

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Salvation Army Hall
9 Hoonah, Alaska
10 September 28, 2010
11 9:00 clock a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
17 Michael Bangs
18 Michael Douville
19 Donald Hernandez
20 Harvey Kitka
21 Floyd Kookesh
22 Cathy Needham
23 Patricia Phillips
24 Frank Wright
25
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28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Hoonah, Alaska - 9/28/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit)

Good morning, everyone. I trust everyone has had a good night's sleep. I want to remind everyone that you should turn your cell phones off. I know how embarrassing it is for that thing to be ringing in your pocket and you rush out of here, try to answer it. I had to do that to mine. But anyhow welcome to Hoonah. It's a pleasure to be here. And hopefully we'll have a real productive meeting.

I'd like to call on Rich Jennings to give an opening prayer for us this morning. So would everyone please rise.

MR. JENNINGS:

Dear Heavenly Father, be bountiful, give us the grace and wisdom in this group to continue to allow your people in Southeast Alaska to reap the bountiful blessings you've given us, to many, many generations. And if we are lost try to be as favorable and as fair to all the people in Southeast so that they can again continue to reap your bountiful blessings here in Southeast with the fish, wildlife, and other natural resources that happen here and that we may protect those resources for future generations.

In your name, amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

For those of you who don't know Tlingit very much gunalcheesh means thank you. And (In Tlingit) means big thank you. So you'll probably be hearing that a lot from me today.

To start off I'd just like to maybe make

1 a few comments that I hope will kind of set the stage for
2 our meeting today. One of the things that I have learned
3 about my culture is this issue of respect. (In Tlingit)
4 means to respect everything. This is one of the very
5 first values that Raven gave to our people after he had
6 pulled in that large canoe from the ocean and let all of
7 the animals and the birds and the fishes and all of the
8 wildlife. And the values that he imparted upon us, we
9 still try to live by today. Number 1 is to revere your
10 Creator and then to respect one another. We should have
11 respect for everything.

12
13 In our storytellings we believe that
14 there is life in everything, there is life in this table,
15 there's life in that row of rocks out there, there's life
16 in the trees. And when we treat those resources with
17 respect then nature will provide us with all of the
18 things that we need to sustain our lives.

19
20 And so those who of us who are trying to
21 reconnect with our culture and with our language, we try
22 to impart that upon our youngsters to that they too will
23 be able to grow up respecting everything, respecting one
24 another as well is very important. But respecting our
25 resources, wildlife and everything that the Creator had
26 made available to us will reap its bounds as we try to
27 deal with these issues that are before us today.

28
29 So with that I'd just kind of like to
30 leave you with that thought, you know, let us respect
31 everything that we come before -- that comes before us,
32 let us respect one another, let us show it among this
33 table here as well as out on the audience toward one
34 another.

35
36 (In Tlingit).

37
38 Thank you for listening and we will go
39 ahead and do the roll call.

40
41 Mr. Kitka, please.

42
43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Frank Wright.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

47
48 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Here.

1 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka's here. Bert
6 Adams.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Here.
9
10 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
11
12 MR. KOOKESH: Here.
13
14 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
15
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.
17
18 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
19
20 (No response)
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle has got a medical.
23 So we need to remember her in our prayers.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Cathy Needham.
26
27 MS. NEEDHAM: Here.
28
29 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
30
31 MR. BANGS: Here.
32
33 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, there's enough
34 here for a quorum.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
37 So we want to review the agenda next so let's take a few
38 minutes to do that. And I'd like to follow the
39 guidelines that we have done in the past to adopt it as
40 a guide so that we can move items back and forth if we
41 need to, and I see a need for that.
42
43 Any additions, subtractions or whatever
44 is -- now is the time to take care of that as we go
45 through the agenda.
46
47 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.
50

1 MR. LARSON: I have been in
2 communications with Bill Davidson, he has a presentation
3 listed under 10, C. He is currently on travel status and
4 would like to make that a time certain of 11:00 o'clock
5 tomorrow morning.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So noted.
8 Anything else. Mr. Kitka.
9
10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under
11 Item 12, I think it's 9E, the FP11-19, has been withdrawn
12 by the Sitka Tribe. And also the D, I don't know if it's
13 -- has been approved or anything, but the tribe has also
14 wanted to withdraw that one. So.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me see, which one is
17 it again, Harvey, where are we at?
18
19 MR. KITKA: That'd be on Page 2.
20
21 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.
24
25 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, did we make
26 a motion to adopt it and was there a second?
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: To adopt the agenda.
29 No, we're going through any changes or additions or
30 subtractions right now and then we'll go ahead and do
31 that.
32
33 MR. KOOKESH: Doesn't that usually.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, wait a minute.
36 Yeah, you're right. Harvey, we need a motion. We need
37 a motion to adopt the agenda. And like I said earlier,
38 let's adopt it as a guide so that we can move it around,
39 back and forth, items around back and forth.
40
41 Thank you. Gunalcheesh.
42
43 Mr. Bangs.
44
45 MR. BANGS: I move to adopt the agenda as
46 written.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: As written?
49
50 MR. KOOKESH: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You want to go through
2 it in -- you want to go through it just like item by item
3 and.....
4
5 MR. BANGS: We can add to it, but I
6 wanted to adopt it as it's written and then we can change
7 -- make changes.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Is there a
10 second? Who seconded it?
11
12 MR. KITKA: Floyd seconded.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd seconded. Okay.
15 Discussion. Let's go through the agenda now, okay, and
16 see what needs to be done.
17
18 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson.
21
22 MR. LARSON: I'd just like to reiterate
23 the desire by Bill Davidson to have a time certain, 11:00
24 a.m. tomorrow for his presentation. He'll need to call
25 in.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So renoted, Mr. Larson.
28 Harvey, you had -- you had an issue?
29
30 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. Under Item 12, 9,
31 E, the FP11-19, customary use in District 13. The tribe
32 sent a letter to the -- to withdraw that, to have it
33 withdrawn. Also D, they were asking for to withdraw it
34 at this time, but it has to go through the Board so I
35 don't know where that's at right now.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: C and D.
38
39 MR. KESSLER: Bert.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kessler, go ahead.
42
43 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
44 Council. Steve Kessler, with the Forest Service. And I
45 just received an email this morning, it was a letter from
46 Sitka Tribe requesting that number -- letter D, FP09-05,
47 be deferred again. And so not withdrawn, but deferred.
48 And that letter was received by OSM, I think, yesterday,
49 I just got it as an email today. So I don't know what
50 action would be taken on there, but I think they want to

1 encourage you to defer. We'll get that letter printed up
2 by the time that proposal's ready for discussion.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Steve. And
5 is that appropriate? Okay. All right. So done. Mr.
6 Kessler, does that include C too or is it just D?

7

8 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, letter C,
9 FP11-19, they requested that that be withdrawn. And
10 under Board policies since the Regional Advisory Council
11 had not yet deliberated on that proposal that will be
12 officially withdrawn, that's the process.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Thank you.
15 Okay. How we doing? Patty.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, thank you.
18 Does this provide -- the motion provide for the agenda to
19 be followed as a guide?

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does it? Because as I
22 understood it -- that's why I asked you if this is the
23 way that you wanted, you said -- you -- you could read
24 the motion again for the adoption of the agenda, I think
25 I understood it to mean that it was to be adopted as
26 presented to us.

27

28 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair, I stated that I
29 chose to adopt it as written and it was seconded, but
30 when that takes place then you make changes as you wish.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I still have a
33 problem with that, Mr. Bangs, and the fact that if we do
34 it this way then we're -- that's going to be right, you
35 know, solid. Okay. However if there's an opportunity
36 that comes where somebody has to leave or comes in early
37 and needs to be put on the agenda we should have a
38 provision for that, that's why I was -- you know,
39 encourage us to adopt it as a guide and that way we'd
40 have the freedom to be able to do that.

41

42 MR. BANGS: Well, I can change my motion
43 if that's what you feel is.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I would rather have it,
46 yeah.

47

48 MR. BANGS: Okay. I -- somebody would
49 have to withdraw the second, I'll make a new motion.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I think.....
2
3 MR. KOOKESH: Second is withdrawn.
4
5 MR. BANGS: Can I make a motion to adopt
6 the agenda as a guide?
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Thank you.
9
10 MR. KOOKESH: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Now we're covered.
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: Second.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay.
17 Anything else.
18
19 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.
22
23 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'd
24 like to add the Angoon court case to our agenda, if it's
25 possible to talk about the Administrative Procedures Act.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Which is under other
28 business.....
29
30 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:Mr. Kookesh. Okay.
33 There would be a 16 D. All right. Are we getting close
34 to adopt -- voting, ladies and gentlemen. Anyone like to
35 call for the question?
36
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, I call for the
38 question.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. All
41 in favor please signify, say aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
50 Thank you. Okay. Now I need to remind everyone that at

1 -- is it 11:00 o'clock we are going to go on a field
2 trip.

3
4 MR. LARSON: Well, Mr. Chair, the field
5 trip is scheduled for 11:30.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: 11:30. And I thought we
8 could meet through about 11:00 o'clock and give us time
9 to get organized again.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So put that on
12 your agenda.

