.
39 It depends on when the juveniles start reproducing. I
40 live on an island, on Prince of Wales, from Point Baker
41 to Cape Chacon where these things are in abundance. And
42 you take that 13 percent and multiply it by the number in
43 the region, you're getting about 1400, at the low end, of
44 reproduction per years.

45

46 If you've seen the legislation coming
47 from -- that Congressman Young has on the table, I'm not
48 sure this body studies it, but they ought to. They ought
49 to endorse it, make comments to him. I feel that if we
50 just sit back and wait for U.S. Fish and Wildlife and

1 others to do studies, you know, that this issue is going
2 to continue to escalate.

3
4 As a tribal leader for the Craig Tribal
5 Association, we do have something on the table that we're
6 moving through. And it's all dependent on my upcoming
7 election of whether or not it gets carried through.

8
9 There's also the talk -- a couple
10 questions earlier about sustainability. Well, you take
11 these sea otters and the traditional and customary way of
12 living, and what they're doing on the resources that
13 we're used to utilizing, they're no longer going to be
14 there, and you are going to be going to Fred Meyer, you
15 are going to be going to Safeway.

16
17 So as you're taking -- if you've ever
18 seen the article in the Alaska Airlines magazine that
19 identifies sustainability, you see the little girl in
20 there. It's not just about the fish, it's about the
21 people. So it's a neat article in there if you ever see
22 it.

23
24 I don't really have a lot more to say at
25 this point, Mr. Chairman. If I do, I know where those
26 blue slips are.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Sam.

29
30 MR. S. THOMAS: Okay. Thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

33
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: A question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, would you come back,
37 Sam? There's a question for you.

38
39 Mr. Hernandez.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43
44 Thank you, Mr. Thomas. Yeah, you
45 probably have -- well, I know down in Craig you have, you
46 know, a pretty heavy concentration of sea otters, and
47 hopefully you have a lot of interested harvesters down
48 there.

49
50 I was wondering what your view would be

1 with this proposed legislation where raw pelts could be
2 sold. Do you think most of the people that you know, are
3 they in favor of that, or do they see it as some of the
4 other Natives do, that it could take away an opportunity
5 for Natives to maintain control of this, you know, the
6 sea otter production say by selling raw pelts and having
7 potential for the manufacture of, you know, sea otter
8 products taking place some place outside the Native
9 community. I was just wondering if you have some
10 thoughts on that.

11
12 MR. S. THOMAS: Well, yeah. As
13 identified earlier about the economic opportunity, it
14 should be both ways, for the hunter and for whoever is
15 establishing the -- say if you're setting up a facility
16 to have sewers or garment makers and such to make those,
17 but I don't think you should be limiting tribal members
18 and their self-determination, that they only could do it
19 one way. I think they ought to have the opportunity to
20 sell the raw pelt or bring them over here to these other
21 people that are making garments. You shouldn't limit
22 them to one opportunity.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tim and then Floyd.

25
26 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah. I've just got a
27 real quick thing here. The Alaska Native enjoys a semi-
28 autonomous amount of sovereignty that they are trying to
29 exercise in harvesting all the foods that they have
30 harvested for thousands of years. As you speak, you
31 know, going out to pick seaweed, you know, or dig clams,
32 or whatnot, all of a sudden you have to have a license
33 for it. It's like Mr. Wright said, this is a plain,
34 easy, simple thing you call subsistence on our side, but
35 on the Federal government and the State of Alaska, it's
36 a very complicated issue.

37
38 Part of the problem I see is that the
39 Federal government and the State of Alaska refuses to
40 acknowledge that we in fact have sovereign powers. Some
41 of the people call the State of Alaska the upper crust
42 that has been there for so long refuses to acknowledge
43 some of this. And until that changes, we will continue
44 to listen to folks like you that are reporting some of
45 the stuff like this.

46
47 Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

48
49 MR. S. THOMAS: I agree.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim. Do you
2 want to respond?

3
4 MR. S. THOMAS: No, I agree entirely.
5 You know, the State constitution doesn't acknowledge
6 tribal sovereignty, and therefore we're probably going to
7 continue to see these different types of effects on our
8 tribal members as subsistence users.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

11
12 MR. KOOKESH: My question is, what is it
13 going to take, what is it going to take. For example,
14 someone told me if a barge doesn't come in for four days
15 from Outside, or a jet doesn't deliver our goods, the
16 people that shop at Safeway and Fred Meyer's are going to
17 be in a lot of trouble. And I'm wondering why as a
18 people, Native and non-Native, why we're not trying to
19 address taking care of the resources so that we can be
20 prepared when that happens to us. Maybe people are just
21 putting their heads in the sand and believing that it's
22 not going to ever occur, that the barge is going to
23 continue to come. And I know in subsistence I'm of the
24 opinion that if push ever came to shove, the best, most
25 prepared people are the ones that are living off the land
26 and protecting the resource. The ones that are going to
27 suffer the most are the ones that are dependant upon Fred
28 Meyer's and ignoring, you know, issues like sea otters
29 that are taking away all of the resources, and not really
30 addressing the issues.

31
32 MR. S. THOMAS: Yeah, I agree. You know,
33 they were reintroduced without a management plan back
34 when they were reintroduced. I've continued to ask U.S.
35 Fish and Wildlife Service for a copy of the management
36 plan, and have yet to see one come forward. So, yeah,
37 we're the ones speaking out loud, and they keep wanting
38 to doing more analysis on the stocks, and, you know, they
39 just need to reverse their role.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

42
43 MR. S. THOMAS: Thanks.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate your
46 comments. Would you turn that thing off for us, please?
47 Thank you.

48
49 Okay. Why don't we break for lunch. How
50 much time do you need? An hour? Hour and a half? I

1 recall it, but I want your opinion.
2
3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: One hour.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One hour. Be back at
6 1:00 o'clock. Okay.
7
8 (Off record)
9
10 (On record)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Will the Council please
13 take their seats. We would like to get started.
14
15 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I
16 trust you all had a nice lunch.
17
18 I apologize for coming in late. I set up
19 lunch with my son who works here in Juneau, and we had a
20 little problem trying to decide where to go. So we were
21 about 10 minutes late actually getting to a place we
22 designated, and then time went by fast after that. But
23 we're here.
24
25 I need to really impress upon, you know,
26 Council members that we need to get through at least item
27 number 11 today. Otherwise we'll really be, you know,
28 pushing a lot harder for the agenda. So if we can make
29 it a point to get those items taken care of through 11,
30 then I think we'll be fine.
31
32 Okay. So let's move on then to the next
33 part of our agenda. We've completed the public
34 testimony. We don't have any more, do we, Mr. Larson?
35
36 MR. LARSON: No, we don't.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So let's do the
39 reports, Council reports. We'll start with Mr. Hernandez
40 and go around like this. Okay.
41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm ready. Okay.
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44
45 I'm going to address my comments to the
46 fall deer hunting season. I think that's probably on
47 most people's minds right now. Not a very successful
48 season I would say for most of the folks on the north end
49 of Prince of Wales, and central Southeast units. Unit 3
50 seems to be pretty -- the deer numbers seem to be fairly

1 depressed, probably a consequence of the hard winters
2 from a number of years ago. Things just seem to be
3 generally slow decline the last four or five years.

4
5 If you talk to the people that have been
6 out hunting, you'd probably hear from just about
7 everybody that there's a very healthy wolf population on
8 Units 2 -- or say Kupreanof Island, Mitkof Island, and
9 Prince of Wales Island. It seems to correspond with the
10 lack of hunger success. I know the biologists seem to
11 think that the wolf populations are suffering. One
12 possible explanation, we could be looking at a situation
13 where we're starting to see the effects of this predator
14 pit situation where hunters, deers, wolves are all kind
15 of getting concentrated in smaller areas. We've got
16 hundreds of thousands of acres in those units that are
17 now reaching that stem exclusion stage where it just is
18 kind of leading to a bad situation for deers, hunters and
19 maybe eventually wolves, but for right now wolves seem to
20 be pretty healthy.

21
22 I think we may be hearing in the next
23 cycle, we may be seeing some proposals asking for the end
24 of the doe season on Prince of Wales Island. It may not
25 be as much of a situation on the southern end of the
26 island, but the northern end of the island which does
27 seem to get more severe winters, with the lack of hunter
28 success, people are questioning whether we should really
29 be harvesting does. So we might be looking for that.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald.

34
35 Patty, go ahead.

36
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
38 Adams. Patricia Phillips, Pelican, Alaska.

39
40 We had a wind storm February 3rd, 2012,
41 and we probably had winds of about 100 knots. And the
42 number of murrees and murrettes and sea otters that the
43 storm conditions out on the ocean pushed into the inlet
44 was just incredible. I mean, there were hundreds of
45 murrees and murrettes and sea otters. We even videotaped
46 it just because it was just incredible.

47
48 We had two debilitating snowfalls this
49 winter. The outer coast is not as severe as Lisianski
50 Inlet, because Lisianski Inlet tends to get boxed in.

1 The second snowfall was really hard on the deer because
2 of the accumulation of the snow. And we did see some
3 weakness in the deer, but we ended up with some rain that
4 knocked the snow, compressed the snow down, and so the
5 deer were able to recover from the probably 12 feet of
6 snow we had.

7

8 We've had 17 feet of snow this winter and
9 hopefully we're not going to have the piled up of snow
10 that we had earlier in the year.

11

12 We're paying 82 cents a KWH for our
13 electricity, and we're probably about I think somewhere
14 in the 25 cent range for the first 500 KWH, but anything
15 over 500 KWH, then you're at 82 cents a KWH. So, you
16 know, we're in need of subsistence. And, you know, with
17 those two snowfalls that we had, it brought the deer down
18 to the beach, and so, you know, there was a harvest of
19 deer that was, you know, enjoyed I guess, or, you know,
20 taken. Because the deer were on the beach, we were able
21 to harvest it without having to do a whole lot of
22 trekking into the woods.

23

24 Also, I wanted to note that our herring
25 -- we have an early spring herring spawn, and that's a
26 traditional area, but we started -- the last three years
27 we've been having herring spawn in July, and it's
28 primarily females spawning, but no males with them. So
29 I just wanted to put that in the record.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Patty.

34

35 The Chair recognizes Tim Ackerman.

36

37 MR. ACKERMAN: Yes, Haines, the
38 Dtehshuh/Klukwan area report, I'll make it as brief as
39 possible.

40

41 We've had record-breaking snows in the
42 Haines area. We are over 30 feet since November. And if
43 it hadn't have been -- the first 11 feet came in
44 November. We had a meltdown and compaction in December,
45 and then it continued after that to add an additional
46 over the 30-foot mark.

47

48 The moose are so tired. There was one
49 that was witnessed in the reserve up there that some dogs
50 had just went right up to it and nipped it and just kept

1 on harassing it. The moose were so tired that I do
2 believe that all the wolves are eating very good. We are
3 eating good as well, because
4 three, four moose have been hit by cars so far, so
5 they've distributed moose meat to everybody that needs
6 it. Actually had one moose that we believe was chased
7 off the cliff by either a pack of wolves, and it leaped
8 to its death, landed in front of this truck. The truck
9 hit it, it flew over the top of the truck and landed
10 right in the bed.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. ACKERMAN: It was the easiest salvage
15 I think that was done yet.

16
17 But, yeah, there's quite a few moose.
18 There are so tired, because the snow is so deep.

19
20 There's plenty of coyotes and plenty of
21 wolves. I've seen some wolves out on the river flats
22 right at first light.

23
24 And also we've had a pretty good run of
25 capelin, we call them the candlefish. There's an
26 extraordinary amount of those came in. That was the food
27 supply up there in Haines that sustained the Chilkats and
28 the Chilkoots in the event that it was a long, lean
29 winter. The capelin would come in and everybody could
30 eat again for the rest of the spring and whatnot.

31
32 And then we saw the needlefish come in,
33 and I do believe there's some firecracker herring
34 happening right now is what we call them.

35
36 Yeah. And also the gillnetters up there
37 are having a meeting here soon, because the escapement
38 for the Chilkat and the Chilkoot weren't as good as they
39 wanted for sockeye. Then again there we have the
40 question of where are they being intercepted and how many
41 and the whole nine yards. Like they were talking about,
42 the genetic make up of the fish. Where are they going,
43 which area are they headed to would be a good answer for
44 them. But, yeah, they're looking at it right now, all
45 causes and stuff like that. So I'm sure the gillnetters
46 will be talking about it.

47
48 All right. Thanks.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Merle.

1 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Merle Hawkins from
2 Ketchikan.

3
4 I'm one of those urban Indians that has
5 to depend on trade a lot, so I'm able to get beach
6 asparagus and berries and so I've been doing lots of
7 trade with people. I met a gal at the bank and have been
8 trading her. She gets sockeyes, so that's been really
9 good for me.

10
11 And I've been working a lot with the KIC
12 tribe on the sea otter issue. We don't believe in
13 opening up the Marine Mammal Protection Act at all.

14
15 Also down our way we haven't been able to
16 get any clams and cockles, because of the paralytic shell
17 fish poisoning. And that's still in effect. So people
18 are not able to get their clams and all that good stuff
19 off the beach.

20
21 And I just heard there was a couple
22 people in Hydaburg that got a citation for not having a
23 fishing license for getting -- they got a couple of
24 Dungeness crab. So I'll bring that subject up again
25 under consultation and education.

26
27 So the rural status issue has come up
28 again, so that's the reason I put my name in again for
29 another three years on this Council, because Dr. Dolly
30 Garza brought me aboard when she retired, and I'm pretty
31 knowledgeable about that and want to continue to fight
32 for rural status for all of Southeast Alaska at this
33 point.

34
35 And I did manage to go to the Federal
36 Subsistence Board in Anchorage and represented KIC there.
37 And so it was good to follow some of the topics that we
38 have passed on to them.

39
40 And there's a lot of concern that we
41 didn't get our eulachon again this year. They have a big
42 three-day potlatch at home and there was a big mountain
43 of them at the feed that they had, so I was able to enjoy
44 some there.

45
46 But there's a lot of concern about the
47 mining above British Columbia. They had an SK mine that
48 was open there for 10 years that we were not aware of,
49 and it caused a lot of pollution to the river. And so
50 they're proposing this KSM mine now which would be

1 processing about 150 tons a day of rock that would be
2 crushed up. So there's a lot of concern about them
3 polluting the rivers in that area. And we're -- went to
4 the Alaska forum on the environment to educate ourselves
5 and continue that battle, because it could threaten all
6 the fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

7

8 I'm looking for someone to trade
9 eulachons with, so put the word in for me.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle.

14

15 The Chair recognizes Mr. Kookesh.

16

17 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Thank
18 you very much.

19

20 It would seem to me that in the interest
21 of time that if you really want to get serious that you
22 would start putting timelines on all of the issues that
23 are in front of us, because I'm of the opinion -- you
24 know, I have pancreatic cancer and, you know, I may not
25 all the time in the world, but when I put my time in to
26 be part of this public process, I didn't do it so that I
27 can speed it up to get out of the meeting. I put my time
28 in here so that I can take time to address the issues and
29 to speak to the issues all the way through. I don't have
30 all the time in the world, but I really believe that it's
31 important that we take the time to address the issues.
32 If you have, and this is to everybody, if you have more
33 important things to do, and you want this whole process
34 to really speed up, maybe you should think about doing
35 something else, because I represent a community that
36 views these issues as important. Subsistence is
37 important.

38

39 I know I got reprimanded one time for
40 leaving a meeting to attend the subsistence meeting -- or
41 leaving a subsistence meeting to attend a subsistence
42 meeting. And the point of that was I don't work from
43 8:00 to 4:30. I work 24/7 on these issues. I mean, I
44 live the lifestyle. And I happen to believe that we're
45 here to talk about subsistence. Let's put our time in.
46 And if you feel our time's more important, maybe you
47 should resign and let -- put somebody in there who wants
48 to take the time to sit here. I'm sure there are a lot
49 of people out there that have that time, because when I
50 sat down and put my time forward like this, I've been

1 doing this for 13 years, and I really appreciate what I'm
2 doing, but there's a lot of issues out there that I like
3 to believe that we can sit here and talk about.

4
5 I know I had one of the issues I want to
6 talk about was tribal consultation. I have questions
7 about tribal consultation, but I believe that's in our
8 book, and we can talk about that.

9
10 And I also have one that I'd like to talk
11 about the Governor's issue on choosing respect. I don't
12 know if this is the proper time to get into it, but I
13 told the Governor that when Native issues form in this
14 very building, if you're going to talk about it, be about
15 it. And practice what you preach. He's telling us to
16 practice, to choose respect because it's talking about
17 domestic violence and sexual assault and alcohol and drug
18 abuse. I told the Governor, the way your laws are
19 written, and the way our lifestyle is being regulated,
20 our customary and traditional lifestyle is being
21 regulated, you have to expect that's going to be a
22 byproduct of that. The way, you know, you -- he says
23 you'll hear follows the law, and he wonders why we have
24 domestic violence and drug abuse and alcohol abuse.
25 You're taking away a people's customary and traditional
26 way of life. And that's -- and the Governor, he doesn't
27 get it. But, anyway, that's one other discussion.

28
29 And the other one that I have here is
30 that, and there's a sign -- I'm going down my list,
31 there's a sign in Angoon that said, paralytic shell fish
32 poisoning, PSP, don't eat the clams and the cockles, but
33 nobody's coming out there and testing it. They're just
34 telling us flat out, don't eat it. But people go ahead
35 and eat it anyway. I went home to get -- we got nine
36 buckets of cockles and four buckets of clams and we
37 shared it as we usually did, and we didn't die. But to
38 be telling us to flat out not eat it when you don't even
39 do any testing in our community, that doesn't make sense.
40 It's just like a worthless sign. We're taking our
41 chances regardless, eating the resource, but we do it
42 anyway.

43
44 And the two rural seats. You know, I
45 have to commend the Federal Subsistence Board, Office of
46 Subsistence Management and maybe the RAC for taking the
47 time to create these two rural seats. But at the same
48 time, I want people to understand that just because
49 there's two more seats on the Federal Subsistence Board
50 doesn't mean that we can all just sit back and say, oh,

1 good, all our problems are solve. It's now three to
2 five, or something like that. But my point is, even
3 though there's two more seats been created on the Federal
4 Subsistence Board, every one of us, the Native, non-
5 Native community that's rural, needs to say something.
6 Don't just expect that we have two -- because we have two
7 more seats we can sit there and be a lot quieter about
8 it. We all need to get up and start speaking to the
9 issues. We can't just ignore it because we've got two
10 more seats. Good. More power to them, but that doesn't
11 solve the problem. People need to be advocates for
12 subsistence. You can't just expect it to happen.

13

14 And I kind of keep from being concerned
15 every year about the two seats. We keep getting two
16 seats elected from Sitka, and I'm wondering, there's got
17 to be more people in Southeast Alaska to the point of
18 where we can have just one seat in Sitka and spread this
19 out a little more. It shouldn't be just -- is it that
20 there's no interest in being on the RAC when we have to
21 select two people out of Sitka? It would be sad if we
22 have three. And those kinds of things.

