

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME III

7
8 Sitka, Alaska
9 October 13, 2006
10 8:30 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
16 Michael Bangs
17 Nicholas Davis
18 Michael Douville
19 Floyd Kookesh
20 Dolly Garza
21 Donald Hernandez
22 Harvey Kitka
23 Patricia Phillips
24 Richard Stokes
25 Frank Wright
26
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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Schroeder
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44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 3522 West 27th Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99517
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Sitka, Alaska - 10/13/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, folks we're about ready to get started here, I'll give you 30 seconds to settle in your seats.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we'll call this meeting back to order. I want to welcome Mike Turek. We were wondering if you were going to show up or not, but you had a couple callings here as representing the State, you know, while you were gone, and my compliments to Sarah, she did a good job for you. But we'll look forward to hearing from you soon.

We want to move on here because we need to get done today and there is a lot that we need to accomplish yet.

So the next item on the agenda is the Fisheries Information Service, no, no, sorry, the Southeast fisheries report. Mr. Larson. Following that will be the Fisheries Information Service report.

MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. My name is Robert Larson. I work for the Forest Service as the subsistence fisheries biologist for the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts. I was asked to prepare a short presentation just to provide some scope and general information regarding the Southeast subsistence fisheries, the Federal subsistence fisheries.

The PowerPoint presentation that you're looking at has some information in it and some pictures. What you're looking at first are king salmon from the Stikine River. These are actually drying or being prepared to dry on the Canadian side.

What we do need to do first, I think, is provide some scope to the program and as a direct comparison for our program we need to first look at the State's program. If we look only at permit returns from the State, these are not expanded, you'll see that the State program has, you know, significant numbers of fish, primarily sockeye, 38,000 and those are annual returns, I

1 believe I looked at 15 years or so. And in the State
2 subsistence program almost all of it occurs in marine
3 waters, seine is the prevalent gear type. This is
4 Klawock Inlet, Klagg Bay seining operations, a little
5 different kind of boats. Kook, similar seining
6 operation. And Yakutat and in much of the Wrangell
7 Petersburg area we use gillnets. This is obviously the
8 ocean, much different kind of an operation up there.

9
10 The management of our fisheries really is
11 divided up into four different categories. Provide some
12 guidelines.

13
14 First of all we have fisheries
15 regulations.

16
17 We have customary and traditional trade
18 designations that really define who, in fact, can
19 participate.

20
21 The fisheries themselves require a
22 permit, and on these permits there are a number of permit
23 conditions that are not in regulation but they govern the
24 fishery and are necessary for the year to year
25 variability in abundance of fish.

26
27 There's also in-season managers. These
28 are Forest Service district rangers and there are five of
29 them on the Tongass.

30
31 As example of the overlapping customary
32 and traditional use areas associated with species and
33 communities, you can see that some places have exclusive
34 use, some places have shared use and some places have use
35 in common where all residents of Southeast and Yakutat
36 are qualified users.

37
38 For instance here in Kake is a good case
39 in point where you can see Sitka's exclusive use on the
40 left and Kake's exclusive use in the middle. You see
41 some shared use with Prince of Wales on the south side
42 and then Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Meyerschuck and
43 residents of Prince of Wales have shared -- they have
44 exclusive use but it's shared between those communities
45 for places like Salmon Bay Lake.

46
47 Customary and traditional use findings
48 define who is a qualified subsistence user.

49
50 We have a series of subsistence permits,

1 these are separate documents. There are Yakutat
2 steelhead, Prince of Wales spring steelhead, Southeast
3 steelhead, Unuk River eulachon, a general salmon/trout
4 permit, a Stikine salmon permit and a Prince of Wales
5 winter steelhead permit. You would need all of those
6 permits to participate in all of the fisheries.

7
8 In-season management involves the
9 managers of the Forest Service conducting some in-season
10 trips to examine fisheries that are ongoing. There's our
11 regional forester on the left on the Stikine River and
12 our friend, Council member, Dick Stokes on the right. We
13 had a trip up the river to show the regional forester
14 exactly the conditions he would be discussing at Board
15 meeting.

16
17 One of the provisions that is common is
18 that if we catch fish that are not our targeted species
19 then you can retain them. This is a whitefish caught and
20 they're fairly prevalent on the Stikine River but you
21 won't find them in, you know, our regulations, but if you
22 catch them then you can keep them. And that is true
23 whatever fish.

24
25 DR. GARZA: Cisco?

26
27 MR. LARSON: Pardon me?

28
29 DR. GARZA: Cisco?

30
31 MR. LARSON: Whitefish, yeah, mountain
32 whitefish.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Gear. In contrast to the
35 gear that is most prevalent in State fisheries, much of
36 our fish are caught with gaff, spears, gillnets and
37 dipnets, put primarily by handlines and rod and reel, and
38 there's different gear for different species.

39
40 For interest sockeyes, pinks and chums,
41 there's a fairly extensive list. Stikine salmon you
42 can't use dipnets, castnets or handlines. In addition,
43 for coho salmon, you can't use a gillnet, a castnet or a
44 seine. Steelhead you can only use a dipnet, gaff,
45 handline, spear, rod and reel and for trout and char you
46 can only use rod and reel.

47
48 If we look at the subsistence fishery and
49 we really only have records from permits going back to
50 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, with numbers of salmon on the

1 left, you can see that sockeyes are the most prevalent.
2 We did have in 2002 a number of cohos a first year, and
3 those were mostly all taken from the Klawock River. But
4 the scope of our program regarding numbers of fish
5 reported on subsistence fishing permits is much less than
6 in the State system.

7
8 This spear was presented to us as a
9 demonstration in their meeting they had in Craig and
10 generated lots of discussion and interest from the
11 Council members regarding what is a spear and what is a
12 gaff. A close up of that particular tool. I believe the
13 final determination was is that is a spear. Dipnetting,
14 this is at Redoubt Bay, very, very popular gear in some
15 places where the fish are available.

16
17 The Stikine River, we have permit data
18 beginning in 2004. I've included 2006 only as permits to
19 show that there is a few more permits for 2006 but really
20 not, you know, a significant number more. And I would
21 expect that the sockeye and coho numbers are about the
22 same, there'll be a few more king salmon this year, we
23 allowed an eight inch maximum size limit for king salmon
24 this year as opposed to a five and a half in 2004 and
25 2005. In addition, we've had earlier fishing in 2006.
26 So I expect that chinook number to be quite a bit more
27 than last year.

28
29 The gear for Stikine River than gear in
30 other places in that this is the most popular gear type.
31 The gillnet is held into the river by either a log or a
32 buoy on a rope and the river is actually flowing left to
33 right but they sit in back eddies where the current will
34 hold the net out and it's -- the net often times has a
35 little pulley in the end so you don't have to actually
36 get in a skiff to get out there, you can haul the net and
37 set the net from shore.

38
39 Subsistence steelhead harvests there is
40 some increase in 2006 for the Prince of Wales spring
41 fishery, we're looking at 37 fish, I believe.

42
43 The 2005 season was the first season
44 where we had a provision to harvest steelhead in the rest
45 of Southeast other than Prince of Wales Island.

46
47 DR. GARZA: Was Yakutat.....

48
49 MR. LARSON: Yakutat is in there. In 2006
50 we had no harvest of steelhead in Yakutat.

1 The handline to harvest steelhead, this
2 is from a picture from Prince of Wales Island, rod and
3 reel is primarily the gear of choice for much of the
4 Federal subsistence fisheries. That's actually a picture
5 up the Stikine River.

6
7 You did discuss -- a discussion of
8 herring and herring spawn on kelp, spawn on branches and
9 I thought it would be interesting to provide some scope
10 of what we see from permits and I would like to remind
11 you that whenever you look at data from permits, if it's
12 raw data it's unexpanded, it's a minimum number, it's not
13 -- there's been no -- there's no one that says this is an
14 average number or the maximum number or anything like
15 that, this is a minimum number. So all permit number is
16 a minimum number and we need to keep that in mind but it
17 is some fraction and often times an unknown fraction of
18 the total. But of the data that's available, you need a
19 permit to harvest spawn on kelp and this is the results
20 of those permits. This is almost all from the southern
21 Southeast. The Hydaburg and Craig areas.

22
23 Spawn on branches, you've seen this in a
24 table form in your Staff analysis, this is almost all
25 from Sitka.

26
27 Spawn on branches, you know, a typical
28 harvest operation involves, you know, boats of some size,
29 often times it requires a bigger boat to harvest a larger
30 branch. These branches can become fairly heavy with
31 spawn.

32
33 The other Federal fishery, we haven't had
34 too much discussion of that today, but we've had
35 considerable discussion in the past is Unuk River. You
36 can see results of -- one half, the left, prior to 2002
37 was all the commercial fishery, the commercial fishery
38 was closed by emergency order. What we don't see to the
39 left of 2002 are the personal use and subsistence
40 harvest, there's no estimate of that, but they did occur
41 prior to 2002 we just didn't record them. And then in
42 2001 we see the subsistence fishery -- Federal
43 subsistence fisheries and then in the last two years
44 there's been no harvest.

45
46 Female and male -- female on the top and
47 male on the bottom picture of eulachons from the Unuk
48 River. The seine in the background, the ice, the fishery
49 occurs right at or just after ice out, typical, and you
50 need to catch them with seines or some castnets kind of

1 gear, typical seine operation with a couple of skiffs.
2 This is the Unuk River, it's in a place called Landing
3 Slough, it's the upper end of Landing Slough. It's the
4 Eulachon Creek, it's just off of our frame here to our
5 left.

6
7 And that's the end of our show, end of my
8 presentation.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. Any
11 questions. Don.

12
13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Bob, did they have
14 the eulachon harvest in the Stikine River this spring?

15
16 MR. LARSON: Yes. There is a eulachon
17 harvest at some level, we don't really think it's a
18 significant component of the total return. But at least
19 some of the people that normally harvested in the Unuk
20 River transferred their operations to the Stikine River
21 and were successful at harvesting eulachons from there.
22 And the last I spoke to them they planned on being back
23 again next year and taking advantage of those fish.

24
25 We have made some efforts in determining
26 how many eulachons there are there, is the stock healthy
27 or is it not. It's a very large river, the fish extend
28 over a considerable amount of time and 20 miles or more
29 up river we think that the harvest at current levels, and
30 our harvest estimate is not good, but whatever that
31 harvest is, it's, you know, a fairly small component of
32 the total run size, and fully sustainable. So we plan on
33 monitoring the Stikine River, but there's no plans to,
34 either on the State side or the Federal side to have a
35 permit kind of a system.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.
38 Okay, Mike and then Floyd.

39
40 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
41 My question is, you had some scale there on the
42 commercial fishing, records of commercial catch, did that
43 include subsistence or personal use also in that numbers
44 or would that be in addition to the commercial catch?

45
46 MR. LARSON: That would be in additional
47 to the commercial catch. We didn't require permits at
48 the time, nor did we really keep a very close record of
49 what that personal use subsistence harvest was, so I just
50 didn't include that. What we had were -- prior to 2001

1 we had subsistence records and those are very accurate,
2 so that's included in that. But there is, in addition to
3 those, subsistence catches, there is some component that
4 is personal use subsistence.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

7
8 MR. KOOKESH: My question is on this
9 paper. Do you have it? Is this the same difference?

10
11 MR. CASIPIT: This is a handout for Mr.
12 Van Alen's presentation that's coming next. I think he
13 just wanted to have that for you ahead of time.

14
15 MR. KOOKESH: Well.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's what happens when
18 you come late, though.

19
20 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Indian time, uh. Any
23 other questions of Bob.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

28
29 MR. KOOKESH: She had a question, you're
30 missing something.

31
32 DR. GARZA: Hey, Bob.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dolly.

35
36 DR. GARZA: He didn't look this way to
37 throw things at him.

38
39 Great presentation, do you have that
40 available in print or can you email me a copy or it would
41 be nice to look at again or even if you had the table
42 format?

43
44 MR. LARSON: I can share this with any
45 and all of us, either print it or electronic format,
46 that's no problem.

47
48 DR. GARZA: Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, earlier when
2 Dolly was asking her question, I don't know where her
3 mouth was, but I didn't hear what she was saying, I heard
4 mumbling, but if people need to talk they should look at
5 the mic a little bit more because I didn't hear a word
6 she said, I don't know if you guys caught it.

7

8 I missed the question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bob.

11

12 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The question
13 that I answered was whether or not this presentation was
14 available in electronic or a printed format and I said
15 it's easy to provide. So any and all people can have
16 access to this in whatever format they most would like.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, and then me.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
23 The other comment made that was an excellent presentation
24 and I would prefer it in a CD, in a disk, please.

25

26 MR. LARSON: Absolutely.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. That way
29 everyone can get one, right, Bob.

30

31 MR. LARSON: Oh, absolutely.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I have a couple
34 questions. One comment first, you know, the scene that
35 you had with the net set out in Yakutat, in the ocean,
36 those are really calm waters at that time, you know, and
37 if you'd have had one that was more normal, I think we'd
38 get a pretty good idea what it's like to surf fish up
39 there. They're skilled fishermen and they know how to
40 maneuver in those breakers, waves in order to make their
41 living.

42

43 My question is, you know, the past few
44 years in Yakutat we've had, you know, eulachon returns,
45 you know, that's kind of up and down, and I'm kind of
46 wondering, you know, if any studies or research has been
47 done into the reasons for that. This year we hardly had
48 anything. Last year it was kind of up. The year before
49 that we were wondering where they went or when they were
50 gong to come. And, you know, maybe that needs to be

1 looked into, you know, for some future projects.

2

3 MR. LARSON: I know that the Forest
4 Service Staff in Yakutat has spent some time, and I don't
5 know that it was this year or not, but in the past,
6 trying to look at and become familiar with the eulachon
7 returns in Yakutat area, the same as they have in the
8 Juneau area and the same as they have in the Stikine and
9 Unuk area. The eulachon fishery coastwide appears to be
10 changing and the abundance seems to be going down and
11 it's very worrisome.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. We're mostly
14 concerned, you know, with the Situk River and Ahrnklin
15 River. We know when the eulachons start coming because
16 we hear reports, oh, they're in Dry Bay, they're in Auke
17 Lake, they're in Aatalia River (ph) now, you know, and we
18 got those kind of reports this year but, again, we had a
19 real bad season for eulachons in the Situk and Ahrnklin
20 River this year.

21

22 MR. KOOKESH: Dolly.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Dolly.

25

26 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. KOOKESH: I heard that.

31

32 DR. GARZA: Just a side note, I work with
33 Marine Advisory Program, Alaska Sea Grant and we're
34 looking at trying to pull together a conference this
35 March on eulachon for the west coast because of the
36 apparent changes in biomass and perhaps distribution so
37 I'll keep you up on that as well as the Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dolly.

40

41 Any other questions of Bob.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Sir.

46 Gunalcheesh. Mr. Ben Van Alen.

47

48 I've had some conversations with Ben, you
49 know, when the Situk River was being threatened by the
50 overflow of the Russell Fjords, one of the first things I

1 learned about him and I've always used it when I make a
2 comment or something is that fish loves water, and the
3 more the better. So, you know, hopefully he'll be able
4 to explain a little bit more, you know, why that is so
5 because the people in Yakutat are concerned with that
6 overflow and if it does manage to do that and spill into
7 the Situk River, it's going to swell it up three to five
8 times than what it is right now, and then change it, you
9 know, from a fresh water fed lake to a glacier river.

10

11 And so as I thought about what he had
12 told me, fish loves water, well, if fish love water
13 that's going to provide more habitat for the salmon, you
14 know, as the Russell Fjord makes that break and then --
15 you know, available, and it's going to take probably
16 years and years, you know, for that to come back again
17 but all of the 30-mile long Russell Fjord is going to
18 provide -- I think, you know, this is my evaluation, more
19 habitat for salmon.

20

21 But, anyhow, just wanted to share that
22 with you Ben, if there's one thing I learned from you
23 that was it. And he is indeed the sockeye expert.

24

25 MR. VAN ALLEN: Thank you, Chairman. I've
26 been asked to give a short presentation on some of
27 basically the results of our FIS projects, what we're
28 getting for the money that we're spending and some review
29 of other sockeye escapement information in the region,
30 and I also have a little bit of eulachon in here to. So
31 this information is compiled from our cooperative
32 projects, which cooperative always involve a tribal
33 entity, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Angoon Community
34 Association, depending, you know, Kake, Hydaburg, Klawock
35 anyway, with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in most
36 cases, and/or U.S. Forest Service folks.

37

38 Here are some pictures from this year,
39 actually just from a couple of weeks ago, Neva Lake, Kook
40 Lake.

41

42 I just want to take us back prior to FIS
43 project funding, it started in 2001 before this Federal
44 funds became available, this is generalization, like for
45 10 years and for a bunch of years. The only real
46 information we had on the 200 plus sockeye systems in
47 Southeast were coming from areas where there's targeted
48 fisheries like in Lynn Canal are gillnet fishery so we
49 knew about Chilkat and Chilkoot sockeye. We know about
50 Taku sockeye. We knew about Stikine sockeye. Also a lot

1 of that stock assessment's funded with U.S./Canada work
2 in the Taku and Stikine. We also had project, foot
3 surveys going on at McDonald Lake. At Hugh Smith we had
4 a weir. That's kind of a rare event. And also at Auke
5 Lake there's a National Marine Fisheries Service Weir,
6 but on the island here, the whole archipelago, we
7 basically didn't have much there had been a weir project.
8 Mostly Forest Service funds are always Forest Service
9 funded, sometimes Fish and Game's involved at Redoubt, at
10 Ford Arm, there's a coho indicator stock tagging program
11 that that crew was doing a mark/recapture on sockeye and
12 so we had some estimate there. And also a program much
13 like we're still doing, at the very present at Sitkho to
14 index the escapement of sockeye, that was it for any
15 reliable estimates.

16

17 So with this new funding, came projects
18 at Klagg, Salmon Lake, Tumakof, those are all associated
19 with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Fish and Game getting the
20 funding.

21

22 Down in Klawock we instigated a reliable
23 -- program to reliably estimate Klawock sockeye
24 escapements, Hydaburg worked with Hetta, Eek.

25

26 Wrangell, these projects have come and
27 gone, lack of funding, but Salmon Bay, Thoms and Luk were
28 all studied for three years.

29

30 At Kake, we had Falls Lake, Gut Bay and
31 Kutlaku. Falls and Kutlaku are still going.

32

33 And in Angoon we've been doing Kook,
34 Sitkho and Kanalku.

35

36 In Hoonah, Hoktaheen and Pavlof for three
37 years. Neva is still going as a weir project.

38

39 Anyway, so what I have handed out on the
40 back table and to members of the Council, and there's
41 other copies available is the results, you can't read
42 them on the screen, and -- but I think this is the third
43 year or the fourth year that I've kind of made a quick
44 summary for this meeting of what the principal results
45 are from these projects, those are our best estimates of
46 the total escapement in those projects where we're able
47 to do that and -- or indices of escapement, that being
48 where we go to a certain place in the lake and mark and
49 examine for marks or count fish in the same manner each
50 year so as you read across the rows on this table,

1 hopefully those numbers are comparable, if one year's
2 higher than another year, we are pretty confident that
3 that meant one year has more fish than another.

4
5 And the table in front of us, it's kind
6 of a neat year, there's several weir projects which
7 estimated escapements of right around 10,000 fish, that
8 would be Kook and Kutlaku. Not on the table is, we heard
9 a little results, and maybe we'll hear more but Carta,
10 they operated their weir and that was also about 10,700
11 -- was the weir count this year, same as last year.
12 Anyway, I don't want to go into too much detail, I did
13 want to make it available.

14
15 And you'll note on the back of the
16 handout I gave, that I -- I know it's not complete, and
17 we don't have them here, but there's a lot of reports
18 being generated as part of these FIS funded projects.
19 And Fish and Game is involved with most of them and has
20 done an excellent job of summarizing project findings.
21 And so we're really developing quite a, I'd say a legacy
22 of information, that would be most useful, not only now
23 but 100 years from now.

24
25 A few pictures, just from this year, Neva
26 Lake weir crew, Eliza Shakely, Jerome Abbott, Myron
27 Murphy. The results from Neva Lake, this is a weir
28 project, but basically I've mostly been escapement
29 through mark/recapture for various reasons. But we see
30 that the escapement actually in this very little lake is
31 a lot more than we ever thought it was going to be. We
32 thought it'd be maybe about a thousand fish, 5,000,
33 11,000, so anyway it is an example, I would say, of great
34 protracted run, inlet stream spawning, lake spawning,
35 it's nice.

36
37 At Kook Lake, this is our second year of
38 a weir project, we tried and essentially failed at being
39 to index fish in the lake through -- on the survey
40 spawning area mark/recapture stuff, because the fish are
41 just too dispersed, hard to get your hands on. So anyway
42 we switched to a weir project and last year we had a
43 couple thousand fish through the weir and this year we
44 had 9,800 plus through the weir with very nice
45 distribution of escapement.

46
47 We had lots of bears this year where we
48 didn't really see that many last year.

49
50 And at Kook Lake we tested the video

1 counting. This is being done throughout Southeast, other
2 folks, elsewhere in Alaska, Pacific Northwest and I
3 experimented with different ways, different counting
4 boxes, camera methods, involved power supply, solar
5 panels, I had a hydrogenerator there, a gas generator, I
6 had computer stuff up on the top there. And it all
7 worked good. We're able to get real good visual images
8 of fish as they swam by the camera, and so I'm hoping to
9 actually implement that next year, along with our
10 physically counting each fish through the weir. It's
11 still very much a test program in progress.

12

13 But I'm hoping that we could cut down on
14 the number of fish we actually have to touch, have to
15 handle, not delay their migration whatsoever.

16

17 Another thing we did out at Kook this
18 year is we built and deployed a net weir, the lower left
19 panel is a diagram of the shape of that weir. It's
20 basically a big funnel set in the lake with the tail end
21 of it on each shore of the outlet of the lake. And in
22 this case we had essentially had double weir, they passed
23 through the rigid weir and then they passed through the
24 net weir, and I'm testing to see how durable it is and
25 it's kind of neat to have a whole weir that can fit in
26 the back of a beaver without having to take the middle
27 seat out. And so I'm hoping that this kind of thing
28 might prove useful elsewhere. And it did prove useful
29 this year, in fact, because on September 1st, we had, as
30 did other projects in the area, have problems maintaining
31 fish tight weirs, extreme high water event actually
32 damaged our weir, knocked our trap over, we ended up
33 pulling the pickets and essentially closing down the trap
34 but we continued to operate the net weir for the end of
35 the project and counted fish through that. I don't have
36 a picture of a live box, a trap I had at the end of it,
37 so that worked.

38

39 And I'm going to switch to some other
40 projects that are, in this case, Forest Service projects,
41 that are contributing to our -- hopefully helping us, at
42 Kanalku, we don't know if this falls at Kanalku is a real
43 barrier to upstream migrating fish. Do all the fish make
44 it up, do half of them make it, do only 10 percent, I
45 have no idea. So we went and radiotagged 30 fish below
46 the falls throughout the course of the summer and the
47 crew is actually in there now, I believe, retrieving some
48 of the telemetry gear that we had in there, so I don't
49 know the results yet. Some did make it but it didn't --
50 boy, there were fish a long time in this pool right below

1 the falls from our very first tagging effort, they're
2 still there a month and six weeks later so I don't know,
3 it's definitely a barrier. We'd like to know where they
4 go. There's a beautiful inlet stream at Kanalku and
5 apparently no sockeye are in it. Nice to validate that.

6
7 We also made a trip out there, fished a
8 bunch of fyke nets and seeing if we could catch kokanee
9 because there are kokanee in the lake and we'd like to
10 know if there's a little or a lot, that will tell us a
11 lot about the migration of hardship over the falls. And
12 we didn't catch any so it doesn't look like there's a lot
13 of them.

14
15 Another Forest Service primarily funded
16 project has been the Redoubt weir and this is a great
17 example of a fantastic data set, longtime series, I
18 didn't provide -- not providing here the spawner recruit
19 data we also have that accompanies this, and ability to
20 look at escapement goals and in this case, also be able
21 to evaluate the benefits of fertilization that's
22 occurring.

23
24 Last year was one heck of a year as you
25 could tell.

26
27 And at Klawock weir, this is also kind of
28 related in that Meg Cartwright and I worked together with
29 John Bruns at the hatchery and submitted a sustainable
30 salmon fund project funding, got money to redesign the
31 weir at Klawock which was set too upright, too much like
32 a barrier, a dam, not allowing water to pass and it blew
33 out in 2003 and in earlier years. Anyway, this year we
34 had a similar high water event in October, the weir
35 wasn't damaged. So our little bit of a reengineering did
36 pay off.

37
38 Here I'm up in Yakutat. Here's a great
39 example, I think, of where Forest Service is kind of
40 filling a niche, Situk, Ahrnklin estuary is a major
41 fishery there, very important for subsistence as well as
42 commercial, and we don't really know what the production
43 is from the Ahrnklin River. We have the -- the Fish and
44 Game has operated a weir on the Situk for many years and
45 we don't know if just a few fish or a lot of fish go up
46 the Ahrnklin. Typically what we do is we go up the lower
47 Ahrnklin to the confluence with the Antlin River, fish
48 beach seine, mark as many fish as we can, we do that for
49 about five weeks of the summer, pluck some scales, of
50 course, like good biologists.

1 These are the preliminary results, 23,000
2 fish in the upper Ahrnklin escapement in 2001, 2002 we
3 marked a lot of fish but the crew had to try to hold back
4 the Hubbard Glacier that year, couldn't get any recovery
5 effort.

6
7 Anyway so this information will be quite
8 helpful for the Department in assessing escapement goals
9 for Situk as well as our knowledge of the stock, sockeye
10 in the area.

11
12 I went for an overnighiter down on the
13 Unuk to help them kind of develop a study design for
14 their survey program and it got a little cold on us and
15 13 nights later I finally made it out, but it did give us
16 lots of time to really study the area and develop a study
17 plan. We walked all over and came up with a good study
18 plan. We only saw a few eulachon in schools right at the
19 head of Burroughs Bay. Never saw any in the river.
20 Eulachon are basically, you know they're there when the
21 bird activity signifies it, and we just didn't see
22 anything. And basically this project is like the other
23 Forest Service ones, all on a shoestring more or less and
24 don't have any solid funding.

25
26 Bob talked about his work on the Stikine
27 at Berners Bay, Antler River we've been doing a
28 mark/recapture project with eulachon with a -- I consider
29 a fairly well designed project to last three or four
30 years, where we basically build -- set three traps up the
31 river, we mark fish as they are caught in the lower trap
32 and just a couple bends up stream we examine them for
33 marks, very simple, operated basically for about a month,
34 and we've had estimates that range from 700,00 to 2.5
35 million. This past summer was definitely the smallest
36 run, maybe only 100,000. These are all preliminary
37 numbers but who knows if we'll be able to fund and
38 continue this project but we're giving it a gallant try.

39
40 In Yakutat, like Bob just mentioned, the
41 Yakutat Ranger District is involved, I should have
42 included a picture of the results from recent years. We
43 have been doing surveys of the estuaries areas there and
44 I think it's important to quantify when we look a zero is
45 as valid of data as some observation, so that's what I'm
46 trying to do, turn observations more qualitative.

47
48 Anyway, thanks.

49
50 This is actually a photo from the upper

1 Antlin River doing recapture, examining fish from marks
2 that we marked at the lower Ahrnklin River. I think you
3 might have seen this last year, it was done last year.

4

5 Any questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Ben. Any
8 questions.

9

10 MR. KOOKESH: Can you move over a little
11 bit, can straighten your chair up.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Say please.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: Please. Question then, I
16 got a questions on this.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Floyd.

19

20 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Ben Van Alen, two
21 questions. When is the data going to be available on the
22 stuff that says pending, and these estimates that you
23 have on the sockeyes, those are accurate, right, is that
24 what estimate means, how close.

25

26 MR. VAN ALLEN: Yeah, first question on
27 the availability of these reports. This first I put on
28 here was actually compiled last December. And since that
29 time, understand that all the 2004 reports have been
30 completed that Fish and Game is responsible for. And so
31 I think the best thing would be to be in contact with Jan
32 Konitz (ph) at Fish and Game or Doug McBride, here at
33 Office of Subsistence Management to find out what the
34 latest is on the reports and to request copies.

35

36 The other question has to do with the
37 accuracy of the data, and there's different ways that
38 these estimates are generated. What I provided on this
39 table, a total for system, that's where we've gone in
40 there with a study design that when our assumptions are
41 met will allow us to get an accurate estimate of the
42 total escapement, at least, above that point. So many of
43 these estimates will have the standard error associated
44 with it and we can assess the coefficient variation
45 around the estimate and I didn't provide that level of
46 detail in this table, it's already busy, lots of numbers.

47

48 So the ones that say total for system are
49 ones I feel very confident in, that we're getting good
50 estimates. And what we're doing, again, isn't rocket

1 science, it's definitely way better than not doing it but
2 I would consider them unbiased estimates of escapement.
3 It could be a little higher, could be a little lower, but
4 they're definitely higher useable in our nature of work.

5
6 The indices that I provide are where
7 we're trying to be consistent in our methods year in and
8 year out, where we go, when we go, how we handle the fish
9 but they're not necessarily an estimate of the total
10 escapement. In some cases they probably come very close
11 and in some cases we will be able to test and see if they
12 are, indeed, the actual escapement. Or if they're
13 consistently under or over the actual escapement, we
14 don't know yet.

15
16 But, again, as you read across the row,
17 those numbers, I'm hoping or we're hoping that they're
18 comparable year to year.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Nick.

