

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Yakutat, Alaska
9 October 6, 2009
10 9:22 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
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26 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Yakutat, Alaska - 10/6/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning everyone,
welcome to Yakutat. We'll start with introductions.

(Introductions)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And then we
have Lee over there, please, if you would introduce
yourself, Lee Benson.

MR. BENSON: I'm Lee Benson, I'm the
district ranger for the Forest Service in Yakutat. And
I'd like to on behalf of the Forest Service and myself
I'd like to welcome the Council to Yakutat. And
yesterday when it was all cloudy and rainy they said
that you guys really wanted some clear weather and
Susan pulled a few strings and made that happen for you
today. So.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, she's the one,
huh.

(Laughter)

MR. BENSON: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

MR. BENSON: You can thank Susan for
that. And I'd like to offer our assistance with any
needs you may have during your stay here, feel free to
call my office and -- or myself and anything we can do
to make your stay in Yakutat more enjoyable, let us
know.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you can help Tina
get well, we'd appreciate that.

(Laughter)

MR. BENSON: Well, we do have a clinic
if.....

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, she's going to
2 go there at noon. So.....
3
4 MR. BENSON: Good.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.
7
8 MR. BENSON: So, anyway, welcome to
9 Yakutat.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Lee. Okay.
12 We have some State people here.
13
14 MR. BARTEN: My name's Neil Barten,
15 Fish and Game in Juneau, Alaska.
16
17 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
18 of Fish and Game in Anchorage.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Pappas, welcome
21 back.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's ready, huh.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Judy, on
30 behalf of the tribe, please, if you'd just introduce
31 yourself.
32
33 MS. RAMOS: Welcome, and you're on our
34 traditional territory. I work for the Yakutat Tlingit
35 Tribe (indiscernible - away from microphone).
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we have some
38 community members, Mr. Fraker, you just want to
39 introduce yourself.
40
41 MR. FRAKER: Yeah, my name's Jeff
42 Fraker, I'm a commercial fisherman and a subsistence
43 user.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. And Mr.
46 Shodda.
47
48 MR. SHRUG: Good morning. I'm Rod
49 Shrug, Superintendent of the School District.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Mr. Shrug, have a
2 seat. I meant the other guy over there beside you.

3
4 MR. SHODDA: (Indiscernible).....

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir,
7 appreciate you coming down. Carrie Sykes.

8
9 MS. SYKES: Tlingit-Haida Central
10 Council.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Carrie.
13 Anyone else.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I guess everyone has
18 been covered. Okay. Let's move on. The next item is
19 to review and approve the minutes of February 4th,
20 2009.

21 Mr. Bangs.

22
23 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
24 move to approve the minutes of the prior meeting.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. And once
27 we get a second then we can open it up for discussion.

28
29 MR. KITKA: I'll second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Harvey.
32 Thank you. We are now open for discussion on the
33 minutes. I can't see very well this way because of the
34 sunlight so kind of, you know, shout.

35
36 Merle.

37
38 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I have a correction
39 on Page 7 under my comments. It's the last sentence.
40 Instead of -- she commented that statehood was a great
41 think. It should be thing.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

44
45 MS. HAWKINS:that forced the
46 State of Alaska to listen to Alaska Natives and allowed
47 additional legislation that was favorable to the
48 treatment of Native people. The -- natives should be a
49 big N.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle, so
4 noted. Anyone else.
5
6 (No comment)
7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.
11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
15 called for. All in favor please signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
24
25
26 Okay. The next thing on the agenda is
27 the Chair's Report. On Page 11 I think it starts the
28 -- it's very long, I'm -- I hope that everyone had a
29 chance to read it. There are issues that we have
30 talked about in this Council -- on this Council and
31 some of the issues have not been, you know,
32 satisfactory to our concerns. But if I can just, you
33 know, reiterate some of the things that we'd still like
34 to see on the table here.
35
36 The Makhnati Island area. The
37 subsistence people in Sitka are very deeply concerned
38 about the harvesting of herring, commercial herring in
39 that area. They feel that it interferes with their --
40 meeting their subsistence needs. And so that's
41 something that has, you know, been a subject of concern
42 for us for many, many years and we're still going to,
43 you know, pursue that. I know that there are some
44 photos that I was trying to get a hold of that does
45 demonstrate, you know, that there is some commercial
46 fishing that is taking place pretty close to that area,
47 but I'll have to contact John Littlefield and get some
48 more information on that.
49
50 Some of the special actions that we

1 have taken, you know, are also in that report so I
2 would really encourage you to go through this and if
3 you have any concerns during this time -- during the
4 process of our meeting, please feel free to bring them
5 up.

6

7 We still feel very strongly that RACs
8 should have the ability to do RFRs. And, you know,
9 we'll keep harping on that until we can figure out how
10 we can address it, we might want to bring that up as a
11 matter of discussion during this meeting as well.

12

13 We also feel that the Saxman rural
14 determination is an issue that we are still concerned
15 about. We'd like to see Saxman get separated from
16 Ketchikan as a community and, you know, if that happens
17 then it would automatically make them a rural community
18 where they would be able to enjoy that rural status.

19

20 And so, you know, there's a lot of
21 stuff in that report there, but you know, please dig
22 into it and find out.

23

24 I notice that in the fish monitoring
25 program that there's some funding for Yakutat to do
26 some surveys on the eulachon issue here. As you know
27 many of us have been concerned with the eulachons in
28 Southeast Alaska. We saw something happening down in
29 the Unuk River several years ago and then the State
30 closed it down because they just weren't returning. I
31 myself have seen a pattern, you know, work its way up
32 these way and I don't know whether it's weather, you
33 know, the winter -- lot of snow during the winter that
34 is causing it harder and harder for us to get, but I
35 know that the Situk River isn't getting its returns
36 like it used to so I'm happy that we're going to --
37 that's going be addressed. We've been harping about
38 that for years and years and now it looks like it's
39 going to be looked into.

40

41 With that, you know, I -- I think
42 that's about it as far as the Chairman's Report is
43 concerned. There is some correspondence there that you
44 need to look over. If you already haven't I would
45 encourage you to do that and, you know, address it if
46 you feel it necessary.

47

48 So any -- yes.

49

50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right now too it would
2 be a good time if you have any concerns that needs to
3 be brought forth for the annual report please feel free
4 to bring those issues up as well.

5
6 Questions, comments. Patty. Oh,
7 there's a caucus going on over there.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: I have comments on the
16 response to Issue No. 1 on the annual report.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: The last paragraph and
21 the last sentence, the Office of Subsistence Management
22 will work with Staff from National Marine Fisheries
23 Service, the Pacific Salmon Commission and the Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game to bring information on
25 incidental mortality of Southeast Alaska chinook salmon
26 to the attention of the Council as it is identified.
27 Has there been information identified that could be
28 brought to the Council's attention since this report
29 was written?

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I think maybe we
32 can probably have somebody give a report on that too,
33 but we do know that that's an ongoing, you know,
34 problem. And I don't have all of the details, you
35 know, right now, but I do know that there was a report
36 that was given. Oh, I can't remember who it was that,
37 you know, addresses those mortality catches.

38
39 MR. LARSON: I can speak to that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. But I just need
42 to, you know, express that this is a very serious
43 concern, the king salmon, you know, hasn't been going
44 into the -- was it the Kuskokwim and the Yukon River,
45 the closed it down up there and that really hurt the
46 people up in that area.

47
48 But anyhow, Robert, do you have
49 anything to add to that?

50

1 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The Staff
2 has really investigated that question prior to this
3 meeting and the answer is that it's a fairly
4 complicated issue and there's no ready answers for
5 exactly where and when the Southeast origin king salmon
6 are being intercepted. And it's a big picture, but
7 there's a lot of people that are interested in it, but
8 the information is not readily available. But it --
9 you know, during this meeting if there's topics that
10 need to be considered by the Council in developing a
11 annual report for 2009, then the Staff can investigate
12 those things and then report back on our next meeting
13 when that 2009 annual report is written. And if you'd
14 like us to do further investigation and try to come up
15 with some specifics on this topic we can do that, but
16 it has turned out to be a much more difficult question
17 when -- than what -- I think what the Council was
18 thinking was available at the time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up, Patty.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, the annual
23 report is a mechanism to bring issues of concern to the
24 Federal Subsistence Board and to the Secretary of
25 Interior and it's a good venue for us to build on,
26 knowledge as we learn. And while it is a difficult and
27 complicated issue and Staff is doing -- you know,
28 they're thinking, you know, doing problem solving about
29 it and thinking about it. It would be hard for us as a
30 Regional Council to respond and bring topics of
31 consideration if no new information is brought to us
32 concerning the item identified in our annual report.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
35 Patty. Any other comments or questions.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: On Issue No. 3 under
42 response about the -- where it says as outlined in the
43 memorandum of understanding between the Board and the
44 State, the Board and Federal Staff will take every
45 opportunity to work with the Alaska Department of Fish
46 and Game in developing and promoting a regulatory
47 proposal that improves management for the continuation
48 of subsistence uses while allowing adequate escapement
49 to meet Federal and State mandates. If the ADF&G or
50 the Alaska Board of Fisheries forms a committee to

1 address this issue the program will fund -- providing
2 funding for two council members to participate. Is
3 there a committee being formed or being considered to
4 be formed?

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Robert, do you have a
7 response to that. I do know -- no, it's okay, I'll
8 wait for my comment I think. Go ahead, do you have a
9 response for that.

10
11 MR. LARSON: I'm not aware that
12 the.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not that I know of.

15
16 MR. LARSON:that the Board has
17 met since the -- since last -- you know, since last
18 year when they addressed this issue over in Petersburg
19 and in Sitka. And I don't know that they've made any
20 further progress in that regard. So they're on a three
21 year schedule, maybe George would know, but I'm not
22 aware of any progress towards, you know, forming a
23 group there.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Towards what?

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Turn your mic on. Did
28 you turn your mic on?

29
30 MR. LARSON: Yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

33
34 MR. LARSON: No, the committee, I don't
35 -- I'm not aware that there's anymore progress made
36 towards forming that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm not aware either.

39
40 MR. LARSON: I think Cal maybe knows
41 something.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cal.

44
45 MR. CASIPIT: I'm trying to remember
46 where this item came up with and talking with George I
47 think we figured it out. As you all know back, I think
48 it was last winter when the Board of Fish met in Sitka,
49 there was a proposal before the Board of Fish to refine
50 the amounts necessary for -- this is under the State

1 program now, refine the amounts necessary for
2 subsistence for sockeye systems across Southeast. As
3 you all know, ANS currently is determined by the permit
4 area, so I think there's a Juneau permit area and, you
5 know, what have you. So there's five of these permit
6 areas across Southeast and the ANS amount was set based
7 on that permit area. That's the way it has been done.
8 The proposal from Kootznoowoo was to establish the ANS
9 amount based on the stock or population level which is
10 what's required under Alaska State statute.

11
12 During that whole subcommittee process,
13 through that Board of Fish process, there was a
14 proposal base -- the way they were moving was that they
15 weren't going to do it region wide, but they would try
16 doing it at a kind of pilot study level in the Angoon
17 area. And I think that's what this committee -- we
18 were basically pulling a committee together -- they
19 were talking about pulling a committee together to
20 figure out how to do that. And they were going to use
21 the Angoon area as a pilot study. As it turns out all
22 that was for naught, the Board of Fish took no action
23 on Kootznoowoo proposal so it kind of -- it ended there
24 at the Board of Fish. So since there is going to be no
25 pilot study I guess there's no reason to have this
26 committee. So that's where we're at.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So that is moot now
29 or.....

30
31 MR. CASIPIT: Somebody would have --
32 somebody's going to have to resubmit, the next Board
33 cycle, when it cycles back through Southeast,
34 somebody's going to have to resubmit another proposal
35 to ANS. So.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is not a
40 moot subject and in my opinion -- thank you, Cal, for
41 that explanation. Our RAC says that the Federal
42 Subsistence Board should work towards an agreement with
43 the Board of Fish to take -- to include sufficient
44 sockeye to streams with traditional subsistence use to
45 provide for subsistence harvest as well as escapement.
46 It doesn't say wait for Fish and Game or wait for the
47 Board of Fish to form a committee. And that's what the
48 response to us is, wait until they form a committee and
49 then we'll fund two people for it.

50

1 I think we're trying to emphasize that
2 we need a recognized amount necessary for subsistence
3 use and that perhaps if a Federal funded Staff could be
4 like the instigators or, you know, be the motivators to
5 get some information in place so that when the next
6 cycle -- Board of Fish cycle comes around we're ready
7 for it rather than reacting to it. I mean this whole
8 -- and then trying to deal with it in a crisis manner,
9 let's move in that direction in a more planning and
10 preparation thing, you know, we know that we have
11 sockeye streams, we know that we have community members
12 that go to them and harvest out of them, let's go to
13 them with some numbers rather than trying to jump on
14 the back end of a Board of Fish meeting going on with,
15 you know, no preparation at all.

16
17 That's my comment. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.
20 Pete, did you have something to offer.

21
22 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Pete Probasco with OSM. Patty, I hear your comments
24 very loud and clear and I -- they're very accurate. I
25 think there's a couple options before the Council on
26 how we can proceed this and we know the difficulties
27 that we -- come in as far as legal requirements for a
28 Board to form a committee. We've seen with the
29 Steelhead Work Group, we saw that with Unit 4 Deer.
30 Nothing precludes the Council from doing their own
31 process, their own committee to do this. Another
32 option that we could do is also recognizing the fact
33 that with these sockeye systems within Southeast you
34 both -- you have dual management, you have both State
35 and Federal, Federal in land waters, State marine
36 waters. So we do have to work together on this.

37
38 But since you're discussing areas of
39 concern you could also draft in your letter and you
40 wouldn't have to wait for your annual report reply, you
41 could do an independent letter to the Board encouraging
42 the Board to continue on a more fast track if you will
43 to try to develop something with the State. If we work
44 with the State and the State forms the committee then
45 we alleviate a lot of the legal concerns that we come
46 into when we try to work together under the Federal and
47 State umbrella.

48
49 So those are some of the options and I
50 think Ms. Phillips' comments are very valid that we

1 probably shouldn't wait for three years, that we need
2 to be more proactive, Mr. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Pete,
5 appreciate it, appreciate that.

6

7 I'd just like to recognize someone who
8 just walked in the door, Bert Adams, Jr., he's the
9 general manager for the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. He's a
10 very busy man so you'll probably see him pop in and
11 out. I know he's going to get ready to go on a
12 subsistence moose hunt in a couple days so we want to
13 wish him luck. Would you like to come up and say a few
14 words, Bert, to the Council?

15

16 MR. ADAMS: Do I have to?

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Come up there
21 and then turn that button on there so they can hear
22 you.

23

24 MR. ADAMS: Well, thank you. My name
25 is Bert Adams, Jr., I'm the general manager for the
26 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. I've been there 12, 13 years
27 and about eight years as a general manager. Our tribal
28 president is in Anchorage at a roads meeting or she
29 would be attending this. And we have a couple other
30 Council members at the ANB convention in Juneau this
31 week. So we won't have Council here today and so I was
32 asked by them to come in here and represent, I guess,
33 throughout the day and tomorrow as my schedule
34 provides. So I will be in and out of here.

35

36 And I'd like to welcome you guys to
37 Yakutat and you guys came with some lovely weather
38 which isn't usually the case, but you guys are lucky.
39 So welcome to Yakutat.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just stay there a
44 minute, Bert.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's my son, I can
49 tell him what to do here.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I'd just kind of be
4 curious if you'd like to share with the Council, you
5 know, where the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe stands on
6 subsistence issues and how involved you think the
7 Council is going to be in the future because we're
8 trying real hard as a Council to get more and more
9 tribal governments, you know, involved in -- we have to
10 compliment, you know, Carrie Sykes for taking the ball
11 and running with it on behalf of Central Council, but
12 do you have anything you can share with us as far as
13 how the YTT Council feels about subsistence issues and
14 how involved they want to be.

15

16 MR. ADAMS: Well, we are -- subsistence
17 is our way of life. You hear it time and time again
18 from any tribe that that's the way we not only lived in
19 the past, but live today. And I think that's very
20 important. The thing I could probably just comment on
21 that kind of relates to that -- that is going to relate
22 to it is a lot of our issues that we fight with the
23 State or the Feds, the tribe -- I know our tribe
24 focuses on subsistence and an example would take the
25 mining issue that's going to be facing us here in the
26 next -- well, it's facing us now and probably for the
27 next several years. Part of the fight on that and the
28 issue, the main issue that the tribe is going to take
29 will be the subsistence impacts that this industry is
30 going to have on our community. And that's going to be
31 -- that along with sacred sites is going to be our
32 biggest push. When we've -- when we've dealt with the
33 cruise industry and sitting down and talking to them,
34 the number 1 issue for us is subsistence impacts. So
35 most issues that are out there that are controversial
36 or what is, it all comes back to us to subsistence and
37 the impact it's going to have on our traditional way of
38 life. So subsistence is -- it it's not the number 1
39 thing within our tribe or tribes it is right up there
40 as a number 1 issue.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bert. Any
43 questions from the Council.

44

45 Gunalcheesh.

46

47 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate it. Okay.
50 Back to the -- back to the issues here on the annual

1 report.

2 Merle.

3

4 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. The --
5 on Page 16, Council meeting locations. Took me
6 basically 12 hours to get here yesterday from
7 Ketchikan, but basically they make it a monetary issue
8 and so I kind of disagree with how they criteria this.
9 But they said OSM issued a list of meeting locations,
10 maybe if we could get a copy of that we'd know. And
11 there's provisions for exceptions which is excellent.
12 And you have to provide justification for an alternate
13 location because I think we should be meeting in some
14 of the smaller villages and communities where they do
15 subsistence. I mean basically I'm from Ketchikan which
16 doesn't have rural status. And Saxman's soon to lose
17 their rural status so that's going to be a sad day.

18

19 The other one was alternate Council
20 members, Issue No. 11 on Page 17. I'm on the Tribal
21 Council and I did try to push a couple of our Council
22 members to apply for one of these positions. Because
23 we cover many other subjects in our tribal business and
24 this kind of takes away from it, but, of course, it's
25 our responsibility, but it would be very helpful to
26 share the load with other leaders in my community.

27

28 Thanks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle.
31 Those are comments that I was going to refer to when I
32 was making my reports too. But let me just add to that
33 a little bit. You know the funding for subsistence is
34 going to be reduced this year, this -- you know, in
35 this next budget. And so we're still going to be, you
36 know, fighting with, you know, a lot of issues like
37 holding meetings in places that we think are most
38 appropriate. Right now the OSM has said that we must
39 use a hub area like places where Alaska Airlines can
40 get to readily. This leaves out places like Hoonah,
41 Angoon and Kake, you know, and we strongly feel, you
42 know, that it's important for us to go out into those
43 communities and to listen to the people from those
44 communities in regards to subsistence because that's
45 where all of the problems are. And if we can hear
46 their problems and issues, you know, then I think we
47 can deal much better with them. What better place is
48 there to get information from places like Angoon, you
49 know, or Kake or some of those other smaller
50 communities that is not accessible, you know, to Alaska

1 Airlines. So yeah, I think -- those are issues that I
2 think, you know, we still need to keep on the table.

3

4

Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

5

6

MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, just
7 pick up the slack for you while you're thinking about
8 this. Originally when this issue came up the idea was
9 that it was to be communities only that received daily
10 jet service. I was the one that sat here and said if
11 we're going to do that then why don't we just go to hub
12 communities like Ketchikan and Juneau and leave it at
13 that, that's where it came from. It didn't come from
14 that it was hub areas with jet service, it was daily
15 jet service, communities that receive daily jet
16 service, the hub areas came from the fact that I know
17 that a lot of people that reside in Angoon or in that
18 area all come to Juneau. And the Prince of Wales
19 people all come to Ketchikan. If we're going to have a
20 budget problem let's go back to that hub concept and
21 just have our meetings in Juneau and Ketchikan. And if
22 there's a financial issue that you're talking about
23 which I'm sure always seems to exist, let's just have
24 it in those two communities and just leave it at that,
25 that way we'll serve everyone very well because like
26 she said -- like Merle just said, Ms. Hawkins said, she
27 traveled for 12 hours and -- to come here and we just
28 need to get this one straight. If there was a list I
29 never heard about a list, originally it was said that
30 it was just communities that receive daily jet service,
31 it had nothing to do with a list originally. But it
32 would be nice if we can start focusing on this the way
33 we're supposed to. If there's a cost comparison issue
34 that the coordinator's supposed to do on this, let him
35 do it. If there's a budget problem that can -- that
36 we'd be wasting his time, let's stop it right there and
37 just go to Juneau and Ketchikan and leave it at that if
38 that's what our Federal funding program is coming to.

39

40

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Mr.