23

24 And an example, too, is this ETJ petition
25 that Kootznoowoo is doing. A lot of discussion comes
26 about Albert being a salmon slayer or a sockeye salmon
27 slayer and stuff like that. Albert got cited years
28 after we started this public process. We think it's a
29 sad shame to be dragging the Kookesh name through this
30 process, about being salmon slayers.

31

32 What's also disappointing about this ETJ
33 that we have to deal with is people getting cited for one
34 fish over. Peter that did the research on this petition
35 found out that commercial fishermen went over \$5,000 --
36 5,000 fish over their 15,000 limit of sockeye, but no one
37 was cited. 5,000 fish. You go get one sockeye over 25
38 and all of a sudden you're cited. There's a citation
39 occurred in our community. Something's wrong with that
40 process.

41

42 And the fact that we're submitted an ETJ
43 petition, I talked to Johnny Muller last night, and he
44 works for the Governor. He said it's all right under
45 public process to put in requests like this. We did all
46 of the right things in proceeding the way we did. We
47 followed the rules, we followed everybody's rule. We
48 played by the game. And the next thing we know, we're
49 standing outside the exit door with no handle to get back
50 in. Every door we opened had no handle knob to press to

1 turn around to come back in the door. It was a one way
2 out.

3

4 And I did ask the question about the
5 herring roe fishery in Sitka. I'm sure Bobby, Mr.
6 Thorstenson, is going to help me get that information,
7 because I want to know what happened to the stocks from
8 the previous year. And last year's. Because if they
9 raised the tonnage, there must be something good going on
10 with that fishery.

11

12 I did take some notes this morning, like
13 5:30 in the morning.

14

15 And the deer hunting season, I found out
16 in all my years of hunting that deer are very resilient
17 and we can't kill them off. I'm very fortunate. We're
18 blessed with the fact that we don't have a wolf
19 population.

20

21 And the idea of having the Federal
22 Subsistence Board here, that is probably one of the best
23 things that ever happened to us in a long time.

24

25 I was wishing and I'm very sorry that we
26 never did this before, of why we never brought our RAC to
27 this building, why we always had it -- why we ended up
28 having it in the Orca Room or the Extended Stay
29 conference room. Something we kind of overlooked.

30

31 And the idea of taking, for example, my
32 niece moves to Seattle, and she's no longer able to
33 practice the customary and traditional way of life of
34 getting sockeye, because she's a non-resident. We
35 shouldn't be buying into these kind of regulations that
36 regulate our children and their grandchildren, and our
37 grandchildren right out of this process. It's their
38 right to the -- they have a right to that food, too.

39

40 And I did ask the question, and we never
41 did get a full-blown interpretation of Administrative
42 Procedures Act, because I know the State of Alaska's
43 taken Albert, their case forward, the Angoon Four forward
44 to the state supreme court, and still carrying that fight
45 on.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.

50

1 Mr. Douville. (In Tlingit)

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I took your comment to get through this agenda as a
5 notice to stay focused and not to do a -- not that we
6 would do a sloppy job or anything. We do do that. And
7 I took that statement for what it was, is we will focus
8 and get through it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

11

12 MR. DOUVILLE: And I do think you do a
13 good job.

14

15 I have a couple things I'd like to
16 address. One will be a proposal. There's a space in our
17 agenda for that.

18

19 I asked the question -- well, first of
20 all, I live in the southern part of Prince of Wales, on
21 the west side. And we have the ocean that warms things
22 up so we don't have the snow pile up that some of you do,
23 and no one's complaining about deer. We're doing fine
24 where I live anyway.

25

26 I asked the question about across border
27 trade. We have a situation where a gentleman from Canada
28 comes up and trades eulachon oil. And his father before
29 him has done that. And since anybody can remember, that
30 trade has been going on. Probably up in this area, too.
31 The year before, last hear he was stopped by an Alaska
32 Marine Fisheries officer and he was told if he didn't
33 stop that his vehicle would be seized and its contents.
34 And he got scared and went back to Canada and didn't come
35 to Prince of Wales, so we were without. And he asked the
36 officer, well, what do I need to do to comply and he
37 never did get a clear answer.

38

39 What he's doing is completely legal in
40 Canada. They allow the tribes to do it. It's totally
41 sanctioned by the government. So if he was violating a
42 law or there was some means of compliance that he could
43 do, he's most interested in knowing, and I suppose the
44 people on Prince of Wales are also, too.

45

46 So where is the law that says he cannot
47 do that? I'd like to see it. And I'd like some response
48 from Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine
49 Fisheries that points this out. I would like to get it
50 straightened out so we can continue our trade.

1 I asked about subsistence black cod, we
2 can get subsistence black cod in State waters. I asked
3 about how about Federal water and I was told by the
4 enforcement there is no provision for subsistence in
5 Federal water. And this I couldn't understand. I mean,
6 I don't know why we could not legally go get deep water
7 fish in Federal water. I would like to address that
8 somehow. I'm not sure how.

9
10 And we have a lot of conversation on sea
11 otter. Most of it's -- there seems to be a lot of
12 concern by the artists that if whole hide export is
13 allowed, that they would be out of business, because of
14 products made and re-imported back into the states. And
15 with the otter population we have, we need to have a
16 mechanism that allows a controlled hunt other than
17 subsistence, or we will never stabilize the otter
18 population. I think legislation could be passed to
19 address their concerns by not allowing the re-importation
20 of sea otter or its products for sale. It would be as
21 simple as that.

22
23 Most of the conversations that I looked
24 at during the State bill that was introduced had to do --
25 and the Feds, has to do with artistry and sewing hides.
26 Nobody seems to be concerned about the subsistence user
27 that can't get crabs or cucumbers, urchins, just to name
28 a few. Cockles. No one seems -- no one lives --
29 decisions are being made for me at AFN and Tlingit-Haida
30 and the ANB up here, and I don't see any of them that
31 live where I do and are trying to gather shellfish. So
32 we need to look at all aspects of it.

33
34 And that is my report. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.

37
38 Cathy, the Chair recognizes you.

39
40 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I just have a couple of brief comments.

42
43 One, some work that I've been doing since
44 we last met is I've had the pleasure of sitting on the
45 customary and traditional work group that Tlingit and
46 Haida has in Juneau. I go to the meetings for
47 information purposes so that I can gather more
48 information about issues that are important regarding
49 subsistence that are brought forward to Tlingit and
50 Haida. And I won't go into detail about those meetings,

1 because I think we'll hear a lot more in the next couple
2 of days since this past six months they've been focusing
3 on the ETJ issue and also focusing on sea otters.

4
5 And then the other thing I wanted to
6 report is that we also had the opportunity to present,
7 along with some scientists that presented at the Board of
8 Fish meeting, on behalf of the Regional Advisory Council.
9 A presentation was put together and Mr. Bangs gave that
10 presentation at the Board of Fish meeting regarding
11 information that we've taken, that we've heard in these
12 meetings and stuff, and giving that education back to the
13 Board of Fish system for future consideration. And we'll
14 be hearing more about that later this week as well.

15
16 So thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

19
20 Mr. Yeager, your turn.

21
22 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23
24 I have actually nothing specific to
25 report from Wrangell.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Wright.

30
31 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 This year, you know, I was dragging the
34 hook around probably two weeks ago, and I'm happy to say
35 I haven't seen any deer laying on the beach, so maybe
36 things are getting better for them. So I'm hoping that
37 when the biologists go out and check it out, then I'm
38 hoping that they find more deer I mean, that -- you
39 know, my nephew's still bugging me, how come we can't
40 shoot does? And I said, well, there are reasons why you
41 can't do that. So I'm hoping that this early snow didn't
42 do too much damage.

43
44 Every year I speak I guess -- the
45 stinking sea otter always comes up, you know. And we've
46 got sea otters by Hoonah Island. My nephew took care of
47 those ones. And then there's supposed to be some sea
48 otters up the Bay, which is scary, because we do cockles
49 up there and we do clams up there, and there's Dungeness
50 crab up there. And so I'm going to be getting worried

1 about those things.

2

3 Another issue is that I think there's,
4 you know, some -- I know there's a protection of whales,
5 but I've never seen so many whales in Icy Straits in a
6 winter than I have this past year, you know. And they're
7 not the big ones, they're the small ones. So, you know,
8 when we're fishing, dragging a seine around, and all of
9 a sudden 10 whales come up in the middle of your seine,
10 it scares the hell out of you. You just hope they're
11 smart enough to dive, you know. So I've been lucky so
12 far.

13

14 But when the whales come back from Maui
15 this summer, it's going to be something, because how much
16 biomass does a whale need? I mean, you got hundreds of
17 them in Icy Straits. I mean, they coast up and down that
18 coast from down by Point Augusta up Tenakee, all up that
19 coast where guys are fishing, and they're all the way up
20 to Point Sofia, all across Icy Straits. There's hundreds
21 of them. I know that the green people probably wouldn't
22 want to hear me say stuff like this, but something needs
23 to be done about them. That's what I think.

24

25 Still dealing with the sea lions, like I
26 said. throw a hook overboard, drag it around, you've got
27 a sea lion hoping that you catch a king salmon so that
28 they could borrow it from you.

29

30 And I'm hoping that we're able to get
31 some herring eggs from Sitka so we're still going to be
32 counting on that. I know last year we had one boat that
33 had to go over there to get eggs for us, and I'm hoping
34 that, you know -- the community did help pay for his
35 fuel, so the work that he did -- it's a lot of work I
36 guess to do the herring egg thing.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Wright.

41

42 Mr. Bangs.

43

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

45

46 I'd like to make one quick comment in
47 regards to Mr. Kookesh's comments about our agenda and
48 how we're speeding through it at times. And I agree with
49 Mr. Douville. I think that the point was well taken,
50 that we just need to focus. But the real problem I think

1 is that this program isn't allowing enough time for us to
2 carry out what we need to do. And I think maybe the
3 speed up thing is kind of a symptom of that bigger
4 problem. And maybe we need to address that and to make
5 sure when we write up an agenda that we make sure we have
6 enough time to cover it. But other than that, that's all
7 I have to say on that.

8

9 As far as Petersburg area, we had --
10 well, I'll just say we had enough snow.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: And that hopefully that's
15 over.

16

17 There's a good forecast for the Stikine
18 River king salmon, so everybody's pretty optimistic.
19 They might even prosecute a -- it sounds like they will
20 have a commercial fishery with the threshold being that
21 high. So that will be good for the people around town to
22 be able to go out and catch sport fish as well.

23

24 As far as sea otters, it's getting kind
25 of scary, although the Petersburg Indian Association has
26 been working real hard to allow for sewing machines and
27 organizing some learning about how to make handicrafts
28 and whatnot. And there is some of that being down, and
29 it's become pretty economical, because there's sea otters
30 real close to Petersburg now. And that's pretty far
31 inland if you're not real aware of where Petersburg is.
32 But there was a report last week that four were
33 transitting the Wrangell Narrows, which, you know, in the
34 30 years I've been here, I've never seen anything like
35 that. So it is still a growing issue.

36

37 There was a killer whale research project
38 done in the latter part of February in Frederick Sound.
39 And I was really surprised, but the scientists documented
40 80 different individual killer whales in Frederick Sound.
41 And I had no idea. You hardly -- you know, you see them
42 once in a while. I thought that was kind of an
43 interesting thing that came up.

44

45 And the smelt are finally coming back to
46 the Wrangell Narrows. I guess they -- years ago there
47 was quite a few large schools of smelt that came in there
48 and spawned in Scow Bay. And there was no regulation
49 against it, and they were harvested. And it's taken
50 years and years, but now they're starting to come back

1 and people are catching them off the dock in the
2 springtime, and it's kind of need to see a resource make
3 a rebound like that.

4

5 Anyway that's all I have, thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.

8

9 Mr. Kitka.

10

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

12

13 In the Sitka area we had some concerns.

14 Part of I think is being settled I think.

15

16 The goats and the bear, they closed them
17 a little bit early. I'm not too sure on some of the
18 reasoning on it, and I know there's some people
19 questioning it.

20

21 The herring is an issue. It became a big
22 issue with us this year when they announced the quota.
23 And realizing that herring is a forager fish and that
24 most everything in the ocean lives off of the herring
25 from the time they're eggs until the time they die. And
26 so that was a concern on just the amount that they're
27 taking. We asked them to be a little more cautious about
28 it, but that seems not to be going anywhere.

29

30 And we also have some concerns about the
31 sea otter yet, that they're on the increase again in
32 Sitka sound. They're getting into places where they
33 hadn't been before. We know that they're going --
34 everything is going to be gone again.

35

36 We had another concern that came up this
37 past year, and that was commercializing customary foods.
38 People starting to try to commercialize some of our
39 customary foods, ad this is a concern, because everything
40 that gets commercialized seems to get gone. And so we
41 seem to lose it right away.

42

43 And that's all I have to say.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.

46

47 The Chair's report is next. I'm going to
48 turn this portion over to our vice chair. Mr. Vice
49 Chair, may I be recognized?

50

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
2 Adams, do you have anything to report.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir. You know,
5 I've attended many meetings over the years, and I've even
6 been asked to conduct some of those meetings. For
7 instance, the Wrangell-St. Elias workshop that we have
8 every year. And at the beginning of every meeting I
9 always use a Tlingit term, (in Tlingit), and that means
10 respect. And it always seems to set the tone for the
11 meeting. And I've never found any reason to really
12 emphasize that here, because among you, you know, I think
13 that that respect is evidently shown. Not only should we
14 have respect for one another, but we should have respect
15 for the environment and all of the resources.

16
17 There's a story about Raven when he
18 pulled in that large canoe on the beach and let out all
19 the animals and the birds and the fishes and the
20 wildlife. That was one of the first things that he left
21 the people with when they began coming into those area,
22 is that they should respect everything.

23
24 And when you respect the resources, when
25 you respect the trees, and the environment, then nature
26 will begin to respond to those. When you show
27 disrespect, then bad things happen.

28
29 So I really feel, you know, that (in
30 Tlingit) is really an important part of our Native
31 culture and we should be practicing that all the time.

32
33 I thought about timelines for comments.
34 I don't like to put timelines on presentations, but I do
35 ask for respect. That we do have an agenda to go
36 through, and if we can finish it in a certain amount of
37 time, then people would be able to pace their meetings
38 and say everything that they need to say in order that we
39 might get a good understanding of their concerns. I
40 still have that feeling. And, you know, I would put it
41 upon the Council and to people who are going to make
42 comments in the future, that we do have a tight timeline
43 here and we need to respect that.

44
45 Some things in my area. Oh another
46 thing, too, I don't see any real reason why if the
47 Chairman needs to make a comment or ask a question that
48 it's necessary, you know, to switch gavels back and
49 forth. I think the Chairman has the leeway, and I've
50 gotten feelings from and comments from other Council

1 members that it's okay the way that I am conducting the
2 meetings.

3

4 Now, into our area in Yakutat. I got
5 some good news the other day, last week. The eulachons
6 are starting to show up there, particularly in the Akwe
7 River. And I normally go on the survey trips. Like I
8 said earlier, there is a four-year grant that has allowed
9 the Forest Service to do surveys of about 19 rivers from
10 Yakutat all the way down to Dry Bay. I was away when the
11 first two surveys were done, but I had a couple of tribal
12 members go along on the flight and got a report from
13 them, and they were really impressed with the eulachons
14 that were entering into the Akwe. It's going to spread
15 out. Couldn't get any of those eulachons because the
16 snow was too high and you couldn't land, you know, close
17 to where they were. It would mean a long haul. But when
18 they start showing up into the Italio River, there's a
19 landing strip right next to the place where they harvest
20 the eulachons, and so hopefully in the next week or so
21 that will happen.

22

23 The winter has been a tough one for us.
24 A couple weeks ago we had a total snow fall of 301
25 inches. The record for there is 311 inches way back in
26 1974. And we have about maybe 9 or 10 to go to equal
27 that or break it. I swear to you, ladies and gentlemen,
28 that the snow has gotten so high, that we are actually
29 living in an igloo. And I have some pictures in my
30 computer if you want to see it. I can bring it in
31 tomorrow.

32

33 But I know my satellite dish is maybe 50
34 or so feet away from our building and in my back yard
35 I've had to dig a hole into the roof or, you know, beside
36 the roof, and there's a hole about that much that I can
37 just get my body through and go out there and clean off
38 my satellite dish every now and then. And that's true.
39 I've got pictures of that as well.

40

41 Let me see. Herring. Herring eggs in
42 Yakutat has been getting better every year. I want to
43 keep that a secret as long as I can.

44

(Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But we wouldn't give any
48 competition to Sitka, but, yeah, we had a real good
49 harvest of herring eggs in Yakutat last spring, and it
50 seems to be getting better and better every year.

1 As I mentioned earlier, there was a
2 commercial -- well, a couple of test runs I believe it
3 was in the 1950s. They took three sweeps of herring in
4 a particular area, that that wiped out our herring, and
5 it's taken, you know, over 50 years to start restoring
6 itself, and we're seeing that happening right now as we
7 speak.

8
9 Because of the deep snow, and the snow
10 began to get high in November, that's when our deer
11 season opens. We don't have, you know -- we have but 30-
12 day deer opening in November, and the deer were really
13 easy to get this year, because of the fact that they had
14 to be down by the water, free from the snow. And it
15 would be interesting to see, you know, what effect the
16 winter has had on the deer this year.

17
18 Seal is a concern in Hubbard Glacier.
19 But, you know, they have been monitoring that very
20 closely and hopefully, you know, we'll see some better
21 results coming from those reports.

22
23 I want to give you a short rundown of the
24 Wrangell-St.Elias Resource Commission meeting we had two
25 or three weeks ago. We had a new member. Raymond
26 Sensmier was not reappointed and there's Karen Lendell
27 from Kenny Lake was recently appointed to that body. I
28 was again reelected as the Chair.

29
30 And I remember when I first came on this
31 body here and the Council, you know, elected me or
32 designated me to be on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
33 Resource Commission. I went to that first meeting and I
34 came back and gave a report. And big Bill Thomas, you
35 know, was the Chairman at that time, and he was wondering
36 how come I wasn't elected Chairman already. And I told
37 him, I said, jeez, I'm just new, Bill, you know, you'll
38 have to give a little time. Maybe they don't want me,
39 but, yeah, it took a couple years before they elected me
40 to be the Chair and I've been serving in that capacity
41 ever since.

42
43 We are training one lady to take over the
44 Chair. She's been in training ever since I got on there.
45 She was ready to take over last year, but she was in a
46 serious automobile accident, and, you know, she's back to
47 health now, but she felt, you know, that she still needed
48 to have another year away from that. So maybe next year
49 they'll have a new Chair up there,
50

1 There's some other things here. What I'm
2 going to do is I'll turn this over to Robert and he can
3 forward it to you for your files.

4
5 One of the big issues that we talk about,
6 excuse me, every year is firewood harvested in the Park.
7 There's a lot of complaints about the use of chainsaw and
8 the noise, you know, it causes and everything. But most
9 of the Council members, you know, feel that there is no
10 real -- there should be no real concern for that. So,
11 you know, that's an on-going discussion.