21
22 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A
23 couple questions, what's the cycle of the sockeye and
24 what's happening at Kluckwan and Haines, never hear
25 anything?

26
27 MR. VAN ALEN: I'll do the latter first,
28 at Kluckwan and Haines, unfortunately or fortunately,
29 depending on how you sit, there's not National Forest
30 land around there so we don't have any real direct, let's
31 say, involvement, in assessment of the stocks. But,
32 yeah, I think it is important for us to keep abreast of
33 it and I think I will continue to put together a table I
34 had done about five years ago, which includes information
35 for other systems. So maybe at this time next year I'll
36 have a much more complete table with references that will
37 allow us to kind of track what we know for the systems
38 that it's collected in a consistent reliable manner.

39
40 And your first question was.

41
42 MR. DAVIS: What's the cycle of the
43 sockeye?

44
45 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah, basically they could
46 come back three years, four years, five years, six years,
47 and some seven years after the egg was put in the gravel.
48 And typically they're two-twos, meaning one-two, one-
49 three, two-twos or two-threes, meaning they spent one
50 additional year in freshwater rearing and two years in

1 the ocean rearing or three years in the ocean rearing, or
2 they spent two years in fresh water rearing and then two
3 or three so anyway four years and five year olds are what
4 most of them are and there's nothing consistent within a
5 stock. It can vary, sometimes quite dramatically.

6

7 Neva Lake is a good example. In 2002 we
8 had about 25 percent of the fish as jacks, and that's
9 considered a one-one three year old fish. They returned
10 after spending only one year in the ocean, one Christmas
11 in the ocean, so it could vary quite a bit.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Ben, did you say, was it
16 Kook system that you characterized as having a really
17 good run for this year, is that the one that you
18 mentioned?

19

20 MR. VAN ALLEN: Yeah, I think I said it's
21 -- it's great distribution of the escapement, and the
22 numbers, too, are very good of about 10,000 fish, that's
23 a comfortable level for me for sure for the escapement.
24 I guess I was contrasting it to the year before. In 2005
25 we had 2,000 fish in the escapement with half of those
26 passing through the weir after August 25th so we
27 basically didn't have this whole main component of the
28 run which the earlier running inlet stream spawning
29 population, and in these sockeye systems and Robert
30 Sanderson mentioned this yesterday, there's distinct
31 timing segments. Distinct runs in each system, some
32 might have just one, like probably Sitkho, others like
33 Neva have primarily or an early run of fish that spawn in
34 the inlet stream and a later running fish that spawn on
35 the beaches. And they're like two different species.
36 There's very little interaction between those two
37 components. And if you overfish, say, the early run
38 they'll have to rebuild while this later run, lake
39 spawning group might be unaffected, or not be rebuilding,
40 it's just like two different runs.

41

42 And so what we saw at Kook Lake was a
43 fairly good distribution of both an early run, inlet
44 stream cold water spawning group and the later running
45 lake spawning group, so that was what I consider healthy
46 -- what we want to manage for, in other words, a natural
47 distribution of escapement.

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I was kind of
50 wondering about that system in particular because I kind

1 of had something somewhat unprecedented happen this year,
2 is that there was a total shut down of the seining in
3 Chatham Straits in the middle of the season there in
4 August, and I was just wondering if you noticed any
5 direct correlation between, you know, having a seine
6 closure and a good escapement there at Kook or some other
7 systems.

8

9 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah, it's a subject that
10 we'll be talking about starting on August 27th with Fish
11 and Game.

12

13 DR. GARZA: August?

14

15 MR. VAN ALEN: Sorry, October.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Cal.

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: I just wanted to mention
20 one thing to the Council. As you know Ben brings some
21 really good information to this Council on a regular
22 basis and I think, you know, our own agency has
23 recognized that. Recently Ben was selected as the
24 recipient of our biologist of the year award by our
25 director and I just thought that the Council might want
26 to know that, that we really value his work and it's
27 recognized within the agency. And Mr. Van Alen received
28 a very prestigious award from our director of wildlife
29 fisheries and subsistence in the regional office, so
30 quite an honor.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal for
33 sharing that. And, you know, he really deserves that, so
34 let's give him a hand.

35

36 (Applause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Stay there Ben, please,
39 I have a question. You know, you briefly mentioned the
40 Ahrnklin River and I know in the past, you know, their
41 fish escapement counts wasn't very stable because what
42 they would do is slide-bys over some of these tributaries
43 like Seal Lake and other small creeks, you know, and they
44 would take a count there but it was never, you know, very
45 reliable and in my opinion accurate. And I notice that
46 you had some seining done on the Situk River, and I
47 understand that same type of program was used on the
48 Ahrnklin River. And, you know, is that true, because the
49 way I understood it is, you know, you'd catch fish down
50 below -- seine fish, you know, a little bit below, at a

1 certain spot on the river and then tag it and then maybe,
2 you know, try catching them up river and that gives you a
3 better account, a bit more accurate, you know, this is
4 what I heard, you know, that took place this summer and,
5 you know, can you respond to that please.

6
7 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah. I did show that in
8 pictures as well as some results where in the -- where
9 tagging or marking fish in the lower Arhnklin River and
10 recapturing at various tributaries up above it and
11 generating a mark/recapture estimate of the total
12 escapement above the upper Arhnklin River escapement and
13 so that's been done for five years. We've got estimates
14 for five years. And it's almost seat of the pants in
15 terms of our funding, it's not an identified project, I
16 think it's wonderful that the Staff in Yakutat are
17 interested in this. I've been able to help them out, you
18 know, with various aspects, including getting it going,
19 but anyway I'm personally concerned that they might not
20 be able to do it and it just depends on the people and
21 whatever, but it is working, and I think the estimates
22 are reliable enough and it's actually low budget.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, maybe we can see
25 if we can increase that budget a little bit more.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir,
30 appreciate it. Any other questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, you're excused.
35 You know, the next is Fisheries Information Service.
36 And one of the things that I have noticed about Doug
37 McBride is he comes here the very first day, stays here
38 right to the end, another individual is Jim Capra, comes
39 down from Yakutat and they sit there faithfully everyday
40 and then, normally, you know, when they give their
41 reports it's in the afternoon of the very last day and
42 they're kind of rushed, you know, because we're trying to
43 get done on time and all that, but I just wanted to
44 recognize his dedicated commitment to coming to these
45 meetings and taking a few minutes and giving us a report
46 to us.

47
48 So Doug the time is all yours and you
49 don't have to rush.

50

1 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Members of
2 the Council. Thank you very much for your kind words.
3 My name is Doug McBride. I'm with the Office of
4 Subsistence Management Fisheries Information Services.

5
6 And, Mr. Chairman, we've got a fair
7 amount of ground to cover today on this. It's been, I
8 guess what I would call a really busy year for the
9 Monitoring Program in Southeast. We did a lot of things
10 since we discussed this a year ago. And I think covered
11 a lot of ground. And what I'm going to do today is,
12 there's really three documents that I'm going to go over
13 over the course of all this. Two of them were mailed to
14 you several weeks ago and I'm almost sure I've checked
15 with each one of you individually, I know some of you
16 didn't receive the strategic planning documents. The
17 ones that I'm aware of that didn't receive them, I gave
18 you copies, and I've got another set here in case I
19 missed somebody. But there's these two documents that
20 came with a cover letter that is in your book and so I'm
21 going to talk about those. And then after we've
22 discussed those and we're presenting these as draft
23 documents for review and comment by the full Council, as
24 well as the public, after we're done with those
25 documents, then we'll go into the 2007 Monitoring Plan,
26 which is in your book.

27
28 So with that, Mr. Chairman, let me start
29 about the whole strategic planning.

30
31 A year ago we came to you, I came to you
32 and we talked about the need for strategic planning, I
33 don't want to belabor that point. But the whole idea is
34 -- and we've already covered this ground even in this
35 meeting. There's a limited amount of funds. We have a
36 lot of needs for information and we need to be as sure as
37 we can be that we're focusing our money on the highest
38 priorities for information. And I don't know that
39 anybody here, myself included, feels terribly bad about
40 what we've done in the past, I think we've done probably
41 a pretty good job, but we felt that, particularly at OSM,
42 that there was a need to be more rigorous about that. I
43 know we've been quizzed, actually repeatedly by the
44 Federal Subsistence Board about trying to insure that the
45 money's being spent on the highest priorities. And so we
46 thought the best idea to do that was for each region to
47 create a work group of regional professionals,
48 knowledgeable about information for subsistence and bring
49 them together into a workshop type setting and then ask
50 them to produce a three to five year strategic plan for

1 that region. And prior to Southeast we'd done it in
2 three other places, Southcentral, Kodiak and Bristol Bay.

3
4 And so a year ago, we talked about this
5 for Southeast and said this is what we wanted to do. We
6 asked for two Council representatives, which were
7 received, and both are here, Harvey and Patty Phillips
8 were both members of our workshop, and we went through
9 that process.

10
11 Several other things happened as well.

12
13 The other thing that I presented to you a
14 year ago, in fact, one of those documents, the one that's
15 called review and synthesis of Southeast and Yakutat
16 sockeye stock, status and trends and program information
17 we presented and discussed, not this identical document,
18 but a similar document, because we wanted to get a start
19 on this, this was all about trying to hone in on what
20 sockeye systems were important, so Staff had put this
21 together. We used this to help us with our call for
22 proposals in 2007, which happened last winter. And then
23 in December we went through a technical review with
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
25 Division, which is the primary investigator for most of
26 these projects and we were looking at the technical
27 aspects of these sockeye escapement projects, we spent a
28 lot of time with them on that last December. And then,
29 like I say, we really got into the meat of the strategic
30 plan.

31
32 So what I'm going to do now, Mr.
33 Chairman, is I'm going to talk about this document that's
34 called strategic plan for Subsistence Fisheries Resource
35 Monitoring Program. Southeast region 2006, and just go
36 through what we did, how we did it, and the results that
37 we got from that and then I'll stop and we can kind of
38 discuss that document, and then we'll move on to the next
39 one if that's okay.

40
41 The first thing that I'd like to point
42 out is just the work group that we had. If you turn to
43 Page 45, so that's near the end of the document, you'll
44 see an Appendix C1, that actually lists the work group
45 members, in fact, a lot of them are here today, I'm going
46 to ask everybody who was a part of this work group if
47 they would, just for a minute, raise their hand. I know
48 I'm looking at least three of them in front of me and I
49 don't see any -- four of them, I know Dr. Schroeder was
50 as well, but he's probably taking notes.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MCBRIDE: But what we tried to do is
4 build a work group that came from Federal agencies,
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Council and then
6 organizations around the region that had professionals
7 that were knowledgeable about information needed for the
8 Federal Subsistence Program, so that was the work group
9 that we put together.

10

11 If you turn to Page 13, closer to the
12 front of the document, there's a little table in the
13 middle of that and that lays out the timeline that we
14 used on this and so in April we held a three day workshop
15 in Juneau. We assembled this work group. We hired a
16 professional facilitator, Dr. Peggy Merit, to help us
17 with this. We held a workshop and I think all the
18 members of the work group would agree with me that that
19 was a really busy three days. We worked, I think, very
20 hard. We did a lot of thing, and I'm going to talk about
21 that in a minute. But at the end of that workshop, then
22 the co-chairs of the work group, which was myself and
23 Polly Wheeler, also from OSM, and our facilitator, Dr.
24 Merit, we drafted what the work group did, we sent it
25 back out to the work group and got their comments,
26 incorporated their comments and so the documents you have
27 in front of you today reflect that.

28

29 And what we're going to do today then, as
30 I said, I'll try to summarize what's in here and then
31 we'd very much like discussion and review by the Council.
32 And so the phase we're at right now is what I call Phase
33 II, which is in the middle of the table, Fall 2006, and
34 we're going through the presentation now, and we will
35 continue to take comments, in fact, if you have comments
36 that want to come in after this meeting and you want us
37 to incorporate them later this winter, we can certainly
38 do that as well. I know there's a lot of information
39 here.

40

41 Well, what exactly did we do during these
42 three days.

43

44 What we asked the work group to do was
45 first of all, and a lot of this is laid out in the method
46 section in here and I'm not going to go through it
47 verbatim, but in general what we asked the work group to
48 do was to try to agree to evaluation criteria, for trying
49 to decide what's important and what needs to be done.
50 And that doesn't mean that everybody agreed that -- how

1 those criteria came out but they agreed that that was
2 something that had to be addressed.

3
4 So we developed a common set of criteria
5 and then we developed a grading system. And so if you
6 thought that that criteria was really important, you
7 know, you gave it a nine, and if it was less important,
8 you gave it a lower number, and so we all had a common
9 frame of reference to express our views. And we then
10 asked the group, once we had that common frame of
11 reference, we said, now, okay for Southeast Alaska, what
12 makes sense for a strategic plan, and this is one thing I
13 think the work group was actually pretty agreed on, and
14 this is really very similar to what we've done through
15 the Council process. What they did was they looked at
16 the primary species that are important to the subsistence
17 fisheries in the region. So if you go to -- there's a
18 little graph on Page 20, it's just a little bar graph
19 that looks like this and what you'll see there is the
20 work group delineated what we ended up calling
21 subsistence fishery units, but they're basically species
22 important to subsistence. And based on these common
23 criteria and based on this common grading system we asked
24 the work group to rank those species in importance for
25 information. This is not important to subsistence
26 fisheries, that was one of the criteria but it's
27 importance for information for Federal subsistence
28 management.

29
30 And clearly what you can see there, and I
31 think this is completely in keeping with where we've been
32 with you here over the last five years, is obviously
33 sockeye ranked way high and then of lesser importance
34 then were steelhead and Beam Canal eulachon.

35
36 And one of the questions that the work
37 group had was, okay, now, all right, we've got this and
38 as administrators of the program, what do you do with
39 this, does this then mean that all we do is sockeye and
40 we assess the last sockeye before we move on to the first
41 steelhead, is that how you use it. And the answer that
42 Polly and I gave that as the primary administrators of
43 this is, no, the way we would view this information and
44 the way we would recommend that it be used is that we
45 were developing a strategic plan to use over the next
46 three to five years, and so the way we would view this
47 input is over the next three to five years, this is
48 roughly how we would expect the money to be spent out of
49 the monitoring program in Southeast.

50

1 In other words, something on the order of
2 probably 80 percent of the money would be probably end up
3 being spent on sockeye and then the remaining 20 percent
4 roughly divided up, you know, maybe a little more on
5 steelhead and then eulachon, and that doesn't have to be
6 year by year but over a five year horizon. In general
7 this is what we would expect to see and that's how we
8 would use that kind of information.

9
10 Once we had that, then since obviously
11 sockeye ranked way higher, we asked the work group to
12 focus on sockeye. And what we were trying to get at was
13 what questions are important to answer for sockeye, not
14 locations, I'm going to get to that later, but what
15 questions do we need to ask about sockeye. So we asked
16 the work group to develop a series of management
17 questions. And those questions are on Page 18 and 19 of
18 that document, and I won't go through them, I mean you
19 either have read them or you can read them. But we tried
20 to focus on what questions did we think were important to
21 answer for Federal subsistence management and then once
22 we had that, we then asked the work group to identify,
23 okay, if you were going to, for instance, ask the
24 question -- I'll just look at the very first one, what's
25 the annual subsistence harvest and effort by stream,
26 lake, system and community, then what information needs
27 or what things would you have to do to answer that
28 question, and those became our information needs. And
29 those are what we ended up prioritizing.

30
31 Now, I'm very quickly going through all
32 these but I think Patty, Harvey and Cal and Bob and all
33 the rest of the work group would agree that we spent an
34 incredible amount of time trying to articulate what we
35 meant by these phrases, and that's a lot of the verbiage
36 that's in this report.

37
38 Once we had that set of management
39 questions and then information needs that feed into those
40 management questions, once those were identified, we then
41 went -- we asked the work group to prioritize those.
42 And, again, we had the common set of evaluation criteria,
43 a common grading system and then what our facilitator
44 did, there's a process she used, I'm not going to get
45 into the details of it, but basically what you'd end up
46 doing, is you take everything pair wise, and you compare
47 A to B, and B to C and then A to C, and you go through
48 this in a very iterative fashion and then at the end,
49 this all fed into an analysis and a program that she
50 brings with her and it puts it all together for you, it

1 keeps track of the math for you, if you will, and then it
2 compiles all of that into an analysis that you can then
3 look at and hopefully make some sense of.

4
5 So now I'm going to ask you to turn to
6 Page 28 and what you're going to see there is another one
7 of these bar charts that looks like this, and what this
8 is are the information needs, all the information needs
9 that we identified for sockeye salmon for Southeast in
10 the order of priority recommended by the work group. And
11 I think the -- I'm personally a picture person and the
12 graph speaks for itself, I mean you can see up on the top
13 end things like the need to estimate current escapement,
14 need to develop and evaluate an accurate subsistence
15 harvesting reporting system. Those stand out as the top
16 priority questions or information needs, at least in the
17 view of the work group for the Southeast program, and
18 then you can go down the list. And, again, the question
19 became, well, how do you use this, I mean do you have to
20 do all the number 1's first, and then the number 2's and
21 then the number 3's, and our answer basically, again, was
22 no, I think this -- this -- you know, we would view this
23 more as general direction. We would want to see, I
24 think, make sure that we have addressed the information
25 needs at the top and spend most of our money doing that,
26 that doesn't mean that we never get further down the
27 list. Personally I think that would be a major mistake
28 if we never did, but you have to put that into context of
29 your major questions.

30
31 So we did that for sockeye and then we
32 went through the same process for steelhead, and the
33 schematic for the steelhead then just follows, it's on
34 Page 30, and you'll see a very similar graph for
35 steelhead on Page 34. We went through exactly the same
36 process.

37
38 And the last thing that I'll mention
39 about this effort was fishery unit that we addressed was
40 eulachon. And for eulachon, I mean if you'll remember
41 that graph that we talked about at the beginning, you
42 know, it ranked even below steelhead, what we said on
43 eulachon, was we said, you know, there really is one
44 primary information need for eulachon for Beam Canal and
45 that is we need to know how many there are, abundance,
46 and so we only identified one information need. Now,
47 part of the reason for doing that was because it ranked
48 so low and I think part of it was time was getting short
49 and the work group was getting tired, myself included,
50 and you'll see from the proposals that we're going to

1 talk about for the 2007 Monitoring Plan, maybe that was a
2 little shortsighted, but it is what it is and that's
3 where we ended up.

4
5 And the very last thing that I'll say --
6 I did have one more thing that I'll say about this, on
7 Page 35 the one thing that we told the work group we
8 would do is once we had this compiled and we made sure we
9 had our models correct and that we had incorporated at
10 least the input from the work group we took the project
11 proposal for 2007 that we had in hand, that we have IPs
12 for, that we're going to talk about today, and then we
13 looked at what information need did they address and we
14 just simply presented that. And I think the table on
15 Page 35 pretty much speaks for itself. And what you're
16 going to see there is what we have in front of us are a
17 lot of sockeye escapement projects, that addresses the
18 number 1 information need that the work group identified.
19 We do have two other projects, one is a Beam Canal
20 eulachon genetics project, again we can talk about that
21 in a little more detail, and we also have a TEK project
22 for sockeye salmon in the Hydaburg area. And there was
23 some discussion about that with Mr. Sanderson a couple of
24 days ago. But at any rate you can see where those fall
25 in terms of the information needs that were identified,
26 and all but the eulachon one obviously deals with sockeye
27 salmon and that's our top priority, has been, I think
28 from the get go and I think that's certainly very
29 consistent with where we've been and where we think we
30 need to go.

31
32 Mr. Chairman, I'm going to pause here and
33 ask if there's questions before we move on to the next
34 one.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, thank you for
39 that, Doug. Is there any questions.

40
41 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

44
45 MR. KOOKESH: On Page 4, I took the time
46 to read your document because I know you're a good
47 communicator here. On the middle of the page there's a
48 paragraph under the rationale for strategic planning, and
49 I'm just asking you questions on your document here --
50 anyway, it says, it has often been difficult to determine

1 the highest priority. What do you mean.

2

3 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
4 What we mean by that and -- and -- and this is looking at
5 the whole Monitoring Program across the state. To be
6 quite honest in some of the other regions, I don't think
7 the Councils have been quite as clear in terms of their
8 recommendations for what's important.

9

10 If you look at the information needs for
11 some of the other regions, I don't want to get into it,
12 but what you'll see is kind of a long laundry list and
13 it's just a lot of stuff, and it's difficult -- there's
14 no priority to it, and so that's what we mean by that.

15

16 It -- I don't know that it's been a huge
17 issue in Southeast, I mean we've had a lot of discussion
18 about the relative importance of projects, we spent a
19 fair amount of time on that certainly in past years, so
20 it's not like we've never had that discussion here, but
21 in some of the regions it's really been kind of
22 difficult, and I've certainly played out in the TRC, the
23 Technical Review Committee that we use, and, you know,
24 when you look at the information needs for some of those
25 regions you just can't come away with, okay, what's the
26 most important thing to do. So that's what we mean by
27 that.

28

29 MR. KOOKESH: I have more questions all
30 the way down the book unless somebody else has questions.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
35 McBride, I realize that on your graph on the sockeye but
36 it seemed like when we talked about the eulachon it
37 seemed like we rated it as equal to sockeye if not a
38 little higher than sockeye -- I mean to steelhead. But
39 since it was something that is fairly new to the study
40 that's where it ended up, am I correct in that?

41

42 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kitka.
43 Yes, basically you are. I believe you're referring to
44 the graph on Page 20, this was the species one that we
45 talked about, to begin with where the sockeye are way up
46 there and then you see the steelhead and eulachon further
47 down. I mean I would interpret that roughly that way
48 that you got sockeye up here and then steelhead and
49 eulachon down here. I mean I think the group rated the
50 steelhead a little bit higher, but I mean for all intents

1 and purposes if you compare them to sockeye they're
2 basically at about the same place.

3

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

6

7 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
8 On Page 7, the third bullet down, it says, examples
9 include projects that seek to estimate escapement goals,
10 perform required in-season management, annually estimate
11 subsistence harvest, or address unresolved regulatory
12 issues. What does that mean, unresolved -- can you give
13 an example of an unresolved regulatory issue?

14

15 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Yes. Well,
16 in this region we're continuing to collect information on
17 Kutlaku Lake, sockeye, so I mean just -- you know, we've
18 taken management action there, we're continuing to.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me, Doug.

21

22 MR. MCBRIDE: I'm sorry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'd just like to
25 interject here a little bit. I notice that Dolly is
26 getting prepared to leave and, you know, she has to catch
27 an airplane, I think Mike has to leave as well. We want
28 to excuse her, but I'd just like to give Dolly a real big
29 hand for the fine work that she has done here.

30

31 (Applause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Safe trip home Dolly.

34 Go ahead.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: See you in Kake.

37

38 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
39 Phillips. I'm sorry, that would be one example, I think,
40 in this region of just an ongoing issue.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: One.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: On Page 16, are we there
49 yet, are you there in your presentation, Page 16?

50

1 MR. MCBRIDE: Sure.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: The bottom paragraph. The
4 substantial investment to date by the Monitoring Program
5 was not commensurate with resolution of concerns for
6 excessive exploitation and sustainability of subsistence
7 fisheries outside of Federal jurisdiction. What does
8 that mean, could you interpret that in a simpler
9 language.

10

11 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
12 Phillips. If it's okay with you, what I need to do is
13 kind of read through the whole thing instead of taking
14 the time to -- I mean I -- I've got that marked here, and
15 -- and I can -- I agree it's kind of obtuse, and we can
16 fix that and I can -- we can talk about that kind of one
17 on one. I mean I think what it's talking about was the
18 work group was questioning some of the -- the funding
19 history of the Monitoring Program, I think that's where
20 that's going, but without kind of reading through the
21 whole thing and like I said, taking up everybody's -- but
22 I -- I agree with you, I think that's a little tough to
23 read and understand.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd did you have some
26 more.

27

28 MR. KOOKESH: I had a question, on Page
29 6, right under No. 1 strategic priorities, you use the
30 language within or adjacent to Federal lands. How does
31 that relate with nexus to Federal public lands.

32

33 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
34 I -- I -- it's the same thing, I believe. But -- I -- I
35 think what that is referring to is identifying the
36 connection for Federal subsistence management, in fact we
37 talked about it just a little bit before, someone asked
38 about Klukwan and Haines and -- and that area, I think
39 they did, or like the Stikine, not the Stikine, Chilkat,
40 Chilkoot Rivers, there are no Federal lands for ANILCA
41 which for all intents and purposes down here primarily
42 means the Tongass National Forest. It also means parts
43 of the Park, but -- not Glacier Bay, but -- but it has to
44 have some connection to basically the Tongass for all
45 intents and purposes in Southeast to have a connection to
46 us. So either the fishery or the fish have to be on or
47 adjacent to the Tongass to have a connection for funding
48 under this program.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.

1 MR. KOOKESH: And then on the very bottom
2 of Page 6, one of the things I've always considered us is
3 cities, small cities, I believe that's what we've all
4 incorporated -- the State required us to incorporate into
5 cities, but you use local villages and communities, what
6 does that mean -- what is that for -- is that -- is this
7 like a statewide program where you tried to focus it for
8 Southeast and -- and just left the language there or
9 what, what is the -- what is the reasoning with the local
10 villages and communities.

11
12 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
13 I mean you are correct, this is, what you're looking at
14 is general evaluation criteria for looking at projects
15 under the Monitoring Program statewide, not just in
16 Southeast, so it's just language that had been drafted
17 that we had relevance across the whole state. I mean
18 basically we're looking at -- it's in the context of
19 looking at partnership and capacity building and so we're
20 trying to look at Alaska Native and rural organizations
21 coming out of rural communities, basically, however
22 they're defined across the state.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.

25
26 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, one of the things
27 we've always understood based on ANILCA is that there's a
28 rural preference, so I look at it, it says rural areas,
29 you know, communities, our communities are rural, that's
30 just a follow up on that.

31
32 Then on Page 7 on the first bullet, it's
33 a long bullet, it says the Secretary of your Interior
34 made a commitment, can you tell us what that -- what kind
35 of commitment that was, is that like a what?

36
37 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
38 This was certainly before my time with the Federal
39 program, but it is my understanding that in the hearings
40 that led up to the whole creation of the Office of
41 Subsistence Management, they were looking at different
42 options on what to do, how to do it and one of the
43 commitments would made by then Secretary, I couldn't even
44 tell you who it was, but one of the concerns was, if
45 money was going to be invested in assessment, which is
46 what the Monitoring Program is all about for subsistence,
47 one of the concerns was, well, is all the money basically
48 just going to the Federal agencies, and the then
49 Secretary of the Interior basically made a commitment
50 that, no, at least most of the money, and I believe that

1 came right out of whatever he said, that most of the
2 money would go outside of the Federal agencies, and one
3 of the things when we actually get into the Monitoring
4 Plan, one of the things we always look at, when we look
5 at the recommendation we make on a statewide basis, is we
6 look at the breakdown of the money that goes to Federal
7 agencies, and then the State agencies, and then you know,
8 Alaska Native and rural organizations, and one of the
9 things we always try to do on a statewide basis, is make
10 sure that most of the money is not directly going to
11 Federal agencies for these projects.

12

13 That's what that's all about.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: My next one goes to Page
16 16, and that's the one under the mission. And it says on
17 the last sentence, the work group recommended that the
18 mission statement be redrafted to make explicit the
19 concept of nexus, et cetera, et cetera.

20

21 MR. MCBRIDE: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Mr.
22 Kookesh. Yeah, I mean that was a recommendation of the
23 work group, but we really struggled, nobody had a clear
24 idea, at least in our view we -- we think we're -- we
25 think we're adequately clear on that in our mission
26 statement, but that's in the eye of the beholder. I mean
27 if people don't think it's clear enough then it will
28 probably need to be changed, but that's the mission
29 statement for the whole Monitoring Program across the
30 entire state. So that was just one of the things that
31 was just kind of left unresolved with the work group, we
32 didn't have a specific recommendation from the work group
33 on that.

34

35 But there was question about what exactly
36 does that mean and how does it work, and it's kind of a
37 hard concept, you know, until you, I guess, get used to
38 it a little bit.

39

40 MR. KOOKESH: I'll stop.

41

42 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Kookesh. Actually, one
43 other -- I mean I -- I think where people struggle with
44 it is to be funded under this program, it's not the same
45 as Federal jurisdiction. I think people get very clearly
46 what Federal juris -- you know -- you know, well, maybe
47 they don't based on the conversation we had earlier, but,
48 you know, Federal jurisdiction is probably a cleaner
49 concept in most people's minds but this whole idea of
50 this nexus or connection for the Monitoring Program is --

1 is -- what it does is it allows us to fund a project,
2 say, like Kanalku is a good example.

3
4 Most of the subsistence fishery at
5 Kanalku occurs in marine waters, I believe. And if
6 that's a bad example, the Falls Lake is a good example.
7 The fishery occurs outside of Federal jurisdiction, it
8 occurs in marine waters, however the fish, sockeyes, are
9 going into a lake that's within the confines of the
10 Tongass National Forest, that's the nexus. That's what
11 allows us to consider that project for funding even
12 though the subsistence fishery, it has to be about a
13 subsistence fishery, but even though the fishery itself
14 does not occur under Federal jurisdiction. That would be
15 as opposed to, say, a system like Hatchery Creek, where
16 the entire fishery is in freshwater and occurs under
17 Federal jurisdiction.