13
14 Okay. We're going to start with the
15 introductions. I'll start first. My name is Bert Adams,
16 I come from Yakutat and presently serve as Chair of the
17 Southeast Regional Advisory Council.

18
19 And let's start with Mr. Bangs down there
20 and work down this way.

21
22 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
23 name's Michael Bangs, I reside in Petersburg. I'm a
24 commercial fisherman and avid subsistence user.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

29
30 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 My name is Cathy Needham, I reside in Juneau and I
32 represent subsistence users.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

35
36 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, my name is Floyd
37 Kookesh, I'm subsistence coordinator for Central Council
38 and I've been on the RAC for 11 years, charter boat
39 operator out of Angoon.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.

44
45 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Harvey
46 Kitka from Sitka, Alaska, commercial fisherman, retired
47 state worker.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Mr.
50 Wright.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning, everybody. My
2 name's Frank Wright, I'm from Hoonah. I'm a commercial
3 fisherman and subsistence user and everything else.

4
5 Gunalcheesh.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. My name's
10 Patricia Phillips, I'm from Pelican, Alaska. I'm the
11 mayor of the city of Pelican and my husband and I have a
12 commercial fishing business, long line for halibut and
13 black cod and also have Dragonfly Charters, a guide --
14 outfitter/guide and served on the RAC since 1993.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

19
20 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name's Don Hernandez,
21 I'm from Point Baker. I'm a commercial fisherman and
22 gillnetting, a little bit of long lining and hand troll
23 permits and utilize a lot of subsistence hunting and
24 fishing as well.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville, I'm
29 from Craig, I'm on the Craig City Council for several
30 terms. I'm a commercial fisherman, fishing my own
31 business since 1970. I'm also an alternate on the Fish
32 and Game Advisory Committee there.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. As you
35 can see everyone on this Council are experiencing a
36 variety of occupations. So we have a tremendous amount
37 of expertise here and I just want you to know that I
38 appreciate that.

39
40 I have done just about everything that
41 everyone has done as well, but I'm -- I had to get out of
42 commercial fishing and into, of course, charter boat
43 captioning because I have a real severe back problem. I
44 had an operation on it last year and now I'm ready to get
45 back into it again.

46
47 Let's start with introductions from the
48 Federal government staff. We'll start over here with
49 Melinda.

50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm Melinda Hernandez, I
2 work the Forest Service out of Juneau.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Jeff, please.
5
6 MR. REEVES: I'm Jeff Reeves.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Cal.
9
10 MR. SHARP: I'm Dan Sharp with the Bureau
11 of Land Management. I'm currently the ISC
12 representative.
13
14 MS. SWANTON: I'm Nancy Swanton, I'm with
15 the National Park Service and I serve with the -- our
16 agency staff and they focus primarily on fishery issues.
17
18 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli, the
19 Bureau of Indian Affairs subsistence anthropologist.
20
21 MR. HYATT: I'm Jon Hyatt, I'm the new
22 biologist here in Hoonah for the Forest Service.
23
24 MR. CARPENTER: Bill Carpenter, with law
25 enforcement Forest Service in Ketchikan.
26
27 MR. BRYDEN: Jeff Bryden, lead law
28 enforcement officer for subsistence issues on the Chugach
29 and Tongass National Forests.
30
31 MR. VAN ALLEN: I'm Ben Van Alen,
32 fisheries biologist for the Forest Service in Juneau.
33
34 MS. CAROL: I'm Carol (indiscernible)
35 fisheries biologist in Juneau for the Forest Service.
36
37 MR. KESSLER: Good morning. I'm Steve
38 Kessler with the Forest Service. I'm on the Interagency
39 Staff Committee, I'm the subsistence program leader for
40 the Alaska region for the Forest Service.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Steve.
43
44 MS. SILL: My name's Laura Sill, I'm a
45 Fish and Game assistant in Juneau.
46
47 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
48 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game subsistence liaison
49 team.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're next. You're
2 next, young lady. Just go right on by.
3
4 MS: (Indiscernible - away from
5 microphone). I've been doing it for a bunch of years and
6 I wrote my dissertation largely about the views of this
7 Board and you guys should know that it is successfully
8 defended. So thank you and I'm working on rewriting it
9 for (indiscernible - away from microphone) next couple of
10 weeks and as soon as that's done I'll get you guys
11 copies.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Thank you.
14
15 MR. HAWKES: Trevor Hawkes, subsistence
16 biologist for the Forest Service in Sitka.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, you skipped -- we
19 skipped one guy there.
20
21 MR. VALDERE: Yeah.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. VALDERE: I'm David Valdere,
26 subsistence user. I work for T&H, veterans
27 representative.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for letting us
30 into your country.
31
32 MR. SUMINSKI: I'm Terry Suminski, I'm
33 the subsistence program leader for the Tongass in Sitka.
34
35 MR. CASIPIT: My name's Cal Casipit, I'm
36 the subsistence staff biologist in the regional office
37 for the Forest Service.
38
39 MR. MOONEY: Phil Mooney, I'm the area
40 manager biologist for Fish and Game for Unit 4 based out
41 of Sitka.
42
43 MR. BARTEN: Neil Barten, I'm the
44 management coordinator for Fish and Game out of
45 Douglas/Angoon.
46
47 MS. MCKINLEY: Diane McKinley, National
48 Park Service out of Anchorage.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And a Hoonah girl.

1 MR. LORRIGAN: Jack Lorrigan, subsistence
2 biologist for Sitka and Hoonah and former RAC member.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We were talking about
7 that last night. We haven't officially dismissed him yet
8 so if we need to make a quorum for some reason or another
9 we're going to call him up here.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 And, Robert, last but not least.

14
15 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. My name's
16 Robert Larson, I work in -- for the Forest Service, I
17 live in Petersburg. I am the Council's coordinator.

18
19 There's a few things that we should
20 mention is that I encourage everyone to use the sign up
21 sheet so we have a record of those people in attendance.
22 There are bathroom facilities down this hallway. And
23 today we're going to have a field trip, it's for the
24 Council members and those people that are interested that
25 would be traveling here. It's -- we have at least four
26 vehicles and so I'm not 100 percent sure if we're going
27 to have extra seats or extra people, but hopefully we can
28 get that figured out when it's -- you know, when it's
29 time.

30
31 So that's -- I think that's all the
32 announcements.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert.
35 Okay. Have we covered everyone? Some of you I haven't
36 seen in a while. Phil, good to see you. George Pappas,
37 we see him every time.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sometimes
42 (indiscernible)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, but he's a brave
45 man.

46
47 Okay. Let's move on. Let's review the
48 minutes.

49
50 MR. LARSON: We have -- I think Rich is

1 going to give us an official welcome from the Forest
2 Service and welcome to Hoonah.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, okay. I didn't put
5 that on -- write that in. So, Rich, would you please
6 come forward and welcome -- oh, there you are, welcome us
7 here to Hoonah.

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you very much, Mr.
10 Chairman.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you go sit up
13 there.

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you very much, Mr.
16 Chair, and the rest of the Board, I'm very glad to -- or
17 the RAC I should say, glad to have you here.

18

19 I want to welcome you on behalf of the
20 Hoonah Ranger District. We're heavily involved locally
21 with this community and as you know yourselves as the RAC
22 largely participatory in the -- you know, from the
23 gathering of the resources here for subsistence.

24

25 And again I've been here three and a half
26 years, I've gotten to know many of the people in the
27 community, I've been very fortunate working with the
28 local community and, of course, I take what you give to
29 OSM and then I try to implement it here as far as the
30 Federal part of the equation here on this district in
31 cooperation with the other district rangers for the
32 Forest Service. So again recognizing that there are some
33 other Federal entities and State entities and so forth
34 involved with that, we're working very closely, of
35 course, with Phil and the State and so forth too.

36

37 So again I want to welcome you, thank you
38 very much and we're going to try to provide what we can
39 as far as resources while you're here including the
40 vehicles to help get out the road so for the field trip.
41 Anyway again, thank you very much.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Richard. All
44 of the vehicles are running in tip top condition and.....

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. JENNINGS: We have a mechanic here
49 too so.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, good. Tires are all
2 pumped up properly and everything?
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr. Lindoff,
9 would you like to come up on behalf of Hoonah and just
10 say whatever you have on your mind to us, please, are you
11 -- would you like to do that.
12
13 (In Tlingit)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We always like to have,
16 you know, someone from the community, a leader, tribal
17 leader or someone you know address us. So you look like
18 the right person sitting back there. So.....
19 MR. LINDOFF: Oh, yeah.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, uh-huh.
22
23 MR. LINDOFF: Well, always kind of
24 concerned about -- a lot of us guys here are going out
25 hunting and having a hard time with them does, there's so
26 many and we have to go to Pleasant Island or Limashore
27 (ph) to get our does and we got big parties coming up and
28 I was just wondering who do we go see about getting deer
29 for payout parties, you know, is that the Forest Service
30 or Fish and Game?
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It would be Forest
33 Service.
34
35 MR. LINDOFF: Forest Service.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. That gentleman
38 over there, yeah.
39
40 MR. LINDOFF: Oh, thank you.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
43
44 MR. LINDOFF: And a lot of the fish is
45 coming in late and the cohos, so I'm worried about that
46 too, and getting that permit. There's a few guys here
47 that don't have any permits for getting some cohos. They
48 don't want to get snagged with Fish and Game on that one.
49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Fish and Game.