12
13 Later on you'll see in the packet a
14 letter from the Gates of the Arctic regarding per diem.
15 They think, you know, that Regional Advisory Councils and
16 SRCs should have better per diem. We talked about this
17 quite a bit, and I found out that the Regional Advisory
18 Councils and SRC members receive the same per diem as the
19 Federal employees do. So to increase our per diem, you
20 know, would be really going a little bit overboard for
21 them there. However, they discussed the fact that maybe
22 a stipend, you know, would be more appropriate than
23 calling it a per diem.

24
25 The tentative location for the RC meeting
26 is going to be in Kenny Lake on September 24th or 25th.
27 For our consideration, we'll began to talk about our next
28 meetings, and the second option would be during the week
29 of October 8th, but we will get these confirmed up, you
30 know, in the near future and will be able to share that
31 with you more definitely.

32
33 Anyhow, folks, that's the extent of my
34 report. Unless there are any questions, we can go ahead
35 and move on with the agenda.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we will do that.

40
41 MR. BANGS: Mr. Adams, I have something
42 here.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, thank you. Thank
45 you, Mr. Bangs. We're now back into session.

46
47 And, yeah, the .805(c) report is supposed
48 to have been in your manual. Okay. And it's not. So
49 we'll get that to you as soon as possible. It's not our
50 fault, you know, it's somebody else's fault.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Isn't that (indiscernible,
6 mic not on)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What page is it?
9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: 19.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Page 19. Well, we were
13 looking for it here. That's the annual report. Okay.
14 Yeah. No, the .805(c) report is forthcoming, so bear
15 with us on that.
16
17 Let's goon to item number 9, regulatory
18 proposals. Call for proposals to change Federal
19 subsistence fish and shellfish regulations. We have a
20 deadline of March 30th to submit these. So any ideas.
21
22 While he's doing that, Robert, do you
23 want to say something.
24
25 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 On last Thursday I distributed via email two proposals
27 that the Staff thought that the Council should consider
28 for submitting based on previous comments of the Council.
29 I don't know if everybody has those or not, but I have
30 extra copies. I'll just take a moment to distribute
31 them, if it's okay?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. And then -- you
34 can do that.
35
36 Mike, you've got something you want to
37 share with us about those.
38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40
41
42 Yeah, there is a situation that appeared
43 out of nowhere. It's a Federal subsistence designated
44 fishing permit.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Never heard of it.
47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Well, what it does is it
49 allows you to designated fish for another Federal user.
50 And in the steelhead fishery no Prince of Wales, you have

1 a household permit system. It allows you to take two
2 fish in the winter time and then five in the spring per
3 household. This designated fishing permit circumvents
4 that. You could buy it like a deer hunting permit and
5 fish for anybody in your household. So the limits kind
6 of go out the window here. I don't know if you follow me
7 or not, so we have a problem.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is that in effect right
10 now?

11

12 MR. DOUVILLE: We have small -- yeah. We
13 have small streams that could be put under considerable
14 pressure, like Klawock, and, you know, they're all
15 relatively small streams anyway, so this proposal that I
16 have here would address some of that by putting a limit
17 on how many you could from a given stream. And I guess
18 you could pass it down and I don't know what to do with
19 it other than this. But that's kind of the problem that
20 this proposal would address.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'm just going to
23 ask the Council, how you would like to address this. You
24 can, you know, consider it now if you want.

25

26 Mr. Bangs, do you have a comment.

27

28 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 think if we could get a copy made possibly.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And take care of it
32 later on the agenda.

33

34 MR. BANGS: Yes. I think that would be
35 the way to do it. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Yes, Cathy.

38

39 MS. NEEDHAM: I have a question I read
40 the email that Mr. Larson sent to us and there was a
41 Prince of Wales steelhead proposal on there, and I'm
42 looking to him to just confirm whether or not the one
43 that we got in the email is the same as what Mr. Douville
44 is talking about or is it different.

45

46 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Cathy. The
47 topic that I distributed earlier, and I have hard copies
48 of now, concerns whether or not we need three permits to
49 harvest steelhead on Prince of Wales, or if one is
50 sufficient. It does not address the question regarding

1 the use of a designating fishing, you know, that whole
2 process or program.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So he's got -- is this
5 the only proposal that we have, or you've got some more?
6 And then we have the one that Mike is going to pass on to
7 you for later consideration.

8
9 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I could speak to
10 the other proposal. The first proposal is to have a
11 discussion about how many permits we need to harvest
12 steelhead on Prince of Wales. And we do not have a
13 position. That's something for the Council, that they've
14 talked about, and something that we've prepared if they
15 want to submit it, that's fine. We have some language in
16 front of you.

17
18 The other issue is another topic that we
19 discussed in September. It regards the guideline harvest
20 of sockeyes in the Stikine River subsistence fishery.
21 Right now we have a guideline harvest of 600 fish. It's
22 in Federal regulations. It's also in the treaty annex.
23 The portion that's in Federal regulations could be
24 addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board. That number
25 that's in the treaty annex would need to be changed by
26 the Pacific Salmon Commission. But in order to put it
27 before the Commission, the proper way, and the way we've
28 done changes to management of the Stikine River before is
29 to put it before the Board and let them make a
30 recommendation that they forward to the Pacific Salmon
31 Commission.

32
33 So the harvest in the last couple of
34 years has been approximately 1700 sockeyes. The
35 guideline harvest is 600. What we could have as a
36 solution, in order to bring the perceptions of what this
37 fishery does and the size of this fishery, the scale,
38 would be to either remove the guideline harvest from
39 regulations altogether, or to change it to approximate
40 the anticipated size of the Federal subsistence fishery.

41
42
43 I've been getting some advice that
44 removing the guideline harvest is problematic. People
45 like to have a guideline harvest on the books. It would
46 be easier to support. And the proposal you have in front
47 of you, the proposal language, has a 600 -- or a 2000
48 fish guideline. But that's for your consideration.

49
50 And I suspect that no matter what the

1 Council does about this, the Board will have a proposal
2 by some user to address this discrepancy between the
3 actual size of the harvest and the harvest guideline
4 range that's in our regulations. But the process I think
5 would be enhanced if Council made that proposal, and we
6 could have a Staff analysis and deliberate it in the
7 fall.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I think
12 that's a good idea.

13

14 Mr. Bangs.

15

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

17

18 Mr. Larson, would it be possible, because
19 of the nature of the fishery and subsistence is going to
20 take place, and we may go over the 2000 like we've been
21 going over the 600, would it be appropriate to maybe have
22 the wording in there that says approximately 2,000 so it
23 doesn't make it look like we're, you know, doing
24 something that we shouldn't be doing, even though it
25 doesn't really matter.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, respond,
28 please.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Bangs. The
31 nature of a guideline harvest is to provide scale to the
32 fishery. It's not a cap. It's not a minimum. It's not
33 a maximum. It's an anticipated size, so an approximate
34 guideline is kind of a redundant concept.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay.
39 What's the wish of the Council on these proposals. Do
40 you all have one? There's the one on the Prince of Wales
41 Island and the other one on Stikine River. Do you have.
42 Who else doesn't have them. Who else needs them.

43

44 (Pause - distributing copies.)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Everybody got a copy
47 now? Okay. So what's the wish of the Council on
48 resolutions or proposals.

49

50 Donald.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I would make the motion that this Council put forward as
3 proposals the two proposals we have before us. One
4 proposal would increase the guideline harvest level for
5 the Stikine River sockeye subsistence fishery to 2,000
6 sockeye from 600.

7
8 And the other proposal that we should put
9 forward to the Board would a proposal dealing with
10 steelhead fishing on Prince of Wales Island which would
11 change the regulation so that you would no longer have to
12 get two separate permits to fish the winter and spring
13 seasons. Only one permit would be necessary.

14
15 And I will leave it open until Mr.
16 Douville comes forward with a written proposal dealing
17 with the designated fishing permit for steelhead for
18 further discussion.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So this is a
21 motion, right. You made motion?

22
23 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll make a motion for
24 these two proposals.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I need a second.

27
28 MR. BANGS: Second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs seconds it.
31 Okay.

32
33 Discussion. Mr. Douville.

34
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36
37 The proposal on Prince of Wales regarding
38 the two permits, I don't think that that one's necessary
39 as it would be contradictory somewhat to the one that I
40 have, that I'll have. You can have this one.

41
42 I talked to the biologist, and he didn't
43 seem to think having two permits was a particular issue.
44 It was a little more bookwork, but on the other hand it
45 also gives you better reporting.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know, what I would
48 probably recommend then is maybe Robert can get copies of
49 your proposal made up, and then maybe we can bring these
50 up later and take care of them. Would that be all right

1 or do you want to wait? Okay. We'll have to do it
2 though before we adjourn.

3

4 Mr. Bangs.

5

6 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman. In regards to
7 the Stikine River sockeye increase, although I understand
8 why we have to put a number down I think, I'd rather not
9 have a number, but I think we should go forward with that
10 one. I think it's a good idea.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Go ahead,
13 Donald.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 I guess my feeling on the Stikine River sockeye is that
17 under other circumstances I don't think I would support
18 putting guideline harvest levels. I think we -- you
19 know, on other systems we don't do that, but seeing as
20 how we're in this international treaty on the Stikine
21 River, it's probably a good idea.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I need to bring
24 a point of order here, what is it.

25

26 MR. LARSON: A point of order.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A point of order. Yeah.
29 Your motion was to accept both of these; however we're
30 going to pull one of these until this one comes out later
31 on, so only need to deal with one. So maybe an amendment
32 to take out.

33

34 MR. LARSON: Well, there's no second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's no second?

37

38 MR. LARSON: Was there a second?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think there was a
41 second.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There was a second.

46

47 MR. LARSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, but it
48 seems like we're getting a little ahead of ourselves. I
49 would suggest that the maker of the motion ask for
50 concurrence of the second to start over.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. I see the
2 complication here. Okay. If we want to reconsider the
3 second motion on Prince of Wales Island, then maybe we
4 should, you know, reconsider my motion. So, if that's
5 okay with you, Mike, as the second.

6
7 MR. BANGS: I'll reconsider my second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So it's off the
10 table now. We can put them back on individually.

11
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: So I would make the
13 motion that the Council put forward the proposal to the
14 Board on increasing the guideline harvest for the Stikine
15 River.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second.

18
19 MR. BANGS: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs seconds it.
22 Discussion.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Maybe, Mr. Larson, you
27 can answer a question. You and I have talked about this,
28 you know, prior to this, but about the ramifications of
29 increasing it. You know, is there any, you know, adverse
30 effect that will take these resources from another user
31 group or whatever?

32
33 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The U.S.
34 harvest is -- or really the subsistence harvest is a
35 component of the total U.S. harvest of sockeye salmon
36 that is allocated to the United States. And that
37 includes all fisheries. That's the commercial and the
38 subsistence fishery. There's essentially no sport
39 fishery for sockeyes on the Stikine River, at least the
40 U.S. portion of it.

41
42 But there is concerns by both the U.S.
43 fishermen and the Canadian managers regarding a Federal
44 regulation that says a 600 guideline harvest and a
45 component of the treaty that says 600 guideline harvest.
46 And that's in contrast to the performance of the fishery
47 that in the last two years has exceeded this number of
48 600 fish by, you know, some amount, approximately 1700.
49
50

1 Now, practically speaking, the conduct of
2 the fishery, there's no difference between 600 and 1700.
3 It's such a small number that it's background noise
4 within the total fishery allocation. But it is part and
5 will be maintained as part of the total U.S. harvest, but
6 it's easier for -- and this is my perspective, that it
7 would be easier for the U.S. managers of the commercial
8 fishery to have a number on the books that actually is
9 more reflective of the actual harvest than it would be
10 having a number on the books that does not reflect what
11 the subsistence harvest is probably going to be.

12
13 But concerning the change in harvest, we
14 started some years ago at 2004 at a couple of hundred
15 sockeyes. We've evolved the fishery to where it is not
16 at 16 or 1700. I do not believe that the increase in
17 size of that fishery is going to run unabated. It --
18 there's only so many people that are going to
19 participate, there's only so many sockeyes, there's only
20 so many places to fish. I think that having a 2,000 fish
21 guideline harvest is likely to stand the test of time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
24 Larson.

25
26 Questions or comments, anyone.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
33 called for. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed nay.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carries. Thank
42 you. Then we'll take up the other two at another point
43 in our agenda. And I need to emphasize that we need to
44 take care of this, you know, before we adjourn.

45
46 All right. Any more proposals to come
47 forth.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's move on to
2 old business. Review and finalize draft 2011 annual
3 report. You all have a copy of that. That's on Page 19
4 in your book. And, you know, we'll open it up for
5 discussion. Do we always adopt it by motion?
6

7 MR. LARSON: Yes.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. So we need a
10 motion to accept it and then we'll get a second and then
11 talk about it. Okay.
12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: I move to accept the 2011
18 annual report of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
19 Regional Advisory Council.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do I hear a second.
22

23 MR. BANGS: Second.
24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: By whom? Who seconded
26 that?
27

28 MR. BANGS: I second.
29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You. Mr. Bangs. I
31 should have known. Okay. It's open for discussion, so
32 go ahead.
33

34 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.
37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
39

40
41 706(b), what measures are being
42 instituted by the U.S. Forest Service to protect fish
43 resources, subsistence resources impacted by sea otters.
44 I mean, I know we're sending this to the U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife Service, but we are down here in Southeast
46 Alaska where the governing agency is the U.S. Forest
47 Service. So what sort of actions, you know, can the
48 Forest Service do to help us, you know, deal with these
49 rampant sea otters, because they're impacting our
50 subsistence harvest of, you know, marine resources. I

1 think we have to place a greater emphasis on the
2 subsistence resources being significantly impacted by the
3 over-abundance of sea otters.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a good question.
6 I don't know how to answer it. Forest Service, you know,
7 deals with land issues, and Fish and Wildlife Service I
8 believe, you know, has jurisdiction over the waters and
9 sea otters in particular. So unless someone else can,
10 you know, enlighten me on that, that's my comment.

11

12 Anyone else have a comment on that
13 particular issue, on the sea otter. I guess what she
14 wants is the Forest Service to be more involved on that
15 issue.

16

17 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, go ahead.

20

21 MR. LARSON: Is there a specific language
22 that we're looking for, Patty? I'm struggling with what
23 we're doing with the annual report here regarding your
24 comments.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: And through the Chair, Mr.
31 Larson. I was reading ANILCA Section .7 -- this portion
32 deals with the national forest timber utilization program
33 under Section .706. It says, the Secretary's directed to
34 monitor timber supply, and that's (a); and then (b) is
35 every five years from the enactment of this act, and
36 every two years thereafter, the Secretary will review and
37 report to Congress on the status of the national forest
38 in Southeastern Alaska. And this report shall include,
39 but not be limited to the timber harvest levels in the
40 forest since enactment of this act and the impact of
41 wilderness designation on timber, fishing and tourism
42 industry in Southeast, and measures instituted by the
43 Forest Service to protect fish and wildlife in the
44 forest.

45

46 And, you know, I know that this is -- I
47 know sea otters is in the waters, but, I mean, we're
48 talking about Federal agencies and there should be some
49 more collaboration going on, because you have the Fish
50 and Wildlife Service, you have the National

1 Ocean/Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Forest
2 Service, and it just seems like they're not talking to
3 one another. And Mike talked about it in his community
4 comment about we're not giving great enough emphasis on
5 the impact to subsistence resource harvest, that, you
6 know, we have diminishing supplies because of the over-
7 abundance of sea otters. And so I think -- you know,
8 we're saying that the Council submitted the letter, but
9 we need to, you know, further emphasize that critical
10 subsistence resources are being
11 significantly, what's that word, impacted, yeah, thanks.
12 Significantly negatively impacted. So I would like the
13 letter to more clearly state that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So I think.....

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: I appreciate -- Mr. Chair,
18 I'm sorry.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: I appreciate the amount
23 of, you know, work that went into this letter. And the
24 point of it coming before this RAC is to more fine tune
25 it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And that's what we're
32 looking for. That's why we're reviewing it, so we
33 appreciate your comments.

34
35 I think what I'm probably going to
36 suggest here is that maybe a letter from this body to all
37 of the Federal agencies to see if they can begin, you
38 know, collaborating more one with another to address
39 these issues. If that would be okay with you.

40
41 Cathy, got another idea.

42
43 MS. NEEDHAM: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 I agree with Patty. I think the annual report should
45 also reflect it, because the annual report reflects what
46 we cover for the past year, and we spent a significant
47 amount of time talking about sea otters at our Sitka
48 meeting which was in the year. And then I really and
49 then I really like your idea of potentially writing a
50 letter to all of the agencies to -- because we keep doing

1 this letter back and forth with the U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife Service. It's not going anywhere. It would be
3 nice to see us thinking outside of the box and trying
4 different approaches and stuff.

5
6 But with respect to what Ms. Phillips was
7 talking about, I think you want to see a stronger
8 statement in our annual report as well about sea otters.
9 And the only thing our annual report says about sea
10 otters is that we wrote a letter regarding Doug Burns'
11 position being filled. And so I think it's appropriate to
12 add a bullet as she suggested.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Thank you. And
15 I think that were intending to put something in the
16 annual report about this, but I was also saying, you
17 know, in order to get the other agencies to cooperate
18 would be also a good idea. Okay.

19
20 Oh, Mr. Wright. Were you going to say
21 something?

22
23 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, you were pointing
26 over to him, so he can get recognized.

27
28 MS. HAWKINS: But he can go first.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes Mr.
31 Wright.

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
34 glad that, you know, we're going to be addressing this to
35 a different, you know, agency, because, you know when the
36 -- I can't remember his name, he came from Cordova and
37 talked about the impact that it had up there.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Ralph Lohse.

40
41 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah. That I don't want to
42 be sitting down here waiting for the kind of impact
43 that's happened up there to be hitting Southeast Alaska,
44 because right now it is happening, but it's not as, you
45 know, not as obvious as it has happened up in Cordova,
46 you know. So I think that, you know, we definitely need
47 to let the agencies know that we are really concerned
48 about an issue that's going to very well impact, because
49 sea otters never used to come in inside waters, and now
50 they're on the inside waters and coming up into our area.

1 I mean, Port Frederick, I'm in Port Frederick, they're in
2 Port Frederick, they're in Icy Straits, they're in
3 Glacier Bay. I mean, Glacier Bay, they won't even let us
4 go in there, but the sea otter is just having a blast in
5 there.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I remember when Richard
10 Nelson was up in Yakutat. He said he was anchored out of
11 Glacier Bay. They were inside Glacier Bay. He was
12 trolling. And he was trying to sleep that night, but the
13 sea otters kept cracking their clam shells open and kept
14 him awake all night.