18
19 So I think that's where people struggle
20 is the difference between the jurisdiction and then the
21 broader concept of this nexus concept that's used for
22 funding under this program.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He said one more
25 question and then that's it. Go ahead, and he won't say
26 anything anymore for the rest of the day.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. KOOKESH: I kind of got lost on Page
33 19, I put a question mark there when I was reading
34 subsistence fishery units. I -- I just put in --
35 highlighted units. It's at the end of the first
36 question, what -- what was that pertaining to?

37
38 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
39 What that -- what that was pertaining to -- we probably
40 could have just said species. The reason we ended up
41 saying fishery units, the group kind of discussed a bunch
42 of different concepts. One of the concepts we discussed
43 was just looking at locations and saying, well, there's
44 subsistence fishing that may go on for not only sockeyes
45 or cohos but maybe Dollys and other species, and so the
46 work group kind of worked around a couple different
47 concepts and then where we finally landed as a group was
48 species, but we started with this general term of, units,
49 that included more than species, so the term just ended
50 up sticking. But in retrospect, in fact, one of the

1 things we may want to do is just to say subsistence
2 species and be done with it.

3

4 That's probably not a bad idea.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He said that he will
7 follow up, I will allow it but right after he's done with
8 that and your response, Doug, I'd like to take a five
9 minute break before you go into the other portion of your
10 report. And so I need to take care of some stuff back
11 there.

12

13 Go ahead, Floyd.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: I'll break my vow of
16 silence.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. KOOKESH: The reason why I questioned
21 units was because when we talk here all the time, every
22 time it's always about Unit 2, Unit 4, and to -- to start
23 going down that road with unit meaning two different
24 things starts getting -- getting grey again. So
25 hopefully we will -- we'll correct that and we'll blame
26 the other two people from Southeast for that one.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You got a response for
31 that Doug, or.....

32

33 MR. MCBRIDE: (Shakes head negatively)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's go ahead
36 and take a five minute break.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, everyone should we
43 gather to our seats.

44

45 MR. KOOKESH: You got two minutes.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Everyone to their seats,
50 please.

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, everyone, back to
4 your seats. Mr. McBride, go ahead.

5

6 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Members of
7 the Council. Thank you for bearing with me.

8

9 What I'd like to do next is talk about
10 the second document that the work group produced as part
11 of the strategic planning exercise. It's the one that's
12 entitled review and synthesis, I won't read the whole
13 thing, but it's that second document. And actually
14 during the break I was going over -- discussing with Ms.
15 Phillips the question that she had asked, and we got that
16 resolved and I think came up with some better words to
17 make that cleaner.

18

19 But what Patty was asking about, you
20 know, she was asking some questions about, you know,
21 well, what about the systems we don't know anything about
22 and how did that enter into our thinking of the work
23 group and that was really what this document was all
24 about. Because where we ended up is we said, okay, this
25 first document that we just discussed, this gets at the
26 questions that we want to ask about the species, so it
27 gives us some recommendations of how to deal with the
28 species of importance and then what questions to ask.
29 But it doesn't really say anything about where, and
30 particularly for sockeye. And if you don't deal with the
31 where question in Southeast you really haven't done
32 probably, in certainly my view, and in the view of any of
33 the work group a very complete job of doing this.

34

35 So what this document was all about was
36 an attempt to look at, at least, the major sockeye
37 systems that have a connection to subsistence that, at
38 least, we're aware of and look at how would we rank those
39 out in terms of where to go answer these questions that
40 we talked about in this document. So that's what I'm
41 briefly going to discuss here.

42

43 And as I said earlier in my presentation,
44 we started with a draft document that we actually
45 presented to the Council a year ago. Staff took a shot
46 at this for the 200 -- you know, we wanted to get
47 something going a year ago and then we presented this to
48 the work group and we asked the work group what they
49 thought, and the work group said, okay, this is not a bad
50 start but they had some things that they wanted add to

1 it, so let me just briefly explain what I mean.

2

3 It was all the same participants and
4 things like that so I don't think we need to go through
5 that. But what we did was we'd already identified, and
6 you'll see later on, I forget how many but I don't know,
7 how many 30 or 40 sockeye systems across the region that
8 have, at least, some connections to subsistence. And
9 what we did was we came up with a series of questions to
10 try to assess those, and those are on Pages 5 and 6 of
11 that document. And we asked things like is there a
12 history of assessment of the Monitoring Program, we
13 thought, well, you know, there was, at least, some
14 wisdom, probably to what we did in the past, that ought
15 to at least count perhaps for something. We asked about
16 the magnitude of the subsistence harvest by Federally
17 qualified users, in other words, how big is the
18 subsistence harvest in these places. That's one way to
19 think of importance for these systems. Not the only way,
20 but one way. We also asked the third bullet, does the
21 stock sustain significant exploitation from the
22 subsistence fishery. In other words, of the fish that
23 show up, say, at Klawock, what proportion or what
24 fraction of those are harvested by the subsistence
25 fishery. And there are a few systems where that's a
26 fairly high number, or a fairly high percentage. There's
27 others where it's real low. There's others where we
28 don't know.

29

30 And I think that's what Patty was getting
31 at with her question, is that's another way to think
32 about importance, where we don't know where there's a lot
33 of uncertainty, that ought to count for something in
34 terms of where we spend our money.

35

36 Another question we asked at the bottom
37 of Page 5, are the management or regulatory actions
38 required to maintain escapements or manage the
39 subsistence harvest. In other words, is there an
40 ongoing, either a management action on the part of an
41 agency, or is there a regulatory question going on with
42 the Federal Subsistence Board.

43

44 We asked is any part of the subsistence
45 fishery under Federal jurisdiction, we talked about that
46 just a little bit ago. I mean that's the difference
47 between, say, a place like Falls Lake where for all
48 intents and purposes, none of the fishery is under
49 jurisdiction as opposed to a place like Hatchery Creek
50 where, for all intents and purposes, the entire

1 subsistence fishery is under Federal jurisdiction.

2

3 The last bullet on there, you didn't see
4 a year ago. This last bullet was completely a product of
5 the work group. One of the things the work group wanted
6 to ask was which systems are most important to meeting
7 subsistence needs. And I'm going to talk in just a
8 minute how we got at that. But that was a question that
9 the work group added, and then we actually -- actually
10 Kathy Needam with Organized Village of Kassin volunteered
11 to conduct the survey and we got some information to
12 answer that question. That was definitely an added value
13 on the part of the work group.

14

15 If you page back well into the document,
16 you actually get into the appendix, you'll see some of
17 the data we collected to look at those questions. For
18 instances, and actually this came up just a few minutes
19 -- or a little bit ago when Ben was up here, I believe
20 Floyd was asking about reports. We actually compiled all
21 the reports to-date that have been on the monitoring
22 program, we looked all those to get our basic, you know,
23 harvest statistics and escapement statistics. We
24 compiled those, if you look on Page 17 there's a real
25 busy table, but what that is, that's all the harvest and
26 escapement information as we know it for the systems at
27 question.

28

29 Another thing that the work group did
30 that we didn't have when we presented this to you a year
31 ago, on this whole question of is there a management
32 concern -- concern is probably not the -- is -- is there
33 -- are management actions going on or are regulatory
34 actions going on for any of these systems. One of the
35 things that we did, if you look at Page 16, Appendix 4,
36 that's all of the Federal management actions that have
37 gone on for sockeye. Then the next several pages, I
38 think we were primarily provided by Mr. Bill Davidson,
39 these were all the State management actions, all those
40 were compiled. And then also there's been voluntary
41 actions, notably at Kanalku by Angoon, and so we compiled
42 that. So we were just gathering all the information to
43 help us evaluate whether information was needed for
44 management actions.

45

46 If you look at the second to last page, I
47 believe, I forgot my reading glasses, Page 22, this is
48 the result of the survey that Kathy Needam conducted for
49 us, and what we did or what she did is she came up with a
50 series of questions and actually went out to the natural

1 resource departments of a lot of the village IRAs,
2 notably Hydaburg, Kassan, Petersburg, Craig, Klawock and
3 Kake, and there were a series of questions that were
4 asked about which systems were most important for meeting
5 your needs like last year, the last three years, five
6 years ago, we were trying to get a sense of at least over
7 recent history which systems were important to
8 communities for meeting their subsistence needs. And we
9 thought that was another really valid way to look at
10 judging importance.

11
12 We had to do -- we didn't get results
13 from all the communities and so that's why later in the
14 -- or to the right of that table you'll see that we had
15 to use some harvest data to try to get at that question,
16 we just didn't get answers from some of the communities
17 and actually for some of the communities there really
18 wasn't anybody to ask, notably the North Prince of Wales
19 Island communities, there's just not a -- there wasn't an
20 entity that we could go and ask for the community so for
21 those locations we just substituted Staff judgment. But
22 in the general scheme of things, this information was
23 largely based on the survey that Kathy conducted for us.

24
25 The very last table of that document is
26 another busy table, where we basically looked at all
27 those questions and all that data and then subjectively
28 scored them, we just gave a score to each one of those
29 questions. We didn't try to get fancy about it. And if
30 you look earlier back in the methods you'll see, you
31 know, how we tried to grade things, like if we -- like no
32 exploitation versus we think is high, and what we think
33 high means, and all those kinds of things. And then we
34 tried to score all those questions that we asked, and
35 then we summed them up and produced a graph. And if you
36 look on Page 14 you'll see another one of these bar
37 graphs and these are systems across the region that in
38 what the work group thinks order of priority, so this
39 gets at the where question. And what you see at the top
40 end of the list you see places like -- and not
41 surprisingly, Klawock, Falls, Hetta, Klagg, Hatchery
42 Creek, Carta, Kanalku, those kind of places, and then as
43 you step down you just see the -- at least the work
44 group's recommendation for relative importance.

45
46 Mr. Chairman. One thing that I failed to
47 mention, in fact, I think you'll probably ask me this,
48 Mr. Chairman, when we did this analysis, one of the
49 things we looked at kind of early on is when we
50 identified all these systems, we also looked at whether

1 there was an existing program in place, outside of our
2 program. Because you got to remember the Monitoring
3 Program is set up to add to and supplement existing
4 efforts, it was never designed to replace existing
5 efforts. So for a -- a real good example would be the
6 Situk River. There's absolutely no question that Situk
7 River is important, I mean it would rank very high in
8 what we did here. But it has a longstanding program. So
9 for places like that, we identified them up front but we
10 put them aside and said, okay, we're not going to
11 prioritize those as places that we're going to consider
12 because, you know, we want to maintain the effort that's
13 going on there, basically, so we did that early on.

14
15 Mr. Chairman. I'm going to end my
16 presentation of this document here and be available for
17 questions.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, well, thank you
20 for that explanation on the Situk River because I was
21 going to bring that up.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But, yeah, any questions
26 by anyone. Mr. Bangs.

27
28 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
29 McBride, how did you deal with transboundary river
30 systems, you know, were the Canadians involved?

31
32 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bangs.
33 Again, the major transboundary -- or the three
34 transboundary systems fell into that category of really
35 the Situk. I mean we identified them, they all have subsi
36 -- I mean like the Stikine, okay, but there are existing
37 sockeye assessment programs on all three of those systems
38 that are all done through the U.S./Canada process. So we
39 kind of identified those up front and then put them
40 aside, and kind of put them in the same category with the
41 Situk.

42
43 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.
46 Our Council members are diminishing, this whole table is
47 empty now. They've had to go home. We had to excuse
48 Nick Davis, he's going out on a halibut trip tomorrow.
49 So Mr. Wright, you've got that side of the table to hold
50 down for the rest.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Just me left?

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Anyway, I was wondering
8 about, you said something you were using tribal entities
9 to get information on uses of systems, so -- and then you
10 said if you didn't contact entities then it was Staff
11 members that were doing the -- I don't know how to say
12 it, using the system, so how did they come about doing
13 that?

14

15 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Wright.
16 What I was referring to was that question that came out
17 of the -- very much came out of our workshop. And one
18 of the ways the work group very unanimously agreed -- one
19 way to think about how to identify a sockeye system of
20 importance for gathering information, is to basically ask
21 the subsistence users. What -- what systems are
22 important to you, as subsistence users, for meeting your
23 needs.

24

25 And everybody agreed that was a great
26 question but then the work group kind of -- this is like
27 the end of April, we're going, okay, how are we going to
28 get that information, I mean what are we going to do, I
29 mean that's a great question to ask, how do you
30 effectively go about asking it. And like I say, that's
31 where Kathy Needam stepped in. She's formerly with
32 PowellTech, currently with Organized Village of Kassan,
33 and what she volunteered to do -- recommended and
34 volunteered to do was to poll the -- and Cal help me if I
35 get this wrong, but the natural resource departments of
36 the village IRAs, okay, and so she came up with a series
37 of questions, several of us looked at it and made sure we
38 all, at least, it was clear to us what we were asking,
39 and then she worked with the villages natural resource
40 departments and asked these questions and we got the
41 answer -- we got answers back and we got answers back
42 from -- if you look at that second to last page, Page 22,
43 we got answers back from Hydaburg, Kassan, Petersburg,
44 Craig, Klawock and Kake, and so we directly used that
45 information to answer that question.

46

47 Now, there were a whole series of
48 communities, and if you look at that table, that's the
49 next group of them here, and it includes Yakutat,
50 Wrangell, Sitka, et cetera, where we either didn't get

1 answers back or really in the case of Sitka, because we
2 worked with STA, you know, they said Sitka's a big,
3 complex place, you know, just asking us what's important
4 to Sitka probably isn't that appropriate, so what we did
5 for those locations was we said, okay, let's just look at
6 our harvest data and look at the places that have the
7 most harvest around those communities and so we just
8 substituted that in place of that poll that, for
9 instance, we asked OVK.okay. And then the very last
10 group of communities were the really small communities on
11 North Prince of Wales Island, and a lot of the work group
12 thought that we needed -- I -- you know, we needed to get
13 at this question for them, but -- but there's no
14 organized group to ask. I mean where do you go in Whale
15 Pass to ask that question, you know, so what we did there
16 is we had Staff that are really pretty knowledgeable, I
17 think about Prince of Wales Island, and so we just
18 substituted their judgment, and that's what was there.
19 So the only place Staff judgment entered into this was
20 for that last spot.

21
22 Mr. Chairman. I know that was a real
23 long-winded question answer to your question, I hope that
24 helped.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Doug.
31 We're now under agency organization reports, the first
32 one is.....

33
34 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You got a comment, Mr.
37 McBride, or.....

38
39 MR. MCBRIDE: Oh, Mr. Chairman, much
40 better, I have one more document.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I.....

43
44 MR. MCBRIDE:I have to go through.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You still have another
47 report to make, okay.

48
49 MR. MCBRIDE: My apologies, Mr. Chairman.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: My apologies.

2

3 MR. MCBRIDE: Like I say, it's been a
4 busy year for the Monitoring Program. We -- I really do
5 think that we did quite a bit.

6

7 Mr. Chairman, the last thing that I would
8 ask or that I would want to go through with the Council
9 is in your book, it is the 2007 Monitoring Plan. It
10 begins on Page 233. And with everything that we just did
11 about strategic planning, I think we can get through this
12 pretty quickly.

13

14 I don't feel like I need to revisit the
15 whole basic workings of the Monitoring Plan with this
16 Council, I think you've got a real good grasp on that.
17 If you go to Page 235, when you look at the evaluation
18 process, everything that we just talked about, that whole
19 first evaluation, strategic priority, that's what this
20 was all about. And like I say, I don't feel that we need
21 to spend any more time on that, I think the work group
22 made some very clear recommendations. You can see in
23 both of these documents how the projects that are on the
24 table in front of us rank out when you look at the
25 questions to ask and the sockeye locations to assess.

26

27 The second evaluation criteria is
28 technical and scientific merit. Like I said earlier in
29 my presentation we spent a lot of time, particularly a
30 year -- almost a year ago, last December with Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game, we sat down and did a
32 technical review of a lot of these sockeye escapement
33 programs, just getting at the how they work part of the
34 equation, this is something that the Technical Review
35 Committee spends a lot of time on, is the technical
36 workings of these projects, are they technically
37 competent. The third bullet investigator -- or
38 evaluation criteria, investigator building and resources,
39 to be quite honest for Southeast, that's not that big of
40 a deal. I think we've got a real good track record with
41 the investigators with our program, so that -- if I had
42 to pick one of these as being not that big of a deal it
43 would be that one. And then the fourth one is a big
44 deal, it's on the next page, partnership and capacity
45 building.

46

47 One of the things we look at in these
48 projects, and we look at are they strategically
49 important, are they technically sound, but then we also
50 ask, then, as the project is going on, does it promote

1 capacity building, and we get at that in two different
2 ways, we look at whether there are meaningful
3 partnerships with Alaska Native or rural organizations,
4 in other words, are they either the -- the principal
5 investigator or a co-invest -- a meaningful co-
6 investigator, and we also look at the local hire in each
7 project. In other words, how much of that project is
8 going to local hire. Those are two measures that we've
9 come up with to try to evaluate that criteria.

10

11 The next thing, I guess, I'll briefly
12 touch on is on Page 238, and this came up a little bit
13 earlier, there's a pie chart there on a statewide basis,
14 like I said, we look at the breakdown of the TRC
15 recommendation in terms of where the money goes and you
16 can see for yourself how, at least, the recommendation
17 for 2007, this is how the money would break out.

18

19 When we get into Southeast specifically,
20 that starts on Page 239, the next page, again, I'm not
21 going to cover the issues and information needs, I think
22 we addressed that very thoroughly.

23

24 If you turn the page to 240, I think it's
25 always a good idea to look at where we've been so if you
26 look on Page 241 and 242, you'll see Table 1, this is the
27 history in Southeast of the projects that either have
28 been or are currently funded under the Monitoring
29 Program. So if you want to look at what's currently being
30 funded, you go all the way to the right-hand side of the
31 table where it says 2007, those are projects then that
32 would be funded for 2007, in other words, the year that
33 we're talking about here, so if there's a number under
34 there, and there's only a couple of them, if you look
35 down at the bottom of the page, we're in the third and
36 final year for Kook Lake sockeye, we're in the second and
37 final year for Neva Lake sockeye. If you turn the page,
38 we are going to start the customary trade project. We've
39 had a lot of discussion about that the last couple years.
40 That is slated to be started in 2007. And then we can't
41 produce one of these books without making a mistake, the
42 Prince of Wales steelhead, there should be numbers for
43 that project, Prince of Wales steelhead, that project is
44 ongoing right now and it will be finishing up in 2007,
45 there should be numbers for that project.

46

47 But anyway those are the projects that
48 are being funded in 2007.

49

50 So the way our funding works is we look

1 at how much money is available for the region and then we
2 subtract from that, these commitments because these came
3 from existing monitoring plans that we've already gone
4 through in previous years, and we take those off the top
5 and then that's the amount of money that's left.

6
7 So what projects are we talking about. I
8 think probably the best place to go -- oh, before we go
9 there, on Page 243, Table 2 and Table 3, those are the
10 breakdowns that I talked about, in other words, Table 2
11 that lists all the projects that we have -- that we
12 advanced for investigation plans, and this is how their
13 budgets would break down between Alaska Native, State of
14 Alaska, Federal agency or somebody else, another
15 organization, so that's what Table 2 is. Table 3, I
16 think the really pertinent thing there is the local hire,
17 that's that first column, but the matching funds are also
18 very important, that's something that we very much
19 encourage potential investigators to do in their
20 proposals, is bring money to the table so that the entire
21 financial burden doesn't fall on the Monitoring Program.
22 So that's that information.

23
24 If you look at the table on Page 245,
25 Table 4, what you'll see there are all the projects and
26 the TRC recommendation and what those projects are
27 proposed to cost.

28
29 For this year it actually is quite simple
30 for us. We have, I believe, eight projects on the table,
31 most of them are sockeye escapement projects, they
32 obviously rank very highly in this entire exercise that
33 we did. We're recommending all of those for funding.

34
35 We have a TEK project, that's Project
36 06651, the Hydaburg sockeye salmon customary and
37 traditional systems. Again, we have sufficient funding
38 for that. We're recommending that for funding.

39
40 We also have a very small stock, status
41 and trends project, Beam Canal, eulachon genetics, we
42 received a proposal to look at stock structure of
43 eulachon. I think I talked about this a little bit
44 earlier in the whole strategic planning discussion. That
45 was not something that was explicitly identified by the
46 work group but it's a very modest proposal that gets at,
47 what we think is a question worth asking, and we have
48 sufficient funds to cover it, and so recommending funding
49 all these projects.

50

1 Mr. Chairman, I just want to mention just
2 one other thing and I've talked with several of the
3 Council members about this, these are not all the
4 proposals that we received. I think, as you're aware, in
5 our process, when we do a call for proposals we get what
6 we get for proposals, and that happens in the winter, we
7 receive them basically by February 1. What we do is then
8 the FIS Staff works with our Technical Review Committee
9 and we do an initial evaluation on just the proposals and
10 then we work with the TRC and then if we need to, and in
11 the case of Southeast, we felt very strongly we did, we
12 went over those proposals down and advanced some of them
13 for an investigation plan, and we do that when the
14 proposals that we receive are greatly in excess of the
15 amount of money available.

16
17 Cal sits on the TRC, I can't remember how
18 much more of those proposals were requesting than we had
19 available but it was probably on the order of four-fold.
20 I mean it was something -- I mean we were being asked --
21 we had proposals in hand for something in the order of
22 three to four times the amount of money that we had
23 available. And so what we do is we try to whittle that
24 down to something that's manageable then when we get to
25 this stage. And we also do that so that we don't, I
26 guess, to be quite honest, unnecessarily ask a lot of
27 investigators to go through the substantial effort that
28 they have to go through to do investigation plans when it
29 just isn't very likely that we're going to have money to
30 even come close to their projects.

31
32 So we received a lot of -- I don't know
33 if it's a lot, but we received other proposals that did
34 not get forwarded for investigation plan.

35
36 One of them I think worth mentioning came
37 up, I think a couple of days ago, when Mr. Edenshaw was
38 here, was for Carta, and I mean obviously when you look
39 at this review and synthesis, Carta ranks out as one of
40 the higher priority places and we had a very technically
41 sound proposal. In fact, when you look at what Kassan
42 has done they actually went outside our program, they
43 went and got a tribal wildlife grant, built a weir, ran
44 the weir for two years on Carta, that was the results
45 that he talked about, that Ben talked about when he was
46 up here earlier this morning. And we've received
47 proposals from them actually for the last two years, and
48 it has been a funding constraint issue. But I guess all
49 I can say is, we received several other, what I would
50 call good proposals, there was nothing technically wrong

1 with them, it became a money issue in terms of what we
2 thought we could ultimately afford and what we couldn't.

3

4 And so with that, Mr. Chairman, I'm
5 available for questions. Certainly before we leave, we
6 would very much like the Council's recommendation on the
7 TRC's recommendation in terms of the funding
8 recommendation.

9

10 Mr. Chairman, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I apologize for the
13 distraction here, Doug, but thank you very much. Is
14 there any questions.

15

16 Patty.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
19 On Page 237 it says, in the middle of the page, as has
20 been done in past years, any unallocated Monitoring
21 Program funds from the current year will be used to
22 increase the amount of funding available for the
23 subsequent year. Are those included -- are those funds
24 included in the amount allocated for the recommended
25 projects and how much is that amount.

26

27 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
28 Phillips. I could easily answer the first question, the
29 answer is yes. We do include those, but I'm looking at
30 Cal because I don't know how much that is, I don't think
31 it's a lot.

32

33 So actually the answer for Southeast the
34 answer is if we would have had some we would have used
35 them.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh Doug.

42

43 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
44 for your indulgence. I don't know if you're going to go
45 into deliberation, if not can I -- I -- as I said, I'd
46 very much like for the Council to weigh in on the TRC
47 recommendation if you concur with that or not.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

50

1 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What page are we talking
4 about there, Doug, if you would.
5
6 MR. KOOKESH: Specifically.
7
8 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. If you look
9 at the table on Page 245 what you'll see are all the
10 projects with the TRC recommendation, the TRC is
11 recommending to fund all of these projects, and I think
12 that would be the best place to refer to.
13
14 Mr. Chairman.
15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty, bail me
19 out here.
20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
22 Could I make some comments on the process I was involved
23 in in the strategy development.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please do.
26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm going to make some
28 comments that are no reflection on Doug McBride and the
29 work that he's doing in this report, but they are a
30 reflection of the OSM, Office of Subsistence Management.
31
32
33 No. 1. I was the only Council member
34 there on Day 1 and we began voting on day one. And
35 Harvey Kitka was unable to be there on day one because of
36 a traveling snafu from the Office of Subsistence
37 Management. Only because I had the trust of Alaska
38 SeaPlane Services they let me fly over knowing they could
39 bill OSM for my travel, but there was no documentation of
40 my traveling to Juneau and back, no travel authorization.
41
42 One I got to Juneau there was no hotel,
43 lodging arrangements at the Goldbelt Hotel where I stayed
44 and I had to get a hold of Federal Staff to verify and to
45 make arrangements for my lodging. And for those of us
46 who volunteer our time, our very valuable time,
47 nonetheless, for these traveling SNAFUS to get in the
48 way, it affects our effectiveness in these sort of
49 processes where they ask for us to volunteer our time to
50 be part of the process.

1 These mathematical statistics may have
2 changed with the vote of Harvey Kitka involved in the
3 development of the prioritization of these strategy
4 plans.

5
6 Another thing, not a reflection upon Mr.
7 McBride and his team of FIS people or the Federal Staff
8 or State Staff who were at the Federal strategy meeting,
9 however, I felt it was a venue for -- let me see, how did
10 I word that, it turned into a venue for programs -- it
11 was used as a venue to solicit support for already
12 ongoing projects and I'm uncomfortable with that.
13 Because every project throughout the region has value and
14 merit. I will agree to that, but we were trying to
15 strategize on how we were going to get information and
16 what we need to get information for. What this resource
17 monitoring plan says so well about Hatchery Creek is
18 Hatchery Creek has Federal interests, we have no ongoing
19 monitoring projects there, it is a project we should be
20 funding. One of my concerns at that-- in participating
21 in that meeting is that I believe that projects should
22 be regionally dispersed.

23
24 If you look at the FIS projects that
25 they're recommending to us, three projects are stock
26 assessment from Prince of Wales and one TEK project,
27 Prince of Wales, four of the projects recommended are
28 from Prince of Wales. I'm not saying Prince of Wales
29 isn't deserving because every project throughout the
30 region is deserving but my point is that we need to be
31 thinking regionally.

32
33 And finally for Kanalku, I was concerned
34 that with the not fishing in Kanalku that there would be
35 more of an exploitation harvest of resource --
36 subsistence resource use from Basket Bay or other sockeye
37 systems nearby and that perhaps we should be monitoring
38 those in case there was an increase.

39
40 I did thoroughly read the reports and
41 overall they are very well done including the tables that
42 are attached to it. And I would support the
43 recommendations of the TRC. However, I did want to make
44 those concerns known.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Any
49 other comments from anyone about that.

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I'll make a comment.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You want to comment.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, make a comment.
8
9 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you very much for
10 your comments Patty, because we really don't know these
11 things until you tell us, you know. But normally I know
12 that when we go through this process of selecting
13 projects and prioritizing what we want, normally there's
14 usually a few listed underneath, below here. I don't
15 know if that's -- pretty hard to go against the
16 recommendation when there's no other alternatives
17 available.
18
19 But normally we usually saw other
20 projects that were listed below here that were below the
21 funding line and we were usually given an opportunity to
22 decide what we felt, but I'm just seeing we just have
23 something in front of us that says these are them, this
24 is it, and that -- not that that's a wrong thing, these
25 are probably all good projects.
26
27 That's just my observation here, but I
28 would like to thank Patty, that was very well put.
29
30 Thank you. And we should represent our
31 region, that's what we're all about.
32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Adams.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
36
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
38 Thank you, Councilman Kookesh. One point that you
39 reminded me of is that it would have been good to know
40 what some of the other projects were like Carta, I mean
41 Carta -- I mean Kassan -- Organized Village of Kassan
42 sent Dan Edenshaw all the way here and he mentioned that
43 he would like funding for his project, well, I don't know
44 where that ranked on your list and if there was any extra
45 funds possible at all or maybe you guys could help them
46 narrow down their scope so maybe some sort of assessment
47 could be going on.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Is there another list of
6 other projects that were not considered or is it just
7 this list because Mr. Kookesh came up with a good point,
8 you know, why is it just put before us like this, so is
9 there a list.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Doug.

12

13 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.
14 Members of the Council. I apologize. I probably glossed
15 over some stuff, I just felt like I've been going on and
16 on and on so I was trying to be as brief as possible.

17

18 One of the things -- first of all, were
19 there other proposals, absolutely there were. I know off
20 the top of my head we received proposals for Carta,
21 Sitkho, those two I remember distinctly. I think there
22 was a TEK project for the Sitka area. There were several
23 other projects that we did not ask for investigation
24 plans. The reason for that, like I said earlier, was
25 about money. As these projects were originally proposed,
26 particularly the sockeye escapement projects, they were
27 way more expensive than what you see here.

28

29 Some of the ones that really stood out in
30 terms of expense, were Kanalku, Falls and Klawock, to my
31 memory. And what we had last March was these proposals,
32 we went through the TRC and they had budgets attached to
33 them, but they weren't fully fleshed out budgets, they're
34 just the two page proposals that people turn in. And
35 even forwarding this list, what you see in front of you,
36 as those projects were originally proposed, they totaled
37 easily 50 percent more money than what -- half again more
38 money than what we had to spend. What we did and by we,
39 I mean myself, Cal, some of the other Forest Service
40 Staff, we worked primarily with the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Division because they
42 are the primary investigator for a lot of these projects,
43 and we looked at those projects and we really to be quite
44 frank, boiled them down to what we thought was needed for
45 the Federal Subsistence Program.

