

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME III

7
8 Petersburg, Alaska
9 February 26, 2009
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
16 Michael Bangs
17 Michael Douville
18 Merle Hawkins
19 Donald Hernandez
20 Harvey Kitka
21 Floyd Kookesh
22 Patricia Phillips
23 Michael See
24 Richard Stokes
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Petersburg, Alaska - 2/26/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning, everyone. Another beautiful day. Hopefully we'll get done.

MR. KOOKESH: We are going to get done.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are going to get done. I think there's a few people that are going to leave this morning. George Pappas, and I think he already made his contribution into the cause over there. Neil Barten is also leaving. If you haven't, I would encourage you to help the cause. Help me to help meet the cause. Anyone else leaving this morning?

We are waiting for an update on John Littlefield. So as soon as that comes in we'll let you know. I'd like to call Mr. Baines up here if he can give us a report on any actions that have been taken with the Board of Fish in Sitka.

MR. BAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Board met several times on our Proposal 203 and they proposed some amendments that they asked the tribe to kind of meet on and we told them we would agree to their amendments if they agreed to have an independent review of their statistical models they used. In the meantime, I guess there was a lot of lobbying back and forth. Now, instead of any cap -- there won't be any cap on the fishery, I guess. They still haven't made a final decision, I guess. They expect they'll do that this morning.

There will be a small raise in the threshold. The threshold is currently 20,000 tons and it will get raised to 25,000 tons. With a 12 percent harvest rate....

(Phone ringing)

MR. BAINES: Sorry.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a fine, Mr. Baines.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BAINES: That's all I know. When
4 they finalize it, I'll give you another final report.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Gunalcheesh. I
7 see a gentleman that was here yesterday sitting in the
8 front part here. Would you like to introduce yourself,
9 sir, if you don't mind.

10

11 MR. STEBBINS: I'm John Stebbins. I
12 wanted to see what the meeting was going on about.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that's great. I
15 wish we could see more people from the community here.
16 We really encourage that. If you'd like to make a
17 statement somewhere along the line. We're going to
18 adjourn today, but you can go see that young lady over
19 there and she'll have you fill out a form and then
20 she'll deliver it up to us and we'll be happy to hear
21 from you. That's information for anyone.

22

23 Let's move on. We're on item number J,
24 implementation of any bull moose permit for Units 1B
25 and 3.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. This
28 proposal was put in your gray packet and there's draft
29 regulatory language in there. The reason that this
30 proposal is on the agenda is that it was a request by
31 the Wrangell Cooperative Association at our fall
32 meeting. Dick Stokes brought that topic forward for
33 us. The proposal that Dick Stokes suggested last fall
34 I had to use a little artistic license to put it into a
35 proposal format, but the idea was that there would be a
36 continuation of the any bull permit, but it would be
37 restricted for subsistence users only. So that's the
38 reason to have this before you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Has everyone found
41 that.

42

43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
46 Council. Mr. Stokes has asked for it to be considered
47 again at this point.

48

49 MR. STOKES: What we had in mind was
50 that those in Petersburg, Kake and Wrangell would have

1 the opportunity to have a subsistence hunt on moose if
2 they would let those that would have drawn for any bull
3 and they would just like to make that the subsistence
4 hunt. Instead of having people from all over the state
5 and Lower 48 drawing for that permit, it would be just
6 local.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

9

10 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 First of all, do we need to adopt this? Okay, I move
12 to adopt proposal -- it doesn't have a number, but any
13 bull permit.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second to
16 the motion.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Donald.

21 Go ahead.

22

23 MR. BANGS: We just listened to some
24 testimony by the regional biologist and they changed
25 the antler restrictions and I think that there will be
26 an increase in moose harvest because of that. He also
27 mentioned the percentage of people that hunt moose in
28 this area the vast majority of them are from Petersburg
29 and Wrangell and Kake. If we went to an any bull in
30 addition to the antler restriction liberalization, I
31 think we could feasibly desecrate the bull population
32 because it would just be open to everybody that lives
33 here to shoot any bull. Unless there was some sort of
34 tightening of time frame or reporting requirements, but
35 I'm really afraid it would impact the moose population
36 and possibly devastate it in one year. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.

39 Mr. Kitka.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
42 looking at the proposal, I see that they're talking
43 about five bulls, but it's a permit for five bulls
44 total every year and I don't think that would decimate
45 anything.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Rebuttal.

48

49 MR. BANGS: The proposal is for any
50 bull, but if you registered and you went out hunting,

1 say the whole room here all registered for that day and
2 went out, there could possibly be 20, 30 bulls killed
3 that day before you even know it. It could just happen
4 and that's my concern.

5

6 MR. STOKES: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson wants to
9 get us back on track here, so go ahead, Bob.

10

11 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The
12 proposal that's in front of us -- unfortunately it
13 doesn't have a name on each of these proposals, so I
14 think it could be a little confusing. The proposal
15 that's in front of us right now calls for a total of
16 five bulls, any bulls, to be taken from Unit 1B, which
17 includes the Stikine River and Thomas Bay, and five
18 additional any bull permits from Unit 3 and that
19 includes the islands of Mitkof, Kupreanof and Kuiu.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes, go ahead.

22

23 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 There's only going to be so many of the permits sent
25 out. If there's 10 permits allowed, then that would be
26 it.

27

28 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

31

32 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
33 question is who gets these permits. It's not a
34 drawing. It's first come, first serve, or do we go
35 into the regional district ranger and get a permit?
36 I'm just not really clear on how this is going to be
37 implemented without a drawing. It says five permits
38 issued. We're going back to the drawing permit just
39 for rural residents. I think what we talked about was
40 that was implemented and then it was taken away because
41 of the liberalization of the antler restriction change.
42 That was enough to make up the difference in the amount
43 of moose harvested. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It looks like the way
46 the proposal is written that it would go back to the
47 drawing permit situation again unless somebody can
48 explain it a little further to me.

49

50 Mike, go ahead.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I'd like to know who know who has positive C&T for
3 moose in these areas.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, do you
6 know that?

7
8 MR. LARSON: The communities of
9 Wrangell, Petersburg and Meyers Chuck, including
10 residents of Unit 2. Can't forget those guys.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else with a
13 question.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
18 Council. We have a proposal before us. Donald.

19
20 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'd like to move this
21 proposal forward. I think this proposal in conjunction
22 with the other proposal dealing with the change in the
23 antler restriction kind of go hand in hand. If the
24 change in the antler restriction were to be rejected by
25 the Council or Subsistence Board, then this proposal
26 would probably be a viable proposal. On the other
27 hand, if we were to approve the antler change, then
28 this proposal probably would not be something we would
29 want to also accept. It would be kind of a situation
30 of one or the other but not both and we'd have to
31 decide which way to go on this. I think the thing to
32 do would be to move this proposal forward and when the
33 time comes we'll have to discuss them sort of one
34 against the other essentially. So I think it's at
35 least worth moving forward at this time as a proposal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I don't see any
38 problem with that. It's going to go through analysis
39 and come back to us anyhow. Cal, do you have something
40 to add?

41
42 MR. CASIPIT: Cal Casipit with the
43 Forest Service, acting Inter-agency Staff Committee
44 member. There was just some question about C&T
45 determinations, so I just wanted to make sure that was
46 on record. The C&T determination for moose in Unit 1B
47 is rural residents of Unit 1, 2, 3 and 4. As was
48 earlier stated, the C&T for moose in Unit 3 is rural
49 residents of 1B, 2 and 3. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal.
2
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I think
4 they break Unit 3 down into Mitkof, Kupreanof and then
5 the rest of Unit 3.
6
7 MR. CASIPIT: Correct. I was reading
8 for the places where moose is in Unit 3 and who has
9 them.
10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Right. So it's all
12 rural residents for Kupreanof.
13
14 MR. CASIPIT: It gets real complicated
15 here.
16
17 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
20 called. Oh, Mr. Stokes, did you have something to add.
21
22 MR. STOKES: I would just like to say
23 when the Wrangell area has had a customary and
24 traditional use since the 1800s. It wasn't until
25 around 1900 that they started to move out into the
26 other areas in this district, but Wrangell has always
27 had a customary traditional use. When we migrated down
28 through the Stikine River, they would only go so far
29 and run into game and they would harvest the game and
30 move on.
31
32 This proposal was written prior to them
33 changing the horn restriction, so I don't know.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of
36 this Council. Are you ready to vote on it. Mr. Kitka,
37 roll call.
38
39 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
40
41 MR. BANGS: Yes.
42
43 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
44
45 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
46
47 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
48
49 MR. SEE: Yes.
50

1 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
2
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
6
7 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
14 Mike Douville.
15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
17
18 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
21
22 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
23
24 MR. STOKES: Yes.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
27 passes unanimously.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
30 We're on to the next one now. I think Mr. Bangs is
31 going to address the change antlerless deer to female
32 deer in Federal regulations. Am I correct in that
33 assumption?
34
35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 The reason this came up is because of the differences
37 in regulatory language where the State has the words
38 female or doe and the Federal has antlerless. We ran
39 into the problem it's confusing and when it comes to
40 the January or late December hunt a lot of them are
41 antlerless, even the males. So that was the reason for
42 bringing this up. We should probably come in line with
43 the correct wording to mirror the State's regulation
44 wording.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
47 What does the Council think about this idea? What do
48 you think, Mr. See.
49
50 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. I think I've

1 never had a problem telling the difference, but it's
2 more like housekeeping to me. Just bring them in line
3 together and clean up the words.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we need to ask for
6 a motion on this. Go ahead, Mr. Bangs.

7
8 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair. I make a motion
9 to change the wording from antlerless to female deer in
10 regulatory language.

11
12 MR. SEE: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any further
15 discussion.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. Roll
20 call, Mr. Kitka.

21
22 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

23
24 MR. BANGS: Yes.

25
26 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

27
28 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

29
30 MR. KITKA: Mike See.

31
32 MR. SEE: Yes.

33
34 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

37
38 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.

39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.

41
42 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
47 Michael Douville.

48
49 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
6
7 MR. STOKES: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
10 passes unanimously.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
13 The next thing is the sea otter management
14 recommendations. Mr. Bangs, go ahead.
15
16 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 Before we go into sea otters, I recall that we skipped
18 over the special action request about changing the brow
19 tine from three to two and we voted on the proposal but
20 not on the special action which would put it in
21 regulation for this fall. So if we choose to skip over
22 it, that's fine, but I just wanted to let the Council
23 know that we did skip over that special action.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we should take
26 care of it, so a motion is in order.
27
28 MR. BANGS: I make a motion to accept
29 the special action request to change the brow tine
30 restriction in 1B and 3.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do I hear a second.
33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any
37 further discussion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka, roll call.
42
43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Michael Bangs.
45
46 MR. BANGS: Yes.
47
48 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
49
50 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

1 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
2
3 MR. SEE: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
6
7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
10
11 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
18 Michael Douville.
19
20 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
21
22 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
23
24 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
27
28 MR. STOKES: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
31 passes unanimously.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka and thank
34 you, Mr. Bangs, for bringing that up. Let's move on to
35 sea otters. This young lady, Sunny, has been sitting
36 here for as long as this meeting has been going on
37 waiting to talk on this issue, so we're happy to have
38 you this morning. It's all yours.
39
40 MS. RICE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
41 Council for allowing me to come talk to you. My name
42 for the record is Sunny Rice. I work with the Marine
43 Advisory Program here in Petersburg. Mike Bangs asked
44 me to come talk to you about a project that Zach Hoyt
45 and I are working on on sea otters, so I made a little
46 presentation.
47
48 I understand you folks have been
49 talking about this on and off at your meetings as well,
50 so I hope the work we're going to do can help inform

1 the work that you're doing.

2

3 I wanted to put a little bit about the
4 Marine Advisory Program up here, but then I remembered
5 that most of you probably know Dolly Garza, who was my
6 colleague there in Ketchikan. For those of you who
7 don't know Dolly, we have agents and specialists in 10
8 communities and I'm the one in Petersburg. Our goal is
9 to help Alaskans wisely use, conserve and enjoy our
10 marine and coastal resources. One part of that is
11 connecting marine resource users with the university to
12 do needed research.

13

14 Because of that I was excited when Zach
15 Hoyt, who works with the Department of Fish and Game
16 came and talked to me about what we might be able to do
17 to look at the interactions between sea otters and
18 subsistence and commercial fisheries in Alaska. Here's
19 what we had in mind. A little bit of background for
20 you.

21

22 This is the London fur market sales
23 from 1870 on the left there to 1905 and beyond on the
24 right. There in the late 1800s was when the sea otter
25 populations around here started really dwindling. In
26 1911 there was a worldwide moratorium on the sea otter
27 harvest. They estimated there were only 1,000 to 2,000
28 individuals worldwide. After a long lull sea otters
29 were reintroduced into southeast Alaska beginning in
30 1965. I don't know where those reintroductions took
31 place. I don't know if anybody here knows where that
32 was.

33

34 You can see there have been two
35 estimates here in southeast Alaska to look at what's
36 been going on with that sea otter population since
37 then. In 1994, there was an estimate of 11,697 in
38 Olive, southeast Alaska. That was estimated using a
39 skiff survey method. Then there's been one more in
40 2003 using the aerial survey method but focused just on
41 southern southeast Alaska and their estimate of 5,845.
42 So one of the things we'd like to do is update those
43 numbers a little bit. Those numbers can't be compared
44 because the first one is Olive southeast. The second
45 one is just southern southeast and they used two
46 different survey methods there.

47

48 The chart at the top just shows what's
49 going on with sea otters all over the state. They're
50 concerned about the sea otters populations in western

1 Alaska. They believe they're increasing in southeast
2 and they believe they're about stable in southcentral.

3
4 This is the subsistence harvest. These
5 were the pelts tagged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 Service since about 1989 to 2006. There's an average
7 of 322 a year and it's just about leveled off there
8 since '97 at the 300 to 400 range.

9
10 What we do know is that sea otters are
11 considered a keystone species, which means they have a
12 disproportionate effect on their environment. One
13 example of this in the Aleutians there is this
14 relationship between sea otters, urchins and kelp. As
15 sea otters move in, they eat sea urchins. That allows
16 the kelp to grow up, which provides habitat for fish.
17 We don't know if there's something similar that goes on
18 on soft substrate habitats where the sea cucumbers and
19 things that are being harvested are.

20
21 We do know that there were no sea
22 otters in southeast Alaska for 100 years and we've got
23 great macroinvertebrate populations which allow us to
24 have commercial fisheries and things like dungeoness
25 crab, gooey ducks and sea cucumbers. They are not
26 necessarily the top of the food chain. Killer whales
27 eat them and humans use them.

28
29 They don't know what's causing the sea
30 otter decline in western Alaska. One theory is that
31 perhaps the killer whales have shifted their prey
32 towards sea otters. So all of these unknowns are going
33 into what we're trying to figure out through our work.

34
35
36 We do also know -- and this is where I
37 come in. I've been hearing from a lot of folks about
38 concerns about sea otters coming in and eating
39 everything in the bay and they can no longer have their
40 fishery or their harvest in that area. So 10 fishing
41 areas in the red sea urchin fishery have been closed,
42 six fishing areas in the sea cucumber fishery and one
43 fishing area in the gooey duck fishery. This is just
44 commercial fisheries. I understand you folks may have
45 been talking about what's going on with subsistence
46 harvest, but I don't know that and that's what I'm
47 hoping to have you help me with.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me, Sunny. I
50 see George is about ready to leave. Did you make your

1 contribution to the cause over there.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: First thing this morning,
6 sir.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Have a good trip back.

9

10 MS. RICE: So, what we're proposing to
11 do is, first, an aerial survey duplicating the one that
12 was done by Bodkin in 2003. We do that in the summer
13 of 2010. The second piece would be community meetings
14 in the five communities listed there, reporting the
15 results of our aerial survey and gathering input and
16 information from the folks there.

17

18 I don't want to think of this
19 interaction with these communities and with individuals
20 as happening only at these set times though and it's
21 sort of my job to be that input person that anybody can
22 come talk to at any time. This is what we've proposed
23 in the research we'd like to do.

24

25 Then the next summer sea otter diet
26 survey to try to see what exactly it is that the sea
27 otter is eating. Do they have a preference that they
28 start with first. Trying to get at what is their
29 impact on an area when they move in to recolonize an
30 area. Community readings again at the end of that.

31

32 Like I said, I'll be continuing to do
33 outreach and gathering information and talking to folks
34 through the Marine Advisory Program. Then Zach is
35 hoping to continue these studies once this project is
36 done towards a Ph.D in trying to understand the broad
37 implications of sea otters in our region.

38

39 Here's just a little bit of preliminary
40 work that Zach has done already. The hatchmarked area
41 there is the proposed study area, so we're just looking
42 at southern southeast and they've been doing
43 observations from the RV Kestrol (ph) when they've been
44 out doing their dive surveys. So red circles there
45 show independent sea otters that they've seen in the
46 various population or the various numbers and then
47 yellow show the immature. The feeling and the concern
48 is that this population is moving inland.

49

50 That's not very clear. I'm sorry about

1 that. For those of you that are from town I have a
2 copy of this map in my office and if you'd like to come
3 down and tell me where else you've seen sea otters that
4 isn't on this map already, I'd like to hear that from
5 you.

6
7 So basically the questions that we're
8 going to help answer are, has the population of sea
9 otters in southern southeast increased since that last
10 survey and then, in general, what's the diet of sea
11 otters in southeast, which will help us move towards
12 what's their impact on their habitat as they move in to
13 new areas. Of course, that just leads to more
14 questions, as somebody said yesterday. If that
15 population isn't increasing, maybe it's just moving.
16 If so, where can we predict that they'll move next. Is
17 there anything limiting the population growth of sea
18 otters in southeast Alaska. Is there something about
19 the waters that are further inside that might keep them
20 from moving in there or have they just not gotten
21 around to getting there yet. Then do they have a
22 similar major impact on soft bottom habitats as they do
23 on those sea urchin habitats.