15

16 Anyhow, okay. Let's move on. Oh, Merle,
17 go ahead.

18

19 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. On that last bullet
20 point on Page 20, it says the Council must increase
21 interaction, coordination and communication with the
22 State regulatory process, specifically the Alaska State
23 Board of Fish and Game. And, you know, they did just
24 have a Board of Fishery meeting. Is that the same? Is
25 that what they're talking about, the Board of Fishery?
26 Yeah, we did have one in Ketchikan, so I organized some
27 of the people in the community, the tribe, to go up and
28 testify, and so we did that. And then Mr. Larson asked
29 me to testify for the RAC and so I was able to do that.
30 But I got done testifying and the Chair -- because I'd
31 initially signed up to testify as an individual, as a
32 tribal member and then he didn't recognize -- even though
33 he asked the Staff, well, does she get the three minutes
34 as an individual now or the 10 minutes as an agency.
35 They gave me the 10 minutes, which means I was testifying
36 for the RAC. And Mr. Larson wrote out the issues and the
37 bullet points. So I did do that.

38

39 But then when I got done, the Chair told
40 me that I had just testified as an individual, and I just
41 said, well, you can't change my reality. I just
42 testified for the RAC. So there was a lot of
43 misunderstanding, but the Chairman, he treated everyone
44 equally as abusive.

45

46 But if we're going to do this, I think, you know, we have
47 to really make a commitment that.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There was no
50 discrimination there at all.

1 MS. HAWKINS:we're prepared when
2 the next meeting is, and whose community it's in, and if
3 we're going to say that we must do this, I think we
4 should say we will do this and readily coordinate and
5 follow through on that, because we need to be more
6 diligent and persistent if we're going to get our word
7 in.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Thank you, Merle.
10 And thank you for representing the RAC at that meeting.
11
12 Mr. Kookesh.
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Just a
15 little housekeeping. Are you going to state it as Alaska
16 State Boards of Fish and Game. Put an S in there.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're talking about
19 that last bullet on next page?
20
21 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Maybe we should
24 do that.
25
26 MR. KOOKESH: Alaska State Boards.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is that noted, Mr.
29 Larson?
30
31 MR. LARSON: (Indicates affirmative)
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anything else,
34 folks.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We've amended it
39 a little bit, so what's the wish of the Council.
40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: I think we had some
46 customary and traditional use discussions at our -- which
47 meeting was it? Sitka?
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.
50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: And we were going to have
2 some follow up on that. And we need to somehow put that
3 into our annual report.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, good idea.

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: I think I specifically
8 asked, you know, what was the Federal Subsistence Board
9 looking for in terms of customary and traditional, and
10 perhaps we can continue to have that dialogue.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Larson, do
13 you want to respond to that.

14
15 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
16 Southeast Council was really the only Council of the 10
17 that spoke in detail regarding the C&T process, and that
18 process is moving forward and it's without the
19 suggestions of this Council. So that's one of the things
20 that was mentioned. And at the last Council meeting was
21 that maybe we should talk about that some more. The OSM
22 since our last Council meeting has finalized a rule
23 regarding C&T and moving forward with it. At our meeting
24 tomorrow there's going to be representatives from OSM
25 that can clearly articulate where we're going with that,
26 but the other nine Councils did not find fault with the
27 way the C&T's were being used and instituted. It was the
28 Southeast Council that was the odd man out there.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So let's take ourselves
31 off the odd man list and put something in there.

32
33 Anything else, Council members.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

38
39 MR. BANGS: Call for the question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did you call for the
42 question, sir? I'm ready for it.

43
44 MR. BANGS: Okay. Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
47 called. Well, we did make some adjustments to the annual
48 report. Mr. Larson has taken notes of it, and so on the
49 final draft all of those will be entered into the annual.
50 But we can go ahead and accept it right now, so all in

1 favor please signify by saying yea.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed nay.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carries.
10
11 Okay. Let's go back. Under B, review
12 of.....
13
14 MR. LARSON: Are you ready for a break.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you ready for a
17 break. Let's take a 10-minute break.
18
19 (Off record)
20
21 (On record)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Folks, we're back
24 in session.
25
26 I just got some sad news, breaking news
27 that Mr. Larson may be aware of, that Niles Cesar just
28 passed away I think it was on Saturday. So if we can
29 just take a minute or two in silence for our friend.
30
31 Did you hear that, Jack? Niles Cesar
32 passed away. Okay. So we're going to take a moment of
33 silence here before we begin.
34
35 (Moment of Silence)
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you for
38 that.
39
40 I'll tell a story about Niles. When I
41 was on the tribal council in Yakutat, I was sent up to
42 the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council for some meetings up
43 there. And it was right after the Self-Demonstration
44 Project became permanent, where tribes were able to take
45 more of the program services and activities from the
46 Bureau of Indian Affairs and administer them themselves.
47 And he was giving a speech at the AITC. He was the key
48 note speaker in fact. And he was talking about how they
49 were going to start reducing the Bureau of Indian
50 Affairs. And he said that, you know, by the time that

1 we're done, there's only going to be the secretary and I
2 down -- that's when the area office used to be here in
3 Juneau.

4
5 Well, I think it was about this time of
6 the year, March, they had a real big storm here in
7 Juneau, and it just got so bad, and the roads were all
8 icy, and no one came to work. I wanted to talk to a
9 person from the realty department, so I called up and
10 some guy answered the phone. And I says, I need to talk
11 to Glenda Miller; is she in? He says, no, she's not in.
12 And so I says, well, who's the next person in line?
13 Well, they're not here either. And then I said, well,
14 who's there anyhow? He says, there's only me. And I
15 says, who's this? This is Niles Cesar. And I says, holy
16 cow, he did it. He even kicked out his secretary.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So evidently, you know,
21 the roads were so bad that he was able to make it to
22 work, but no one else was.

23
24 But our deep appreciation, my deep
25 appreciation goes to Niles, because I really do believe
26 he stood up for tribes and did a great job for us. Our
27 condolences to his family.

28
29 And if we can get Mr. Larson to write a
30 letter to that effect, you know, we can sign that at the
31 end of this meeting.

32
33 Okay. The next thing that we have on the
34 agenda is, of course, the review of the draft tribal
35 consultation policy. And you can find that on Page 22 of
36 the manual.

37
38 Is anyone going to make a report on this
39 one, Mr. Larson, or is it just for our information?

40
41 MR. LARSON: Pardon me?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tribal consultation.

44
45 MR. LARSON: Oh, yes, Mr. Chair. The
46 tribal consultation, I think would be better served to
47 have it tomorrow when we have Mr. Steve Kessler here to
48 discuss it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All right. Good.

1 Then we'll go ahead and move on. We'll just set it aside
2 for tomorrow.

3

4 MR. S. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

7

8 MR. S. THOMAS: That policy, is that the
9 DOI policy or have you guys adopted your own policy than
10 what the Department of Interior did?

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me see. It's a
13 Federal Subsistence Board draft tribal consultation
14 policy, and I don't know whether it includes that or not.
15 Do you have a comment to make.

16

17 MR. S. THOMAS: I could. It depends on
18 if (indiscernible, away from mic) deviate away from.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we'll take your
21 comment now.

22

23 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I could maybe
24 answer that question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Larson could
27 answer that question, but we'll be happy to take your
28 comment now as well.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 The issue at hand is how the Federal
33 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Program
34 solicits and listens to tribal consultation. So this is
35 different than agencies. The agencies have their own
36 protocol and policies regarding the tribal consultation,
37 but this is for the subsistence program, and more
38 specifically how the Federal Subsistence Board is going
39 to interact with tribes.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. S. THOMAS: Okay. Mr. Chairman. My
44 name is Sam Thomas. I'm the tribal president for the
45 Craig Tribal Association.

46

47 When U.S. Fish and Wildlife presented the
48 consultation policy to tribal leaders at the Alaska
49 Providers BIA Conference in Anchorage in December, it was
50 identified that how U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other

1 Federal agencies, such as this RAC committee, are going
2 to consult with tribal governments on various issues.
3 And within that policy they identified that it was just
4 going to be under where resources are significantly
5 impacting tribal members or tribal subsistence users.

6
7 I'm against that. And I spoke at that
8 meeting in regards to the issue that it should read that
9 may have adverse direct impact or -- I just wasn't really
10 in concurrence with the language that was reading on how
11 they where, because it was set up through -- while I
12 could consult with you if I feel like it, and so that's
13 not the way consultation works in our arena, in the
14 tribal arena.

15
16 And I'm against it if that's what your
17 guys' language is. If I could possibly see that, I could
18 probably comment on it a little better to what's in front
19 of you all. I was involved with the Department of
20 Interior's development of their consultation policy
21 nationwide, and that goes down to all the bureaus and
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So if you guys -- I'd
23 like to see that and see if it's in conjunction with
24 Executive Order 13175.

25
26 And I guess that's my comments.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And we're going
29 to be taking this up later with one of the Staff from the
30 Forest Service. He's not here right now. So we can
31 probably have a copy of that made available to you and
32 then you'll have an opportunity to address it when it's
33 brought up again.

34
35 MR. S. THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So this one is
38 going to be set aside until Mr. Kessler gets here.

39
40 We're on to new business now, folks.
41 11.A. is review and approve the Fisheries Resource
42 Monitoring Program strategic priorities. Mr. Ben Van
43 Alen is here, so, Ben, welcome.

44
45 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

46
47 MR. VAN ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before you start, I
50 think Mr. Larson would like to make a comment.

1 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Just to make
2 sure that the agenda is clear, that this is an
3 informational item. There's no expectation that the
4 Council will take any action. Action will occur during
5 the September meeting.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. And I think we all
10 understood that. I did.

11
12 Mr. Ben Van Alen, you've got a partner
13 there, too.

14
15 MR. VAN ALEN: Yes. Terry.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is he there just for
18 support or to keep you on track.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. VAN ALEN: All of the above. Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's only two of
25 above.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah. This is purely
30 informational. In February, I think six or seven of us
31 involved with the subsistence fisheries monitoring
32 programs here in Southeast, including Karen Hyer from
33 OSM, met and discussed what we would do if we did indeed
34 have money to support Fisheries Resource Monitoring
35 Programs. And, of course, we built a set of priorities
36 and ranked what we thought based on various attributes
37 was like the most important activity or project to each
38 of us, and then the second most and then the third. We
39 actually rated our top 12 kind of projects. And from our
40 individual ratings, they averaged out to what we see on
41 this figure that was distributed at break, the project
42 priorities for FRMP funding in 2014.

43
44 And this is a little bit, not exactly,
45 but similar to the strategic priority review process that
46 was done about three years ago, three and a half years
47 ago, had a roughly similar list of projects. They're
48 definitely not the same. The old one had Redoubt -- no,
49 sorry, it had Klawock as our number 1 priority where we
50 see now that it's really not on the list as a high

1 priority project.

2

3 But this is the ranking, the priority
4 that we came up with, but we wanted you to see this now
5 and see these suite of projects that were being
6 considered, and for yourselves to consider in your area,
7 or in the region, what projects or activities have we
8 overlooked. And if there are items that might be
9 deserving of Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
10 fundings, we would like to know about it and hear about
11 it. And all of this is in preparation for the fall
12 meeting coming up where at that point you'll be
13 finalizing a request for proposals for projects. And in
14 that request for proposals we might be identifying
15 certain needs for sockeye stock assessment, eulachon
16 stock assessment.

17

18 Anyway, as it looks now, this is kind of
19 our highest priority list. And again, on some of those
20 attributes that we see listed there, some of the top
21 projects are ones that we have indeed been doing, some of
22 them since 2001. And so continuing funding we must have
23 collectively felt was a pretty valuable thing. Projects
24 that associate with systems with some conservation or
25 subsistence or regulatory concern also tended to rate
26 higher than others.

27

28 Anyway, if there's any questions, I'll be
29 glad to answer them.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions, anyone.

32 Cathy.

33

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

35

36 I just had a question. Where would like
37 genetic stock ID, potential funding for a project like
38 that fall into this? Is that outside of the scope of
39 FRMP altogether or is it just not considered a strategic
40 priority by the group, like maybe the stock status trends
41 is a higher priority, and that's why it doesn't show up,
42 that type of project doesn't show on the matrix?

43

44 MR. VAN ALLEN: Yeah. The answer is B.
45 It was the latter. It wasn't identified as a high
46 priority activity for FRMP funds by us. I think there
47 was a little discussion of it. We did meet for a day and
48 a half, of which this was mostly our main activity. But,
49 yeah, that's I guess what I'd answer.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy and
2 Ben.
3
4 Any more questions.
5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.
9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Van Alen.
11 And through the Chair.
12
13 Is there going to be any possibility of
14 compacting with tribes on any of these project
15 priorities.
16
17 MR. VAN ALEN: Absolutely. In fact I
18 think all of them with -- I don't even see an exception
19 in the list that I'm looking at right now.
20
21 MR. KOOKESH: (Indiscernible, mic not on)
22
23 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah, I didn't even know
24 that. Yeah, all of them have a great potential or have
25 in the past involved substantial portion of the funds for
26 the project to be going to tribal group, and largely to
27 provide the manpower to do the actual work.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
30 questions for Ben.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Terry, did he do okay?
35
36 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. He did very
37 well.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm glad you were there
44 to support him. Gunalcheesh
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Next item on the agenda
49 is 11.B. It's a letter from the Gates of the Arctic
50 regarding Subsistence Resource Commission proposal about

1 per diem.

2

3 Jim Capra, you've got some information
4 for us on that.

5

6 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
7 Council. My name is Jim Capra with the National Park
8 Service.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: By the way, it's good to
11 see you.

12

13 MR. CAPRA: Good to see you, too, Mr.
14 Adams.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We live in the same
17 community, but we don't see each other very much.

18

19 MR. CAPRA: Post office and airport.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

22

23 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Adams. The Gates of the
24 Arctic Subsistence Resource Council asked that this
25 letter be presented to all the Regional Advisory
26 Councils. It's their request for increased per diem
27 while their on -- while they're out of town on Council
28 business. It's for information purposes only. I would
29 be happy to answer the Council's questions if I can.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we all understand
32 what this is about? What they're asking is for an
33 increase in per diem for RACs and SRC members, you know,
34 when they go out and do business like we are today.

35

36 So questions for Mr. Capra.

37

38 I think I mentioned earlier that we
39 talked about this extensively at our SRC meeting, and we
40 were told that we all get the same per diem as Federal
41 employees, so, you know, that kind of, you know, put that
42 down a drain. However, somebody came up with the idea
43 maybe that stipends can be offered, which would be we
44 think a little different.

45

46 Harvey.

47

48 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Realizing that the per diem is set up also for -- is set
50 up for the Federal employees, this group here is not

1 Federal employees. We are volunteers, and a stipend
2 might be a better word for some of the things that we do.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I think that was
7 the consensus of our SRC, you know.

8

9 MR. KOOKESH: I've got a question, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

13

14 MR. KOOKESH: Do we get health care?

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. KOOKESH: So if you don't get your
19 per diem, will you have a hardship? And also what kind
20 of per diem rate adjustment are we talking about per day?
21 I'm just curious. What is it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, could you
24 answer that? What kind of per diem break do we get a
25 day. It's the same as what he is getting, you know, we
26 get the same as whatever he's getting.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. LARSON: Okay. I wasn't tracking
31 exactly.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You weren't paying
34 attention.

35

36 MR. LARSON: I was paying attention, I
37 was searching for the question in that discussion.

38

39 So what, and you can correct me if I'm
40 wrong, Mr. Chairman, but I think impetus behind the SRC's
41 discussion is that when they're meeting, they get money
42 and it doesn't matter where they meet. If they meet in
43 their home town or if they meet in some other town, and
44 they should in fact, you know, receive money for doing
45 that service.

46

47 Those kinds of discussions and
48 regulations are not part of either the Department of
49 Interior or the Department of Agriculture. Those are
50 rules and regulations that are within the OPM, Office of

1 Personnel Management.

2

3 I believe, and my understanding is, that
4 it would be very difficult for an advisory committee
5 member to shift into an employee status and back and
6 forth. That's not the way that these Councils are
7 organized.

8

9 I think it should be, you know, clear to
10 people what their own per diem is. You have your lodging
11 is paid for through the Office of Subsistence Management.
12 If there are additional expenses that are not covered by
13 either lodging or per diem, which is sustenance, food and
14 miscellaneous expenses, then those are covered as well
15 providing that you inform me of those expenses, and then
16 I'll make sure that as part of your final payment you get
17 those expenses covered.

18

19 I think that's the answer to the
20 question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I think one of the
23 reasons why the Subsistence Resource Commissions, you
24 know, there's several of them in the State, I think about
25 seven -- I'll give you an example. I travel from
26 Yakutat, fly to Anchorage, and then we drive from
27 Anchorage to Glennallen. And within 100-mile radius of
28 Glennallen we have a meeting in one of those communities.
29 Well, I get paid per diem, my transportation and lodging
30 and everything taken care of. However, there's some of
31 those people who live within that 100-mile radius, you
32 know, who are on the Commission, and they drive, you
33 know, to these meetings. They are allowed, you know, so
34 many cents, you know, for their own transportation,
35 driving, you know, for fuel. However, they don't get per
36 diem. So, you know, that's kind of the difference here
37 that Mr. Larson was referring to, and I just needed to
38 clarify that a little bit more. Those of us who travel
39 long distances, you know, like me from Yakutat, you know,
40 are entitled to per diem and all of those others, but the
41 others aren't.

42

43 Any more comments. Questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jim.
48 Appreciate it. Are we going to hear from you later?

49

50 MR. CAPRA: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Alrighty. We're doing
2 real well with our agenda, folks.
3
4 I see where Pete isn't here. So we'll go
5 ahead. He's going to give a report on the subsistence
6 management. And so Cal, is Cal Casipit here? We'll go
7 with the Forest Service.
8
9 (Pause)
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay. So we
12 can't do those two right now. How about the National
13 Park Service. We can do that.
14
15 MR. LARSON: Patty has a comment.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon? Patty, go
18 ahead.
19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
21 With the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
22 Resource Commission proposal.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Oh, yeah.
25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: What were we supposed to
27 do with that? They were just informing us?
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can make a comment
30 about it.
31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: Can we make a motion to
33 support or is.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can do whatever you
36 want. The SRC didn't go one way or another on it.
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: They submitted it to us,
39 but they didn't go either way on it?
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No.
42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. All right. Thank
44 you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The reasons as we
47 explained, you know, we receive the same per diem as a
48 Federal employee. Although, you know, some of us think
49 that we are not Federal employees. I was told that when
50 I went to Glennallen one time. They allowed me to drive,

1 you know -- there's always someone from the National Park
2 Service that would pick me up at the airport and drive me
3 to Glennallen. I was never allowed to touch the wheel.
4 So it was good to be escorted up there. It takes maybe
5 four and a half, five hours to get there. And one time
6 no one was available, and so they allowed me to -- they
7 rented a car for me, and allowed me to drive up there
8 myself. And they said, it's because you're an employee
9 of the Federal government, you can do this. So, you
10 know, I guess that's debatable.

11
12 Okay, Patty?

13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Your on
17 again.

18
19 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Council. And,
20 Ms. Phillips, just one clarification. The SRC for Gates
21 of the Arctic, they support this, and they're -- you
22 know, this is their proposal or their recommendation to
23 the Secretary, but the other SRCs, I believe the Wrangell
24 SRC took no action on it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's correct. Okay.
27 You're on for the National Park Service, sir.