46

47 And for instance, like at Falls Lake,
48 we've been running that project since 2001, it's provided
49 a lot of great information, it's been a weir. Okay,
50 weir's are great, but weirs cost a lot of money, these

1 fish have a very prolonged run timing, you have a crew
2 there for a long period of time so they cost a lot of
3 money. One of the things that they demonstrated in the
4 course of running that project is that they could go into
5 the lake, once the escapement was up into the lake and
6 conduct a tagging experiment, and get the same answer
7 that they got at the weir for a lot less money. so for
8 places like Klawock and Falls, basically what we told
9 them was we said, okay, that's the way we want you to
10 develop your investigation plan, and that came out of
11 some pretty prolonged discussions with the investigators.
12 So the cost of those projects declined, I mean
13 dramatically, probably on the order of half, I would say.
14 And we did that for several of the projects, notably
15 Falls, Klawock and Kanalku.

16
17 And it allowed us to do several -- well,
18 the primary thing it allowed us to do was then do a
19 recommendation to fund all these projects. To be quite
20 frank until about a couple months ago, I certainly didn't
21 think I'd be coming to you with a -- when we had the TRC
22 meeting in July I didn't think I'd be coming to you with
23 a recommendation that we could fund everything on the
24 table. I thought very much it would be as Floyd
25 described, they would be in order and there'd be a line
26 in there somewhere and we'd be discussing what was above
27 and below that line. But like I said, we did a lot of
28 work to narrow the cost of these projects substantially
29 and that's what happened.

30
31 Mr. Chairman.

32
33 Oh, Mr. Chairman, one other comment. Ms.
34 Phillips. The travel thing, that was absolutely
35 inexcusable, I agree with you, I take responsibility for
36 that, I thought we had the travel covered and that's just
37 inexcusable, my apologies.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. You
40 know, when we referred to this Page 24, you know, I
41 discussed going back and forth with Dr. Schroeder here on
42 some of things, so I kind of missed the point that your
43 -- your beginning statement was, are you asking for, you
44 know, the Council to take some kind of action on these
45 lists here or.....

46
47 MR. MCBRIDE: (Nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So the next thing
50 that I would put before the Council, you know, is what's

1 your take on that. Go ahead, Patty.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
4 I move to support the Technical Review Committee's table
5 for funding recommendations for the Fisheries Resource
6 Monitoring Program.

7

8 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So moved and seconded by
11 Patty and Mr. Kitka. Any further discussion on this
12 issue.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you calling for the
19 question or you have a question.

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: No, a question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's got a question,
24 okay, thank you.

25

26 MR. KOOKESH: Normally when we follow
27 this process, like I said, earlier we at least had some
28 alternatives below, I'd like to see that come back and be
29 put in front of us because this is either yes or no, I
30 mean, at least before we had options. The Technical
31 Review Committee, if you look on the top of Page 245,
32 Table 4, the second word says recommendations. I don't
33 fault them, I'm sure they're all professionals in their
34 own fields when it comes to reviewing these, setting up,
35 you know, defining the criteria and everything, but I
36 believe that the final decision based on recommendations
37 comes from us, and I'd like to see us go back to a
38 process-- maybe you can go back in your books and find
39 out and show that there were other projects listed below
40 there was a line drawn -- remember that, there was a line
41 drawn and there was projects that fell outside the
42 guidelines.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Dr. Schroeder.

45

46 DR. SCHROEDER: Hopefully I won't muddy
47 waters that are already stirred up here a bit. The
48 process for reviewing FIS proposals has been in place for
49 quite a few years now, and it is a -- as I think the
50 Council is aware, it's a multi-stage process wherein

1 anyone can submit a very short proposal, basically a
2 proposal prospectus, a one or two page to the program for
3 possible funding and then there's a first cut made on
4 those project ideas and then the second cut, those
5 projects look like they had merit to Staff then go out
6 for full development. And the reason for that was that
7 the program didn't feel that it was really ethically
8 sound to have organizations go through a whole lot of
9 work and put together complete proposals if, really, they
10 weren't something that the program was likely to fund at
11 all, meaning that they just weren't within our range or
12 scope of interest.

13

14 And I believe, if I've got it right, that
15 what you see before you are all the proposals that came
16 through that were sent out for full development; is that
17 right Doug?

18

19 MR. MCBRIDE: That's exactly correct.

20

21 DR. SCHROEDER: And this is the normal
22 place for where the Council weighs in. I think what's
23 unusual this year is that the Staff did magic and figured
24 out some way of funding all the projects that were
25 submitted this year at levels that would work, so in
26 other years we've had that list of projects, Floyd, that
27 you're talking about because there were a number of
28 projects submitted that looked like they had merit and
29 all of them couldn't be funded and the Council's input on
30 that was real important.

31

32 I guess at this point what you're asked
33 to do is agree with these recommendations, if you
34 disagreed you could do something else. You could
35 disagree with the whole list of them. Or you could say I
36 don't like this project for some reason or another. But
37 I haven't heard any discussion that is going in that
38 direction.

39

40 I'd also point out that I think Staff are
41 really open to talking about all the projects that are
42 submitted at any stage in the process if Council members
43 want to be in that loop.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. Is
46 there any more comments.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
49 I'm going to support the motion. I've been briefed on
50 the initiative that Staff took to fund these projects and

1 if they didn't take that initiative then this number of
2 stock, status and trends projects and TEK projects
3 wouldn't be before us. But additional funds were found
4 to make these projects happen and they will bring us good
5 information for future decision-making.

6

7 Thanks.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

10 Anyone else.

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called,
15 all in favor please say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. And
24 congratulations, Doug, good job.

25

26 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me just make a
29 statement before we go to the next group, I think that's
30 the Sitka Tribe.

31

32 Two things we can do when we get --
33 there's two things we can do when we get a lemon, we can
34 either complain about how sour it is or we can turn them
35 into lemonades. And I hope that some of the problems or
36 issues that have been brought before us, you know, today
37 and throughout this whole meeting this week, you know, we
38 can turn some of the sour projects, you know, into
39 lemonades. So that's kind of the thing that I'm going to
40 be focusing on as your Chairman, from there.

41

42 Sitka Tribes of Alaska. And we also
43 understand that you have a fisheries project that you're
44 going to address as well.

45

46 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: Mr. Chair. We have
47 a couple of things. We have a fisheries project and a
48 couple TEK projects presented by Robi Craig.

49

50 So one of the things I wanted to also

1 note is our Chair -- not our Chair, our vice chair of our
2 tribal council is here, George Riddley and I was going to
3 say a couple words and maybe he can come down. And we
4 also have a couple tribal citizens to talk about rural
5 determination in Sitka. So I was going to go over that
6 briefly. I understand that's already been covered under
7 your agenda but I just wanted to provide some more
8 testimony for the Council because I understand that they
9 need to present things to present to the Federal
10 Subsistence Board so just to strengthen your case.

11
12 I wanted to say I support the decision
13 for Sitka to not be further evaluated and to maintain its
14 rural status. I understand the Council passed a
15 resolution yesterday to increase the population threshold
16 to 11,000 which I also support. And I wanted to -- many
17 of the Council might be aware but Sitka Tribe of Alaska
18 has a traditional foods program. And I think that's kind
19 of vital and shows how Sitka is rural. It's been a
20 priority of the tribe, and they've funded this out of
21 their own funding, the traditional foods program, to have
22 a traditional foods coordinator who goes out and gets
23 deer, sockeye and halibut, herring eggs, especially, you
24 know, we have big events, they organize community events
25 and we give -- this year -- Sitka Tribe harvested 20,600
26 pounds of herring eggs and gave them out to over 160
27 families and organizations including the Sitka Community
28 Hospital and the Pioneer's Home. And with help from
29 tribal citizens got over 600 sockeye, in part, to Ralph
30 Guthrie who's up there, and distributed them to over 80
31 families and organizations.

32
33 So like I said I wanted to reiterate that
34 Sitka is rural for any number of reasons, which I'm sure
35 you've heard before but, high gas prices, inability of
36 getting out of here, high cost of transportation,
37 flights, the ferry service is pretty limited, and I just
38 wanted to cover that, but that's -- I think that's what I
39 want to say for now.

40
41 But if you have any questions you can
42 ask.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions, anyone.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

49
50 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. You said

1 something that you had people that went out and
2 subsistence for elders and stuff like that, how many
3 people do you have doing that?

4
5 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: We have one
6 traditional foods coordinator, we just actually hired a
7 new person. But just one person. And their job, part of
8 their job is to coordinate with other tribal staff and
9 tribal citizens to go out and to get food, and we also
10 take donations. But it's like -- specifically like
11 herring eggs and sockeye are generally a community event
12 where the whole tribal staff participates in processing
13 the herring eggs and getting them out to the community.
14 Herring eggs we actually -- we usually make some sort of
15 announcement and not just tribal citizens but other
16 people in the community who appreciate herring eggs come
17 down and get some, give them out in bags.

18
19 So, you know, yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Were you
22 going to ask Mr. Riddley to come down.

23
24 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit)

27
28 MR. RIDDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
29 Council members.

30
31 You mentioned that you're volunteers and
32 I think this is really great of you, that is something
33 that you have to keep on top of, but they talk about
34 subsistence but for us, you know, you're talking about a
35 way of life, you know, it's that you want to pass on to
36 your children and your grandchildren, you know, that it
37 will still be there.

38
39 Sitka Tribe has been working really hard
40 at that.

41
42 I apologize I forgot to introduce myself.

43
44 My name is George Riddley and I am vice
45 chairman of Sitka Tribe. And that is something that it
46 is an honor and a privilege to work with them, and to me
47 they are really doing great work and have really a great
48 Staff, and they need people like you that all the
49 communities can work together to protect what we have, a
50 way of life, you know, that it's admirable of all of you

1 here that are here, that it is something that needs to be
2 done, you know, and I applaud all of you here.

3

4 Like you said, it was volunteer work,
5 that you do work for the people.

6

7 So Sitka Tribe right now, one of the
8 biggest things they're doing is the rural determination.
9 We just had a hearing a couple days ago, and so with the
10 Federal Subsistence Board and so I'm going to stay with
11 it, they keep saying that Sitka's not on the list for
12 determination but Sitka Tribe thinks it's so important
13 that that is one of their top priorities right now until
14 they do make a determination in December in Anchorage,
15 Sitka Tribe will be there and the city of Sitka. And
16 what the tribe has learned, it is good to collaborate
17 with the community and not just the tribe working by
18 itself, that collaboration does work and that it is
19 something that Sitka Tribe has learned. And so they have
20 an MOU with the city of Sitka, with the Forest Service,
21 with the Department of Defense, and we have several
22 others but I don't have them on the top of my head. That
23 by working with them, you know, that it is something that
24 can reap harvest for the people of your community.

25

26 And so that is something, like I said,
27 you guys are really working to protect the herring and I
28 see where you guys voted to stop the fishery --
29 commercial herring fisheries around Makhmati Island, and
30 so we'll see where that goes in that Sitka is the last
31 stronghold for herring, you know, and herring eggs in
32 Southeast Alaska. When I was small there was herring
33 everywhere, you know, just like Sitka except every area
34 in Southeast had about the same amount. Now, Sitka is
35 the only last place and so you really have to work and
36 with the help of all of you that it can protect it, you
37 know, and that it is something that all the communities
38 and tribes can come together and work at it.

39

40 And what you guys are doing and I think
41 that is very, very important. I really thank all of you
42 and thank you for all the work that you do, and the Sitka
43 Tribe really thanks you and it is something that is
44 needed, and that you know what's going on and have an
45 input on what is going on for -- instead of calling it
46 subsistence Sitka Tribe calls it customary and
47 traditional way of life, you know, that's what they put
48 in a lot of their resolutions and everything, and so it
49 is the word that they use.

50

1 Even the committee is named that, too.
2 But it is -- and I thank you all for all your good work
3 and I hope it really continues.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, George.
8 You know, I have to -- the Council, you know, sat here
9 for almost two days, you know, listening to the
10 testimonies and reports from the study that Sitka Tribe
11 has developed and I just want to send out a compliment to
12 that committee, they did an outstanding job in presenting
13 very credible data to us. Now, the challenge from here
14 is to be able to convince the Board that, you know, this
15 is a worthwhile project.

16
17 So we will do our best in carrying that
18 forth for you. So we just thank you and, you know, my
19 compliments to Mike Miller and to those who worked on
20 that committee, they did an outstanding job for you and
21 for us as well.

22
23 Gunalcheesh.

24
25 MR. RIDDLEY: Well, thank you. And I
26 think that Sitka Tribe has a very good staff, and people
27 are committed like Mike Miller and Ralph Guthrie and all
28 the other ones and Ray Nielsen, and just those few, I
29 hate to say names because you leave so many out.

30
31 But I mean it is something that Sitka
32 Tribe -- or the people of Sitka really, really believe
33 and they really work at it, and as all of you that are
34 here, you are committed because you are here, so that it
35 is admirable and commendable and we need to do it, we
36 need to work together and support each other.

37
38 Thank you, very much.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

41
42 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: I should say Woody
43 Widmark, our tribal Chair has been here, you've probably
44 noticed him sitting around the last couple of days
45 listening to the testimony. He couldn't be here today
46 because of having to work but we're thankful that George
47 is here to talk from the STA Council.

48
49 And I also wanted to say that I know we
50 had the reception honoring Dolly Garza and John

1 Littlefield, but we also want to really welcome you, Mr.
2 Adams and Mr. Kookesh, and the new secretary.

3

4 So I asked Ralph Guthrie and Ray Nielsen
5 to maybe talk about rural determination and then we'll
6 have our presentations.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, let's do
9 that.

10

11 MR. NIELSEN: Thank you, Helen. Mr.
12 Chairman. Council. Staff. Nice to have you here.
13 We're here in very important times, not only for Sitka
14 Tribe, but for the people of Sitka trying to advocate for
15 our way of life. To me it's just an everyday thing, just
16 living, gathering, trade, barter, and sell, share. I
17 have taken it upon myself to be an advocate for
18 subsistence since 1988 when I participated in a very
19 important court case, Jackson versus the U.S. government.
20 That was very difficult for me, I wasn't a public
21 speaker, I was chosen to be a character witness for
22 Chester Jackson, my friend, and we went to Juneau to a
23 Federal court and we got in a hung jury. That was a very
24 big victory in itself, and then we went to the Appellate
25 level and we won outright. And at that point, I really
26 enjoyed it after that.

27

28 I participated in helping put together
29 that traditional food program in 1990 and did the things
30 that came natural tome, that I grew up with in Kake. I
31 learned most of my things from Kake and I applied it here
32 because I was raised here. And from 1990, one of my
33 first things as a tribal staff member was to -- the
34 Regional Advisory Council came to Sitka at the Centennial
35 Building and I brought herring egg salad there to
36 introduce Staff members to the Native foods. I have no
37 problem doing that. I like to prepare foods. And to me,
38 I like everyone to eat it. And I have a saying that when
39 you leave the building after eating Native foods, you
40 leave a little bit healthier than when you arrived, and I
41 do that to Native doings, non-Native doings. And whether
42 it's cultural, ceremonial, committee conferences and non-
43 Native doings, going to committees and participating in
44 the Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I was active in
45 that one for long-term.

46

47 When I was there it was just speaking
48 naturally for advocating for the Native perspective for
49 harvesting Native foods but I also spoke on behalf of the
50 non-tribal members and non-Native members. It's

1 important to advocate for them too, why the people live
2 here, the great outdoors and I like to call it Native
3 foods, but it's Native foods to the area.

4
5 The non-Native person, they come here,
6 but they participate in a sport hunting and we like to go
7 out and gather, hunt, harvest for extra. We donate to
8 many groups, hospital, Pioneer Homes, Swan Lake Senior
9 Center, elderly, we make sure that long-term that the
10 Sitka Community hospital gets it, SEARHC and the Native
11 studies at Sheldon Jackson.

12
13 Native foods are very important to me.
14 We go out and harvest deer and sockeye, I go with Ralph.
15 We go a long run on his boat, and we go way up north.
16 The Sitka tribal area is we go way up to Klagg Bay, which
17 is a long run, we have to pick our weather and we usually
18 have three or four boats to run together, we have special
19 use permits to gather many because the price of fuel,
20 you're running in the outside waters. So we believe in
21 numbers, we all work together. And then on the other end
22 of it, we go all the way down to Red Fish Bay. So we go
23 from one end to the other, and the same way, gathering
24 for many. The need for myself, my immediate family and
25 relatives here in town.

26
27 My main food source is what I put up. I
28 don't have a regular job. I've been living the
29 subsistence lifestyle for quite a while now, ever since I
30 left the tribe in '95. But it just doesn't encompass
31 going out and harvesting the foods.

32
33 And the other aspect of that is what
34 we're doing right here, advocating for our rights as
35 Native people, but right now it's a bigger circle, it's
36 for the people of Sitka, maintaining our rural status,
37 it's important. And I always encourage non-Native
38 people, to eat our food, it's very good for you, it's
39 healthy. For generations our people have known all the
40 different foods and what part of the body it's good for.
41 And they always look at me real funny, but I like to cook
42 it for them. And it's come down to not only going out
43 and harvesting foods, but also getting stuff from the
44 plant that they throwaway. The halibut heads, we go with
45 Ralph, we cut the cheeks, and now it's legal, it's -- the
46 longliners have to bring in the extra bycatch from the
47 halibut and black cod trips. They're allowed only a
48 certain percentage of bycatch and the rest they'd throw
49 away, that was a waste, wanton waste, now they have to
50 bring it in and they bring it to the plant and the plant

1 cannot keep it so they give it to the tribe.

2

3 I work with other boats in the longline
4 fishery, and they give it to me and I fillet and do all
5 that myself, share with the tribe, elders, individuals
6 that are needy, handicapped or don't have someone to
7 harvest for them, that's very easy. I learned a lot from
8 my grandparents and I love to pass it on.

9

10 And the testimony the other day for the
11 rural determination as a community lasted many hours,
12 five minutes, many of us could speak longer than five
13 minutes. But a lot of people in town, they cannot speak
14 orally because they're scared or nervous, I urged them, I
15 talked to many people to submit a written testimony, I
16 said you have to fight for your rights, too, it's a
17 community effort.

18

19 And I will probably go to Anchorage and
20 speak again there, too, besides my written testimony. I
21 can write down a whole lot. But I try to key in on the
22 most important parts. And that's why we're here and I
23 thank the tribe for allowing me to speak here, and now
24 I'd like brother Ralph here to speak on it, too.

25

26 Of course you all know me, I'm Ray
27 Nielsen (In Tlingit), I wear the frog, some of them call
28 me frog man, Kiksadi, but actually I am (In Tlingit) from
29 Kake, and I see my brother Nick, I believe, and we used
30 to go out and harvest with him too.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. GUTHRIE: Well, thank you for this
35 opportunity to speak, Chairman of the Board and members.
36 Subsistence when you're young and your grandmother starts
37 introducing you to the foods that they have eaten for
38 thousands of years including wild fish, smoked fish, seal
39 grease and eulachon grease, and from that time, you know,
40 people shared with my grandmother, this stuff, some
41 people came from Kake and some came from Juneau, and we
42 have quite a number of relatives in most of the
43 communities. So as I grew older and started commercial
44 fishing and stuff that we weren't able to sell, I'd
45 fillet out and I'd bring to the older people around town,
46 and the young people who were having a hard time with
47 life. And this sort of just worked through all my life
48 in all the different places I've been.

49

50 Kake, Craig, Sitka and sharing is one of

1 the most wonderful things there is because not only are
2 you helping the person but you're sharing part of your
3 life with them, and I like that. so what the Board here
4 is doing is insuring that this happens, and I like the
5 rural determination because it protects streams in
6 individual runs so they're going to be a long-term
7 fishery instead of allowing fisheries to disappear. This
8 is very important, the not disappearing of our fish.

9

10 I like the projects, what you're doing to
11 do your stream counts and whatever is going on, it makes
12 a participation and long-term of what we're trying to
13 keep going.

14

15 So anyway that's -- you know, so I'd like
16 to thank you and Sitka Tribe because when there's a lot
17 extra, people who are infirmed, old, I like to share with
18 them because the sharing that happened when we were poor
19 in Petersburg and my grandmother was pretty old, her hip
20 limited her ability so it's a real nice thing, that the
21 older people have a chance to enjoy the foods that they
22 were raised with.

23

24 Anyway, I got one more thing, I think
25 subsistence goes farther than just what we eat, it's what
26 -- it's what we do with our regalia to remember who we
27 are. And one of the things that's been on my mind and
28 I've written quite a few letters is that the collection
29 of eagle feathers is illegal, and so I've written to our
30 different legislators in Juneau and in Washington, D.C.,
31 and I wrote to the people who are in charge of the bird
32 management in Anchorage and in Washington D.C., and
33 everybody thought my idea was good, and my idea is that
34 we collect these feathers and we can share them with the
35 people, you know, and the children that we are raising
36 with -- you know we teach them regalia, we teach them
37 beading, you know, we teach them how to do stuff, but we
38 can't touch the feathers which is real important to our
39 people. So what I thought we could do and I think it was
40 a good idea I get from Nancy Murkowski and I get from the
41 head of the -- you know the endangered species people,
42 yes, it's a good idea, you know, I thought the childrens
43 could collect these feathers and they would get a little
44 grant to do what they do, you know, if they go to Juneau
45 for celebration or if they're going to do dances in
46 different places then they would have the money to do
47 this, you know, so maybe the grant wouldn't be great,
48 maybe \$1,500 or something. But I would like the
49 Subsistence Board to look at this idea and if you feel
50 it's got merit is to support it and support it in the

1 endangered species area.

2

3 So I guess what I'm doing is my own
4 bandwagon but I'd like you guys to participate.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 Oh, my name is Ralph Guthrie, too.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, Ralph
11 Guthrie.

12

13 MR. NIELSEN: I'd like to make one extra
14 comment, how important information gathering is for us,
15 and on herring and deer and sockeye, I'm always walking
16 around the docks and talking to many commercial
17 fishermen, whatever type they're doing and obtaining
18 information and passing it on to Terry Suminski at the
19 Forest Service, Dave Gordon and Bill Davidson at the
20 ADF&G, that's how important it is to us, we're willing to
21 share and pass it on because it's all important in the
22 big picture.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A
27 little bit about these two guys. These two are probably
28 the biggest providers for Sitka. They bring to our
29 attention when things are going to, oh, give us some
30 problems down the line. A lot of us provide things for
31 other people but these two are the biggest providers.

32

33 They work above and beyond what most
34 other people would do, the senior centers, the Pioneer
35 Homes, ANB, STA, and all these other community things,
36 these two work at it. And I commend them for that, and I
37 hope the Board will too.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: This commission, you
40 know, recognizes that, too. Every time I come to Sitka,
41 you know, it's Ray down at the hall cooking and then, you
42 know, I talk with Ralph and he talks about providing this
43 and that for this and that, you know, so our appreciation
44 is certainly extended to you. Not only are you sharing
45 with the elders and the handicapped and the other people
46 but you're sharing your knowledge and your understanding
47 about the resources and I think that's gratefully valued
48 here.

49

50 So to the both of you, Gunalcheesh.

1 MR. GUTHRIE: I'd like to thank you for
2 the opportunity to speak with you. And it's coming on to
3 the holiday season so I hope the holiday season treats
4 you real well and we'll see you next year.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, you got a
9 question.

10
11 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
12 just wanted to mention that Mr. Guthrie lived in
13 Petersburg for many years and he shared with a lot of
14 people there and he certainly is missed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Frank, go ahead.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I come
19 from the (In Tlingit) down here, I'm a (In Tlingit) and
20 we are the people that came from Yakutat, came down and
21 we settled here. Some of the people from -- that didn't
22 come here moved into Icy Straits, (In Tlingit).

23
24 One of the things that I support is that
25 we, as a people, have to exist. I am proud to be here.
26 My family is a Davis family. And I think that this is a
27 situation where the pen is mightier than the sword. All
28 of a sudden we're in a situation, or the Native people
29 are in a situation where whenever anything is taken away
30 from them it diminishes the identity of the person. I'm
31 Tlingit. My father is Chookaneidi who is from Glacier
32 Bay. The Federal government has taken that away --
33 pretty much taken that away from the Chookaneidi people
34 and so it comes to a point where young people don't know
35 how to identify themselves.

36
37 I have a nephew that was -- I was talking
38 to him about Glacier Bay and he says, why should I go
39 there, I don't go there anyway, what's the big deal, he's
40 Chookaneidi and he didn't understand why that was his
41 home land.

42
43 So when we got Federal governments that
44 diminish a people because of their location, it's
45 detrimental to those people. I think that just because
46 of us, the Tlingit people in Sitka being here in a
47 population growing puts the culture at risk because the
48 Federal government decides that there's too many people
49 here so all of a sudden we get into this rural/urban
50 issue. It takes -- it makes it harder for the people to

1 even be here. You wonder why we even want to be here, do
2 we want to be, you know, the Federal government makes it
3 tough.

4

5 I live in Hoonah, but this is my roots.
6 I live in Hoonah so I'm rural. But we got people in
7 Juneau, Tlingit people, like I said, all of a sudden the
8 pen is mightier than the sword and it takes the culture
9 away, and it's a funny -- I don't like using that word,
10 genocide, but it's what it is.

11

12 So you think about all the younger people
13 that are coming up that will not be able to subsist then
14 it's part of their culture that's being taken away.

15

16 I know some people in urban areas that
17 don't eat seal meat, don't eat deer meat, they don't eat
18 all the -- or gumboots or anything off the beach, we are
19 beach people, we live off the beach. But it's the word,
20 subsistence, when it first came into -- came, and I was
21 sitting at the city office in Hoonah, and this guy came
22 -- subsistence, what's the big deal, and this guy from
23 the State says it is a big deal, and I says, what's the
24 big deal, I was saying that because it was so simple to
25 me as a Tlingit person that it wasn't a big deal. So
26 this word, subsistence, comes in and they make it more
27 complicated by saying, you can only do this, you can only
28 do that, but that's not what subsistence is, to us it's
29 customary and traditional. So I'll always support Sitka
30 because of the people here and I'll always support my way
31 of life, your way of life because I'm a Tlingit.

32

33 Gunalcheesh.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Thank you,
36 gentlemen.

37

38 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, too.

39

40 MR. NIELSEN: Gunalcheesh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

43

44 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: So this is Helen,
45 again, for the record. We have a couple short
46 presentations I'm hoping we can get before you break for
47 lunch. The first is one on the Klagg Bay weir project,
48 which should take 10 to 15 minutes, and Robi Craig has
49 one, maybe about five minutes, so if you can bear with
50 me.

1 I'd like to introduce Zachary Penny.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just before we go any
4 further, has to many still have to check out of their
5 rooms yet -- okay, most everyone has, so we're not
6 pressed for time yet. I know Dick Stokes had to go check
7 out and he left for that purpose, so go ahead.

8

9 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: Okay, sorry. I'd
10 like to introduce Zachary Penny and Brian Woody. Brian
11 is currently the weir coordinator for the Klagg Bay weir
12 project and Zachary is a graduate student who has spent
13 about five years on the weir project, he's been there
14 since the very beginning. So they're going to do a
15 presentation, I believe it's PowerPoint and they're going
16 to set up here.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're on gentlemen.

21

22 MR. WOODY: Thank you.

23

24 MR. PENNY: Thank you.

25

26 MR. WOODY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
27 Council members. My name is Brian Woody. I'm the weir
28 coordinator for STA, and thanks for this opportunity for
29 us to showcase our Klagg Bay project.

30

31 MR. PENNY:: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
32 name is Zachary Penny and I work for the Sitka Tribe of
33 Alaska for the past six years on the Klagg Bay stock
34 assessment project. I started out working as a weir
35 technician and crew boss but in the last few years I
36 found myself helping coordinate things from here in town.
37 And right now I'm finishing my Master's degree down at
38 the university of Victoria working on otolith
39 microchemistry. And I'm working with systems around
40 Sitka, including Klagg Bay, on basically using otolith
41 microchemistry for stock identification.

42

43 But today I'm just here to give you a
44 brief and general overview of Sitka Tribe's efforts at
45 helping manage its subsistence resources up at Klagg Bay.

46

47 So just a little bit of background
48 information about Klagg Bay, it's traditionally called
49 Kleix' it belonged to the Chookaneidi Clan of the Sitka
50 people, and it's one of the largest sockeye producers in

1 Southeast Alaska. It is also the third most important
2 subsistence sockeye fishery to Sitka residents, and with
3 that it's kind of important to note that the Klagg stock
4 exploitation is often dependent on the Redoubt
5 escapement. From some of the earlier presentations today
6 we saw that Redoubt had some low escapements in the, I do
7 believe the late '90s, and when that happens, a lot of
8 the effort is centered back on to Klagg Bay.

9
10 And prior to 2001 there was no escapement
11 data on the Klagg Bay system. So Sitka Tribe, Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service
13 took it upon themselves to implement a stock assessment
14 study on Klagg Bay.

15
16 Just a general idea of where Klagg Bay is
17 located, it's located on the west coast of Chichagof
18 Island, it's approximately 75 kilometers from Sitka and
19 it provides reasonably sheltered boat access from Sitka,
20 and I mention that because the availability of access to
21 a system has a lot to do with how much fishing effort it
22 gets. So Klagg Bay, with the access gets a fair amount
23 of fishing pressure and to kind of highlight that point
24 -- oh, excuse me, just to give you a general description
25 of Klagg Bay watershed, Klagg Lake is located about 12
26 meters above sea level, the surface area is about 83
27 hectares and the max depth is about 43 meters. The
28 watershed contains a series of small ponds and streams,
29 quite typical of most of the sockeye systems you find in
30 Southeast Alaska connected to the lake.