1 MR. LINDOFF: Get them at Fish and Game?
2 Okay.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.
5
6 MR. LINDOFF: Well, that's about it,
7 hunting.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit)
10
11 MR. LINDOFF: Gunalcheesh.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you shut that off
14 for us, please. Thank you.
15
16 Okay. Now can we do the minutes. Let's
17 take a few minutes and go over it. I'd like for us to
18 move to approve it, second it, and then go ahead and make
19 any additions or changes to the minutes. So I'll
20 entertain a motion to accept the minutes.
21
22 Mr. Bangs.
23
24 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
25 make a motion to approve the minutes of our last meeting.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do we have a second.
28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman. Second the
30 motion.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Mr. Wright.
33 Thank you. Let's review the minutes and if you have any
34 comments just chime in anytime.
35
36 (Pause)
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.
41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: I just have -- well, first
43 I'd like to say that I think our minutes are very well
44 written and that as a RAC we have built a base of
45 information that we have been, you know, working from and
46 we are definitely growing in terms of our effectiveness
47 as a RAC. And, you know, the -- our recommendations that
48 get passed on to the Federal Subsistence Board and then
49 are approved and then transmitted to the appropriate
50 agencies, you know, the implementation of our

1 recommendations are seeing, you know, some really good
2 results for the resources and for subsistence users.

3

4 That being said, on Page 11, bottom of 11
5 and the top of 12, it talks about proposal WP10-02, a
6 statewide proposal regarding use of brown bear parts for
7 handicrafts, Deferred WP08-05, General Regulations, Bear
8 Handicraft Deferred. And the Council's recommendation
9 was to reaffirm previous Council action in support of use
10 of brown bear parts for handicrafts. The rationale is
11 the part that I would like to discuss and it says the
12 Council agreed there's no evidence to indicate the need
13 for a bear handicrafts work group or a proposal to limit
14 or restrict the use of brown bear parts, there's no need
15 to defer action.

16

17 I'm not sure if that brown bear
18 handicraft work group has been dismantled or whatever --
19 however you put that, but if it's still in existence, you
20 know, the RAC does need to participate in that working
21 group and that's my comment.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson will address
24 that, but we did have a workshop group here, you know, in
25 Anchorage here some time ago. So I'll let Robert, you
26 know, address that. I attended it.

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

31

32 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. There --
33 Patty, I was just going to mention that there is a brown
34 bear working group and we will have a briefing later in
35 this meeting. It's not necessarily an action item at
36 this meeting and we've had both Floyd and most recently
37 your Chairman, Bert, participate in this working group.
38 There's going to be a member of the State who is a
39 primary contact within the Department of Fish and Game
40 attend this meeting so we'll have a discussion of that.
41 And the idea would be that there will be an action item
42 before the Council regarding brown bear handicrafts at
43 our March meeting. So that process is moving forward,
44 but it's not going to be an action item at this meeting.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert. And
47 then in addition to that, I don't know whether you all
48 had a chance to pull it up or not, I know I got a copy of
49 the minutes of that meeting in Anchorage. And I have
50 some here if you need to have a copy of that. Is there

1 a place we can make copies or do you have that in your
2 computer to run off for us? How many.....
3
4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:how many got a copy
7 of that?
8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm sure we did.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. I know he sent
12 something out to all of the Council members. Go ahead.
13
14 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. They're in
15 the book under agency reports. You'll see the report of
16 the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group on Page 163
17 in your Council book.
18
19 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: You know, thank you that
24 this information is available. My point was that we need
25 -- you know, this rationale says that the Council agreed
26 there is no evidence to indicate the need for a brown
27 handicraft -- no, for a bear handicraft work group.
28 Well, if there's is a work group we do -- my point is
29 about these minutes is that we do need to be a part of
30 that working group and thank you for, you know, your
31 participation in the last working group meeting.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, and we definitely
34 do need to be a part of that working group because, you
35 know, this brown bear issue, you know, was started by the
36 Southeast. Many of the tribes or people up in the north
37 have no relationship with brown bears, they don't care
38 whether we use it for handicrafts or food or not, but
39 they -- because they don't participate or use
40 handicrafts, you know, in that manner. And so most of
41 this was driven by the Southeast Alaska.
42
43 Okay. Anymore on the minutes.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
48
49 MS. PHILLIPS: I have two other points
50 that I would like to make. And the -- on Page 10 under

1 the 2009 Annual Report number 4, it's about the Council
2 requests Board support for efforts by the Alaska Native
3 Sea Otter Commission Management Committee to clarify
4 definitions of handicraft and significantly altered. The
5 Council supports a comprehensive program of outreach and
6 education to facilitate the legal take and use of sea
7 otters and minimize the need for enforcement actions. I
8 would like to make a final point and I know that our
9 letter has already gone to the Secretary of Interior, but
10 a sister agency under the Interior Department is the US
11 Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and their
12 programs might -- there might be programs within the
13 USD/ARD to identify funding for business enterprises for
14 Alaska Natives who could work the sea otter pelts and
15 getting the infrastructure in place to handle the
16 harvested sea otters is one component of this -- of the
17 bigger picture that's missing.

18
19 Also on number 8 it says under the same
20 -- on Page 11, 2009 Annual Report number 8, the Council
21 and Federal subsistence staff biologists have been in
22 communication with ADF&G with concerns over management of
23 sockeye salmon in Chatham Strait for many years. The
24 Council recommends the Board support an out-of-cycle
25 Fisheries Monitoring Program request for proposals to
26 obtain additional genetic samples. I know previously and
27 that -- and probably this will be the case in the future,
28 but we've had lists of in-stream stock assessments that
29 are ongoing within the Tongass, Southeast, and I would --
30 you know, this just reiterated in my brain, I would like
31 to continue to get lists of what projects are going on
32 and what those projects involve.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you like to
37 address number 8 there, is there anything that we can
38 share at this point?

39
40 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Yes, there
41 was -- there has been some action on number 8 and that is
42 that for this funding cycle for this year the ongoing
43 stock assessment projects were -- the genetic sampling
44 was incorporated into them so it really didn't require an
45 out-of-cycle funding to do that work. What we did was
46 amend the work plans to accommodate that for this year
47 and not postpone it for subsequent years. And I believe
48 that that genetic sampling is going to be ongoing until
49 we fill all the need for the genetics data base that --
50 where we could identify sockeye salmon. And we have some

1 commitments from the Department of Fish and Game to
2 coordinate those efforts. And we'll hear about -- more
3 about what projects are going to be funded through our
4 Fisheries Monitoring Programs a little later in the
5 meeting. Terry Suminski's going to talk about that.

6

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

7

8

REPORTER: Bert. Bert.

9

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(Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For those of you a few
years ago, you know, we had a meeting in Sitka and we --
I think we walked off with -- George and I with a pretty
good contribution to the Girl Scouts. Every time
somebody made a mistake, you know, we'd fine them. And
one of the fines was turning on that -- the microphone.

Some of the things that kind of popped up
in my mind when I was going through the minutes is on
Page 7, you know, I'd like to know a little bit more
about what the definition of resident -- Alaska resident
is. I'm just going to go over them quickly, they're
just, you know, things that popped up while I was reading
them. And then on Page 8 Mr. Kookesh made a comment that
one topic that needs to be -- that needs attention is the
lack of funding for tribal organizations to participate
in subsistence management. I think that is really
lacking in tribal governments. You know I think I
mentioned last year that our tribe has \$1,200, you know,
designated for subsistence. And that really isn't
enough. What I would like to see is tribal governments
become more and more involved in subsistence issues
because they represent, you know, the people who are
actually going out there and living this. So I thought
that was an interesting comment and I thank Floyd for
bringing it up and reminding me about it when I went into
-- when I was reading it.

A couple other things. I thought it was
interesting that Mr. Melvin Charles said that commercial
harvest is taking too large a proportion of the stock.
One of the things that we are trying real hard to do is
to balance, you know, subsistence, commercial, sport and
personal use and it is a real big challenge and I think

1 it'll always be a challenge before us. But I thought
2 that was an interesting comment too, it's not
3 necessarily, you know, so, but I think it was a statement
4 that kind of popped up when I was reading this.

5
6 Then on Page 9, I guess, there was a
7 presidential proclamation extending subsistence
8 jurisdiction -- no, that there was going to be asked for
9 a presidential proclamation to have jurisdiction to
10 Native allotments and tribal corporations and so forth.
11 I thought that was interesting.

12
13 We're still talking about incidental
14 harvest of salmon, you know, over to Page 10. Then Patty
15 covered the things that I had pretty much highlighted as
16 well. I think it's a good proposal.

17
18 Go over to Page 12, proposal 10-5, you
19 know, has to do with accumulation. Read that, become
20 familiar if you kind of question, but I thought that was
21 something interesting that we have been working on.

22
23 Yeah, we're dealing with some of the doe
24 harvest or concerns that Mr. Lindoff was talking about
25 earlier. That's on Page 14, 10-13.

26
27 I'll share some moose information on the
28 moose quota in Unit 5, Yakutat. Some recent things came
29 up a little bit just recently that I can share with you.