24
25 So what we are hoping you can help us
26 with is to let us know what your questions are. This
27 research is just -- you know, we don't want it to just
28 sit on a shelf to help somebody to get their Ph.D. We
29 want it to actually inform decisions that are going to
30 be made about sea otters and how to deal with their
31 interactions. So we'd like to hear from you folks and
32 the community how we can make this study more useful
33 for you and what you're going to be having to decide.

34
35 We're going to have a small advisory
36 committee that will meet a few times to help us guide
37 this survey. If you or someone you know from your
38 community would like to be on that advisory committee,
39 we'd love to have them.

40
41 If we are asked to do a full proposal,
42 we've submitted a pre-proposal. A letter of support
43 would help us perhaps get funding and then if you
44 wanted to give us a lot of money to help do it, we'd be
45 happy to accept it as well. These are our partners so
46 far, so we'd love to have more folks involved.

47
48 That's it. I can answer questions if
49 you like.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Sunny.
2 Yeah, I think we can offer a lot of information from
3 this body. We all are affected by the sea otter
4 population increase in southeast Alaska. If it will
5 help me to get a Ph.D, then Mr. Kookesh can stop
6 calling me BS Adams anymore.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But in Yakutat, you
11 know, the Russians wiped it out. Like you said, there
12 was a decline in the 1800s and made them extinct. It
13 was in 1968 or thereabouts where the U.S. Fish and
14 Wildlife Service transplanted some of those sea otters
15 from the Aleutians down to the Yakutat area and I
16 imagine other places as well.

17
18 Our people used to keep those sea
19 otters out on the Fairweather Bench. They never
20 allowed them to come into the islands or on the
21 mainland because of the way they increase in
22 population. They breed and multiply year round, so the
23 population explosion is just tremendous after they
24 transplanted them in the Yakutat area. Ever since then
25 it's been increasing. We see a decline in a lot of our
26 subsistence foods, the clams, the crabs, cockles, sea
27 urchins and the gumbots. They're all disappearing.

28
29 I know in some places down here in
30 southeast Alaska those resources are still available,
31 but the sea otters are also coming in and infesting
32 this area and it's going to cause problems. Once they
33 clean out an area they move on and then they leave
34 those places decimated. So they are in direct
35 competition with our subsistence foods. In your study,
36 I hope that you can find a way in how we can balance it
37 out. I just thought I'd share that with you.

38
39 I was listening to Richard Dalton
40 several years ago and he's the one that told us the
41 story about how he used to keep those otters out on the
42 Fairweather Bench. That's way out on the ocean. I
43 remember hearing stories that when our people went out
44 sea otter hunting that they would go so far out that
45 you can barely see the tops of the mountains. That's
46 how far out they went and that's how far out they kept
47 them. So he started telling stories about how he would
48 be trawling or fishing, you know, in Glacier Bay and
49 he'd anchor out overnight and he can hear those
50 critters cracking the clams and keeping him awake all

1 night.

2

3 So this is my input on this. It is a
4 serious problem. I hope we can figure out some way to
5 take care of it. Anyone else have -- Harvey and then
6 Mr. Bangs.

7

8 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 notice on your list of people that are involved with
10 you and I highly recommend that you get in touch with
11 the Sea Mammal Commission. They have a lot of
12 information already compiled on this critter. Like
13 Bert said, everything they eat, we eat. That's one of
14 the reasons we find it such a hard creature to live
15 with.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before Mr. Bangs
18 there's something I need to say. What's the average
19 weight of a sea otter? I've heard up to 100 pounds.
20 They eat 25 percent of their body weight a day. So if
21 you take 500 sea otters for an area and multiply that
22 and so forth, you can almost tell how much of those
23 subsistence resources they're taking every day.
24 Tremendous. If they're increasing in population, that
25 increases too. Mr. Bangs.

26

27 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 First I'd like to thank Sunny for being patient and
29 waiting here these last couple days. Especially thank
30 her for her presentation. If the Council would like,
31 I'd like to see us at least give a letter of support to
32 this project and maybe Sunny could direct Staff as to
33 where to send the letter. And just try to help move
34 forward another information-gathering project so we can
35 understand a little bit more about how to deal with
36 these things. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
39 That would be a directive from the Council for the
40 coordinator to write a letter of support for your
41 project, so that's taken care of. Mr. See.

42

43 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. Sunny, have
44 you had any dealings with Frank Hughes in Kake.

45

46 MS. RICE: No, I haven't. Frank
47 Hughes?

48

49 MR. SEE: Yes, ma'am. In Hoonah we
50 have a Hoonah Marine Mammal Commission. In

1 conjunction, working with Kake and Sitka, we have
2 intertribal agreements between Kake, Sitka and Hoonah
3 as far as the marine mammal issue. In Sitka, Mike
4 Miller would be a contact, myself in Hoonah, and Frank
5 Hughes in Kake. We're very interested in the different
6 things as far as the animals go because they're in Port
7 Frederick, all the way up to Augusta.

8

9 To elaborate, as far as he was saying
10 about Mount Fairweather, the old-timers tell us they'd
11 go out, hold your hand like this. When Mount
12 Fairweather disappears behind your little finger,
13 that's when you started looking for sea otters. Now
14 they're everywhere. Glacier Bay is the hotbed right
15 now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr.
18 Douville, please.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Is the skiff survey still ongoing in Craig? They've
22 done that the past few years. I don't know if they're
23 still doing it.

24

25 MS. RICE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Douville.
26 Do you mean the skiff survey the ADF&G dive folks were
27 doing as they were doing their dive surveys?

28

29 MR. DOUVILLE: No, this was
30 administered by the Craig Community Association. I
31 believe Dolly was instrumental in setting that up. I
32 don't know if it's still ongoing. I know it did for at
33 least three years.

34

35 MS. RICE: I don't know about that, but
36 I'll definitely look into that.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: I participated in that.
39 I didn't know how long it was going to last or how long
40 it was funded. It's been the tendency of these otters
41 to move from where we are, the outside islands, and
42 they have a tendency to move north.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me. So long
45 Neil. Have a safe trip back home.

46

47 MR. DOUVILLE: Anyway, we're seeing the
48 same alarm that we had a few years ago happening in
49 Wrangell and Petersburg as that initial thick wave of
50 them are moving with the food supply. We don't have

1 much shellfish down there anymore. They ate up all the
2 urchins and crab. The last thing they like to work on
3 is clams and things that are harder to get.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.

6

7 MR. DOUVILLE: One more thing.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: I don't know if you get
12 any of the data. I know they like to extract a tooth
13 and take a sample of flesh and measurements on the
14 heads. One of the things I find difficult to do and
15 most of the time when I go we have one sealer that's
16 there in Klawock right now and you ask him can I get my
17 otter tagged and he said I don't have any tags. Some
18 of that data gets lost because you lose the heads or
19 throw them away or whatever. Whoever is responsible
20 for producing those tags needs to be more forthcoming
21 and see that they have adequate supplies.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

24

25 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 had one more thought and maybe a question. Basically I
27 know the Sea Mammal Commission tries at times to change
28 the regulations to make it a little easier for the
29 people to market these animals, but we seem to run into
30 a stumbling block when they get to a certain point.
31 Usually the stumbling block is the State of Alaska. If
32 we can get some help somewhere along the way. Thank
33 you.

34

35 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. KOOKESH: Was it you, Mr. Baines,
40 that mentioned to me that the Sitka tribe is becoming
41 leery about touching pelts?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Come forward, Mr.
44 Baines.

45

46 MR. BAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 There was an incident this fall or winter where
48 somebody who wasn't eligible to harvest sea otters were
49 having a Native bringing them in to get tagged and they
50 shipped them to our Sitka tribal tannery and

1 enforcement found out about it and they had a big raid
2 of our tribal tannery manager's home. They got a
3 search warrant and busted into their house. So I guess
4 they're kind of leery about doing any tagging just
5 because it's such a hassle. They don't want to deal
6 with that anymore, I guess.

7

8 Incidentally, I thought I'd put a plug
9 in for our tanner. I don't know if everybody knows
10 about it, but we have a tribal tanner. We have a nice
11 grant to build a new facility and this should be up and
12 going by this fall and we'll have increased capacity to
13 do those kind of things.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Baines.
16 Mr. See.

17

18 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He has a follow up.

21 Go ahead.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 just got a hold of John Littlefield and he gave me an
25 update. I told him I'm over here at the RAC and
26 everybody was asking about him. He says they told him
27 he had a micro stroke. Affected his vision for a
28 little while, but that cleared up. He had a CAT scan
29 or something and they checked out his arteries and he
30 had to go in for another test and he seemed feisty as
31 ever. He said don't deal with the State on this
32 herring stuff.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See, go ahead.

35

36 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. Part of that
37 situation up in Sitka, they waited until the adults of
38 the house were gone and there was a 12-year-old kid at
39 home and they came knocking on the door and asked for
40 admittance and that's how they got into the house.
41 Part of the deal they're pushing now they want the
42 taggers to do the enforcement. I'm a tagger in Hoonah.
43 In the smaller communities it's not hard because
44 everybody knows everybody, but our contention is -- and
45 that's what Sitka is doing. They're saying we are not
46 enforcement. They'll tag them. They'll take the
47 information and tag it and if there's a problem then
48 they have to deal with it, but they want us to deal
49 with it. That's interesting.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

2

3 MS. HAWKINS: We're having the same
4 problem in Ketchikan. We have a couple tribal members
5 that do extensive hunting and furs and both of their
6 houses got raided and their sea otter pelts and I think
7 some seals got confiscated. I had an opportunity to
8 talk to one of them and I know that his are all legal
9 furs. The other guy I know does all his business out
10 in the open and I'm sure that his are also legal. It's
11 almost like they're harassing people.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Adams, thank you.
16 We're crafting a letter to go to supposedly the
17 Secretary and one of our concerns is sea otters and the
18 management that's occurring around them. We have a
19 concern that we're trying to express in this letter
20 that there is an impact to subsistence. I'm glad
21 you're studying it, but hopefully we can as a Council
22 be allowed to take a more active approach to protecting
23 our subsistence areas. Hopefully your material is not
24 subjective and hopefully it's neutral and helps us
25 address issues that we have.

26

27 One of the things we want to do is, I
28 believe, if I'm correct, Mr. Bangs mentioned in the
29 last year, maybe in September, about liberalizing or
30 relaxing the process so people can be allowed to sell
31 whole pelts. We need to have an approach that says
32 that what we're doing is right and that we're trying to
33 protect our subsistence, I believe the rural way of
34 life. Hopefully in what you're doing you echo that.
35 Hopefully you don't become what a cute little animal
36 thing, you know.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, they are cute
39 little critters, aren't they. Go ahead, Mr. See.

40

41 MR. SEE: One thing I'd like to bring
42 up, every time we deal with the biologists, they're
43 doing all their studies and everything and they'll come
44 and ask us for information and I've testified a bunch
45 of times about sea otters and seals and what have you.
46 I ran into a deal where they start talking about your
47 testimony and everything is anecdotal. I couldn't
48 understand. Finally I just asked them what is
49 anecdotal. They said it's not supported by data. I
50 told them, well, the Tlingit nation, we haven't had a

1 written language until 1972. I told them that's 10,000
2 years of history. Don't disregard it just because it
3 isn't supported by data because there's a lot of things
4 that have been passed down. I really hope you look at
5 that and don't just call it anecdotal. Thank you.

6

7 MS. RICE: Mr. Chair. Mr. See. I
8 guess one thing is that we're in no -- Zach is formerly
9 with the Department of Fish and Game and I'm with the
10 university, so we're not going to be in any capacity to
11 make any kind of decision. We don't manage any of
12 these species, but I guess what I'm hoping to do is to
13 help give you data to help make the case that you'd
14 like to make. So if there are questions that you are
15 thinking about -- I guess we're not going to skew our
16 study to get to the answers that you want, but if there
17 are questions that you need answered that will help you
18 better be able to make a case or make a decision based
19 on these things. I'd like to have our study help
20 inform that however we can. I think as we go beyond
21 the specifics, what's going on with the sea otter
22 population and what are the sea otters eating and
23 getting towards what are the socioeconomic impacts of
24 sea otter recolonization, then that's where I totally
25 agree it will be really important to make sure that we,
26 yeah, are not just bound by somebody's idea of what's
27 data and what isn't.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

30

31 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
32 think it's important that everyone understands the
33 background of Zachary Hoyt, who is the biologist. He's
34 resigning from Fish and Game because he felt so
35 strongly after experiencing firsthand -- he sees what
36 you only see as a diver the devastation that these
37 otters do to the bottom and he's been working for
38 several years doing all these surveys for the
39 department on different commercial fishery resources,
40 which are also our subsistence foods. He has watched
41 it change. I think that's one of the driving concerns
42 he has, is seeing the direct devastation that's being
43 caused by these things, and that's why he has chose to
44 do this research. I would rest assured he's not
45 thinking they're cute little fuzzy things that are
46 devastating our resource. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes, go ahead.

49

50 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

1 have a question. I was told that a sea otter could eat
2 one-half to two-thirds of their weight every day, is
3 that true?

4
5 MS. RICE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stokes. I
6 don't know the answer to that. I think that might be
7 generally accepted information, but I don't honestly
8 know. Part of our diet study will be trying to look at
9 what are they consuming in our area as they move
10 through or enter a bay.

11
12 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See, go ahead.

15
16 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. With the
17 conversation about sea otters now and this being a
18 Subsistence Board, the Glacier Bay National Park has
19 excluded the Hoonah Tlingits from Glacier Bay. Right
20 now the sea otter population in Glacier Bay has gone
21 up. A few years back there were something like single
22 digits, five or six. Now there's something like 2,400.
23 The sea lion population has gone up about 600 percent.
24 The seal population is down, going on 78 percent now.
25 Right now the sea otters are in there. I think they
26 told us the maximum reproductive level for them is
27 something like 12.5 percent a year. That will maintain
28 their species. We're waiting to see what's going to
29 happen.

30
31 There's going to be a case study now.
32 The influx is so high, you know, 1,000 percent a year.
33 We're waiting to see how long it is before their
34 population in there crashes. Right now it's just like
35 a little proving ground or a sanctuary for them and
36 they're increasing to a point where externally that's
37 where they go. Once they get Glacier Bay cleaned out,
38 then they're going to start moving in even further yet
39 into Icy Straits and what have you.

40
41 That is a major, major impact on our
42 subsistence there. I still go into Glacier Bay. I get
43 gumboots there, seaweed. We don't have any recourse.
44 We're dealing with the Federal government.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Damned if you do,
47 damned if you don't. The sea otter situation, as I
48 mentioned when they were transplanted from the
49 Aleutians, and they're now infiltrating all of
50 southeast Alaska. I knew a time when there wasn't any

1 sea otters in Ketchikan, but listening to Merle now it
2 seems like they're heading down there now.

3

4 I got a call from a friend of mine who
5 lives in the Aleutians and it was about three, four
6 years ago and he was complaining about the fact that
7 the sea lions were disappearing. Now they're starting
8 to feed off on the sea otters and that's one of the
9 reasons why there's a decline in sea otters. So why
10 don't we just go ahead and send our sea otters back up
11 to the Aleutians and let them have them back.

12

13 Anyhow, I think it was within the last
14 10 years or so when Sitka tribes developed a sea otter
15 management plan. I attended a couple of their meetings
16 and I liked what they were doing. I thought it would
17 have been a real good model for places like Hoonah and
18 Yakutat and Angoon to develop their own management
19 programs and work in conjunction with one another to
20 kind of balance that out.

21

22 We'd be happy to hear any
23 recommendations that you might have after your study on
24 that issue. Thanks for your participation here. Did
25 you have a comment.

26

27 MR. SEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
28 do have a Marine Mammal Management Plan and I'd like to
29 put in a plug for any other community -- like I say,
30 right now we have an intertribal agreement between
31 Kake, Sitka and Hoonah. If we could get all of
32 southeast Alaska -- because it's the task of the Alaska
33 Steller Sea Lion/Sea Otter Commission out of Anchorage.
34 If we get all of southeast Alaska together as our own
35 when hopefully someday we'll form our own group and
36 we'll be able to apply for funding just for southeast
37 Alaska rather than everybody. That's our goal.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Mr. See, I
40 expect you to take leadership in that effort. Mr.
41 Kookesh, please.

42

43 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Adams. Just a
44 comment. I happened to attend one of those sea otter
45 meetings in Sitka and I do know that Sitka tribe was
46 very interested in working with Kake and Hoonah,
47 specifically. I went there representing Douglas Indian
48 Association and they weren't exactly knocking on my
49 door. They're more interested in working with the
50 larger communities that have these population problems.

1 But it would be nice if the Park Service would become a
2 partner along with them so that way we can start this
3 process of fixing it instead of waiting for another
4 study to come out to tell us something we already know.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I think
9 there should be more of an emphasis on this traditional
10 ecological knowledge that these villages can contribute
11 to this sea otter management as well as the local
12 knowledge that residents of those smaller communities
13 can provide. I was born in Sitka and my dad was a
14 scuba diver and we would go down at the minus tides and
15 pick abalone off the beach and my dad would go diving
16 for abalone. You can't do that anymore. That was in
17 the early '60s. That was just prior to the sea otter
18 being transplanted back into southeast.

19

20 In 1979, 1980 and '81 I trapped with --
21 he wasn't my husband then, but he is my husband now, we
22 trapped out in Portlock Harbor, Khaz Bay, all the way
23 down to Slocum Arm and Lisianski Inlet. And the
24 populations of sea otters were like hundreds in the
25 pods. You could see like four pods of hundreds. They
26 don't disappear when they eat it out. A large bulk of
27 it moves on, but you still have those that stay behind
28 and they're eating everything. You could look down
29 into the sea water and see the big potholes where
30 they've dug everything up. It's definitely devastating
31 to the clams and all that. We've got the immature
32 crabs finally starting to show back up in the tidal
33 lines as we have local hunters keeping the sea otters
34 at a more manageable level.