31
32 From what we've seen there's one active
33 spawning streams but there has been documented cases of
34 sockeye spawning around the lake shore.

35
36 Klagg Lake also supports runs of coho,
37 chum, pink and steelhead, salmon, a very productive
38 system.

39
40 And a point I'd like to highlight is that
41 like a lot of the systems around Sitka, Klagg Bay sockeye
42 really only run during periods of adequate flow. And to
43 show that I'd like to just show an example of the stream
44 outlet in saltwater during a low flow period. You can
45 see there's a lot of substrate exposed and a high water
46 period.

47
48 And here's just a figure to generalize
49 the correlation between stream depth and sockeye passage.
50 You can see more on the left portion of this figure that

1 near the end of July there's an extreme amount of high
2 count right across the weir and that kind of correlates
3 to rises in stream depth.

4

5 And just to hop right into the objectives
6 of this stock assessment study, we'll just go through
7 them.

8

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1. The objective is estimate sockeye
salmon escapement with mark/recapture on
the spawning grounds.

2. Estimate the age, weight, length and
sex distribution of sockeye adults
returning to Klagg Bay.

3. Estimate the subsistence harvest of
sockeye adults in the Klagg Bay terminal
area.

 These objectives are quite similar to the
rest of the FIS projects that I do believe were presented
earlier today to.

 So just to hop right into the first
objective, the mark/recapture portion. All returning
salmon or sockeye are counted using a rigid weir and
trap, which you can see them, they're in the up right
photo, the trap or the weir, and all fish passage is
directed to the trap where the fish are later sampled.

 Approximately 20 percent of the returning
salmon are marked with fin clips that are stratified
during the season. And by stratified, we mark fish in
three different portions early, mid and late run fish.
These marked fish or all the sockeye are later recaptured
on the spawning grounds and examined for these marks, and
then this weir count and recapture data are then compared
to test the integrity of the weir. So basically if we
mark 20 percent of the run, what we hope to find -- or
expect to find when we get up to the lake is 20 percent
marked fish, and this provides data for establishing
population estimates, but I won't get too detailed in the
rest of the statistics.

 Just a general example of the weir count
from 2001 to 2006, Klagg Bay is a very productive system
for sockeye. We had a high year in 2003 with about
22,000 fish returning. And in this last year 2006, we
had another pretty good year with around approximately

1 20,000 fish returning.

2

3 The second objective, the age, weight,
4 length and sex sampling. We have a goal of about 600
5 sockeye that are randomly sampled throughout the season
6 and we sample these sockeye for sex, length, weight and
7 age, and this data just provides information on the age
8 class, returning biomass, length distribution, sex ratios
9 of the returning stock. Some examples of this, this is
10 2004 data of age, class and sex data, I think this was
11 mentioned earlier, there was questions about how the ages
12 of fish is represented, and what you see here, if you
13 look in the middle column you see 2001 and three [sic],
14 and as I said earlier the very first number represents
15 the amount of -- or the period that the fish was in fresh
16 water, and the three there represents the amount of time
17 that the fish was in marine water. And it looks to be
18 that the Klagg, at least the returning stock in 2004,
19 were primarily composed of four year old fish that spent
20 one year in fresh water and three years in marine.

21

22 Here's another figure, this the age and
23 length data, and just like the last figure, most of the
24 fish returning in 2004 were four year old fish, but if
25 you look, just as an example, that fish spend a longer
26 portion of their lives in marine water are generally
27 bigger than fish that have a longer residence in fresh
28 water.

29

30 And the last objective is just estimating
31 subsistence and sport harvest at Klagg Bay.

32

33 All fishers that attempt to subsistence
34 or sportfish in Klagg Bay interviewed by the crew that
35 are stationed there. And the crew interview fishermen
36 based on whether they're sport or subsistence, the gear
37 type, whether they use beach seines, gillnets, dipnets,
38 rod and reel, the amount of gear, how much gear they used
39 and effort, how long they fished and harvest, how many
40 fish they got. And then this data is estimated using a
41 one stage stratified sampling design and compared to the
42 harvest permits returned to Fish and Game.

43

44 Unfortunately we don't have too many
45 numbers from the creel report, but this is the Fish and
46 Game figure of the harvest figure from the last 20 years
47 at Klagg Bay and obviously you can see that fishing
48 pressure has slowly started to increase at that system
49 which is a pretty good reason why we're there.

50

1 And then the last point I'd just kind of
2 like to talk about is just the partnership and capacity
3 development of this weir project. It's provided a lot of
4 avenues with cooperation with the Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game and U.S. Forest Service, and it involves
6 STA in the management of our local subsistence resources,
7 which I think is very important. And it trains local
8 technicians for further development in fisheries
9 education and biological science. We've trained a lot of
10 crews in the past years and a lot of them have ended up
11 working for Fish and Game, the U.S. Forest Service and
12 we've trained quite a few good individuals that are now
13 working throughout the state.

14
15 And last, but not least, it increases the
16 disbursement of information to the Sitka community
17 through annual reports and public presentations like
18 today.

19
20 So that kind of concludes what I really
21 have to say, it was just a quick overview of our project
22 and I'd just like to acknowledge all of the cooperating
23 agencies. A lot of people are here today. United States
24 Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game, the Staff,
25 of course, Brian Woody, Jack Lorrigan, Doug Dobyms and
26 Rich Didrickson. all the field crews, the participating
27 STA staff that has helped us through the years and all
28 the subsistence and sport fishers that utilize Klagg Bay.

29
30 Thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I know you
33 introduced yourself to me yesterday but I forgot your
34 name, again.

35
36 MR. PENNY: My name is Zach Penny.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Zach Penny.

39
40 MR. PENNY: I'm from the (Indiscernible)
41 Reservation in Idaho.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, welcome to Alaska.
44 Working on your Master's degree, uh?

45
46 MR. PENNY: That is correct.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a time when
49 we'll be able to call you Dr. Penny.

50

1 MR. PENNY: Hopefully in the next few
2 years, I've been accepted to the University of Idaho for
3 a Ph.d., in fish ecology.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Keep going at it, sir.
6
7 MR. PENNY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions. Mr.
10 Kookesh.
11
12 MR. KOOKESH: Can you go back and shoot
13 -- go back to the numbers where you did meters and give
14 me that in feet, in terms of elevation and height and
15 depths, in the very beginning you did -- I'm one of the
16 few Americans that have never got meters yet, it was
17 further back, you were showing Klagg Bay, Klagg Lake,
18 there you are.
19
20 MR. PENNY: All right, I think like one
21 meter is approximately three feet, so let's see, about
22 129 feet, I do believe.
23
24 MR. KOOKESH: The meters.
25
26 MR. PENNY: A meter, I think is about 36
27 feet above sea level.
28
29 MR. KOOKESH: What's that one?
30
31 MR. PENNY: That one I'll have to get
32 back to you on that one.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. PENNY: I heard 3.28 acres.
37
38 MR. KOOKESH: So that one right here,
39 Klagg?
40
41 MR. PENNY: Yeah, the lake is the
42 furthest system to the right. It's parallel to the end
43 of the bay there.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Can you point out the
46 stream that they go up?
47
48 MR. PENNY: Yes. Since I don't have a
49 laser pointer I'm probably going to have to walk up
50 there.

1 MR. KITKA: It's down here, down on the
2 bottom middle about 10 inches off and it goes this way
3 and then that way.

4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay, I see it.
6

7 MR. PENNY: So the weir is located
8 approximately here the stream does a large elbow right
9 here and it goes through a series of ponds, and there's
10 the lake right here and I'm not tall enough -- the main
11 spawning stream you can see is right up here, there's a
12 small pond and then that's where we found a majority of
13 the sockeye where they spawn.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Where's the weir?
16

17 MR. PENNY: The weir is only
18 approximately about 100 meters from salt water, so if I
19 look here it's approximately right here.

20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Where's the camp?
22

23 MR. PENNY: The camp is right on salt
24 water, so we have a nice ocean view of the bay, I believe
25 the camp's right about here.

26
27 MR. GUTHRIE: What kind of water flow do
28 you have there at that time, you know, because I was down
29 there about the 29th of September and it was looking like
30 the water was shooting out of a great big culvert, you
31 know, I never seen water that -- but the humpies were
32 still trying to get up it.

33
34 MR. PENNY: Yeah, I should bring that
35 point of view -- I wasn't here in September but I did
36 hear about the amount of weirs that got blown out in
37 Klagg Bay, just kind of pat ourselves on the back because
38 ours has never been blown out.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don, you got a question.
41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Could you go back to the
43 slide on age composition. Does that show there's some
44 changes in composition of the fish over age for how long
45 they spend in the stream or how long they spend out in
46 salt water, at a glance there I couldn't tell if you
47 noticed some change over time there and how that behaves.

48
49 MR. WOODY: Well, good question. The
50 ages are -- if you look at the row that says ages and we

1 have the 1.1, 1.2 all the way down to 2.3, the first
2 letter -- I'm sorry the first number is the amount of
3 years that the fish has spent in fresh water before it
4 smolts, and then after the smolting it goes to salt
5 water, and then that's the second number, denotes the
6 amount of time the fish has spent in salt water. If you
7 add the two together that's the age of the fish,
8 basically, the age of the fish.

9
10 Now, the longer they stay out in salt
11 water, sometimes they get bigger because they feed
12 longer. But honestly this is the first time that we're
13 doing age composition charts for Klagg Bay, was actually
14 in '05, so we're just now starting to compile this sort
15 of data. And we're going to need about five years of
16 data to complete a full life cycle. So it's important to
17 continue this project to get a complete picture of what's
18 going on here and we can answer your question better with
19 a little more data.

20
21 MR. HERNANDEZ: I was just noticing the
22 change there from -- I see in the end of the column, it
23 looks like those fish are spending two years in the lake
24 as opposed to the beginning of the column, they're only
25 spending a year, I was just wondering if there was some
26 noticeable change there over time or maybe it's just too
27 soon to tell.

28
29 MR. WOODY: It's my personal feeling it's
30 a little too soon to tell.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And, sir, for the sake
33 of the recorder, would you please identify yourself.

34
35 MR. WOODY: Sure. I'm Brian Woody. I'm
36 the weir coordinator for Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any more
39 questions.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, gentlemen.
44 Helen.

45
46 MS. DANGEL-LORRIGAN: So next up is --
47 this is Helen Dangel-Lorrigan again. Next up is Robi
48 Craig and she's going to be talking about the TEK
49 projects that Sitka Tribe of Alaska has. They have been
50 working on the ASKSAM (ph) database, and the salmon TEK

1 project -- or sockeye TEK project.

2

3 MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Helen. Mr.
4 Chairman. I wanted to get some guidance from you. Helen
5 had mentioned earlier that I could get through in five
6 minutes and I'd like to try and I do talk fast, but I
7 don't think I can get through it in five minutes, it
8 would probably take about 10.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we'll put you on
11 next.....

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. CRAIG: I'd offer to do it after
16 lunch or if there's enough time, I don't know what you'd
17 like to me to do.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, go ahead and do what
20 you need to do.

21

22 MS. CRAIG: Okay. That was based on I
23 had told her I'd get done by noon and then the time
24 started to dribble away.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you need a pointer?

27

28 MS. CRAIG: I don't think so.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

31

32 MS. CRAIG: No, thank you, though.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Because Floyd is willing
35 to give it to you if you want.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. CRAIG: Really, well, maybe I'll take
40 it then, it's a gift.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, go ahead, Robi.

45

46 MS. CRAIG: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
47 Council members. This is actually a presentation that
48 myself and two young tribal citizens of the Sitka Tribe
49 gave at the Paths Across the Pacific Conference. And it
50 was the fifth time that the Paths Across Pacific

1 Conference was held here in Sitka.

2

3 And what that conference does is brings
4 together researchers and folks who are involved in
5 transcontinental migration and are doing that research
6 around the nation. So this was an opportunity for us to
7 allow these two young people and myself to give a
8 presentation to these folks and this is what we showed
9 them, and it's about the project that we're doing with
10 this funding.

11

12 And it starts out with a quote from Mr.
13 Herman Kitka, and a picture of some of the dancers here
14 at this building.

15

16 And I sort of alluded to it was a
17 presentation that was given to some individuals who were
18 from out of town, and so we tried to give them some
19 context about this community by basically showing how
20 many folks live here in Sitka, which is about 8,500, we
21 see higher figures from time to time. We explained that
22 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the Federally recognized
23 government for Sitka, that there are over 4,000 tribal
24 citizens enrolled with the Sitka Tribe, and that the
25 tribe manages an annual budget of more than \$5 million.

26

27 We also explained to them the expanse of
28 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's territory. This map here is
29 based on a place name project that tribal elders
30 conducted, boy, their work began way back in the '70s
31 doing this research, and each of these little dots that
32 you see up there, that represents a place name. And
33 these dots coincide very well with the traditional
34 territory of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, obviously, and
35 it's a graphic that we like to use to show visitors just
36 how much traditional ecological knowledge that the Sitka
37 tribal citizens possess.

38

39 And then the two young men and myself sat
40 down and tried to come up with a working definition of
41 traditional ecological knowledge, or TEK, this is a term
42 that we all hear a lot. It's a term that I think
43 everybody would define a little bit differently. And
44 this is what we presented to the group, the traditional
45 ecological knowledge is the intricate and
46 intergenerational knowledge possessed by individuals
47 actively engaged in the harvest, preparation, sharing and
48 use of natural resources within a specific geographical
49 environment over time. So it's quite a mouthful but we
50 had a difficult time putting everything into a

1 definition.

2

3 The two projects that the Sitka Tribe is
4 currently working on with funding through the Fisheries
5 Information Service, Fisheries Monitoring Program, are --
6 as Helen mentioned the ASKSAM database and that's a
7 project that the Sitka Tribe has a subcontract from
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to work on, and then
9 likewise we have project which we call the sockeye TEK
10 research project, and we provide a subcontract back to
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to do some work with
12 us on a survey. We received three years of funding for
13 both of these projects and they began in 2003.

14

15 Some of the components of the two
16 projects that I just mentioned are that we do regional
17 conferences with members -- well, tribal council members
18 from other tribes as well as the resource protection
19 staff, that we did a large comprehensive survey of salmon
20 harvesters here in Sitka, we actually were shooting for
21 80 percent of a list that was over 400 and we worked with
22 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to create that
23 survey list and I believe that Mike Turek, I hope I don't
24 speak wrongly about this, but he looked at how many years
25 an individual had received a permit for a subsistence
26 sockeye harvest and that's how we came up with that
27 survey list and we did basically reach our target of 80
28 percent of individuals contacted. Some of those folks,
29 unfortunately, refused a survey. I have to tell you that
30 one of the things that I figured out during the survey
31 process that we're, in this community are really a little
32 bit survey weary and that's going to be one of the
33 findings that we have. But basically we're doing that
34 survey because it's our strong belief, and I know that
35 you have heard some information about the work that STA
36 does to survey individual's harvesting foods, is that,
37 that basically if you sit down with somebody face to face
38 and conduct a survey, you get a lot better data than if
39 you just mail something out or if you're expected to mail
40 something back in. And so we hired two tribal citizens
41 to do this survey work with the community, and it was
42 both tribal and non-tribal members.

43

44 Interview tribal elders and active
45 harvesters. And that's something that the two young men,
46 I mentioned earlier, James Craig and Joseph Peratrovich,
47 worked on this summer. They did a lot of really good
48 interviewing work with both active harvesters and elders,
49 and Joseph Peratrovich actually put together a real nice
50 collection of the work that he had done. He's a 15 year

1 old young man and he presented those findings to the
2 tribal council just recently, or they were presented to
3 the tribal council as a little bound book with a lot of
4 photos and some of the work that he'd done going out with
5 active harvesters to collect some salmon that were then
6 distributed to the community.

7

8 Electronic TEK database, and I think
9 that's something that Mike Turek is going to be talking
10 about more this afternoon because it's actually an ADF&G
11 project that we have a subcontract on.

12

13 And then finally there'll be the
14 publication of the results from these projects.

15

16 This photograph is from the 2005 Regional
17 Conference, that's Dr. Steve Langdon, who's presenting
18 research findings and some ideas that he has for research
19 that maybe he could collaborate with or work on with
20 other tribes within the region of Southeast Alaska. I
21 think I mentioned earlier that we actually are going to
22 do three rounds of these conferences. We held one in
23 2004, then in 2005, we've been following a very standard,
24 and we feel respectful way of inviting participation to
25 these conferences, and that the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's
26 Chairman sends out a letter to the Federally recognized
27 tribes within this region asking them to please consider
28 forwarding names to the Sitka Tribe for travel
29 scholarships of both a member of their elected tribal
30 council and then their resources staff, so that when the
31 communities are represented at our conferences they both
32 have a decision-maker and then a staff person who can
33 work on taking some of the information that they receive
34 back to the community.

35

36 And as some of you remember, one of the
37 reasons why we put together this project was that you
38 weren't receiving so many proposals for traditional
39 ecological knowledge projects even though that was your
40 highest research priority. And I am aware that in the
41 last request for proposals, three went in and there is a
42 new TEK project that's going to be moving forward, it
43 sounds like now, with Hydaburg, that they had a nice
44 project proposal that they actually, I think, developed
45 at this conference and presented on. So we're really
46 excited about that for them.

47

48 And here's just a snapshot of Peter and
49 Mathew Brock. Peter Williams was somebody who worked
50 quite a bit on the ASKSAM database project and he and

1 Mathew presented at that conference where I just showed
2 you a picture. A real important aspect of the project
3 for us has been holding up tribal researchers in the same
4 light as ADF&Gs researchers and making sure that they're
5 allowed to present their findings at professional
6 conferences, and Peter did an excellent job. He's
7 currently in Portland, but we really hope that he comes
8 back.

9

10 And then here's just a snapshot of us
11 after that conference in 2005.

12

13 And here's the information that I
14 actually presented on a little bit earlier, about the
15 random sample community harvest survey that we conducted
16 for this project. Currently ADF&G is doing the data
17 analysis for us on that. We don't have any results to
18 report but it will be in our final report, obviously.

19

20 Here's Peter and Mr. Robert Sam working
21 to prepare our interview questions that we used with the
22 elders and active harvesters, and we went through a
23 couple of trial runs just to make sure that we didn't
24 have silly questions in there, and some folks like, Bob,
25 and others helped us weed those out.

26

27 And then here's a photograph of Joseph
28 Peratrovich on the far right and James Craig, who I
29 mentioned earlier and they're interviewing Steve Johnson.
30 You can see they went through maps and all of our
31 questions and things like that. We used a high quality
32 recorder that we're going to be able to take some sound
33 excerpts out of and we hope that those will find their
34 way into the ASKSAM database as well as the transcribed
35 information from those interviews.

36

37 And here's a picture of Mr. Doug
38 Didrickson who is participating in an interview with
39 myself and the young man.

40

41 Manuel Trujillo is another individual who
42 is working on this project with us. He is currently a
43 student over at Sheldon Jackson, as you can see, and a
44 member of the Yakima Tribe. He's been, as the text says
45 there, working to help us to document the interviews as
46 they go on.

47

48 And then here's a picture of Joe and as I
49 mentioned earlier he put together a real nice collection,
50 it must have been 15, 20 pages, the work that he did on

1 this project, his feelings about the interviews that he
2 participated in and so forth. And he made a lot of
3 really interesting connections, I think, where people
4 would mention his relatives and he'd be like, oh, you
5 know, that's my great-grandma or that was my, you know,
6 from my family and he, I think, had a real nice time
7 being able to work with elders and present at that Paths
8 Across the Pacific Conference that I mentioned.

9
10 And that's all that I have for you today.
11 And I just thank you very much and we're very anxious to
12 present our findings because we've been able to do some
13 survey work with the individuals who came and
14 participated at our conference that I think will be very
15 valuable in terms of ideas that they have for outreach in
16 their communities by the council and how they can get
17 information back to you all and they're really interested
18 in doing that.

19
20 I think one thing that precludes folks
21 being able to participate more, and one thing that they
22 wanted to do was to have our conference be before your
23 folks' meeting here and we just couldn't do it with the
24 rural determination hearing. There wasn't enough time
25 for us to have the full amount of training and folks come
26 in that we need to do. So I apologize for that but we
27 will be having our 2006 conference here probably in
28 December, because I think proposals are actually due in
29 January, those pre-proposals that Bob was describing.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, questions
32 anyone.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Very good presentation.

37
38 MR. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're going to
41 break.....

42
43 REPORTER: Bert. Bert.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:for lunch now and
46 be back here at 1:15, please.

47
48 DR. SCHROEDER: And Council members
49 should make sure they're checked out of their hotel, and
50 do we still have a Forest Service vehicle, Jeff, do you

1 still have a key, someone does, okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll break for lunch
4 now.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're going to call this
11 meeting back into session, and I'm going to turn the time
12 over to Dr. Schroeder for Item No. 20B, Office of
13 Subsistence Management reports so Dr. Schroeder.

14

15 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Before I
16 start I'd like to commend you that usually we're way
17 further behind than we are in our agenda and so something
18 must be working really well here.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 DR. SCHROEDER: We've got a few items to
23 talk about, if you'll take a look on Page 266, there are
24 three very brief briefings. One has to do with Draft
25 Closure Policy. And I was trying to find where the
26 Council had provided some review comments on the Draft
27 Closure Policy.

28

29 The status of this. We had two things
30 that happened with closure policy, one was the Council
31 looked at the existing closures and there was a review
32 done by Staff last year on whether they were justified,
33 and the Council entered into the discussion on that and
34 found that, yes, they were justified. The other is I
35 believe the Council had some discussion on whether a
36 closure should be automatically reviewed or whether or
37 current system worked real well. My recollection is that
38 the Council believed that the existing proposal process
39 for changing regulations worked quite well and that the
40 Council didn't want any changes to be made.

41

42 And that if a Council member has a better
43 recollection than I do on that, it would be good to get
44 something on the record right at this point.

45

46 What's going on is there are review of
47 existing closures going on in a number of regions, and
48 I'm just checking this, just one minute here, and the
49 briefing says that revisions were made to the draft
50 policy based on comments from the Council's -- the State

1 of Alaska and the Solicitor's office. And so that's
2 where that sits.

3

4 Does anyone have anything to add on the
5 Draft Closure Policy.

6

7 Bill.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The Chair recognizes
10 Bill.

11

12 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I'll make this real brief. At one of the last Board
14 meetings, the.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Knauer, would you
17 please introduce yourself for the record, please.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. KNAUER: Bill Knauer, here.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I have a
24 little conscious, you know, whispering in my ear to my
25 left here, so.....

26

27 MR. KNAUER: I'm up here so often that
28 they know who I am after the first time.

29

30 But at the last -- I think it was about
31 the last Board meeting or the one previous to that, there
32 was considerable discussion relative to a draft closure
33 policy. And at that time Deputy Commissioner Regelin
34 agreed that maybe the best place for a policy would be
35 further explanation in the technical writing guide that
36 the analysts use of items to -- be assured are in the
37 analysis documents and that a portion also in the Board
38 operations manual. Since then the Department of Fish and
39 Game, or at least the State -- it might have come from
40 the Governor and the Attorney General, have requested in
41 a letter to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary
42 of Agriculture that a rulemaking be conducted to put the
43 various aspects of the draft closure policy into
44 regulation. That is currently under consideration by the
45 Secretaries and they will develop a response back to the
46 State on that.

47

48 DR. SCHROEDER: Thanks very much, Bill,
49 for clarification and providing more information. Do we
50 have anything else on the draft closure policy or can I

1 move on to our next item.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Move on.

4

5 DR. SCHROEDER: The next item concerns
6 the draft subsistence use amounts protocol. We can deal
7 with that very briefly.

8

9 The bottom line there, no further work
10 has been done on the draft protocol since the winter 2006
11 Council meetings and a plan is yet to be developed for
12 how to better approach this issue. SERAC spent a fair
13 amount of time on this at a early meeting, if you look on
14 Page 37 in your book. SERAC submitted a letter to the
15 Chair and the Federal Subsistence Board outlining
16 concerns with the then proposed subsistence use amounts
17 policy, and the Council considerations were made after a
18 review of a pretty large packet of supplemental
19 information that gave you background information on where
20 State amounts necessary for subsistence -- for
21 subsistence uses came from and how the discussions had
22 gone.

23

24 Mr. Chairman. Unless we need further
25 discussion on that, I think that's all we need to say on
26 this issue.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Move on Dr. Schroeder.

29

30 DR. SCHROEDER: The third briefing has to
31 do with a draft customary and traditional use policy.
32 How the program deals with customary and traditional use
33 has been under examination for quite a while now.

34

35 There's a long history on that going back
36 to working groups that met right after the Federal
37 program assumed management of subsistence use of wildlife
38 on public lands. Chairman Emeritus Bill Thomas
39 participated in those.

40

41 The most recent events have been that the
42 -- let's see, some of the more recent events have been
43 challenges to the way the program does -- has been making
44 its customary and traditional use determinations. I
45 believe one or two of those may be in court at this time.
46 Bill -- perhaps we don't need to call on Bill, but one of
47 these is in court at this time, contesting whether or not
48 the program followed its own regulations for making
49 customary and traditional use determinations.

50

1 Our first proposal in this meeting
2 concerned customary and traditional use determinations
3 for Icy Strait and Cross Sound. Where the program's at
4 right now is that we have regulations saying what we'll
5 do and that if a proposal comes in for customary and
6 traditional use -- requesting a customary and traditional
7 use determination, we'll follow those procedures, which
8 this Council did with its first proposal. Namely it will
9 look at the eight criteria and make a recommendation
10 based on those. Until our regulations change that's --
11 or unless a court would tell us otherwise, that's what
12 the program will do.

13
14 There has been discussion, which is on
15 record at the Board meeting last January, and at other
16 times, so these are matters of public record where it's
17 been pointed out that ANILCA doesn't require that
18 customary and traditional use determinations be made at
19 all. And that making them in a rigid way, meaning
20 tightening up criteria such that you have numeric
21 variables or other things that could be measured in
22 making customary and traditional use determinations also
23 is not required in ANILCA. There also is on record
24 discussion about whether the program should be making
25 customary and traditional use determinations at all.
26 These are things that are basically in play at this time.

27
28 Now, as I said, any change in the way we
29 do business here, if it was a substantial change, would
30 require a Federal rulemaking.

31
32 The policy briefing says that it's the
33 program goal to have a draft of how we proceed with
34 developing a customary and traditional use policy before
35 the Councils during the winter 2007 meeting. I think it
36 would be really good if Council members have any interest
37 in doing so, if you do have thoughts on the idea of
38 customary and traditional use determinations or initial
39 ideas there on how the program should proceed, this would
40 be a good time to get a little bit on the record. We
41 will have the opportunity to review whatever Staff
42 produce at the winter 2007 meeting, but we do have an
43 opportunity now if you have some initial thoughts.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Council members.

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I'd like to comment
48 on it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Comment on this Floyd,

1 please.

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. It seems
4 like we should review the C&T determination because it
5 sounds like the State has a question about it and I kind
6 of -- I don't always lean towards the State because they
7 don't always seem to lean towards us, but for some reason
8 I'd like to see us kick something in gear that fixes C&T.
9 I think we've done it and we've been inconsistent about
10 C&T and we need to fix it and start doing it the right
11 way, if anything -- thrown everything back out and do it
12 right instead of being so inconsistent.

13

14 I know that the State keeps putting out
15 material, I've read it, I don't have it in front of me
16 right now to read it word for word, but I was questioning
17 what we were doing yesterday and I think it has taken
18 many disguises to get through one -- to do one thing, and
19 that's not right.

20

21 I don't know if that's an idea but if
22 that's -- if that's going to fix it but.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Harvey,
25 and then Frank.

26

27 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 realize that we have a lot of problems with the words,
29 customary and traditional use, and maybe we need to look
30 at that and kind of break it down because there is, what
31 you would call customary and traditional use of people
32 that are very short-term, and I mean short-term by
33 probably 10 years or less. And anything longer than that
34 I think you can call it long-term customary and
35 traditional use. Because anything from one year to 10
36 years is a very short term to my way of looking at this.
37 And maybe we need to break it down that way so that -- or
38 at least take a look at it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Are you asking for -- you know, one of the issues that I
44 have with Hoonah is, you know, that the boundaries that
45 we have for Hoonah is up to Mud Bay and across the shore
46 and one of the things that that boundary that we're
47 talking about, customary and traditional use runs all the
48 way out a lot further than that, so is that what you're
49 asking or what?

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder.

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: Well, this -- what we
4 have is a briefing on where the program -- what the
5 program is doing here. And largely because of challenges
6 to the way we've been -- the program's been doing C&T.
7 The program is in the process of reviewing that and it
8 will come up with some alternatives or a draft policy for
9 the Council in our winter meeting in 2007.

10

11 What's on the table -- or what's
12 potentially -- let's see, back up. What's under
13 discussion there is everything from whether we should do
14 C&T's at all, that maybe C&Ts just aren't appropriate to
15 that we should have very hard and fast criteria for C&Ts,
16 so that you'd have measurable criteria and numbers. So I
17 think that fairly represents the range of things. And I
18 did mention that Chairman Emeritus Bill Thomas'
19 participation in this earlier in this and his strong view
20 was that C&Ts were something that was not required by the
21 program and perhaps shouldn't even be done, and other
22 people may see things differently. And since our new
23 Chairman has us way ahead on schedule here, I thought
24 this was a good time that we could take a few minutes on
25 this, but we don't need any action on this item. It's
26 just if people have things they wish to express.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But I am hearing that we
29 are going to have to deal with it somewhere down the
30 future, possibly before some meetings in 2007.