28
29 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
30 Council. Again, Jim Capra with the National Park
31 Service.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Jeez, you can go home
34 tomorrow.

35
36 MR. CAPRA: Excuse me?

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I said, you can go home
39 tomorrow now.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. CAPRA: Not allowed. I've got to
44 stay until the end.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All right. Go
47 ahead. I'm sorry to interrupt you.

48
49 MR. CAPRA: The National Park Service
50 has, it's in your information in your Council book, has

1 an environmental assessment out not for the collection of
2 shed or discarded non-edible animal parts and plants for
3 subsistence uses. The purpose of the National Park
4 Service in this is to address the subsistence use of
5 these animal parts and plants that really were not
6 addressed -- well, especially in the Park Service's case,
7 there's some conflicting regulations on the Park
8 Service's basic regulations and the intent of the
9 subsistence law and subsistence regulations that we
10 follow.

11
12 The default Park Service regulation for
13 the collection of animal parts, plants in national parks
14 and preserves is unless it's specifically allowed, it's
15 not. These issues have taken a while to perc to the
16 surface. A couple of the SRCs in Kobuk Valley land Gates
17 of the Arctic have addressed specific issues with the use
18 of plants for subsistence purposes, and the Park Service
19 felt it was time to address the whole gamut of issues
20 from firewood to collecting caribou antlers to spruce
21 root, to sheep horns. A lot of this, especially in the
22 interior, tends to focus on shed antlers or animal parts
23 from animals that died of natural causes, or that hunters
24 left parts behind. Again, our basic park regulations
25 would say, once it's there on the ground, it stays there
26 for other people to enjoy, to become part of the natural
27 system, to decompose, or be eaten by other animals.

28
29 The Park Service has four alternatives
30 that -- of course, the first one is always nothing
31 changes and the regs would stay the same, and conflict in
32 some issues, or the SRCs or the individuals parks would
33 make decisions on individual resources as they came up,
34 and that is inefficient. The alternative B, C and D are
35 progressively more restrictive as far as permitting
36 requirements and who can harvest these resources in the
37 parks.

38
39 Alternative B allows for anybody in a
40 resident zone community or with what the Park Service
41 calls a 13440 permit, which is somebody who's not in a
42 resident zone, but has a demonstrated history of using
43 those resources in the park, to take those resources for
44 harvest. In the case of animal parts, it's just like the
45 rest of the -- and plants, it's like the rest of the
46 subsistence resources. They can be taken for home use;
47 they can be turned into handicrafts; they can be
48 bartered. They can't be sold in their raw form on an open
49 market like subsistence fish cannot be sold into the
50 commercial market.

1 Anybody in a park, in a resident zone or
2 with a permit can take any species in any area of that
3 park. In preserves, anybody who has C&T use for any
4 wildlife species in that preserve could take it. So if
5 it's in a preserve and the C&T determination is for all
6 rural residents, and for Southeast I'll use the example
7 of the Malaspina Forelands, Unit 5B. There are some
8 species which are just limited to Yakutat residents.
9 There's at least one that's all rural residents. Anybody
10 in Southeast could go and harvest any of those resources
11 in the preserve on the Malaspina Forelands. It would not
12 be allowed for other than rural residents to harvest shed
13 antlers, spruce roots, other items like that.

14
15 Alternative C would allow people in the
16 resident zone or with a permit to take those resources in
17 a park only within the GMU where they have C&T. So a
18 little bit more limiting if the area we're talking about
19 has more than one GMU. In the case of Wrangell-St. Elias
20 there are four -- five I think GMUs or parts of GMUs in
21 the park and preserve. So folks who had C&T for a
22 species in a certain GMU, but had no C&T for a species
23 say in Unit 5B, they'd be allowed to harvest all the
24 resources in the unit they have C&T in, but not in say
25 Unit B on the south end of the park. In preserves it
26 would be the same, they could harvest any wildlife
27 species they had C&T for any species, but only in the
28 GMUs where they have C&T.

29
30 Alternative D is the most restrictive and
31 the one that the Park Service has picked as preferred.
32 And that would mean that only these resources could be
33 harvested in the GMU if you had a C&T for that species.
34 So if you're in GMU 12 in the park, and you have C&T for
35 caribou, but not sheep, you could only harvest caribou
36 antlers, but not sheep antlers.

37
38 It's confusing. There is a matrix in on
39 Page 2.7 which answers most of the questions that I had
40 researching this.

41
42 The other addition is that Alternative B
43 has no permitting. Alternative C is decided by the
44 superintendent in consultation with the SRC, or in the
45 case of preserves that don't have an SRC, with the
46 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And Alternative
47 D has mandatory permitting.

48
49 Any closures that were required to
50 protect the park resources or populations of wildlife, or

1 in the case of over-harvest of say timber would have to
2 be -- go through closure action, meaning public hearings.
3 It could be short-term for a short basis, but any closure
4 for longer than I believe it's 30 days has to go through
5 a public process before that closure can take effect for
6 any longer.

7
8 That's a pretty short summary of this.
9 I will say in Unit -- or in Southeast, this RAC's area of
10 control and interest, the only affected areas are Glacier
11 Bay National Preserve, the 57,000 acres around Dry Bay,
12 and Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve in Units 5B and
13 6A. Yakutat is the only community that has C&T for most
14 resources in those areas.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. That's about
17 the longest report you've ever given to us.

18
19 MR. CAPRA: I'm pretty sure it is.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay. Questions
22 of Jim on any of the things he's reported on.

23
24 Does everyone know what a resident zone
25 is? Would you mind explaining what a resident zone is.

26
27 MR. CAPRA: The parks and preserves were
28 set up with a kind of subset of Title VIII rules. And
29 the resident zone communities are in that smaller system
30 the equivalent of C&T communities in the larger Title
31 VIII system. A resident zone community is in some cases
32 very narrowly defined, but it can, say, extend from mile
33 10 to mile 20 on the highway, on the road system, to
34 gather in everybody who might be living, you know,
35 exactly in a community out there.

36
37 The residents of a resident zone
38 community have C&T and these determinations are
39 recommended by the SRC when they're petitioned for
40 sometimes individuals, sometimes all resources within a
41 game management unit or subunit within the park or
42 preserve. So it works in effect -- it mirrors the larger
43 system with Title VIII in the GMUs and the work that the
44 RAC does. But it is a smaller system, mostly managed by
45 the SRCs.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. Patty, I'm sorry,
48 go ahead.

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Mr. Capra, in the alternative revive (ph)
2 regulations, it mentions substantially changed by the
3 skillful use of hands. Who determines what substantially
4 changed, the definition of that?

5
6 MR. CAPRA: It is in the EA. There is a
7 matrix for minor, moderate and substantial changes for
8 all the elements there. I'm not sure I could find it
9 immediately for you. The determination is made after
10 consultation by the superintendent, and again that's a
11 public process, and it can be revisited also.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up, Patty? Go
16 ahead.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 MR. Capra, has any other Council taken
21 any position on this.

22
23 MR. CAPRA: Yes, I'm sorry, Councilwoman
24 Phillips. I should have included that at first.

25
26 I don't know the most recent count. Out
27 of the park SRCs and the other RACs that have considered
28 this, I believe about 10 or 12 days ago, that was about
29 70 percent of them across the State, they've all favored
30 by a small margin alternative C. And the reason given by
31 some of the SRCs and RACs for choosing C over B was that
32 it gave them more local control. And that seemed to be
33 the deciding factor in the votes either way.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Floyd, you
36 have a question. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. KOOKESH: We spent years with
39 significantly altered. How long are we going to spend
40 with substantially changed?

41
42 MR. CAPRA: The definition in here is as
43 good as we could write it, and substantially altered in
44 here is a little easier to define if you're referring to
45 sea otters, because there is in most cases an open market
46 for these things in their unchanged form. In the
47 resources that are used most, there is a legal market for
48 antler or sheep horn, for spruce root and many of these
49 other items. And so substantially changed or made to --
50 changed so that it is more valuable than it is in its raw

1 form is fairly easy to define with a lot of these
2 resources.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tim, go ahead.

5

6 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, the moose horns and
7 such. Moose horn on the market right now I believe is
8 over \$20 a pound for moose horns that are in good shape
9 that the carvers can buy and carve and sell. The sheep
10 horns I know must command more than that per pound,
11 because those are pretty sought after. I tried to
12 acquire some for a reasonable price, but it was beyond my
13 budget, to make our traditional Tlingit spoons out of
14 them. I can't purchase a sheep horn to make it worth,
15 you know, my time to -- I go broke trying to buy all this
16 stuff to make all the traditional items, because I
17 can't.....

18

19 But anyhow, yeah, there's that -- the
20 horn, there's a guy up north that has just stacks and
21 stacks and stacks of stuff. He buys tons of it. And he
22 has just racks of sheep and moose and caribou. He
23 substantially alters the horns and carves them and stuff.
24 But, I don't know, have you ever seen that? Have you
25 ever seen that place?

26

27 MR. CAPRA: I'm not sure. I don't know
28 which one.....

29

30 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, he has racks and
31 racks and racks of horns that have been salvaged
32 everywhere, from the haul road, from all points north.
33 A lot of the caribou horns that are piled up are markers
34 for the indigenous peoples on the open tundra up there.
35 And a lot of that has disappeared. As a matter of fact,
36 I've seen a Toyota truck going across the Canadian border
37 with probably about five or six caribou racks that I
38 could tell that they had picked them up. They were all
39 bleached fairly good from being out in the elements for
40 so long. But what they failed to recognize is that those
41 are markers for the indigenous peoples as they traverse
42 the open tundra there.

43

44 Yeah, and then when you, you know, come
45 on to something like this, it's a whole different thing.
46 I think it's a bigger picture than what people realize,
47 that -- yeah.

48

49 Thanks. Just a comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got a respond to
2 that?
3
4 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair. Councilman
5 Ackerman. Just one comment on that. This would also
6 allow barter between rural residents for the raw items;
7 it just would not allow sale into the commercial market.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pretty interesting
10 subject. Any more questions or comments.
11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Patty.
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Did the Wrangell RC take
17 a position on this?
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. I'd have to find
20 out what the outcome was on it. I don't think we
21 supported -- do you know? Okay. I don't think we did --
22 we kind of left it mute.
23
24 Anyone here got a question. What's going
25 on over here?
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. On Page 53 under
30 actions needed, do I need a full copy of the EA? No, I
31 don't want to read that, but which alternatives are best
32 for your areas and why, and how important would it be for
33 your communities to be able to collect. Those are the
34 two questions I think we need to look at, to collect non-
35 edible, shed or discarded animals parts.
36
37 And then on Page 70 -- oh, wait. I lost
38 track of my page. Oh, on Page 70 it lists Glacier Bay
39 which would be the only consideration we have on this RAC
40 where they have distribution of wildlife with horns and
41 antlers by National Park Service units in Alaska. So we
42 have moose, deer, mountain goat. So which of those three
43 or how ever many alternatives would be important for
44 those uses by our people in that park. I don't have a
45 clue.
46
47 Those are the questions.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Do you want
50 anyone to answer them?

1 MS. HAWKINS: No, I think we should look
2 at the A, B, C and D and see how those would fit in with
3 our area.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right. Okay. Thank
6 you. Any more comments.

7
8 Let me answer Patty's question about the
9 SRC's position on that proposal. I'll read it to you.

10
11 The Commission voted to support
12 Alternative B of the National Park Service draft
13 environmental assessment on the subsistence collections
14 and uses of shed or discarded animal parts and plants
15 from the National Park Service area in Alaska. It feels
16 that collection of these resources will not result in a
17 conservation concern.

18
19 The SRC recommended public education
20 about what can be collected under these provisions in
21 order to protect cultural resources and especially
22 historic and archaeological artifacts.

23
24 So we did support that proposal under
25 those conditions.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Bob.

30
31 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe this is
32 a good time, that I should mention that the Southcentral
33 Regional Advisory Council put quite a bit of effort and
34 discussion into this item and supported option B as well.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay. There are
37 several alternatives, and we selected that one, you know,
38 as the one we would like to see.

39
40 Go ahead, Mr. Bangs.

41
42 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And before you go on any
45 further, Mr. Larson, maybe we can get those proposals or,
46 you know -- I can ask Barbara to get them to you and then
47 you can forward it, okay, so that some of you can be
48 satisfied with that.

49
50 Go ahead, Mr. Bangs.

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2
3 I agree with less regulations I think is
4 better unless there's a conservation concern. And I
5 would agree with Alternative B over the other ones
6 myself.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
11
12 MS. HAWKINS: Is that a motion?
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes?
15
16 MS. HAWKINS: Is that a motion?
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, we don't need to act
19 that. Uh-huh.
20
21 Okay. Any more comment.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, Mr. Capra, that's
26 the longest you've ever sat in that testimony chair.
27 Appreciate it. Thank you.
28
29 MR. CAPRA: It didn't seem as long as
30 sometimes, sir.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MR. CAPRA: Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks.
37
38 MR. CAPRA: In fact, I'll stay here.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's move on to
41 the next item here. ADF&G.
42
43 MR. LARSON: Is there another item for
44 the.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Policy? Just a minute.
47
48 MR. LARSON: Off road-vehicles.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, off-road vehicles

1 decision. Information item. Do you have information on
2 that? That's another big issue up there.

3

4 MR. CAPRA: I do, Mr. Chairman and
5 members of the Council.

6

7 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
8 Preserve has finished at an at least five-year EIS of ORV
9 use, which is not a big issue -- or is not as big an
10 issue in the southern part of the park and preserve as it
11 is up on McCarthy, Slana, Nabesna area. It was quite --
12 there's a lot of user conflicts in the rest of the park.
13 They did after consulting with the local advisory
14 committee, the SRC, Chairman Adams was a big part of it,
15 decide that the best regulation for the Malaspina
16 Forelands, or the southern Yakutat district of the park,
17 5B and 6A, is that ATVs will not be permitted except by
18 permit.

19

20 So ATVs are not a customary and
21 traditional means of transportation there, except for a
22 few uses. There are some long-standing fish camps that
23 are under permit to the park, and several private in-
24 holdings. Those ones the ATV use along certain routes
25 has been permitted for years, and it won't -- this action
26 won't restrict those in any means. In other legislation
27 that is -- that's pretty much guaranteed is access rights
28 for those uses.

29

30 But for recreational, subsistence and all
31 other uses not permitted, it will be closed in the
32 Yakutat district of the Forelands.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Comments,
35 questions. Mr. Bangs.

36

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

38

39 Excuse me for just a minute. I wanted to
40 back up. I misunderstood. I thought maybe we were
41 discussing this and we were going to make a
42 recommendation on the antler shed and parts. Are we not
43 going to act on that?

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't think so.

46

47 MR. BANGS: We're just -- we're not going
48 to send a recommendation?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, if you want to, we

1 can do that.

2

3 MR. BANGS: Well, I'm was wondering. I
4 wondered if the Council was interested in doing that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What about it, Council
7 members, do you want to send a recommendation, just a
8 letter?

9

10 MR. CAPRA: Okay. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Any more
13 comments, questions of Mr. Capra.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're excused, sir.
18 Thank you. Any closing comments.

19

20 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair. I've been
21 directed that the Park Service would love to know what
22 the Council's wishes are between these alternatives on
23 the horns and antlers.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So they are
26 asking for something on it.

27

28 MR. CAPRA: A letter, a formal motion, I
29 don't know what form that should take, but we always like
30 to know the Council's wishes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. So a motion
33 is in order to either send a letter of support or
34 something, you know, to indicate which way we want to go
35 on this.

36

37 Are you going to do it, Mr. Bangs? Go
38 ahead.

39

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

41

42 I would like to make a motion to send a
43 letter and to support Alternate B from our RAC.

44

45 MS. HAWKINS: I'll second that motion.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. It's up for
48 discussion.

49

50 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
4 was wondered if -- I realize what the book said was
5 antlers and berries and such, and I didn't see any talk
6 of berries or any other stuff in there.

7

8 One of the other things was I realize up
9 in Glacier Bay there used to be a place where the Natives
10 gathered goat hair after the winter was over for
11 subsistence purposes, for making blankets and stuff. And
12 this place was open to all Alaska Natives in Southeast
13 Alaska. Basically it was one of the birth places of our
14 (In Tlingit) clan, where their houses were built there
15 first. And I just was curious as to whether this inhaled
16 some of the stuff that they used to gather in that area.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.

21 Comment.

22

23 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Councilman
24 Kitka. This would address that in the preserve area in
25 Glacier Bay and Dry Bay where in fact I've collected goat
26 hair in the past for Terry Rofgar. And the collection of
27 goat hair I think in the area you're talking about is
28 Glacier Bay has a regulation, a separate park regulation,
29 because Title VIII is not in effect in the park in
30 Glacier Bay. I can't remember the exact wording on the
31 Glacier Bay Park regulation, but I believe it allows with
32 notification to the superintendent for collection for
33 ceremonial purposes, weaving by the people of Hoonah.

34

35 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Merle.

38

39 MS. HAWKINS: So my question was about
40 Sitka spruce roots, because I could really be in trouble
41 with the weavers if I don't protect that. So would that
42 -- they'd still be allowed to gather that? I don't even
43 know if they gather it in that areas, but just to be
44 sure.

45

46 MR. CAPRA: Yes, Sitka spruce roots are
47 included in this, and Park Service regs were in conflict
48 before this where we -- there was a regulation that
49 allowed for subsistence use of plants, but there was also
50 our default regulation which says, you know, you cannot

1 pick up antlers, plants, anything else. This gives us a
2 range of alternatives to allow for that collection. And
3 it would include spruce roots, all plant materials.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So are you okay with
6 that?

7
8 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions or
11 comments.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
18 I will be supporting the motion, because of Wrangell-St.
19 Elias Resource Council's support for Alternative B and
20 Southcentral's support for Alternative B.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you much. Did you
25 say you were going to support it?

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I thought you
30 were making a new motion.

31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: No.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What's the wish
35 of the Council on this particular issue. Are you ready
36 to vote on it now.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: Call for the vote.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did somebody call for
41 the question.

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All in favor please
46 signify by saying yea.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed nay.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
4 Thank you.
5
6 And thank you, Mr. Capra.
7
8 MR. CAPRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A record.
11
12 MR. CAPRA: We'll see you at the post
13 office.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Folks, the .805(c)
18 letter was just distributed to everyone. It looks like
19 this over here. So we'll bring that up for a matter of
20 discussion at this point. And if you have any questions,
21 Mr. Larson will be able to answer them for you.
22
23 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The .805(c)
24 letter is actions by the Board concerning wildlife
25 proposals. Actions by the Board occurred in January 17th
26 to 19th of this year. And if there's questions regarding
27 those actions, we can discuss them. There are -- if you
28 look through this letter, you'll see actions by --
29 recommendations by the Councils and final action by the
30 Board.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
35 These are -- it was supposed to be put into your packet,
36 or in the book and it wasn't. So we apologize for that
37 oversight, because you probably could have been better
38 prepared, you know, to take care of this issue at this
39 point.
40
41 What's your feelings on this proposal --
42 or on these proposals.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's a matter of
47 information, folks. Okay. I don't think we need to make
48 any recommendations.
49
50 So let's go ahead and move on. We have

1 ADF&G, relevant actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fish
2 and Game. Ms. Yuhas. Welcome to Southeast again.