30
31 But essentially that's about it, ladies
32 and gentlemen. I just thought I'd share some of these
33 things for the minutes so that we can be reminded about
34 these things popping up, you know, all the time.

35
36 Anyone else.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. You brought up
43 under Page 8, Mr. Kookesh's comment about the lack of
44 funding for tribal organizations to participate in
45 subsistence management and recently the National Ocean
46 and Atmosphere Administration held a community profile
47 meeting in Petersburg prior to Southeast conference. And
48 it was an interesting statistic that they showed that
49 only 15 percent of the comments that the North Pacific
50 Fisheries Management Council receives comes from the

1 rural areas. So rural areas are significantly under
2 represented in the, you know, Federal policy making
3 procedures. And what they did to get participation in
4 the community profiles meeting is to provide travel
5 scholarships that you would apply for. One of the
6 problems I find with that though is that you have to pay
7 out of pocket and then they reimburse you. And I was
8 only able to do that because I had a credit card that I
9 could put it on, but really it's a hardship to have to
10 wait for the money to -- you have to turn in your
11 receipts and then get reimbursed. So, you know, maybe
12 that's something that could occur to try to get rural
13 participation at our meeting level.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr. Bangs.

18

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

20 Along this same subject we've brought this to the
21 attention of how do we get more public involvement in our
22 meetings, I mean, if you look there's very few public.
23 And at our last meeting it was brought by a local
24 resident that maybe we should advertise more. And I was
25 wondering if anything had -- has been done to increase
26 the awareness of our meetings to the public.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I love to pass bucks so
31 I'm going to defer that to Mr. Larson.

32

33 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The meeting
34 schedule has been published in the -- on the OSM's web
35 site for a number of months, ever -- just soon after the
36 Council met. So people if they were going to go to the
37 web site would be aware that this meeting was going to
38 occur in this location at this time and generally this
39 was the topics. Since then there has been public service
40 announcements in -- throughout the region for both the
41 newspapers and on the radio. In Hoonah itself there's
42 been fliers posted and announcements on the local radio.
43 The emails have been distributed for -- to relevant
44 organizations, it's actually been fairly well advertised,
45 I believe.

46

47 One of the -- you know, it appears to us
48 that one of the benefits of having meetings in a small
49 community is to provide access by the residents of that
50 community to participate. One of the negative aspects of

1 meeting in a smaller, rural community is that you really
2 don't enhance an opportunity by other rural residents to
3 participate at this meeting. There's more of an
4 opportunity to go to hubs in Ketchikan or Juneau by other
5 rural residents than it is to come to Hoonah. So there
6 is some trade off here in that regard.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Yeah, I.....

11

12 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Mr. Kookesh. Go
15 ahead.

16

17 MR. KOOKESH: Were we discussing -- to
18 get back here, are we discussing the minutes of the last
19 meeting, I'm just wondering why we're not making
20 corrections and then moving on.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well.....

23

24 MR. KOOKESH: And if we have agenda --
25 agenda items are coming off of this, we could probably
26 discuss them under community or Council comments.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that's what.....

29

30 MR. KOOKESH: I'm just seeing that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What I was trying to get
33 at, Mr. Kookesh, is that some of these things, you know,
34 we read the minutes and go through them and I know for me
35 I sometimes wonder, you know, did it stop right there.
36 We need to be reminded of some of the things that we had
37 talked about, you know, in the previous meeting so that
38 if some of those things are falling out of the cracks
39 then we need to bring them up again. But anyhow let's
40 get back to the minutes and if there's anyone else who
41 has any comments, you know, let's hear them now and then
42 we can set this aside.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

49

50 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
2 called for. All in favor of the motion please signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
12 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

13
14 The next thing is the Chair's report.
15 You have on Page 21 the annual report if you want to go
16 over that, you know, or read it, but it's there for your
17 reading pleasure. But I'd like to address, you know,
18 some other things that I think is -- and then there's
19 also the -- some correspondence. But I'd like to share
20 with you some of the things that I received, you know,
21 just recently, particularly the day before I came down
22 here. Last week I was in Juneau for a language meeting,
23 I'm one of the teachers in Yakutat and the meeting ended
24 on Saturday so I had to go back home on Sunday, throw
25 some clothes in the wash and pack -- repack and then
26 catch that airplane back down to Juneau so I can be here
27 today. That's one of the drawbacks of living way up in
28 Yakutat, you know, your -- I'm the one that travels the
29 most.

30
31 But anyhow I'd just like to, you know,
32 share with you some information about things that are
33 happening in Yakutat. Terry Suminski, I'm going to talk
34 about the goats first. Would you mind -- give me those
35 numbers that you shared with me this morning? Is he
36 here? Oh, there he is. All right. Hiding behind Nancy.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 One of the things we've been really
41 concerned about is the goat population in Yakutat,
42 particularly on the Nunatak Bench. That place has been
43 closed down for about five years now, I think, or -- am
44 I correct in that assumption about that? They used to
45 think, you know, that if you kept the population trend
46 about 65 and higher then it's a healthy stock. It has
47 gone way down ever since then so they've been watching it
48 really close and I think Terry has some recent numbers
49 for us on some surveys that were taken, I guess, within
50 the last couple days. Go ahead.

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
2 and Council members. I'm Terry Suminski with the Forest
3 Service. I just -- Susan Oehlers called me yesterday and
4 wanted to report to you that they flew a goat survey, I
5 think it was the day before yesterday, from Harlequin
6 Lake to Alsek River. They counted 125 adults and 33
7 kids. Previous surveys were -- they counted about 40,
8 but the counting conditions were much worse than this
9 more recent survey. And there were still some areas
10 where they -- where the weather prevented them from
11 getting a count, but that's the most recent information
12 we have for goats in that area.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Terry. There
17 was a survey that was just recently taken and as Terry
18 said there was maybe -- I think it was 43 that they had
19 counted. And how many kids were there?

20

21 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman, 33.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thirty-three. So they
24 didn't see any of those tha -- in the previous surveys,
25 but I think it's still in a -- you know, sad -- the
26 Nunatak Bench is the one that we've been really concerned
27 about. And, you know, from Harlequin all the way down to
28 Dry Bay, you know, might be still okay, but I think -- I
29 still think those counts are kind of low. The reason why
30 they had low counts before as I understand it, I'm
31 learning more about this almost every day, Susan said
32 that the weather was really good. And so I asked Terry
33 how come and he said well, they're probably trying to
34 avoid the heat so they're in the caves or in the shade
35 somewhere. The other day it was a little bit colder and
36 cloudy so more of them were out.

37

38 Anyhow thank you, appreciate it.

39

40 Another issue is the moose count. And,
41 Neil Barten, I saw you back there. There you are. Do
42 you have any information to share with us as part of my
43 report? I know they went back to the 55 in the whole
44 area with only 25 in the west side of the Dangerous
45 River. And do you have something for us?

46

47 MR. BARTEN: Mr. Chair, Members of the
48 Board or Council. Yeah, again this year for probably the
49 third consecutive year we're asking for a maximum
50 allowable harvest on the west side of the Dangerous River

1 to be 25 moose rather than 30 which it was for many, many
2 years. And the reason being we just aren't seeing the
3 good bull/cow ratios on that side like we did five, 10
4 years ago. But, you know, we've -- in the last few years
5 we've kept it below 25 and I think, you know, hopefully
6 this fall we'll get a good bull/cow ratio and a good
7 survey with snow on the ground and see where we are with
8 that. So instead of 60 moose on the forelands, we're
9 looking at keeping it at 55.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, what is the
12 bull/cow ratio?

13

14 MR. BARTEN: Mr. Chairman. Members of
15 the Council. On the east side we've been above 20, 25
16 which is what we want. On the west side we've had some
17 pretty low ratios in the last four or five years and
18 we've done surveys in the neighborhood of 10 to 15. So
19 we're trying to -- across the state we try to manage for
20 in between 20 and 30 bulls for 100 cows, so it's just a
21 little low on the west side and hopefully a few years of
22 keeping the harvest down will boost that up a little bit.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Neil.
25 I'm sure -- are you going to touch base with us a little
26 bit later on too?

27

28 MR. BARTEN: On this particular subject
29 or a bunch of other things?

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's okay. Just --
32 fine, I'll let you go.

33

34 MR. BARTEN: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay, thank you.
37 How much do I owe you now?

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That's the deer
42 and the goat. We talked about the bear claws so I'm
43 going to keep that out. Okay. That's about the extent
44 of my report, ladies and gentlemen, and if you have any
45 questions I'll be happy to answer them or, you know, read
46 the material that you have in your booklet.

47

48 Okay. Let's go to the Council members'
49 reports. Let's start on this side. Mr. Douville.

50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Deer are doing good on Prince of Wales, Unit 2 seems to
3 be okay in spite of, you know, I think the trend is going
4 up rather than down now.

5
6 We had an interesting little fishery, for
7 the first time in my life I got to beach seine a king
8 salmon. And the city of Craig applied for a salmon
9 enhancement grant six or seven years ago and we put in a
10 real small hatchery, you know, it wasn't that much money,
11 but anyway this year was the first return we got. Nobody
12 was prepared to do cost recovery so they let the general
13 public do subsistence or personal use on them. And it
14 worked out well, but anyway I think next year it will be
15 more controlled and there will be a cost recovery, but it
16 was pretty interesting to use those fish for home use and
17 hopefully next year we'll see more.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Mr.
22 Hernandez, please.