41 Bangs.

42

43

MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 The way I feel about it is I don't think we should
45 restrict ourselves. If we want to go to a smaller
46 community and funding is an issue then we change our
47 location. But if we choose Angoon say this time next
48 year, let Staff try to figure out how we can get there
49 within the budget. If we can't then we don't, but I
50 don't think saying we need to go to hubs if the -- you

1 know, if the funding isn't there, I think we should
2 leave it open and have a chance to go wherever we want.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mr. Kookesh.

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, my
7 reason -- I shouldn't have listened to you because the
8 letter doesn't say there's a financial problem on the
9 response part, that money is not the issue. This is
10 their cost comparison, but doesn't say that we're
11 seeing a financial cut back at this time. So but Mr.
12 Bangs is right, maybe we can do the cost comparison, I
13 don't know what the budget looks like, we've never had
14 to deal with it, all our desire was to go to these
15 communities and to hear -- get community input so that
16 we can properly represent everyone on the issues.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Anyone else.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: A follow-up on my
25 previous comments about Issue No. 3 is this memorandum
26 of understanding between the Board and the State.
27 While it does say that the Board and Federal Staff will
28 take every opportunity to work with Fish and Game, as
29 far as the reciprocation goes I think that Fish and
30 Game is under a different set of mandates and is not so
31 willing to volunteer to take every opportunity to
32 provide necessary amounts for subsistence for our rural
33 residents. And as far as this memorandum of
34 understanding, I think that we need to as a Council see
35 what that memorandum is. I don't -- it's been a while,
36 if it's been brought to our attention it's -- I don't
37 really remember the contents of that. And I think some
38 of us would find some concern with that memorandum of
39 understanding.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

42 Mike.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 I'd like to add a little bit to that. Years ago when I
46 first got on this Council we were all -- went to
47 Anchorage for a big meeting with all the Councils and
48 virtually everybody was there. And we were sent a
49 draft memorandum of agreement that we were able to make
50 changes to and there were changes made there so

1 everybody had an opportunity to review it and change
2 and agree upon. This memorandum of understanding was
3 developed somewhere else, behind closed doors if you
4 will because we knew nothing about it and had no
5 participation in it which certainly I feel that we
6 should and even the AFN has protested it. And I don't
7 consider it a valid document because the RACs didn't
8 have an opportunity to weigh in on it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, very well -- a
11 point very well taken, Mike. We were pretty concerned
12 that the RACs did not have an opportunity to review
13 that MOU before it was passed. And so I don't know how
14 we correct things like that, I guess we just, you know,
15 keep screaming about it and hopefully things will
16 change. We have other issues, you know, like the Board
17 giving due deference, you know, to RACs and they
18 haven't -- that hasn't been happening in the past -- I
19 mean, in the recent past anyhow like the Makhmati
20 Island issue and Sitka herring harvest are real good
21 examples.

22

23 But anyhow, thanks. Anyone else.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: I want to add on to what
30 the -- both you -- Mike Douville and the Chair stated
31 and what we're having is a turnover at the upper levels
32 at OSM while we -- you know, those of us with longevity
33 on the RAC, can recall some of these things that have
34 happened we're -- you know, oftentimes there are new
35 staff at OSM level that don't remember that's how we
36 did it in the past and they're bringing their new
37 mechanisms of how they want it done now. And so we
38 need to have some consistency otherwise you start to
39 lose the progress that you've made to get where we're
40 at today or it starts to seem like a futile effort.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
45 Patty. Anyone else.

46

47 (No comment)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Back over to Item No.
50 11, you know, about the appointment of alternates. The

1 rationale here is that there probably doesn't need to
2 be one because we consist of 13 members already and,
3 you know, that shouldn't be such a problem meeting
4 quorums. So I just thought I'd bring that up.

5
6 Anyone else before we move on.

7
8 (No comment)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Item No. 7,
11 Council Reports.

12
13 MR. KOOKESH: Issue B.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: B. That's what we
16 were talking about.

17
18 MR. KOOKESH: Not much any longer.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That is part of my
21 report. Oh, the response to annual report. Yeah,
22 you're right. Thank you, Floyd.

23
24 We do have fisheries and resource
25 monitoring. I did go over that very lightly in my
26 earlier comments, but if there's anything that anyone
27 would like to bring up, please feel free to do so right
28 now.

29
30 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

33
34 MR. KOOKESH: I apologize, maybe I
35 misunderstood you. I thought we just got done with the
36 2008 report. Are we moving on to issues for 2009.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

39
40 MR. KOOKESH: I did have one, Mr.
41 Chairman. I don't know if it can be answered here at
42 the table or not.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go over that again,
45 you did have a comment or what?

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, on identify issues
48 for 2009 annual report. One of the ones that I have is
49 that we did have -- I was under the impression that Mr.
50 Hotch was no longer a member, that he had been replaced

1 and maybe I was wrong. But I also -- we just lost --
2 we just lost Mike C and I was wondering how that
3 process worked out for replacements because I know we
4 can -- for our next meeting we could have somebody on
5 board. And I was wondering based on that process that
6 we've all had to go through, where we all had to be --
7 where we all had to put in applications and we were
8 screened and we were interviewed and we were finally
9 selected and I was wondering how we fill a vacancy, do
10 you just randomly select or it's my opinion that we go
11 back through this process and I thought we'd get the
12 next best candidate that was eligible to be -- but I
13 just wanted that identified, I know it needs to be
14 identified as an issue to have -- to get a response
15 back from.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think that's a valid
18 question, Floyd, and I'm going to ask Pete to come up
19 and kind of answer that for you.

20

21 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Pete Probasco. Thank you, Mr. Kookesh, for the
23 question. The process for the vacancies, let's start
24 where we're currently act. The application process
25 that had been reviewed by the Board and recommendations
26 submitted to the Secretary currently sits in the
27 Secretary's office. Those people will eventually be
28 confirmed in time for your winter 2010 meeting. Recent
29 vacancies will be filled through this application
30 process which is currently underway and Mr. Larson has
31 applications for that however those people would not be
32 seated until the winter meeting of 2011.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's take the
35 -- by the way, Joe Hotch, you know, he was considering,
36 you know, not continuing on the Board. I did have a
37 talk with him one time and I kind of twisted his arm
38 and he agreed to stay on. As I mentioned earlier he's
39 in the hospital right now so I hope we can remember him
40 in our prayers. As far as the deceased individual is
41 concerned, would you just see how -- go through the
42 process of how that seat would be filled?

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, that seat
45 will remain vacant and will be filled through this
46 process. There is no special process that if a vacancy
47 occurs in between if you will, it remains vacant until
48 it's filled through the normal process, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

1 Thank you. Any other comments.
2
3 Thanks for bringing that up, Floyd.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Just one more.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.
8
9 MR. KOOKESH: And so that means, Mr.
10 Chair, that 15(b) -- is that correct, 15(b) is no
11 longer an issue, yeah, 15(b) is no longer an issue,
12 vacancies?
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (Inaudible -
15 microphone not on) sorry. There's some correspondence
16 for you guys to go over, you know, in the annual report
17 as well.
18
19 Let's go through the Council member
20 reports at this time and we'll start with Don, please.
21 Don, you got a comment, question.
22
23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, on the
24 correspondence.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.
27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Can you talk a little
29 bit about -- is that okay to talk about correspondence
30 now.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.
33
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. At our last
35 meeting the council directed you as Chairman to draft a
36 letter to the Regional Forester concerning Council
37 concerns with the Sealaska land transfer proposal
38 that's before Congress. And I've heard, you know, some
39 dissatisfaction with members from my community about
40 the content of that letter, they didn't think it was
41 really what the Council had -- all of what the Council
42 had meant to be included in the letter. And in talking
43 to other Council members, they tend to agree that the
44 letter got if you will watered down a little bit. So I
45 just -- maybe an explanation of, you know, how that
46 letter was drafted and why it -- the finished project
47 was what it was I guess.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Hernandez, I'd
50 have to look at the letter to get myself, you know, re-

1 orientated with it and I don't know whether we have
2 that with us, Mr. Larson, or not. I don't see it in
3 here. Maybe you can explain the concern that.....

4

5 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I can.
6 The last agenda item on our current agenda is the same
7 as it was at our previous meetings where we review and
8 approve of all correspondence, letters written by the
9 Council and actions taken by the Councils. And that
10 letter was distributed and reviewed by not only a
11 committee of -- a select committee of the RAC, but then
12 it was ultimately reviewed by the entire Council and
13 adopted. So that's a -- those letters that we wrote at
14 our last meeting are not in our Council book this --
15 but I have copies of those and we've had those, you
16 know, distributed since -- you know, since our last
17 meeting. But the letter that was sent was exactly the
18 letter that was written by the Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

21

22 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 If I recall we gave the ideas that we had and our
24 concerns about what was happening with that land
25 transfer and it was at the end of the meeting and the
26 letter was written, but it wasn't discussed by the
27 Council, it was emailed to the Council. I got an email
28 of it and it wasn't what I thought we expressed
29 concerns about. And I'm where Don is, I was real
30 confused as to what happened to the Council's input in
31 that letter, it just didn't seem to be what we had
32 discussed.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'd have to
37 look at the letter and then maybe we can -- you know,
38 if you have copies with you here maybe we can look at
39 it together and see, you know, where the concerns are.
40 But I was under the impression that when the email, you
41 know, was sent out for all of the Council members to
42 review that you had an opportunity to express your
43 concerns or, you know, edit it or make any changes that
44 you felt necessary. So with no response back, you
45 know, the letter then was signed and sent out.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: If there were comments
2 returned I would have liked to have seen them because,
3 you know, it's not -- I don't really know the issue
4 like those who are on the south end would know it. And
5 we did have community members specifically attend the
6 Petersburg meeting to express their concerns with that
7 Sealaska land exchange or whatever, you know, land
8 claim. So I -- you know, the value of a RAC is that we
9 get to interact with one another. If a letter goes out
10 and the replies are only going to one or two
11 individuals and the rest of us aren't hearing those
12 concerns then that interaction isn't fully vetted.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I guess we're
17 just going to have to watch that closer in the future.
18 So it's a note well taken.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 And if we can get a copy of that letter
23 sometime, you know, I'd like to be able to get the
24 group to look at it.

25
26 Any other concerns. Yes. Go ahead,
27 Patty.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Is that -- Mike asked
30 can we -- you know, can it be readdressed and that was
31 my same question, can we bring it up further down on
32 the agenda and.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS:after we review our
37 correspondence?

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I think we
40 could. Yep. Okay. Yeah, we could do that, Patty.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Comments. Can we move
45 on. Council reports and we'll start with you, Donald,
46 please.

47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman. My concerns are -- I'll address my concerns
50 for the folks that -- from my community's the north end

1 of Prince of Wales Island for the most part, however I
2 would like to start my concerns with a specific item
3 that was brought to my attention recently in Petersburg
4 and that was from a resident of the City of Kupreanof.
5 Apparently in the subsistence halibut fishery under
6 National Marine Fisheries, the shark cards that we all
7 have in our possession for rural residents, for some
8 reason residents of Kupreanof and folks that live on
9 the Wrangell narrows outside of Petersburg were
10 excluded from the opportunity to get those shark cards.
11 And I know it was some kind of a snafu in their
12 regulation process that supposedly I think I've heard
13 was going to be addressed, but he -- this individual
14 asked me if there's -- you know, just to let the people
15 in this room know that they still don't have that
16 resolved and if there's anybody here today who has any
17 kind of knowledge of the -- what's happening with the
18 National Marine Fisheries Service on that issue I'd
19 appreciate being informed if I could so I could report
20 back to them.

21

22 And as far as the residents in -- my
23 community's the north end of Prince of Wales Island,
24 our main concern continues to be what will happen with
25 the bill before Congress right now on the Sealaska land
26 transfer. And this week is kind of an important event
27 taking place in Washington, D.C. on this coming
28 Thursday, October 8th, there is a hearing before the
29 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where
30 that bill will be discussed. So we are anxious to hear
31 what the outcome of the committee process will be on
32 that bill. So that, of course, does affect a lot of
33 users from throughout the Region who use that area for
34 subsistence purposes. So it should be of interest to
35 everybody in the Region.

36

37 And the other concern for our area is
38 kind of a big picture concern. The Tongass Futures
39 Roundtable which we've had reports from in the past is
40 still in the process of working through what may result
41 in some significant changes in land uses throughout the
42 Tongass. And some of what they discuss will definitely
43 affect folks on Prince of Wales Island and their
44 subsistence activities. And the Roundtable just met
45 this previous weekend in Anchorage and I haven't heard
46 any concrete results of what was discussed up there,
47 but also if anybody has any new information on what
48 took place at those meetings it might be something that
49 could be reported to the Council as well.

50

1 So thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Don. Mr.
4 Douville.

5

6 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 The only real area of concern -- we have a lot of
8 concerns, but the -- one important one as I mentioned
9 at our last meeting is herring spawn. And we have a --
10 seemed like a pretty strong pound fishery there that's
11 catching the majority of the herring. And the pound
12 fishery is doing well, but the natural spawn is not.
13 And it's getting smaller and smaller. And Fish Egg
14 Island traditionally has been the spawning ground since
15 anybody can remember and for the last three years
16 there's been no spawn on it. But it's not something
17 that we can really deal with, but it is a concern. And
18 while the pound fishery gets stronger, the natural
19 spawn gets weaker. So I don't know where it will all
20 end, but certainly it needs to be looked at by if not
21 us individuals at least.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And where is this
26 taking place at, Mike?

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: In Craig.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Craig. Okay.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: It's the spawn is
33 getting smaller and.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE:kind of fragmented
38 at times, but the -- the only reason that you haven't
39 really heard a lot of noise about is the people that
40 live there are getting their eggs not so much branches,
41 but they're getting the kelp from a few -- two or three
42 little, small spawn areas and they virtually pick it
43 all.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. DOUVILLE:so they're still
48 able to get enough to eat, but the overall picture is
49 not right, know what I mean. So if they didn't get
50 those and most of our branches come from people like

1 Harvey in Sitka, but -- because we don't have the
2 opportunity to do good branches there anymore because
3 there's in my opinion much less herring than there used
4 to be.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Interesting. Okay.
7 Thank you.

8
9 Patty.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I'm also going to talk a little bit about herring. The
13 herring abundance in the Lisiansky Inlet is phenomenal,
14 there is miles of herring in the Lisiansky Inlet in May
15 of 2009. It was just incredible the amount of herring
16 that was in there. We do not have any directed
17 fisheries in Lisiansky Inlet to worry about like some
18 of the other areas do and we really want to keep it
19 that way because we have a lot of king salmon that come
20 in and feed. You know, we have a winter king salmon
21 fishery that -- the troll fishery, our local troll
22 fleet makes a livelihood on. And that the spawn on the
23 herring branches was -- I've never seen it so thick and
24 I took my son up with me, my 15 year old son and we
25 went and set branches. And his -- the spawn on his
26 branches was a lot thicker than the spawn on my
27 branches. But one thing I observed was some of the
28 fishermen from the Hoonah Sound pound fishery were out
29 on the outside of West Chichagof gathering that kelp
30 and it's, you know when you don't normally see that
31 sort of stuff going on you're like what are they doing
32 in our backyard, but, you know, we all got to make a
33 livelihood.

34
35 Deer -- the deer numbers in our area
36 are down, but we continue to observe deer in our
37 traditional areas in sufficient numbers. The lower
38 salmon prices, higher fuel costs and lack of employment
39 opportunities makes access to subsistence resources
40 very important to our community.

41
42 And I have a comment on -- I'm -- I
43 should have brought it up under my minutes, I had notes
44 here, I'm sorry. The Council developed recommendations
45 for two issues identified in the 2008 annual report,
46 wildlife regulations and in-season management.
47 Understand land use decisions that could affect access
48 to or habitat of deer on Federal public lands. The RAC
49 received periodic schedule of proposed actions, SOPA,
50 timber sales, mineral exploration, expansion, sand

1 pits, et cetera, greater areas of land are identified
2 for resource development. To be consistent with ANILCA
3 land managing agencies must work closely as specified
4 in ANILCA, Section 802(3). Except as otherwise
5 provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal
6 land managing agencies in managing subsistence
7 activities on the public lands and in protecting the
8 continued of all wild renewable resources in Alaska,
9 shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land
10 managers including native corporations, appropriate
11 State and Federal agencies and other nations.

12

13 That's my report. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

16

17 Mr. Bangs.

18

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

20 Well, in Petersburg two major concerns that have been
21 coming up, one is a repeat, you know, we're all gravely
22 concerned with sea otters, it's just -- it's starting
23 to -- like a snowball affect, they're coming in to the
24 way inside waters now. And there's a lot of impact to
25 not only subsistence users, but the people that make
26 their livelihood, shellfish fisherman and whatnot, and
27 so that's a growing concern and we're -- we just don't
28 know what to do about it, you know, it's -- take a
29 Congressional act to change any of the regulations
30 regarding the harvest. But anyway that was one of the
31 concerns.

32

33 But another concern that keeps coming
34 up and I get phone calls asking questions that have to
35 do with the confusion over dual management. And the
36 biggest problem that I'm -- you know, that's brought to
37 my attention is the confusing regulations on -- you
38 know, you have a designated hunter on the Federal side,
39 you have a proxy hunter on the State side for deer and
40 yet when you go out in the woods you don't know if
41 you're on State land or Federal land, you don't know if
42 it's legal or illegal. And it's just something that I
43 really would urge the Council to work towards what --
44 we've worked a little bit on it already, but to try to
45 clarify and to simplify the regulations so that we
46 could work with the State to make it less confusing to
47 subsistence users and sport hunters. It's just -- it's
48 just a real mess and it's maybe getting better, but I
49 think we really need to work hard at trying to clarify
50 the regulations and work with the State on this.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.

4

5 Mr. Kitka.

6

7 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
8 concerns in Sitka are basically the same as they've
9 been in -- for the last few years. And that -- one of
10 the big concerns in the herring issue is not getting
11 some of the response that we thought we'd get. We know
12 there's going to be upcoming funding for the 2010, that
13 herring study for the -- that was put in for the tribe
14 was -- is being considered to be not funded. There's
15 concerns because the herring issue even though the
16 herring spawned in our traditional spots last year and
17 it doesn't guarantee that they'll spawn in our
18 traditional harvest areas. Basically harvestable stock
19 is something that is different from commercial fishing
20 stock basically if you look at it from two different
21 points of view because the commercial fishing areas are
22 wide and varied and they can move where they want to
23 whereas the subsistence harvest areas are kind of set
24 in place where mother nature kind of allows us to
25 subsist in those areas. And this is one of the big
26 issues.

27

28 The other issue is also like Mike says
29 was the sea otter. The sea otter is even though right
30 now most of the areas in Sitka Sound the sea otter have
31 moved away, that still doesn't change the fact that
32 they decimated the area and made it almost impossible
33 for us to harvest our shellfish. We know that at a
34 certain point they'll eat themselves out of house and
35 home and move on or else die. And knowing that they're
36 moving to the inside waters now and seeing them in
37 places that we never saw them before in the inside
38 waters, knowing the -- all the different people that
39 harvest different things in there are going to suffer
40 because of it. This has been a concern and we need to
41 be able to talk about it or do something about it
42 within the future.

43

44 Basically those are the two most
45 concerns about the fishing and other things that are --
46 have been a part of subsistence as far as the National
47 Marine Fisheries goes, it's -- we don't deal with here,
48 but we were concerned that it would be nice to have
49 somebody go to those meetings and address it from the
50 Council point of view.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
4 The report I'm going to give to you is pretty much the
5 same, you know, concerns that you've all addressed, but
6 more particularly the sea otters and dual management.
7 We have a gentleman that's going to come in this
8 afternoon who's going to address sea otter issues for
9 us. I don't know, you know, what kind of a report he's
10 going to give or if he has any answers, but at least I
11 think it would be worth listening and I hope the
12 Council has a lot of questions and even suggestions to
13 offer him.

14

15 On the dual management issue it's
16 something that we deal with all -- everyday as
17 commercial and subsistence, you know, users. I keep
18 saying, you know, that if the State would only come in
19 compliance with ANILCA then all our problems would be
20 solved and it would be on their lap, you know, to
21 manage those resources. But it doesn't look like it's
22 ever going to happen and so we're going to have to deal
23 with this, you know, probably for as long as we all sit
24 on these chairs.