3

4 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
5 members. And thank you to the Tlingit-Haida and the
6 ANB/ANS House for a place to meet today.

7

8 And so this is my second spring Southeast
9 RAC meeting. I've made it a whole year, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good.

12

13 MS. YUHAS: I was put on the agenda to
14 speak to recent changes in the Board of Fish meetings.
15 And so Staff is currently distributing a packet. I
16 brought 40 copies, so there should be plenty for the
17 folks sitting out here, too.

18

19 What I've included is the upcoming
20 deadlines for comment and for proposals as well as the
21 agenda for the statewide meeting that's taking place in
22 Anchorage today through Saturday. It has some issues
23 that do affect Southeast, but as we all get meeting'd to
24 death, sometimes we can't be in two different places at
25 the same time.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And paperworked to
28 death, too.

29

30 MS. YUHAS: And paperworked to death. I
31 also included an action summary of the recent Southeast
32 and Yakutat meeting that was held February 24th, and
33 Merle Hawkins was there as well. She probably has more
34 to add than I do with things that will be affecting you
35 folks.

36

37 But of note, they did create both a
38 shrimp pot task force and a king and tanner crab task
39 force.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Where was this meeting?

42

43 MS. YUHAS: This was the meeting that was
44 held in Ketchikan on the 24th of February through March
45 4th.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

48

49 MS. YUHAS: And if you have any specific
50 questions on the outcome of the proposals, I'm happy to

1 speak to what I know, and I'm happy to research what I
2 don't for you, but I've provided all of their actions
3 here.

4

5 Other items going on at Fish and Game, we
6 will also soon be finalizing our comments on the National
7 Park Service shed antler policy. We'll be recommending
8 somewhat of a modified B for the plan. I know that we
9 aren't bound to choosing just the options that are laid
10 before us when we go to comment. But collection of shed
11 antlers and berries and spruce roots and the like are
12 allowed currently through State regulations through our
13 wildlife regulations. Without a prohibition they're also
14 allowed on Federal lands. And we really thank the Park
15 Service for taking the time to address the existing
16 prohibition so that this use would be allowed.

17

18 But the State is finding that these uses
19 are incidental, that we're recommending a modified option
20 B so there should be no permit so that the subsistence
21 user who finds themselves in the woods and happens upon an
22 antler doesn't have to have a permit already in order to
23 pick that antler up.

24

25 How we'd like to modify the option B,
26 however, is that not only is no permit required, but if
27 you're allowed to hunt in the area, you're allowed to
28 collect. And so that would mean that if you have C&T for
29 a park, and you're already allowed to hunt in that park,
30 that would protect the local user who has privilege for
31 the park. However, the preserves are open to other users
32 as well, and the State believes that if you're allowed to
33 hunt there, you should also be allowed to collect there.
34 If you haven't been excluded already by an .804 finding
35 for hunting, why should you be excluded from picking a
36 berry or finding an antler. So that's the direction
37 we'll be taking with regards to that.

38

39 We'll also be giving a full report
40 tomorrow at your time certain 1:00 o'clock Kootznoowoo
41 extra-territorial jurisdiction petition, but just in
42 answer to some of the questions that came up earlier, the
43 State will be moving forward with certain things
44 regardless of what happens to the petition.

45

46 And one of those is prioritizing the
47 genetic stock ID. And that, yes, you know, some of that
48 is funding dependent, but we're looking at how to
49 prioritize those funds. And, honestly, when you have
50 more contributors to add to the pot, sometimes that's the

1 better. So we're looking at all funding sources. Of
2 course, the State, but also some of the other Federal
3 agencies, and we may have to get creative. It's easy to
4 look just to the managers, and we can identify who the
5 obvious managers of the fisheries are in that area, but
6 there may be other sources we haven't identified.
7 Possibly BIA funds for healthy foods. They don't manage
8 a fishery, but they certainly have funds for healthy
9 foods, for culture, for preserving natural foods. And
10 that might be an avenue as well.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is that it?

13

14 MS. YUHAS: That's all I have for you.
15 I'm sure this RAC will have something for me, and I'll
16 answer the best I can.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Does the RAC have
19 anything for Ms. Yuhas.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I just saw in
26 an email that NOAA's budget, it was from Jane Lubchenco,
27 she's the director of NOAA. She was including money in
28 the budget, NOAA's budget for stock assessment. So maybe
29 you can use that at Kanalku.

30

31 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Thank
32 you. And one item I guess I forgot to mention, I
33 apologize for that, but some of you may have been
34 concerned with the tunicate that was found in Whiting
35 Harbor, the invasive species, and the Department put
36 together an emergency group to look at that last year.
37 We did receive some new funding, and we are still working
38 on eradication of that tunicate in Whiting Harbor.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. NOAA, is that the
41 guy in the Old Testament or.....

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. That's
46 National Ocean.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, I know.

49

50 MS. PHILLIPS:and Atmospheric

1 Administration.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Are
4 you done? Are we done questioning.

5

6 MS. YUHAS: I think I'm done when the
7 Chairman says I'm done.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Jennifer, thank
12 you very much.

13

14 Are there any Native organizations who
15 would like to come forth and to make a comment at this
16 time on anything. Mr. Loescher, please come forward.
17 Somebody turn on that microphone for him, please. Thank
18 you.

19

20 MR. LOESCHER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
21 the Council. I was interested in the State of Alaska's
22 comments.

23

24 One of the problems that we found in
25 looking at this business of sockeye and their migration
26 and their returning to the streams and the escapement
27 program was statistics. And for over a year or two,
28 we've been trying to work with the State Fish and Game
29 through the U.S. Forest Service on a number of inquiries
30 to get better statistical information starting from 2006
31 to 2011. And they have some kind of problem giving that
32 information to us even though they collect it on a
33 weekly, monthly and compile it on an annual basis. And
34 they also have some problem about doing that even though
35 the funding comes from the, what do you call this,
36 nation-to-nation agreement between Canada and the United
37 States and Alaska, money that comes from the Federal
38 government. That's where the State of Alaska gets the
39 money for collecting these statistics.

40

41 And, Mr. Chairman and the Council, I'd
42 like to ask that you use your influence to help us get
43 the State of Alaska to provide this information, because
44 they have what is called a three-boat rule, some kind of
45 deal that the three boats could be identified, and if all
46 of the statistics were gathered in all the districts that
47 the State has for these fishing areas. And I just think
48 it's ridiculous. You know, the government needs to be
49 transparent in data gathering and it needs to be complete
50 in its data gathering.

1 And in this issue that we're faced with
2 tomorrow, you know, it would be better if we had all of
3 the information, statistics, so that the biologists and
4 the managers could take a hard look at it, and see how
5 that information fits into the decisionmaking that the
6 RAC and the Federal Subsistence Board need to make on the
7 numbers of fisheries that make -- fish that make it to
8 the stream, and also the number of fish that's caught by
9 the commercial industrial fishing fleet.

10

11 And that's a problem. So I'm not happy
12 and not comfortable, you know, that the State of Alaska
13 is helping. And their reasons for not providing the
14 information and the fact that they're receiving Federal
15 funds to do this work kind of puts them in a poor light.

16

17 And we need this information, and we need
18 their cooperation. And we need, you know, to be able as
19 citizens to see what what's being caught by subsistence
20 users and the commercial seine fleet.

21

22 So I just offer that as a public comment
23 and ask you to use your influence on the Regional
24 Forester and Commissioner and whomever else you have
25 influence over, to help us as citizens get this
26 information.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Loescher.

29

30

31 Any comments or questions from the
32 Council. Mr. Bangs.

33

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

35

36 I think, if I'm not mistaken, that
37 information is gathered, but it is a protective measure
38 at the time that it occurs to protect those few fishermen
39 that break off from the fleet and maybe go find a good
40 place to fish and they catch a lot. They don't want that
41 information out that day or the next day so that when the
42 next opening comes, the rest of the fleet's there. It
43 occurs in a lot of fisheries. And although, you know, at
44 the time it's not fair to without that information from
45 the public, but at the same time the immediate release of
46 that information is not good for the commercial fishermen
47 who want to be competitive.

48

49 And so I feel like there's a reason for
50 it, but to not share that information after the season or

1 two weeks down the road or something like that, if we
2 could recommend that that information be available at a
3 near future date where it's not going to hurt the
4 fishermen who took a gamble and went somewhere and went
5 fishing on their own or with just another boat or two,
6 aren't exposed to being, you know, basically piled upon
7 by the rest of the fleet. And I think there is some
8 merit to the regulation to withhold that information, but
9 I think it needs to be released in a timely manner so
10 that the public can understand and use that information
11 for just what you're talking or speaking to.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you have a response
16 to that, Mr. Loescher?

17

18 MR. LOESCHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I can
19 understand and see, you know, this notion that three
20 boats could be identified and be successful fishing in a
21 certain area and whatnot, but you've got to understand
22 that these are public waters, and you're fishing a public
23 resource. And the commercial fishermen don't own the
24 fish. And the public needs to have transparent
25 information in order to be able to understand and respect
26 that this fisheries is being managed for all users. And
27 Alaska Native people and the rural residents are
28 beneficiaries of the same fish stock.

29

30 Let me give you two examples of a
31 problem. In the report that the Office of Subsistence
32 Management undertook which you'll hear tomorrow, there is
33 a statistic that caught my eye. The State of Alaska has
34 a regulation that says that when 15,000 sockeye salmon
35 are caught by Hawk Inlet, they're supposed to shut down
36 the fishery. And in this report it says that last year,
37 5,240 sockeye salmon were caught beyond the 15,000 fish
38 limit. Now, you know, 5,240 sockeye are pretty important
39 when there's only like 24,000 or some small number being
40 escaped into the streams.

41

42 And so, you know, as citizens, I kind of
43 wonder, you know, about what the government did with that
44 information. They had the information to take fish
45 tickets off the boats every day, they tally that
46 information within a short period of time. They come out
47 with weekly, monthly, yearly reports, but nothing
48 happened. The manager didn't shut the fishery down.
49 There were no complaints filed against the manager or the
50 fishermen who were fishing in that area. And the

1 escapement to the streams, the conservation management
2 didn't take place. And the fish weren't available for
3 regeneration of the stock, or weren't available to the
4 subsistence fishermen or the predation by the bears.

5
6 And so that's an example of what's going
7 on here. And I really think we should pay attention, Mr.
8 Chairman. Not only was it wrong what they did, but also
9 we don't have the information for this report, and when
10 you see it tomorrow, it's a weakness of the Federal
11 government's report. It says, well, we don't have enough
12 total information, you know. We can say this or that
13 about this and that, but we don't have the statistics.
14 And so it enables -- it disables the Council and the
15 Federal Subsistence Board and the State Fish and Game
16 Board, or the Commissioner in their ability to observe
17 and make decisions about what's happening in our
18 conservation management, and in our commercial and
19 subsistence harvest.

20
21 So I just bring that to your attention,
22 that we really need to examine this in its fullest
23 context, notwithstanding the need to protect the
24 fishermen where they're harvesting.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. We
27 really appreciate that.

28
29 Any other comments from the Council
30 members or question. Mike. Mike Douville.

31
32 There might be another question here for
33 you, Bob, if you don't mind.

34
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

36
37 I just have a comment to make about that.
38 I believe the numbers he's talking about is an allocation
39 number.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: That it's not a
44 conservation number. That number when they reach it is
45 a mechanism to allow sockeye to escape to the northern
46 rivers for other fisheries. It is not -- as I read it,
47 it is not a conservation number.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

50

1 MR. LOESCHER: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: And as a follow up, there
4 was a big humpy run, so they decided to catch the
5 humpies, which also, you know, by fishing longer or
6 whatever they may have done, they did catch more sockeye
7 than the allocation number by 5,000.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And you're
10 welcome to respond, Mr. Loesch.

11

12 MR. LOESCHER: Yeah, briefly, Mr.
13 Chairman.

14

15 You know, I can appreciate the comments.
16 You know, one of the problems that we have as the matter
17 of management thinking is that, you know, over the years
18 the Fish and Game Board and the seiners have created a
19 pink salmon management regime for Icy Straits, Chatham
20 Straits, and Narrow Straits, Pail (ph) Straits. And, you
21 know, that regime may be required in the future as a
22 dominant management fishery plan, but certainly we need
23 to examine the weaknesses of that pink salmon management
24 plan in terms of how it effects sockeye salmon, and coho
25 salmons. And that's some of the kind of thinking that
26 we're looking at, because it impacts, because the sockeye
27 salmon and the cohos are at a low level in our streams,
28 in our natural streams. And we need to figure out how to
29 enhance those lakes and streams.

30

31 And, you know, this little deal that was
32 made by the purse seiners and the gillnetters, you know,
33 in order to stop the catch when they receive 15,000
34 sockeyes, you know, that was a deal. That was a deal
35 made a long time ago by the fishermen. From a
36 conservation management point of view and subsistence
37 management point of view, you know, I believe we need to
38 reexamine that deal and look at it in its totality, and
39 maybe abbreviate that pink salmon management plan a
40 little bit.

41

42 And, of course, I'm not a scientist, nor
43 am I a lawyer, but I'd observe that this is a weakness in
44 this so-called pink salmon management plan that the purse
45 seiners are trying to preserve. And I'd urge you to
46 think in those terms.

47

48 Those 5,240 sockeye salmon -- I recently
49 had the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, the
50 Appropriations Committee, who lives in Haines, Alaska,

1 and I was sitting down with him, and he was complaining
2 to me pretty feverishly about the fact that there were
3 not enough sockeye salmon going into northern Lynn Canal
4 and into the lakes and streams of the Chilkat and
5 Chilkoot Rivers for escapement and for subsistence.

6
7 So what I'm saying to you is that this
8 issue is a little bit further -- you know, need to --
9 there are people being impacted by this, and it should be
10 further reviewed in the future. And I'm hoping that the
11 RAC Board would help us think through this thing as well.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
14 Robert.

15
16 Anyone else like to comment.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: For Mr. Loescher. Is this
23 pink salmon management plan, does that come up to be
24 revised or is that an industry, you know, plan or can
25 people submit proposals to amend the pink salmon
26 management plan? I mean, you know, I don't know about
27 that.

28
29 MR. LOESCHER: Mr. Chairman. That's
30 correct. It is an annual plan of the Fish and Game, and
31 certainly we as citizens have the right to ask the Fish
32 and Game Board and the managers to take a hard look at
33 this.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Well, thanks,
36 Robert. Is there more -- don't go away yet, Robert.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Ackerman has a
41 comment or a question. Why don't you just stay there
42 until I say it's okay.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, the north end up
47 there, the Chilkat and the Chilkoot sides, yeah, it's
48 coming to the point now that all the gillnet fishermen
49 are getting concerned up there, because of the low
50 returns on the sockeyes. The gauntlet that these fish

1 have to run from the high seas, the Gulf of Alaska, the
2 draggers and everything in between. Now, at the very end
3 of the line we have these people sitting beside the river
4 with their net in the river, and they are the subsistence
5 users and they are the ones that are on the very
6 receiving end after the fish has run the total gauntlet.
7 And they as well are being affected as well up on the
8 north end there.

9

10 So just a comment to let you know that
11 they're well aware of everything that's happening up
12 there with these sockeye fish, and it's a concern on the
13 north end here, too.

14

15 Thanks, Bob. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Do
18 you have a response, Bob, or no.

19

20 MR. LOESCHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
21 just want to remind the Board, and I know you know it by
22 remembering that Title VIII says that there's a
23 preference and priority among users for subsistence, and
24 both under Federal and State law this preference and
25 priority exists. And all I'm suggesting to you is that
26 there needs to be some review and some balance in
27 ensuring that that preference and priority is supported
28 by everybody.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Well, we sure
31 appreciate your comments. I think we're dealing with
32 commercial fishing which is under State jurisdiction, but
33 we'll have to try to see how we can, you know, influence,
34 you know, your concerns here with them, so we appreciate
35 your comments though, Mr. Loescher.

36

37 Thank you. Gunalcheesh.

38

39 Any other Native organizations that --
40 Carrie. Welcome.

41

42 MS. SYKES: Good afternoon. Carrie
43 Sykes, business manager for Central Council, Tlingit and
44 Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

45

46 Thank you for allowing me to come and
47 speak to your again. It's always a pleasure. I just had
48 a couple comments today.

49

50 I wanted to again -- as many of you are

1 aware that Central Council has been working with ANB
2 Grand Camp with our customary and traditional work group.
3 And I wanted to make sure that the RAC Council knows that
4 we are planning an Alaska Native community welcoming
5 reception for the Federal Subsistence Board and for the
6 special guests. I know that Butch Blazer, the USDA under
7 secretary for natural resources and the environment will
8 be here, and we also wanted to celebrate the two new
9 seats on the Federal Subsistence Board, one of which is
10 from Southeast Alaska, Anthony Christianson.

11
12 But as such, Central Council and ANB
13 Grand Camp are co-sponsoring a luncheon for Thursday. It
14 will be held right next door. I do have invitations for
15 all of the Council members. So I wanted to make sure
16 that you all realize that we were having that event and
17 that you are invited.

18
19 In addition to that, in working with our
20 customary and traditional work group, and in meetings
21 with Kootznoowoo, we have put together some packets of
22 information for the Angoon extra-territorial jurisdiction
23 petition. So I wanted to make sure that all of the Board
24 members got complete packets, so I have that also.

25
26 I did have some DVDs that I brought in
27 earlier, and I apologize, I thought that I had enough
28 copies for the entire Council, and discovered that
29 there's still some at my office. But they're on their
30 way, so I'll make sure that everybody gets a copy of
31 those DVDs. They are from a subsistence luncheon that
32 was held during December in the economic development
33 workshop that Central Council held, and it includes
34 information that Bob was discussing earlier about the
35 Peratrovich decision, and also Peter Naoroz of
36 Kootznoowoo provided some information about the Angoon
37 extra-territorial jurisdiction. So that was recorded and
38 is available on DVD, so I'll make sure that everybody
39 gets copies of that.

40
41 And about testimony, Central Council will
42 be providing formal testimony about the Angoon extra-
43 territorial jurisdiction petition also.

44
45 I just wanted to update you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We look forward to that.
48 Thank you, Carrie.