23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 The report from the north end of Prince of Wales Island
26 does -- probably mirrors what Mike was saying for the
27 south end. We're optimistic for some decent deer hunting
28 this year. The early season folks that go out in end of
29 July and August seem to be finding some deer so we're
30 encouraged.

31
32 The fishing season in the area seem to go
33 fairly well. Maybe the one bright spot was despite some
34 dismal predictions on the pink salmon runs we seems to
35 have some decent returns. And I did see some good
36 returns to local streams. So we may have done a little
37 better there than anticipated.

38
39 As far as concerns, probably the main
40 concern I hear from local folks is something that maybe
41 other Council members may be hearing in their communities
42 is the increase in use in sport fishing operations in the
43 area. In our area it -- the main concern is the impacts
44 to local subsistence stocks, to some degree the local
45 halibut stocks, but probably to a greater degree is the
46 concern about what it may be doing to local rock fish
47 stocks which people utilize fairly extensively to be able
48 to go out and catch a fresh fish just about anytime they
49 want, it's nice to have it available.

50

1 What we're seeing in our community is the
2 -- as efforts are being made to put some limitations and
3 restrictions on the guided sport fishing industry it's
4 kind of spawning an increase in a new industry that is
5 not well regulated and has impacts and that would be the
6 unguided sport fishing, I guess what would be referred to
7 as outfitting where people would just rent a boat -- stay
8 at a bed and breakfast, rent a boat and be fishing under
9 just State sport fishing regulations and not subject to
10 any of the new limited entry restrictions placed on
11 guided sport fishing industry.

12
13 And this seems to be growing, it brings
14 out some questions as the industry grows and has impacts
15 that -- you know, how it would be regulated if necessary.
16 I'm encouraged by efforts to have a well regulated guided
17 sport industry, I think we're, you know, making some
18 gains there, but this industry does raise a lot of
19 questions, for instance if somebody renting a skiff and
20 the charter -- the outfit that's renting them the skiff
21 also runs a charter boat and, you know, you see the -- a
22 few people going out in a guided boat and they take off
23 with half a dozen skiffs following along behind, you
24 know, to lead them to a fishing spot, are those folks
25 being guided or not, you know, that's a serious question.
26 If somebody rents a boat and they're provided with a GPS
27 unit that tells them a location to go for, you know,
28 ideal jigging location for rock fish and halibut, is that
29 a guided enterprise or are they just sport fishing. I
30 see some enforcement questions, if somebody's staying at
31 a bed and breakfast it's fairly common to see them head
32 out in the morning, they do some fishing, they come back
33 for lunch and they stay at the lodge, they have their
34 lunch and then they're off again in the afternoon, are
35 they bringing in a day's catch limit in the morning and
36 then going back out in the afternoon for another day's
37 catch limit. There's no real way to know for sure what's
38 going on in those circumstances, it's kind of up to the
39 integrity of the bed and breakfast to sort of monitor
40 what they're doing, but everybody knows that there's
41 probably not much monitoring going on there. So, you
42 know, these will have impacts, in a very small community
43 the impacts can be fairly major.

44 Another factor with this type of
45 operation is the people don't tend to go very far from
46 home and that kind of increases the impacts in the
47 immediate area where local people usually like to do
48 their subsistence take.

49
50 So that's a concern we have and I think

1 it's something that, you know, should be noted to the
2 managers and enforcement folks.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Patty,
7 why don't you go ahead and do that and then I think we'll
8 take a little break, we've been here for a little over an
9 hour now.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
12 deer in our area are still diminished in numbers, but
13 recruitment is building, you know, the does have two or
14 three fawns or, you know, yearlings with them now.

15

16 The bear on Chichagof Island seem down in
17 numbers because there's less deer to eat, but on Yakobi
18 Island the numbers are up.

19

20 Let's see, going to fisheries, the by-
21 catch fisheries west of 140 degrees are impacting the
22 hook and line fisheries east of 140 degrees. Sea lions
23 are up in numbers and sea lions from the western gulf
24 have been observed in our area following the feed.

25

26 The offshore Cross Sound West Chichagof
27 Yakobi Island fleet is observing heavy concentrations of
28 kings and cohos that have not moved in yet, waiting for
29 the rains to draw them in. Back 30 years ago the foreign
30 fleet targeted those offshore schools of salmon. I can
31 personally remember observing the foreign fleet dragging
32 for cohos off of Graves Island there in Cross Sound. So
33 that stock has always been there and they wait for the
34 fall rains to bring them in and like the gentleman from
35 Hoonah said, the fish are coming in late and the permits
36 that -- the personal use permits are date specific and
37 right now I could not get a personal use permit because
38 -- well, I could get a personal -- I do have a personal
39 use permit, but I can't fish it because the dates say it
40 closes -- it's already a closed season even though those
41 cohos are moving in I couldn't use my personal use permit
42 to get them, I could get them under sport guide, I mean,
43 a sport fish permit.

44

45 Herring are abundant in our area. We had
46 a second light spawn in the inlet in the summer months,
47 we have our traditional spring -- heavy spring spawn and
48 now we're having a second light spawn in mid summer.

49

50 The cohos are fat, but fisherman have

1 concerns about the chum hatchery fish foraging affecting
2 the survival of cohos -- wild stock of cohos and kings.
3 Cohos are covered in sea lice and there's concern that
4 the sea lice is coming from escaped salmon from the
5 British Columbia salmon farms.

6
7 This spring I personally observed a
8 humpback whale trolling the beach tide line on West
9 Chichagof Island, feeding on salmon fingerlings.

10
11 Finally, Mr. Chair, I'd like to say that
12 we as a RAC should ask the Secretary of Interior to ask
13 the Secretary of State to address the British Columbia
14 salmon farms lack of sufficient oversight and regulations
15 that are affecting the health of our wild salmon stocks.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Why
20 don't we take a break and be back here in 10 minutes and
21 then we'll continue on with Council reports.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Ladies and
28 gentlemen, we'll eventually get back to our seats.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, welcome back
33 ladies and gentlemen. We had some new Forest Service
34 people walk in the door a few minutes ago. Are they
35 here? Okay. We need to introduce yourself, Wayne and
36 the lady over there. You've been here all morning.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve, go ahead.

41
42 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
43 Council. Steve Kessler with the Forest Service, I'd
44 like to introduce to you Wayne Owen. I think maybe many
45 of you knew Wini Kessler who was our director of wildlife
46 fisheries, ecology watershed subsistence in our regional
47 office working directly for the regional forester. Wayne
48 has -- since Wini's retirement Wayne has replaced Wini
49 and has come from our Washington office and I would like
50 him just to introduce himself to you briefly.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit)
2
3 That means it's your turn.
4
5 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
6 thank you for the invitation to attend the RAC today. As
7 Steve indicated I am new to this position, I arrived in
8 Juneau in the regional office earlier this summer. And
9 I was told by Ms. Kessler before me that my primary job
10 was to pay attention to subsistence issues and so that's
11 what brings me here today.
12
13 Before I came to Alaska I was in the
14 Washington office of the US Forest Service in the
15 National Forest Service where I was the senior policy
16 analyst for wildlife and fisheries conservation issues.
17 And so I feel I was greatly rewarded with a position in
18 Alaska and looking forward to doing a little more real
19 life, on the ground, hands-on sort of stuff.
20
21 So thank you very much.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. That means
24 thank you.
25
26 (In Tlingit)
27
28 Means big thank you.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So yeah, you're
33 among a group of people here that you need to really, you
34 know, pay attention to, these are top notch Council
35 members. And, you know, these are the people that I rely
36 on to help me, you know, when I go to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board to testify on our behalf and so forth.
38 So you're among some great people as well as people out
39 there in the audience. So welcome.
40
41 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
42 looking forward to speaking with a lot of people on the
43 field trip this afternoon and start to develop some
44 personal relationships. That's very important to me and
45 I hope that it helps me do my job better.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone else.
50

1 MS. ADAMS: You want me to come up there?
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, please do. And
4 introduce yourself in Tlingit.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. ADAMS: I don't know how to do that.
9 I wish I did.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. ADAMS: I'm Barb Adams, no relation
14 to you, I think we've said that before at meetings. I am
15 currently at the Juneau Ranger District and I was in
16 Yakutat for about three years. And I'm a Fish and
17 Wildlife staff officer over in Juneau and I do a lot
18 of.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was wondering where I
21 saw you before.
22
23 MS. ADAMS: I'm just here to observe
24 what's going on and try to help out and do the best I can
25 with my job for you guys.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Like I told Wayne,
28 you're among the best. Thank you.
29
30 MS. ADAMS: Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else out there
33 that came in kind of late? Yes, sir. Where have I seen
34 you before?
35
36 MR. CHESTER: Dennis Chester, wildlife
37 biologist with the Juneau District. I've been here a
38 number of times.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dennis.
41
42 I'd like to give the young lady over
43 here, Sonja, an opportunity to come to the microphone, if
44 you would, Sonja, and introduce yourself and, you know,
45 say a few words if you want, you know, welcome us or, you
46 know, I know you have issues, you're going to have some
47 people come in later on and we want to hear about that.
48
49 Gunalcheesh.
50

1 MS. GRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
2 father is Dennis Gray, Sr., who's of the Wooshketaan
3 tribe, my mother is Lee Dybbdahl Gray who is of the
4 Teikweidi of Prince of Wales Island. I want to welcome
5 the Advisory Board to Hoonah and I hope your stay is a
6 good one and a productive one. I also want to say for
7 comments later that I would like to bring in some more of
8 our community members to testify about the deer situation
9 on the northern Chichagof.