25

26 What I'd like to do now and I can't
27 think of anything else locally to share with you -- oh,
28 yeah. Oh, I do have something to share with you. It's
29 in regards to the moose. Last year they had to reduce
30 the moose count, you know, on this side of the
31 Dangerous River from what it is, 30 -- 25 to 20. And
32 it looked like, you know, the moose populations was
33 going to start getting healthy again, but just recent
34 special action has come out where they're going to keep
35 it, you know down to 25 or 20 on this side. The real
36 big concern for that is the cow -- the bull/cow ratio.
37 I think it was a couple, three years ago it was very,
38 very low, but they feel, you know, that a healthy
39 bull/cow ratio is 25 to every 100 cows, 25 bulls to
40 every 100, it was way down to about half of that, 10 or
41 11 or something like that, you know, a couple, three
42 years ago. And I think it started improving up, we'll
43 get a report from Neil here sometime, you know, later
44 on during our course action. But it looks like, you
45 know, they're not very comfortable with that count
46 again so they're going to keep it down to 20 on this
47 end again.

48

49 So I'd just like to share with you, you
50 know, my -- I was up at Glennallen for an SRC meeting

1 and I'll just go over a couple items here that I wrote
2 down in regards to that meeting. It was very short,
3 just like we expect this one to be. There were no
4 wildlife proposals to consider. However I was
5 impressed with the number of local people who are
6 coming to our meetings. In the past we've always had
7 that problem. And sometimes we see that happening, you
8 know even with our RAC meetings. But I was impressed
9 with the number of people and the caliber of people
10 that came. Donna Hicks who was here at this meeting
11 last year -- last year, our SRC meeting, was also there
12 and she gave some opening remarks. Mick Steward, a
13 superintendent gave a report about how the Park is
14 hiring a lot of seasonal youth people, we think that's
15 a good one. And also one other concern that the
16 Commission has is this issue of local hire. And, you
17 know, it is a problem, but I think, you know, that the
18 Park is really working hard at it. It's very hard to
19 get into, you know, the work force if you don't have a
20 degree or a lot of experience. So I think that's some
21 of the issue that they're trying to deal with.

22

23 She also announced that John Jarvis, I
24 don't know whether -- how many of you know him, but he
25 used to be the superintendent of Wrangell St. Elias
26 Parks, is now the Director of the National Parks in the
27 U.S. And then Meg Steward also made a big plug for,
28 you know, the public television films about National
29 Parks, I don't know whether you guys have been watching
30 it or not, but it's on PBS, it's still going and I
31 think the last series is going to be on the Wrangell
32 St. Elias Parks and Preserve.

33

34 Several elders, you know, sat through
35 most of the day and one of them, a guy by the name of
36 Harding Ewan asked to make a comment because he had to
37 leave earlier that afternoon. And his comment was in
38 regards to the National Park Service regulations about
39 the use of chainsaws in subsistence use of timber in
40 Unit 11. This -- his comment was that he believed that
41 they should be able to continue to use chainsaws
42 without permit for cutting timber or firewood. I have
43 some paperwork here that deals with, you know, that
44 particular issue. It's pretty much involved and in
45 detail, but it seems like a lot of people, you know,
46 are not too happy with the noise that it causes in
47 those quiet areas. We have this on our agenda as well
48 so we'll be talking about that, you know, sometime
49 either today or tomorrow.

50

1 There was also a discussion about OHVs
2 and the Park is encouraging use of designated trails
3 just like we are trying to do here, but it's a hard
4 thing to deal with and to manage as well.

5
6 Staff member, I was impressed with the
7 report that Eric Veach who's a Staff of National Parks,
8 he gave an interesting report on sockeye escapement in
9 several weirs. I was impressed with the amount of
10 sockeye escapements through the Tanada Creek weir for
11 2009. Since 1998 there was an average, and I just
12 averaged it out, you know, for -- on my own, there's an
13 average of about 7,400 with a low of about 1,600 in
14 2002 to 29,000 as a high for 1998. However 2009
15 escapement was about 38,200 which is a real big leap
16 from the previous year which was only 2,800.

17
18 Staff also gave a report on the fire --
19 forest fires that were taking place in the Park. These
20 were small and I inquired about whether they were
21 responsible for sending all of that smoke to our area,
22 you know, during the nice clear days during July. They
23 wouldn't take responsibility for that and blamed it on
24 Denali Park fires.

25
26 Anyhow, you know, that's about -- you
27 know, again the meeting was pretty short, we did it all
28 in one day. And I need to tell you that when we go to
29 the calendar our next meeting is tentatively set for
30 the week of March 8, 2010 and we hope it will be in
31 Gulkana at the AHTNA Heritage Cultural Center.

32
33 Okay. Mr. Kookesh, please.

34
35 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Earlier I
36 confused No. 4 with No. 7 and I want to apologize, it
37 probably had a lot to do with the fact that you're
38 letting us go at 3:00 o'clock for good behavior.

39
40 But to do it on the reports, I have a
41 few items here that I'd like to talk about. I'd like
42 to go through the easiest one first which is -- when we
43 were doing introductions I just said I was from Angoon,
44 I didn't say that I was a charter boat operator and
45 that I was a sport fisherman and that I also subsist.
46 But from my experience in being a charter boat operator
47 since 1980, I've had opportunity to observe the Angoon
48 area and to watch what's going on out there in the
49 water. And it's been my observation these last few
50 years that we've seen a strong decline in the coho

1 fishery. And we've also seen like in the last few
2 years we used to have herring, it would be like raining
3 on the surface from Danger Point to Parker Point, like
4 five miles, six miles long, just solid herring. And
5 we've seen that disappear. We don't know what's going
6 on. If I was a biologist I could justify its
7 disappearance and learn to live with it, but I'm not.
8 So but that's been my observation in watching those
9 two. On the halibut side, we haven't seen a decline in
10 halibut. Halibut stocks for us have been very healthy.
11 And this is a charter boat operator, fishing almost
12 everyday. So that's been my observation as a charter
13 boat, that's my first item.

14

15 My second item that I have is that on
16 Friday I'm to be on a panel at the Grand Camp on
17 subsistence. It's from 10:00 to 12:00 and I'm supposed
18 to -- the discussion I am supposed to carry is Federal
19 subsistence management and they want me to talk about
20 issues of Federal subsistence, what I've seen and they
21 want me to be very open and use my own words and to
22 tell it the way I see it. And I know from being on
23 this RAC that normally when we speak on issues we speak
24 on only what we've done as a body. And I do know that
25 being on here since 1999 I'll have a lot of
26 information. I believe they want me to be brutally
27 honest, but I try to tone it down, I'm trying to work
28 on something here. But the one thing that I have to
29 say about the meeting, being on that panel, is that
30 issues that come to mind is about all of us talking
31 about Board of Fish, Federal subsistence. When we're
32 talking about it it's been my observation that we all
33 seem to be passing each other in the night, that we're
34 not on the same page, that we're all doing our own
35 thing basically. And that's to be my observation, it's
36 not just pointing a finger at this body, it's also
37 something in -- within the Native community where you
38 see us passing each other in the night, see Alaska
39 Corporation doing its thing, you know, putting \$125
40 million in their pocket, but only being number 24th in
41 the State, which is sad, but -- richest corporation.
42 And Wacentra (ph) Council doing their thing and to
43 watch ANB -- ANS, everybody doesn't seem to be on the
44 same page and that's what my being brutally honest is
45 going to be about. And also to talk about the
46 rural/urban divide. We talked about shark cards, but
47 we also don't mention and it's going to be a part of
48 this process and I'm just giving you an overview is
49 that we're talking about urban indians and rural
50 indians, the same guys who have the same kind of food

1 in their freezer and in their shelves. I could go to
2 Juneau to Bob Loescher's house which I did the other
3 day and he has the same thing I have and he says just
4 because I'm urban, he said I'm still a Native. And
5 what we've allowed ourselves to do is to be divided and
6 conquered. You're acting like an urban indian so you
7 think you're supposed to be a spaghetti eater and
8 you're supposed to give up your ways of life of your
9 father's people's life. I mean that's just to give you
10 an overview. I'm going to do this on Friday. I don't
11 know how many minutes I have, I don't know if I should
12 ignore people and just keep going or -- and talk, but
13 that's something I just want to let you know. And
14 that's a regional issue, like I said we're going to
15 have all the communities from the Grand Camp there at
16 this forum and I'm proud to be part of it.

17

18 And the third thing is the Albert
19 Kookesh issue and that hasn't gone unnoticed. Someone
20 even asked me, they said too bad you didn't get caught
21 with them, that would have been really good. I was
22 probably out charter fishing or doing something else.
23 But yeah, they said that, you know, it's a good thing
24 they caught my brother, but I think you picked on the
25 wrong guy, some people say you picked on -- got the
26 right guy, but I think they got the wrong guy. But the
27 issue here is it's not just about Angoon and we're
28 talking about the proposals that went to Board of Fish
29 and how that process got kicked out the door, you know,
30 basically.

31

32 And what we're talking about with the
33 Albert issue, my brother Albert's issue is is it legal
34 to make subsistence illegal. Why are we -- why are
35 they picking on -- why are they picking on these poor
36 guys that are running around in -- I'll give you a good
37 example, I was sitting there in a big southeast --
38 inside Danger Point trolling and I'm watching three
39 dots coming from eight miles out, three dots coming
40 across Chatham Straits in a southeasterly and it was a
41 real nice southeasterly. Three little dots, finally
42 they kept getting bigger and bigger and here was three
43 Lunds, guys running around in 15 horses, the fastest
44 boat was 25. They just watch those guys coming across
45 and these guys are putting their life on the line for
46 subsistence and they got to watch what they're doing or
47 they're going to be cited by law enforcement if they
48 get one more than they're supposed to. So anyway the
49 idea is it's bringing up a whole bunch of issues and
50 like I said it was brought by my attention, my -- it

1 would be nice if you had got caught.

2

3 And the other question is why are we
4 having a voluntary closure and why do they have us down
5 to 15 when they've extended the -- just like that
6 (finger snapping) they extended commercial fishing
7 until the 30th, usually closing it on the 20th and all
8 of a sudden they're closing commercial fishing --
9 they'd given them an extension just like that, no
10 questions asked. Yet we're struck with 15 and a whole
11 bunch of sockeyes and how come they don't extend that.
12 And people were asking me these questions. And they're
13 asking why are they not monitoring or are they
14 monitoring the commercial bycatch. Why are they just
15 picking on the little subsistence guys, guys running
16 around in Lunds, guys out there trying to get 15, you
17 know, my brother says it's like nine meals or something
18 like that. And then there's nothing really to it.

19

20 But, Mr. Chairman, that concludes my
21 three. Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.

24

25 Merle.

26

27 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I'm.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, just a minute.
30 Just a minute. Go ahead, Tina.

31

32 REPORTER: (Inaudible - away from
33 microphone).....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Everything's okay?

36

37 REPORTER: Everything's okay. Please
38 use your microphone, I recognize all your voices, thank
39 you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

42

43 REPORTER: Please use the microphones.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you.

46

47

48 Go ahead, Merle.

49

50 MS. HAWKINS: Oh. Yeah, this is Merle

1 Hawkins. Yeah, my memories just keep going back to
2 when I was a kid every Friday at school we had halibut
3 and we had a Norwegian cook and she'd roll the halibut
4 in butter and then in bread crumbs. And I look at the
5 menus now and they have hot dogs and pizza and
6 hamburgers and I feel sorry for those kids. You know I
7 was born and raised in Ketchikan, but so I'm an urban
8 indian which I always prided myself on, but I always
9 had connections to my family from Hydaburg and Dolly
10 Garza, past Council member, her husband's going to take
11 a chief's name on November 14th in the Skidaget. So
12 just wanted to let everyone know that. If you want
13 more information I can forward that to you, but I'm
14 sure you're all welcome to attend. And so my memories
15 just go back and when I was a kid we used to always go
16 down to the docks to get our food, get buckets of
17 eulachons and bring them home and didn't cost us much.
18 When Joe Demmert was around we'd go down to get our
19 herring eggs, our Easter eggs, the float would almost
20 be under water because just the grapevine. So things
21 have changed so much. And this year I was able to get
22 herring eggs from Sitka, a friend of mine went up there
23 and I paid the money to bring it home and then
24 distributed some to the elders in the community and
25 then our elders care program sent Staff up there to
26 bring some also and they shared with our elders. So
27 how we get our food is changing.

28
29 Also I've noted a lot of Fish and
30 Wildlife Staff being really heavy handed with
31 enforcement of anything from eagle feathers to sea
32 otter to halibut and people even getting citations for
33 digging clams without having a fishing license. Well,
34 I didn't even know I needed a fishing license to go and
35 dig clams. So I think educating our community members
36 is part of our job and I've been working with Carrie,
37 Tlingit-Haida, their work group on doing that and
38 trying to help with that because we do need to educate
39 people. And so that -- it's just frustrating as a
40 Haida to have to get a permit to go out in the forest
41 to harvest plants because I'm -- my summer job I go and
42 harvest devil's club on private land otherwise you need
43 a special forest product permit and sell devil's club
44 necklaces. So I go out and use the resources that God
45 gave us and Tlingit-Haida and Tsimshian people have
46 been doing it for thousands of years. So I work for
47 myself.

48
49 And also Saxman is separate from
50 Ketchikan. They have a separate tribe, IRA, separate

1 city, separate Regional corporation or village, Cape
2 Fox. They just opened up their community center and I
3 went to the grand opening. KIC just got a seat on the
4 Tongass Futures Roundtable. So I just try to be out in
5 the community and help people as I can and going to
6 work closer with our tribe in educating people and so
7 I'll have more comments when we get to governing the
8 special actions.

9

10 So glad to be here in Yakutat. Thank
11 you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle. Why
14 don't we take a 10 minute break and be back here at
15 according to my time 10 after. So I'll use my clock.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, folks, we're
22 back in session now. I need to correct myself on the
23 moose issue, my report I gave a little while ago.
24 Instead of it being knocked down from 20 to 25 or 25 to
25 20, it's 30 to 25. So we're still in pretty good
26 shape, but I was surprised that neither Susan nor Neil
27 didn't, you know, jump up and wave their hands and
28 correct me, but they did it afterwards. So thank you.

29

30

31 We're at that part of the agenda now
32 where we take public testimony. If there's anyone who
33 has signed -- you need to sign up over here, there's a
34 blue sheet that you need to fill out and give it to
35 either Melinda or Mr. Larson here. So we have Jeff
36 Fraker, please come forward, please. Sit in that chair
37 there and turn on the microphone. The floor is all
38 yours.

39

40 MR. FRAKER: Yes, my name's Jeff
41 Fraker, I'm 42 years old, I've lived in Yakutat my
42 whole life. My family is big moose hunters. I think
43 people have lost the reality of what subsistence is all
44 about. To limit subsistence to a household, myself as
45 a subsistence user, we've dug last year we talked about
46 my family did last night, over 15 five gallon buckets
47 of clams. We probably consumed on a high side five.
48 We gave away lots to the elders, to neighbors, we
49 shared. We catch a large number of salmon subsistence
50 fishing, over 100 easily, over 100 salmon a year. My

1 family does not eat 100 salmon. We put up this year
2 smoked strips, we put up 19 cases of smoked strips. I
3 counted last night, I have seven. We did not eat but
4 maybe one case. We donated to the pot latch, we
5 donated -- my children went around when they were done
6 doing their berries, making their jams and handed out
7 smoked strips, fresh pack and jams to elders around the
8 community. Moose hunting, last year my family
9 harvested two moose. When it was all said and done I
10 had half a moose in my freezer because we shared with
11 people that aren't -- grandmothers, grandfathers.

12

13 You're going to restrict on this right
14 here, you're going to restrict families' chances of
15 getting a moose. Okay. I have -- I'm leaving tomorrow
16 afternoon with my family, we're going to have four
17 shooters. Under this new law if it's passed you're
18 taking away 75 percent of my chance to get a moose. I
19 will only be able to have one shooter because if I put
20 four shooters out there and two of them get a moose for
21 my house, we have broken the law. You're taking away a
22 privilege of me being able to give my children, which
23 are (indiscernible 10:18:40) opportunity to share
24 subsistence moose with other members of the community.
25 Over the years I can only think of one moose that has
26 gone to waste and that did not come from my family,
27 that come from another family, they shot a moose before
28 dark and the moose slipped away on them and they didn't
29 find the moose until the following afternoon. I helped
30 them find that moose, a whole bunch of us did, we put a
31 lot of effort to find that moose. We found that moose,
32 but the weather was like this right here and it soured,
33 it was a sad thing. We brought it to my house, I tried
34 to find any part of it that was salvageable, we
35 couldn't.

36

37 Well, my family like I say tomorrow if
38 next year if I go subsistence moose hunting I'm going
39 to be allowed one shooter in the trees from the 8th of
40 October to the 15th, but yet opening day on the 15th
41 Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith and their teenage son can fly
42 into Yakutat, go out here, go moose hunting and have
43 three shooters in the field, shoot three moose under
44 sport regulation that comes off of the same quota that
45 our subsistence moose comes off of. Now what is just
46 in that. There is no just in that at all. There is
47 not moose being wasted in the community. Moose is
48 spread out throughout our community. There's been
49 times when my family -- my friends, their whole family
50 across the street, they got teenage boys, husband and

1 wife that work, they had meetings and stuff and they
2 couldn't participate in the moose hunt. My family took
3 by and give those two households a whole moose, just
4 gave it to them because my family is able to shoot more
5 than one moose. I got eight to 10 people that live in
6 my household. If you shoot, which is the preferred
7 moose, a one and a half to two and a half year old
8 bull. After you bone it all out, de-hide it, package
9 it all up, you are lucky, lucky if you got 350 pounds
10 of meat off of one moose. Everybody thinks that this
11 moose is a great big giant thing, you look at the ones
12 in the airport, you know, it's a 1,200, 1,400 pound
13 animal, that is not the animal that we prefer to shoot
14 subsistence hunting. Rarely do we shoot those unless
15 that's the only opportunity we have. To see this
16 scares me because you're setting a precedence by saying
17 well, your subsistence family does not have as much
18 priority as this person from Juneau's family that's
19 sport hunting. We're going to give him more
20 opportunity to harvest an animal than we are your
21 family that has lived here their whole lives. I find
22 injustice in that.

23

24 And back to the fish again. I'm only
25 on here for the moose, but I'd like to state on the
26 fish also. Yakutat is its own area. We have two
27 directed fisheries here. We have a gillnet fishery and
28 we have a troll fishery. We're not like Southeast,
29 we're not even classified with Southeast. We don't
30 have a seine fleet that can intercept a school of
31 sockeyes bound for the Situk out here like they can do
32 in Angoon in Kootznoowoo Bay or something. We don't
33 have driftnetters that can pound out 150 or 300 fathom
34 driftnet that could intercept fish. We've got a micro
35 managed fishery here that Fish and Game is doing their
36 best and have done pretty good in managing to make sure
37 that we have enough fish above the weir to justify a
38 commercial fishery. Subsistence will always flourish
39 and prosper as long the commercial fishery flourishes
40 and prospers because subsistence is supposed to have
41 priority use over commercial. If our commercial
42 fishery goes down and falters the next thing that's
43 going to be regulated is our subsistence and the sport
44 fishery. Right now in Yakutat all three flourishes. I
45 haven't seen no waste come off of our subsistence
46 salmon, I have never in my life went to the Situk River
47 or out here in Yakutat Bay and set a net and every fish
48 that I caught went to my family. It does not, I always
49 share, our family always shares and my family is not
50 the only family that have these standards. Subsistence

1 is about sharing. I don't believe that my children's
2 ancestors in the middle 1800s, their families went out
3 and gathered food specifically for their families. I
4 don't believe that that's how it was. I believe that
5 they went out and the whole community shared and made
6 sure the whole community was set. I don't believe it
7 was families.

8

9 If you're going to interact with this
10 one bull per household, I don't think that's a good
11 thing. There's a lot of people that depend on moose.
12 Right now there's five families, five families that are
13 depending on my family to harvest at least two bulls or
14 three bulls in this subsistence hunt coming up. We're
15 going to proxy hunt one moose for our family and
16 they're going to give half of that moose to two other
17 families. And we always share our family's moose. And
18 I think just about every family around town does that.
19 So if you regulate the moose for us on subsistence
20 you're going to knock down the numbers of subsistence
21 moose that are going to be harvested in this first
22 week. Right now as it stands the subsistence hunter
23 harvests a pretty good chunk of that moose, it does not
24 make it very appealing for out of towners to come in
25 here and hunt because they know there's 20 bulls last
26 year, 25 bulls this years and hopefully 30 bulls.
27 You're not going to see somebody from Juneau bring
28 their -- couple, three guys come in and spend 1,500
29 bucks apiece to fly in here with all their stuff to
30 only be able to hunt two or three days. A lot of times
31 the moose hunt is over west of the Dangerous on the
32 State hunt in three days after it opens because the
33 subsistence hunter has taken the majority of the moose.
34 Last year I do believe four moose I think it was was
35 taken by the sport hunter, somewhere like that or was
36 it five.

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mostly -- yeah,
39 that pretty well.....