31

32 DR. SCHROEDER: The program said that
33 there should be draft material at winter 2007, so we
34 anticipate an agenda item there that would get full
35 comment.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Knauer.

38

39 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as Mr.
40 Schroeder indicated, there is litigation currently
41 underway filed by the State relative to the Board's C&Ts
42 determinations particularly -- specifically in Unit 12
43 relative to caribou. But also the State has, in that
44 same letter that I mentioned, relative to the closure
45 policy, has also requested a rulemaking from the
46 Secretaries relative to C&T. That is under consideration
47 and the Secretaries will be responding to the State on
48 that.

49

50 But the appropriate time for review,

1 consideration and Board comments will be in the winter
2 2007 meeting when there is draft material before you.
3 That will be the appropriate time for comment and views,
4 Council views.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Bill, when
7 you made reference to Secretaries, is that going to
8 include our secretary, too?

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MR. KNAUER: I'll give you the same
13 answer that I gave you yesterday, you might like that but
14 we're referring to the Secretary of Interior and
15 Agriculture.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we're trying to
20 find something for him to do, okay.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 DR. SCHROEDER: If the Council has
25 further comments on this we can take them or we can move
26 on.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 DR. SCHROEDER: I think we're moving on.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are moving on.

37
38 DR. SCHROEDER: You should have two other
39 updates an Avian Bird Flu handout, which hopefully was on
40 the back table and I don't have copies right here in any
41 case, we don't need discussion on that.

42
43 We already covered Kenai Peninsula
44 Subsistence Resource area and Regional Advisory Council,
45 and the Council passed a resolution on that issue
46 opposing the formation of a new Council thee.

47
48 Mr. Chairman. That completes what I have
49 to say on Item 20B. And I think we're up to Mr. Dave
50 Johnson.

1 MR. KNAUER: Excuse me.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Knauer.
4
5 MR. KNAUER: Composition.
6
7 DR. SCHROEDER: Oh, excuse me, I skipped
8 one item.
9
10 MR. KOOKESH: Two.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Two items.
13
14 DR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me, I skipped two
15 items, thank you, vice Chairman.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's helping me keep
18 ahead of schedule.
19
20 DR. SCHROEDER: That's how we stay ahead
21 of schedule.
22
23 I think we've already discussed the
24 Council composition issue. The 70/30 rule was litigated
25 and the courts wanted the Federal program to go back and
26 look at alternatives and to do a better justification of
27 its decision to have a 70/30 rule for Council
28 composition.
29
30 I believe that the Council views are well
31 known on this. And back when the original rule was
32 formulated, the Council submitted rather lengthy
33 comments. In those comments, the Council did suggest
34 alternative methods for insuring and verifying that there
35 was a representation of the diverse interests who were
36 affected by the recommendations that you make.
37
38 The Council recommendation at that time
39 was that, if I'm recalling correctly, was that the
40 designated Federal official certify that the -- and the
41 Board certify that the composition was representative as
42 required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So
43 that's -- I'm referring to the Council action.
44
45 Perhaps Mr. Knauer has something a little
46 more clear on exactly where we're at with the courts.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Knauer.
49
50 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A

1 couple of things. One that's very important to
2 recognize, I wish Dr. Garza was here to hear this, but
3 the court did not say that the 70/30 rule was necessarily
4 incorrect or the wrong way to achieve balance. The court
5 merely said that there was an inadequate administrative
6 record and that there should have been better
7 documentation and indication of why the Board chose that
8 method, and so there was a rule published in the Federal
9 Register this week, I've not even seen it yet. I sent it
10 in before I came down here, but it was to be published
11 either Wednesday or Thursday calling for public comment
12 and suggested alternatives to achieve balance on the
13 Regional Councils. The plan then -- the comment period
14 will end November 13th.

15
16 What will happen then is we will assemble
17 the comments that we receive, the suggested alternatives,
18 and we will present those to the Regional Councils in
19 their winter 2007 meeting for your review and further
20 comment. And after that the Board will review your
21 recommendations along with the comments and alternative
22 suggestions that might have come in from the public and
23 will in, probably at their 2007 meeting, May 2007, will
24 come to a decision on what the Board action will be to
25 assure balance on the Councils. It may or may not
26 require a rulemaking beyond that.

27
28 DR. SCHROEDER: Just to clarify for the
29 Council and for me, is there a Proposed Rule out for
30 comment right now, Bill, or what's out for comment?

31
32 MR. KNAUER: There is not a Proposed
33 Rule, it is a notice that requests public comment and
34 suggested alternatives to achieve balance on the
35 Councils. So it is just a notice, a call for comment.

36
37 DR. SCHROEDER: And just following up, if
38 I can continue with Bill.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please recognize the
41 Chair when you do, please.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair. Through the
46 Chair.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 DR. SCHROEDER: Bill, we are going to be

1 requesting a teleconference meeting to deal with our
2 other issue in the near future, would we -- is there
3 enough time to have a noticed telemeeting prior to the
4 deadline for these comments?

5
6 MR. KNAUER: The plan is to get all the
7 comments from the general public and their suggested
8 alternatives, put those in some sort of format that the
9 Councils can look at and then at their winter meeting,
10 provide that information in its entirety to the Councils
11 so that all 10 Councils have the opportunity at their
12 winter meeting to see what the public had to say about
13 the Council system, how the Council views balance and at
14 that point that will be the opportunity for the Councils
15 to make their recommendations, at the winter 2007
16 meeting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, and then a
19 response from you later, afterwards. Floyd.

20
21 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Knauer. I take it the
22 balance is commercial, sport, subsistence and that's just
23 based on the Council, it's not based on the populations
24 that have high subsistence users to be totally
25 representative of the high subsistence users, or is the
26 -- just the balance among all of us here, is it based on
27 what?

28
29 MR. KNAUER: It is not based on
30 population, it is based on a combination of ANILCA and
31 the Federal Advisory Committee Act. ANILCA specifically
32 identifies that these Councils are to be knowledgeable in
33 subsistence uses, but FACA also says that Councils have
34 to be balanced in viewpoint. And so the Federal
35 Subsistence Board, when they were looking at this, and
36 the Secretaries about four years ago felt that a
37 representation of 30 percent sport, commercial and 70
38 percent subsistence users would be appropriate. That
39 figure was derived because we definitely want to have a
40 majority of input from individuals who are both
41 knowledgeable and use subsistence resources and have used
42 them for a long time. The thought for the 30 percent for
43 sport and commercial, we know that both of those
44 interests are very strong. Having only -- having a 90
45 percent subsistence, one percent -- or 10 percent
46 sport/commercial probably wouldn't work because you'd
47 have one person trying to represent both sport and
48 commercial interests. So then they looked at 80/20, and
49 we know that a lot of times Council members can't make it
50 to the meetings because of other activities, because of

1 weather, so you could easily get into a -- again, a one
2 person trying to represent.

3

4 So that's how they came up with 70/30.
5 70 percent still being a -- what I would call a super-
6 majority for subsistence, 30 percent providing adequate
7 but not overwhelming representation for sport and
8 commercial.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder.

11

12 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes, just hopefully to
13 wind up on this issue. Bill, will there be a rule
14 published after the winter meetings or is this a
15 rulemaking, I'm still a little unclear on that because
16 I'm sure the Council would want to be able to comment
17 before -- at the appropriate time of the rulemaking
18 process.

19

20 MR. KNAUER: The rule currently provides
21 a goal of 70 percent representation -- membership
22 representation for subsistence users and 30 percent for
23 sport and commercial users. The Board decision in May,
24 after hearing all of the Regional Councils may or may not
25 be along those same lines. If the Board, based on the
26 comments that they receive, believe that that the 70/30
27 membership representation is still the way to go, there
28 would probably not be a need for rulemaking. If it is
29 something different then there would be a rulemaking and
30 the Councils would, again, have an opportunity to take
31 part in that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

34

35 MR. KOOKESH: I have a simple question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, you know, this is
38 a subject that's probably going to be with us for a long
39 time yet, and so thank you Bill and Bob for your comments
40 there. Let's move on. Is there something on MaKhnati
41 Island that we address, Dr. Schroeder.

42

43 DR. SCHROEDER: I think we spent a fair
44 amount of time on Makhnati Island. This briefing simply
45 points out the course of the determination that MaKhnati
46 Island was, in fact, Federal waters and is under Federal
47 subsistence jurisdiction. This issue is not contested so
48 the Council can consider that to be a done and final deal
49 so Makhnati should not come back at you again.

50

1 I will point out we had an earlier agenda
2 item in the Chair's report that the other possible
3 withdrawals that were identified by STA in its 2000
4 submission to the Council and later submitted to the
5 Federal Subsistence Board were found not to include any
6 substantial amount of waters, and so that's also a closed
7 issue at this time, so we don't anticipate that there
8 will be other Federal waters connected with those
9 withdrawals.

10
11 So unless there are other questions, Mr.
12 Chair, we're done with that issue.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. We
15 need to move on here. You know, we did make a position
16 on Item No. 5, the Kenai Peninsula RAC. There's also a
17 handout up there we can access ourselves to as well as
18 the Avian Flu handout, so as far as I'm concerned, Dr.
19 Schroeder, you're done with your report.

20
21 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, sir.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There is a presentation
24 that we set up for 2:00 o'clock. Mr. Rick Ebt. Ebt,
25 okay, do you have a slide presentation.

26
27 MR. EBT: Yes, a PowerPoint.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, we'll just
30 take a two minute at ease while you get yourself prepared
31 down here.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Ebt is ready to
38 start so let's all take our places.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, sir.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 MR. EBT: I guess if we're ready I can
47 start.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. EBT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members
4 of the Council. I was asked to do a quick update on the
5 current status of the Tongass Forest Plan Amendment.

6

7 So normally Lee Kramer who's the project
8 manager for this effort would have done this, but I will
9 be able to do this and it's just a couple of slides and
10 won't take much time, and I thank you for setting up this
11 time for me to come in here and do this. And if we got
12 any questions I will try to answer them to the best of my
13 ability.

14

15 So with that I will just go with some
16 background on the current Forest Plan which was revised
17 in '97 which was in 1979 which was one of the first ones
18 that was done for the Forest Service. And currently
19 where we're asked based on the Ninth Circuit Decision
20 that there was errors in our NEPA analysis for the Forest
21 Plan that we've been asked to go back and fix those, and
22 they relate to timber demand, the range of alternatives
23 and how we analyze cumulative effects.

24

25 Another thing that we have taken the
26 opportunity to do with this effort is that a couple years
27 ago we did our five year review on the '97 Forest Plan
28 and there were some potential updates that now we're in
29 this position where we have to do an amendment, that we
30 can incorporate those, and so that's pretty much been the
31 focus of what we're working on for this Forest Plan
32 Amendment.

33

34 Amendment or Revision. I know this has
35 been a big question. If you go on the web site I think
36 it says adjustment because we just didn't know what to
37 call it. But basically the procedure requirements are
38 the same. And an amendment just allows us to focus on
39 those flaws found by the court, whereas a revision would
40 take a broader look and probably take quite a bit more
41 time. And there is some urgency in the fact that the
42 Tongass, because of the injunction currently on those
43 sales that were litigated, we don't have a lot of timber
44 volume to offer industry and so if we do not finish by
45 August of 2007 we'd be in a position of where the Tongass
46 couldn't offer any timber to the mills in Southeast
47 Alaska, so that's why we're at that point now and why we
48 went with an amendment as opposed to a full blown
49 revision.

50

1 So our amendment strategy is to focus on
2 the court findings, to make other corrections or updates
3 if they fit within the timeline. And one of the big
4 efforts is to update all the new information since the
5 '97 Forest Plan or actually when we did the supplemental
6 for the wilderness, the EIS, there was some updates but
7 now we'll take that 2003 data and bring it up to speed.
8

9 One of the things that we have in place
10 in January of this year was an MOU with the State to work
11 collaboratively with them which has been a great benefit
12 to us, they've been able to provide expertise in such
13 things as we've taken the task of looking at the
14 placement and location size the small old growth reserves
15 and they've been providing folks to work with us to do
16 that. And so then the strategy is still on the time line
17 of August 2007.
18

19 For the cumulative effects portion of the
20 findings by the court, what we wanted to do was paint a
21 picture of overall situation in Southeast Alaska. There
22 has been some effort to acquire basic information about
23 past timber harvest and road construction on all lands
24 and, you know, the benefit of the MOU was the State's
25 been the point on that in trying to get information from
26 Sealaska and the State of Alaska so we can fill in those
27 information gaps. And we do benefit this time around
28 from satellite photo imagery.
29

30 If anybody has a question, you can either
31 hold them or anytime, it doesn't really matter to me, so
32 -- so the other thing from the court was the timber
33 demand and the range of alternatives, so if you look at
34 what we have in there now the range of alternatives are
35 based on the supply or timber market analysis that was
36 done by Pacific Northwest Research Station with folks
37 here with the utilization here in Sitka and so that's why
38 we have the four alternatives because they pretty much
39 determined there was four scenarios, you know, based on
40 integrated timber industry. And so each one of those
41 alternatives tries to address the suitable land base in
42 development luds (ph) that would be needed to support
43 each one of those alternatives. And then it also looks
44 at impacts to roadless. And then the fifth alternative
45 is the no action which is their current Forest Plan.
46

47 And part of the timber demand and then
48 the cumulative effects, we would have discussions and
49 effects analysis on the social, economic, environmental
50 effects for each of these alternatives.

1 So the current priority to complete the
2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the updated
3 Forest Plan, and I would encourage folks, I don't know
4 how much exposure people have had to our efforts to date,
5 if Lee Kramer or any folks have given updates but we have
6 a web site that's there, and I also have all the slides
7 in this handout that I'll pass out so you don't really
8 have to write it down but it's tongass-fpadjust.net, and
9 it has the proposed changes to the Forest Plan, and it
10 describes the alternatives so that's a good reference to
11 go to.

12
13 Consultation and public involvement.
14 We've got an interactive web site. We've tried some new
15 things. We actually have a blog on there where people
16 can send in comments, and we're taking comments as we go.
17 There's ongoing tribal consultation. I participated last
18 night at a meeting with STA with Carol Gulart the ranger
19 who couldn't be here today. And then if anyone requests
20 a briefing, you know, as we progress we'll be more than
21 happy to do that.

22
23 And then based on the public involvement,
24 once we release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
25 we'll have the 90 day formal comment period.

26
27 So the timeline started, you know, from
28 the court decision of August of 2005. In December of
29 last year we came up with a plan of action to address
30 that. So right now we're looking at November 2006 to
31 release the draft and the draft Forest Plan. And if you
32 go on that web site for the -- there is -- what we've
33 taken is the current Forest Plan and it's available, and
34 it has all the -- it's the draft, so it has interact
35 changes, all the additions to the -- or changes that
36 we've made to the Forest Plan, and you can see what was
37 deleted, some of it's just semantics. There's been a big
38 effort to -- there's a lot of implied intent in the
39 Forest Plan and we tried to bring that out and make
40 things clearer, and then there's some changes that were
41 related to findings from the five year review, and you
42 can follow through those if you go through that.

43
44 So once we release that we'd have the 90
45 day comment period which would take us to March of 2007.
46 And right now we're looking at August of 2007 to release
47 the ROD.

48
49 So that's just a real quick, you know, I
50 know you guys didn't have a lot of time, so I just tried

1 to make it pretty brief, but I can answer any questions
2 that you might have.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Rick. And
5 is there any questions from the Council that you would
6 like to direct at this time. Don, go ahead.

7

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I was
9 wondering, you know, how the Council might fit into this
10 process. It seems like one of our responsibilities under
11 Title VIII is to comment on land use policies so I just
12 -- you know, tell me how we might be involved in this,
13 what our options are.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry, go ahead, and
16 answer, please, I got distracted again, forgive me.

17

18 MR. EBT: Well, because we're doing the
19 amendment under the 82 rule, we're using an EIS, so you
20 guys have the same opportunities, well, and actually the
21 responsibilities as the public and we do take comments
22 from the public or other agencies, so the comment period
23 would start with the Draft Environmental Impact
24 Statement, we can take and have been taking comments to
25 date, I mean that's the formal comment period, but if you
26 were to go take a look at the Forest Plan, or the draft
27 for the changes, and/or to look at the alternatives that
28 are proposed right now, which are on the web site, we
29 would take comments now or you would take them during the
30 formal comment periods for the Draft Environmental Impact
31 Statement and then later once the ROD comes out for the
32 final.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder.

35

36 DR. SCHROEDER: Let's see, I may have
37 missed when the comment period ends, could you tell me
38 what that is please.

39

40 MR. EBT: There's a 90 day comment period
41 after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact
42 Statement, and so if we were to release at the end of
43 November, for the DEIS, and then 90 days would take you
44 basically to March of 2007.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

47

48 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. They had a
49 meeting in Angoon less than a month ago, it wasn't a very
50 good meeting from what I gathered, there was nothing

1 presented to us of a round-table discussion. But what
2 happened since August 2005 to August 2006, it seemed like
3 this whole process just started. Because when I was in
4 Angoon it caught me off guard that we sat here for a
5 whole year before they met with us and I was kind of
6 wondering what was going on.

7

8 Some of the things, and that's one of my
9 thing -- questions.

10

11 But the other one is, one of the
12 documents that we got from the gentleman in Angoon was on
13 subsistence, so subsistence does play a part in this
14 process; is that correct?

15

16 MR. EBT: That's correct. And I think
17 what you have in your hand is the proposed changes to the
18 Forest Plan on subsistence. And the standard and
19 guidelines, correct, so that's what you have there. So
20 your question would be -- because I wasn't -- I'm not
21 aware of what transpired at that meeting.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: What happened between
24 August 2005 and August 2006 for this process to suddenly
25 start with an EIS coming out in November 2006 and
26 concluding in March of 2007, that's a five month period,
27 yet we had to wait a whole year, what happened?

28

29 MR. EBT: Well, actually the process
30 started, for us, to do the EIS is when they determined to
31 produce the draft and final, so that wasn't figured out
32 until December of '05. And then I believe the web site
33 was probably turned on in mid-to late this winter, so I
34 can't remember when the proposed went on there.

35

36 But I understand your concern, and part
37 of the problem is that, you know, we're trying to do
38 this, you know, given the urgency with trying to be able
39 to offer sales to Southeast Alaska in the industry so
40 there is a time crunch there and we're aware of that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
45 On the cumulative effects that was in your report there,
46 is there alternatives for remediation or mediation in the
47 plan?

48

49 MR. EBT: Well, they'll consider that in
50 the analysis and then if we need to incorporate that type

1 of remediation, you know, as far as restoration of, you
2 know, past timber harvest and I know that is a focus of
3 the leadership team is they have a strategic plan and it
4 does address some of those things and so there are going
5 to be more emphasis items on that.

6

7 If you look back at the proposal for the
8 changes, there is a whole new section on young growth
9 management which would start to deal with some of those
10 things you have concern over.

11

12 There's also new verbiage and inserts for
13 invasive species, so we are taking a broader look at
14 things that have happened in the past and what we need to
15 do as we move forward with the Forest Plan.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don, and then Floyd.

18

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: I have another question
20 on the scope of the whole revision. You kind of pointed
21 out that there were, you know, three main topics, you
22 know, up for reconsideration; the cumulative effects, and
23 the market demand, and then I was told that there was a
24 review going on of all the old growth timber reserves
25 that were originally put in place, you know, as habitat
26 protection measures that -- I was under the impression
27 that this was part of the review and I was just
28 wondering, you know, if that's so and, you know, how does
29 that fit into the categories that you describe as being
30 part of the revision process.

31

32 MR. EBT: It is ongoing, you know, when
33 they did the '97 Forest Plan, you know, they pretty much
34 were at a pretty high level when they put in the small
35 OGRs and then one of the requirements was that at the
36 project level that you would go in with a review with the
37 State and Fish and Game and look at those placements and
38 determine if they were appropriate and met the Forest
39 Plan's standards and guides. What we're trying to do and
40 the reason why we are looking at that is that was one of
41 the issues that came up in the five year review, that
42 when projects are started we have to go through the
43 process of reviewing and looking at the small old growth
44 reserves. And so there has been attempt, it's been a
45 pretty big effort -- and that's, I think, on the slide
46 there, it talked about, there was a logging system
47 transportation analysis and they've taken that
48 information and they've gone back and there's a whole
49 effort now, part of the changes to the Forest Plan is to
50 amend where they have enough information and that's been

1 a big struggle for them, you know, to correct the
2 placement or figure out where the new boundaries need to
3 be for the small old GRs and that is happening.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: Your Honorable Chair. I
8 got some documents from the meeting, and the Chair had
9 requested if it was possible to get copies of them, the
10 documents are on the subsistence one? I'll give you the
11 document so you can give them back to me, if you want,
12 but the subsistence one is on forest wide standards and
13 guidelines, and the other one is lands, forest wide
14 standards and guidelines, and the other one is on
15 heritage resources, forest wide and then there's
16 recreation and tourism. All forest wide standards and
17 guidelines. And the Honorable Chair had requested if he
18 could have my copy or a copy from me and I told him it
19 was double-sided and I don't do double-sided. Do it on
20 somebody else's dime.

21

22 MR. EBT: Well, I'll be happy to make
23 copies for you for that. After I'm done here today, I
24 can go back and get you those copies, how many do you
25 want?

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think it would be
28 worthwhile for all of the members of the Council to have
29 a copy of that. So if that can be arranged, you know,
30 that would be appreciated.

31

32 MR. EBT: So 12, 15 copies.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon?

35

36 MR. EBT: Twelve or 15 copies?

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Patty, do you
39 want to talk.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Could you briefly put up that web site you had, please.

43

44 MR. EBT: You can find those -- the whole
45 document at that web site or a link to it. But I can
46 certainly bring by some copies later today after I'm
47 done.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Rick.

50 Appreciate it.

1 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr.
4 Wright.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
7 is the first time I've heard of this change, you know, in
8 Hoonah a while back there was a big deal about EIS and
9 Records of Decisions and we used to be really involved
10 with this, and this is the first time I've heard about
11 it. So are there other agencies that you -- I mean like
12 the tribe or the city or somebody that you've contacted
13 in that area or -- because I -- we really used to get
14 really involved in this kind of thing.

15

16 MR. EBT: Well, I know that we have done
17 quite a number of -- numerous -- number of these updates
18 for different -- within cities there's been news releases
19 in the paper. I know that all various district rangers
20 are working with the tribes in their communities and I
21 participated in one last night. So, you know,
22 unfortunately it wasn't well attended there was only a
23 few people so I think we need to make a better effort on
24 our part in trying to get the word out, so hopefully this
25 helps, too.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up there, Frank.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, thank you. Maybe I've
30 just been fishing too much or gone out of town, but I'd
31 sure appreciate it if maybe you'd contact the Hoonah
32 Ranger District or something and tell us that we're --
33 we're supposed to have a MOU with them but we haven't
34 heard anything, so thank you.

35

36 MR. EBT: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don.

39

40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 It sounds like the draft ought to be out for comment by
42 the time we have our winter meeting, I was wondering if
43 it would be a good idea for the Council to request that
44 we have a briefing of, you know, how these revisions
45 would affect subsistence users and if we could be
46 provided with that, you know, in a timely manner before
47 the meeting and maybe a presentation during the meeting
48 so that if we would like to comment on it we have ample
49 opportunity, and it sounds like the timing will fit into
50 that 90 day window.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The request is so noted.
2
3 MR. EBT: I will pass that on to Lee
4 Kramer, the project chairman.
5
6 Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The EIS is to be
9 completed in November, am I correct with that?
10
11 MR. EBT: No, the Draft Environmental
12 Impact Statement.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, it takes awhile to
15 do an EIS.
16
17 MR. EBT: Yeah.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions or
20 comments.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Rick,
25 appreciate it.
26
27 MR. EBT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council
28 members.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Item No. C, USDA Forest
31 Service, Tongass National Forest. Dave Johnson -- is
32 Dennis Chester here, Dave?
33
34 MR. KESSLER: I'm Dennis Chester.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you Dennis Chester.
37
38 MR. KESSLER: Yes.
39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Geez, boy, you'll answer to
41 everything, what are you anyway?
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are you going to remain
46 silent again, Mr. Chester.
47
48 MR. KESSLER: No. But I'm not a member
49 of the InterAgency Staff Committee this time as Mr.
50 Chester.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

4

5 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
6 the Council. Steve Kessler with the Forest Service.

7

8 The first thing that is on the agenda for
9 the Forest Service is the introduction of new subsistence
10 program Staff. And Dave would like to introduce Larry
11 and I'll introduce Mark Chan. Mark Chan, sitting next to
12 me, is with our law enforcement staff. And many of you
13 got to know Marty Meyers quite well during the many years
14 that he attended these various meetings of the Regional
15 Advisory Council. Mary retired last year, I think that
16 you recognized him -- actually you recognized him at your
17 winter meeting, and Mark is going to be filling in where
18 Marty left off and we just wanted to make sure that the
19 Council meets Mark, knows that he's going to be following
20 up where Mary left off and I think he'll just tell you a
21 little bit about what he does and about himself.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome Mark. And we
24 look forward to a long duration with you.

25

26 MR. CHAN: Well, thank you Chairman, and
27 members of the Council.

28

29 Like Steve said, I'm Mark Chan. I'm the
30 Regional Patrol Commander for law enforcement for the
31 Alaska Region of the Forest Service so I spend my time
32 kind of all over Alaska where Forest Service is involved.
33 My primary duties are to supervise and control the
34 uniformed portion of the Forest Service law enforcement.
35 With this, this being my first Southcentral [sic] RAC
36 meeting, for me it was very informative and an eye-opener
37 for me, and I thank you for that.

38

39 I guess for the most part I would open it
40 up to any questions that the Council may have of me and
41 maybe any past issues or directions that you would like
42 to see Forest Service law enforcement go.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Maybe just a little bit
45 about yourself and your background, where you come from
46 and, you know, all that good stuff.

47

48 MR. CHAN: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we'd be

1 interested in that.

2

3 MR. CHAN: Okay. I was born and raised
4 in Southern California. Then I left to go to Oregon
5 where I left -- started with the Forest Service for the
6 past 20 -- at least 28 years, I've lived in Oregon,
7 that's where I worked. I have 28 years with the Forest
8 Service with the last 18 years being with Forest Service
9 law enforcement.

10

11 Prior to law enforcement my background
12 was in timber management.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any questions of
15 Mark, you know, he's new on the block, so don't be
16 afraid.

17

18 Frank.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
21 was just curious about what kind of authority you have, I
22 know Mike Mills used to be in Hoonah, was U.S. Forest
23 Service enforcement but I don't see him around anymore,
24 just a State Trooper running around. So you just enforce
25 Federal lands or do you go through.....

26

27 MR. CHAN: We pretty much enforce Federal
28 lands, Forest Service lands. We do assist other agencies
29 in activities that are kind of outside the Forest
30 Service. An example I would give is like a year ago when
31 Hurricane Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast, half of
32 Forest Service law enforcement was in New Orleans or in
33 that area helping out. So we do get spread out and go
34 all over the country.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

37

38 MR. KOOKESH: What kind of budget do you
39 have and how does it look?

40

41 MR. CHAN: I couldn't tell you the exact
42 numbers, we're just beginning our fiscal year right now.
43 But from my understanding it's going to pretty much
44 staying the same as last year, at least that's what we're
45 planning on. There is rumors that Forest Service law
46 enforcement is going to get additional monies and how
47 that's going to filter down to us here in Alaska, that's
48 -- we're not sure yet.

49

50 I'd like to go back to the question on

1 Hoonah and the law enforcement and Michael Mills. I know
2 Michael gets out there quite a bit, he does spend time in
3 Juneau patrolling that area, so I guess if we need to see
4 more of him out there, then that's one of the things I
5 need to hear about and we can get that direction going.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mark, you know,
8 we used to have a law enforcement officer in Yakutat and
9 then because of budget crunches and everything that
10 position was eliminated. And we saw real good benefits
11 from his presence there, integrated into the community,
12 you know, and was well accepted and then, you know, his
13 position was cut there. So I think it's a drastic move
14 when something like this happens and, you know, I know
15 that, you know, it's tough, you know, for funding these
16 projects -- or these positions or projects and so forth,
17 but I just wanted to make that comment. You know, once a
18 presence is already made there and people get accustomed
19 to it, you know, and then it's gone, you know, it does
20 have a negative impact on the community.

21
22 MR. CHAN: Yeah, I understand that. We
23 do have other areas similar to Yakutat, Hoonah, for
24 example where we had full-time law enforcement presence
25 there. It is, it's tough to do. And the Yakutat
26 position, although it's not filled, it's still on our
27 organizational chart to fill maybe some day when we do
28 get the budget.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. Any
31 other questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MR. CHAN: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Gunalcheesh.
38 Mr. Dave Johnson.

39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Council.
41 It's my privilege to introduce to you, Larry Dickerson,
42 wildlife biologist for the Forest Service on Prince of
43 Wales Island. And Larry comes to us from Southeast
44 Idaho, Pocatello area. And what was most important to me
45 was the fact Larry has spent considerable time here in
46 Alaska in the past in the Marine Mammal Program and knew
47 some folks like Dolly Garza and some other folks.

48
49 So I guess at this time I'll just let
50 Larry respond to any comments or questions you might

1 have.