35

36 I told this body before that we'll have
37 the pods of killer whales come through and they come
38 through marching as a sentry up the inlet and they'll
39 wipe out the sea otters, but then the sea otters come
40 back again. There's always the sea otters offshore
41 when the oceans aren't too bad, but as soon as the
42 oceans start kicking up then it pushes the sea otters
43 back in. So we have a continuing population of sea
44 otters. That's my comment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Mr.
47 Bangs.

48

49 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 I'd like to make a motion that we draft this letter and

1 send it along. Oh, we already have it. Great. Do we
2 have to vote on that?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll set it aside for
5 now and then come back to it because I'd like the
6 Council to be able to look at it. Have you had a
7 chance to look at the letter that was drafted to Mr.
8 Doug Burn of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9

10 Right now I'd like to take a 10-minute
11 break.

12

13 (off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, folks.
18 We're going to get started again. After that
19 interesting report and discussion on the sea otter
20 issue, we do have a letter drafted here. It was done
21 by Mr. Bangs and Mr. Larson. I think we need to adopt
22 it as a draft and some tweaking it and refining it will
23 take place after Mr. Larson has an opportunity to do
24 so. I'd like to entertain a motion to accept this
25 letter.

26

27 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.

30

31 MS. HAWKINS: The motion to adopt the
32 letter regarding sea otter would go to the Fish and
33 Wildlife Service.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That is correct.

36

37 MR. BANGS: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and
40 seconded. Discussion about it. Again, it's going to
41 be adopted as a draft and before it goes out it will be
42 tweaked so it fits our situation a little better.
43 Comments.

44

45 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair. In the second
46 paragraph, the first sentence at the end I wanted to
47 insert after area which impacts our subsistence
48 resources.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, I don't think

1 we want to do any adjustments to it right now, but if
2 you would let Mr. Larson know after we pass this what
3 you would like to see in there and anyone else for that
4 matter. Maybe we could have a committee go over it
5 later with Mr. Larson and tweak it together. If that's
6 okay, I'd like to move the agenda along and go ahead
7 and accept this.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Just a quick discussion.

14 I understand why you want to move along. I would
15 encourage that TEK and local knowledge be included in
16 the letter and enforcement issue that was discussed in
17 our previous discussion. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, Patty. TEK is
20 very, very important in anything we submit. So that
21 needs to be addressed as well. Anyone else.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. BANGS: Call for the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
28 called. All in favor please say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Those opposed.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.

37 Mr. Larson, you and a few other people have your work
38 cut out for you to tweak it before we mail it. The
39 next thing I'd like to do is the Unit 4 thing. We want
40 to make sure that this issue is taken care of to the
41 satisfaction of all. There is a proposal that was
42 submitted and that is before you. I think Mr. Kookesh
43 fixed it up for us. I'll ask Mr. Kookesh to explain it
44 for us so that we can get an understanding where he's
45 coming from.

46

47 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. The
48 proposals have to do with harvest season. If I don't
49 cover it all properly, I expect Mr. Larson will do the
50 fill in on them.

1 The first one is regulation change,
2 which would close public lands in Unit 4 draining into
3 Chatham Strait, Peril Strait, Icy Strait, including
4 Tenaker Inlet, to the harvest of female deer by non-
5 Federally-qualified users in December.

6
7 The second one is the proposal would
8 close subsistence deer hunting season in that portion
9 of Unit 4 draining into Chatham Strait, Peril Strait
10 and Icy Strait, including Tenaker Inlet on January 15th
11 and female deer may be taken September 15th to January
12 15th.

13
14 Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you want
15 me doing motions or request for motions adopting these
16 proposals.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, we'll
19 take them one by one. So the first one you addressed
20 we need a motion to adopt. Mr. Bangs.

21
22 MR. BANGS: I move to adopt the
23 proposal as written.

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second.

25
26 MR. SEE: Second.

27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Mr. See.
31 Discussion. Mr. Kookesh rationale for the proposal.

32
33 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. The
34 rationale on this, a good example yesterday, the reason
35 why we have a Council is that we're supposed to be
36 knowledgeable about the areas that we're representing
37 for southeast. I am aware that not only in northern
38 Chichagof there's a conservation concern, but there's
39 also one down around the Angoon area. So that's my
40 rationale.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.
43 What's the wish of the Council. Any more discussion.
44 Mr. Douville.

45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman. I
47 have a question about this December. Doesn't the
48 season last until into January? I guess maybe it's
49 automatically closed in January to female deer already
50 or what?

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think, Mr. Douville,
2 you're talking about the other proposal we haven't
3 taken up yet.

4
5 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh, excuse me.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald, go ahead.

8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. Looking at the areas that would be closed,
11 is the intent of the proposal to leave the outside
12 coast of Chichagof Island open?

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's nodding his head.

15
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka, please.

19
20 MR. KITKA: Not to throw a rock in the
21 water, but I believe the intent of the motion may be --
22 it seems like after December it's already closed to
23 non-qualified subsistence users. I don't know if we
24 need to do anything on that since it's already that
25 way.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know either.
28 Mr. Bangs.

29
30 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman. This is a
31 proposal. It won't affect this fall. So the only way
32 we could do that is through a special action request.
33 I'm just wondering if this is going to accomplish what
34 Mr. Kookesh is trying to do.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In answer to your
37 question, Mr. Bangs, not really because this is going
38 to go through the next cycle, which would be a couple
39 years from now. And, you're right, if you want
40 something to happen right away, a special action would
41 have to be done, but that can be done any time.

42
43 Any more questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If not, do I hear a
48 call for the question.

49
50 MR. BANGS: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
2 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.
3
4 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Michael Bangs.
6
7 MR. BANGS: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
10
11 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
14
15 MR. SEE: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
18
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
22
23 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
28
29 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
30 Mike Douville.
31
32 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
37
38 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
39
40 MR. STOKES: Yes.
41
42 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
43 passes unanimously.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Council
46 members, Mr. Kitka. Let's move on to the other
47 proposal that was.....
48
49 MR. LARSON: Can I ask a question real
50 quick.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson has a
2 question real quick.
3
4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Is it the
5 intent of the Council that they would like to
6 incorporate this concept into a special action that
7 would be in effect for the 2009 season? If it was,
8 this would be a good time to give us some direction.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, I think
11 the question is well taken and I'm sure this is the way
12 in which the Council would like to go. Mr. Kookesh?
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's take care of it
17 right now then.
18
19 MR. LARSON: With that discussion,
20 unless there's some dissention, then I will take it
21 upon myself to draft a special action request in the
22 Council's name to close this area to non-Federally-
23 qualified users for female deer in December.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think it would be
26 safe for us to say that this would be a directive to
27 the coordinator to go ahead and write up a special
28 action on this particular issue for this year.
29
30 MR. LARSON: (Nods affirmatively)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So done. Mr. Kookesh,
33 do you want to address the other proposal that is
34 before us that has to do with the closures.
35
36 MR. KOOKESH: The second proposal, Mr.
37 Chairman, pertains to the January hunt. Just changing
38 it from January 31st to January 15th, shortening the
39 season.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is everyone familiar
42 about this? You had a question earlier, Mr. Douville.
43 Did you want to address that now?
44
45 MR. DOUVILLE: No.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We need a
48 motion. Mr. Bangs, go ahead.
49
50 MR. BANGS: I move to adopt the

1 proposal to change the length of the season from
2 December 31st to January 15th.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Do I hear
5 a second.
6
7 MR. SEE: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See seconded it.
10 Discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No discussion.
15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: I'll second it.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been seconded
19 already. We're in discussion part now, Mr. Douville.
20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
24 called for. Mr. Kitka, roll call, please.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
27
28 MR. BANGS: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
31
32 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
35
36 MR. SEE: Yes.
37
38 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
39
40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
41
42 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
43
44 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
45
46 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
49
50 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.

1 Mike Douville.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
10
11 MR. STOKES: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
14 passes unanimously.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
17 This is the hardest we've ever worked Mr. Kitka. I
18 often wondered when I was the secretary what the heck
19 am I doing here.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we're keeping you
24 busy. Good job, sir. Go ahead.
25
26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. We have a
27 similar situation with this proposal as we do with the
28 last one. If there would be a desire by the Council to
29 initiate a special action to implement this rule in the
30 winter of 2010, then I can do that with some direction.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: As a direction from
33 the Council, the coordinator will go ahead and initiate
34 a special action on this particular proposal. So done.
35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
39
40 MS. PHILLIPS: Because this is a
41 special action, I think it would be more appropriate
42 for the Council to make a motion and vote on it.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If that's the case,
45 then do you want to make the motion.
46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't want to make the
48 motion.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
2 make a motion that we accept this proposal and have it
3 written as a special action request so it can be
4 implemented prior to the next cycle.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Do I
7 hear a second.
8
9 MR. KITKA: I'll second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
12 Any further discussion.
13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: I will be voting no
19 because I don't feel there's been adequate public
20 comment on it.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Any
23 other comments. Mr. Bangs.
24
25 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
26 not real comfortable with this as well because what
27 we're doing with one special action is we're reducing
28 the harvest, although we're excluding non-Federally
29 qualified, we're increasing the harvest by Federally
30 qualified. Without going into an analysis, I'm not
31 sure -- I'd like to hear from other people on the
32 Council. Thank you.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
35 I see where you're coming from too. Go ahead, Mr.
36 Douville.
37
38 MR. DOUVILLE: I agree, but this
39 appears it extends the season, but it doesn't extend
40 the bag limit. In a sense, it's giving more time but
41 not increasing the bag limit.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to address
44 that, the bag limit as well?
45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: No.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No?
49
50 MR. DOUVILLE: Just making a point.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think I agree with
2 the comments that have been made so far. I think it
3 needs to go through the analysis process and be brought
4 back to the next wildlife cycle. Are we ready for the
5 question now.
6
7 MR. BANGS: Question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
10 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.
11
12 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
13
14 MR. BANGS: No.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
17
18 MS. HAWKINS: No.
19
20 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
21
22 MR. SEE: Yes.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
25
26 MR. HERNANDEZ: No.
27
28 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
29
30 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
31
32 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I vote no.
35
36 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
37 Mike Douville.
38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: No.
40
41 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: No.
44
45 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
46
47 MR. STOKES: No.
48
49 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
50 failed 7 to 3.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
2 Again, this will go through the process of being
3 analyzed and everything and brought down to us, so it's
4 not off the table. It will come before us again.
5 Thank you.

6
7 Let's go on to item 15, closure review
8 and recommendations. Mr. Larson, would you enlighten
9 us on this.

10
11 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
12 would like to make one comment before we leave the
13 proposal section and that is generated both for the
14 Council's interest and the public and Staff. Changes
15 to subsistence wildlife regulations, those proposals
16 will be accepted by the Office of Subsistence
17 Management through April 30th of this year. You'll
18 need to mail them to OSM or you'll need to post them on
19 a new website and you can find the address on OSM's
20 website. You'll find the proposal forms on OSM's
21 website, but you'll need to mail in the completed
22 forms. With that, we're done with proposals.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: When is the deadline
25 for that to be received by OSM?

26
27 MR. LARSON: They need to be received
28 by April 30th.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's move on.
31 Closure review briefing. We need someone to.....

32
33 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. If you look
34 at Page 14 of your green book. This is informational
35 items. The closure policy starts on Page 15. Those
36 are for your information.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
39 So that's just a matter of information. Please take
40 some time to go over those and if you have any
41 questions before the meeting ends, please feel free to
42 do so.

43
44 The next is Item 15(c).

45
46 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. There is
47 one closure that's in place for wildlife in the
48 southeast and Yakutat areas and Susan Oehlers will
49 speak to that real quickly.

50

1 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Council. For the record, I'm Susan
3 Oehlers, wildlife biologist with the Forest Service in
4 Yakutat. I'll just give you a brief review of this
5 wildlife closure.

6
7 I completed the review this last fall.
8 This is a closure in Unit 5A for moose. This closes
9 public lands to the taking of moose by non-Federal
10 residents during October 8th through 21st, so it's a
11 two-week closure. This has been in effect since 2000,
12 so this allows Federal subsistence users those two
13 weeks to harvest their moose before it's open to non-
14 Federal users.

15
16 The intent was to allow a preference
17 for subsistence users. As we reviewed it, I didn't see
18 any reason to change this. As we've talked about in
19 5A, the population is fairly stable. We did have a
20 reduction in the quota last year, so I think that just
21 kind of further emphasizes the need to give that
22 preference to Federal users for those first couple
23 weeks. It is a popular area and I think if we didn't
24 have that closure there probably would be some non-
25 Federal users coming in during those first two weeks,
26 which would take away from the subsistence
27 opportunities at that time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So this is just a
30 matter of information for the Council. We don't have
31 to do anything about it. Am I correct?

32
33 MS. OEHLERS: I think my understanding
34 was just to review this and see if anyone had any
35 questions or thought there was any need to pursue any
36 changes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you done?

39
40 MS. OEHLERS: Yes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question. Go ahead.

43
44 MR. HERNANDEZ: Susan, do you know, was
45 the Unit 2 deer closure reviewed also this year?

46
47 MS. OEHLERS: I don't know about that.

48
49 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 Mr. Hernandez. This is Cal Casipit, acting Inter-

1 agency Staff Committee member for the Forest Service.
2 If you look at that first briefing we were talking
3 about, the closure review policy, all of our closures
4 for both fish and wildlife are on these three-year
5 cycles and I think, if I'm not mistaken, you guys
6 covered that closure last year, so that won't come up
7 for another year. All the closures on these cycles.
8 This is the only one for this cycle. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. Any
12 more questions, comments. Again, it's just a matter of
13 information for the Council. If you have any
14 questions, please feel free to ask. Thank you, Susan.
15 Appreciate it.

16
17 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Resource monitoring
20 programs. Cal. Are you going to be Mr. Chester?

21
22 MR. CASIPIT: No. Terry will handle
23 that. As far as the Wildlife Closure Review 08-02, I
24 think OSM is looking for a recommendation from the
25 Council on whether to continue with this closure or
26 not. The preliminary recommendation is to continue the
27 closure and we would like the Council to either agree
28 with that or disagree with that. There is some action
29 required on this one.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks for clarifying
32 that, Cal. Mr. Bangs.

33
34 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 move to make a motion that we recommend to continue
36 with the closure.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr.
39 Douville.

40
41 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none. Mr.
48 Kitka, roll call, please.

49
50 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Michael Bangs.
2
3 MR. BANGS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
6
7 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
10
11 MR. SEE: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
14
15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
18
19 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
26 Mike Douville.
27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Patricia Adams -- Phillips.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
35
36 MR. KITKA: I already put money in
37 there in case. Sorry, Patty. Richard Stokes.
38
39 MR. STOKES: Yes.
40
41 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
42 passes unanimously.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
45 We can move on to Resource Monitoring Program. Mr.
46 Larson, go ahead.
47
48 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Dennis
49 Chester is listed to discuss the Wildlife Resource
50 Monitoring Plan, but he is not here today. Those plans

1 will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

4

5 MR. LARSON: But we do have Terry
6 Suminski here to discuss the fisheries portion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Terry.
9 You've been waiting two and a half days, so go for it.

10

11 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Mr.
12 Chairman. Council members. Terry Suminski, fisheries
13 biologist with the Forest Service. Mr. Chairman, we
14 were talking in the audience and if you need a loan to
15 pay your fines, we might be able to help you out.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I might take you up on
20 that, sir. Thank you.

21

22 MR. SUMINSKI: I would like to provide
23 you with an update on the Fishery Resource Monitoring
24 Plan. In November 2008 a request for proposals was
25 advertised. Proposals were due to the Office of
26 Subsistence Management in January of 2009. We received
27 a very good selection of fisheries proposals, which
28 included 13 stock status and trend proposals and two
29 traditional ecological knowledge harvest monitoring
30 proposals. The total funding requested of the
31 fisheries monitoring program was \$1.8 million for
32 southeast projects.

33

34 Next month the Technical Review
35 Committee will evaluate those proposals for technical
36 merit and decide which investigators will be asked to
37 provide a full investigation plan. The TRC uses the
38 guideline that up to 150 percent of available funding
39 will be forwarded to investigation plan stage. The
40 investigators will provide investigation plans by May
41 of 2009.

42

43 The budget available from the Forest
44 Service for projects starting in 2010 is about \$1.2
45 million for projects in the southeast region. 150
46 percent of 1.2 million equals about 1.8 million, which
47 is very close to the amount of projects submitted. So,
48 if all projects are technically sound, the TRC could
49 forward all submitted projects for IP development.

50

1 In July, the TRC will meet to evaluate
2 the investigation plans and formulate recommendations
3 for review by this Council at the October meeting in
4 Yakutat. After Council review, the Federal Subsistence
5 Board will decide on the final monitoring plan at their
6 meeting in January 2010 and approved projects will
7 begin in the spring of 2010. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Terry. Any
10 questions. Mr. Kitka.

11
12 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 have a question. Since you're the fisheries person in
14 Sitka, it has to do with Makhnati Island. I was
15 wondering if you could give me any information on what
16 a refuge plan would be if we pursued that direction.

17
18 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kitka.
19 What kind of plan? I'm sorry, I didn't hear.

20
21 MR. KITKA: Kind of a refuge, like
22 preserve.

23
24 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can develop a
27 policy like I have. Don't answer hard questions.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kitka.
32 The short answer is we have no refuge plan for
33 Makhnati.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think what he was
36 asking, Terry, what if. Not necessarily if you have
37 one or not.

38
39 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kitka.
40 Absolutely. If the Board passes some sort of refuge or
41 closure for the Makhnati area, we can certainly work
42 out a plan.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any other
45 questions.

46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Are any of the submitted
2 proposals dealing with herring?