40

41 MR. FRAKER: Okay. We had 20 bulls
42 last year so you're looking at over 20 percent of the
43 moose harvested in our subsistence area was taken from
44 people from out of town. That's moose that didn't go
45 into our community, that was taken away from us. And
46 by putting this into effect you're going to increase
47 that opportunity for the sport hunter to take from us
48 again. And you're also going to make it to where I'm
49 not going to be able to share like I used to share
50 because I do depend on the moose. I had an all right

1 fishing season last year, okay, it was all right, our
2 family did -- I could give away more. This year I have
3 to have a moose and a half in my freezer for the
4 winter. I have eight solid members in my household,
5 one foster, stepson, whatever you want to call --
6 classify him as, it's going to be -- that's nine people
7 in my family. I don't want to shoot no 60 inch bull
8 that weighs 1,000 pounds. I want to hand pick a couple
9 one and a half, two year olds. Or I might be lucky if
10 each -- if I get 350 pounds of meat off of each one of
11 those. And I'm depending on it, I want to be able to
12 share with everybody. And I'm not the only person
13 that's looking at it like this. My phone rang off the
14 hook last night, said, Jeff, get down there, do
15 something. I'm a member of the Yakutat Fish and Game
16 Advisory Board for over three years, I'm a member of
17 the Yakutat Salmon Board for over three years. I was
18 chosen to go to Sitka at the Board of Fish meeting and
19 represent Yakutat for our proposals that we put through
20 and we were very successful at it.

21

22 I just hope when you review this one
23 bull per household that you really think hard on what
24 you're going to do, how much opportunity you're going
25 to take away from many houses that have teenage sons
26 and fathers and husbands and wives that go out and
27 spread out to have an opportunity to get a moose. You
28 are taking that away from them, you are giving them one
29 opportunity per household, one legal opportunity per
30 household. What you're going to end up doing is
31 there's going to be families that are dependent on this
32 moose, they are going to break the law to make sure
33 that they get it, there's going to be more shooters
34 than one because they depend on it just like the Lund
35 coming across to Angoon that they seen, risking their
36 lives. The reason they pick on the subsistence man is
37 because he's the one that can't afford to fight them,
38 he's the one that won't fight. They won't mess with
39 somebody that's up in the community, upstanding, that's
40 got a lot of money because he'll just turn around, call
41 an attorney and it'll get thrown out. But the little
42 guy here, the Jeff Fraker that don't have a bunch of
43 money, oh, we'll get -- we'll scare him with this and
44 we'll knock it down to just a violation and charge him
45 \$300. We'll do the \$2,000 fine to scare him, but we'll
46 get him to settle out of court for 300 so we have a
47 victory on this when that citation should have never
48 been wrote in the first place. That's how our system
49 works. I did a year in jail for shooting a goat for a
50 elderly lady. Do you think when they come and seized

1 everything that they went to that elderly lady's house
2 and took her meat from her, no way because you know
3 what, they would have stirred a pot they didn't want to
4 stir.

5
6 I really want you to consider this,
7 that the opportunity that you're going to take away
8 from many households in this community by passing this.
9 If you want to do a subsistence regulation, this isn't
10 the one to do, this is not the way to regulate it
11 because people depend on this. And there's a lot of
12 families in here, in this town that have teenage boys.
13 All my kids have shot moose starting from eight years
14 old. My daughter that lives with me, she was eight
15 years old when she shot her first moose. Eight years
16 old, I videotaped it. She took it to school and showed
17 all of her classmates. Subsistence moose hunt, that is
18 subsistence, teaching a child at a young age, giving
19 that child an opportunity and everyone of my children
20 -- I've got three girls and one boy that I raised and
21 everyone of them have harvested a moose before they
22 were 14 years old. You're going to take that
23 opportunity away from a lot of kids around this town.
24 There isn't a bunch of meat being wasted, I see this --
25 I'm appalled at that. This proposal was put through by
26 a man that I have never seen moose hunting, that does
27 not depend on moose. I haven't even seen this person
28 at the river subsistence fishing in a decade. He
29 doesn't eat moose, he doesn't hunt moose, what is his
30 motivation and drive to try and take opportunity away
31 from our community because that's what you're doing,
32 you're allowing a smaller number of moose to be
33 harvested under the subsistence laws and creating
34 opportunity for the sport hunter to come and take
35 subsistence moose from us.

36
37 And that's all I have to say and I
38 really hope you think strongly about it before you vote
39 on such a proposal. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jeff, just
42 stay there. Thank you for sharing your testimony with
43 us and your strong feelings about sharing and, you
44 know, the importance of subsistence in your family.
45 Every member of this Council are -- believe everything
46 that you say particularly about, you know, hunting and
47 sharing and, you know, engaging in subsistence
48 activities that help support their families.

49
50 Let me tell you that this proposal was

1 submitted and that it went up to the Office of
2 Subsistence Management, they analyzed it, it came out
3 with some data and now it's going to be here. And I'm
4 going to tell you, Jeff, what this Council seriously
5 goes through when we consider a proposal. Number 1, is
6 there a conservation issue. Number 2, is there
7 substantial data to support that proposal, how does it
8 adversely affect a subsistence user and how does it
9 adversely affect non-subsistence users. Four criteria
10 that we use before we put our stamp of approval on any
11 proposal that comes before us. So we appreciate your
12 testimony and I wanted you to know, you know, the
13 process that we go through in order for a proposal to
14 pass. So we'll consider all of those points and thank
15 you for your testimony.

16

17 Any questions by anyone. Mr. Kookesh.

18

19 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was
20 just reading over the proposal I believe that he's
21 talking about and that's Unit 5A, the annual moose
22 harvest limit is one bull per household, that's the one
23 you're speaking to?

24

25 MR. FRAKER: Yes, sir.

26

27 MR. KOOKESH: Well, in number 3 it says
28 why should this regulation change be made and it kind
29 of goes against what he's saying. It's saying the
30 actions necessary to prevent waste of moose and promote
31 sharing within the community. Maybe I misunderstood
32 this regulation then because I heard him say we don't
33 waste it and it's necessary that we have proxy hunting
34 where we can take care of people that like have both
35 full-time jobs and stuff. I kind of hear what you're
36 saying and I support what you're saying.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.

39

40 Anyone else. Mr. Hernandez, please.

41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: I do have one question.
43 You mentioned several times about people flying in, I
44 think you said specifically from Juneau, would you say
45 that this effort has been increasing in the recent
46 years?

47

48 MR. FRAKER: It was -- there was a lot
49 of effort pre Federal subsistence hunt. This was
50 something that was in place mid to late 1980s. And we

1 used to have small planes and they still -- the
2 troopers still catch now and again guys illegally
3 hunting under -- in our subsistence times. But the
4 sport pressure has went down since the Federal
5 subsistence laws were put in effect. Right now they're
6 -- they're pretty stable right now, there -- I don't
7 think there's been a big influx or decrease, it's
8 pretty much the same guys coming. But if you take an
9 add another eight or 10 bulls to the amount of bulls
10 that are going to be left come October 15th then you're
11 going to have people come -- it's going to be appealing
12 to people that they do actually have a chance.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just one thing
17 you might want to consider, you know, this Council is
18 also probably in our next cycle we have proposals in
19 dealing with moose hunting in the Juneau area. And I
20 think we should probably take into consideration, you
21 know, changes that we may possibly make in that area
22 could affect, you know, people in this area as well, if
23 it might cause people reason -- to have more reason to
24 come to this area to take a moose for sport hunting.
25 So we have to keep, you know, region wide, big picture
26 perspective sometimes. So I'm glad, you know, you came
27 and gave the perspective from Yakutat and we'll keep
28 that in mind when we deliberate on other areas that
29 could affect this area as well. So.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, good point too,
32 Donald. Anyone else.

33

34 Thank you, Jeff, we appreciate your
35 testimony. Stick around.

36

37 MR. FRAKER: Thank you for -- Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other public
40 testimonies.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you want to make a
45 -- do a testimony you need to fill out one of these for
46 those people who have just recently come in. And
47 they're up there on that table, fill it in and give it
48 to Mr. Larson over here and we will take -- we will
49 take testimony throughout the range of the meeting.

50

1 Let's move on then. Terry Suminski and
2 Pippa, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

3
4 MR. SUMINSKI: Good afternoon, Mr.
5 Chairman, Council members. My name is Terry Suminski,
6 I'm the Tongass Subsistence Program leader. And with
7 me today is Pippa. I'll -- introduce yourself.

8
9 MS. KENNER: I'm Pippa Kenner,
10 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
11 Management.

12
13 MR. SUMINSKI: We're here today to
14 obtain your recommendation on the 2010 Fisheries
15 Resource Monitoring Plan which has been recommended by
16 the -- to you by the Technical Review Committee. That
17 plan begins on Page 19 in your Council books.

18
19 Just a little background. In November
20 of 2008 a request for proposals was advertised. We
21 consulted with this Council on the priority information
22 needs when developing the request for proposals.
23 You'll find that request for proposals on Page 25. The
24 proposals were due to the Office of Subsistence
25 Management in January of 2009. We received a very good
26 selection of fishery proposals which included 13 stock
27 status and trends proposals and two traditional
28 ecological knowledge and harvest monitoring proposals.
29 The total funding requested of the Fisheries Monitoring
30 Program from those projects was approximately \$1.8
31 million for the Southeast Region. In March the
32 Technical Review Committee evaluated the proposals and
33 decided which investigators would be asked to provide a
34 full investigation plan. The TR used a guideline that
35 projects up to 150 percent of historic available
36 funding would be forwarded to the investigation plan
37 stage. Twelve stock status projects and one
38 traditional ecological knowledge project were forwarded
39 for development of full investigation plans. In July
40 the Technical Review Committee met to evaluate the
41 investigation plans for strategic priority, scientific
42 and technical merit, investigator ability and resources
43 and partnership capacity building for review by this
44 Council. More information on the evaluation criteria
45 can be found on Page 21 and 22 of your Council books.
46 Historically about 1.1 to \$1.2 million has been
47 available for funding new projects in the Southeast
48 Alaska Region based on budget allocation guideline
49 formulas. However due to budget surpluses in other
50 Regions funds may be sufficient to support up to the

1 requested amount of 1.6 million for the 13
2 investigation plans.

3
4 After reviewing the 13 investigation
5 plans, the Technical Review Committee recommended
6 funding for 12 of those projects. A table of the
7 projects prioritized in descending order can be found
8 on Page 30 of your books. And just briefly the -- I'll
9 go through the list. It's Klawock Lake Sockeye Salmon
10 Assessment, Hatchery Creek Sockeye Salmon Assessment,
11 Kanalku Lake Sockeye Salmon Assessment, Karta River
12 Sockeye Salmon Assessment, Yakutat Eulachon Surveys,
13 Hetta Lake Sockeye, Kook Lake Sockeye, Klag Sockeye,
14 Falls Lake Sockeye, Neva Lake Sockeye and Redoubt Lake
15 Sockeye Salmon Assessment and the last one is Sitkoh
16 Lake Sockeye Salmon Assessment. Each project
17 recommended for funding in the Southeast Alaska Region
18 in 2010 is summarized in your Council books starting on
19 Page 30. All but the Yakutat Eulachon project and the
20 Redoubt Sockeye project are continuations of studies
21 previously funded by this program. After the Council
22 makes its recommendation the Federal Subsistence Board
23 will decide on the final monitoring plan at their
24 meeting in January of 2010. Approved projects will
25 begin in the spring of 2010.

26
27 If you have any questions we'd be happy
28 to address them. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions anyone. Mr.
31 Bangs.

32
33 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Mr. Suminski. You know these projects are -- have been
35 ongoing and they're basically in-river kind of a stock
36 assessment, mark recapture stuff, if there's problems
37 with these stocks it seems to me it would be helpful to
38 know where the fish are going other than up the rivers.
39 And maybe scale sampling of commercial catches would
40 give us an indication if they're showing up in the
41 commercial catch. Or -- I mean, it seems like that
42 would be a lot more valuable in understanding why the
43 fish aren't returning as to the fish that are there, we
44 know they're there and, you know, the -- maybe from the
45 mark at the bottom of the river to where they get
46 passed and survive the river system is valuable
47 information. But it seems to me on these systems that
48 are lacking a return we should be looking at where are
49 they going if they're not showing up in the river
50 system. And I just think we should be looking at the

1 commercial catch possibly.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No comment on that,
6 any of you.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Bangs through the
13 Chair. We agree that there -- that is one of the big
14 issues that we're facing is the interception and where
15 all those fish end up that -- you know, before they get
16 to their natal streams. We -- I think we have been
17 working on that with the Department, there's some
18 technical problems with being able to do that, you
19 know, actually identifying stocks out of the commercial
20 catch and matching those up with what streams they came
21 from. But and this leads back to what Patty brought up
22 about some of the interception issues in Chatham Strait
23 and I agree it is an issue that we haven't resolved.
24 And for this monitoring program generally funds need to
25 be spent in freshwaters, you know, under the
26 jurisdiction of this program. But that doesn't mean
27 that outside of the program we can't look at that
28 issue. So I don't have a really great answer for you
29 on that one, it's something that's -- we haven't
30 solved.

31

32 MR. CASIPIT: (Indiscernible - away
33 from microphone).....

34

35 MR. SUMINSKI: And as Cal just
36 mentioned -- reminded me, almost all these projects
37 include scale sampling so we are collecting those in
38 every project. And eventually when we do get the
39 technology to match them up and possibly the funding to
40 do that we could. We are collecting the baseline data
41 I should say.

42

43 Thanks.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Hernandez, please.

46

47 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
48 Chairman. Terry, I have a question on the process, I
49 guess, that -- by which these are selected. Am I
50 correct that the Council makes recommendations on which

1 projects that you are to review for funding and then
2 the Technical Review Committee makes the selections and
3 there is no opportunity for the Council at that point
4 to make any recommendations of our own as to which we
5 would prefer funded once we make the initial
6 recommendations; is that true?

7

8 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. About
9 a -- I think it was our meeting a year ago, Terry and I
10 came to you with a preliminary list of what we called
11 priority information needs. And we solicited input
12 from the Council and then we incorporated the Council's
13 comments into our notes. So for instance the Yakutat
14 eulachon hadn't been on the priority list before. We
15 do that -- when we do that we incorporate it into
16 what's called the call, the call for proposals where we
17 advertise that we are looking to fund certain types of
18 projects. And then people have a deadline and they
19 submit proposals for what they want to do in order to
20 carry out the monitoring program and get funds to do
21 their projects within that call. We do review
22 proposals that come in outside the call and
23 occasionally proposals that have a topic outside of
24 what we're calling for priority information needs do
25 get funded. So it's not an exclusive process where we
26 only take projects that are in the call, but that's
27 usually what happens.

28

29 And then those proposals are reviewed
30 by the Technical Review Committee and they decide who
31 we're going to ask for very detailed investigation
32 plans from. Then we -- some of those proposals that
33 came in, even though they were okayed to submit an
34 investigation plan some did not and in this case it was
35 Hydaburg, Hydaburg decided that they were just too
36 busy, they had put in a great proposal, but it was
37 going to take a lot of time and they were still
38 finishing up on other projects so they decided not to
39 submit an investigation plan. Too bad, but that's
40 okay. Then the TRC reviews -- Staff review the
41 investigation plans and give a presentation to the TRC
42 and the TRC again looks at those projects based on the
43 investigation plans and decide what will go forward for
44 funding. Then before we send out any letters to
45 anybody saying you have been approved, you haven't been
46 approved, we come to you and show you what the process
47 has produced and ask for -- and ask for your
48 recommendation to move forward.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, thank you.
2 So is that where we're at then is -- okay.
3
4 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. Yes,
5 that's where we're at.
6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: So on Page 30, is that
8 what.....
9
10 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Yes,
11 Ms. Phillips, that is where we're at. The list on Page
12 30 are the ones that the TRC approved to move forward
13 and to fund.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pete, do you have
16 something to offer, please.
17
18 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Pete
19 Probasco. To add what Pippa is saying, the TRC is a
20 recommendation. Now the -- we bring this -- these
21 reports to and the TRC's purpose is to look at the
22 technical merit of the project, will the project
23 achieve its goals and what it's being proposed, does it
24 have scientific rigor on it to meet those goals and
25 objectives. You take what the Technical Review
26 Committee has reviewed as a recommendation. However
27 you are not limited to that recommendation, you can
28 look at the entire project proposals and make your own
29 Council recommendations. Keep in mind the TRC's and
30 yours is a recommendation to the Board and the Board's
31 actually is a recommendation to the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service and the Forest Service on which
33 projects are best to fund. And I can't think of any
34 instance where the two agencies have gone beyond what
35 the Board has recommended. So TRC's a recommendation,
36 yours is a recommendation and then the Board's is a
37 recommendation for funding, Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Pete. Any
40 questions of Pete while he's there.
41
42 Go ahead, Donald.
43
44 MR. HERNANDEZ: I probably have another
45 question for Pippa, I guess.....
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Go ahead.
48
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: And so -- yeah. Thank
50 you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Probasco. Mr.

1 Chairman, we have a letter here from, you know, Sitka
2 Tribe. They put in a proposal and apparently that
3 proposal was not recommended. So I -- the Sitka Tribe
4 is asking us, you know, to maybe review this ourselves
5 and I think we probably will. So I guess I have a
6 question reading through the Sitka Tribe's proposal for
7 a herring information needs study I guess would be the
8 best way to summarize it and I thought that sounded
9 like a pretty good project myself and I notice that it
10 was not accepted. Sounds like the main reason was that
11 essentially the Fish and Game Department didn't want to
12 cooperate with that and I just wonder if that -- am I
13 understanding that correctly and maybe you can
14 elaborate a little bit as to why that proposal wasn't
15 recommended for funding.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

18

19 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
20 OSM, through the Chair. On Page 60 is an overview of
21 that project and there's a justification at the end for
22 why it wasn't -- why -- and at the beginning of the
23 overview is the recommendation. There's an overview
24 like this for all the projects. On Page 60 is this
25 project you're referring to and for recommendation it
26 says do not fund. Then it goes -- the overview talks
27 about the project, the objectives, the methods and then
28 for the justification, three items are mentioned for
29 why this project -- the TRC felt that this project
30 shouldn't be funded. One is that it was lacking a
31 solid study design, two is that didn't provide for
32 collaboration with Fish and Game who are the managers
33 of the resource -- the managers of that commercial
34 fishery and three was given those two items this topic,
35 Sitka Sound herring wasn't mentioned in the call for
36 proposals. And indeed this is one of those proposals
37 that came in outside the call that we do consider, but
38 they aren't always funded.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

41

42 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Does this mean that the Council or could the Council
44 recommend this project if we were able to get
45 collaboration with Fish and Game, I mean, could this
46 still go forward if the Council wished?

47

48 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner
49 again, Osm, through the Chair. You asked two questions
50 there, one could it go forward and two could it go

1 forward with Fish and Game. I'd like to be corrected,
2 but I believe that the Council yes, could recommend
3 that that investigation plan go forward for funding and
4 then it would be combined with the TRC's recommendation
5 and presented to the Board to make the decision. And
6 two, I can't predict if Fish and Game would in the --
7 if this project did go forward I can't predict if Fish
8 and Game at some point would decide to partner with
9 Sitka Tribe to go through this planning process. The
10 door would be open, but right now it looks as if the
11 project would move forward without the participation of
12 the State. But again I can't predict.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other comments or
15 questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I got one here. If we
20 decided to add this to this project, that would
21 increase the funding, you know, for the ones that have
22 been recommended already or does that mean that we
23 would have to kind of choose and eliminate, you know
24 some of those other projects that we don't think are,
25 you know, appropriate?

26

27 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. I think
28 the best way to approach that would be to just -- if
29 you wanted to add it to the list do that and then
30 prioritize the list and we'll see how far the funding
31 goes. I think that would be the -- and that's --
32 that's really what we'd like you to recommend, not only
33 the monitoring plan itself, but then the priority order
34 that we established if that's -- if you agree with that
35 or you'd like to change it, that's up to you.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Pete, please
40 come forward.

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, Pete
43 Probasco. There's no doubt and I think there's no
44 debate on the importance of Sitka Sound and the
45 Makhnati Island issue. We've had that before us for
46 quite a few years now. And even within the Sitka
47 Tribe's letter they speak to the deficiencies of their
48 project proposal, i.e., the lack of State
49 participation. That is a very significant short fall
50 of the project proposal and I think the Council needs

1 to take that in consideration. However I think what
2 would be important at this stage is the Council's
3 recommendation on this project because within the
4 Office of Subsistence Management we do have a process
5 where we can do out of cycle funding of projects. And
6 essentially what you could do is to recommend this
7 project go forward with the hopes of the Sitka Tribe
8 and the agencies involved to work with the State and
9 try to develop a proposal that will meet both the Sitka
10 Tribe needs and the State's needs. As Terry pointed
11 out there are some deficiencies lacking within this
12 project proposal as far as the scientific design. That
13 has to be addressed before it can go forward for
14 funding. So conceivably what a Council could do is to
15 make a recommendation that we hold off on action on
16 this project, give the opportunity for Sitka Tribe to
17 work with the State and come back in a year or whenever
18 they get it done to make another proposal so you're not
19 caught into this waiting three years from now for this
20 project to be again readdressed. We could actually if
21 the State and Sitka Tribe were able to come to a
22 consensus and produce a project that addresses the TRC
23 concerns, we could fund it out of cycle through the
24 other process that we have. So, Mr. Chair, that's
25 another option before you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Pete. Why
28 don't you just stay there, you might have to answer
29 some more questions.