2

3 MR. DICKERSON: Well, thank you, Chairman
4 and Council members. I'm glad to be here. It's great to
5 see everyone and get to know people.

6

7 Some I've known in the past and I'm
8 always a link or two away from everyone it seems like
9 here, and but anyway I appreciate the commitment everyone
10 brings here.

11

12 My name is Larry Dickerson. I just
13 arrived in Craig on Friday, came off of one ferry and on
14 another ferry, and on an airplane to get me here, but I'm
15 going to enjoy it. It's good to be back in Alaska.
16 We're going to put a, it sounds like a very good
17 commitment towards Unit 2 and what's going on there on
18 the ground. I think a wonderful team has been, from what
19 I've seen and read so far, put together to identify the
20 needs and issues there and goals, so I think it's time
21 that -- it looks like the Forest Service are going to
22 start doing something and get something on the ground.

23

24 So we'll like to work together. With the
25 work that I did in the Marine Mammals for seven years, I
26 worked with the Nanook Commission, the Eskimo Commission,
27 and the Sea Otter Commission and I reported to those
28 people, did projects on the ground with them, collected a
29 lot of life history and biological information and we did
30 a lot together and I think we can get a lot of places
31 together. I come to this thinking that we can work the
32 science that we can find on the ground and we look at
33 each of you as the Ph.d., that you bring about
34 traditional knowledge and customs and local knowledge,
35 and I think if we put those together, I'm a real believer
36 that we can get somewhere and get on the ground.

37

38 So I'm privileged to be here and I'm
39 available at any time, and I'm certainly looking forward
40 to working.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
45 Dickerson. This Council, you know, several years ago
46 made a pretty strong statement about TEK projects and
47 traditional knowledge and that is number 1, you know, as
48 far as we are concerned. And the purpose of documenting,
49 you know, TEK projects is to take that information and,
50 you know, bridge it with Western science, and I'm glad to

1 hear you make that statement.

2

3 Welcome, and we wish you well in your
4 future endeavors.

5

6 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I used to make, you
9 know, about two or three trips through Pocatello, you
10 know, in my days when I worked in Washington and I dealt
11 a lot with the tribal leaders and met tribal members from
12 the Fort Hall Reservation, so there's a little connection
13 there.

14

15 MR. DICKERSON: My work was with
16 grizzlies there in the Yellowstone ecosystem, and the
17 people from Fort Hall, we got along very well. And the
18 nice thing about here already is things are pretty
19 clearly outlined with Title VIII, I mean it gives us a
20 very good baseline to work off of so I really don't see
21 why things should be too confusing. We've got pretty
22 good marching orders in front of us, the way I see
23 things, and I like that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Keep on marching.

26

27 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dave.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Do you want to hear from Dennis Chester next or do you
33 want to hear from the Board of Game proposals -- or I
34 mean the Federal Subsistence Board proposals.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do the proposals right
37 now and then we'll give Mr. Chester a chance to collect
38 his thoughts.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Council. My name is David Johnson. I'm the subsistence
44 coordinator for the Tongass and I'm here to present
45 information regarding the timeframes and the process for
46 submitting wildlife proposals to the Federal Subsistence
47 Board.

48

49 We currently have three proposals that
50 have already come in for the current cycle that we'll be

1 -- the application period will be closing, proposal
2 period will be closing October 20th.

3
4 The three proposals that we have in thus
5 far is one from Mr. Dick Stokes and a Mr. Mike Bangs from
6 Wrangell regarding extending the season for deer in Units
7 1(B) and 3 through the end of December.

8
9 The second one is a Unit 2 deer proposal,
10 surprise, surprise, which is from the Klawock Cooperative
11 Association, and it limits the doe season to every other
12 year or eliminate completely, is the proposal from the
13 Klawock Cooperative Association.

14
15 The third one is a proposal from Eljach
16 Winrod (ph) also from Klawock with regard to extending
17 the trapping season in Unit 2 for wolves through the end
18 of March 31st, which would also coincide with the current
19 trapping regulation that the State has in place for Unit
20 2.

21
22 In addition to that, there are some
23 additional housekeeping items that will be included as
24 part of the Unit 2 wolf proposal. Currently the Federal
25 regulations, you have before you a handout that shows in
26 the Federal Register and also in the handy-dandy
27 regulatory booklet the requirement for leaving the leg
28 bones attached for wolves in Unit 2. That requirement
29 has been gone for a few years now with the State and so
30 it would seem, unless the Council wishes to continue
31 that, that we would eliminate the need for trappers to
32 keep those bones attached on the Federal side.

33
34 Other than that, I'll entertain questions
35 about that, and then I have another piece of information
36 with respect to the State Board of Game process and the
37 other handouts that you have before you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions. Mr.
40 Bangs.

41
42 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
43 think there's a need for a clarification. That Mike
44 Bangs is a different Mike Bangs than -- it's not me.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes.

1 MR. BANGS: It's a different Mike Bangs.
2
3 MR. STOKES: I can explain that, that was
4 Mike Bangs from Wrangell.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know I can tell you
9 a story about another Bert Adams who lives up in
10 Kotzebue somewhere and it's gotten me into trouble in
11 Anchorage many, many times.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So thanks for the
16 clarification.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. STOKES: This is a request to
21 increase the bag limit to four, was that on there?
22
23 MR. JOHNSON: I don't have the actual
24 proposal in front of me but I'm sure that there's
25 additional information. I just have a brief summary of
26 what's come in so far and I'm sure we'll get the complete
27 proposal for each one of the proposals once the deadline
28 has come and gone and we'll actually see all the
29 proposals.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
32
33 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sure Mr. Knauer will be
34 providing us with additional information on that once the
35 proposal process closes.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Move on there Dave.
42
43 MR. JOHNSON: The second handout that you
44 have before you is a list of proposals that are currently
45 before the Board of Game that I have reviewed that have
46 implications that if the Board of Game were to take
47 action it would preclude this Council taking action
48 because it would be outside the normal regulatory cycle.
49
50 The Board of Game meets next month in

1 Wrangell, November, I believe it's the 15th, and -- in
2 the Nolan Center, and I can provide you more information,
3 web site, phone number, additional information, or there
4 may be someone here from the State that can also provide
5 you additional information.

6

7 But the list of proposals that you have
8 before you primarily are there so that if the Board were
9 to take action, we would be able to realign seasons to
10 coincide with the State, especially if they were more
11 liberal seasons than what we currently have on the
12 Federal side.

13

14 So that's basically it in summary. If
15 you'll look down, in addition to -- and primarily for
16 trapping. If you look down toward the bottom of your
17 handout, there are some additional proposals that have to
18 do with wildlife hunting that are also there for your
19 consideration.

20

21 Specifically Proposal No. 17 has to do
22 with Unit 2 deer and provides for a non-Federally
23 qualified doe season in Unit 2, establishing a season.
24 And in Unit -- and in Proposals 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 all
25 have to do with goat seasons and potential draw hunts
26 that may be established. If that were the case it may
27 require on the Federal side that we would do nothing, or
28 it may require that we would have to have a Federal
29 registration permit or a joint Federal/State permit, but
30 again it's mainly as a placeholder so that that analysis
31 could be done in the normal wildlife -- Federal
32 subsistence wildlife cycle that you folks will be looking
33 at come next March.

34

35 So basically the question is, does the
36 Council have any specific comments or direction to Staff
37 with respect to these proposals?

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What about it Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder, you have
44 something.

45

46 DR. SCHROEDER: Through the Chair. Dave,
47 is it your recommendation that it would be a good idea
48 for the Council to have a number of placeholder proposals
49 in there and if so could you just identify what those are
50 and probably put them in.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Dr.
2 Schroeder. That is the case. If you'll look at the
3 first, Proposals 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8, it shows you what
4 the existing Federal season is and it shows you what the
5 proposed State season and/or bag limit are, so basically
6 the Federal proposals that would go in would be proposals
7 that would match those seasons and/or bag limits and/or
8 establishment of new seasons, if the Board of Game were
9 to take action and pass those.

10
11 Similarly, in Proposal 17, not requesting
12 any specific direction from the Council, that's more for
13 information, just so you're aware that that's going on on
14 the State side.

15
16 And then, again, on the 27, 29, 30, 31
17 and 32 dealing with goats, has to do with what type of a
18 mechanism for counting and reporting goats, we would want
19 to consider, in cooperation with the State and in
20 consultation, coordination with the Council here to do
21 that.

22
23 The last proposal, Proposal 41, has to do
24 with wolverines and, again, it's not clear how many
25 wolverines are in what units, but, again, it's not clear
26 what action would be taken by the Board of Game with
27 respect to that, but it basically would change the season
28 to an earlier season for wolverines and, again, our
29 Federal season would be more restrictive.

30
31 It was pointed out to me that someone
32 said, well, couldn't folks just trap under State wildlife
33 trapping regulations, yes, you could. However, there are
34 other restrictions associated with State trapping
35 regulations than are what currently in place for Federal
36 trapping regulations. Specifically things like sighting
37 and locating snares and a number of other things that are
38 not necessarily on the Federal side.

39
40 That concludes my presentation, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
44 Did I get a message here that you wanted the Council to
45 maybe give some direction on some of these proposals, and
46 which ones are -- are you asking something for all of
47 them or should we do them on a block here or maybe
48 individually, you know, this might be time consuming, but
49 any suggestions on how you want us to address this.
50

1 MR. JOHNSON: I guess what I'd like, if
2 you're asking me, Mr. Chairman, and Council.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm asking you.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: You're asking me, okay, in
7 directing Staff, I would like to be able to wait until
8 the -- see what the specific detailed changes for each of
9 the proposals that are listed and then provide those
10 comments to Dan LaPlant, who will be meeting with the
11 Board of Game next month as the formal liaison with the
12 Board of Game, and we would make the proposal on the
13 Federal side simply mirror in our format and with these
14 changes so that in the event, action was taken, we would
15 then be able to bring this before you for your
16 consideration on the Federal side.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And I think that sounds
19 like a good plan. And, you know, it will also take away
20 a lot of the vagueness that is in these sheets of paper
21 here. And if you can keep us informed on everything that
22 -- you know, on all of these proposals so that we can be
23 prepared to address them in the future sometime.

24
25 Dr. Schroeder.

26
27 DR. SCHROEDER: I think that's -- I
28 understand the direction the Council is going and I think
29 that matches up real well. Except, Dave, I think we have
30 a proposal deadline on the Federal side, so I think you
31 need to get the proposals -- the placemarkers in by that
32 deadline.

33
34 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, the deadline is by the
35 20th of this month, and so -- the reason there's not more
36 detail here is because some of the descriptions in the
37 Federal regulations that we currently have in place, they
38 don't match in terms of identification of the boundaries
39 and geographic locations listed in the State proposals,
40 it's not clear, particularly in the subunits, what exact
41 portions they're speaking to with the proposal.

42
43 So I wanted to spend some additional time
44 with the State to actually make sure we're talking about
45 the same locations and the proposals.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I understand. Okay.
48 But if you'd also keep, you know, Dr. Schroeder up to
49 date on everything so that he can also communicate with
50 me, so that I can be, you know, forewarned and updated on

1 a regular basis. I realize now that the deadline for
2 these proposals is October 20th and that's not very far
3 off so you've got a lot of work to do.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Through the Chair. Just
10 so that we have a clear record, Dave, I'm not clear that
11 you want the Council to submit a Council placeholder
12 proposal on all of these items or do you want a
13 placeholder proposal on wolverine or deer, or were those
14 information, and I wasn't clear what you wanted on goats.
15 I think I understand that the first matching proposals,
16 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 would be placeholder proposals. I'm
17 not real clear as to what your recommendation would be on
18 the final set of three there, if any. And then I'd
19 suggest the Council take action so we have a good record
20 on this.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
25 I move direct Staff to stay informed on detailed changes
26 to the proposals Mr. Johnson from the Craig Ranger
27 District has brought to our attention and that proposals
28 be submitted as placeholders should action become
29 necessary based on action at the Board of Game, and thank
30 you, Mr. Johnson for keeping us informed on these
31 proposals.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And Gunalcheesh for that
34 motion, Patty, you solved a lot of problems here for us.
35 Is there a second.

36

37 MR. KITKA: I'll second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey. Mr.
40 Johnson.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: One final item, Mr. Chair.
43 I would encourage all of the Council members to look at
44 these proposals because there are a number of proposals
45 that don't necessarily deal with subsistence but, for
46 example, there is a brown bear proposal to remove the
47 requirement -- or the closure that's currently in place
48 in Angoon, and so there may be other proposals in there
49 that could affect you in your community or those that you
50 know about that you may not be aware of.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. So
2 noted. Are you done now, sir.
3
4 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can I bring your
7 attention to an issue that was brought to my attention
8 just before I came down here from Yakutat.
9
10 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And a member of the
13 community, you know, called me up and wanted to know, you
14 know, if -- if you have your harvest of wildlife, you
15 know, document with you, it's on Page 20, and I'm going
16 to be brief, I'll just read it and I'm sure that it will
17 pop out, you know, to the Council members, you know, the
18 conflict here, that this person is struggling with.
19
20 On Page 20. It says:
21
22 You may sell handicraft articles made
23 from nonedible byproducts of wildlife
24 harvested for subsistence uses excluding
25 -- to include skin, hide, pelt, fur,
26 claws, bones, except skulls of moose --
27 caribou, and so forth, okay.
28
29 The sale of handicraft made from the
30 nonedible byproducts of wildlife as
31 listed above may not constitute a
32 significant commercial enterprise.
33
34 Okay, we dealt with that.
35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Point of order, Mr.
37 Chairman. Chairman Adams.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.
40
41 MR. PHILLIPS: We have a motion on the
42 floor, sir.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I was going to
45 want to include this in there, but let's go ahead.
46 What's the wish on the motion -- thank you.
47
48 MR. WRIGHT: Question.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called,

1 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 Okay. If I might, you know, continue on here.

11

12 I read that part to you. Now, here's the
13 conflict, if the skin or skull of a bear is taken in Unit
14 5 is removed from the area, it must first be sealed by an
15 ADF&G representative in Yakutat. At the time of sealing,
16 the ADF&G representative shall remove and retain the skin
17 of the skull and front claws of the bear. Okay.

18

19 Now, the thing that is so controversial
20 here, is that, under the regulation that I read to you
21 earlier that we could use, you know, the skin and the
22 claws, you know, for handicraft purposes, but if a person
23 wants to do that in Yakutat, particularly, all he needs
24 -- he needs to go to ADF&G people and they will, you
25 know, seal the skin, and they will also remove the claws
26 and the skull of the bear, so that doesn't make it, you
27 know, valuable for that person, you know, if they want to
28 use it, you know, for handicraft purposes.

29

30 So didn't have time, you know, to address
31 this as a proposal there in Yakutat, but I thought I'd
32 bring it to this body's attention and see what we could
33 do from this level, you know, to correct that.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Where are you reading that
40 second portion, on what page?

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That was on Page 23, I
43 believe. 23 of that first red bullet up on the top.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's stand at ease for
48 a minute.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Johnson, did
4 you.....
5
6 (Pause)
7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. It'd be just
9 a matter of the Council submitting a proposal to have
10 that deleted.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, let's do it. Does
13 somebody want to make a motion to let's do it.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Adams.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, please.
20
21 MS. PHILLIPS: I move we submit a
22 proposal deleting the requirement, Unit 5, to have their
23 bear tagged -- or no the skull taken away and the claws
24 taken away when their bear is tagged by ADF&G.
25
26 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. All right.
29 Any further discussion.
30
31 Dave.
32
33 MR. JOHNSON: More specifically with
34 respect to the motion, it has to do with the language
35 that is on Page 23 of the handy-dandy, bullets on the
36 right column, first bullet at the top of the page.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's correct.
39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41
42 MR. KITKA: Call for the question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All in favor please say
45 aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carried. Mr.
4 Johnson.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Just one other point on
7 introductions, Mr. Chairman, Council. We do have a brand
8 new Staff officer in subsistence on the Tongass, Trisha
9 O'Connor, who I'm sure the Chair knows and many of you
10 may know, in Yakutat was the district ranger. She now
11 will be responsible for the subsistence program and the
12 wildlife program on the Tongass.

13

14 She had hoped to be here this week but
15 was unable to because of a prior commitment. So I just
16 wanted to pass greetings on to you from her.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dave. Dr.
19 Schroeder.

20

21 DR. SCHROEDER: Dave, just before you go,
22 the Southeast team will assist the Council in preparing
23 those proposals, I'm still unclear as to the deer, goats
24 and wolverine. Is it your understanding that there would
25 be placeholder proposals for those species as well or
26 only for the other species mentioned.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: There would be proposals
29 for every one listed except the deer proposal, because
30 the wolverine and also the goat proposal would require
31 that we do certain things, and would require, depending
32 on what action the Board were to take, may require
33 special action requests again that would be out of cycle
34 that we would have to deal with.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Alrighty. Okay, now,
37 where are we here. Mr. Johnson.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Back to the question that
40 Dr. Schroeder raised, Mr. Chairman. The Council may
41 still want to make comments with respect to the deer
42 proposal, Proposal 17.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Doesn't the motion cover
45 that enough.

46

47 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. If the
48 Council wished to make comments directly to the Board of
49 Game on this proposal, they could do so.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What's the wish
2 of the Council. Mr. Hernandez.
3
4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I move
5 that the Council would oppose that proposal on the basis
6 that it's a -- it's a proposal that would align State and
7 Federal hunting regulations, but the Federal regulations
8 allow a doe season, where under the conditions that doe
9 hunting is more of a traditional use, more in line with
10 subsistence use.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, is
13 there a second.
14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. It's
18 been moved and seconded. Any further discussion.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MR. KITKA: Call for the question.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called,
25 all in favor say aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
34
35 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder.
38
39 DR. SCHROEDER: I'm hoping that Mr.
40 Hernandez and the second of the motion would work on the
41 Council comment to the Board of Game on that proposal or
42 the maker of the motion would work with the Southeast
43 Team on comments on that.
44
45 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)
46
47 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In line with the comment
50 I made the other night about delegation. The appointment

1 is officially made by the Chairman for those individuals
2 to do that.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Johnson, are you all
7 done, you're leaving.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, I'll stay with Dennis
10 Chester, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Chester needs your
15 support. Mr. Chester.

16

17 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
18 members of the Council. Actually I am Steve Kessler with
19 the Forest Service, for the record, sitting in for Dennis
20 Chester. And what I wanted to do now is give you an
21 update on our Wildlife Information Services Program for
22 the Southeast area.

23

24 Since the last update to the Council in
25 March, we have completed strategic planning, released the
26 2006 request for proposals and completed preliminary
27 evaluation of the 2006 investigation plans.

28

29 First I'll talk about strategic planning.
30 And I believe that everyone has a copy of this report, it
31 says Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program Strategic Plan
32 2006/2010. And there are more copies of that on the back
33 table. Compared to the FIS strategic planning, which Mr.
34 McBride talked about earlier today, this was a simpler
35 and not quite as comprehensive process. It also included
36 both Southeast and Southcentral Alaska regions, and
37 specifically those areas only that are National Forest
38 lands. The objective of this strategic planning was to
39 develop a prioritized list of subsistence wildlife issues
40 for potential funding through the Wildlife Resources
41 Monitoring Program. We contracted out the facilitation
42 and report writing with Shineburg Associates of Juneau.
43 The process involved 20 people from Southeast and
44 Southcentral, including representatives from the
45 Southeast and Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils,
46 Southeast and Southcentral tribes, the Alaska Department
47 of Fish and Game and the Forest Service. Dr. Garza and
48 Mr. Bangs represented the Southeast Regional Advisory
49 Council, while Mr. Pete Kompkoff and Mr. Tom Carpenter
50 represented the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

1 We used a two phase process for this
2 strategic planning effort. In the first phase we did
3 telephone interviews with 22 representatives of the
4 groups that I just described. We also sent a letter to
5 all tribal organizations in Southeast and Southcentral
6 with interview questions and an invitation to respond.
7 We did receive one response and that was from the
8 Organized Village of Kake.

9
10 In Phase II of this strategic planning
11 process we convened a subgroup of the interviewees. This
12 group reviewed the information pertaining to and
13 discussed issues identified in the interviews. They
14 develop criteria by which to rank the issues, and finally
15 they applied the criteria to develop a prioritized list
16 of subsistence wildlife issues.

17
18 We distributed a preliminary copy of this
19 in March. And after review by all the meeting
20 participants, this has now been finalized and is dated
21 April 2006.

22
23 Now, I'd like to talk a little bit about
24 the request for proposals that went out in 2006. The
25 most immediate product of this planning process, the
26 strategic planning was identifying priority issues for
27 the 2006 request for proposals. That was request was
28 released in June and included four priority issues,
29 remember, again, this covers Southeast and Southcentral.
30 Those four issues were Unit 2 deer, subsistence uses and
31 needs; Nunatak Bench, which is at Yakutat, goat
32 population and uses and needs; Unit 2 deer population
33 estimation and Western Prince William Sound deer
34 subsistence uses and needs.

35
36 We received three proposals as a result,
37 one of which did not adequately address the priority
38 issues. The steering committee for the Wildlife
39 Monitoring Program and an independent subject expert
40 evaluated the two proposals, one from the Craig Community
41 Association and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Unit 2
42 deer subsistence uses and needs and a second from ADF&G,
43 the Traditional Village of Eyak on Prince William Sound
44 deer subsistence uses and needs.

45
46 The steering committee thought that these
47 were good proposals, but needed some additional
48 development before recommending them for funding. Of
49 particular concern was how these proposals addressed
50 subsistence needs. The proposals were returned to the

1 proponents with suggestions and will be reevaluated by
2 the steering committee before making a recommendation to
3 the regional forester for funding.

4
5 \$300,000 was available to fund projects
6 in fiscal year 2006. But because the proposals were
7 returned for additional development, these funds were not
8 entirely expended in fiscal year 2006, which just ended
9 on September 30th. The Forest Service hopes that these
10 unspent funds will be returned for allocation in fiscal
11 year 2007, but we don't know much about what's going to
12 happen in the allocation process. Congress has not
13 passed the appropriation bill which provides the Forest
14 Service money for fiscal year 2007. And so until we have
15 a final appropriation we will not be able to actually put
16 money into those monitoring projects.

17
18 I also would like to briefly report on
19 what's happened previously. So a recap from 2005. 2005,
20 we decided to fund two studies from the request for
21 proposals. One was a Prince William Sound black bear
22 study to the -- with money going to Alaska Department of
23 Fish and Game Subsistence Division and to subcontract to
24 the Chugach Regional Resource Commission. That study is
25 currently behind schedule for a number of reasons, but
26 will still be continued. And the second one was the
27 Prince of Wales deer population and trend study. And
28 that is a study to develop better population estimation
29 methods using pellet group counts and DNA technology.
30 That contract is to the Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game Division of Wildlife Conservation with subcontracts
32 to University of Alaska-Fairbanks and to the Hydaburg
33 Cooperative Association. That study is on schedule and
34 did have very good results this year. They successfully
35 tested the feasibility of extracting useable DNA for
36 analysis from deer pellets in Southeast Alaska. Based on
37 that success, we have decided to fund the project further
38 for 2007. Analysis of the DNA is progressing this winter
39 and if you would like we do have a copy of the progress
40 report available for you.

41
42 And that is my update.

43
44 Questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That is the most we
47 heard of you all week, Mr. Kessler, so thank you for that
48 report.

49
50 MR. KESSLER: You might have noticed I

1 was representing the Forest Service and not the
2 InterAgency Staff Committee this time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We know that.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions. Don.

9

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: So did you say that it
11 was due to just kind of inadequate information that the
12 subsistence uses and needs study was kind of sent back
13 for further review and that money has been not spent but
14 is available for the coming year if the proposal gets
15 rewritten?

16

17 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
18 Hernandez. The -- one of the things that we were really
19 trying to get through these proposals was something about
20 subsistence needs. And as you -- as a Council, and the
21 Federal Subsistence Board has sort of struggled with this
22 questions of needs, and particularly in Unit 2, so we
23 know that there's a lot of deer on Unit 2, at least we
24 think there are a lot of deer in Unit 2, but certain
25 people have been having troubles getting their needs met
26 because of -- we think because of the competition that
27 occurs between rural and nonrural hunters. So one of the
28 things that we were trying to do out of this proposal is
29 really try and get a handle on it, well, how do you
30 measure that needs, and how do you measure that
31 competition so that when these questions come to the
32 Council and these questions come to the Federal
33 Subsistence Board they have a way of dealing with them.

34

35 So the reason that we sent these -- both
36 of these proposals, actually, back for some additional --
37 a little bit of additional work, was to try and better
38 get at the needs part. Subsistence uses, both of these
39 proposals that came forward addressed very well, but the
40 needs was what we needed more information on.

41

42 Now, as far as the funding question, the
43 money that we received from Congress is no year funds.
44 So if we receive funds for fiscal year 2006, which just
45 ended, those funds are available until expended.
46 However, in fact, what happens on the books is at the end
47 of 2006 we lose the money. It's still money still out
48 there but we don't have the ability to spend it at that
49 point and so then we have to get it back to be able to
50 spend it again.

1 Now, the Forest Service does, through
2 appropriations language have opportunities to spend any
3 funds that come to the Forest Service for emergency type
4 needs. And you may have heard, for instance, how big a
5 fire year it was down south this year, and so there are a
6 lot of funds that were taken from all sorts of different
7 sources to try and deal with firefighting. Well, it's
8 our hope that these funds won't be touched in any way to
9 deal with that, but we don't know until we finally get
10 our appropriations for 2007 and what we call carryover,
11 which is the carryover for the previous years. In the
12 past we've always gotten 100 percent of our carryover, no
13 matter what are the other extengicies that have occurred
14 in the Lower 48 or whatever else, and we anticipate that
15 that's going to happen again, but I don't know the answer
16 to that question. Those were unspent funds and so it's
17 possible that we won't get those back, but it's most
18 likely that we will, and then we will be able to go
19 forward and fund these projects given that carryover from
20 the previous year.

21

22 Is that more than you wanted?

23

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: That answers my question.

25

26 MR. KESSLER: Good.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

29

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

31 When this working group went over these, we prioritized
32 them and I was wondering how that fed into which projects
33 are going to go forward.

34

35 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
36 Bangs. What we did was we took a look at the priorities,
37 if you have a copy of your report, on Page 12, Table 1,
38 are those listed priorities, and we looked at those
39 priorities and we said, okay, priority number 1 goes on
40 the request for proposals, priority number 2 goes on the
41 request for proposals, priority number 3 went on the
42 request for proposals, and then we said, well, we do --
43 we are trying to get some balance between Southeast and
44 Southcentral and so what we did was we looked at well,
45 what's sort of the highest priority for Southcentral
46 also, and so we came down to priority number 6 and picked
47 that one.

48

49 So we don't -- and we've said all along,
50 that when this was developed, that the manager has the

1 choice of picking which of these priorities for any given
2 year meet the priority issues that the Council and the
3 Federal Subsistence Board are dealing with, but we have
4 every intent to try and meet -- to stick with the
5 priorities that were established by this working group.
6 If they don't fit some other needs, the final decision on
7 what those priorities are and what's going to come out of
8 the request for proposals is up to our regional forester.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kessler, thank you.

17

18 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we're all done with
21 the USDA Service, Tongass National Forest report. So we
22 move on to National Park Service, Mr. James Capra.

23

24 And, Jim, if you would please, you know,
25 explain to the Council, you know, what you explained to
26 me over here about the deer issue in Yakutat, why it came
27 about and so forth, I'd appreciate it.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman, you mean the
32 bear issue.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did I say deer issue?

35

36 MR. CAPRA: That's what I heard.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, okay, I'm sorry, the
39 bear issue.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Council
44 members. My name is Jim Capra. I'm with the National
45 Park Service, Glacier Bay. I am the Dry Bay area ranger
46 and the Title VIII subsistence coordinator for Glacier
47 Bay.

48

49 First I have a couple items I was
50 assigned on the agenda. First I'll answer the Chair's

1 question there.

2

3 Initially -- I've been on the -- well, as
4 part of the Staff here for about 12 years, and the
5 initial bear regulation was proposed for Unit 5 because a
6 subsistence user who'd only been in the Yakutat area for
7 a year acquired a subsistence bear permit, and harvested
8 a brown bear, had it tanned as a rug and then left the
9 area, which many people in the community were upset by
10 and it was proposed, the requirement to remove the head
11 and claws was proposed for Unit 5 to prevent that in the
12 future. It didn't have anything to do with the
13 handicrafts or other issues that have come up since.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that Jim,
16 but it does now.

17

18 MR. CAPRA: It does now. All right, in
19 order on the agenda I've been asked to comment on a few
20 things that cover Glacier Bay. In the Park, Glacier Bay
21 proper we call it, the status of the vessel management
22 plan for Glacier Bay is currently that it's in final
23 rulemaking, which means the comments have been received,
24 the Park Service has given their proposals, it's gone out
25 for public comment again, and currently it's in
26 Washington D.C. In talking to our chief ranger this
27 morning, he cannot completely predict what will come out
28 of Washington D.C., but what he anticipates is that the
29 Final Rules, when they come out will allow for more
30 cruise ships in Glacier Bay, although no more than two a
31 day at any given point but an increase in the total
32 number.

33

34 It will provide for -- well, it will
35 renumber our rules in Part 13, which have been
36 accumulating in kind of a random order in Part 13 of the
37 36 CFR for many years and this will put them in a more
38 clear order for the Alaska Regulations Section of 36 CFR,
39 regulations specific to Alaska Parks.