3
4 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
5 Phillips. We did receive one from Sitka tribe of
6 Alaska. It would be a group that would consider data
7 gaps for research in herring management and the tribe
8 would coordinate this, get all the interested parties
9 together, identify what research needs are lacking for
10 herring management and try to explore ways of getting
11 those funded. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

14
15 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Excuse me for not remembering this, but I wasn't sure
17 if there was still a mark recapture or some sort of
18 monitoring program going on in the Kanalku system.

19
20 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
21 Bangs. That's correct. That project was going on this
22 year and we did get a proposal to continue that
23 project.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.

26
27 MR. BANGS: The reason I brought that
28 up, I thought it would be valuable information to find
29 out what comparison, if they do put in, I heard there
30 was funding for a fish pass or some improvements in
31 that system that we had data that showed before and
32 after. That's what I was trying to get at. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Anyone else.
35 Harvey.

36
37 MR. KITKA: On the question of Kanalku,
38 sockeye in Chatham fisheries, the Council proposal to
39 the Board of Fish. Do you have any information on
40 that?

41
42 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
43 Kitka. I don't know if they've even voted on it yet.
44 Probably Mike Baines will hear about it before I do.
45 He seems to be better connected there.

46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 What is the status of the Gut Bay work that had been
3 occurring? Is there a proposal to continue?
4

5 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
6 Phillips. Gut Bay was on our call for proposals, but
7 unfortunately we did not receive any proposals for Gut
8 Bay. That was studied earlier in the program. They
9 tried to do a mark recapture study and they weren't
10 able to get hands on fish because of difficulty in
11 getting to the lake and the morphology, steep-sidedness
12 of the lake. We were hoping to receive a project that
13 would put a weir on that system to get a better
14 estimate, but we did not receive a proposal. One thing
15 about Gut Bay is that we do have harvest monitoring
16 information through permits submitted to the
17 Department. We have not really noticed any significant
18 trends in that harvest, whether it's going up or down,
19 so it's definitely of interest, but it doesn't seem
20 like it's on a decline just judging by harvest
21 information.
22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
24 else.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Terry, in
29 regards to offering a loan for my fines, I'll tell you
30 a story. Many, many years ago I was seining with
31 Harvey's father and we ended up in Ketchikan that fall.
32 I stayed behind while the rest of them went back to
33 Sitka. I remember doing a lot of partying and going to
34 the bars and there was this logger who came in to one
35 of the bars we were in and he was pretty high at that
36 point, but he walks in and he hollered, rings that
37 timber bell, and he says when I drink, everybody
38 drinks. So the bartender gives everybody in the bar
39 their drinks and everything. When it comes time to pay
40 up he says, when I pay, everybody pays. So, when I
41 pay, everybody pays.
42

43 (Laughter)
44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.
46 Appreciate it.
47

48 MR. BANGS: Harvey might need a loan.
49 He's got his light on.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. KITKA: Oh, I pre-paid.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Moving on. Go
8 ahead, Mr. Larson.

9

10 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The next
11 item on our agenda is the status of the memorandum of
12 understanding with the State. That can be found on
13 Page 23 of your green book. Maureen Clark is the
14 representative today from the Office of Subsistence
15 Management and she will give us an update on the two-
16 year cycle and proposal guidelines. Under this same
17 topic we have an action item and that is to recommend a
18 Council member to the bear handicrafts work group, so
19 we'll need to address that before we leave.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before I forget too,
22 at the beginning of this meeting a couple days ago
23 there was some discussion about the election of the
24 officers and one individual thought it was taking place
25 in the fall and talked it over with Mr. Larson here and
26 he insisted it was always a winter meeting that the
27 election of the officers took place. So I just wanted
28 to bring that out to you that we will have the election
29 of officers at the end of this meeting. If there is
30 anyone aspiring to the Chair, vice-Chair or the
31 secretary, I just want you to be aware of that.

32

33 Go ahead, Maureen.

34

35 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Members of the Council. If I might just add there is
37 one other brief item I wanted to touch on at the end of
38 this, the Chistochina decision. You're getting some
39 handouts about that as well.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Thank you.

42

43 MS. CLARK: One of the items we're
44 handing out is a letter from the Central Council of
45 Tlingit and Haida and the response from Federal
46 Subsistence Board Chairman Mike Fleagle. Carrie Sykes
47 had mentioned as far as she knew they hadn't gotten a
48 response, but I understand she's been out of the office
49 and I did want you to know that we responded to both
50 the Central Council as well as the Alaska Federation of

1 Natives. Both organizations had expressed some
2 concerns about the memorandum of understanding. We
3 heard about some of those at this meeting.

4
5 I just wanted you to know that we do
6 take those very seriously and our attorneys looked at
7 those concerns and they found in no way does the
8 memorandum of understanding undermine our
9 responsibility under ANILCA to provide for a rural
10 subsistence priority. So I wanted to make that very
11 clear.

12
13 I also wanted to emphasize that the
14 memorandum of understanding, both the State and the
15 Federal Subsistence Program have agreed that they'll
16 review this memorandum of understanding at least once a
17 year, if not more frequently, so they will have an
18 opportunity to look at those concerns that were brought
19 up by AFN and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
20 and consider them.

21
22 I guess I'd say finally we've heard
23 some concern about how State and Federal Staff need to
24 work together for management of subsistence and the MOU
25 is really kind of an attempt to set the foundation for
26 that to make that happen. That's really all I have to
27 say.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll just follow up on
30 that. I think a lot of the RACs throughout the state
31 were unhappy that the MOU wasn't given -- the RACs
32 weren't given an opportunity to look at it. Even
33 though I looked at it, there were some things in there
34 that I thought needed to be addressed a little closer,
35 but I thought it was better than the previous one. It
36 addressed the fact that the State will consider
37 subsistence a priority and I thought that was the
38 biggest change in there.

39
40 Just to make it known that the RAC
41 Chairs were very unhappy with the fact that -- and, of
42 course, Tlingit and Haida and the AFN addressed the
43 same thing. It should have been shared with the Chairs
44 first and then brought up for signature.

45
46 Then another thing that I found that
47 was not too well accepted by me and others is the fact
48 that Neil Neilig, is that his name?

49
50 MS. CLARK: Hunts.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Was trying to push
2 everyone to sign this thing off as quickly as possible.
3 We understand why, but we didn't think that was
4 necessary as well. So just throwing that out for you
5 to take back. Thank you. Go ahead. Any other
6 comments about the MOU. Mr. Douville.

7
8 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 We have a charter that we operate under here and duties
10 of the Council under Item A, initiate, review and
11 evaluate proposals for regulations, policies,
12 management plans and other matters relating to
13 subsistence use of fish and wildlife on public lands
14 within the region. This process side-stepped that. I
15 don't consider this MOU to be a valid document because
16 of it. I don't know what the reasoning was to do that.
17 I suppose maybe the change of administration may have
18 had something to do with it.

19
20 In 2000, I believe we all went to
21 Anchorage to a meeting. We had an opportunity to make
22 comment, changes and suggestions on the original MOU.
23 I think we should have done this one also. I don't
24 consider that document valid because we didn't have the
25 opportunity and we should be afforded that opportunity.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
28 We understand, Maureen, that you're just the messenger
29 from OSM.

30
31 MS. CLARK: Your points are well taken,
32 Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: These points should be
35 shared with them. Thank you. Any others

36
37 Mr. Kookesh.

38
39 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I happen
40 to agree with Mr. Douville that the proper process
41 calls for not just allowing it to pass through the
42 Chairs and have their acknowledgement, but this process
43 should have been brought to us even in the fall time
44 because it's my understanding from this MOU that it's
45 been seven years in the making and at no time have we
46 been able to review it. For us to be sitting here
47 having a document just be signed off in haste, it needs
48 to come back to us for review. We need to review these
49 kind of things.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more
2 comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Maureen.
7 Go ahead with the two-year cycle.

8
9 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
10 think this is pretty self-explanatory. We're all kind
11 of getting used to the two-year cycle when things come
12 up and we just wanted to give an overview, kind of a
13 road map as to where things are headed for the next
14 three years. It is subject to change.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I need a loan. Any
17 questions on the two-year cycle. It's like she said,
18 we're still trying to get used to it, but I think we're
19 coming to that reality now. If there are no questions,
20 we'll go ahead and move on.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

25
26 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 The next item Robert touched on a little bit. There's
28 been a change in how we accept regulatory proposals
29 government-side, not just with the Federal Subsistence
30 Program. The intention is to have people file
31 proposals online. It's called the E-rulemaking Portal.
32 It's regulations.gov. There's been a push from
33 Washington to go in this direction.

34
35 Our regulation specialist pushed back
36 because our program obviously operates a little
37 differently in rural Alaska. Getting on the internet
38 is not always so easy. So we kind of won the
39 concession that we can still accept proposals in the
40 mail, hand-delivered and, most importantly, at these
41 Regional Advisory Council meetings.

42
43 What the change does mean is that we
44 can't accept proposals by email or fax anymore, but we
45 can accept comments on proposals and almost anything
46 else by fax and email. We just can't accept the
47 proposals themselves by fax or email anymore.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Interesting.
50 Comments, questions. So regulations.gov. Is that how

1 you access that?

2

3 MS. CLARK: That is it, yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you need to
6 electronically file them or do you have to mail them
7 in?

8

9 MS. CLARK: You can do either. You can
10 file them electronically on this website,
11 regulations.gov or mail them in, but everything you've
12 done here yesterday and today is taken care of because
13 you've handed them to your designated Federal official,
14 Robert.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Questions,
17 comments.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Maureen. It
24 might be helpful if we had a little lesson, you know,
25 just a quick one. Go to this site, click this button,
26 fill this form out, click send.

27

28 MS. CLARK: That's a really good idea
29 and I wish I had thought of that before I came. I'll
30 see what I can do here over lunch. I guess we don't
31 have an internet connection, do we. No. Perhaps in the
32 fall we can kind of run people through it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If we can't do it now,
35 make sure that it's on the agenda for the next meeting.
36 Anything else, folks.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It looks like
41 you've got bear handicrafts working group as well.

42

43 MS. CLARK: That's correct. We would
44 look to the Council for some action on this. As you
45 all know, the Federal Subsistence Board passed some
46 regulations several years ago that allow for the sale
47 of handicrafts made with bear parts, including bear
48 claws. The State of Alaska has objected to this
49 regulation saying that it allows for the unconstrained
50 commercial sale of handicrafts made from brown bear

1 parts and creates a market incentive for poaching and
2 they've submitted several proposals over the year to
3 remove those Federal regulations and the Board has
4 rejected them.

5
6 Most recently at the Federal
7 Subsistence Board's wildlife meeting last May Fish and
8 Game Commissioner Denby Lloyd asked that we defer any
9 action and instead participate in a working group that
10 would look at how these parts could be tracked to kind
11 of help protect this legal use of bear claws and bear
12 parts. So the Board agreed, but it wanted to make sure
13 that there was Regional Advisory Council participation
14 in this working group process.

15
16 From what I understand, there will be
17 probably two meetings of this group. The first one is
18 expected to occur before May 1st. I don't believe the
19 location has been chosen yet, but whoever you choose
20 from the Council can participate by teleconference.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So this will be a
23 statewide working group and you need some
24 representation from the Council to serve on that
25 working group then.

26
27 MS. CLARK: That's correct, Mr.
28 Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I think we need to
31 ask for some volunteers. If not, maybe you'll get
32 appointed.

33
34 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

37
38 MS. HAWKINS: I'll volunteer for that
39 committee.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What would be a good
42 number to take from this Council?

43
44 MS. CLARK: I believe they were only
45 looking for one representative.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One member from each
48 Council?

49
50 MR. LARSON: One person.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One person. Okay. It
2 was confirmed by Mr. Larson that it's just one person.
3 Mike, go ahead.

4
5 MR. DOUVILLE: My suggestion is that we
6 have a representative from brown bear country.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Who's from brown bear
9 country?

10
11 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I am from
12 brown bear country, but I do have a comment. My
13 comment is this. In participating by teleconference, I
14 know from all my years of experience that
15 teleconferencing is a very weak forum to get our point
16 across. Preferably we should be there. I'm just
17 wondering, is everyone going to be on teleconference or
18 is just the RAC?

19
20 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
21 I think teleconferencing is being made available to
22 those who can't make it to the meeting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So where is the
25 meeting going to be?

26
27 MS. CLARK: I don't have a location. I
28 would think perhaps Anchorage since it's a central
29 location, but they haven't said yet.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a pretty order
32 for a representative from southeast to go all the way
33 up to Anchorage. How many meetings is this going to
34 take?

35
36 MS. CLARK: They think it will take
37 two.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 would exercise extreme caution of this Council that we
47 put forth immediately in this working group and I
48 appreciate Commissioner Lloyd's intention to have a
49 working group discuss the commercial sale of
50 handicrafts from brown bear parts; however, this

1 Regional Council has adamantly opposed these efforts by
2 Fish and Game to restrict subsistence use of brown bear
3 parts and to put a regulatory burden on the subsistence
4 use of those brown bear parts.

5
6 I know he doesn't have an ulterior
7 motive of circumventing this Regional Advisory Council
8 process, but there's a level of distrust. Perhaps this
9 working committee would be able to put forth
10 recommendations saying we worked in a collaborative
11 process that, you know, we think we can make this
12 recommendation to not allow the sale of bear parts by
13 subsistence harvesters. I appreciate that a volunteer
14 is willing to step up from the RAC and the RAC wants to
15 participate in this working group. It is good that
16 Fish and Game is willing to work with OSM and the
17 regional advisory process, but I have been one to
18 adamantly oppose the more restrictive measures on brown
19 bear parts. That's my comment. Thanks.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. I
22 think our representative can take that message to the
23 meetings. I also remember that Denby Lloyd said that
24 they would pay for the expenses of these working groups
25 and I just wondered if that applies to this working
26 group as well.

27
28 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. I believe
29 so. I'm not sure exactly who is paying for it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does anyone else have
32 knowledge of that? I think I heard them say that they
33 were going to pay for those working groups travel and
34 arrangements and so forth.

35
36 Mr. Bangs, do you have a comment.

37
38 MR. BANGS: Yes, thank you. I just
39 wanted to say I totally agree with Patty and I think
40 that since this change had occurred in the past and
41 every time the State has come forward and tried to
42 reverse the changes they have yet to show any evidence
43 there's been poaching or a problem with this. There is
44 no evidence of misuse. I just want to make sure that
45 whoever goes that that is covered as well.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle.

48
49 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair. I would defer
50 to Mr. Kookesh then.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle.
2 Floyd, you're it. Mr. Larson made it known to me that
3 the State will pay for one person to attend that
4 working group, so it looks like you're covered in that
5 area.

6
7 Mike and then Harvey.

8
9 MR. DOUVILLE: My partner here took the
10 words out of my mouth. They've come at us almost every
11 year wanting to add further restriction onto these
12 handicraft items and have never demonstrated where
13 there's a problem. Well, it might. That's not good
14 enough to change regulation in my mind. I wouldn't be
15 agreeable to any further regulation that comes out of
16 this working group unless it's clearly demonstrated
17 that there is a problem. Not just maybe there is a
18 problem.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike,
21 that's been a message that I've adhered to also. Why
22 fix something if it's not broken. I think Mr. Kookesh
23 feels the same way too, but he's getting the same
24 messages from all of us.

25
26 Mr. Kitka.

27
28 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 agree with all that's been said and I feel that it's
30 just another restriction that will come down on the
31 subsistence users and we don't need any more
32 restrictions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So Mr. Kookesh has
39 stepped up to volunteer. There you go.

40
41 Thank you, Maureen. Are you done with
42 us?

43
44 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I have one
45 more.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead.

48
49 MS. CLARK: Last fall, during the fall
50 round of Council meetings we had a decision come down

1 from the 9th circuit court of appeals on a customary
2 and traditional use case that had been filed in Federal
3 court referred to as the Chistochina decision. I think
4 probably most of you are familiar with it. That's the
5 second handout I gave you. It's kind of a memo from
6 our attorney explaining what the decision meant.

7
8 Basically back in 2004 the village
9 council of Chistochina had submitted a request for a
10 customary and traditional use determination in Unit 12
11 for moose. The Southcentral Council and the Eastern
12 Interior Council both supported that and it went to the
13 Federal Subsistence Board and the customary and
14 traditional use was recognized. After a request for
15 reconsideration was filed, the State filed a lawsuit.
16 The State alleged basically the decision on Chistochina
17 was made without substantial evidence, that it was
18 inconsistent with ANILCA and that it would have caused
19 unnecessary restrictions on non-subsistence users. The
20 lower court and the 9th circuit court both found that
21 the Federal Subsistence Board had followed proper
22 procedures in how it made the decision. Basically the
23 Board's decision was validated and there is no reason
24 for the Board to change how it makes its customary and
25 traditional use determinations.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any
28 comments, questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Maureen.

33
34 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've waited
37 patiently all these days here and we appreciate that.
38 Thank you.

39
40 Okay. Moving on. We're getting close
41 to the end of the agenda, folks. U.S. Forest Service
42 has already done their part of it. Tricia is gone and
43 she did her report earlier. We've got the Park Service
44 and Bureau of Land Management people. Jim Capra is
45 away at another meeting, so Diane McKinley is sitting
46 in his stead.

47
48 MS. MCKINLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Southeast RAC members. I unfortunately did not hook up
50 with Jim Capra before coming to the meeting, but I do

1 want to draw your attention to the harvest of sea gull
2 eggs by Hoonah Tlingit and Glacier Bay National Park.
3 It's a draft legislation environmental impact statement
4 that was just completed in December of 2008. It's been
5 a long work in progress. There's public comments going
6 on through March 6th. This will be a management plan
7 between the National Park Service and the Hoonah Indian
8 Association.

9

10 It's to do a very limited harvest of
11 gull eggs in Glacier Bay, which is not covered by
12 ANILCA. There's three alternatives out there. I don't
13 have any extra copies, but if you are interested, it is
14 available online and to put your comments through
15 online.