30

31 Any more -- what's the wish of the
32 Council on this. I think we can decide here and now
33 whether we want this to go forward or not.

34

35 Mr. Kookesh, please.

36

37 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I never
38 read the Sitka Tribe's letter thoroughly and absorbed
39 it, but I'm just wondering over the years -- I know
40 I've been on here since '99, over the years have we
41 allowed letters to go -- bypass process because I'm of
42 the opinion that projects that are justified that we
43 have on the books right now should move forward as
44 printed here. And the Sitka Tribe's one, I'm of the
45 opinion that they should go back and correct the
46 deficiencies and then come forward after that. That's
47 my opinion because I'd hate to bump something that --
48 that's already met the TRC criteria.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I hear you, Mr.

1 Kookesh, but I think Pete just explained to us that we
2 can request that this go forward and it wouldn't affect
3 the funding as it is right now, but it would be -- what
4 did you call, it an off site.....

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Off cycle.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:off cycle
9 program.

10
11 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. So it
12 wouldn't get lost in the bureaucracy of going through
13 project proposals, what I envision is that the current
14 list that you're talking about, Mr. Kookesh, would
15 remain as is if the Council recommends that and then
16 we'd simply put -- identify this project and then
17 briefly explain what we hope the Sitka Tribe and the
18 State could accomplish. And that would not affect the
19 funding level at all, in fact, it would just be sort of
20 sitting in the hopper and we'd put it back to the State
21 and Sitka to work on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So what we're
24 essentially doing then I think from what I hear you
25 saying and addressing your concern is to get the Sitka
26 Tribe and the State together to try address some of the
27 deficiencies that are in their proposal; is that
28 correct?

29
30 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. You can
31 recommend and.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So we can go
34 ahead and recommend that it be part of the -- well,
35 that we move it forward.

36
37 Okay. Mr. Bangs.

38
39 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I'd like to make a motion then that the -- we move --
41 request that this proposal moves forward in a manner
42 that Mr. Probasco's outlined to us so that we don't
43 lose it and give the Sitka Tribe and the State a chance
44 to collaborate on this.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka seconded.
49 Okay. Any further discussion. Patty.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I had a question and on
2 this Page 30, this recommendations for funding, it says
3 that 608 -- 10-608 is the top of the priority list, 10-
4 601 is number 2 on the priority list and all the way
5 down. So if you inserted this herring proposal it
6 would be at the bottom of the priority list. And do we
7 know that there is \$1,590,486 worth of funding for
8 these projects?

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Pete.

11
12 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, Ms. Phillips.
13 First off let's address your question on the herring
14 project. Based on the motion on the table the herring
15 project wouldn't even appear on that list and would not
16 be included in the 1.5, it would be below it as a
17 footnote to give the opportunity for the State and
18 Sitka Tribe to hopefully work out their differences and
19 put together a project proposal that meets technical
20 merit. The other question I think would be best
21 answered by the Forest Service since they're currently
22 dealing with budget woes for fiscal year 2010, Mr.
23 Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

26
27 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, Cal
28 Casipit.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Cal.

31
32 MR. CASIPIT:subsistence program
33 leader for the Forest Service. I guess I have the
34 distinct pleasure if you can call it that of giving you
35 some bad news. Some people have questioned my sanity
36 about acting in this role, as you know I'm kind of
37 acting as a subsistence group leader for a year until
38 we figure out where we're going to go, but some people
39 question my sanity for doing this -- doing that.
40 Basically in our fiscal year 2010 for subsistence
41 management our headquarters office asked for a 50
42 percent reduction in our subsistence management funding
43 for 2010. This is really unfortunate because that two
44 and a half million basically funds our Fisheries
45 Resource Monitoring Program. When this budget
46 reduction was done there -- they gave us -- they
47 basically -- our Washington office headquarters said
48 yeah, we're cutting your budget by two and a half
49 million, but don't worry, we'll make you whole with
50 other funding sources so that you can continue to

1 deliver a program. So what they did is they cut us by
2 two and a half million and replaced us with -- and
3 replaced that with 851,000 which isn't -- which doesn't
4 allow us to fully deliver a program. We have been --
5 internally we have been trying to take measures to fix
6 this. There was some -- there was some conversations
7 with our delegation about increasing our funding
8 through Congress. There was an attempt when our
9 appropriations came on the floor of the Senate there
10 was an attempt to submit an amendment to restore our
11 funding, that didn't go anywhere. So basically right
12 now either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of
13 the Forest Service is going to have to make some
14 decisions at their levels to basically reprogram
15 dollars to subsistence or provide us more supplemental
16 funding out of our Wildlife and Fisheries Program.

17
18 What I distributed to you all are some
19 documents that you may find helpful. The first one
20 here, it's called Subsistence Management Funding in
21 Fiscal 2010. This is a briefing paper that's a regular
22 briefing paper that we provide in any briefing book of
23 -- that any basically higher up in the agency comes to
24 the Alaska Region to do a program review, this is
25 included in their book so that they know about it.
26 Assistant Deputy Undersecretary Jay Jensen when he was
27 here received this, the chief of the Forest Service
28 when he was here a few weeks ago received this. So
29 basically any political appointees or other high ups in
30 our agency when they come to the Region they get a copy
31 of this. The second item in that package is a copy of
32 a letter that we recently sent to our chief identifying
33 fatal flaws in our budget. And it -- basically the
34 only fatal flaw that we identified for the chief was
35 the subsistence program and you can see that letter
36 that went back. Also on the back, the third document
37 is a briefing paper that went to our delegation on our
38 budget problem.

39
40 Like I said, we've been making some
41 attempts internally to try to change this and fix this.
42 I know some of our partners have got involved and have
43 been sending letters. It's totally up to you what you
44 all want to do with this information and move forward
45 with it. But I would really like for the Council to
46 approve the proposals there on Page 30 and prioritize
47 them, that way if we get the money we're free to go
48 ahead and move ahead with the program. If we don't get
49 as much money as we hope we can at least maybe take the
50 top, you know, two or three or four or five priority

1 projects. But we need you, the Council, to help us do
2 that priority list. And we'll work on the budget
3 issues, we'll try to get our budget restored fully and
4 be -- and hopefully be able to do all of them. But at
5 the same time I want to prepare for the worst and that
6 is if we don't get our money that we at least
7 prioritize the list so we can work on the highest
8 priority things.

9
10 And I know, Mr. Chair, you'll be
11 helping us out with this. Next week we are hosting a
12 program review of our Washington -- our Washington
13 office is doing a program review of our subsistence
14 program. We were hoping to get them up here this week
15 so they could observe this Council and this meeting,
16 that -- we weren't able to work that out, instead they
17 were able to come next week and will be observing the
18 south -- and we'll be taking them to the Southcentral
19 Council meeting in Cooper Landing to observe that
20 project of how -- this bottom up process and how it
21 works. They'll also be conducting interviews of
22 various agency people and partners and I've got --
23 Bert, I've got you scheduled for quite -- for a bit of
24 time on next Friday meeting with the team and letting
25 them know what you think.

26
27 So anyway that's where we're at, we're
28 working on it internally, we'll -- we hope that our
29 partners will help us out as well. So I'll leave it at
30 that.

31
32 Thanks.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Cal.
35 So this real big cut that they're taking away from the
36 subsistence program, that's going to affect this list
37 that we're trying to approve right now?

38
39 MR. PROBASCO: That is correct.
40 Basically with the funding that they did give us we
41 only have enough funding to basically do the basics,
42 that is the regulatory program, in-season management,
43 operation of this Council, support to this Council and
44 everything else falls off the table and that's
45 basically the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. But there won't
48 be any problem with the Council recommending that we
49 put the Sitka thing down as, you know, Pete, and.....
50

1 MR. PROBASCO: That would be fine.
2 Like I said what I'm really hoping for is a prioritized
3 listed.....
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right.
6
7 MR. PROBASCO:high to low and as
8 the money comes in as we develop our budget we'll go
9 off that list. Any extra money I'm intending to put
10 into this list.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I know it's
13 lunchtime right now and I don't think that -- pardon?
14
15 MR. PROBASCO: There's a motion on the
16 floor.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, there's a motion
19 on the floor that we need to take care. But there is
20 -- lunch is ready so I think, you know, we'll come back
21 after lunch and do the prioritizing. But right now we
22 have a motion on the floor to include the Sitka
23 proposal.
24
25 Yes, ma'am.
26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. And thank
28 you for the explanation, Cal. Does this motion put the
29 herring on the list, but not at the bottom of the
30 priority because we're going to prioritize in the next
31 motion, is that what you're saying?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We haven't prioritized
34 those other lists yet, you know, so as I understand it,
35 Pete, this is only going to be a footnote to this
36 proposal, the recommendations so how would that fit
37 into the priority as we go through that process later
38 on?
39
40 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, if I may
41 probably the best way to handle this and I think that's
42 where Ms. Phillips is going is that you do have a
43 motion on the table to accept the projects as found on
44 Page 30. You may want to do an amendment if you want
45 to change that priority. And then you'd have an
46 amended motion and then you could vote on it in its
47 entirety. Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's just deal
50 with getting it included on the list right now. Okay.

1 And then when we go through the priorities later on we
2 can deal with that.

3

4 Mr. Kookesh.

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: Just a follow-up on the
7 motion by Mr. Bangs that it was considered a footnote,
8 just to make that comment.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's correct.

11

12 MR. KOOKESH: Okay. Ready to vote.

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, could you
15 please explain what the motion's going to do?

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What it's going to do,
18 it's going to keep it in the loop.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: But not on the list?

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Not necessarily no,
27 unless we -- when we prioritize we -- I think we can
28 get some more guidance from Pete as we go through the
29 process of prioritizing or the others where that could
30 be put. But as far as I understand not on the list.

31

32 Michael. No, the other Michael. Mr.
33 Douville, go ahead.

34

35 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 think what this motion is doing is just adding it to
37 the list or putting it on the list. We're not making a
38 motion or dealing with the priority of the list, that
39 would be in a different motion although it was
40 suggested we could make an amendment. But maybe it's
41 simpler if we just do this one and then prioritize it
42 after lunch.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I would like to
45 see us do it -- put this, you know, on the foot -- on
46 the list as a footnote and then we can deal with it
47 after lunch.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: And I'm going to object
4 to the motion. And there is no abundance problem with
5 the Sitka herring sac roe, they had record harvest in
6 the 2009 season. And I'm not saying that I -- I
7 support what Sitka Tribe is trying to do, but in terms
8 of looking at the bigger picture of reduced funding and
9 that sort of stuff, I don't -- I would not recommend
10 putting it on the list for funding. I would recommend
11 putting it in the hopper and fine tuning their proposal
12 so it meets the compliance of the Fisheries Monitoring
13 Program requirements and if that's what this motion
14 will do I'll support it, but I'm confused about where
15 we're going.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's get the
18 thing in the hopper right now and then we can talk
19 about it, you know, later on.
20
21 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.
22
23 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 The purpose from what I understand in making this
25 proposal not on the list, but enter it into the
26 process, it doesn't meet the requirements as it is now,
27 but we need to get it in the process so that if they're
28 able to secure collaboration with Fish and Game then it
29 could move forward. We -- you know, this won't even be
30 something that we have to worry about as far as
31 prioritizing on the list, it just needs to stay in the
32 system and be in the process. And that's what the --
33 what I was thinking was what we were doing.
34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.
36
37 MR. BANGS: And so that's all I have.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Kookesh.
40
41 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, it was my
42 understanding also that the idea of putting it in as a
43 footnote was until the deficiencies were corrected it
44 would stay there.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been

1 called for. All in favor please say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.

10 Let's adjourn for lunch and we'll come back to this
11 later.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Folks, welcome

18 back. Let's continue where we left off. I think what

19 we have done is included the Sitka issue back as a

20 footnote. So what we need to do now unless Terry or

21 Pippa has some other additions to what we've talked

22 about so far, ready to do the prioritizing?

23

24 MR. SUMINSKI: (Nods affirmatively)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So how do you

27 want to do that, Council.

28

29 Go ahead, Patty.

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: I just have a comment.

32 If we prioritize this and there's only half the

33 available funding and if you look at the Technical

34 Review Committee's prioritized list and we're only

35 funding half the projects then four of the projects are

36 Prince of Wales Island, four of the top six. That's my

37 comment.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,

40 Patty. How do you want to handle that, do you want to

41 just keep them on there or if -- it has to be, you

42 know, but how do you want to go ahead and prioritize

43 these -- the lists that are, you know, before us right

44 now, want to leave it as it is or, you know.....

45

46 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Just a minute.

49 So, Floyd, did you have something?

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
2 kind of -- I know we're only here for two days and I
3 don't have any problem with the way the TRC has set
4 this priority in place and I don't think we need to get
5 into the breaking it out all over the place. I think
6 it just -- should just follow the recommendations, go
7 with it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. Any
10 other comments on that.

11

12 Go ahead, Patty.

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: Are any of these, you
15 know, systems of concern on the list, I mean, I know
16 they all are, but more so than others?

17

18 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman, Ms.
19 Phillips. This is not a good list to be on the top of.
20 That's -- what this shows is that the farther down the
21 list the better off the systems are. For one either
22 they're not used as heavily or they have more fish.
23 But the two that have come -- that are, you know, at
24 the top because of low returns and high use are
25 Hatchery Creek and Kanalku. Those are pretty critical
26 ones at this point, you know, we had a little bit
27 better escapements in those two systems last year, but
28 still not what we'd like to see in those. So and the
29 Klawock actually turned out to be very good last year,
30 this -- or this last year. So just within -- you know,
31 judging by this recent year's data those two might be a
32 little bit -- little bit -- of more concern than
33 Klawock.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Michael.

38

39 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Did you include Hatchery Creek as one of those?

41

42 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Douville through the
43 Chair. Yes, Hatchery Creek is listed as second on this
44 list, Kanalku is the other one I mentioned
45 specifically.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

48

49 MR. KOOKESH: Since we're getting back
50 into the detail, is the Klawock project that we're

1 looking at, is that going to be -- is that like
2 finalizing it or if we do -- I don't want to be
3 deleting any of these things, but is it in its final
4 stages or concluded or.....

5
6 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
7 Kookesh. Are you talking about whether it's done for
8 the year or.....

9
10 MR. KOOKESH: Overall.

11
12 MR. SUMINSKI: Overall we're proposing
13 another four years.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anyone else.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't have any
20 problem with the list either. I'm just happy that, you
21 know, the eulachon issue is on the list and where it
22 goes, you know, it's right there in the top five. And
23 as you all know we've been having problem with eulachon
24 returns, you know, all up and down Southeast. And I
25 think this is a good -- that will be a good survey -- a
26 good project rather and I'm -- I don't have any
27 problems with where it's at either.

28
29 Yes.

30
31 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a question about
32 Hatchery Creek. There is a proposed project for
33 removing a little bit of rock or something to that
34 effect to make a fish pass a little bit easier. Is the
35 comment period for that over with or is it -- can you
36 tell me at what stage that project is at?

37
38 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Douville through the
39 Chair. The project you're referring is to modify the
40 falls to make it easier for salmon passage at a wider
41 range of flows. The -- I don't believe they've started
42 a NEPA analysis on it. The last I saw was a
43 preliminary feasibility report and some potential
44 methods to address that situation. The -- one of the
45 big things they wanted to try was to limit the amount
46 of permanent modification, try some more temporary
47 things that -- so that if they worked or make it more
48 adjustable rather than -- because that falls actually
49 has been modified before and it failed so they want to
50 be very careful about doing anything that can't be

1 fixed. So that -- the last I saw was kind of a
2 feasibility report of what kind of techniques might
3 work there, but I don't think we've gone into a NEPA
4 analysis stage yet with that, but I -- that's the best
5 of my knowledge.

6

7

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

8

9

MS. PHILLIPS: On the bottom of the
10 list, the last half of the list there's -- you know,
11 Sitka relies on Redoubt and Klag Bay and if they're at
12 the bottom of the list then they're not going to be
13 funded. Kook, where's Kook. Where's Kook at?

14

15

MR. KOOKESH: Basket Bay.

16

17

MS. PHILLIPS: Basket Bay. Okay. So
18 we got Kook and that's upper Chatham, across from
19 Angoon?

20

21

MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)

22

23

MS. PHILLIPS: Neva is an icy straits,
24 Falls is -- Falls Lake is the one that Kake relies on
25 and they run a long way to get there. And Sitkoh's on
26 -- is that an Angoon system?

27

28

MR. KOOKESH: Southern Chichagof.

29

30

MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. So I'm just -- so
31 if we fund this list the way it is, if we recommend it
32 for funding and the south end of Southeast is getting
33 heavy emphasis. I'm not saying these aren't, you know,
34 important projects that need to be funded, I'm just
35 saying the funding's going to go to the south end and
36 these other systems aren't going to get funded.

37

38

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd. Bert. Okay.
39 You had your light on.

40

(Laughter)

41

42

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mike.

43

44

MR. DOUVILLE: I don't know how big a
45 hurry we are, but I have some questions about this
46 system.....

47

48

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Satisfy your
49 curiosity, Mike. Go ahead.

50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: These streams connected
2 with Chatham Straits, have scale sampling been done in
3 the past on those or is it proposed for the future to
4 scale sample and catalog these fish?

5
6 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Douville through the
7 Chair. All of these projects have included scale
8 sampling from the very beginning. And some of them
9 that we started doing with this program, so we have
10 scale records for Falls Lake from 2001 to the present.
11 Every place that we've done these projects we have
12 taken scale samples. So like I said some of these are
13 -- we're getting on eight or nine years worth of data
14 for scale samples specifically. So.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Michael.

17
18 MR. DOUVILLE: So with the scale
19 sampling you have now doesn't it make sense to go to
20 those places where they fish early like Hidden Falls
21 and sample those fish that they're catching outside the
22 bay to see where they're going. I mean in my opinion
23 it would only -- it would take a couple people and it
24 would be inexpensive and you could get a lot of data
25 from there. So, I mean, we can count fish forever, but
26 we need to go a step farther than that and see where
27 those fish are being caught before they reach these
28 streams because they all are depressed. And take the
29 steps to go a little farther to try to help them in a
30 different way.

31
32 You understand what I'm saying?

33
34 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Douville through the
35 Chair. I understand exactly what you're saying and I
36 know there's different methods of doing that, you know,
37 through genetics and scale pattern analysis and things
38 like that, but to speak in much detail I'd be speaking
39 over my head. But the -- there's -- you know, again I
40 think a large part of that comes back to funding, but
41 and then there's -- I'm sure there's technical issues
42 with that too, but I don't really know what they would
43 be. But I do agree with you that it would be great to
44 be able to figure out where those fish are headed that
45 are caught in the commercial fisheries and try to, you
46 know, ultimately adjust commercial fisheries to
47 compensate for that. But, you know, we're not there
48 yet.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up, Mike.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess my next question
2 would be can we generate a proposal to do sampling so
3 we can see where those fish are being caught at least
4 sample the Hidden Falls area because I think most
5 people believe that some of those -- interception is
6 coming from there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know
9 whether.....

10
11 MR. DOUVILLE: Because they allow that
12 same fleet to fish outside the bay.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right.

15
16 MR. DOUVILLE:not just in the bay
17 in the terminal area.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. DOUVILLE:and there is some
22 interception there. It would make sense to me to see
23 where those fish are going.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Pete is
26 signaling that he might have something to mention here.
27 So go ahead, Pete.

28
29 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Douville.
30 As far as the Council developing a project proposal,
31 you can recommend a study proposal, however we would
32 still have to find the entity that would develop the
33 proposal, the project proposal and submit it through
34 our process. So we don't have that before us to
35 comment on it, it hasn't gone through the process. So
36 your concept would probably best be addressed as a
37 letter, could be done in the annual report, it could be
38 done as a separate letter to the Board and then we
39 would have to find some entity, Fish and Game, a tribe,
40 a university, to take that task on. We don't have the
41 Staff within OSM and the Council doesn't have staff
42 that could do that. So that's the process you'd have
43 to utilize.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is that
46 something you'd like to pursue is a letter?

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
49 didn't know what the process would be, but certainly
50 there is probably a way to do it.....