40

41 And it will also provide for an increase
42 in the short-term permits, or short notice permits,
43 where, for entry into Glacier Bay for every vessel a
44 permit is required, and there are 25 private entries a
45 day and in the past we had a provision for local boats,
46 that could not be upheld under the Park regulations, so
47 we've instated, or hope to instate a short-term permit
48 where people who want to access the bay can get these
49 permits by calling no more than 48 hours in advance. So
50 there is still a mechanism for somebody planning months

1 in advance to come to Glacier Bay and visit to get a
2 permit, but for local users who decide that the weather's
3 good and it's a good day to go into the bay, these
4 permits will be held until -- they can't be confirmed
5 more than 48 hours in advance, so it will provide short-
6 term access to the bay. And that should benefit local
7 users.

8
9 So on the agenda the item of information
10 that was distributed, it's not a handout, to all the
11 Council members, is a recently produced study with the
12 University of Washington -- in cooperation with the
13 University of Washington and others on the Hoonah
14 Tlingit harvest of gull eggs in Glacier Bay, the history
15 and the biology of it. Just last week the Park Service
16 announced that we are in the process of a legislative
17 environmental impact statement to provide for access to
18 the gull egg harvesting areas and harvest by the Hoonah
19 Tlingit. There's the -- because of the National Park
20 status, Title VIII does not apply under ANILCA in Glacier
21 Bay National Park, only the Preserve. And this will
22 provide the Hoonah Tlingit with the methods and means to
23 access their traditional foods. The total -- the entire
24 EIS is in the neighborhood of 120 pages, I have not seen
25 it in hard copy yet, it is available on the web. I
26 wasn't able to provide copies to the Council. It does
27 provide for three alternatives that are summarized on the
28 sheet there that I was able to give you. And I can tell
29 you that the preferred alternative is the third one, the
30 one that would provide for the most flexibility for
31 people to harvest gull eggs, and that is, as I said, in
32 the process right now.

33
34 I don't even have the deadlines for
35 comment with me.

36
37 The collection of goat hair, which is
38 another traditional activity that is not allowed under
39 Park regulations, we just finished the second year of
40 harvest of the goat hair for weaving. And I understand
41 that weavers in Hoonah are now -- that it's in the
42 process of going to weavers in Hoonah, this was what I
43 understood from Wayne Howell, our cultural
44 anthropologist. It was a very successful season. There
45 were several harvesters and they have enough to start
46 teaching and start weaving in Hoonah.

47
48 In the -- on the seal stocks in Glacier
49 Bay, it's another goal of ours to allow for traditional
50 harvest of seals at some point, but currently there's a

1 decline in the seal population in Glacier Bay and the
2 priority for the Park Service is to determine what's
3 causing the decline. HIA has been working with the Park
4 in varying degrees and with different universities and
5 National Marine Fisheries Service to determine for the --
6 pretty intensively for the last, I believe, three years,
7 population studies and just the biology of the seals
8 there and what could be causing the decline.

9

10 We do have fairly good numbers on the
11 seals and we do know that there is a marked decline in
12 the seal populations all through the bay, we just don't
13 know what the cause is. And I understand that either
14 today or next week Wayne and our biologist will be
15 meeting with HIA again to look at the options for next
16 year's studies and goals on the seal populations in the
17 bay.

18

19 In the National Preserve, Dry Bay area
20 near Yakutat, which is two bits of news. We had
21 requested through FIS funds, for several funds, to have a
22 stock assessment study done on sockeye in the east Alsek
23 River because the run crashed in the mid-90s and it would
24 be -- especially if the Hubbard Glacier were to advance
25 and affect the Situk, the east Alsek would possibly
26 become one of the primary harvesting streams for Yakutat.
27 It has been in the past but with the crash of the run,
28 it's not worth the effort to go that far from town.

29

30 We did get alternate funding through the
31 university and National Marine Fisheries Service to
32 conduct a two year study on the stocks there, not exactly
33 what we were looking for but -- with the FIS studies, and
34 the hydrology of the river and what the root causes might
35 be of the crash in the stocks. The field work is done,
36 and they did come up with a few obvious answers -- which
37 were obvious from the initial data, and I hope to have
38 some results by the winter meeting in Kake. They are not
39 done right now and they anticipate having the complete
40 study done or the write up done of the field work by June
41 next year when Derrick Farber finishes his thesis and
42 defends it.

43

44 Some of the -- well, one of the most
45 surprising things was that the east Alsek is mostly
46 supplied by rain water, not flow through the gravel and
47 the old river grounds there from the Alsek. People have
48 long thought that it was mostly Alsek water coming
49 through and those remanent to Alsek stocks there, but
50 they seem to be completely different.

1 Also in the Preserve, the Park Service is
2 conducting an environmental assessment to designate our
3 off highway vehicle trails there. We have in 57,000
4 acres just over 100 miles of OHV trails. And they are
5 allowed to -- they are there in order to support
6 commercial fishing, and that is their only legislated
7 purpose. It makes things difficult if somebody uses a
8 trail for subsistence and it's not tied to a commercial
9 fishing use. One of the goals of our environmental
10 assessment will be to designate these trails -- to
11 designate the ones necessary for the commercial fishing
12 use but also allow designation for other purposes for
13 subsistence and administrative use. Ideally we will have
14 a map with the designated trails by the start of the next
15 fishing season next June also. That started this June
16 with public meetings in scoping meetings and first round
17 of public comment this summer.

18
19 Chairman Adams asked me to comment on the
20 goats in Unit 5 and there's been a lot of discussion over
21 the years about the goats in Nunatak Bench in Unit 5,
22 which are our only easily accessed goat population due to
23 -- largely due to overharvest, legal and illegal. The
24 goat population in that area can't sustain any -- well,
25 probably any harvest and over the last four years it's
26 been closed on the State and the Federal side by
27 emergency order.

28
29 This year the Park Service, in
30 cooperation with the State has proposed closing it before
31 the season even starts until -- and they came up with a
32 goal of where they'd like to see the goat population to
33 be before the hunting would start again, rather than wait
34 for a week before the season starts and issuing emergency
35 orders on both sides. So now we do have a goal for the
36 goat populations back there and it will -- we'll keep
37 monitoring it whenever we can get the weather and funds
38 to fly. All three agencies tend to share the load on
39 that, just depending on who has the money that year to
40 fly the goat populations.

41
42 In the same area the moose harvest back
43 on Nunatak Bench, which is our late season moose hunt,
44 either sex, was closed last year, due to low numbers
45 seen, I believe it was three on one flight and 11 on the
46 other, where normally 40 to 60 would be counted from the
47 air. It may be related to the Hubbard Glacier flooding
48 most of the winter range for the moose or there may be
49 other causes, that it was just difficult to count the
50 moose those times, but that hunt was closed by emergency

1 order after some hunter reports of not seeing any moose
2 and then going back and checking with the aerial flights.
3 And that will be -- it opens in mid-November, and ideally
4 Fish and Game, Forest Service, the Park Service, would
5 like to see that flown before the start of the season and
6 determine whether that may need to be closed or more
7 closely monitored this year. The harvest back there has
8 a quota of five before the season is closed. But it is
9 an important late season opportunity for people.

10
11 I have a small correction from something
12 I heard earlier, and maybe just because I feel
13 outnumbered every time I come here by the other agency
14 people, but the Park Service does manage a small portion
15 of lands, 57,000 acres in Unit 5 in Glacier Bay National
16 Preserve, and almost the entire Unit 5(B) under Wrangell-
17 St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

18
19 The only bit of news I have is that the
20 Park Service in cooperation with the city and borough of
21 Yakutat is doing Avian Flu monitoring. Myself and one
22 other person with the Yakutat Salmon Board attended
23 training for sampling birds and we have, like most of the
24 other agencies, the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife,
25 and the State have spent a fair deal of time this summer
26 monitoring for bird die offs and sampling hunter taken
27 birds now that the duck seasons have started.

28
29 And that finishes my report, unless
30 there's any questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Capra.
33 Any questions. Frank.

34
35 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Have you guys done any studies on the sea otter
37 population in Glacier Bay because since I can't go up
38 there anymore I have not been able to go see anything up
39 there?

40
41 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Council member
42 Wright. I know we have done censuses of the sea otters,
43 and in fact I have numbers that they are increasing
44 drastically from a count of five in 1995 to 1,266 in
45 2002. But to the best of my knowledge, we have done --
46 I'm sorry the last census also included an evaluation of
47 their diet to see what they were eating.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.
50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I was just a little
2 concerned about that because they certainly tear up the
3 ecosystem.

4
5 Another thing is that, you know, the
6 seal, one of the -- even if we got our inherent right to
7 go back there and shoot a seal I don't think we would
8 because we know the population is going down because of a
9 study that we did with the Hoonah Indian Association and
10 the Park Service doing that seal study.

11
12 And one other thing that, you know, we,
13 as caretakers of our land objected to the increase in the
14 ships because as caretakers we want to keep the place
15 pristine. But, I, as a fisherman, every time I go by
16 there, going out in the Gulf of Alaska and I see a ship
17 coming out of there and you see a big smokestack bilging
18 out, where we see a layer of smoke, on the horizon,
19 because of it, is not pristine. So I know you're just
20 the messenger, but I'm just letting you know what I feel.

21
22 And we do work with the Park Service and
23 they -- the only way to do it is to go through the
24 process, so eventually if we keep pushing it, we will be
25 able to go back in and get our seal or seagull eggs or
26 whatever resource we need out of there. And sea otters,
27 I don't know about those.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Do you have
32 a response, Jim.

33
34 MR. CAPRA: Only as Council member Wright
35 said, I am the messenger. And if I wasn't clear, that
36 was the priority from Hoonah Indian Association when we
37 started on these three priority projects which were the
38 gull eggs and the goat hair and the seals.

39
40 HIA made it clear that the population --
41 their first concern was the population of the seals, that
42 was not solely a Park Service idea, that we needed to see
43 why they were declining before any harvest was
44 considered. The rest I'll leave.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Despite the fact that
49 Mr. Kookesh said that he wasn't going to say anything
50 this morning, he has a question.

1 MR. KOOKESH: How long did these seal
2 studies take and how long will it take you to make a
3 determination?

4
5 MR. CAPRA: I don't know. I can't answer
6 that partly due to my lack of knowledge about the seal
7 program itself and the specifics, and partly because I do
8 know the length of some of the other programs in the bay
9 that are studying population dynamics.

10
11 They have not -- they were not able to
12 come up with any easy solutions on what is causing the
13 decline. There is no glaring smoking gun that I've heard
14 of from the biologists about a good guess. They are
15 studying on what they feed on, how often they do and then
16 -- plus tissue samples to see if there's toxins, disease.
17 One of the odd things is that the seals are declining
18 even in the most protected areas of the bay where even
19 kayakers aren't allowed during the pupping season. It's
20 not a specific area that is showing more decline than any
21 others. We have many levels of protection as far as
22 wilderness waters in Glacier Bay as far as no motorboats,
23 no cruise ships, no boats period, and they all seem to be
24 showing a marked decline.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.
29 I have a question and TEK for you. But the question is
30 not on TEK.

31
32 The question is when they evaluated what
33 the sea otters were eating, what were they eating?

34
35 MR. CAPRA: I happen to have the numbers
36 right here. They evaluated it and they found that the
37 diet consisted of 35 percent clams, 26 percent mussels,
38 three percent crabs, 11 percent sea urchins, and the
39 remaining 25 percent was a mix of various other species.

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Follow up.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Interesting. Go ahead.

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Now, I have my TEK comment
46 and as the messenger, please take this message back.

47
48 Pelican Alaska is adjacent to Jacobi
49 Island, west Chichagof wilderness areas and we have
50 protected waters. We have a pod of killer whales that

1 comes through. And they line up in a file, in a line
2 across the inlet, they're all across in a line and
3 they're showing their young ones how to do this, they go
4 up the limit 20 miles, they come out the inlet 20 miles,
5 and they go around Jacobi Island, and they're getting
6 anything that's in their path that they can get. And
7 when the king salmon or the cohos are running on the
8 outside, the fishermen's catch drops off significantly
9 for a few days after those killer whales have gone
10 through.

11
12 So that might be an easy explanation and
13 it can be verified by numerous residents in our area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other
16 comments or messages for the messenger to take to the
17 powers that be.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. KOOKESH: The power that be.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Jim,
24 appreciate it.

25
26 MR. CAPRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bureau of Land
31 Management.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A BLM person here.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MR. CAPRA: And I'm happy not to be last.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't see a BLM person
44 coming forward, so Pat you're next, BIA.

45
46 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. I don't
47 think we had any agenda topic, I guess we were a
48 placeholder but we already -- I don't think there's
49 anything to share at this time, so I guess thank you for
50 putting us on the agenda, and when we have something

1 we'll report it later.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, just thank you for
4 being here Pat, we appreciate that.

5

6 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. You're welcome.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Mike Turek, please
9 come forward.

10

11 MR. TUREK: Good afternoon. I'm Mike
12 Turek with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
13 Division of Subsistence.

14

15 And I can briefly talk to you a bit about
16 our TEK database project that Robi Craig talked about in
17 her presentation today. We're -- our Staff is currently
18 working on that, and what it is is a word searchable
19 database with salmon and other fin fish traditional
20 knowledge. It's modeled after the Subsistence Division's
21 Whiskers database which was for seals and sea lions.
22 Traditional knowledge of seal and sea lions.

23

24 This database will have traditional
25 knowledge from key respondent interviews from other FIS
26 projects and other work the Division has done along with
27 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's interviews they're doing --
28 they're currently doing on another project. The final
29 product will be TEK database using the ASKSAM software on
30 a CD and there'll also be a final report with some very
31 preliminary analysis of the information in the database.
32 This will also be a very good educational device, I
33 think, and just something where we'll have all this
34 information in one place.

35

36 And we're also working with the Sitka
37 Tribe, as Robi mentioned on the sockeye project, and we
38 conducted with the Tribe a survey, subsistence salmon
39 survey with over 300 households in Sitka. What we did is
40 we looked at the last five years of people who got
41 subsistence salmon permits in Sitka and we took the
42 households that got permits in three out of those last
43 five years and that was our universe for the survey. And
44 our Staff data, analysis staff is nearing the completion
45 of that project as far as the data analysis and then I'll
46 be getting it soon to review.

47

48 We're comparing our face to face
49 household survey data with the permit data to see --
50 comparing it to see if there's any differences or what

1 differences don't occur.
2
3 And that's the two FIS projects we're
4 currently working on. And we don't have any proposals in
5 at this time for any more FIS projects.
6
7 That's all I have today unless you have
8 any questions for me.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions for Mr.
11 Turek.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike, it's always good
16 to see you.
17
18 Thanks.
19
20 MR. TUREK: Thank you. Good to be here.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, wait, Floyd has a
23 question.
24
25 MR. KOOKESH: This goes back to Sarah.
26 Before I had requested -- or during our discussion, let's
27 put it this way, it came up that on the sporthunting
28 licenses, we wanted to know -- I wanted to know, excuse
29 me, where the money goes if we were going to vote to
30 remove the requirement and go to a -- somebody called it,
31 a -- a Federal license, and I was wondering, did we ever
32 get that data that showed where our sporthunting fees
33 were going. I had requested it the other -- yesterday,
34 because we had constantly -- I had constantly asked for
35 it. Mr. Schroeder was aware of it also.
36
37 MS. GILBERTSON: This is Sarah Gilbertson
38 with Fish and Game. And if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman,
39 and Council member Kookesh, I think what I'll do is work
40 with Mike and work with our Division of Wildlife
41 Conservation and work through Dr. Schroeder and get you
42 the information of where that money goes and specifically
43 in Southeast, what we work on and where that money goes.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That sounds like a plan
46 to me, Sarah, thank you.
47
48 Dr. Schroeder.
49
50 DR. SCHROEDER?: Just what would be very

1 useful Sarah would be if we had that information pretty
2 quickly because the Council will be -- is planning to
3 submit that petition after a teleconference meeting which
4 will probably take place in late November.

5

6 MS. GILBERTSON: Will do, thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Mike, under your TEK project, on the seals that are
12 getting depleted throughout Southeast, what kind of
13 studies have been done on them or what kind of questions
14 have been asked on them, because I know a lot of the
15 hunters now, that I talk to, they say that the fat level
16 on the seals is dropping considerably. And at that point
17 they say that most of them are sinking before they can
18 get to them. And when I talk to my father, the seals
19 used to be a lot fatter and he says the herring are gone
20 from the bays and most of the places now which was the
21 primary food source for the seals, and now that they have
22 to eat other things, it's not building the fact that they
23 need to survive anymore.

24

25 So I just was wondering if any of your
26 TEK questions entered into that field.

27

28 MR. TUREK: Mr. Kitka. Through the
29 Chair. When we collected the information for the
30 Whiskers database, that was back in the early '80s so
31 that was prior to a decline of any of the stocks, seal
32 stocks itself, so there weren't any questions on that.

33

34 We did have a plan project with the
35 Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission to do just what
36 you're talking about, talking to seal hunters in Hoonah
37 about their knowledge of why, perhaps, these seal stocks
38 had depleted -- have been going down, but unfortunately
39 the funding didn't come through for that. So we -- so
40 like I say with the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission
41 we would like to do that but there was a funding problem.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Mike. Every year there's
50 this lady who calls me about how many seals I got or did

1 I get seals from somebody else or have I eaten any seals
2 this year, you know, is that part of the study that's
3 going on and how much longer is it going to continue,
4 because every year I have to tell her, yeah, I'm eating
5 seal.

6
7 MR. TUREK: Mr. Wright. Through the
8 Chair. Yes, that's a harbor seal, sea lion study that's
9 been going on for over 10 years now, statewide, we've
10 been doing that with the Alaska Native Harbor Seal
11 Commission and last year that was done with a contract
12 with the Southeast Alaska Native Fish and Wildlife
13 Commission and that is one place where we may be able to
14 ask those kind of questions about the stocks in Glacier
15 Bay but, again, like I said, we didn't have quite enough
16 funding to do that. But as far as I know that's going to
17 be continuing, the seal and sea lion survey.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.

20
21 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, you said something
22 about Glacier Bay but we can't hunt in there so it will
23 be difficult to ask anyone if they got a seal from there
24 because it'd be illegal, but probably out in the mouth or
25 something, yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike.

28
29 MR. TUREK: Chair. Mr. Wright. Correct.
30 One thing we were trying to find out, would like to find
31 out is if they're seeing a decline in seal populations
32 outside of the bay, in particular in Icy Straits.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anyone else.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Mike.
39 Did you cover the other ADF&G issues as well, or is that
40 what Sarah's there for.

41
42 MS. GILBERTSON: That would be me.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right Sarah.

45
46 MS. GILBERTSON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
47 I think all of you have met Roger Harding, who is the
48 Department steelhead expert, he was here the other day
49 and did come up and answer a few questions. And I know
50 that in the past the Department has made presentations to

1 the Council about what the Department knows, what we
2 don't know relative to steelhead, ongoing research and I
3 would like to extend the offer to have Roger, if not at
4 your next meeting, perhaps next fall's meeting to do a
5 similar presentation and just steelhead 101 and where the
6 Department is and where we're going. So I wanted to make
7 that offer.

8
9 And then also wanted to make you aware
10 that the Department does have some concerns regarding the
11 Federal regulations that were passed earlier this year
12 with respect to bear claws, and in particular, we
13 understand that there are some historical or perhaps
14 cultural uses in handicrafts. However, the Department is
15 concerned and has filed an appeal with the Federal
16 Subsistence Board and would like to see the sale of
17 those, perhaps constrained, or somehow limited, so that
18 we're not seeing poaching, so that we're not seeing the
19 sale of those items on eBay, so that those uses, or the
20 harvest for those purposes are still allowed, but to
21 prevent any -- you know we just talked about the person
22 in Yakutat with the rug, so to prevent any misuse of
23 those and to prevent, perhaps, or constrain the sale of
24 those items. So we have filed an appeal with the Federal
25 Subsistence Board and that is still pending, but I wanted
26 to make you aware of it.

27
28 And then finally, going back to what Mr.
29 Knauer was saying, I thought I could perhaps elaborate
30 upon the Department, or the State of Alaska's petition to
31 the Secretaries, not your secretary, to the Secretaries
32 regarding closure and customary and traditional use
33 determinations. And we had been working, the State of
34 Alaska, with folks at OSM and some of the Federal Board
35 members for about a year on a closure policy, and then on
36 August 25th the Federal Board had a work session and the
37 State of Alaska was there, many of the RACs had a person
38 call in and at that meeting, Heather Kendall Miller
39 testified and Sky Starkey testified and several of the
40 RACs testified that if the Federal Subsistence Board were
41 to pursue a closure policy that it should be done through
42 rulemaking and that way everyone could comment, it would
43 be a public process and then the Federal Board members
44 ask their solicitor Keith Goltz what his thoughts were,
45 and he said, yes, indeed, it should be pursued through
46 rulemaking and the Federal Subsistence Board set up a
47 task force or a working group, subcommittee to look at
48 that. So shortly thereafter the State of Alaska did file
49 a petition to the Secretaries in Washington, D.C., to
50 take a look at -- filed a petition for rulemaking on

1 closures and customary and traditional use
2 determinations.

3
4 And while we all might disagree about the
5 content of that Proposed Rule or that petition for
6 rulemaking, I just wanted to inform you about why it is
7 that the State did what we did. We heard a lot of
8 testimony at that work session, from folks, from the
9 RACs, from the public, who thought that it should be done
10 in rulemaking so that everyone could comment, and that's
11 why the State of Alaska did what we did, and after
12 hearing from the Federal solicitor that it should be done
13 in rulemaking, we went ahead and filed that petition.

14
15 So that is still pending as well. And I
16 just wanted to make you aware of that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks for that
19 information, Sarah.

20
21 The individual, what was his name again,
22 that you wanted us to invite.

23
24 MS. GILBERTSON: Roger Harding.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Roger Harding. And is
27 it just going to be on fish, steelhead.

28
29 MS. GILBERTSON: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Our next meeting
32 is in February, you know, we're going to take game
33 proposals, and so the next cycle would be the next fall
34 meeting for that -- for a time for him to come.

35
36 MS. GILBERTSON: Great. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Anything
39 else.

40
41 MS. GILBERTSON: No.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike and
44 Sarah.

45
46 REPORTER: Bert. Bert.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are under other
49 business. You do need that shock thing don't you.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I have here, is it areal
4 spraying.
5
6 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes, that's what I have.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, who's going to do
9 that.
10
11 DR. SCHROEDER: I can do that.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.
14
15 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. The
16 Council has been very concerned over the proposals to use
17 aerial spraying of herbicides in places in Southeast
18 Alaska. Herbicides are used to cut down on certain
19 plants that come up in regrowth areas and to promote
20 subsistence timber growth. The Council has weighed in a
21 number of times during comment periods on this issue and
22 was requested at its last meeting to sign on to petition
23 to hold further hearings on this matter.
24
25 The Office of Subsistence Management
26 reviewed this request and believes that while it's
27 completely appropriate for the Council to comment on
28 matters that are of concern to subsistence users, as this
29 definitely was, that at this point the controversy and
30 the conflict over the issuance of this permit, it moved
31 into basically the legal realms and said that the Council
32 was not authorized to sign on to a request that was
33 basically part of that appeal.
34
35 I believe Mr. Bangs was tracking this
36 issue for the Council and he may be able to add some
37 things to that.
38
39 MR. BANGS: Thank you. I was pretty
40 amazed that -- I didn't understand that we were not able
41 to enter into just requesting for a legal proceedings to
42 carry on. And I apologize for sending us into that
43 realm.
44
45 I was hoping that we could have our voice
46 heard and by sending that letter and having it stopped,
47 basically we were left out of the loop, I think.
48
49 I did do a lot of research on those
50 chemicals and where they were tested and they definitely

1 were not tested in any kind of a carse system or in this
2 type of a climate and that's what really got me thinking
3 that the information that DEC had and this Klukwan
4 Corporation, they were going to go ahead and use this
5 pesticide, they really haven't done homework in this kind
6 of a climate, and it's real disturbing to me that they're
7 going to go ahead with this or that there's a good
8 chance.

9

10 So I don't know what course of action we
11 can take to, you know, make our position heard, but I
12 would hope that we could do something.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, just don't shut up
17 about it, Mr. Bangs, just keep plugging away at it.

18

19 DR. SCHROEDER: Just as the Council
20 coordinator, my view of this was that it is really clear
21 that the Council cannot sign on to a legal action. When
22 this came up it appeared to me and also to other Staff
23 that were listening to the discussion that this was
24 possibly more in the comment realm and continuing to
25 provide information on a process, and the solicitor's
26 looked at this real closely and say that this hearing --
27 in their view that this hearing process was the start of
28 an appeal process and so that's why we weren't allowed to
29 do that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more on that.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Next item there, Dr.

36 Schroeder.

37

38 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. I think
39 we've completed the items under D, future meeting plans.
40 We're scheduled to meet in Kake for three days during
41 February 26th to March 3rd, we set a venue of Haines for
42 fall of 2006, and I do have the dates down, I think it
43 was the 24th through 28th or so.

44

45 The dates for the teleconference, I think
46 you're leaving that open to Staff. We need to work with
47 Mr. Knauer on getting a noticed teleconference and so we
48 always need some lead time on that of roughly a month or
49 sometimes six weeks. And the reason for the
50 teleconference again is to submit the license petition to

1 the Secretaries. And I'm trying to remember, did we --
2 my mind's escaping me on whether we were considering
3 submitting the petition concerning the 7,000 threshold at
4 that time, I believe we were. It's in my notes. Someone
5 can refresh my memory on that.

6

7 So we have two items for that
8 teleconference.

9

10 And then generally when we do notices for
11 teleconference meetings, we put a clause in that says,
12 other matters concerning subsistence uses of fish and
13 wildlife in Southeast Alaska or something of that sort,
14 so that if there is something that comes up between now
15 and then we're noticed to deal with it. Our
16 teleconference meetings have been, I think, real
17 effective. I really appreciate that people have taken
18 their time out -- taken time out to make sure they can be
19 on the phone. They've proceeded in a real organized
20 fashion and there's been reasonable participation of
21 people concerned and agency's concerned, so I think
22 that's something real effective that the Council's done
23 this last year.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. We did
26 take care of 21A, B and C, I just wanted to make sure.

27

28 DR. SCHROEDER: Let me back up there. I
29 had those checked off. According to Dr. Garza, the issue
30 A, appointments to the Pacific Salmon Commission,
31 Transboundary and Northern Panels, that that's basically
32 over at this time, that there was a window for
33 appointments and that that window has passed. So it's
34 probably something we should pay attention to for next
35 cycles of appointment.

36

37 I don't have on my punchlist any
38 additional Council generated issues. We do have a number
39 of -- quite a few follow up issues, but I don't think
40 they require an action at this time.

41

42 An example of follow up issues would be
43 the team's commitment to put in the wildlife proposals,
44 as we just discussed.

45

46 We don't have resolution for review
47 either, so I think we're there, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dr.
50 Schroeder. You know, we've gotten to the end of the

1 agenda.

2

3 I want to call John Littlefield down and
4 have him, you know, give some final words to the Council
5 because he's here and we would like to hear from him.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: Couldn't stay away.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome John, welcome.

10

11 MR. LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 That's how we did that, right, I taught you that.

13

14 The other night when we had our little
15 potlatch here.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. LITTLEFIELD: One of the things I
20 neglected to do and I should have done was.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you please state
23 your name for the record.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. LITTLEFIELD: (In Tlingit)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

30

31 MR. LITTLEFIELD: Ah. Okay. One of the
32 things I forgot to do the other night was to acknowledge
33 the Staff. You know the Council's been really good to
34 me, they supported me when my mother passed and other --
35 and they gave me some nice gifts and I really appreciate
36 that. But one of the things I forgot to do is thank Dr.
37 Schroeder, Mr. Casipit, Mr. Johnson and the others, for
38 supporting me, they really made my job easy and Bert,
39 you'll know that right next to you sits a really valuable
40 resource. And I know I got some flack for having him sit
41 up there next to me but I think it's appropriate. And I
42 just want to thank these gentlemen, as well as Mr.
43 Kessler, Mr. Capra, I don't to miss anybody, you know,
44 Terry Suminski, and these others, they've all been
45 valuable parts of our program. The regulations say
46 they're supposed to give you adequate support and I think
47 that support has been really pretty good for this Council
48 and it helps you go along. So other than that I don't
49 really have any -- oh, and Tina, thank you very much.
50 And I will miss seeing those people, like I said I really

1 enjoyed doing this but I guess I don't have anything
2 more, you know, I told you how to end the meeting and
3 everybody understands that now.

4

5 So thank you for acknowledging me, Mr.
6 Chair, and thanks to the Council for supporting me in the
7 past, and that's all I have.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, John. And
12 may the good lord bless you on all that you do from now
13 on, and I know your thoughts and prayers and, you know,
14 concerns are going to be with us and we appreciate that.

15

16 You were a good leader while you were
17 here and, you know, you certainly act as a model for me
18 and I appreciate that and will carry on the work as best
19 as we possibly can on behalf of our people.

20

21 So Gunalcheesh.

22

23 MR. LITTLEFIELD: Gunalcheesh.

24 Yukatongi. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I would like to give any
27 Council member an opportunity, if they would like to make
28 some closing remarks at this time.

29

30 MR. KOOKESH: I got one.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Keep it short.

33

34 MR. KOOKESH: Motion to adjourn.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can you go any shorter
39 than that, is there a second.

40

41 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and
44 seconded, all in favor say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

49

50 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's always one.
4 Motion carried.
5
6 (Off record)
7
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08