16

17 I just wanted to thank everybody for
18 volunteering. I know some folks are on week two or
19 week three of meetings, so I appreciate everybody
20 coming to Petersburg and volunteering their time. I'm
21 a Federal employee and I get paid, but it's also a
22 learning experience for me and I appreciate all the
23 time and effort people put into all these important
24 issues. I am from southeast, so I feel strongly about
25 many of these issues that are discussed and it's a
26 learning process for me, so I appreciate the
27 opportunity to come to southeast.

28

29 I also wanted to mention that we have a
30 few new Staff members at Park Service that will be
31 making probably the decisions at the Federal
32 Subsistence Board level and that's our new Regional
33 Director Sue Masica and Debra Cooper. I believe just
34 recently Debra went to Sitka and probably discussed
35 Makhnati and the gull egg harvest, so they're on a
36 learning curve. They're doing a really great job. If
37 you perhaps have a chance to meet them or call them,
38 that would be good too.

39

40 The final topic I wanted to discuss, I
41 am always happy to come to southeast to come to these
42 meetings, and I'm still concerned about communities
43 that we can no longer, for whatever reason, attend
44 where there's heavy subsistence uses. We need to be
45 able to hear the community's voice. That's places like
46 Hoonah, Pelican, Kake, Angoon. I don't know if that
47 will change, but we need to think about stimulating
48 their economy with these visits that we make to
49 southeast communities. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dianne.
2 Appreciate the comment. You know, in regards to the
3 meetings, OSM has determined that we should plan our
4 meetings so that it's adjacent to a hub area and it's
5 difficult financially and otherwise to get into the
6 smaller communities, like Angoon and Kake, and we're
7 protesting that. We think we should be able to go to
8 any community that we feel we should go to. I know the
9 Council feels the same way. The purpose of these
10 meetings in these smaller communities is, of course, to
11 get their input. We need to continue that process. I
12 don't think it's right that they should limit us to
13 just a few communities. Thanks for bringing that up.

14
15 Any other questions of Dianne or
16 comments. Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

17
18 MR. KOOKESH: Dianne, have you talked
19 about the four alternatives or three alternatives of
20 the gull egg harvest in Hoonah? I attended the Juneau
21 meeting, so I'm very aware of those three alternatives,
22 but a fourth was being placed before us. I know that
23 you're a Park Service employee, but I also am keenly
24 aware that you're my cousin and you're from Hoonah
25 originally. I don't know if she's going out of her
26 area by talking about her personal position in terms of
27 that herring egg harvest in Glacier Bay. We might like
28 to get some feedback on it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Herring egg or sea
31 gull egg?

32
33 MR. KOOKESH: Hey, Patricia Adams
34 happened.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MS. MCKINLEY: Through the Chair. I
39 did attend the public meeting in Anchorage as a citizen
40 and as a Hoonah person and gave oral testimony as my
41 position, which was alternative three, which would
42 allow two annual trips. It's the NPS preferred
43 alternative. I find that it's the best alternative of
44 what's presented, although I find that it's very
45 restrictive. So my comments were that NPS or the
46 superintendent would allow more than maybe two visits
47 or be more flexible on the dates and work with HIA on
48 the dates. They have a limit of 12 when they do take
49 people and I found that a bit restrictive and that goes
50 back to the NPS back country plan.

1 It was after the public meeting that
2 Wanda Culp presented a fourth alternative. I haven't
3 had a chance to look at that in depth, but I will and I
4 believe HIA and Park Service will discuss that fourth
5 alternative in Hoonah March 19th. I'm looking to Mike
6 See.

7

8 MR. SEE: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 MS. MCKINLEY: That is correct. I just
11 took it a step further that says why just gull eggs,
12 how about some seals. Perhaps this is a start. I
13 think there are other resources that Hoonah people can
14 utilize rather than have to tread carefully around it.
15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dianne. I
18 agree that there's too much limitations or restrictions
19 in the Glacier Bay. That's your guys's refrigerator,
20 icebox. I remember when Greg Brown shot that seal down
21 there. It echoed all the way to Washington, D.C. In
22 fact, I wrote some articles about it supporting his
23 position. I think it's sad that what has traditionally
24 been yours and ours since time immemorial has just been
25 taken away from you. We need to keep pounding on the
26 table.

27

28 Dianne, I'll have Mike See first and
29 then you can comment.

30

31 MR. SEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. At the
32 HIA we've looked into this fourth proposal. We find it
33 to be too restrictive. It gets even more selective of
34 who can go. So I think our position is we were more
35 opting for proposal number three. There were a large
36 number of proposals. Some on the edge of ludicrous.

37

38 We've been trying to get back into
39 Glacier Bay since it's inception and we feel that if we
40 can get into there for sea gull eggs this year or the
41 coming year, that means we've got our foot in the door.
42 Hopefully we're going to go ahead and keep expanding.
43 My fear is that we just have a memorandum of agreement
44 with Glacier Bay. Through my association, I work with
45 TASK in Anchorage, memorandums of agreement can be here
46 today and 30 days from now they're non-existent. We're
47 trying to get more of our relationship with Glacier Bay
48 put in by law rather than memorandums of agreement.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Dianne, do

1 you have a response.

2 MS. MCKINLEY: Just a different point.
3 In this LEIS they talk about the visitor experience and
4 NPS would monitor the number of positive and negative
5 comments to NPS Staff about egg harvest activities. I
6 had expressed a concern to the Park Service that this
7 wouldn't become a tourist attraction or that when the
8 C&T users are out there harvesting it's not going to
9 become a cruise ship activity to watch them and to
10 respect the harvesters. So that was my comment. NPS
11 is looking for comments about watching their
12 activities. So just a level of respect to harvesters.

13

14

15 The Audubon Society is on the same page
16 as alternative three. So far I haven't seen a lot of
17 opposition, but there might be. We'll see.

18

19 I'm not asking for action by the RAC,
20 but just to let you know it's out there for public
21 comment. We've had input from Sitka and they will
22 support this and request that there not be permits
23 required to add more layers of regulations and
24 restrictions. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

27

28 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair. Ms. McKinley.
29 What's the deadline for comments?

30

31 MS. MCKINLEY: March 6th.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And that can be got
34 online, right?

35

36 MS. MCKINLEY: Yes.

37

38 MR. KOOKESH: Bert, one more.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

41

42 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, we talked
43 earlier about not having access into Glacier Bay and
44 the problems that are occurring. At some point there
45 needs to be dialogue that eases up these regulations
46 and restrictions. The sea gull harvest I commented
47 myself after attending the meeting about not being
48 allowed to bring a weapon in because I know you have to
49 get past the sea lions to harvest your eggs. That's
50 going to be an issue too. Hopefully they can start

1 working with us.

2

3 My take of the alternatives was that
4 this was a group -- the Park Service. This was a group
5 that has a system that doesn't trust anyone. Even if
6 your grandfather did it and your mother, they still
7 don't trust us. There's no honor system with the Park
8 Service and that's unfortunate. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Donald.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 I guess I do have a question about the role of the
14 Council in this. It seems to me that it is within the
15 duties and responsibilities of the Council to be able
16 to make comments on management plans that affect
17 subsistence users. It would seem like this would be
18 that type of a plan. However, I think Dianne mentioned
19 Glacier Bay was outside of ANILCA and I don't know what
20 she meant by that. Does that mean this would be
21 something the Council can't comment on? I'd like an
22 explanation there.

23

24 MS. MCKINLEY: It's going to take
25 Congress, I think, to approve this. It is outside of
26 ANILCA and it is between the Park Service, kind of like
27 a partnership with the Hoonah Indian Association.
28 Those are the parameters. I believe the Council -- I
29 look to Bob Larson for guidance on this, but I'm not
30 quite sure if the Council needs to take any action.

31

32 Since the deadline is very soon, I just
33 wanted to make the Council members aware of it and that
34 it is a C&T use. My mother remembers going with her
35 brother-in-law and the whole family going. I just feel
36 it's important that if this action does pass that we
37 also have positive input about it being able to take
38 place again. Maybe Bob Larson can address if the
39 Council can do anything. I'll be here through the end
40 of the meeting if anyone wants the website or a copy of
41 the book. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was just asking Mr.
44 Larson the same thing and he was explaining it to me.
45 I'll have him do it again.

46

47 MR. LARSON: The Council can address
48 issues important to subsistence users within our area.
49 The Glacier Bay is specifically excluded from
50 subsistence and we do not have any jurisdiction within

1 Glacier Bay. It seems to me that the agreement that is
2 in front of us has been adequately represented on both
3 sides and now needs to go to Congress. There's nothing
4 to prevent the Council from weighing in on it. You'd
5 have to ask whether or not it would be useful or
6 appropriate to do so. It seems like there's progress
7 being made right now. That's not to say you couldn't
8 if you wanted to.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you can give the
11 website, Dianne, individually as Council members we can
12 encourage one another to go ahead and access that and
13 make comments as individuals. I think that will work
14 just as well. I would encourage everyone on the
15 Council to do it.

16

17 Any other comments, questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dianne.

22

23 MS. MCKINLEY: Gunalcheesh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: BLM. George, you two
26 have been patiently sitting there waiting for your
27 turn, so go ahead.

28

29 MR. OVIATT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
31 George Oviatt. I'm with the Bureau of Land Management.
32 I have a short report. BLM managed lands are not in
33 vast amounts in southeast and mainly in Sitka, so
34 that's where our activities mainly are.

35

36 The city of Sitka has agreed to take
37 over management of the Replica Blockhouse site in
38 Sitka. This will be accomplished through a lease
39 authorized through the Recreation and Public Purpose
40 Act. BLM will be completing repairs to the facility
41 prior to turning it over to the city.

42

43 BLM is a cooperating agency in
44 assisting FAA in the completion of the EIS associated
45 extension of the Sitka Airport runway, taxiway and ramp
46 areas. The final EIS and record of decision will
47 likely be completed in April. FAA I believe is in
48 Sitka this week for a government to government
49 consultation with the Sitka Tribal Association and
50 other community coordinations on the project. From

1 everything I know it's going quite well.

2

3 I want to report that Tom Lonnie, our
4 State Director, traveled to Sitka with Jim Finch here,
5 the Anchorage Field Manager, and Gary Riemer, the
6 Anchorage District Manager early in February to see
7 firsthand the proposed airport extension project in the
8 herring spawning grounds. Thanks to the Forest Service
9 and the members of the Sitka Tribe they were able to
10 actually take him out in a boat and he was able to see
11 the grounds himself. They discussed projects with
12 represented both the airport and the herring issues
13 with members of the Sitka Tribal Association.

14

15 That's all I have to report. I'm open
16 for any questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions anyone.
19 Mr. Kookesh.

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Oviatt, is that
22 correct?

23

24 MR. OVIATT: Yes.

25

26 MR. KOOKESH: I've never seen your
27 name. One of the topics that seems to come up during
28 our meetings is why the decisions the Southeast
29 Regional Advisory Council makes not going our way. Why
30 is the Federal Subsistence Board always voting down our
31 decisions. This is creating a bad feeling for us when
32 we put so much time and effort here. I've served here
33 nine years and the dialogue is that the Federal
34 Subsistence Board is not being responsive to us. It's
35 my understanding you're an alternate member, is that
36 correct?

37

38 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair. Mr.
39 Kookesh. That's correct.

40

41 MR. KOOKESH: A couple issues I'd like
42 you to comment on. One concerns the Makhnati and the
43 other concerns Saxman. Were you part of this process
44 and one of the people that voted on it. No disrespect
45 to you, but if other representatives from the BLM, the
46 BIA and the Park Service, I'd ask them why they're
47 voting the way they're voting and why we're going in a
48 circle, and I'd like to know how you voted if you were
49 an alternate member, how you were voting on Makhnati
50 and Saxman.

1 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair. Mr.
2 Kookesh. I can't speak for the Board and I can't speak
3 for our Board member, Mr. Lonnie, but I can speak for
4 my actions while serving on that Board. Any time I
5 have served on the Board and have not voted in favor of
6 a RAC recommendation, I have always made a reference to
7 Section .805(c) of ANILCA. In that it gives three
8 reasons that we must give as a Board member as to why
9 we don't show deference. I believe, hopefully the
10 record would bear me out, that each time I did not do
11 that I made reference to one of these three purposes or
12 reasons for not showing deference and gave reason as
13 outlined in ANILCA .805(c).

14
15 I believe we all struggled with the
16 process and I can't speak for the Board but I will
17 speak for myself. I certainly struggled with a process
18 that we had in front of us in order to determine
19 rural/nonrural status. The process -- I think we
20 actually went through a rulemaking in developing that
21 process and the procedures we would follow. Number one
22 was aggregation and that led us down a road that none
23 of us was too comfortable going down. Like I said, I
24 can't speak for the rest of the RAC but I can speak for
25 myself. I struggled with that process.

26
27 I do know that at least on my part,
28 whether I'm acting as the Board member or giving advice
29 to our Board members, that BLM would be very interested
30 in learning from our past and improving this process in
31 the future. Those were the reasons I voted the way I
32 did for Saxman. It was really the aggregation of those
33 communities and looking at how they were tied together
34 that led me into not voting in favor of Saxman. Those
35 were my reasons and I think that's a matter of record
36 too.

37
38 Makhnati Island. I'm trying to
39 remember if I was a Board member voting not in favor of
40 closing Makhnati Island. I know I was a Board member
41 when we deferred the first time and I was acting as
42 Board member the last time we deferred in order to
43 allow the State Fish and Game to hear proposals that
44 Sitka tribe had in front of them, which happened last
45 week. And also to allow Sitka Tribe to finish their
46 studies and have that peer reviewed.

47
48 I was at those meetings last week and I
49 was very encouraged in learning that -- I think it's
50 Mrs. Brown and Mr. Patrick are involved in this process

1 now. I'm waiting to hear the results of their
2 recommendations or their studies so we can move
3 forward.

4
5 If I was a Board member and voted not
6 in favor of your recommendation to close Makhnati
7 Island, I'm sure that my reference, and I'm sure the
8 record would show that, that I referred to one of those
9 three items in Section .805(c) of ANILCA for my reason
10 of not showing deference.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, George.
13 Any other questions of the Council to George.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

18
19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Thank you, Mr. Oviatt for being here. We also have
21 good representation from National Park Service, U.S.
22 Forest Service, OSM, but we've had little
23 representation by BLM at our RAC meetings, like Staff
24 Committee member. For instance, Dianne McKinley works
25 directly with Niles Cesar, you know. Perhaps you could
26 send a Staff Committee member to be at our meetings on
27 a regular basis that could consult with you. I'm sure
28 you read our transcripts, but sometimes you miss the
29 flavor of the atmosphere through the transcripts.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, George.

32
33 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair. Ms.
34 Phillips. I believe the last three or four RAC
35 meetings we've had good representation from BLM, either
36 myself or the field manager or the ISE member, but I
37 will make sure that I pass along your comments and
38 hopefully we will continue to participate.

39
40 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: I apologize. I haven't
45 been here for the last three meetings, so I wouldn't
46 have known that.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, at the beginning

1 of the meeting you probably heard me say that George
2 follows me all around. He has been to all of our
3 meetings and even at the Board meeting him and I talk a
4 lot and I've questioned him about the reasons that
5 Floyd asked. He's always encouraging. He says don't
6 let that Makhnati Island issue go down the drain. Keep
7 bringing it up. And we have done that.

8
9 The thing that we were unhappy about,
10 George, and I have to say this, is the fact that the
11 Board combined Saxman with Ketchikan without due
12 process. We had Lee Wallace there and maybe a couple
13 other people from Southeast Alaska and we were taken by
14 surprise the fact the Board combined them together and
15 made their determination on the basis of the two of
16 them. Our effort now is to try to separate them back
17 again so that Saxman can get their rural determination.
18 There's a good chance that Ketchikan might as well.
19 You know, Lee being the only representative from that
20 area wasn't able to come forth and make a statement
21 about it because he was taken by surprise. I thought,
22 along with him, that lacked due process.

23
24 I don't know if you want to make a
25 comment about that, but that's just my feeling on that
26 particular issue. Go ahead.

27
28 MR. OVIATT: Mr. Chairman. The
29 procedures that was laid out that the Board would use
30 and it's actually published in the book that the Board
31 would use in determining rural/nonrural determination.
32 It was a very public process in developing those
33 procedures. Looking back, I would expect that we will
34 go through the same process when we begin this in 2010,
35 which we will again begin looking at.

36
37 So I highly encourage this Board to
38 keep your antennas up and when these procedures come in
39 front of you that you weigh in as Council members and
40 even public in those procedures to make sure that we
41 have procedures that will maybe address these things.
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, George.
45 Anyone else.

46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: I have one.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Mr. Oviatt. I'm going to ask a question that is not a
3 very comfortable question. In previous decisions of
4 the Federal Subsistence Board, there's been a
5 misunderstanding or a misperception that perhaps the
6 Federal Subsistence Board members aren't voting
7 independently, that they're getting marching orders
8 from higher up the food chain.
9 Can you address that, please.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do your best, George.
12 We're all ears.

13
14 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair. Ms.
15 Phillips. These Board members are pretty much
16 individuals and they support and vote on behalf of that
17 agency. Although there may have been pressure put on
18 one way or another, I don't believe that the Board let
19 that pressure influence their decision-making. I know
20 it certainly has not in my case. I don't remember any
21 pressure being put on me as an individual when
22 representing BLM on the Board to vote one way or
23 another. Other than pressure that you guys -- you
24 know, just talking with people and listening to them
25 and from the state. From within the Department, I
26 don't believe that -- I don't remember anyone ever
27 calling me up or talking to me or saying we want you to
28 vote a certain way or you should think along these
29 lines.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Patty, and
34 then Floyd.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Oviatt,
37 for your forthright answer. I very much appreciate it.

38
39 MR. KOOKESH: Oviatt.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Oviatt. I apologize.