10
11 So again thank you and if I can be of any
12 help.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

15
16 MS. GRAY: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And, you know, one of
19 the things that we really encourage, the reasons why we
20 have these meetings in communities in Southeast is so
21 that we can come closer to the people who are actually
22 using these resources and hear your concerns. So I'm
23 happy that you're going to bring a group of people here
24 so that.....

25
26 MS. GRAY: Yes, I'm just.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:we want to hear
29 what you have to say.

30
31 MS. GRAY: Thank you. Thank you,
32 Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. GRAY: And I just wanted to -- you
37 know, it was not an easy task to find out about this
38 meeting, it just happened -- I almost fell upon it. So
39 I would like to give that opportunity to the rest of the
40 community to -- that want -- would love to be a part of
41 this.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One of the things that
44 we're talking about this morning too, Sonja, is the fact
45 that we have difficulty getting the word out about these
46 meetings and so, you know, that's one of the reasons why
47 we don't see so many people. I know in Saxman last year
48 we had a lot of people come out and testify, but do you
49 have any suggestions how we can better publicize our
50 meetings? I think it would be well to work with tribal

1 governments, as well, you know.

2

3 MS. GRAY: Most definitely. I think
4 being a part and advising a lot of the different groups
5 whether it be through the Forest Service. Myself I work
6 for Icy Strait Point, part of my job is marketing and
7 media, I'll be happy to help you, you know, with
8 advertising on a -- in different levels if you need me,
9 I'd be more than happy to help you with that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Take her name and
12 address and telephone number, we need help.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

17

18 MS. GRAY: Thank you. Gunalcheesh.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Back to introductions.
21 Mr. Wright. Or not introductions, but comments.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. I'm from Hoonah and I've been living here a
25 long time. But one of the things that, you know, I
26 always worry about is our people of this community and,
27 you know, and one of the biggest comments I get from the
28 hunters nowadays is that why is it shut down, why is
29 NECCUA shut down because basically they're always telling
30 me they see all the does, a lot of does out there. And
31 I says well, we got to make sure. And I'm hoping that we
32 can come up with some kind of scientific evidence or some
33 kind of evidence showing that it's necessary to do. And
34 because I know my nephew's one of them that's always
35 crying to me about it, he's always out hunting. And I
36 have a hard time explaining to them the reason why I
37 think it should be put on hold for doe season. And we --
38 but anyway that's one of the concerns that I have is
39 that, you know, hunters are telling me that they see
40 does.

41

42 One of the other concerns that'll always
43 be a concern that, you know we have the sea otter out
44 here that are just getting closer and closer and into
45 Port Frederick, you know, and if we -- there's got to be
46 some kind of solution to deal with this, I mean, I -- you
47 know, right out here, right in front here, right by the
48 breakwater there's crab, Dungeness crab just -- you know,
49 that's where our local people use the Dungeness crabs
50 because it's right around the island, we just have to go

1 over there, don't take five minutes to get there in a
2 skiff and maybe the sea otter end up inside Port
3 Frederick then they're gone. And if -- and we have also
4 across the bay here we have some cockle beds that are
5 pretty healthy right now and I know what they done --
6 they have done to Idaho Inlet where Idaho Inlet used to
7 be pretty big cockles there, I mean, they used to be --
8 one cockle would fill up a plate, now there's none. I
9 remember when there used to be so many there that it
10 would take a few just to fill up a bucket, now you can't
11 find them because when the sea otter moved into Idaho
12 Inlet then it was -- there was just like the place got
13 devastated with holes being dug when the tide went out
14 there was holes all over the place where the sea otter
15 had just dug them up. And they're just -- you know, this
16 last spring I was in Idaho Inlet and I counted just on --
17 just looking in one direction I counted about 17 just off
18 -- 17 sea otter off a point. And this summer -- this
19 spring I saw sea otters on the Homeshore side and wish
20 there were some way we could deal with them and, you
21 know, I -- one thing I don't like to do is shoot animals
22 just to shoot them and that's something I can't, you
23 know, fathom, something like that.

24
25 Another issue is the sea lions. When you
26 go downtown you'll see three of them, big monsters,
27 swimming around right in front, right in front down here.
28 They're here all the time, you can't even go -- you know,
29 you want to drag a hook around out by the island here,
30 there's no use dragging a hook there because the sea
31 lions are there. We -- when the weather is real bad and
32 they use winter troll, the guys just go right here and
33 drag hooks for king salmon so, you know, you can't --
34 with those things around you can't be trolling.

35
36 Another thing is -- another issue is
37 there's a fleet of skiffs that live over in -- in the
38 summer over in Excursion Inlet, I mean, last year they
39 opened up Homeshore for purse seining. These guys are
40 running around out there that have no idea what's going
41 on out there and they almost ran over -- you know, we
42 were jumping up -- guys were jumping up and down on deck
43 hoping they won't run over our seine. And these guys are
44 just -- you know, I mean, it's like one of the guys said
45 we're here, said that you got to -- you got one leader
46 and then they got a whole bunch of little skiffs
47 following them, I mean, and we just -- they just -- they
48 just go anywhere and take everything they can. It's kind
49 of like a, you know, we got a sea otter with two legs,
50 they just take everything they can, you know, and I --

1 and it's -- it's not something that the community of
2 Hoonah, you know, we -- that's not something we do. We
3 just take what we need. And I -- this year the salmon
4 was pretty sad up here this year, I mean, we -- I think
5 they opened up Point Augusta a couple times and then they
6 opened up Tenakee a couple times and I was getting kind
7 of worried, you know, for a commercial fisherman and
8 supporting my crew. By the end of July I think I had
9 about oh, a little over 10,000 pounds of salmon. Maybe
10 I'm not a good fisherman, but I lucked out and ended up
11 going on the outside down toward Sitka side and was able
12 to make a season out of it.

13

14 One thing I've noticed though is that,
15 you know, last year -- last couple years we -- it was
16 hard for us to get a seal, but now my nephew's been --
17 every time he goes out he gets a seal, if he wants a seal
18 he'll go get it, you know, and that's -- and he was over
19 in Excursion Inlet and he was up -- way up the bay and he
20 said man, I think I saw about 100 seal up in that bay,
21 you know, he wasn't hunting them, he was up there because
22 I asked him to go over there because I was -- I'm
23 supposed to be doing a community set for the community,
24 but I asked him to go -- run over there to take a look,
25 see if there was any fish there and he said there wasn't
26 any. But these are just some of the issues that, you
27 know, that is -- we have concerns with as a community and
28 the whales are still there, I mean, they're always going
29 to be around us because there's nothing you can do with
30 them, they're just going to keep multiplying until
31 they're -- they're going to take everything -- take
32 everything.

33

34 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Mr. Wright.

37

38

39 I'll see if I can get through with mine
40 without getting that throat choked up again.

41

42 Mr. Wright came upon a phrase that kind
43 of attracted my attention here, that I think it's worth
44 sharing and that's take what you need. You know and
45 Raven left some values for the Tlingit people to live and
46 abide by. I shared with you, you know, to have -- to
47 honor your Creator and to respect everything. And also
48 he said that we should not take more than what we need
49 nor should we waste. I know that has been a controversy
50 over the many years that I've listened to reports and

1 people take, but that's a value that we are trying to
2 bring back to our people again. Take what you need and
3 don't waste.

4
5 So with that I'd just like to share with
6 you some of the things that we are -- have been dealing
7 with in the Yakutat area. We have the same problem that
8 Mr. Hernandez alluded to with the
9 unguided sport fishing people. We have lodges that rent
10 out, you know, those little lind (ph) boats, they put
11 maybe three or four people in there and it looks like,
12 you know, people walking on the water. And the -- and
13 they're out there competing for the salmon resources,
14 particularly the silver salmon and maneuvering in and
15 around the patrollers. And I know -- didn't happen this
16 year, but I think it was a year or two ago where there
17 was an actual collision and how to address that, you
18 know, I think, really seriously needs to be looked at.
19 I don't know how -- I don't have any answers for it, but
20 it's a serious problem. A collision of some sort, you
21 know, could cause, you know, some deaths or serious
22 accidents. So and when you're, you know, four or five
23 miles offshore, that's a long ways to swim.

24
25 But anyhow, that being said I'd like to
26 share with you the eulachon situation in Yakutat this
27 spring. The Yakutat Salmon Board was awarded a three
28 year grant to do some surveys all the way down from Taiya
29 (ph) Creek down to Dry Bay, there's about 17 or 18 creeks
30 that receive eulachon. And so the decline of the
31 eulachons, you know, we -- we've seen -- I've seen that
32 happening, you know, and now the Unuk River is closed and
33 I -- I'm not sure how it is, you know, with some of the
34 other areas, but we see -- we saw in the Situk River
35 particularly the eulachons begin to decline quite
36 rapidly. And it became a concern, you know, to me and so
37 I kept harping and harping about it and then finally, you
38 know, this year we got a four year survey grant to find
39 out what's happening or just to do some surveys.