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE:using one of the
4 tribes or otherwise as a vehicle.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I agree that,
7 you know, once we put it -- put it on the table then
8 it'll probably be picked up -- we can probably find
9 somebody to pick it up, you know, and carry it from
10 there.
11
12 Mr. Bangs.
13
14 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 You know the State's been doing this very same thing
16 and it's something that can be done in any of the
17 communities that have canneries that collect these fish
18 from the seine fleet, they know where the fish came
19 from, where they're caught, each seiner comes in or
20 each tender comes in, they know where those fish were
21 caught. They did it in False Pass for the YK fish.
22 The technical merits of a project like that are tried
23 and they work. And I don't think it would be that big
24 of an expense to have somebody go into a plant and take
25 scales, count -- get the count of how many sockeyes
26 were caught in the Hidden Falls fishery, but it might
27 be something that the State would have to be involved
28 in. But I know they do it and it works.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That might be an
31 avenue to pursue then. Okay. Anything else.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville, any more
36 questions?
37
38 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm done.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're done. Okay.
41 So as I understand it we're going to recommend that
42 these proposals be taken in order as they are now. And
43 I know we're worried about funding, you know, whether
44 some of these will get knocked out because of it. Do
45 you still want to pursue maybe prioritizing or going
46 forth?
47
48 Patty and then Floyd.
49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, I move we

1 approve the recommendations for funding as recommended
2 by the Technical Review Committee.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Is
5 there a second.
6
7 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right.
10 Discussion.
11
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm going to support it
17 because I got my comments out earlier about -- and
18 we're not the final say. So thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Fine. Thank you. Any
21 other comments.
22
23 Mr. Kookesh.
24
25 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Mine
26 was just a little housekeeping. It's up to you to ask
27 us what is our wish as opposed to telling us. That was
28 going to be my comment, but Patty made the motion.
29 So.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. Any
32 more comments on the motion.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Question.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
37 called. All in favor, please say aye.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
46
47 The next item is -- I was going to ask
48 is Mr. Burns on that flight that's late from Juneau?
49 Is the flight.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is he out of.....
2
3 MS. M. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, he was on
4 that.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. There's a
7 delay, mechanical, and I guess there's going to be an
8 update pretty soon.
9
10 MS. M. HERNANDEZ: They're now saying
11 1:25.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: 1:25. So we'll just
14 move on and when he gets in we'll accommodate him, if
15 not he'll probably have to be taken tomorrow.
16
17 Let's do the wildlife issues.
18
19 MS. OEHLERS: Can we have about three
20 minutes to set everything back up?
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, sure. You bet.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (On record)
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're out of at
29 ease now so take over.
30
31 MS. OEHLERS: So my presentation is on
32 -- just a brief overview of wildlife harvest in
33 Southeast Alaska. And for those of you that have been
34 to the last couple meetings, this is kind of similar to
35 what I presented the last couple meetings, but I did
36 get some feedback last time that people are interested
37 in more recent numbers rather than kind of long term
38 averages. So I'm just going to focus today on the
39 harvest data from the last couple years, so just the
40 more recent data. Next. Oh, back up. Wrong way.
41 Done. Thank you.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MS. OEHLERS: So again this is for
46 Southeast Alaska and, you know, like we say Southeast
47 Alaska and Yakutat kind of have an identity crisis
48 there. But most of you are familiar with all the
49 different units, this is a brief refresher for those
50 that aren't.

1 We're up here, my pointer works, in
2 Unit 5. Unit 4, pretty much the ABC Islands, Unit 3,
3 Petersburg/Wrangell, Kuiu/Kupreanof, Unit 2, Prince of
4 Wales and then Unit 1 is basically the mainland and
5 it's broken up into different subsections, 1A down here
6 by Ketchikan all the way up to 1C is kind of
7 Juneau/Gustavus and 1D up in Haines and Skagway. Next,
8 please.

9
10 So again it's just going to be a real
11 brief overview of just kind of population -- general
12 population trends and harvest numbers for the -- just
13 concentrating on the main subsistence species being
14 deer, goats, moose and bears. Next, please.

15
16 So starting out with deer, as far as
17 populations most of our information we get from kind of
18 more indirect information from pellet surveys,
19 mortality surveys, hunter questionnaires. I know Fish
20 and Game and Forest Service are working on kind of
21 improving some of those methods with using DNA for
22 pellet surveys. Generally speaking densities and
23 harvest is highest in Unit 4. We do see pretty wide
24 population fluctuations in deer, a lot of that can be
25 attributed to weather. For example we had a couple
26 really heavy snow years in '06 and '07, you know, as
27 much as 50 percent of the population in Unit 4 was
28 reduced at that time. Total harvest again throughout
29 Southeast, Units 1 through 5 is about 11,000 per year.
30 Next, please.

31
32 So for deer harvest I just have the
33 last two years worth of data so we're looking at 2006
34 on the blue and 2007 in the red. And as I stated, you
35 know, these numbers are going to reflect some of those
36 results from the hard winters as in population
37 declines. And then there were some restrictions and
38 season closures mostly in Unit 4. So you're definitely
39 going to see, you know, some reduction from 2006 to
40 2007 primarily in Unit 4. But generally speaking, you
41 know, the highest harvest is in Unit 2, Unit 4, some in
42 3 and then a little bit throughout 1D. So you
43 definitely saw some reduction in harvest from 2006 to
44 2007 primarily in Unit 4. We do have a small harvest
45 here in Yakutat, just barely makes it on the line
46 there. Generally it's a handful of deer harvested here
47 every year. And also just to point out, you know, for
48 2006 I have down here there was about 1,800 deer during
49 the 2007 season and that's compared to kind of
50 preceding years generally about 7,000 deer in Unit 4.

1 So definitely a reduction in harvest after those hard
2 winters. Next, please.

3
4 In this slide I just kind of wanted to
5 show a little bit of the breakdown of the harvest by
6 the folks that are actually doing the harvesting.
7 Again this is 2006/2007, fairly similar patterns, just
8 kind of an overall reduction in harvest in 2007. So
9 you can see that most of the deer in Southeast are
10 harvested by Southeast rural residents. So that
11 encompasses all the rural communities in Southeast.
12 And so that's compared to folks living in Juneau,
13 Ketchikan, other Alaska outside of Southeast and
14 nonresidents. So this is just to kind of give an
15 example of who's actually doing the harvesting. This
16 doesn't take into account, you know, who's got C&T for
17 which communities, but just to kind of show that the
18 bulk of harvest is by Southeast rural residents. You
19 know, pretty good portion from Juneau and Ketchikan,
20 those numbers were switched a little bit in 2007, but
21 again primarily it's Southeast rural residents
22 harvesting the deer.

23
24 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

25
26 MS. OEHLERS: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. KOOKESH: Who is unnum (ph), who
29 would that be?

30
31 MS. OEHLERS: That was the data, I
32 don't know if you guys could see because it's the --
33 you know, it's the data from Fish and Game for whatever
34 reason, we didn't know, you know, what the community of
35 residence was, you know, attributed to that harvest.
36 Just we don't know. Does that.....

37
38 MR. KOOKESH: Okay.

39
40 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. Next, please.

41
42 And then also on those lands because I
43 didn't have anything specific, just, you know, to give
44 you an idea in Unit 4 where most of the deer harvest
45 takes place, a little more than half of those hunters
46 in Unit 4 are Alaska residents from outside of Unit 4,
47 but generally speaking they're from adjacent Southeast
48 Alaska communities. So lots of those folks are going
49 to have C&T for Unit 4. Only about 4 percent are
50 nonresidents, 40 percent are from Unit 4 and as far as

1 the harvest, Federally-qualified subsistence users
2 comprise about 45 percent of the successful hunters.
3 And that was a little bit older data, that's from the
4 Fish and Game 2005 and 2007 management reports. But
5 just to kind of give you a general idea. Next, please.
6

7 Also for deer we do have the designated
8 hunter program and just wanted to give you an example
9 of that and this is just kind of updated from the
10 recent presentations I've given. Generally there's
11 about 200 permits or so issued in any given season.
12 Harvest generally around 300 deer as a result of those
13 designated deer permits. It looks like, you know, the
14 harvest tends to follow the number of permits issued.
15 We definitely saw a drop in 2007, I think mostly just
16 reflective of the reduced population and reductions or
17 restrictions in the season. But then back up to about
18 200 in 2008 and about 325 deer harvested under that
19 program. Next, please.
20

21 And then just a little bit further
22 example, 2008 to 2009, who is actually doing the
23 harvesting. Primarily Unit 4, 188 deer followed by
24 Unit 2 and Unit 3. Next, please.
25

26 So for moose, one of my favorite
27 topics, generally speaking we think there's about 3,800
28 moose throughout Southeast and Yakutat. And that's
29 actually Units 1, 3 and 5, total harvest about 250 per
30 year. Next, please.
31

32 As far as moose harvest, pretty minimal
33 in 1A, 1B. Here's where I do have some examples of,
34 you know, breaking down whether it's nonresident or
35 Federally-qualified. The non-Federally-qualified is
36 kind of grouped, it could be -- it's generally speaking
37 people that live in Alaska, but aren't Federally-
38 qualified. So it could be folks from Southeast or
39 Anchorage or Juneau or somewhere else in Alaska. So in
40 1B you have primarily Federally-qualified up into 1C,
41 more non-Federally-qualified, I believe this is kind of
42 the -- I think it was the Juneau/Gustavus area, but a
43 good portion of Federally-qualified folks there. Up
44 into 1D mostly Federally-qualified folks, pretty
45 similar situation in Unit 3, mostly Federally-
46 qualified. And in 5A which includes the Yakutat area,
47 mostly Federally-qualified, but we do get a portion of
48 folks that aren't Federally-qualified and some
49 nonresidents as well. And then 5B which is across
50 Yakutat Bay in the St. Elias area, pretty small harvest

1 and about similar proportion of folks doing the
2 harvesting. Next, please.

3

4 So it's actually good I have this slide
5 up here, this was talked about a little bit earlier
6 with some of the public testimony. But just I put this
7 in here just because there have been some recent
8 special actions regarding moose in Yakutat so just
9 wanted to give you a little more specific data for
10 harvest here. So this is them moose harvest in 5A
11 which is the Yakutat area in 2007/2008. And you can
12 see in both years most of the harvest is by folks from
13 Yakutat and so those are Federally-qualified
14 subsistence users. In 2007 we had 10 moose harvested
15 by Juneau residents, in 2008 there were six harvested
16 by Juneau residents and six by folks from other parts
17 of Alaska. And just to note this number is lower
18 because there was a reduced quota last year from 30 to
19 20. So generally speaking, most of the moose in
20 Yakutat are harvested by Federally-qualified users and
21 there's also kind of a breakdown between the western
22 and eastern forelands, the western forelands being
23 closer to Yakutat which is where most of the Federally-
24 qualified people do their harvesting just because of
25 access issues, it's a lot easier closer to town. Most
26 of the harvest on the eastern forelands, on the other
27 side of the Dangerous is by non-local folks, either
28 Juneau, other Alaska or nonresidents. So most of the
29 harvest that's close to town is by Yakutat residents.
30 And we also do have our Federal subsistence season
31 opens a week before the State season. So it gives us a
32 jump on the season and the Federal lands are closed to
33 State users the first week of the State season. So it
34 definitely allows for harvest by locals close to town.
35 Next, please.

36

37 We also have designed hunter program
38 for moose and just as an example I used Units 1B and 3
39 because we have had some special actions related to
40 those units. So for the last five years there have
41 been 31 permits issued so that's about five permits
42 every year. The reports indicate about 20 people
43 didn't actually hunt, 11 hunted and of those one
44 reported actually harvesting a bull moose under the
45 designated hunter moose permit. Next, please.

46

47 Bears. Densities definitely vary,
48 black bears up to four per square mile, brown bears on
49 the islands up to a couple bears per square mile.
50 Generally lower densities on the mainland. And I know

1 Fish and Game is kind of doing some ongoing work to
2 improve those population estimates. Total harvest,
3 about 225 brown bears and 700 black bears per year so
4 definitely much higher for black bears. Next, please.

5
6 Reported brown bear harvest, generally
7 speaking it's fairly low through Unit 1, you know, a
8 little bit higher harvest here in 1D by nonresidents.
9 Unit 4 has the highest brown bear harvest and that's
10 primarily by nonresidents or non-Federally-qualified
11 folks, but there's some Federal harvest there. And
12 here in 5A and 5B it's mostly by nonresidents, pretty
13 minimal harvest as well. Next, please.

14
15 Black bear harvest, 1A and 1C, you
16 know, fairly high harvest, about equal between
17 nonresidents and non-Federally-qualified. Unit 2
18 really has the highest black bear harvest and that's
19 mostly by nonresidents followed by Unit 3 and that's
20 also by nonresidents. Again pretty minimal here in 5A.
21 Next, please.

22
23 And finally goats. We think there's
24 about 10 to 15,000 and that's through Units 1, 4 and 5.
25 Total harvest about 175 per year. We have seen some
26 recent population declines, there's kind of been some
27 long term declines in certain areas here outside of
28 Yakutat. The last couple years we're noticing some
29 other areas that are showing maybe some decline.
30 Probably temporarily -- you know, temporary related to
31 the recent harsh winters, but we don't really know.
32 But we're definitely seeing some lower numbers in our
33 surveys the last couple years. Next, please.

34
35 Mountain goat harvest, pretty high
36 throughout Units 1 and 4, 1A fairly equal between
37 nonresidents and non-Federally-qualified. A little bit
38 of Federally-qualified use here. Mostly nonresidents
39 and non-Federally-qualified in 1C. You get into 1D
40 more Federally-qualified and also in 4, pretty high
41 proportion of Federally qualified. And again, pretty
42 minimal harvest here in 5A and in 5B. Next, please.

43
44 So with that I just want to acknowledge
45 the sources of the data. Quite of bit of this was from
46 the Board of Game meetings for the population
47 information, some of the Fish and Game management
48 reports and then also data that was provided by Fish
49 and Game and U.S. Forest Service. Next.
50

1 And with that I open it up to any
2 questions or comments.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions anyone.
5
6 MR. KOOKESH: Do you have your
7 PowerPoint in print?
8
9 MS. OEHLERS: I could get that.
10
11 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Patty.
14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Susan.....
16
17 MS. OEHLERS: Yes.
18
19 MS. PHILLIPS:how are the
20 rebuilding efforts going on for Area 5 for the goats?
21
22 MS. OEHLERS: Oh, for the goats. You
23 know basically at this point we've just been doing
24 surveys, you know, with the closures. We're really not
25 seeing any changes like in the Nunatak where we kind of
26 had that -- the big initial decline in about, you know,
27 starting 2000. It seems like the numbers are somewhat
28 stable, but at a low number, you know, we're seeing
29 maybe 30, 40 animals at the most. So, you know, the
30 season's been closed for a number of years and it seems
31 like they're just not really rebounding. And then
32 we're also kind of starting to see some declines in the
33 neighboring populations. So kind of the Harlequin Lake
34 to Nunatak fiord which is right next to the Nunatak
35 Bench, the last couple years we've seen some declines.
36 And then again when we did some surveys this year
37 between Harlequin and down to Dry Bay we're seeing some
38 small declines. And, you know I -- again I don't know
39 what that's related to or if it's just kind of
40 temporary and there's always, you know, just
41 differences and, you know, a survey is just a snapshot
42 in time, but so we're definitely not seeing, you know,
43 a population increase in that Nunatak area at least.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Michael.
46
47 MR. DOUVILLE: Do you have any reason
48 for what the -- may cause the decline and keep it low?
49
50 MS. OEHLERS: In the goats that's the

1 million dollar question. We don't know, you know,
2 there could be several factors that are interacting.
3 You know there's literature that shows, you know, lots
4 of places where they -- once they decline for whatever
5 reason just because of their biology, you know, their
6 slow reproductive rate, sometimes it just takes a long
7 time if at all for them to recover naturally. You know
8 they span a wide area and if they're real isolated
9 there, you know, geographically, if there's not, you
10 know, a lot of movement in and out. You know so we
11 don't know and, I mean, definitely the harsh winters
12 probably aren't helping. There's, you know,
13 possibilities of disease and people here have seen the
14 orf in the past. But we don't -- you know, we don't
15 have any data really to know what's going on there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I have a question,
18 Susan.

19
20 MS. OEHLERS: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did that sting that
23 took place several years ago on the Nunatak Bench on
24 goats have any affect on the population building back
25 up again?

26
27 MS. OEHLERS: That's -- yeah, that's
28 another good question. That might be one for Fish and
29 Game to help out on too. You know I wasn't here when
30 that initially happened, but that definitely coincided
31 with the time where we started to see a decline and
32 then the decline continued for several years like I say
33 and then it kind of plateaued out. So, you know, we
34 don't really know. You know we think that may have
35 been kind of the initial cause, but then, you know,
36 since there hasn't been any harvest why aren't they
37 coming back. So, you know, again we're not real sure.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.
40 Maybe, Neil, when you do your report you might inject a
41 little comment about that issue. Any other comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
46 Susan.

47
48 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate it.

1 MS. OEHLERS: Uh-huh.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you need the
4 PowerPoint too?
5
6 MS. OEHLERS: Leave this on for now.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
9
10 (Pause)
11
12 MR. BARTEN: Good afternoon, members of
13 the Council and anyone in the audience. My name is
14 Neil Barten, I work with Fish and Game again out of
15 Juneau and I was going to present a little 10 or 15
16 minute overview of some of the monitoring efforts we're
17 doing around the Region on wildlife.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Before you do
20 that though, Neil, I need to do something. I needed to
21 announce, you know, that Tina, the problem that she
22 had, you know, is some food poisoning. She brought
23 some food in from Anchorage and ate it late last night
24 and woke up pretty sick this morning. So that was her
25 problem. So I just thought I'd share that with you
26 before I get.....
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:before I forgot.
31 So go ahead.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, that's good to
36 know that it wasn't subsistence food.
37
38 MR. BARTEN: Okay. I thought maybe it
39 was because the Packers lost and they know a lot of
40 people.....
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. BARTEN:are feeling pretty
45 sick about that.
46
47 But anyway this is -- I'm just going to
48 talk about wildlife monitoring strategies and some of
49 the ways we've tried to monitor wildlife in the past
50 and some of the new stuff we're trying to come up with

1 research projects. So for -- next slide, please.

2

3 So I'm going to -- my presentation --
4 all of mine is basically why do we monitor wildlife
5 populations and the types of monitoring methods we
6 employ, direct type of situations where we can actually
7 count animals and in a lot of cases we can't so we use
8 indirect methods. And then I'll probably spend most of
9 the time on recent advances with wildlife research that
10 have kind of helped us in monitoring wildlife
11 populations.

12

13 So why do we monitor these populations.
14 Well, we do so, I think all of us want to have healthy
15 and sustainable populations and in a lot of cases to
16 provide for human uses, be that hunting or guiding or
17 photography, whatever you want to call it. And then we
18 want to use the data as we can to adjust seasons and
19 bag limits if necessary. And there's a couple of
20 pretty good cases in the last few years that we're all
21 aware of where we have taken information, especially
22 from deer to adjust seasons and bag limits to try to
23 accommodate a population that's kind of in a low ebb
24 right now and try to get them up to higher numbers.

25

26 So direct methods, this is perfect. Do
27 you know from a wildlife biologist standpoint, you
28 know, moose and mountain goats lend themselves to
29 actually being counted. So if we get good snow in
30 November we can come up here in Yakutat and fly
31 surveys. Susan helps us do that and she just completed
32 a whole bunch of mountain goat surveys. So we actually
33 have a pretty good opportunity to fly around in a
34 Supercub or a small aircraft and actually count the
35 animals and keep track of them year to year, every
36 third year, whatever we have money and time to do and
37 we think is necessary. So those two species kind of
38 lend themselves a little more to us being able to keep
39 track of them.

40

41 And then we have other species where we
42 have to really use indirect measures. We have, you
43 know, deer, it's really hard to count them obviously,
44 all of you know that. We use pellet transects among
45 other things. For bears again and up in the Interior
46 they actually count bears, they have methodologies for
47 counting bears, but down here with the thick forest and
48 stuff we for years have depended almost entirely on
49 sealing data where if someone gets a bear they bring it
50 in, we measure the skull, pull a tooth and we get age

1 and sex data, et cetera. Fur bearers, same kind of
2 thing, when people get marten or wolverines, et cetera,
3 we take the -- they're required to bring them in in
4 most cases and we count the animals, sex them, and get
5 some information from the trappers. And then, of
6 course, hunting reports. All of you know if you go
7 hunting you need deer harvest tickets or permits and in
8 that case we get information back from the hunters or
9 the users about where they're hunting and more
10 importantly what they're killing and where they're
11 getting it. And then for deer it's a little different
12 approach, we have the deer mail out survey where we
13 send it to 30 some percent of the hunters and we get a
14 report back from them and we use some stratified random
15 sampling to try to get an estimate of how many deer
16 were taken. And then for some of you who are trappers
17 and if there's a few of you trappers in the room,
18 you've probably gotten trapping surveys from us where
19 we have a questionnaire, we ask a whole number of
20 questions about your trapping effort, what you've
21 caught, what you think the patterns of fur bearer
22 numbers are and all that's pretty valuable information
23 to us because in lieu of that we have very little
24 information on some of these species.