42
43 MR. OVIATT: That's all right.

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Oviatt. I know she
48 made a real good comment to attempt to talk to you
49 about the Federal Subsistence Board and it's our
50 understanding that the Federal Subsistence Board

1 members that vote are not subsistence users and that
2 seems to be the one issue we struggle with. When we're
3 trying to relay to someone who's not a subsistence
4 user, there's a disconnect. The problem we're having
5 is always having to go back and get new data and still
6 coming here. I'm not going to give up, but our problem
7 is we know that you don't know anything about the
8 subsistence lifestyle.

9

10 I'm not being disrespectful to you.
11 I'm being truthful. I'm sure you're keenly aware how
12 our people live. My opinion is these regional
13 representatives need to understand what we're talking
14 about and I don't believe they do.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. Any
17 other comments or questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: George, we appreciate
22 you coming here all the time and we look forward to the
23 next time. See you in Anchorage. Have a good day.

24

25 MR. OVIATT: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game. Are they here? Gone?
29 Okay. Good.

30

31 I want to finish up this agenda. I
32 think we can do it within the hour and then be out of
33 here. Did you have something.

34

35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
36 do have a couple of things I want to talk about.
37 Whenever it's appropriate I just wanted to mention a
38 few things.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's take an
41 adjournment and then come back and finish up. Thank
42 you.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Should we get started
49 here. Floyd is going to be a little late, but we'll go
50 ahead and get started. We're just winding down now and

1 the next item on the agenda is, of course, to confirm
2 the location for the September 2009 wildlife meeting in
3 Yakutat. I'd like to put that back on the table and
4 reconsider that location.

5
6 And then we're going to go into other
7 business which includes the annual report. We need to
8 approve that. There's the Sealaska land section issue.
9 We do have the sea otter letter that has been drafted.
10 And then I'd like the Council to adopt Floyd's report
11 to the Board of Fish. He gave us the written report
12 and I'd like to have that entered into the minutes.
13 Then we'll conclude with the election of the officers.

14
15 Let's talk about the next meeting at
16 Yakutat. The Federal Subsistence Board is going to
17 take up the issue of Makhnati Island at their meeting
18 next fall. I'd like to put on the table the location
19 to meet in Sitka since it's going to affect the Sitka
20 people. To have the meeting there I think would be a
21 good idea. Then from there we can with great force go
22 to the Federal Subsistence Board on that particular
23 issue. I'm just putting it out as an idea. We can
24 still keep it in Yakutat if you want. We postponed the
25 Yakutat meeting for this particular meeting because of
26 the game issue. I'd be willing to reconsider this if
27 the Council really thinks this is a good idea.

28
29 Discussion. Floyd.

30
31 MR. KOOKESH: Good idea, Mr. Chairman.
32 I agree with you. I think we should have it in Sitka,
33 change the location.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you like to make
36 that into a motion and we'll go from there.

37
38 MR. KOOKESH: Motion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I need a second.

41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Discussion.

45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Could you please state

1 what the motion is.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The main motion is to
4 have the next fall meeting in Sitka rather than
5 Yakutat.

6

7 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Does that include the
12 same dates?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. Michael.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: Is there a specific
17 reason for having the first week in October as opposed
18 to the third week?

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Those were the dates
21 designated. If you want to change it we can do that
22 right now. Would you rather have it in the third week?
23 I don't see any conflict there. Do you, Mr. Larson.

24

25 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

26

27 MR. BANGS: I think we should keep in
28 mind the Board of Fish, Board of Game, when we're
29 setting our dates just so they won't conflict like they
30 did this time. I could entertain the idea of doing it
31 in September as well.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Why don't we keep the
34 dates open and Mr. Larson could look at all the other
35 activities that might be going on at that time. We can
36 choose a date that doesn't conflict with anything else.
37 Is that okay?

38

39 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The Board
40 of Fish, Board of Game, those issues are not going to
41 be taken up this fall. The Board of Game is on a two-
42 year cycle. The Board of Fish is on a three-year
43 cycle. So next fall there shouldn't be any conflicts
44 with either of those two bodies.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

47

48 MR. LARSON: So I would suggest we set
49 the date. We have a tentative date that was set last
50 meeting. I would recommend we finalize the dates at

1 this meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
4 Council on that. It doesn't seem there's going to be
5 any conflict other than the fact Mr. Larson is not
6 going to be here the following week. Should we just go
7 ahead and keep the same dates?

8

9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's stick with the
12 same dates. If need to be, we can reconsider them as
13 we move along. Patricia.

14

15 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. The third
16 week of October is usually when AFN is meeting. So I
17 don't know if there's people that go to that meeting.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. We
20 need to write that in. Any other comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Since we have a councilman from the tribe you might
28 want to see if they got the building open.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Baines, did you
31 hear what Harvey was saying?

32

33 MR. BAINES: Sorry, Mr. Chair. What
34 was the question?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question was,
37 since you were here from the tribe, wanted to know if
38 the building would be available on that date in Sitka.

39

40 MR. BAINES: Yeah, I can call someone
41 and check and see if our community house is available.
42 Is that your question?

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can you find out right
45 now?

46

47 MR. BAINES: I can call and find out.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Why don't we
50 just take an at ease here. We've been trying to get

1 the RAC to Yakutat for many years and we'll make it
2 there one day. We're still renovating the hall, doing
3 a good job of it and we're hoping we can show it off to
4 you next fall, but we can wait.

5
6 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

7
8 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman. We usually
9 suggest the next winter meetings, so I would make a
10 motion we have it in Yakutat next winter.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's a motion on
13 the floor to have it in Yakutat the following year. Is
14 there a second.

15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: We already have a
17 motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's get rid of the
20 first motion on the floor and then we can do that.
21 Thank you. Mr. Douville.

22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: We want to level the
24 playing field here sometime and be able to choose first
25 before these other people always get to choose first,
26 so we need to rotate that so we can pick a better
27 window. We've never had that opportunity. The spot is
28 always taken.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks, Mike. Mr.
31 Kookesh brought up a good point. There should be
32 something available in Sitka, so let's vote on it.

33
34 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson.

37
38 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The rest of
39 the Council may have heard my comment about my personal
40 travel plans and that should not have any bearing on
41 what you guys decide is the best time for your meeting.
42 So keep that in mind.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Go ahead,
45 Mr. Douville.

46
47 MR. DOUVILLE: By the same token they
48 did hear my concerns and they should consider them.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So be it. Mike, go
2 ahead.
3
4 MR. DOUVILLE: Call for the question.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
7 called for. All in favor say aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carried. There
16 was going to be a motion made to have the next meeting
17 in Yakutat. Mr. Bangs, do you still want to follow
18 through with that.
19
20 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
21 move to have the next meeting the following winter in
22 Yakutat.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Michael
27 Douville. Discussion.
28
29 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I need to
30 ask Maureen a question real quick.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you come forward
33 to the microphone, Maureen.
34
35 MR. LARSON: I was asked to not
36 finalize a meeting date for a year from now and I don't
37 recall exactly what the reason for that was. Do you
38 recall?
39
40 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Larson.
41 I'm trying to remember the same thing. I think I
42 should call the office just to check on that. I don't
43 remember the reason.
44
45 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I did have
46 some previous communication with the concerns for
47 finalizing the times and dates of the meeting a year
48 from now and I have not had any subsequent discussions
49 that would enable you to finalize that date. There's
50 nothing to prevent you from having a suggested time and

1 date, but for some reason I was asked to not have a
2 final date or time or place from the Council. A
3 suggested time and date would be appreciated.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We do the same thing
6 with the SRC. We put across suggested locations,
7 suggested times and so forth. It's never determined
8 until the coordinator is able to put everything
9 together. If that's okay with the Council, that's the
10 approach we'll take here as well.

11
12 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The way I
13 understand the process for this year is that we would
14 have a suggested time and date and then that would be
15 finalized at our fall meeting.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For a friendly
18 amendment it could be a suggested time and date. Mr.
19 Bangs.

20
21 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
22 see on our calendars it always says meeting dates and
23 locations are subject to change. We usually don't set
24 the dates until the meeting just prior to the next
25 meeting. I would amend it to include the next winter,
26 month of February, similar time as now, third week in
27 February.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Very good. Thank you,
30 Mr. Bangs. That would be a friendly amendment so we
31 don't have to go through it. Okay. I think we can
32 vote on it now.

33
34 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All in favor say aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.

45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. That would
48 be the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the last week in
49 February of 2010 in Yakutat.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's go over
2 the annual report. We need to accept it. If you've
3 looked it over, let's put it on the table now, have a
4 motion to accept it and discuss the heck out of it and
5 then move on.

6
7 Mr. Kookesh, please.

8
9 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I make a
10 motion that we accept our letter to the Federal
11 Subsistence Board for our annual report.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Kookesh. Do I hear a second.

15
16 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Harvey Kitka
19 seconded it. It's open for discussion now, so go
20 ahead.

21
22 MR. KOOKESH: Discussion.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. In
27 reviewing the document I noticed on Page 12 of our
28 booklet under meeting minutes it lists all the 12
29 recommendations. When you look into the letter,
30 there's not 12 recommendations. In reviewing the
31 letter, maybe this is my observation, but it seems that
32 this is really a draft letter and not completely
33 written out to where we're trying to get our point
34 across.

35
36 For example under the incidental
37 harvest of chinook salmon we don't express that we're
38 concerned about what this fishery is doing to
39 subsistence and that we need to be requesting that it
40 really be minimized and I don't see that in there.

41
42 In reviewing the other statements,
43 certainly we're bringing out some points, but we're not
44 really talking to them as we're supposed to be in my
45 opinion. A good example is under the management of
46 small sockeye stocks. We're not even talking to the
47 language of amounts necessary for subsistence, meeting
48 those kind of goals.

49
50 I also felt that in doing this we need

1 to be telling the Federal Subsistence Board that we are
2 not happy with the decisions being made at their level.
3 A good example of that is the MOU we talked about
4 earlier. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.
7 Your points are well taken, so I think we need to
8 address those issues that you brought out and include
9 them in the annual report. If you look at the 2008
10 annual report on Page 12, some of those issues are
11 addressed.

12
13 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. KOOKESH: I hear exactly what
18 you're saying, but when we make all of these comments,
19 if you go back to the original meeting minutes, we need
20 to elaborate a little more on them. For example, if
21 you go to sea otter management, we talk about sea lions
22 also, so we should break out sea lions also as a
23 separate item. It kind of gets lost in that material.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
26 Larson, I guess we can go ahead and do what Mr. Kookesh
27 is recommending and kind of make it a little clearer in
28 our annual report on the issues we're trying to address
29 here.

30
31 Any other comments. Mr. Larson.

32
33 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I think I
34 need some better direction here regarding the wording.
35 This letter has been reviewed by the Council and
36 yourself and Mr. Kookesh before this time. I would
37 like to make sure if there are changes in this that is
38 in fact a direction from the Council or the process to
39 change it is clearly understood by myself.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think your point is
42 well taken. The whole Council has an opportunity to
43 look over these documents, particularly the annual
44 report, when it's presented to us. I think it would be
45 real beneficial to all of us if we would make our
46 comments to it when we have it before us so that the
47 coordinator would be able to incorporate them into the
48 document when we have it before us like at our
49 meetings. That would be an appropriate time to address
50 it as well as now. I think that point is well taken as

1 to addressing those issues before it comes before us.

2

3 Any other comments. Mr. Douville.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: I assume we're going to
6 make a motion to adopt this.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We already did. We're
9 under discussion.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Somehow I got lost. In
12 any case, I have no issue with it. I think it's
13 wonderful.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Any
16 more comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
21 Council. Mr. Kookesh.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: I certainly recognize
24 what Mr. Larson is saying and what Mr. Douville is
25 saying. I certainly believe if we're sending something
26 like this as an annual report we should have it beefed
27 up a little bit because it still seems weak to me.
28 I'll be happy to work on some language. We have a
29 coordinator, we have paid Staff that's supposed to
30 beef this up for us. Go off of the original meeting
31 minutes and make this strong for us.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. And
34 the time to really beef it up is when it's brought
35 before us. He emails them to all of the Council
36 members. I think that's a real good time so he can
37 make those adjustments. I do appreciate Floyd's
38 concerns and I think we need to address those issues
39 probably in a more appropriate way.

40

41 Mr. Bangs.

42

43 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 There's one thing that I think we might consider that's
45 been in discussion at length in the last couple
46 meetings, the Sealaska lands exchange. I don't know if
47 that's something that goes in the annual report or not,
48 but it was of concern of subsistence users.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I really don't

1 remember seeing it in the annual report, Mr. Bangs, so
2 we can include that in the report.

3

4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. It's a
5 process of -- the topics for the annual report were
6 discussed, deliberated and adopted by the Council
7 during their fall meeting. If there is a new topic for
8 the annual report, then I think it deserves the same
9 consideration. At the last meeting we kind of drafted
10 some text to start with. If there was a new topic for
11 the annual report, I'd like to make sure I capture the
12 wishes of the Council very precisely. I know it's a
13 contentious issue and so I'll need time to draft the
14 language exactly and then I'd like to have some
15 concurrence by the Council of the exact phrasing and
16 language.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In reference to the
19 Sealaska selection, could that be included in this
20 report?

21

22 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Any topic
23 that you would like to bring to the attention of the
24 Subsistence Board is appropriate for this letter. This
25 letter is designed to bring issues to the Board. The
26 Sealaska lands exchange, I don't know if it's
27 appropriate to bring to the Board or if it's some other
28 agency or entity that might be better suited to receive
29 a letter from the Council. It's certainly appropriate.
30 You can include anything you want. I just need to make
31 sure I understand what the will of the Council really
32 is.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, Mr. Bangs, would
35 you like for this to be included in the report?

36

37 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
38 just would like to extend the concern the Council had
39 over the issue of being a part of that decision or at
40 least have input from the communities that are going to
41 be affected by that and that's what we had spoke in the
42 past about and that's what I wanted to make sure was in
43 there. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, in that vein
46 there, Mr. Larson, that should be addressed as part of
47 the annual report. Mr. Kookesh.

48

49 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. On the
50 Sealaska issue, after we heard the discussion the other

1 day from the gentleman in the audience that came up, my
2 take on this was that we would go back and craft a
3 letter to Sealaska and say we are concerned about
4 subsistence on the areas you selected. Can you please
5 inform us if there will be impacts. We, as a body,
6 haven't gone on to oppose the selection because we
7 don't know what the impacts of subsistence are on the
8 Sealaska land selections. I haven't heard Sealaska sit
9 here and tell us what the impacts on subsistence for
10 their selections are. I don't know if it's right for
11 us to be going ahead with a statement on Sealaska when
12 we don't know where they even stand.

13

14 Also, I know Mr. Larson is going to
15 finish this document and send it to us. I'll be happy
16 to review it and send comments back as quick as
17 possible before you sign it, which I'm sure we should
18 see before it gets sent in case we catch something.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That process will be
21 followed, Mr. Kookesh. I agree with the fact that you
22 brought out an issue that I think Mr. Hernandez brought
23 out the other day when we were on that subject. The
24 real issue that we should be concerned about on the
25 Sealaska selection is how is it going to affect
26 subsistence hunting and fishing on those lands. I
27 think that's probably the vein in how we should address
28 that particular issue on this annual report.

29

30 Go ahead, Donald.

31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. In view
33 of the fact that there's already been a draft letter on
34 the annual report, I propose the Council review the
35 Sealaska lands bill as a separate issue and write a
36 separate letter in regards to that. I think that would
37 be a better way to address it than by trying to include
38 it in the annual report at this time.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. We could
41 do it that way too. What's the wish of the Council?
42 Would that be a better way to handle it?

43

44 (Council nods affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I see some people
47 nodding their heads. That sounds like a good idea.
48 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

49

50 MR. BANGS: Thank you. I would agree

1 with that just so we don't lose sight of that, what's
2 been an important issue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. That's how
5 we'll handle it then. Thank you, Council members. Mr.
6 Kitka, you had something.

7

8 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 noticed when reading this back when I got it in the
10 email and I emailed Mr. Adams about it, in looking at
11 the subsistence priority for Makhmati Island, the
12 letter states that Federal Subsistence Management
13 Program would provide for a meaningful subsistence. I
14 thought that was kind of a State saying and it seemed
15 like the Federal is supposed to say priority instead of
16 meaningful.

17

18 The management of some of the small
19 sockeye streams, some of them are at the point of
20 extinction. In some cases we almost need to say
21 conservation before we say subsistence. Some of them
22 should be managed for conservation.

23

24 I had the same thing on the sea lions
25 and the sea otter that Floyd had. We need to break
26 them down into two separate items.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
29 Any more comments or suggestions on the annual report.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If not, are you ready
34 to vote on it.

35

36 MR. BANGS: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
39 called for. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
48 Mr. Hernandez, go ahead.

49

50 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. We had a good public testimony the first day
2 from Mr. Sebastian. Of course, in my community report
3 I also mention it being a community concern and ask the
4 Council take some action by writing a letter expressing
5 our concerns. Seeing as how it is a matter before
6 Congress, there is some discussion that has to be made
7 about how we can go about writing a letter or who we
8 can write a letter to. So I think we need to have that
9 discussion. I also have a little more information
10 background. Assuming we can write a letter, I have
11 some suggested points that I think we ought to put in
12 that letter. If it's the Council's pleasure, I could
13 make more of a presentation on this matter.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Why don't you go ahead
16 and do that. I think the first thing you wanted to
17 know was to whom the letter should be written to. If
18 you have some suggestions in that area and then go on,
19 please.

20
21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. I would think the letter should go to our
23 Congressional delegation. I don't know if that's
24 possible. My question is, you know, we have a letter
25 writing policy. I'm fully aware and I agree with the
26 policy that we should not be trying to influence
27 legislation. That's not within our powers. However, I
28 guess my question is if we could write a letter to the
29 delegation strictly as information for them. I don't
30 know if there's a policy about that.