40
41 I've had an opportunity to go flying on
42 a couple of those. One flight, you know, we just took
43 off in the airplane and you -- the first river you fly
44 over is the Situk River and lo and behold we saw a bunch
45 of eulachons pumped up in this one little area there and
46 I figured that once we made our trip down to Dry Bay area
47 and back that I would take my family out and we would
48 catch some of those eulachons. Well, we made it down to
49 Ahrnklin, Dangerous, we saw a few, you know, eulachons in
50 that area, you could tell, you know, with the sea lions

1 and sea gulls and all that. But the place that really,
2 really boggled my mind was on the Aukway River, right
3 from the mouth we saw sunning themselves about maybe 150,
4 200 sea lions right at the very mouth. And then from
5 there all the way up, eight or 10 miles up and the rivers
6 turns up around and then heads up into the mountains and
7 there's that little village called Pasaik (ph), that was
8 the very first settlement in that area, that was where
9 Raven pulled in that huge canoe I was talking about
10 earlier and let all the animals and birds and fishes and
11 so forth. But thousands and thousands of sea gulls all
12 the way up and down that bank. I've never seen so many
13 swans before. And it was just mind boggling to see that.
14 And so that was the only real large amount of eulachon
15 that we saw, I mean, it was tremendously -- like I said
16 it was mind boggling to see all that.

17

18 Then we went down further, all the way
19 down to Dome River and back, but there wasn't very much
20 in those other rivers. But the Aukway River is the one
21 that really produced, but the ones that we're really
22 concerned about because it's a lot easier to get out to
23 is, of course, the Situk River because you can drive out
24 there and get your take and we haven't had any good luck
25 there.

26

27 When we came back I went out to that area
28 where we saw that -- you know, that group of likeness
29 and they were gone, you know, they went up and did their
30 business, but they were no longer in that area.

31

32 So we're -- I'm still concerned, you
33 know, about the Situk River. So hopefully, you know,
34 these surveys we know will help us understand what's
35 really going on.

36

37 I found out, you know, that likeness
38 don't go to the places where they spawn like salmon, you
39 know, the find a habitat that they think, you know, would
40 accommodate them and that's where they go. So evidently,
41 you know, the Situk River isn't providing that for them.
42 I don't -- I'm not sure, we will -- hopefully we'll find
43 out.

44

45 And then earlier I mentioned, you know,
46 the goats, the concern for goats and then the moose.

47

48 But I think there's still a lot of deer
49 in Yakutat, we did have some heavy snowfall there a
50 couple, three years ago. I thought it was going to take

1 their toll, but it hasn't touched them very much. Going
2 along the -- on a boat, you know, along the Kiantak (ph)
3 Island there, we saw, you know, six, seven deers, you
4 know, all at one time and that was very encouraging to
5 me. And they're coming into the community as well and,
6 you know, showing themselves. So hopefully we'll be able
7 to see a good population of deer in the Yakutat area
8 soon. And I think Jim Capra when he was here last year
9 said that he had seen deer all the way down to Dry Bay.
10 So that's encouraging.

11
12 Let me see, Hubbard glacier hasn't
13 threatened us again this year. We kind of watch it, you
14 know, starting in February because that's when the
15 advance begins. As many of you know the Hubbard glacier
16 is the fastest moving glacier in the world, that's why
17 they call it the galloping hubbard glacier, it can move
18 up to 100 feet in a day and it can retreat up to 100 feet
19 in a day. And in 1986 and 2002 it closed off, bumped up
20 against Gilbert Point and closed off that Russell fiord,
21 threatened the village of Yakutat and all of the Yakutat
22 forelands by if it rose up to 138 or so feet it would
23 spill off on the south end of that fiord, it's 30 miles
24 long, and spill into the Yakutat forelands and swell up
25 the Situk River three to five times the size it is right
26 now and switch it from, you know, a freshwater fed lake
27 into a glacier lake which would really, you know, cause
28 a lot of economic setbacks for the community of Yakutat
29 because the Situk River is one of the most popular places
30 to go in the whole world for steelhead as well as salmon.
31 So about mid summer we take a sigh of relief if it
32 doesn't close off by then because that's when the retreat
33 starts again. So it came and it went and so come
34 February we'll start watching again, see what's happens.

35
36 Let me see, that's about the extent of my
37 report, ladies and gentlemen.

38
39 Mr. Kitka, please.

40
41 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Harvey
42 Kitka and I got a report from Sitka area.

43
44 Basically it's the herring fishing within
45 our subsistence area was fairly good last year, we were
46 lucky that the seine fleet probably didn't fish within
47 our subsistence area, if they had it would have been
48 different.

49
50 We do have some concerns over some of it

1 because it -- even though it was good, it was just good
2 in a spot. The whole Sitka Sound used to look like it
3 did in that one spot and it still hasn't come back to
4 that. So if we're lucky and it continues to get better
5 we'll be happy.

6
7 One of our other concerns is the sea
8 otter population is starting to increase again so we'll
9 probable lose our cockle beds, we'll lose again and our
10 other clam beds that are going to suffer as well as the
11 sea urchins and stuff that are in it.

12
13 The deer hunting has been fairly steady
14 and we're lucky we live on the coast and we didn't get
15 the severe snowstorms that they did in the inside waters.

16
17 Another concern is they discovered
18 something in Whiting Harbor called marine vomit which the
19 US Fish and Wildlife Service is probably looking into it
20 a bit as well as the State because I understand this
21 stuff that grows on the bottom will cause some tremendous
22 problems and there's no way to get rid of it, they have
23 no predators as far as I know and it might change
24 everything to do with the herring spawning within Sitka
25 Sound if they continue to spread.

26
27 And that's basically my report.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Harvey.
30 Mr. Kookesh.

31
32 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. A
33 couple strong points that came out at Angoon this summer
34 was our asking the Secretary of Agriculture to review our
35 petition for marine waters, it's called the ETJ,
36 extraterritorial jurisdiction petition. And we're
37 waiting on that one and I believe I'm hopefully I have --
38 I seen the other day that we have a call in number and I
39 don't see the phone so I was hoping Kootznoowoo's general
40 manager, Peter Naoroz, would be able to get on-line when
41 we discuss the ETJ petition, because Kootznoowoo is the
42 author of it. And I am the chairman of Kootznoowoo too
43 so I would like Mr. Naoroz if he could to be able to
44 participate.

45
46 And the other one that we had at Angoon
47 was the citation for, we call them the Angoon four, there
48 was actually more than four of them, but only four got
49 cited. So and that was the one involving my brother,
50 Albert. And earlier in the month the State ruled in our

1 favor and now it's going back. I believe that the
2 decision at the time that when the State ruled in our
3 favor, I might as well says ours because it was, is that
4 there's something that came up called the Administrative
5 Procedures Act and I'd like us to discuss that issue and
6 educate us a little more on it as to why it was always
7 out there and we were never ever really knew about it as
8 a RAC. And I was wondering what our general counsel also
9 knew about -- knows about the Administrative Procedures
10 Act in relation to the -- to the Federal subsistence that
11 we're actually dealing with on a day to day basis here.
12 So hopefully we can get our general counsel to contribute
13 his two cents. I don't know if it's Jim Ustasiewski
14 anymore or not, but it would be nice if we could have
15 some feedback.

16
17 The community did enjoy -- I have to say
18 the community did enjoy a great sockeye season. One of
19 the things I did observe when I was chartering out of
20 Angoon was I did not see one seiner all summer, normally
21 they would be fishing from Point Samuels which is almost
22 a mile south to eight miles north which was closed, you'd
23 see them on the south side of Point Samuels or on the
24 north side of Parker, but they weren't anywhere around.
25 So I don't know what happened to the fishery for them.
26 I did ask my good friend, Bob Utee, if he -- what was
27 going on with that fishery. But the community did enjoy
28 a good season, there was a lot of sockeye. I'm sure Ben
29 will be telling us that we did have a great run. I know
30 that the community had been on a voluntary closure since
31 around 2000 and that the community decided to end it this
32 year. We don't believe that the issue -- excuse me, let
33 me go back. The issue we're struggling with in our
34 community right now is the 15 fish per household. We're
35 wondering where that -- why is that number the standing
36 number when the needs of the residents per household
37 cannot be met with 15 fish. A lot of people consider 15
38 fish not reasonable and that we should be allowed
39 opportunity to get more. It's been my observation that
40 when we start putting limits on that for every set that
41 we tend to make you don't just catch 15 per household,
42 that sometime you can have 200 fish in your set and maybe
43 even 400. So we have to wonder where this number's
44 coming from, we're wondering what kind of science it's
45 based off of and are we going to continue to allow this
46 because the communities can't -- we can't -- we have to
47 have an answer as to why there was -- why we're only
48 allowed 15. In Klawock a citation was issued the other
49 day for a gentleman, a resident, for getting 40. So
50 we're wondering what's going on with that and where's

1 that -- where's those numbers coming from and what's the
2 justification for it, is this a backroom -- behind closed
3 doors decision or what's the science behind it. We need
4 to start knowing these things. And I was wondering as a
5 RAC are we going to start going there and start
6 addressing those kind of issues.