49
50 MS. SYKES: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What time is this event
2 on Thursday?
3
4 MS. SYKES: At noon.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: At noon.
7
8 MS. SYKES: We've been provided one hour.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm glad to hear that,
11 so it doesn't interfere with any basketball games then.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MS. SYKES: I don't know. I don't follow
16 the basketball games. But I was very happy to get an
17 hour time to interact with the Board and with the guests
18 of honor and with our new members though.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much,
21 Carrie. Appreciate.
22
23 MS. SYKES: And who do I give this to?
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon?
26
27 MS. SYKES: Okay.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay. Any other
30 Native organizations. Sam, come on up.
31
32 MR. S. THOMAS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
33 Thank you. Members of the committee. I'm Sam Thomas.
34 I'm the Tribal President for the Craig Tribal
35 Association. And this is my first RAC meeting, and I'm
36 just trying to get a feel for your protocols.
37
38 And I noticed that one of the issues that
39 was brought up quite frequently was sea otter during this
40 day. And I'm not sure if you guys just go on proposals,
41 but I think some action needs to be taken. And as I
42 reiterated earlier that I don't think we could continue
43 to study the problem. I think we need to take action on
44 the problem.
45
46 I see next on your agenda is also meeting
47 location. I would suggest if possible to host the
48 meeting down in Craig. I have a nice tribal facility,
49 the Craig Tribal Hall.
50

1 And, you know, since sea otter and no --
2 it didn't look like any action was going to come from the
3 RAC, I would suggest possibly putting sea otter on the
4 agenda as your primary topic. I think it's something of
5 value as I identified earlier, that if we continue to go
6 the way we're going, we're going to have no more
7 resources to live the traditional and customary lifestyle
8 that we're accustomed to, but we are going to be lining
9 up at Safeway and Fred Meyer's and all those other
10 places.

11
12 There's more than one way to skin that
13 otter, and I think that we've got to look at all sides of
14 the fence. There's some stuff that Mr. Loescher alluded
15 to in their work group. We've never been outreached to
16 as tribal entities, so I think that if they want to share
17 their information, we have a web site. We have all our
18 contact information on that web site, and I'll probably
19 talk to Mr. Loescher over the next couple days and
20 others, and their different proposals.

21
22 We wrote in conjunction with some of the
23 literature that we saw coming forward from Central
24 Council and through Mike that we supported Congressman
25 Young's proposed legislation with a few amendments coming
26 from the Craig Tribal Association. So, you know, there's
27 nothing really wrong with the legislation that we saw.

28
29 I just want to thank you guys for the
30 opportunity.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Sam. We sure
33 appreciate your being here. It's important that we get
34 as many local and particularly tribal members, you know,
35 attending our meetings. And one of the reasons why we
36 have meetings in various communities in Southeast Alaska
37 is so that we can reach out to people like yourself. And
38 we encourage you and them, you know, to come to these
39 meetings and play your part, because we don't want to
40 make any rules or regulations that are going to impact
41 you without, you know, your comments and so forth.

42
43 So thank you for being here.

44
45 MR. S. THOMAS: All right. Thanks.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And gunalcheesh. Any
48 other Native organizations. Please come forward, sir.
49 We want you to say your name and who you represent.

50

1 MR. REEVES: My name is Joseph Reeves.
2 I'm a tribal councilman and I'm the treasurer of the
3 Ketchikan Indian Community. I'm here speaking on behalf
4 of my mother's people, Tlingit/Tsimshian people.

5
6 And I wasn't really going to speak up,
7 you know or say anything; I was going to wait for the
8 Federal Board to make our discussion, but we have some
9 resolutions that we are going to present about the sea
10 otter and about the mining issues that I think Ms.
11 Hawkins over here hit on a little bit.

12
13 We have KSM Mining in British Columbia
14 that basically is going to affect -- the mining
15 operations in British Columbia go all the way up to
16 Skagway, and they affect every river system that we have
17 from Chilkoot and the Chilkat, and the Taku. Down on our
18 end it's the King's going to get impacted, the Nass
19 River, the Unuk River, the Chickamin River. All of them
20 are going to be impacted by these literally thousands of
21 mining operations that are going up there. And we
22 recently learned that we had that one KSM mine going up
23 there and they proposed like an 1800-foot pond to collect
24 their tailings and all this other acid materials that
25 some geologist will call one thing and a fish biologist
26 will call another thing. But really what it's doing, and
27 we found out that it probably had a great impact about
28 the -- we believe it is, about our eulachons, you know,
29 the disappearance about the same time they were doing
30 that mining. But again we have disagreements between I
31 think.

32
33 But the current new mine is a real
34 concern to us, because we believe that it will further be
35 detrimental to the subsistence use that we're going to
36 have on these river systems. And they will go further
37 than that. If it damages the subsistence use, it's going
38 to go down and it's going to effect the commercial use,
39 and it may finally kill Southeast Alaska fishing. And we
40 have grave concern about that, because many of our Native
41 people still make their livelihood at that. We are all
42 not living on Safeway and Fred Meyer's. I wish to tell
43 you that, Mr. Ackerman, you know. So he would know.

44
45 You know up until '46, you know, my
46 grandparents could not vote or own property, you know.
47 It wasn't until then that they reclaimed all that stuff.
48 And now my generation and some of you younger ones, not
49 very many of you, but a few of you, are reclaiming an
50 hold heritage that they have of living out the

1 subsistence -- we have to learn it again. We had to
2 learn it as fast as we can from the elders that are still
3 around about how to gather and do it, because
4 unfortunately for us down in Southeast Alaska, lower
5 Southeast Alaska, our unemployment is horrible. Prince
6 of Wales Island and Metlakatla and many of the small
7 communities have horrible, high, high unemployment of our
8 residents. We'd love to go to Fred Meyer's and stuff,
9 but we don't have the money. We don't have the jobs. We
10 don't have the opportunity. So we have to rely on
11 subsistence gathering, which we're trying to learn from
12 our elders as fast as we can.

13

14 But yet here we are, and we'll look at it
15 as a way of -- anyway, the mining -- to go back to the
16 mining point first. We need help from you to talk to the
17 Federal Board, to tell them to exercise that
18 Alaska/Canadian transboundary situation, where the
19 promises they made not to pollute and do respon -- we're
20 not anti-mining or anti-this. We want responsible mining
21 from those people up there. And from what we've been
22 gathering, there have been little considerations to
23 responsible mining, and thus we expect some major
24 pollution to be coming down those rivers which is going
25 to impact our ability to subsistence. And we need help
26 to get our message across to the Canadian government to
27 exercise some sort of control, you know, of some sort of
28 responsible mining so they don't pollute us on this lower
29 end of the deal.

30

31 Another concern that we have is the
32 continued discussions about getting in the State Fish and
33 Game and this and that involved in the deal when the
34 State of Alaska is ignoring, ignoring the ANILCA
35 amendments that we fought so hard to get. And yet they
36 continually ignore our ability to get Native priority.

37

38 And I understand the Statehood Compact of
39 equal access and this and that. As a citizen, you know,
40 most of us, we didn't become citizens until 1959, you
41 know, when they became a state. Until then we were, what
42 did they call us, naturalized citizens or something.

43

44 But the State continued ignoring of the
45 ANILCA amendments that we fought so hard to get, our
46 grandparents and our parents fought so hard to get, are
47 being ignored by the State of Alaska, because -- and the
48 Federal government will not enforce them to do that law.
49 We need to continually pressure the State to accept the
50 ANILCA amendments that gave us priority for our

1 subsistence and our other issues.

2

3 Another issue we have is in the ANCSA
4 corporation stuff and the ANILCA amendments. The Federal
5 government and the State government -- or the Federal
6 government promised to accept the commerce of Alaskan
7 Natives, and our system of bartering and usage. And yet
8 they mount countless regulations ever higher every year
9 trying to stop our customary use and traditional use,
10 which was a system of commerce that we enjoyed from our
11 tribes. Look, we can't get our stuff from Canada any
12 more, our eulachon, because that was one of the last
13 areas we can get it. They're arresting our people for
14 salmon, for otter, because our system of bartering, our
15 commerce of bartering and usages are different than the
16 customary white people. And yet we can't get them to
17 understand this is the way our people did business. This
18 was our commerce. This is the way we bartered and used
19 this stuff.

20

21 But yet they define -- they get all these
22 matrixes of, you know, little bit of change, moderate
23 change, high change. And I say, wait a minute. Throw
24 all that out. That's not our method. That's your
25 method, and you're doing it to handicap us. And you're
26 arresting our people because we're trying to do what we
27 learned to be customary trade and stuff.

28

29 So we need some help on doing that,
30 getting back to the basics that they signed. We don't
31 want to reinvent the deal again. We already went through
32 this. Our grandparents went through this. And yet
33 they're trying to redefine it. They're trying to dilute
34 it. They're trying to dilute the gains that we've made
35 over the years, and we're saying, no, we're not coming
36 back to the table with you to dilute this issue.

37

38 Another issue we have is getting ANCSA
39 corporations tribal status. Ketchikan Indian Community
40 does not support that. We as a tribe are the ones that
41 we want you to be consulting with, you know. I
42 appreciate the ANCSA corporations stepped forward,
43 because they're the ones with the big, rich pockets that
44 can fight with the governments about it. But they're
45 infringing on the powers of our tribal government, and we
46 are taking a dislike to that. So I appreciate their
47 partnership and I appreciate their ability to stand with
48 us about it, but don't ask for tribal status, you know.
49 And I think we in Ketchikan will always fight that until
50 we figure out some -- if there's a major reason why.

1 I appreciate your having me comment and
2 I thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I thank you for your
5 comments.

6
7 Does anyone have a question. Tim.

8
9 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11
12 When you're discussing thousands of years
13 of commerce and trade and economic benefits through the
14 barter system that was in place before Western
15 civilization came and changed our total way of life to
16 Western civilization, they completely took away the
17 social order I guess you could say. And this thing that
18 Mr. Douville was talking about, about the Nass, eulachon
19 oil coming up to the Prince of Wales. Now, that's the
20 NOAA official found that that wasn't very good because he
21 didn't have a broker evidently, but I have been following
22 our old trade routes and hauling eulachon oil, dried fish
23 and halibut over the Chilkat Pass into Klukshu,
24 Champagne, Whitehorse, Taggish, Carcross. I still haul
25 eulachon oil and trade the old trade routes with these
26 folks.

27
28 Now, the Canadians don't have any
29 problems with us doing that. I declare it before I go
30 over the border. But what the Canadian side has is
31 what's called a J treaty which allows this to happen.
32 It's something that has been happening for thousands of
33 years.

34
35 And I trade for everything. I don't take
36 any cash. You know, they might want to contribute to my
37 gas tank, but that's all right.

38
39 I'm doing a historic trade route walk
40 here next summer. We're going to venture into the
41 wilderness. It's about a 60-mile walk up the old Chilkat
42 trail. Not the Chilkat Pass trail, but the Chilkat River
43 trail. And it comes out in Kusaval Lake. And we're
44 going to take dry fish and eulachon oil and do the old
45 exchange for copper and for furs up in Kusaval Lake.
46 They're turning it into a national park up there. So
47 this is something that's been going on for thousands of
48 years, and we're just going to take care of this and
49 continue trading as we always have.

50

1 So it will be a real interesting -- the
2 Canadian side is real excited about this, too, because
3 it's a traditional, customary -- before there was even a
4 border there. So, yeah, I see exactly what you're
5 talking about.

6
7 Thanks.

8
9 MR. REEVES: And I appreciate your
10 comments. And we have in the past provided resolutions
11 about support the trans-boundary system of commerce or
12 trade, you know, of customary deals.

13
14 Which brings up probably another point.
15 You talked about the designee of the rural status and
16 stuff. We support Saxman's continued, you know,
17 identification as a rural subsistence area. And we
18 actually supported everyone continuing that. Just
19 because we grew up and some fancy store opened up down
20 the road does not mean that our people -- you know,
21 Saxman's got like an 80 percent unemployment rate, you
22 know. Ketchikan Native people have a substantial
23 unemployment rate. And because of the lack of money,
24 we're trying to gather it out there, because that's how
25 we've got left. You know, we don't have anybody we can
26 to get money from. So we're teaching our young kids how
27 to go out and gather the issues that we lived on for
28 thousands of years before the white man brought their
29 sugar and all that other stuff, you know.

30
31 And yet we're finding out that the
32 governments are mounting mountains of regulation. And as
33 far as we're concerned, it's a continued effort to have
34 us assimilated into the white culture, and for us to
35 forget about it, because now, look, you have a Safeway
36 and you have a Walmart and all that. Fred Meyer's. You
37 don't need all that stuff, you know.

38
39 And we're telling our kids, no, you know,
40 we're not trying to handicap them or hold them back from
41 learning customs that our grandparents and our people
42 have lived for -- my mother's people lived on for
43 countless generations before that. In fact, we're trying
44 to reawaken it.

45
46 We're trying hard to fight to save our
47 language, you know, and our language is disappearing.
48 The Haida language has almost disappeared, much as the
49 Eyak language has disappeared. You know, we're down to
50 a couple elders now, and we're having to go over to

1 Massafin (ph) and the Haida Kwan over there to learn
2 Haida. And we only have a few speakers of fluent
3 Tlingit, you know.

4
5 So we're fighting on all angles to get
6 this done, you know, and we're -- like I said, as far as
7 we're concerned, the government's continued onset of the
8 regulations and trying dilution of the gains that we made
9 through ANCSA and ANILCA is nothing more than a further
10 method to assimilate us and our kids into their culture,
11 you know, eventually until we're all gone. And we object
12 to that and we will fight as long as we can to see that
13 that does not occur.

14
15 I thank you very much.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I thank as well, but
18 just sit. I've got a comment to make for you.

19
20 Yeah, you and Mr. Kookesh brought up the
21 fact that, you know, many of our people, you know, are
22 thriving off of Costco and Safeway and Fred Meyer. And
23 for me and my family, you know, I have been able to teach
24 my sons how to hunt and fish, and now I don't have to.
25 Okay. They go out and they get the fish and game for me.
26 We have a lot of fun going out and subsistence fishing,
27 and we do it as a family. So our grandchildren are
28 learning as well. And my grandson's the one who got a
29 moose for me this past fall. And then my son got a deer
30 for me, you know, through proxy or, you know, hunting.
31 And so you come to my house in the fall and you'll see
32 that it is filled with all subsistence food. And we
33 thrive off of that all winter. Okay. We've got deer and
34 moose and fish and we barter with Sitka for the herring
35 eggs, you know, for eulachons and king salmon.

36
37 But it's a matter of teaching our younger
38 people, you know, and betting them started real young so
39 that they not only learn how to do it, but they love
40 doing it. Okay. They love to hunt. They love to
41 subsistence fish. And having Grandma and Grandpa out
42 there to help them and teach them, you know, they really
43 thrive on that. And we do it every year.

44
45 And so I can guarantee you when I go back
46 home on Saturday, the only thing I'm going to take from
47 Costco is some toilet tissue. That's all I need.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. REEVES: And I appreciate those
2 comments, you know. And I, too, are doing the same, and
3 I'll bet you every man and women in here is doing the
4 same with their children, trying to teach them how to
5 gather stuff like that. But look at the mountain of
6 regulations. Now they're talking about putting permits
7 out so you can go gather spruce root, you know. And
8 they're talking about getting permits so you can go
9 gather berries, you know. And, jeez, come on now, you
10 know. And yet, you know, they -- and we're involved
11 between a dog fight between the Federal government and
12 the State government about this rule or that rule, or
13 that access or this access, and who has rights to
14 submerged lands. And we're saying, Federal government,
15 you've already got the right to control the submerged
16 lands in the area, so exercise it, that's all, you know.

17
18 But I don't know, what I don't see is
19 other pictures that the governments get into, you know.
20 Are they fighting for, you know, that gas line between
21 Canada and America. Does that super -- does that trump
22 everything else we're trying to do on some other
23 government. I don't see all that kind of political stuff
24 that's going on at that level.

25
26 What I know is that for Angoon, if the
27 Federal government would just exercise the powers they
28 have right now, Angoon wouldn't be here trying to figure
29 out -- trying to get some control of their area over
30 there, you know, but yet the State of Alaska says that
31 they have the rights to all the submerged lands, and what
32 we're saying is, no, the ANCSA laws gave the Feds the
33 call on that, you know. So just exercise what they
34 already have and, you know stand up to the State. Force
35 the State. They trump the State on all that issues. And
36 that's battles that the Native people of Alaska had
37 earned through good negotiation, you know. Strong
38 negotiations by that man right there and many other like
39 him that enabled us to get something, yet here we are 40
40 years later trying to get them to exercise that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir, for your
43 comments.

44
45 MR. REEVES: Thank you very much.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate it. Okay.
48 I think the next thing -- oh, go ahead, come on forward,
49 sir.

50

1 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. Ron Leighton with
2 the Organized Village of Kasaan.

3
4 I would like to inform you of you're
5 going to be presented a sea otter deal tomorrow. I think
6 it's tomorrow, but keep in mind when I was up at the
7 Board of Fish meeting in Petersburg, Mrs. Gill, who will
8 be presenting the sea otter presentation tomorrow I
9 think, indicated that she would like to see the levels of
10 sea otter come back to the way they were in the 1700's,
11 1800's in Southeast Alaska. And she threw out a figure
12 of 300,000 sea otter.

13
14 She also indicated that there was going
15 to be a cap for the amount of sea otters that will be
16 taken throughout Southeast Alaska. I recontacted her.
17 I asked her on that cap, and she's put together a formula
18 that gives the amount of growth rate that the sea otters
19 truly perform or increase by. And then she sits down
20 there and pulls this formula together and she indicated
21 that there's only going to be about 1600 sea otters that
22 could be taken in all of Southeast Alaska.

23
24 Around Prince of Wales Island alone we
25 estimate, and this year's on figures that came out from
26 Mrs. Gill's aerial survey of 19,000 sea otters at a 13,
27 14 percent growth rate per year, that they are growing on
28 Prince of Wales Island just with those conservative
29 figures at about 25 to 2,800 sea otters a year.

30
31 So how are we then going to be able to
32 harvest enough sea otters to bring the system back into
33 balance. And I think you might ask her those figures and
34 ask her how we could properly manage sea the otters. And
35 I think we probably could start using the deal that we're
36 going to manage the sea otters back to health, because
37 actually they are starving now, too. And if you start
38 taking them out, bringing their levels back into balance,
39 you're not only going to make them healthier, but we're
40 also going to preserve our other customary and
41 traditional foods. So I think that you ought to keep
42 that in mind as she's presenting.

43
44 And the McDowell Corporation's survey
45 they conducted, those figures are very, very, very
46 conservative. Very conservative and low in my
47 estimation.

48
49 And also they talk on that a sea otter
50 consumes 30 percent of its body weight per day, but

1 they're missing a big picture. In order for it to
2 consume 30 percent of its body weight per day, it kills
3 150 percent of its body weight to do that in other
4 product. So keep that in mind, too.

5
6 And about this consultation, I know,
7 Bert, when I was in Wrangell, you were very pleased and
8 you wanted tribal consultation or tribes to come forward
9 to this Board. And I thought you wanted to consult with
10 us. That's what I thought, because you said that we were
11 going past and through you and going directly to the
12 subsistence board itself. So this is what I was going to
13 try to do. And I'm coming forward. Young lady, I was
14 coming forward to consult and share some problems, and
15 maybe share some how we maybe an remedy this. And I
16 didn't mean to offend you.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: You didn't.

19
20 MR. LEIGHTON: Well, you offended me when
21 you said, just throw in a proposal, you know.

22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: I didn't say just throw in
24 a proposal.

25
26 MR. LEIGHTON: Hmm?

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: I didn't say just throw in
29 a proposal.