31
32 This letter would be just to inform,
33 not to take a position. The focus of what we would be
34 informing our delegation would be that we believe this
35 legislation does have an influence on subsistence uses.

36
37 The second point we would inform the
38 delegation is that we believe there needs to be more of
39 a public process in this legislation. I would point to
40 the fact that there has been no presentations by
41 anybody involved in this issue to the Council. It
42 always had to be brought up by members of the public
43 and this is public land. It's dealing with a valuable
44 resource and there's been very little public process
45 involved.

46
47 I pointed out that Section .810 of
48 ANILCA specifically says that if public lands are to be
49 withdrawn, that there needs to be public hearings in
50 the affected communities. I think that provision of

1 ANILCA should apply. I think in this instance it's an
2 act before Congress. My understanding is that Congress
3 is not required to have public hearings perhaps. It's
4 a little unclear.

5
6 Congress drafted ANILCA. Whether or
7 not Congress has to abide by ANILCA I do not know, but
8 I think we should inform the Congress that we think
9 they should hold public hearings so that people have a
10 chance to testify as to how this would affect their
11 subsistence use. So that would be the focus of my
12 letter. Not to take a stand on this issue.

13
14 Also same Section .810 of ANILCA says
15 that nothing in those provisions about providing public
16 hearings would be construed to prevent specifically
17 Native corporations from receiving their entitlements.
18 The people in my community are quite specific that we
19 do not intend to keep Sealaska from acquiring their
20 lands under the Native Claims Settlement Act. They're
21 perfectly entitled to all the lands in that Act. Our
22 only contention is to where these lands are. It's a
23 very important fact that what they're asking for is
24 outside of what the Native Claims Settlement Act had
25 decided. These were lands that were never included in
26 ANCSA, so they're going outside of the original Act and
27 we believe that the people are entitled to testimony in
28 that light.

29
30 So that would be my request, that we
31 write a letter strictly on those parameters and I would
32 ask that it could go to the delegation. If it cannot
33 go to the delegation, then it should at least go to the
34 Board at a minimum and I would ask if it's possible
35 that that letter be forwarded to the Secretaries in the
36 Executive Branch that may also have contact with the
37 delegation if we're not able to. So that's my request.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We cannot do such a
40 letter directly to the delegation. It would have to go
41 through the Federal Subsistence Board and then they
42 would take it from there to them. But all of the
43 points you address, I think you and Bob can get
44 together and draft up a letter. When that letter is
45 drafted, then it should be shared with all the Council
46 members. Just email us a copy of it and we'll look it
47 over. From that point on the letter can be drafted up
48 for signature and sent to the Board.

49
50 Could we cc to all the agencies he has

1 indicated, the Secretaries, delegation, or we just let
2 the Board handle that?

3

4 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Maureen Clark with the Office of Subsistence
6 Management. I just checked with Pete Probasco and,
7 you're correct, we can't send anything to the
8 delegation because it would appear as lobbying. He
9 suggested that the letter go to Denny Bschor as the
10 head of the Land Management Agency and you could ask
11 him to forward it on to wherever he thinks is
12 appropriate, the Secretaries of Agriculture and
13 Interior.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that sound okay
16 for you, Donald?

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chairman.
19 That does sound reasonable, yeah. A good suggestion.
20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, go ahead.

23

24 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. That
25 doesn't sound good to me. We shouldn't bypass this
26 process. If we have an issue on subsistence with
27 Sealaska, have Sealaska come and tell us. If we're not
28 satisfied from that point, then let's move forward.
29 Let's not bypass the people that are creating all this
30 legislation. We should have Sealaska here. We
31 shouldn't be going to delegation and ask Denny Bschor
32 to do something when we should just be talking directly
33 to Sealaska as it pertains to subsistence. By taking a
34 position we're trying to influence the process. If
35 we're not getting our answers from Sealaska, then we
36 move it forward.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty and then Donald.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. It would be
41 appropriate to send that letter also to Sealaska.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can cc them a copy.
44 Donald and then Floyd.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would agree with
47 that. Sealaska probably definitely should receive a
48 copy of this letter. I should also point out to Mr.
49 Kookesh that Sealaska has introduced this legislation
50 and yet has never come to the Council to inform the

1 Council of what their intentions were or to talk about
2 how their bill, which has been introduced to Congress,
3 would affect subsistence users.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, go ahead.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: Then, Mr. Chairman, craft
8 that letter, send it to Sealaska and explain just
9 exactly what you explained to me and then cc Denny
10 Bschor on the letter. Send it to Sealaska first.
11 Respect process and send it to the party that's
12 crafting the legislation.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: The process has been
17 explained to us that it's appropriate for us to send a
18 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the
19 Regional Director of Forest Service and they can
20 forward it on to Secretaries of Interior. We would
21 then carbon copy that to Sealaska. That was the
22 process that our OSM Staff detailed to us and I think
23 that for us to follow the proper channels that would be
24 appropriate.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I agree with you,
27 Patty, that that's probably the way we should go on
28 this issue, so that's how we'll handle it.

29

30 Any more comments. Floyd, go ahead.

31

32 MR. KOOKESH: This is how we're going
33 to handle it. Was that on how we just all voted? Mr.
34 Chairman, I don't believe we voted like that. Even
35 though this process is laid out with Mr. Bschor or
36 inter-agency or whoever made this decision, why don't
37 we just save us all the trouble and have Sealaska come
38 down here and tell us. Maybe we're looking at a
39 monster that's not there.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Michael, go ahead.

42

43 MR. DOUVILLE: I agree with Mr.
44 Hernandez. This selection is outside the box and it
45 also includes lands that are non-timber that are also
46 outside the box. There's no question that those
47 communities affected should have a say in this process.
48 There's nothing wrong with that. I do believe it
49 should be part of the process.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I think
2 Maureen has outlined the procedure and how this letter
3 should be addressed. Going with that, we'll follow
4 that process.

5
6 Donald, go ahead.

7
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. Floyd is
9 correct though. There should be a motion to draft such
10 a letter and the Council should vote on it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to make
13 the motion.

14
15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think I'm
16 prepared at this time with the information to make a
17 motion. The motion is that the Council draft a letter
18 to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the Regional
19 Forester on the Board. The wording of the letter would
20 be to request them to pass to the Secretaries of
21 Agriculture and Interior the Council's request that --
22 it should contain two things. That the Council has
23 identified that this proposed legislation would affect
24 subsistence users in the area and that we believe
25 provisions in Section .810 of ANILCA should be adhered
26 to, which require public hearings take place in
27 affected communities. That would be the extent of the
28 letter.

29
30 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and
33 seconded. Do you want to discuss it any further or do
34 the vote.

35
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
39 called. All in favor please say aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

44
45 MR. KOOKESH: Aye.

46
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. The motion
49 carries. All right. Move on. 19(a) final review of
50 Council communications. We took care of that already.

1 We do have a sea otter letter. We can cross that off.
2 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

3

4 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I'd like to see what we could do to contact Mr. Hotch
6 and to find out if he's interested in continuing on
7 and, if not, we should move towards filling that seat.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. So a
10 letter is in order to find out what Mr. Hotch's desire
11 is as far as remaining on the Council is concerned. If
12 he's no longer interested, we can find someone to fill
13 his seat.

14

15 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I would direct
16 the Council's attention to Page 93 of the operations
17 manual. I don't know if you've got that in front of
18 you. I may be looking at yours.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

23

24 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
25 to make a motion following our charter that speaks to
26 removal of members, that we follow that process and not
27 try to create our own.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A motion. Go ahead.

30

31 MR. KOOKESH: I made a motion.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I didn't hear

34 that.

35

36 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. In our
37 charter it calls for removal of members. I make a
38 motion that we follow that process. Thank you.

39

40 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. LARSON: That process.....

45

46 MR. KOOKESH: There's a motion on the
47 floor.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need a second to
50 the motion.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, go ahead.
4
5 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The
6 process, if we look on Page 3 of our charter, where it
7 talks about removal of members, the Chair of the Board
8 may recommend the removal of that member. However, if
9 you look at Page 93 of our operations manual, it
10 explains how we get to a request to the Chair of the
11 Federal Subsistence Board and that is that the Council
12 shall recommend. So what we would be looking for, if
13 that's the Council's recommendation, is that they
14 would, in fact, recommend this action.
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.
19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: A friendly amendment to
21 recommend exercising the provision of removal of
22 members to remove Mr. Hotch from the Advisory Council,
23 a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'm trying to
26 go back and forth here. Two consecutive meetings
27 unexcused. I think we've met that. And then Page 93
28 in the operations manual would take effect. Mr.
29 Larson.
30
31 MR. LARSON: Yeah, one of the -- my
32 interpretations of Page 93 is prior to writing the
33 letter to the Board that the Council contact Mr. Hotch
34 and determine whether or not he would like to remain a
35 member or to have a final contact with him to see if
36 there is, in fact, some extenuating circumstances. The
37 intent of this process for removal, and I quote, the
38 Council member has two consecutive unexcused absences
39 and does not respond to the Council's efforts to
40 address the situation. So my reading of that is that
41 we would have some contact with Mr. Hotch and determine
42 what his intentions are prior to writing the letter.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So we'll need
45 to contact him to see if he is still willing to serve
46 on the board. If not, then this goes into effect.
47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Mr. Larson, have you made attempts to contact Mr.
3 Hotch?

4
5 MR. LARSON: Ms. Phillips, I have made
6 numerous attempts to contact Mr. Hotch by telephone and
7 by email and I have not had any response from him in
8 the last year or so. I've not attempted to contact him
9 by mail. I know that he has been in contact with
10 Melinda Hernandez on occasion, but I have not been able
11 to speak with him.

12
13 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez,
14 Forest Service. When Joe called me before the last two
15 meetings he indicated he sent a letter or some sort of
16 word to Bert about why he wasn't coming, so that was
17 what I passed on to Mr. Larson and Mr. Adams.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He did send a letter
20 to me, but it didn't pertain to him wanting to remain
21 on the board. It was on some other issues he was
22 elaborating about. I don't believe he addressed the
23 fact that he was no longer interested in remaining on
24 the board.

25
26 Mr. Douville.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. In
29 reading that, it isn't our call to take action here.
30 It's the call of the Chairman of the Federal Board. So
31 I suppose they're looking at who's attending and who's
32 not. It's not our call as I read it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's kind of taken out
35 of our hands for this process here. The Council should
36 recommend to the Board in writing the removal of the
37 offending member though and then the Board will go from
38 there. They'll make contact with the individual.
39 There's a process we need to follow. It says the Board
40 Chair signature and then forward it to the Secretary of
41 Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. It looks like a
42 long process we have to go through here. Then if the
43 Secretaries decide to remove the Council member, they
44 will notify the Board member by mail. So it will come
45 from the Secretary.

46
47 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I have a
48 recommendation. To move the process forward, I would
49 be willing to write a letter to Mr. Hotch, explaining
50 that he has two unexplained absences and the Council is

1 considering his removal or somehow I would ask his
2 intentions on whether or not there are extenuating
3 circumstances and if he would like to remain on the
4 Council and I could respond back to the Council with
5 his response. I think that would make the process
6 cleaner and give him an opportunity to respond before
7 we write a letter to the Board asking for his removal.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can do that. Mr.
10 Larson, go ahead. I think that will save.....

11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Point of order.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: We have a motion on the
17 floor.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We do have a motion on
20 the floor. What's the wish of the Council on that
21 motion.

22
23 MR. STOKES: Restate the motion,
24 please.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Somebody restate the
27 motion. Go ahead, Patty.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. My friendly
30 amendment was not to contact Mr. Hotch. My
31 understanding of the motion is that we would follow
32 removal of members in the charter in the Regional
33 Advisory Council charter. I added to remove Mr. Hotch.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

36
37 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
38 apologize for starting this whole thing. Originally I
39 just wanted to contact him. That was my intent of
40 bringing that subject up. I didn't mean for it to go
41 this way.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: See what you did when
44 you brought this subject up. Okay. I think we're
45 ready to act on the motion. What's the wish of the
46 Council.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been

1 called for. Let's do a roll call vote on this. Mr.
2 Kitka, please.

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Patty, please.
7 Mrs. Patty. Mrs. Adams. Who are you?

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: A motion was made and
12 seconded and a friendly amendment was added to exercise
13 the removal of member's provision in the Southeast
14 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's charter,
15 removal of a member, to remove Mr. Hotch from the RAC.
16 As a recommendation of this Regional Advisory Council.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Understood.
19 Ready to vote. Mr. Douville, go ahead.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. Thank
22 you. I am going to vote against it because it's not
23 our position to do that. It's the position of the
24 Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board to take care of
25 this issue. Although, just by our conversation for the
26 record, he will have been made aware of our feelings.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: It is a recommendation
31 of the Regional Council to the Federal Subsistence
32 Board to begin that action. It's not that we're going
33 to do it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So it puts it in their
36 hands, Mr. Douville, so that they can go through that
37 process you're referring to.

38

39 Go ahead and then Mr. See has a
40 comment.

41

42 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman. He
43 has missed two meetings, but we don't know if he's had
44 good reason to miss this last one. I don't think
45 there's been communication demonstrated to me one way
46 or the other. To me there's some room for error in
47 what we're doing. Until we know, I just don't feel
48 comfortable doing this.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think I can give you

1 a little bit of light on that. Mr. Hotch's view is
2 that when he came on the board that we can jump into
3 the political arena and influence the State and other
4 agencies through a political process. Of course, we
5 had to remind him or tell him this is not how we
6 operate. The letter I received from him also had a lot
7 of political ramifications on it. We should be going
8 to the governor and influencing her that way. That's
9 not our role. I think that's the reason why he hasn't
10 been coming to the meetings, is because he feels that
11 we should be more politically involved and we're not.

12

13 Floyd, go ahead.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I've
16 served on a city council, I'm a shareholder of a
17 corporation, I'm a member of a tribe. In every one of
18 those organizations we're all aware that you can be
19 removed as a council member. It's not something
20 somebody just finds out. I'm sure the Council member
21 from Haines is very aware that you can be removed and
22 you will be removed. It's not something new that's
23 being invented.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: The Regional Advisory
30 Council really deliberated over this removal of members
31 provision of our charter previously, like 10 years ago,
32 because we had a member that was absent for consecutive
33 meetings because he disagreed with the actions we were
34 taking. So that region was without representation and
35 the Regional Advisory Council felt strongly that we
36 needed to get someone in there who was willing to serve
37 and be a part of the process whether they agreed with
38 the decisions that came out of the Regional Advisory
39 Council or not.

40

41 That being said, I have to recognize
42 there are legitimate reasons and the minutes we approve
43 do not state when a member is absent, if they're
44 excused or unexcused. I have to apologize. I've
45 missed three consecutive meetings. If I had flat just
46 missed them, I would be out of here, but I have made
47 the effort to contact Melinda to let her know for what
48 reason that might be, so I've had excused absences. So
49 there's a reason for this provision in there and we
50 should follow it.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And you have contacted
2 Melinda or someone and showed us that you were unable
3 to make it. In this case, Mr. Hotch hasn't done that.
4 We just haven't heard from him at all. Mr. See, you
5 have a comment.

6
7 MR. SEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Each and
8 every one of us is accountable. I'm new here, but if
9 something comes up where I can't make the meeting, I
10 will make a point of calling ahead. I think anytime
11 you have something down on paper, these are the rules.
12 It's a matter of accountability.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you remember at the
15 beginning of the meeting I made mention that three
16 Council members would not be here. Two of them I felt
17 were excused. Frank Wright called me and he said he
18 wouldn't be able to make it because his IFQ's went
19 down, so he has to make up the difference of that.
20 Crab season is open. It's going to close at the end of
21 this week and he needed to be there to take advantage
22 of that. So that's a legitimate excuse as far as I'm
23 concerned. I also mentioned that we needed to talk
24 about Mr. Hotch's position on the board because he
25 hasn't done anything like Patty or Frank has done to
26 let us know he wouldn't be here.

27
28 Mr. Douville, go ahead.

29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman.
31 Patty has enlightened me and I'll call for the
32 question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. We will
35 take a voice vote on this too, Mr. Kitka, please.

36
37 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Michael Bangs.

39
40 MR. BANGS: Yes.

41
42 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

43
44 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Mike See.

47
48 MR. SEE: Yes.

49
50 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
12 Mike Douville.
13
14 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
19
20 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
21
22 MR. STOKES: Yes.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
25 passed.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
28 So we will go through the process here now to let the
29 Board handle it.
30
31 The next thing I want to do, ladies and
32 gentlemen, is to bring up Floyd's report with his
33 meeting at the fish meeting last week in Sitka. He
34 gave us a written report. I'd like us to accept it and
35 have it incorporated into our minutes. Mr. Bangs.
36
37 MR. BANGS: I move to adopt.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Is there a
40 second.
41
42 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any discussion.
45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: They are a very well

1 written statement. Thank you, Floyd.
2
3 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Likewise, I say
6 gunalcheesh, Floyd. Thank you for representing the
7 Council at that particular meeting. I heard you did a
8 good job and I knew you would.
9
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
13 called. All in favor say aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carried. Thank you
22 again, Mr. Kookesh.
23
24 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.
27
28 MR. BANGS: I just wanted to add along
29 the lines of this Board of Fish. If there's anyone
30 that doesn't get those booklets that are proposals to
31 the Board of Fish and Board of Game, they should get --
32 maybe we could get Robert to put them on the mailing
33 list because I think there's a lot of issues in there
34 that we should all be aware of.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
37 So noted, Mr. Larson. Any more we need to bring up?
38
39 MR. LARSON: I have two issues.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Two issues. Mr.
42 Douville.
43
44 MR. DOUVILLE: I have an airplane to
45 catch soon, so hopefully we'll move along.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Two issues,
48 real quick, please.
49
50 MR. LARSON: Hopefully they will be

1 quick. One is that at this meeting we have an
2 opportunity to review and amend our charter. If the
3 Council would like to change our charter, this is when
4 we do that. The charter is included in your packet. I
5 have not heard from any Council that they wish to amend
6 the charter.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How about that, folks.
9 Mr. Kookesh.