7

8 And those are the two main issues that
9 came out of Angoon.

10

11 And there is one more that comes with
12 this one though is we
13 always thought that the priority was subsistence, but for
14 some reason the greatest restriction seems to be on
15 subsistence. We see in our community that the commercial
16 seiners are allowed to have unlimited harvest and the
17 sport fishermen are allowed minimums of say, for example,
18 silver six, but community household -- per household is
19 for 15. We're wondering why that disparity is and where
20 the priority really is in our community.

21

22 Earlier I heard a gentleman talking and
23 he was asking about the ceremonial permit. I think when
24 you start talking about this and coho limits maybe we
25 should start doing a better job, somebody better start
26 doing a better job on educating people so we don't have
27 to have law enforcement following us all over and making
28 us feel like criminals doing something that's part of our
29 customary and traditional way of life that has always
30 been that way. We're wondering why is this enforcement
31 being brought upon us. Maybe if we can do a better job
32 of educating us instead of citing us. I thought it was
33 a joke years ago when I said that the only service we get
34 from the State of Alaska is when they serve us with a
35 citation. I thought that was a joke at the time, it's
36 not anymore, it's serious. So we really need to go
37 there, we need to figure out what our relationship is to
38 -- the priority for the communities. And there was
39 discussion in our community about community based
40 management, we did ask the governor at a Native issues
41 forum what his position on -- what his -- how he felt
42 about community based management of the resource, the
43 governor had no position on it, he actually dodged the
44 question and he gave us the blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,
45 blah answer which we should have expected.

46

47 And the next thing I'd like to talk to
48 about is right after we had our last meeting, I don't
49 know if any of you are aware of this, out of our last
50 meeting at Saxman, I received a letter from Chairman

1 Fleagle and I also had a discussion with Mr. Probasco
2 during our meeting in Saxman for missing meetings.
3 Apparently walking back and getting a cup of coffee and
4 talking on a cell phone during our meetings is not right
5 and apparently is what I had been told so I received a
6 letter of reprimand from our honorable Federal
7 Subsistence Chairman. So basically I went and testified
8 in front of them and told they can basically fire the
9 volunteer. And I felt that was wrong for a reprimand to
10 come from the Federal Subsistence Board Chairman. You
11 know I've been doing this for 11 years probably coming up
12 today that I got my letter from Bruce Babbitt. When I
13 got my letter of reprimand it was cited in there that I'd
14 only been a RAC member for eight years so you know that
15 we have incomplete information going on there, they can't
16 even get it right.

17
18 And earlier it was talked about sport
19 fishing and taking our resources. You know, I think we
20 need to get used to the fact that they're going to
21 continue coming until the State of Alaska does something
22 about them, that all of our discussion is just falling on
23 deaf ears, that we need to get over it, that they're
24 entitled to that resource too. The idea is that we need
25 to manager it, but I believe that we -- the way the
26 management goes it should be based on biology and also
27 managing based on the priority. And at this time I
28 believe if I'm correct that the priority is subsistence.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.
33 You're next.

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

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That means it's your
38 turn.

39
40 (In Tlingit)

41
42 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Over the past six months since we met last I think
44 probably the single issue that I've heard the most about
45 with respect to subsistence and working with the
46 communities that I do is the encouraged attitude about
47 some of the changes that are coming down from -- as a
48 result of the Federal review. And I think a lot of
49 communities that I've worked with are interested in
50 seeing how that's going to change on a broader level.

1 You know, you hear mixed feelings, some people think that
2 some of the things that we've seen most recently or are
3 about to see with respect to the Federal review is that
4 things could go either way, but I think in general the
5 attitude is at least we're not stagnant or at least not
6 still continuing in a way that doesn't seem to be
7 working. And so I just wanted to share that back because
8 I think that, you know, that's the single most thing
9 about subsistence that I hear the most.

10

11 I also work with different tribal
12 organizations on fisheries projects and I know that
13 especially Prince of Wales we've seen really sockeye
14 escapement and I think that the communities down there
15 have been really grateful and hopefully that will be an
16 upward trend as we move through time.

17

18 And then the last thing I wanted to bring
19 up is the sea otter issue. We hear -- you know, I'm
20 fairly new to the RAC, I hear us speak about it, I hear
21 us try to take actions on it. I was a little discouraged
22 about the response to what -- some of the efforts that
23 came out of this Council last spring, you know, what the
24 Board's response was back is that they appreciate that
25 we're considering it, but there's nothing that we can do.
26 And I really think that we need to stay on top of the
27 issue and be as active as possible because it does seem
28 to be something that concerns not only the members of the
29 RAC, but coming out of communities as well. And I'd like
30 to make a recommendation that since we're going to be in
31 Sitka next year or next spring that it would be
32 interesting, I know the Sitka Tribe and the Central
33 Council of Tlingit and Haida have been actively working
34 with US Fish and Wildlife Service as co-management and I
35 think that it -- I think it would be appropriate since if
36 we're going to be there if we could get a report back on
37 how that process is going and where -- you know, just be
38 able to share more information about what we can do to
39 help facilitate changes for regulations that manage sea
40 otters.

41

42 So and that's it. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

45

46 Mr. Bangs.

47

48 (In Tlingit)

49

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

1 Well, the -- around the Petersburg area we had a quite
2 wonderful summer, it produced a lot of berries, I've
3 never seen so many berries of all kinds, the harvest was
4 really good. And the king sockeye subsistence fishery
5 was you could almost say over successful, I think we went
6 way over the limit as far as the treaty, but it provided
7 good water levels for fishing, it was -- everyone was
8 real pleased with the way that fishery went. And we have
9 kind of the opposite problem with deer that you do here,
10 we're overrun in our town with deer. All the women are
11 angry and throwing rocks, they're eating all their tulips
12 and it's become an issue in the news even that there's
13 like the danger of deer. And so I wish we could ship you
14 some of them or something.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. BANGS: Another thing that is
19 concerning to the people is we -- another Atlantic farm
20 salmon was caught this summer and then shortly after that
21 it came out in the news that this new genetically
22 modified farm fish with genetics of an eel pout which
23 causes the growth rate to accelerate, that this is going
24 to be a wave of the future, it could jeopardize our wild
25 stocks. So that's kind of a concern. Maybe -- I don't
26 know if the Council could address that in any way, but it
27 is a growing concern.

28

29 And other than that I think that the town
30 had a good fishing season and everyone was looking
31 forward to the deer hunts coming up and very pleased with
32 the way the year's going.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you,
37 Mike. So lots of deer, huh. Don't you know that one of
38 the things that Raven told us to do is to share.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'd just like to
43 say a couple of things here, particularly in -- a couple
44 that Mr. Kookesh alluded to. I think one of the things
45 that the new review that has, you know, just recently
46 been released is that we should be really in -- we should
47 be heavily involved in policy as well. And so when you
48 talk about, you know, administrative procedures, the
49 Administrative Procedure Act, I think we can probably,
50 you know, categorize that there as well as the 15 fish

1 per household. You know, it's -- if it needs to be
2 looked at then we need to approach it in that manner.
3 ANILCA hasn't charged us to do these things and as far as
4 I've been on this Council we haven't been heavily
5 involved in the issue of policy making and so forth, but
6 we need to learn a little bit more about that and how it
7 works, so my charge to you is to find out a little bit
8 more how we can be more involved in that.

9

10 But the -- let's see, what else. That's
11 it on the thing. What time is it, my -- I don't have my
12 watch with me.

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: 11:15.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Quarter after 11:00 and
17 so at 11:30 we depart for the field trip. I have to be
18 on a teleconference at noon and I understand that out
19 where you're -- we're going, you know, we're going to
20 lose our signal. So I'm going to stay here for a little
21 bit and catch up with you, Mr. Wright and I going to
22 catch up with you so I can participate in a
23 teleconference at noon.

24

25 So you want to adjourn now and get ready?

26

27 MR. LARSON: Could I have just a minute?

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No. Yes, have a half a
30 minute. Okay.

31

32 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Before we leave the room I would like to have a show of
34 hands to see who would be -- who has plans -- who is
35 planning on going on the field trip. I think we have
36 plenty of seats, but just to make sure I'd like a show of
37 hands of those people that want to participate. And the
38 idea is that we would leave here and meet at 11:30 down
39 at the Icy Straits Lodge for -- that's where we'll join
40 with the vehicles.

41

42 And one last thing, after our show of
43 hands we'll have a discussion of lunch and how to pay for
44 that. So show of hands, who's going to show, we'll just
45 get a count. Thirty one. I will be very close. We have
46 -- yes, we're going to be very familiar with our company
47 with our neighbors here. So we have seats for I think
48 about 28, but so I think we're -- I think we'll be okay,
49 we'll make some last minute adjustments and everybody
50 will have a seat. So meet there at 11:30.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in, State of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 48 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by our firm on the 28th day of September 2010, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Hoonah, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed 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 8th day of October 2010.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014