25
26 And then this is kind of where I want
27 to spend more time is we have done a lot of work
28 cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
29 Forest Service, Park Service in some cases, NGLs,
30 trying to get better data for monitoring these wildlife
31 populations. And for what it's worth Southeast
32 Alaska's probably one of the most difficult places to
33 monitor wildlife because we have the thick old growth
34 forest and it's really hard to find animals. Plus we
35 have really crappy weather and even when you get good
36 conditions for moose surveys or goat surveys a lot of
37 times you can't fly. And the planes are very expensive
38 up here -- down here.

39
40 So we've had research projects on moose
41 and mountain goats going on for boy, the better part of
42 10 years. The first one I was involved in was actually
43 here in Yakutat and it was funded by the Forest Service
44 and I think Susan got in on part of it, other
45 biologists with the Forest Service and we did a lot of
46 work in Unit 5A here looking at the moose productivity,
47 survival and mortality, kind of how they use the
48 habitat and I think Susan did some of her master's work
49 on a sightability aspect of that which was very
50 important to help us understand what's going on with

1 the moose.

2

3

4 And then mountain goat projects, we've
5 got some going on down by Juneau where we've had
6 probably three years now of good data. And, you know,
7 I think, Bert, you asked about the Yakutat area
8 regarding goats and, you know, for the life of us
9 without actually having animals marked, you know, we're
10 -- we know we're losing them apparently and to the tune
11 of in Nunatak back in the late '90s we have probably
12 close to 80 to 90 goats that -- I mean, I counted 83
13 there once with Bill Lucy in '99 I think. Right now we
14 only see about 30 to 35 on our surveys. And as far as
15 that sting operation, you know, the decline of that
16 herd certainly coincided with that. And as many of you
17 probably know mountain goats have a low productivity, a
18 lot of females don't breed until they're like four and
19 they only have one young a year generally speaking. So
20 if a lot of females are killed in a population I think,
21 you know, it can really go down hill. And we could be
22 facing that up in Nunatak, I don't know, but here we
23 are about almost 10 years later and suddenly we're
24 seeing very much of a similar decline in some of the
25 adjacent areas. And, you know, part of it I don't
26 doubt is the winter. And some of it could be related
27 to this orf, it's a viral disease that goats get that
28 they get these clusters on their face and head and they
29 can't feed very well, they can't see very well, they
30 can't eat, I think some fall off cliffs and some get
31 eaten by predators. And we've seen that a number of
32 times over the course of, you know, the last 30 years
33 in and around -- from Juneau on up to here. Anyway
34 next.

34

35

36 So some of the data we collect by --
37 with these radio telemetry studies which are really
38 valuable is we can -- when we catch the animals we can
39 get body condition, we can get pregnancy from the
40 blood, we can look at pregnancy rates which is real
41 important to tell us how the animals are doing on their
42 habitat, we can get calving or kidding rates, survival
43 and mortality which is real important, how they use the
44 habitat, where they're using it. And then again the
45 sightability which is something that's always real
46 important where you have difficult spotting conditions
47 to see -- when you see 50 moose does that mean there's
48 55 or 100 moose out there. Go ahead.

48

49

50 And then the deer, you know, we talked
about this at the meeting last February in Petersburg,

1 but Todd Brinkman and you guys -- remember his
2 presentation, he's a very colorful speaker, he gave a
3 talk about some of the DNA work he's doing. And it's
4 kind of -- hopefully going to revolutionize the way we
5 do deer pellet transects to -- going to get us a better
6 indicator of really what's left on the ground when we
7 do deer pellet transects, not necessarily what was
8 there during the winter of which many might have died.
9 And then Dave Person and Boyd Porter are going to start
10 a fawn mortality study on Price of Wales Island. Phil
11 Mooney and Karen along with myself and others have just
12 started a project on Northeast Chichagof where we're
13 going to hear a little more about it regarding a
14 special action request I believe and talk about some of
15 the deer concerns we have there. But we're trying to
16 get a handle on what's going on with the deer on
17 Northeast Chichagof in particular.

18
19 And again this is a relative case study
20 on Northeast Chic. So we -- boy, we busted out butts
21 there last summer and fall and we ended up actually
22 catching only three deer. It was pretty grim. We
23 worked pretty hard, Phil Mooney spent weeks there, I
24 spent about two weeks and we ended up collaring three
25 does and hopefully we're getting some data on that on
26 how they're using their habitat and the kind of thing.
27 But next year we're hoping to put out another 25 to 30
28 collars. So a sample of three doesn't help us much
29 other than it taught us a lot about how not to catch
30 deer. So hopefully this year we'll learn how to catch
31 them.

32
33 And then these are just a myriad of
34 things that we've done, especially related to the last
35 three years with the hard winters to try to get a
36 better handle on how many deer we got out there and do
37 we need to be concerned enough to close doe seasons
38 that we have -- as we have on Northeast Chic. And
39 everything from beach mortality transects to boat base
40 surveys and browse surveys and aerial surveys, et
41 cetera.

42
43 And then, you know, just to give you a
44 little more of the -- you know, the usefulness of the
45 data we've all collected and I think we all made a very
46 good move in taking strides towards closing the doe
47 season the last three years, I think that's very
48 important and I think we're all going to benefit in the
49 long run from showing some restraint right now until
50 that deer herd recovers. And all of that is because of

1 the information and data we've kind of collected over
2 the years to try to monitor these populations. And
3 anyway, you know, it involves public meetings and
4 working together with the State and the Federal
5 governments regulatory as well.

6
7 And then on the Cleveland Peninsula we
8 also went to the Board last year and lowered the bag
9 limit there from four bucks to two bucks based on some
10 really, really, really low deer pellet information as
11 well as harvest information over the last 10 years.
12 It's amazing how that deer population has declined. Go
13 ahead.

14
15 And then I'll just skip through a
16 couple of other species here. Brown bears, we've got a
17 project going on in the west side of Yakutat Bay right
18 now that the Park Service is funding for the most part.
19 We've hoping to do some work here on the forelands. We
20 have done some work at the landfill as some of you
21 know. But we've had a project in Berners Bay, Bradfill
22 Canal, Unuk River, even Northeast Chich a few years
23 back. But, you know, used to be when you'd catch these
24 bears 10 years ago you'd put a collar on them and the
25 only -- you have VHF collars and the only time you
26 could get a location is when you actually flew and
27 located that bear. Well, today we have these VHF GPS
28 collars where we can get locations every hour on the
29 bear if we want. And then we can either download it
30 from the air by circling the bear or get the collar
31 back. We can get this incredible habitat use data,
32 really good information on productivity of the bears,
33 mortality if we keep the collars on long enough. But
34 the real neatest thing of the whole research that's
35 changed is the DNA collection where we actually put out
36 hair snares and you can't see it at all, but the right
37 picture that looks like a blob of dirt is a snare that
38 -- it's like a wolf snare, but it has a breakaway point
39 that's very light and if a bear goes through it the
40 snare closes in around its foot or its neck and then it
41 snaps like a real piece of light monofilament line type
42 of thing and it leaves behind a piece of hair. And we
43 take that and we can identify that individual and from
44 that we can do a mark recapture and actually get a
45 population estimate. So there's a lot of kind of neat,
46 cool things that are going on with the DNA sampling.

47
48 And then we're going to be doing a very
49 similar thing on POW and, you know, Susan showed the
50 graph a minute ago with a high bear harvest on POW and

1 Kuiu. You know we're not sure if that's going to be
2 from days gone by or not, by boy we're pretty concerned
3 about what's going on POW with black bears and black
4 bear harvest which is declining pretty dramatically.
5 It shot up during the early 2000s to about 2005 and
6 escalated just rapidly and now it's coming back down
7 almost just as fast. So we're trying to get a handle
8 on what's going on with the black bears there and we
9 finally got some money to reach out and actually do
10 some work over there. So hopefully we're going to get
11 some answers here in the next few years about kind of
12 the density of bears in some of these areas and the
13 harvest rate which is real important.

14

15 Wolverine, you've all seen a wolverine
16 proposal we talked about in February as well. We're --
17 we went to the Board and asked them to shorten the
18 wolverine season and it's one of those things where we
19 were finally able to get some money to do some
20 wolverine work and when we did it we realized the
21 density of wolverines and the vulnerability of these
22 wolverines in the lower river valley was such that we
23 wanted to see a shorter season to protect some of the
24 breeding particularly in the spring of the year.

25

26 And then pine marten on Kuiu Island, we
27 closed the season on Kuiu Island to trapping under the
28 State regs. And we just about a month ago committed
29 another year of funding to try to go out there and I
30 think Rod Flynn and several others have been out there
31 for the past month catching marten and collaring them
32 and trying to get a density estimate and even a
33 population estimate on the two different parts of the
34 island to try to start understanding what's going on
35 with marten on Kuiu Island. And is it -- you know, can
36 we anticipate a recovery to where we can reopen the
37 trapping season or do we just have to, you know,
38 collect data for three or four more years to get a
39 sense of what's really happening there.

40

41 So anyway in conclusion there's -- you
42 know, as all of you know there's a lot of things that
43 affect wildlife abundance. Monitoring populations
44 again in Southeast Alaska can be incredibly difficult
45 and expensive, but these new methodologies I think are
46 really going to pay big dividends as years go by. And,
47 you know, finally I think cooperative efforts between
48 State and Federal agencies will give us the best
49 opportunity for successful management. And I think
50 we've got some really good case studies of that, you

1 know, especially here in Yakutat where I think we work
2 very well with the Forest Service to share duties with
3 goat surveys and working on the moose project and
4 certainly in the Park Service over in Gustavus we've
5 worked with them on some of the moose work. And anyway
6 I think we all have to kind of stick together with our
7 limited funds and try to do the best we can for the
8 resource.

9

10 So with that I can answer any
11 questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I have a question,
14 Neil.

15

16 MR. BARTEN: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you -- does the --
19 when you consider a situation that you want to do
20 special action or emergency order on, do you still
21 consult with the tribe?

22

23 MR. BARTEN: You know I'll be honest
24 with you over the years I talk to the Forest Service
25 obviously whenever we're doing like going to close a
26 moose season here or when we're talking about for
27 instance we closed the mountain goat season from
28 Harlequin Lake up to Nunatak fiord and I think we've
29 been fairly remiss in not actually contacting the
30 tribe. But that's certainly something, you know, we
31 certainly should do and I'd like to, you know, get that
32 relationship going a little more, but we've worked with
33 the Forest Service and kind of left it at that I think.
34 So.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we used to do
37 that quite a bit when I was with the Council and I know
38 I'd been invited to participate in the discussions and
39 everything, you know, and get concurrence, you know,
40 with the recommendations as to whether to close this
41 area or not. So I think that relationship would be
42 really good to be renewed again.

43

44 MR. BARTEN: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

47

48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Neil, is there any effort to curb the harvest of black
50 bear in Unit 2, are they trying to get the nonresident

1 hunt down or how's that working?

2

3 MR. BARTEN: That's a very good
4 question. We actually went to the Board last fall with
5 this incredibly convoluted proposal. You know the --
6 if you look at the bear harvest that skyrocketed during
7 the mid 2000s and you look at where that harvest was
8 coming from and who was taking the bears, it all boiled
9 down to the road access and nonresidents and -- in a
10 lot of cases. So we went to the Board last fall and we
11 implemented or the Board implemented a proposal where
12 this fall and, I mean, it's going on right now, hunters
13 could not use the road system on Prince of Wales to
14 hunt black bears. They couldn't drive down the road,
15 see a black bear, jump out and shoot it. They could go
16 from say Hollis to Coffman Cove, put in a boat, shoot a
17 bear, put it -- take it back out in the boat and drive
18 back to Hollis, but they can't or couldn't drive down
19 the road and shoot a bear if they saw it standing
20 beside the road as has been done in the past. And I
21 think that closure was only effective through the month
22 of September. And that didn't affect Federally-
23 qualified users, but it affected nonresident hunters
24 who were going to use the road system. So by that
25 method we were able to curb the harvest I think
26 substantially on the road system on Prince of Wales
27 until we get our feet under us and get a sense of
28 what's really going on with that black bear population.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

31

32 Patty and then Donald.

33

34 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Neil, is the -- what's the brown bear population
36 looking like in Northeast Chichagof?

37

38 MR. BARTEN: Boy, that's a good
39 question and we haven't worked there in a few years on
40 bears, but from everything I hear and from personally
41 having spent two or three weeks on the road system
42 there this summer and I talk to Andy Savlon all the
43 time, the trooper there, it certainly seems like the
44 bear population's doing pretty darn good, you know,
45 they seem quite abundant.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, how about after
50 this previous winter, do you have a good feel for how

1 the deer population's looking in Unit 4?

2

3 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, that's a good
4 question because again the deer -- the deer are one of
5 the species that monitoring is pretty darn difficult.
6 And, you know, that's really why we started that
7 northeast deer project where we can actually mark
8 animals and if you've got 30 deer marked you know
9 what's happening to those 30 deer in a year. The best
10 I can tell you is Phil Mooney, who I work with fairly
11 closely, spent, you know, dozens and dozens of days out
12 boating and driving the road system and in some cases
13 even flying the alpine, and I spent again probably two
14 and a half weeks with him doing some of those. And I
15 think, you know, not just Northeast Chichagof, but I
16 think parts of Seymore Canal, parts of Northern
17 Admiralty, really got hit hard in the fall of '06/'07,
18 and then these last two winters which seemingly were
19 mild compared to that one weren't so good for the deer
20 I don't think. So I think they're really still
21 struggling mightily in some of those places, especially
22 Northeast Chichagof. And I think more than anything we
23 need a couple of easy winters. You know the real good
24 thing about the Northern Southeast, especially islands,
25 is we don't have wolves. And I think with those deer
26 populations on Northeast Chic for instance, if we get a
27 couple of easy winters fawns arrival will be high,
28 adult survival will be really high and I think they can
29 really get going again and recover pretty quickly. But
30 right now I think -- I'm pretty excited that we're --
31 you know, both the Federal and the State doe season is
32 closed right now to let some of those older does that,
33 you know, were missing two or three cohorts, I think,
34 of the younger does, those older does to fawn a time or
35 two again before they're harvested and start getting
36 another crop of young ones coming up through the
37 recruitment ranks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Thank you,
44 Neil.

45

46 MR. BARTEN: Okay. Thanks.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Wildlife
49 issues, item number C next. Who's going to take care
50 of that one for us?

1 Robert.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The
6 wildlife special actions that the Council recommended
7 last year, three of them were -- have been implemented.
8 Because of notice issues with our meeting last year the
9 Department or the Office of Subsistence Management has
10 asked us to review the two remaining special action
11 requests and validate them to see if, in fact, it is
12 still the will of the Council to put those forward.
13 Those two special actions requests is WSA0903, Kuiu
14 marten and WSA0905 which is Unit 4 deer. There is a --
15 there's a handout that I distributed earlier that has
16 the -- all of those special actions included in it.
17 I'll get my copy here. So this document has at the
18 very bottom of the first page, it has a label on it
19 that special action request, Unit 4, female deer
20 closure, October 1, 2009. And then the next is the
21 NECCUA female deer closure and the Kuiu Island marten
22 closure. One of the ramifications that Neil was
23 talking about when he was referencing the special
24 action that was done by the in-season managers, but the
25 Hoonah Ranger District and the Sitka Ranger, to close
26 the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area, was that
27 those special actions on the State side are good for
28 the season. The special actions on the Federal side
29 are good for only 60 days. So if the Council wishes
30 they could extend the doe closure to the end of the
31 season to match the State action. But that would have
32 to be done by the Subsistence Board and not the in-
33 season manager. Right now the doe closure extends only
34 through November 13th.

35

36 So I've taken the liberty of including
37 a special action request that would extend that closure
38 on the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use area, that's
39 the second page of that distribution. The first page
40 is the original special action request as suggested by
41 the Council in their February meeting and the third
42 page is the special action request for Kuiu marten. I
43 might make a note that we've moved forward with the
44 special action request hearing because it's a -- will
45 end up being a temporary special action so it requires
46 a public hearing. And we did that public hear in Kake
47 on August 12th. And we had -- we had no members of the
48 public speaking in opposition to closing the
49 subsistence harvest of martens on Kuiu Island.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
2 Robert. So what's the wish of the Council on these two
3 issues. Questions anyone.

4
5 Go ahead, Donald, and then Mike.

6
7 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I move
8 that we adopt these special action requests for the
9 season.

10
11 MR. BANGS: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Douville and Mr. Bangs. Discussion.

15
16 Patty.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: We're moving to approve
19 Unit 4 female deer special action request, October 7,
20 2009 and Northeast Chichagof deer special action
21 request, October 7, 2009 and Kuiu Island marten special
22 action request, October 7, 2009, is that correct?

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, for that,
25 Patty, that is correct.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, was there a
28 meeting in Hoonah about the deer?

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Robert, could you
31 bring us up to date on that. Seemed like there was,
32 but I'm not sure.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Yes. Yes, there was. And
35 the -- but the -- there was a public meeting that was
36 conducted and chaired by the Alaska Department of Fish
37 and Game to solicit comments regarding the bear closure
38 for the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area. There
39 was also in conjunction with that public meeting a
40 public hearing by the Federal program to solicit
41 comments on essentially the same topic, but we
42 encouraged those people that showed to give us comments
43 on restrictions as referenced in the first -- in the
44 first special action, meaning should that closure that
45 is -- was proposed by both the Forest Service and the
46 Department of Fish and Game be expanded to include Unit
47 4. The -- there was four people that attended that
48 meeting from the public and in summary I could say that
49 they were as a whole concerned about the deer
50 population there, they certainly, I think, agreed that

1 there was management actions that needed to get done,
2 but I would guess that you could say that in general
3 their feelings, and it was my -- not necessarily said
4 explicitly by every person there, but it was my feeling
5 that they did not agree that that same kind of
6 restriction should be expanded outside of this area to
7 the remainder of Unit 4.

8 So and I would say as long as we're on
9 that subject that there has been some work on -- on
10 this topic and it was because of the potential proposal
11 that the Council did as well as the special action
12 request that the Council proposed and there is a --
13 there's also a distribution. And do we have that -- I
14 don't know that you have that distribution. Yeah, we
15 have a distribution available. It's an informational
16 paper that was done by Dennis Chester who's a wildlife
17 biologist in Juneau. You may want to take a moment to
18 look at that paper, it is -- has some information
19 that's germane to the subject of whether or not it's
20 necessary to restrict the harvest of does as referenced
21 in the first special action request. So it's -- maybe
22 Terry or somebody that might want to -- there's quite a
23 few pages wrapped up in this and we didn't get this
24 until yesterday. But Terry might be able to summarize,
25 you know, what it contains.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Terry. Where's Terry?
28 Hiding there behind Cal.

29
30 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman, Council.
31 This is Terry Suminski with the Forest Service.
32 Basically what this is as Robert mentioned, they
33 started working on this special action request that was
34 submitted by the Council and Dennis working with the
35 Department of Fish and Game compiled all the data he
36 could. Mainly at this time he was focused on those
37 areas draining into Chatham, Peril and Icy Straits. So
38 it's not a complete document for Unit 4 or anything
39 like that, but it gives you a feel for the type of data
40 that's available. It'll take more work to get it for
41 all of Unit 4. He summarized the deer pellet transects
42 from Unit 4, towards the back you'll see there's a --
43 for each pellet or survey there's a graph and then the
44 various tables show the use of deer in Unit 4 by
45 different hunt areas. And we were trying to look at
46 the breakdown of Federally-qualified versus non-
47 Federally-qualified harvests over the various months of
48 the season. The beginning of the document talks about
49 some of the different survey methods that Neil
50 mentioned earlier, that Phil Mooney and others have

1 been doing to try to get a handle on the deer
2 population or at least the status of deer in Unit 4.
3 So this is a very draft document, but it does give you
4 an idea of the type of information that can pull
5 together and I must say that the Department put a lot
6 of effort into getting this data base -- getting this
7 data in a form that Dennis could use and summarize.

8
9 So I'm not sure what else would -- if
10 you have more questions I'd be happy to attempt to
11 answer them and maybe if it gets into details of the
12 data then maybe Neil can help me, but thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions anyone.

15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Patty.

19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: On this map one, Unit 4,
21 is it saying that's the effort, if you look at the way
22 the bars are, like those bars are slanted times 33 that
23 means there's -- what does that mean, there's 33
24 hunters in that or -- okay.