30
31 MR. LEIGHTON: Well, neither here nor
32 there, but I took it as such. And I just wanted to have
33 the Board sit down here and work with us on these issues,
34 these very important issues, not put stumbling blocks in
35 our way. If I wanted to submit a proposal now, I could
36 just submit it to the Board. In fact, I can bypass you
37 and maybe just go to the Board and consult with them.

38
39 But I wanted, and I knew, Bert, you
40 mentioned this up in Wrangell, and I'm all for coming
41 before you and consulting with you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But the thing that I was
44 trying to get across is that the tribes really should be
45 involved in the subsistence issues and consultation. We
46 are not a government. Tribes have a unique response --
47 a unique relationship with the Federal government in that
48 they do have a government to government, you know,
49 response to one another. And that's how that would work.
50 Okay. Now, I might be wrong, but the way that I think,

1 you know, is that, your tribes can submit a proposal, or
2 an individual, and whether you submit it up to the Office
3 of Subsistence Management or to the Board, it will come
4 back down here and we will consider it here and then we
5 will move it forward. So that's kind of the process that
6 a proposal, you know, goes through when it comes to us.

7
8 Okay. But I hope I didn't give you any
9 misunderstandings. I am happy that tribal organizations
10 are becoming more and more involved in subsistence and I
11 think, you know, we need to really encourage that.

12
13 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. And I'm happy to
14 see that you're here to listen, too.

15
16 But I'd also like to get some
17 clarification. I mean, I've heard it time and time
18 again, where your jurisdiction is and where you can't go
19 out into saltwater. I mean, if it's run by the Forest
20 Service, this is only on the land, is that what you're
21 telling me? And if that's the case, can we go into a co-
22 run and subsistence regional council or something like
23 that with the Federal Fish and Wildlife and the Forest
24 Service? That way maybe it will expand your jurisdiction
25 into saltwater, but there's all kinds of confusion out
26 there.

27
28 And I had one dropped on me just before
29 I came up here. And I didn't realize it, but when I go
30 down to Shackin -- Cape -- or not Shankin, Grendal to get
31 my seaweed, that's on Prince of Wales Island, so I don't
32 need to get a fishing license to do this. But sometimes
33 when I'm down there, maybe somebody already picked over
34 the rocks down there, so I go scoot across over to
35 (indiscernible) Point to gather my seaweed. And at that
36 point in time, I found out that if I was over there, I
37 would have to have a fishing license to pick the seaweed,
38 otherwise they could arrest me. And this is how
39 complicated this here whole laws are to us. And it's
40 even further complicated, why do you have to have a
41 license to pick a plant? You know? I mean, it's crazy.

42
43 But it's not only seaweed. It's goose
44 tongue. It's sea asparagus also. So who does that? Who
45 picks that for the most part? You know? And why are
46 they putting these crazy laws in to make it terrible for
47 us to go out there and subsist.

48
49 So that's all I want.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Yeah I'm going
2 to have Mr. Larson kind of answer some of the issues that
3 you brought up here. So you'd just stay there and I'll
4 let him respond to your concerns.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 The primary issue concerning jurisdiction
9 of this group and the Federal Subsistence Program is that
10 we have jurisdiction for management of renewable fish --
11 or renewable wild resources on Federal public land. If
12 it's not Federal public land, then we have no
13 jurisdiction. The remainder of the land, including
14 intertidal and the marine plants that are associated with
15 those waters belong to the State of Alaska.

16
17 Specifically regarding marine plants, the
18 regulations involving harvest of those are made by the
19 Board of Fish. And it's true that the current
20 regulations regarding marine plants, harvest of marine
21 plants as a personal use is that a fishing license is
22 required. And I hate to put words in the mouth of the
23 State, but I know this stuff.

24
25 So I think the -- but the main issue here
26 and the main point of clarification that's important is
27 that this body is concerned with Federal public land.
28 And that's where our jurisdiction stops.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And one of the things --
33 I'm a real strong advocate of the less regulations we
34 have, the better it will be for the subsistence user,
35 because the more laws we put on the books is going to
36 make it more and more confusing. And I think this
37 Council feels that way as well. So we watch those very
38 closely so that we don't put too much burden on the
39 subsistence user.

40
41 The real problem here is, you know, the
42 dual management thing. You know, we've got the Feds and
43 the State. And trying to mesh those together is really
44 a challenge, but we are working hard on it, and, you
45 know, I think this Council does its best to try to keep
46 things, you know, as simple as possible for the
47 subsistence users. We hope we're doing that.

48
49 MR. LEIGHTON: You know, they could sit
50 down, and they have cultural sites protection annex and

1 all that. I think what we need to do is probably work
2 together and stuff like that and get a Cultural
3 Protection Act put in place, and then answer some of
4 these questions -- have these questions answered, and
5 maybe our customary and traditional commerce answered,
6 you know.

7

8 Thanks for your time. I just wanted to
9 share that information.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, Ron.
12 We appreciate your comments.

13

14 I think the Forest Service is here right
15 now, so we can probably put that report on it away today
16 and have less to do tomorrow. Mr. Cal Casipit.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
19 been a while since I've been at this seat giving you this
20 presentation for the Forest Service.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We missed you.

23

24 MR. CASIPIT: Steve Kessler sends his
25 regards. He would normally be doing this presentation,
26 but he's involved with the Board at their retreat out
27 there at the glacier.

28

29 I was going to cover item number 1 under
30 B there, and then Terry will carry number 4 and then 2
31 and 3 will be covered by Mr. Schenck back there. I might
32 call him up.

33

34 Well, the first one, number 1, Forest
35 Service subsistence budget, including effect on the 2012
36 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I guess that's
37 going to be a short two sentence report for you. Again
38 this year, fiscal year 2012, we again are having severe
39 budget challenges within our appropriation.

40

41 And we just ran some numbers last week,
42 and we won't be able to undertake any new starts in 2012.
43 Letters to the project proponents are going out this week
44 or next. But, yeah, we can't start any new starts from
45 that 2012 cycle. We are going to be able to maintain all
46 our commitments for the 2010 suite of projects. So we
47 will be continuing with our projects that we've had on
48 the books now for two years, but we won't be able to
49 start anything new.

50

1 I'll be happy to take questions at that
2 point.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal.

5
6 Is there any questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thanks.

11
12 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. I would like to ask
13 Ted to come up here and join us, and he'll cover two and
14 three for you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome, sir.

17
18 MR. SCHENCK: Thank you. For the record,
19 Ted S-C-H-E-N-C-K, Schenck. I'm the staff officer for
20 wildlife, subsistence and planning on the Tongass
21 National Forest.

22
23 The items I'd like to talk about, number
24 1, our schedule of proposed actions that are coming up.
25 We're got a quarterly list that we publish on our web
26 site of projects that may be of interest to the public.
27 And it's a way that if you're interested, you can go onto
28 a web site and find out what we're up to. Usually
29 generally nearly almost always. Sometimes the projects
30 on this list are languishing. Sometimes they're already
31 done. It's a constant effort to maintain this list of
32 about 100 projects. I'll go over a couple of them that
33 I think that you might be interested in.

34
35 We're doing some outfitter/guide
36 assessment, capacity assessments around the forest this
37 year. We're doing Craig and Thorne Bay outfitter/guide
38 EA to try to look at the capacities. We just finished
39 one for Ketchikan/Misty Fjords. We're looking at one on
40 the north end of the forest called the Shoreline
41 outfitter/guide assessment. And that's going to amount
42 to looking at where we do outfitter/guide permitting and
43 how much of that that we do in what locations.

44
45 Just last month, middle of February,
46 forest supervisors signed the environmental assessment
47 for the Kanalku fish pass, which is likely to be
48 implemented during the fishery season FY 13, the fiscal
49 13, about a year from now. We're not going to do it this
50 summer, but we'll get ready to do it this summer and do

1 it next summer.

2

3 An interesting one is the allocation of
4 goat hunts on the Juneau ranger district for a commercial
5 of guided goat hunts. And that work is -- that project
6 is currently on hold right now, because as Cal mentioned,
7 there's budget challenges. And this isn't broke right
8 now, so this is a project that we put on list, but
9 there's other priority projects that are of more import
10 to the district, so they said that they aren't going to
11 be doing this.

12

13 The Forest has been embarked for a number
14 of years on access and travel management, what roads that
15 we're going to maintain, where people can go. That's a
16 subject of a good bit of concern, and we're going to be
17 embarked on doing this project at Yakutat next. We're
18 going to be starting in April. And I think the district
19 ranger up there has already started some contacts about
20 doing this important work.

21

22 I just encourage all the members of the
23 Council to be aware of what's going on in your community
24 with regard to what the Forest Service is up to. We can
25 wear you down with our paperwork, and sometimes we start
26 our paperwork well in advance of when we actually need to
27 have your input, and sometimes we forget to ask nicely
28 until you might have heard that we're doing something in
29 a different way. We're trying to get to the point where
30 we're doing our consultations appropriately, we're doing
31 our notifications appropriately, we're engaging the
32 communities that have an interest in what we're doing
33 before we make our decisions instead of letting you know
34 that we've made the decisions, or even worse, doing
35 something that you didn't know anything about. That's
36 the right thing to do. It's the way that we're supposed
37 to do things. And we're working really hard to improve
38 our effort.

39

40 You should know that there's a lot of
41 concern about how we begin to integrate our work within
42 the Forest Service. In years past when budgets have been
43 sufficient so that we could do a lot of what we would
44 like to do in each of our discipline areas, wildlife,
45 watershed improvement, timber, we didn't necessarily
46 integrate what we were doing and where we were doing it
47 really well. I think those folks that live in or
48 recreate or use subsistence from Prince of Wales might
49 have noticed that there was room for improvement. I know
50 on the north end, on the Chatham area where I worked for

1 a number of years, north of Frederick Sound, that
2 sometimes the engineers would be working to close roads
3 that were needed to some timber stand improvement work,
4 or wildlife habitat improvement work.

5
6 Nationally our direction is coming that
7 we need to work together in a more integrated fashion.
8 And because the budget processes take a long time, we
9 need to assess the conditions. We need to do -- design
10 our projects, we need to involve the public in those
11 projects, and then two or three years after we had the
12 idea to start the project, and we put them on the SOPAs,
13 we might get the money to do this work.

14
15 Congress and the Forest Service has taken
16 a look at lumping together timber, watershed, soils,
17 invasive species, fish and wildlife and some road
18 construction/reconstruction activities under a fund code
19 that they call integrated resource restoration. And if
20 this concept comes to fruition, and Congress will tell us
21 whether or not it did, we'll be working together, all of
22 those disciplines who have worked less than integrated in
23 some cases, to work together to do our important priority
24 projects. We're not going to have more funds in the
25 future than we have now. And we're actually looking at
26 trying to do important projects with less funding, and
27 we're embarked on that process. The next three months
28 we'll be working on adding projects to our integrated
29 resource management plan for fiscal year 14, 15, 16, and
30 17. And likely that the next time we come talk to you,
31 we'll have a better report on how we're doing in an
32 integrated fashion.

33
34 So I'd like to answer any questions that
35 you might have about our schedule of proposed actions and
36 what we're doing.

37
38 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville. The Chair
41 recognized Mr. Douville.

42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

44
45 I responded to your outfitter/guide,
46 maybe not yours, but one that Craig sent out. I don't
47 know how it all works. Nothing's been heard since then
48 until you mentioned it now. I don't know where you work
49 out of or where these decisions are made, but in my
50 response, I felt that there was -- I drew some lines on

1 a map and said, okay, no outfitter/guides for deer in
2 this particular area. Not because there wasn't enough
3 deer, because geographically there's only X amount of
4 spots to hunt there that are desirable. And I never did
5 hear anything more about it. Bear was not an issue.

6

7 But there was also another little thing
8 in there that the State I think of offers these permits
9 for bear, or tags that can be used for deer if you don't
10 get a bear.

11

12 But anyway, we heard nothing back since
13 then, and this was of concern, because we do not feel
14 that there's enough room in that little circle that I
15 drew out for outfitter/guides for deer.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Do you have
18 a response?

19

20 MR. SCHENCK: Well, I'd just respond that
21 work is in progress on that project, and sometimes what
22 happens is that we do our scoping up front, get the input
23 from the public, respond to the public, develop
24 alternatives that are responsive to that, and then we
25 would come out with an opportunity to review what was
26 going on or sometimes the district ranger will be
27 involved. I work at the Ketchikan supervisor's office.
28 And that project is being done by the Craig ranger
29 district, so I don't get involved in the details.

30

31 But what's likely to happen is the inputs
32 that you've given us on the maps will be considered as
33 they decide what to do around the area. That would be
34 the typical process. And I would be expecting sometime
35 this month to hear more about that.

36

37 So if you would like, I'll follow up with
38 the district ranger and make sure that I can let you know
39 what we're doing over there on that project.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
42 comments. Patty.

43

44 I was just informed that when we adjourn
45 today, or recess today, that we have to take everything
46 with us, because there's going to be bingo going on here
47 tonight.

48

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

50

1 Hello, Ted. Is there plans in your
2 forest planning to deal with the stem exclusion stage of
3 timber.

4
5 MR. SCHENCK: That's an excellent
6 question. And, yes, actually there's a good bit of
7 effort to try to figure out what happens when we treat
8 stands that have been previously harvested. What Patty's
9 asking is, is there a way that we can manage what we call
10 young growth that's closed canopy that's sometimes very
11 tightly regeneration and that stand is so tight that
12 light hardly gets to the ground. And the stems are so
13 tight that it excludes light from getting to the ground
14 where forage is produced.

15
16 And there's a number of projects underway
17 to study the effect of different regimes of thinning or
18 different approaches to managing a landscape to provide
19 for forage, open the canopy or open gaps on the landscape
20 so that it provides additional forage and additional
21 carrying capacity for the deer in our managed forests.
22 And so there's about 70,000 acres that's already been
23 treated in some fashion over the past 40 years or so.
24 But there's close to 400,000 acres of harvested timber
25 across the forest on Federal public lands. I'm not
26 exactly sure of the exact numbers, but in that range.

27
28 And we know that we can't ever make a
29 managed forest be as good for deer as an unmanaged
30 forest. It can be a lot better if we invest in it. And
31 we're learning of new tools for choosing places on the
32 landscape to make those investments.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. You know, I think
35 we're going to have to maybe stop right here, because we
36 were told that we need to be out of here by 5:00 o'clock
37 so they can set up for bingo. So maybe if you can
38 reserve for tomorrow.

39
40 You have one question, a short one? Go
41 ahead, Mr. Hernandez. Go ahead. One question.

42
43 MR. HERNANDEZ: The Forest Service is
44 moving towards this whole, you know, restoration concept.
45 Are there still good opportunities for public comment in
46 this process, or is it too far along to be involved?

47
48 MR. SCHENCK: Well, I would say that if
49 the Forest Service continues as the outfit, there's going
50 to be always opportunities for public comment in what

1 we're doing. And it may not necessarily be at the
2 district or forest level. I would just say that, but
3 there's always -- as long as we're involved in complying
4 with NEPA, there will always be an opportunity for the
5 public to comment on what we're doing.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Cal, is there --
8 are you done? Is the Forest Service done with their --
9 you've got another issue to bring up here?

10

11 MR. LARSON: Just the wolf thing.

12

13 MR. CASIPIT: Well, we have two more.
14 One is the ESA listing that's proposed for wolves in
15 Southeast Alaska.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: Well, in Alaska. And then
20 also we wanted to give -- Terry wanted to give you a
21 quick report on our in-season management actions over the
22 past year.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Can we do that in
25 the next five minutes?

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Probably not.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

32

33 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. A
34 little while ago I filled out a card for Bob Loescher to
35 make one more comment before you adjourn. I don't
36 believe it will take less than a minute.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Okay. I didn't
39 see it, so, thanks.

40

41 So can you guys come back tomorrow and we
42 can finish up your report?

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: At the Chair's pleasure.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll do it that
47 way. But now we'll take Mr. Loescher's comments. And
48 then we will adjourn right after that.

49

50 We've only got a few items on the agenda

1 to finish up, so do we need to start at 9:00 o'clock?

2

3 MR. LARSON: I would think so, yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go head, Mr.

6 Loescher.

7

8 MR. LOESCHER: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I'm

9 Bob Loescher with Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp.

10

11 Is this thing on?

12

13 REPORTER: No.

14

15 MR. LOESCHER: Okay. Mr. Chairman. In
16 this last exchange that I heard between the Council and
17 the government, Mr. Larson I believe, the gentleman
18 seated next to you, made a comment, and I really think
19 it's important that we think about what he said given the
20 change that has occurred, which it seems like maybe the
21 Office of Subsistence Management and your Staff is not
22 appreciating.

23

24 The point of an earlier discussion I made
25 today was that the Peratrovich case changes things. And
26 we had made a request of the Council and we've made a
27 request of the Regional Forester to provide a legal
28 opinion as to the current applicability of the judge's
29 decision in Peratrovich, that the United States has
30 ownership of the submerged lands, and in terms of the
31 application of Title VIII, it has an interest navigable
32 waters. That was decided in Katie John and has been
33 decided in the Peratrovich case.

34

35 And for your Staff to be continuing to
36 say that the State of Alaska controls the fisheries and
37 the resources below mean high water and into the marine
38 waters isn't quite true at this time in accordance with
39 the judge's order. And I believe that the Federal
40 Administration, your Staff and OSM needs to have some
41 guidance in this regards, because certainly as Native
42 people, you know, have -- who are the beneficiary of
43 Title VIII of ANILCA, we want the full benefit of the
44 law. And the law says according to the judge that where
45 Title VIII needs to be applied to the submerged lands and
46 the navigable waters within the boundaries of the Tongass
47 Forest.

48

49 And we would like again to make the
50 request of you, Mr. Chairman, and the Board -- or the

1 Council here, to seek legal advice so that the conduct of
2 these meetings will appreciate the fact that there will
3 be need to have the government to begin to assume the
4 responsibilities within these waters insofar as Title
5 VIII is concerned, and that Councils such as yours and
6 the Federal Subsistence Board will begin to make the
7 change and find a way to begin to manage these resources
8 so that Native people and rural residents have access to
9 the benefits of Title VIII.

10

11 So I really think, because your record is
12 recorded and you type it down, that the hard statement by
13 your administrator needs to be maybe modified a bit or
14 express the acknowledgement that the Peratrovich case is
15 there and things will be changing. And I believe that
16 would help the record.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I appreciate that, Mr.
19 Loescher. Any questions of the Council.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think Mr. Larson has
24 a comment to make as well. So, Mr. Larson.

25

26 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 And on that topic, I've been in
29 communications with our headquarters and we expect both
30 DOI and the Department of Agriculture attorneys to be
31 here tomorrow. And I've requested that there's going to
32 be a discussion on the record concerning exactly what is
33 the ramifications of the Peratrovich case. So we will be
34 -- you know, I think that by this time tomorrow we'll be
35 a lot more better informed.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. LOESCHER: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Loescher.

42

43 We will now adjourn -- well, recess until
44 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. Okay. 9:00 o'clock.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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,
State of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do
hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02
through 163 contain a full, true and correct Transcript
of the SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL, VOLUME I, taken electronically by our firm on
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THAT the transcript is a true and correct
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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 3rd day
of April 2012.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014