10

11 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I was the
12 mayor of Angoon one time and every year we would have
13 an election for the mayor and it became such a bad
14 process that I didn't really enjoy it. If we're going
15 to do anything right, we should elect our Chair --
16 change our membership of the Chairman to the term for
17 which he or she was elected to the Council. That way
18 if they remove you after your term, then you're out.
19 I'd probably recommend a minimum three years or to be
20 held to the term for which he or she serves. That's my
21 recommendation. We shouldn't be doing this every year.
22 It gets old when we play like this. We're grown men
23 and women. We know who's going to be the Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a good point,
26 Mr. Kookesh. If the Council feels that way, I think we
27 can recommend that be an amendment to the bylaws -- or
28 what is it?

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Charter.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Charter. Do you want
33 to make a motion to that effect, Mr. Kookesh.

34

35 MR. KOOKESH: The Council members will
36 elect a Chair, vice-Chair and a Secretary for the term
37 to run concurrent and coextensive to the terms which he
38 or she is elected. That's for the Chairman by the way.
39 My motion is for the Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Were you going to say
42 something, Mr. Bangs? Go ahead.

43

44 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
45 think we're going to muddle this up because everybody
46 is going to have different terms and we might be voting
47 for a secretary at one point or a vice-chair on year.
48 Mr. Douville mentioned maybe we should just do a two-
49 year rotation. If you're gone after your term and
50 there's another year left, then we have to deal with

1 that. I think if we start doing it at the terms of
2 individuals, we're going to be electing a new secretary
3 or a new vice-Chair different years. I don't know. It
4 just seems confusing to me.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How do other people
7 feel about that.

8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Point of order. There's
10 been a motion made.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need a second for
13 the motion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dies for lack of
18 second.

19
20 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. There is one
21 more issue. In your packet you have a report an
22 .805(c) letter, actions by the Federal Subsistence
23 Board in January of this year. I noticed that there is
24 an omission, an error on the first page. On Proposal
25 FP09-02 is incomplete. The Council voted to oppose
26 this proposal and the Board adopted it, but the
27 language you see in front of you is incomplete. In
28 addition to what the Board adopted, they also adopted a
29 regulation that states you may not possess subsistence-
30 taken and sports-taken fish of any given species on the
31 same day.

32
33 That regulatory language is not
34 included in the .805(c) letter and the justification
35 for that action is not included in their justification.
36 I don't know if that will change. That's a point of
37 information.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So this is just a
40 point of information brought to our attention. Thank
41 you, Mr. Larson for that. Anything else.

42
43 All right. The time will be turned
44 over to the coordinator to preside for the election of
45 the officers. Mr. Larson.

46
47 MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson is now
50 taking over this portion.

1 MR. LARSON: Mr. Stokes.
2
3 MR. STOKES: We've had such a good
4 relationship with our officers now and I would move
5 that we retain the same officers and that the secretary
6 cast unanimous consent for them.
7
8 MR. KOOKESH: If there's no objection,
9 so moved.
10
11 MR. LARSON: Mr. Stokes, I appreciate
12 your comments, but I don't think that's the way I want
13 to conduct the elections. What I would like to do is
14 nominate a chairman and then whoever the new chairman
15 is I will relinquish control for the vice-chair and the
16 secretary at that point. That's the format I think is
17 most appropriate and where I would like to move to. So
18 I would be willing to entertain a nomination for
19 chairman. Mr. Douville.
20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: I nominate Bert Adams
22 for the Chair.
23
24 MR. BANGS: Second.
25
26 MR. LARSON: Seconded by Mike Bangs.
27 Discussion. Any more nominations.
28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to close
30 nominations.
31
32 MR. LARSON: We can do that, but I'm
33 going to ask for discussion first.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. STOKES: Move nominations be
38 closed.
39
40 MR. LARSON: Okay. Then that's what
41 we'll do, with unanimous consent, because there is no
42 competing applicant or nomination for chairman. With
43 unanimous consent, then we will have Bert Adams as our
44 Chair for this next year.
45
46 Mr. Kitka, do you cast the unanimous
47 consent vote to make Bert Adams the Chairman for this
48 year.
49
50 MR. KITKA: Thank you. As the

1 secretary for the Council, I cast unanimous consent for
2 Bert Adams.

3

4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Adams, you've been
5 elected the Chairman for this next year and I'll let
6 you take over for nominations for secretary and vice-
7 Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
10 Thank the Council again for the confidence they place
11 in me for this important position. I need to tell you
12 that I've learned a lot in the past few years as your
13 chair. It is a big learning curve. It's really a
14 pleasure to serve you people as we go to the Federal
15 Subsistence Board meeting and give them all a bad time.
16 It's a good experience.

17

18 I want to open the nominations for the
19 vice-Chair. Any nominations. Go ahead, Mr. Douville.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: I nominate Floyd
22 Kookesh.

23

24 MR. BANGS: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The way we do this is
27 nominations only, no seconds. After there is enough
28 nominations, somebody moves to close it, then we go
29 with the second. Any other nominations.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

34

35 MR. BANGS: I move to close nominations
36 for vice-Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Move to
39 close nominations. Any discussion.

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
46 called. All in favor say aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh,
4 congratulations. Now the floor is now open for
5 nomination for secretary.
6
7 MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes.
10
11 MR. STOKES: I nominate Mr. Kitka.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka has been
14 nominated. Is there any other nominations. Mr. Bangs.
15
16 MR. BANGS: I move to close
17 nominations.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved to
20 close. Is there a second.
21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been seconded.
25 All in favor say aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
34 Congratulations, Mr. Kitka.
35
36 I'd like to give every opportunity for
37 Council members to make some closing remarks. Now that
38 Mr. See has gotten into the process here, I'm going to
39 ask you to go first and then we'll go down the line.
40 After that's done, we'll adjourn.
41
42 MR. SEE: I'm not afraid. I will have
43 to say, being my first meeting here, it's been an
44 interesting experience. Talk about a learning curve.
45 It's a learning curve just to be here. It's made me
46 more aware of what's going on. The way I look at it,
47 the only way I can go is up. Thank you very much.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. See.
50 Merle.

1 MS. HAWKINS: I didn't know if I was
2 going to be here or not. They had me reapply. My term
3 doesn't end until the end of this year, so I'm glad
4 that I'm here. The same, ditto. I learn a lot of new
5 things every time I come and it's always interesting
6 and challenging. Glad to be here representing
7 Southeast Alaska.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're glad you're here
10 too, Merle. We do need you on this Council,
11 particularly with the rural determination issue in
12 Ketchikan and Saxman, so you're greatly appreciated and
13 we want you to stay with us.

14
15 Mr. Kookesh, please.

16
17 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Just a
18 little reminder to make sure that you follow your
19 charter and have your elections every year instead of
20 going off cycle. Normally our elections are held in
21 September or October of every year.

22
23 As to your comment about going up,
24 sometimes we go lateral. I'd also to make sure we
25 continue to, as a Council, participate as fully as we
26 can. We really need all of us to carry this forward.
27 That way we're not all thinking one guy is doing it.
28 We all need to be part of this process. Also
29 understand the concern about replacement of our good
30 friend from Haines. We need to make sure that the seat
31 is being re-filled and the selection process take into
32 consideration that we have regional representation so
33 that we're aware of issues that are affecting our
34 brothers to the north and the south and east and west.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
37 Kookesh. Patty.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
40 have to say I'm impressed. It's 2:30. We're getting
41 out of here early. You're getting better. It used to
42 be right before the tardy bell. I also want to
43 recognize the teamwork of our Chair and Regional
44 Council, our regional coordinator, are advancing
45 towards. I'm really impressed with the initiative they
46 took to have proposals in our packet for our quick
47 processing for advancement as proposals.

48
49 I want to say again thank you for the
50 recognition and the certificate for my years of service

1 on this Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. You
4 have been almost indispensable as far as we are
5 concerned on this Council. Even though you have missed
6 some, not to your own fault, you were greatly missed
7 while you were not here. We appreciate your
8 contribution and hope we can keep you on the loop.
9 Thank you.

10

11 I'll just go ahead and say that I too
12 appreciate the opportunity I have to serve this region.
13 I'm always reminded that Floyd is reminding us that we
14 don't represent any one area, but we represent the
15 whole region. And then at the beginning of our
16 meetings we talk about our own communities and that's a
17 real good process, but we need to be reminded that
18 we're serving all of Southeast Alaska.

19

20 So thank you, Floyd, for putting that
21 on the table right off the bat because that's always
22 been a part of my thinking when we go forward.

23

24 I want to thank the ANB and ANS for
25 allowing us to use their building and the food that was
26 provided for us. For all your participation. We just
27 see a small group here right now. Congratulate you for
28 hanging in there until the very end with us. Mr. Skeek
29 has been here every day. I appreciate your attendance
30 here. We need to see more of that happening at our
31 meetings. Thank you. Mr. Larson, Melinda, great
32 people to work with. They make sure everything's in
33 order for us when we travel and so forth. If there's
34 any problems, they're on it right away. It's really
35 great.

36

37 Mr. Skeek, do you want to say
38 something? Come up to the microphone and you can say
39 whatever you want.

40

41 MR. SKEEK: Thank you. I just thought
42 I'd comment on my lifetime of subsistence growing up
43 with my grandparents and my parents and all my friends
44 and relatives. Different uncles introduced me to all
45 kinds of ways of putting up foods. I really appreciate
46 this here, coming by and sitting and listening. It's
47 been an education for me.

48

49 There's a recipe I'd like to leave with
50 our ladies here. Some of you probably never heard of

1 it. It's halibut stomach adobo. A lot of you guys
2 like adobo. Well, you get your 40-60 pounder, will
3 feed about five crewmen on board. You get that stomach
4 and you cut it in half and clean the stomach out, slosh
5 it in a bucket a few times there and you can boil it
6 for about five minutes, boil it hard, and take it out
7 again, you slosh it some more. Loosen up all the
8 particles on there. You can take this inside and have
9 yourself a good seafood subsistence halibut adobo. I
10 thought I'd share this with the ladies.

11

(Laughter)

12

13

14

MR. SKEEK: Anyway, growing up with my
15 grandmother, my first experience, maybe I was four or
16 five years old and going outside by the smokehouse, she
17 got two branches about two feet long and got halibut to
18 lay on those two sticks there and put the sticks by the
19 fire and she went inside and told me to watch the
20 halibut. She came out and treated it with some silvies
21 (ph) on top, coated it and when she came out the next
22 time why she had her stick with some bread dough around
23 it. I had my first Tlingit McDonald's sandwich with
24 smoked halibut. So that's the way I still remember my
25 grandmother, saying thank you to her for bringing us up
26 like that. I really appreciate it. Throughout my
27 lifetime now with my kids I share all these here. Go
28 to Sitka. I used to bring boat loads of herring eggs
29 to our people over at Kake and everybody used to enjoy
30 that. I ran out of good health and tried to turn the
31 fishery over to my kids who have been into halibut,
32 black cod, salmon seining and herring fishing. Last
33 year we had the pleasure of feeding everybody. I'm
34 glad it took a Native like me to do it. Thank you once
35 again. I really appreciate this and hopefully we can
36 meet again. Gunalcheesh.

37

38

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Mr.
39 Skeek. Before I go on to Harvey, I just need to say a
40 few more things. There's another individual that I
41 really appreciate very much and that's Dianne McKinley.
42 She takes real good care of me when I go to Anchorage
43 and also offers me real good advice. I love you,
44 Dianne, and you're a great friend.

45

46

I want to recognize -- you know, the
47 other night we had a wonderful dinner and socialization
48 over at Mr. Larson's house. We did show our
49 appreciation to your wife and got an appreciation card
50 over there, but I just wanted to say publicly that we

1 really appreciate the hospitality you have showed us
2 here in Petersburg. You did it the last time too and
3 it was really great. So Gunalcheesh.

4

5 Mr. Kitka.

6

7 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
8 always, how would you say it, a pleasure to be done
9 with this.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, he's just tired
14 of sitting beside me now.

15

16 MR. KITKA: I was surprised I got voted
17 100 percent for that secretary since I made a mistake
18 on a name there. Maybe this is the first time I've
19 seen the Sitka Advisory Council represented and I
20 appreciate that. We've been to Sitka and they never
21 came. Getting advisory councils from all the
22 communities is very important. Any information we get
23 from any communities we go to is important, as well as
24 all the Staff that gives us reports and stuff. I
25 really appreciate it. I get to read an awful lot and I
26 enjoy reading it. I agree with some of it. Maybe not
27 all of it. It does help me to picture things from a
28 different angle. I want to say it was quite an
29 interesting year. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
32 Donald.

33

34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. I think this was a really smooth, well-run
36 meeting this time. I want to thank Mr. Larson for
37 having materials available for us, ready to look at. I
38 want to give my compliments to Mr. See. I appreciated
39 his input at the meeting. It's a tough position, his
40 first meeting, and some of the most contentious issues
41 were from his area. I know I've seen Mr. See at many
42 of our previous meetings and I knew he'd be a real good
43 representative and I want to compliment him for that.

44

45 MR. SEE: Thank you, sir.

46

47 MR. HERNANDEZ: I also wanted to say
48 that I think in these wildlife meetings we have a lot
49 of good cooperation between the State and Federal
50 agencies on wildlife issues and I want to thank the

1 State for coming here. They really helped out with a
2 lot of information. I was also pleased to see some
3 contentious issues taking place with deer management on
4 the north end that they were able to work together on
5 those and I feel good about that. It was a very
6 successful meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes. Thank
9 you, Donald.

10

11 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I'm truly happy to be here. For a while I didn't think
13 I was going to make it. I owe a lot of it to my wife
14 because the first two weeks of January I couldn't walk
15 more than 20 or 30 feet and when I sat down I had to
16 get two people to help me up. When I had to go to the
17 bathroom, she had to come in and help clean me up
18 afterwards and she had to give me a shower. So she was
19 responsible for me and I really appreciate it. Even
20 though I'd really get angry with her, which I can't
21 help.

22

23 I thought this would be a good time to
24 tell a joke. There were three subsistence fellows out
25 deer hunting and one is having terrific stomach
26 trouble. In the middle of the night he got up to
27 relieve himself and his two buddies went out there and
28 took a pile of intestines from the deer they had shot
29 that day and put them down behind him and they ran back
30 in the house. They noticed he was having a hard time
31 walking and he said, well, yeah, I had a hard time, but
32 by the grace of God and this little stick I got them
33 all back.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. STOKES: I'm all through.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.
40 We needed that. But I have to say something. I try to
41 say something about everyone after they make their
42 comments. For you, I just want to show our
43 appreciation for your steadfastness and your dedication
44 to this Council, Mr. Stokes. I know you've been going
45 through a lot of health problems over the years and
46 there was one time you didn't make it. I think that
47 was the only time. We do appreciate your willingness
48 to serve and the dedication you have shown to the
49 people of southeast Alaska on subsistence issues.
50 Gunalcheesh.

1 MR. STOKES: Thank you. I had three
2 medivacs to Seattle last year and once by ferry.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville, do you
5 have to leave now?

6
7 MR. DOUVILLE: I have to leave now.
8 It's my pleasure to be here. I haven't had so much fun
9 in a long time. I'd like to thank Melinda for being
10 such a good travel agent. Everything is all arranged,
11 does an excellent job. Robert, thank you for --
12 there's always emails, there's always a good flow of
13 information. Thank you for that and for having us to
14 your house. With that I will bid you goodbye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael,
17 and have a safe trip home. We'll see you next time.
18 Mr. Bangs.

19
20 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
21 just like to say I again learn a lot at these meetings
22 and I appreciate Chairman Adams' patience with us. I
23 think he did a great job in running the meeting. I
24 don't think it would have happened without the help of
25 Mr. Larson and Melinda. They did a really good job. I
26 feel fortunate to be on this Council and I enjoy
27 everyone's input. It's a good process and I'm glad to
28 be a part of it.

29
30 I would think it would help if Tina
31 could get Chairman Adams a voice-activated microphone.
32 Thank you.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that would be a
37 good idea. I'd save a lot of money. It's for a good
38 purpose though. Mr. Larson.

39
40 MR. LARSON: The only thing that I have
41 to say is that I have a little different perspective
42 than a lot of people in this room in that I deal with a
43 number of different Council coordinators and Councils
44 throughout the entire state. Frankly, the Office of
45 Subsistence Management expects that the Southeast
46 Council assume a leadership role in addressing issues
47 in a very professional and very thorough manner. I
48 think the Council this year has done an exemplary job
49 in that regard. I think that once the managers see
50 that they've shown some innovation in adopting some

1 principles of deer management and some in-season
2 management protocols, not only -- those things are
3 stuff that most Councils do not do and they really need
4 to do, but they have not shown the ability to do that.

5

6

7

8 There's a number of proposals that we
9 have adopted and written. I think the Board is going
10 to be amazed at the quality and the thoughtfulness
11 involved in those proposals. I think the Council has a
12 very clear idea where they need to go with the sea
13 otter management and has shown a deliberate intent both
14 in their annual report and the letters they've written
15 and I'm proud to be associated with you guys. Thank
16 you very much.

16

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
19 Again, than you for the good work you're doing on our
20 behalf. Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to adjourn
21 this meeting now and we'll see you next time.

21

22

Tina, do you have something to say?

23

24

REPORTER: No.

25

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you need some help
28 putting your stuff together? You can handle that okay?
29 She probably doesn't want us to touch it anyhow. We
30 just thought we'd offer it. Okay, thank you.

30

31

32

33

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This meeting is now adjourned. Thank
you.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 282 through 285 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME III, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 26th day of February 2009, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Petersburg, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 11th day of March, 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public state of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2010