25
26 MR. SUMINSKI: Ms. Phillips through the
27 Chair. That -- that's actually just signifying the
28 hunt areas.

29
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, okay.

31
32 MR. SUMINSKI: So X33 is a hunt area,
33 it has nothing to do with any.....

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

36
37 MR. SUMINSKI: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anyone else.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do you know, Terry, the
42 northern end of Admiralty Island has also been
43 mentioned as being, you know, pretty -- hit pretty hard
44 by the winters and I haven't seen anything about any
45 doe closures for Northern Admiralty. I see just
46 glancing through this that there is very little
47 subsistence activity that takes place on Northern
48 Admiralty, it seems to be mostly Juneau hunters that
49 hunt there, but are there any conservation measures
50 proposed for Northern Admiralty as well?

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Hernandez through
2 the Chair. Neil would probably be able to speak more
3 to that, but as of now like I mentioned earlier, we
4 discussed that issues of whether there's -- any of
5 these restrictions should be expanded outside of the
6 Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area and at this
7 point we don't see that as necessary. If conditions
8 change, there's some criteria with, you know, snow
9 depths and other things that we'd be looking at, if
10 that changes, you know, we'd be ready to do that on a
11 -- kind of a area by area basis, but not -- maybe not
12 applied widespread throughout Unit 4, but maybe Neil
13 has more to add to that.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
18 Members of the Board. Yeah, that was -- that was
19 summarized pretty well, but, you know, we do have -- we
20 still have concerns with like Seymore Canal, Northeast
21 or North Admiralty and if we get a big dumping of snow
22 like we did a couple years ago and say by, you know,
23 even into early December, we get snow that pushes the
24 deer down on the beach, we're going to have to react
25 with a closure for -- on the State season for some of
26 those areas because otherwise I think the hunters are
27 going to go out and really take them to task. So we're
28 perched for that, but, you know, given that there's not
29 a road system there and they're, you know, pretty
30 intact ecosystems without much logging we think the
31 deer -- and no wolves, of course, we think the deer
32 there can withstand a season right now, but if we get a
33 lot of snow we're going to have to -- and we are
34 prepared to act under State regulation, yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
39 looking at this Unit 4, female deer special action of
40 October 7th, 2009, it said all lands draining into
41 Chatham Strait which would take care of Admiralty
42 Island too as well.

43

44 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Kitka through the
45 Chair. There'd still be the east side of Admiralty
46 that would not be included in the way the special
47 action was stated. Is that what.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey, follow-up.

50

1 MR. KITKA: No, that's it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

4

5 MR. KOOKESH: So, Mr. Chairman, if
6 they're not so concerned on the eastern side of
7 Admiralty then there's nothing wrong with us doing it
8 on the western side if we're concerned. It kind of
9 puts us a little ahead of the curve by closing it to
10 non-Federally-qualified. At least we're compromising,
11 we're meeting you halfway basically.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Got a come back to
14 that Terry or Neil?

15

16 MR. SUMINSKI: Like I said earlier, all
17 I can do is restate what we've talked about with the
18 Department. And so far we don't see -- we don't have
19 the same concerns outside of the Northeast Chichagof
20 Controlled Use Area.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'm going to
29 take Donald and then Patty. Okay.

30

31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I think
32 what Harvey was trying to point out was that the
33 wording of this special action would include Admiralty
34 Island in that closure because it does drain -- it is
35 Unit 4 and it does drain into Chatham Straits. So we
36 may have to change the language a little bit to be more
37 specific to maybe just Chichagof Island, the waters of
38 Chichagof Island that drain into Icy Straits, Chatham
39 and Peril. Is that -- well, what does the Council
40 think about that?

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Yeah, well, I
43 just asked Harvey, you know, if he felt that way too so
44 it looks -- seems like he's got the same idea. Let's
45 take Patty next and then we'll come back to that.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Douville
48 was wondering if we should follow the same criteria,
49 you know, the four criteria as in a proposal. So if
50 that's the case then there is a conservation concern

1 for deer in Unit 4, NECCUA or Northeast Chichagof
2 because of the severe winters and it's -- this action's
3 necessary to protect the reproductive potential of this
4 population by restricting harvest when female deer are
5 most vulnerable and restricting harvest by non-
6 Federally-qualified will provide for the continuation
7 of subsistence use. That's for the deer. And then
8 there is a conservation concern for deer in the area
9 for the NECCUA and the State has -- the State of Alaska
10 has closed the female deer season in this area and the
11 Federal in-season managers have used a delegated
12 authority to close the Federal subsistence season for
13 female deer through November 13th, 2009. The
14 Subsistence Board must take action to extend the female
15 deer closure through the end of the subsistence hunting
16 season on January 31st, 2010.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you,
19 Patty. Okay. Any more comments.

20

21 Donald, go ahead.

22

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, I would
24 move that we modify this special action request for
25 female -- Unit 4 female deer, special action request,
26 October 7th, 2009. The modification would be this
27 special action would close the public lands on
28 Chichagof Island, Unit 4, draining into Chatham
29 Straits, Peril Straits and Icy Straits, including
30 Tenakee Inlet.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. Is
33 there a second.

34

35 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

38

39 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
42 called. You have a question. Oh, okay. Go ahead,
43 Floyd.

44

45 MR. KOOKESH: Based on the first two
46 pages, is it the second page you're talking about
47 because they don't have proposal numbers on the.....

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm only proposing a
50 modification on the first page. I think the second

1 page deals with specifically with the NECCUA and I
2 think we're okay with that one. But the first page is
3 a little less specific and I think we need to clarify
4 that. Unless we intend to close areas on Admiralty
5 Island which I don't think would be in line with what
6 the State is doing, I think we have to modify that
7 language.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I had Bob
10 whispering in my ear here a little bit.....

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:and so I kind of
15 lost track. But I think there's a concern here. I
16 think what we need to do is maybe take a five minute
17 break and talk about this a little bit further and then
18 come back to it later for a vote. Okay.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Folks we're
25 back in session. You know, we had several little
26 caucuses, you know, around the table over here about
27 this particular issue. And so what we need to do is
28 bring up the amendment part of it and the discussion
29 that some people were having is that we probably need
30 to take these one by one, you know, and then as far as
31 the amendment is concerned we need to make a decision
32 on that. And I think what the Council wants to do is
33 to, you know, turn down the amendment and then go back
34 to the original proposals and go through them one by
35 one. Is that my understanding? Okay. So.....

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I would recommend
38 a vote.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we'll do that.

41

42 MR. LARSON: We have to wait until
43 Patty gets back.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

46

47 MR. LARSON:she's in
48 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Patty's gone so

1 we'll wait until she gets back. Any further discussion
2 on this issue while she -- while we're waiting for her.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think it would be
7 cleaner if we did it in this manner.

8

9 Harvey, you have something. Yeah.

10

11 MR. KITKA: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm not
12 too sure we need Patty for the amendment because the
13 amendment was made by Don. But I'm going to speak
14 against Don's amendment. Basically I believe that this
15 is good, it'll allow the subsistence users from Kake as
16 well as Angoon to be able to subsist without any
17 interference from non-qualified users in the area.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
22 Harvey.

23

24 Did you get the gist of what we're
25 trying to get at here, Patty, while you were out?

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: What is it?

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon?

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: What is it?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're working
34 on the amendments. And what -- I think what the
35 Council wants to do is to vote on the amendment and
36 then go back to these one by one, okay, and make any
37 amendments to it -- to them as we go through them in
38 that manner. So any other comments about the Council's
39 feelings about this amendment because we'll be voting
40 on it?

41

42 Donald.

43

44 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
45 Chairman. I think Harvey made a good point that I --
46 you know, I -- when I proposed the amendment I didn't
47 really consider and I think he's probably right in what
48 he says. So you have a amendment, you know, I think
49 we'll have a discussion on it, I think we should go
50 ahead and vote on it and see what the rest of the

1 Council feels.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Unless there's
4 no other comments on that I'm going to ask for a roll
5 call vote on this so, Harvey, please.
6
7 Okay. Somebody review the amendment,
8 you got it there.
9
10 Robert.
11
12 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
13 amendment substitutes the word Chichagof Island and
14 it's for Unit 4. So it would be Unit 4, Chichagof
15 Island only, those waters draining into Chatham
16 Straits, Icy Straits and Peril Straits.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
19
20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Call for the question.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
23 called for. Roll call, please.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Mike Douville.
26
27 MR. DOUVILLE: No.
28
29 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes no.
30
31 Bert Adams.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No.
34
35 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
36
37 MR. KOOKESH: No.
38
39 MR. KITKA: Don Hernandez.
40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: No.
42
43 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
44
45 MS. HAWKINS: No.
46
47 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
48
49 MR. BANGS: No.
50

1 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the amendment
2 has failed.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
5 Now we can go back to these proposals and we'll do them
6 one by one. Okay. The first one will be Unit 4,
7 female deer, special action request.
8
9 Mr. Bangs, please.
10
11 MR. BANGS: I'll move to adopt.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second.
14
15 MR. KITKA: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Harvey.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Comment.
22
23 MR. KITKA: Before we go on, we just
24 amended one thing, we haven't finalized Patty's motion.
25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, there's a
27 main motion on the floor that was -- who made it and
28 who seconded it?
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh.
31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: I didn't, I just read
33 it.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So that was to adopt
36 both -- all of these three, that's right, right? Okay.
37 So we need to deal with that now.
38
39 Donald.
40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, I believe
42 I made that motion to adopt all three of these as a
43 package. I will withdraw that motion.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is that okay with the
46 second.
47
48 MR. BANGS: (Nods affirmatively)
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Okay. So that

1 being done we can go back to these proposals one by
2 one.

3

4 MR. BANGS: Move to adopt the first
5 special action, Unit 4, female deer, October 7th.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, and I'm
8 corrected, I called it a proposal, it's a special
9 action. Is there a second.

10

11 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
14 Discussion.

15

16 Donald.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. I guess the main question before us is, you
20 know, this is a proposal that deals only with non-
21 Federally-qualified users. So this would -- if we were
22 to adopt this special action or this special action
23 would be adopted, it would be -- it would not be in
24 line with what the State is proposing because they
25 don't intend to close this area to non-Federally-
26 qualified. So I guess that's the -- that's the main
27 question before us, if we want to propose a closure to
28 non-Federally-qualified that would not align with what
29 the State is going to do in this area. So I think in
30 view of the conservation concerns and there also seems
31 to be -- subsistence users have not been able to
32 harvest what they need and do indeed have some
33 restrictions on them with closures of the doe season
34 that apply to Federally-qualified as well, I think this
35 is a valid action for the Council to take.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. Is
38 there any other comments.

39

40 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. We
41 heard Mr. Barten earlier saying that on the eastern
42 side of Admiralty if it snowed like hell or something
43 to that effect, that they would take action and close
44 it. And maybe they don't think there's a conservation
45 concern, but on this island and I believe that this is
46 a fair compromise for at least part of the island where
47 we can at least protect the resource.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. Mr.
50 Bangs.

1 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I'm wondering if the way this worded that it would be
3 confusing to non-qualified users that want to fly into
4 an alpine lake or something on Admiralty Island and is
5 there -- is that going to be something that we don't
6 have boundaries or, I mean, the east side of it's okay,
7 but the west side isn't. Is that going to be a problem
8 to be illegal or.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know. Anyone
11 have a comment about that.
12
13 MR. KOOKESH: I do.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.
16
17 MR. KOOKESH: I don't know very many
18 lakes that are open in December so it might be kind of
19 a moot point.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
22 council.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Call for the question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question's been
27 called for. Let's do a roll call again, Harvey,
28 please.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mike Douville.
35
36 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
37
38 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
39
40 Bert Adams.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
43
44 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
45
46 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
47
48 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
49
50 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
2
3 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
6
7 MR. BANGS: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
10 passed.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
13 Let's take on the next special action, please.
14
15 Question, Mr. Kookesh.
16
17 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
18 before we go any further, if we take roll call vote
19 aren't we supposed to give like the specific number --
20 aren't we asking for a specific number of yes -- ayes
21 or yeses and nos as opposed to we just say all in favor
22 because that's almost what we're asking for because
23 we're not -- we're not presenting that number out
24 there. Maybe I'm misunderstanding the process here.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We could do it either
27 way. It doesn't bother me any. If you want to do a
28 voice vote that's fine. Anyhow let's take that up and
29 we'll do it that other way.
30
31 Thank you, Floyd. Mr. Bangs.
32
33 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
34 move to adopt the special action request for the
35 Northeast Chichagof deer, October 7, 2009.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Is
38 there a second.
39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Second.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.
43 It's been moved and seconded. We're up for discussion.
44
45 Mr. Bangs.
46
47 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
48 guess the way I read it, it could have an intent of the
49 public lands of Unit 4 comma, Northeast Chichagof as an
50 addition or, I mean, is that okay the way it's written

1 to make it -- I mean, it seems like it could be all of
2 Unit 4 the way it's punctuated.

3
4
5 referring to?

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Where are you

6
7
8 closed.

MR. BANGS: The area's that's to be

9
10
11 anyone have a problem with that? You want to.....

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know. Does

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MR. DOUVILLE: With what?

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, he's talking
about the -- you know, on the -- if you go down to the
middle of the page there, describe the action you're
requesting and it says this special action would close
the public lands of Unit 4 comma, Northwest [sic]
Chichagof Controlled Use Area and so forth and so forth
to the subsistence harvest of female deer for 2008
[sic], 2010 season.

I guess, Mr. Bangs, you want to clarify
yourself a little bit more for us, please?

MR. BANGS: I just want to make sure we
weren't going to put ourselves in a situation where the
wording wasn't correct. I don't want it to be all of
Unit 4. The way it reads it says Unit 4, then says it
says Northeast Chichagof which is fine if everybody
agrees to that. I just didn't want to get in a
situation where wording was not correct.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thanks for
bringing that up, Mr. Bangs. Is there any problems
with the way that is read?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Doesn't appear to be,
Mr. Bangs. So okay.

Michael.

MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
But this does put a restriction on rural users. And if
I read Title VIII, it says in there that before you
restrict a rural users you must first eliminate all
other users. So I need some help in figuring out how

1 we can -- we're restricting a rural user and not -- do
2 you understand what I mean, the law is in there?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't know. Could
5 we have somebody answer his concern there, maybe Terry
6 or -- did you get his question, Terry?

7

8 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Douville through the
9 Chair. The -- in this case the other users are also
10 already restricted for the taking of does. And another
11 thing to keep in mind is what -- in Unit 4 there's
12 still a clear priority for subsistence users. There's
13 a higher bag limit and for -- for the bucks in that
14 area and there's also the more liberal designated
15 hunter provisions as compared to the, you know, State
16 proxy provisions. So I -- yeah, I -- so they're --
17 what I'm trying to say though is there still is a clear
18 priority for Federal users even though we are trying to
19 protect the does.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that satisfy your
24 concern, Michael? What he's saying is that other user
25 groups are already pretty well restricted, you know.
26 So.....

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: No, it doesn't satisfy
29 me and I don't believe that it's in compliance with
30 Title VIII. We've -- I believe we had this discussion
31 similarly on Unit 2 deer. And you could not eliminate
32 that doe season down there because it would put a
33 restriction on rural users. And this is doing the same
34 thing.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey and then Floyd.
37 You were first? Okay. I'll take you first and then
38 Harvey.

39

40 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I'm kind of
41 gathering from what Mr. Douville is saying is that if
42 we're going to start creating restriction, we should
43 first do it to the non-Federally-qualified and not do
44 it to both -- to all parties. Maybe I'm
45 misunderstanding, I feel that maybe it should have been
46 done to non-Federally-qualified and not to all of us.
47 I believe that's the way it was supposed to go before
48 you restrict subsistence you have to go to the
49 commercial interests and the sport interests, then the
50 subsistence interests, not all the way across. Maybe

1 that's -- maybe I misunderstood something.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Harvey and then
4 Michael Bangs.

5

6 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 had a question and I -- I know Bob talked about it a
8 little bit earlier, but I really wish we had some
9 people from Hoonah here or some of the places that are
10 going to be affected because it's really hard to make a
11 decision on something like this that we don't have face
12 to face with those people.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, well taken,
15 Harvey. Go ahead, Mike.

16

17 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
18 recall discussions and I heard it on the news when the
19 first closure came and Frank Wright who lives in Hoonah
20 was all behind closure of that doe season, he was
21 adamant that that's what needed to happen. And there
22 was some people that lived in Hoonah that were pretty
23 upset that they were going to close the doe season.
24 But he felt that they had to protect the deer that were
25 left. And I think that in a situation in NECCUA where
26 there is a strong conservation concern that I think
27 everybody needs to take some restrictions and save the
28 deer. It's not anymore of a burden on the people of
29 Hoonah if there's no deer there to shoot, you know,
30 you've got to protect the ones that are left. And I
31 think that Frank made that clear that that was a good
32 thing to do is to just restrict the doe take.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you wouldn't think
35 that he would have any problem with this special action
36 then, Mr. Bangs?

37

38 MR. BANGS: I can't for sure, but his
39 comments were that -- I heard it on the radio as well,
40 the interview with him, and there was a big concern
41 over there that this is what needed to happen.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Bang -- I
44 mean, Michael Douville.

45

46 MR. DOUVILLE: We went through this
47 before, we had this argument about doe season in Unit
48 2. And I was not in favor of it either. And I argued
49 until I was blue in the face with Big Bill and he said
50 that's -- thank you very much, you've made a good

1 presentation and I agree with a lot of what you say,
2 but Title VIII does not allow us to do that. So and it
3 held water. So we could not go there, but maybe you
4 guys think you can, I don't know, but it was tried
5 before and he would not allow it because it was against
6 -- you're putting a restriction on a rural user before
7 you eliminate the other users. They have to face
8 restriction first.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

11

12 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 believe one of the reports showed that only 45 percent
14 of Unit 4 deer came -- was harvested by rural residents
15 and that the rest was harvested by non-Federally-
16 qualified. So, I mean, more than 50 percent is taken
17 by non-Federally-qualified. So I think by eliminating
18 that harvest on the population you're bringing it down.
19 What we're about is providing an opportunity for those
20 that need it. You got the people in the Village of
21 Hoonah who are -- many of them are economically
22 depressed and if they need a deer they're going to go
23 get one whether we say it's legal or not.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.
26 Pete, can you straighten us out on this issue.

27

28 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, I'll try.
29 Speaking specifically to Mr. Douville's question, you
30 can implement restrictions to Federally-qualified
31 subsistence users without a complete closure to non-
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users. What is before
33 the Board, before the Council, is to meet the intent
34 and the purpose of ANILCA is to provide a subsistence
35 priority of that use. And Mr. Suminski very clearly
36 articulated how that has been met. Now we need to go
37 back and this has gone through the courts and if you
38 remember the Ninilchik case where they dealt with moose
39 there and antler restrictions, where that argument was
40 brought forth that we couldn't restrict subsistence
41 users by antler restrictions, was not upheld. In other
42 words the Board can implement restrictions on
43 Federally-qualified subsistence users to meet
44 conservation concerns and allocation of the harvest.
45 Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
48 Probasco. I wish Frank were here. What's the airplane
49 like, do you know, Melinda?

50

1 MS. M. HERNANDEZ: Supposedly it left
2 15 minutes ago
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But we're going to be
5 adjourning here for the day. Would you like to maybe
6 bring this up tomorrow after Frank is here where we can
7 get his input on this? That be all right?
8
9 (Council nods affirmatively)
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So done. Okay. we'll
12 bring this up in the morning. Okay. Pardon?
13
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: I accept.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,
17 folks. We'll bring this up in the morning first thing.
18 Okay.
19
20 MR. KOOKESH: Going to go on to
21 marten?
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's do the marten
24 one.
25
26 MR. KOOKESH: Isn't there a motion
27 sitting on the floor there or what?
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon me?
30
31 MR. KOOKESH: What are you going to do
32 with the motion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, there's a motion
35 on the floor so let's table it until tomorrow. Okay.
36 Somebody want to make a motion to table.
37
38 Go ahead, Donald.
39
40 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll make a motion to
41 table that proposal until tomorrow.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It's a special
44 action.
45
46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Oh. Table the motion.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Table the
49 motion. And then is there a second.
50

1 MR. BANGS: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Discussion.
4 All in favor say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's take a
13 break now. I promised you a break at 3:00 o'clock and
14 we're behind, but we'll start tomorrow promptly at 9:00
15 o'clock and we'll try to get through -- well, we will
16 get through the agenda tomorrow before.....
17
18 MR. LARSON: Sure you don't want to
19 start about 8:30 to make sure.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's start at
22 8:30, okay. Everyone hear, 8:30.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 103 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by our firm on the 6th day of October 2009, beginning at the hour of 9:22 o'clock a.m. at Yakutat, 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 20th day of October 2009.

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