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1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 VOLUME I

5  
6 Petersburg, Alaska  
7 February 22, 2005  
8 1:00 o'clock p.m.  
9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 John Littlefield, Chairman

14 Bertrand Adams

15 Michael Bangs

16 Michael Douville

17 Dolly Garza

18 Donald Hernandez

19 Eric Jordan

20 Harvey Kitka

21 Floyd Kookesh

22 Patricia Phillips

23 Michael Sofoulis

24 Richard Stokes

25

26 Regional Coordinator, Robert Schroeder

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Petersburg, Alaska - 2/22/2005)

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5

(On record)

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CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'll call the  
8 meeting to order. At this time Secretary Mr. Adams will  
9 do the roll call and announcement of a quorum.

10

11

MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 I'll start from the bottom and work my way up.

13

14

John Littlefield.

15

16

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Present.

17

18

MR. ADAMS: Frank Wright.

19

20

(No response)

21

22

MR. ADAMS: Michael Bangs.

23

24

MR. BANGS: Present.

25

26

MR. ADAMS: Hi, Mike. Michael Sofoulis.

27

28

MR. SOFOULIS: Here.

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30

MR. ADAMS: Thanks, Mike. Dolly Garza.

31

32

DR. GARZA: Aye.

33

34

MR. ADAMS: Eric Jordan.

35

36

MR. JORDAN: Here.

37

38

MR. ADAMS: Hi, Eric. Harvey Kitka.

39

40

MR. KITKA: Here.

41

42

MR. ADAMS: Michael Douville.

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44

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

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46

MR. ADAMS: Patricia Phillips.

47

48

(No response)

49

50

MR. ADAMS: Richard Stokes.

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1 MR. STOKES: Here.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Donald Hernandez.

4

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.

6

7 MR. ADAMS: Floyd Kookesh.

8

9 MR. KOOKESH: Here.

10

11 MR. ADAMS: Bert Adams, here. A quorum  
12 is present, Mr. Chairman.

13

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Secretary. The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional  
17 Advisory Council wildlife meeting is hereby in session.  
18 And the first thing I'd like to do is introduce myself  
19 and then the other Councils will do their introductions  
20 and then we'll go to Staff and members of the public.

21

22 First I want to thank Mike Douville for  
23 giving me a gavel. Bill Thomas gave me a cork to do this  
24 with, and this I think will do much better, so it will  
25 keep you in line anyway.

26

27 My name is John Littlefield, I'm from  
28 Sitka. I've got rid of my last license this year, I gave  
29 it away last year and it doubled in price so that shows  
30 you what -- I don't want to tell you what the stock  
31 market did today, so, I'm 100 percent subsistence  
32 fisherman and hunter, we run the Dog Point Fish Camp in  
33 Sitka and we've been doing that for about 20 years where  
34 we teach children traditional harvest techniques.

35

36 I guess that's all I have, and if we  
37 could start over here with Mr. Jordan and then work this  
38 way and then everybody can do a short introduction.

39

40 Mr. Jordan.

41

42 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chair. Fellow Council  
43 members. Guests. Staff. It's a real privilege to see  
44 all of you again. Since our meeting last fall, I have  
45 been fishing quite a bit actually because winter prices  
46 have been unpredictably high so I've been out more than  
47 usual and also did quite a bit of deer harvesting this  
48 fall, more than usual as our family has grown with  
49 addition of a daughter-in-law and granddaughter on the  
50 premises and introducing them to the harvest lifestyle in

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1 Southeast Alaska has been one of the great joys of my  
2 life since I was hear last fall.

3

4 A couple things that I have noticed in  
5 the Sitka area, the life as evidenced by the amount of  
6 the whales and birds and we participated in the annual  
7 Christmas count, bird count, is the most I've ever seen  
8 right near Sitka. And as a result there's been a few  
9 fish around.

10

11 Something else I have noticed is there  
12 seems to be -- I've been out more, but it seems to me  
13 there's more activity, there's people subsistence halibut  
14 fishing all year now. And I think that's great. And  
15 there are, at least this year, for those of you who are  
16 concerned, as we've been concerned about halibut, there's  
17 more subsistence halibut -- or more halibut available for  
18 some reason in February in the Shallows this year than  
19 there usually are.

20

21 The herring stock seems to be building  
22 and appears healthy for all the measures that I see.

23

24 So that's a report on what I see going on  
25 around Sitka from being out there quite a bit since our  
26 meeting last year.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
29 Jordan. I think you brought up No. 8 and No. 3. What  
30 we're going to do here is just do the introductions and  
31 we'll go to community reports.

32

33 MR. JORDAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
34 thought.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No, no, I'll just  
37 skip you when we get there, we're just doing our  
38 introductions right now. So thank you, Eric, it's okay.

39

40 Mr. Hernandez.

41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 My name is Don Hernandez. I want to welcome everybody to  
44 Petersburg, my home for part of the year. I still make  
45 my primary residence out in Point Baker on Prince of  
46 Wales Island but I'm here with the family for the winters  
47 and it's a nice place to spend the winter. I'm glad you  
48 all could make it in today. As I said I spend most of my  
49 time out at Point Baker where I'm a commercial fisherman,  
50 mainly gillnet fishery, but I have some halibut IFQ and

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1 handtroll permit.

2

3 That's it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And I might also  
6 add one thing there, he's also the Chairman of our U2  
7 Deer Subcommittee, so a little later he'll be giving a  
8 presentation on that.

9

10 Mr. Bangs.

11

12 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
13 name is Michael Bangs, I live here in Petersburg and I  
14 also would like to welcome you to our little burg. I've  
15 had a busy winter here but I guess we'll get into that a  
16 little later. I've been fishing, and like everyone else,  
17 as you notice there's a lot of activity going on right  
18 now here in town so I hope you get a chance to get down  
19 to the docks and see what's going on.

20

21 Thank you

22

23 DR. GARZA: My name is Dolly Garza, born  
24 and raised in Ketchikan. I'm a subsistence user there  
25 although Ketchikan is technically still urban, and I'm  
26 also a professor with the University of Alaska.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville, I'm  
31 from Craig. I'm a full-time commercial fisherman, I  
32 power troll and I longline.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.

35

36 MR. STOKES: My name is Dick Stokes, I'm  
37 from Wrangell. When Petersburg and Wrangell used to have  
38 a lot of shrimp and they could always tell where Wrangell  
39 shrimp came from over Petersburg because there was no  
40 color added.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr.  
45 Kookesh.

46

47 MR. KOOKESH: My name is Floyd Kookesh,  
48 I'm from Angoon. I'm a charter boat operator.

49

50 Thank you

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1 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon, my name is  
2 Bert Adams, Sr. I hail from Yakutat. I'm proud to say  
3 that 90 percent of my household food is from the  
4 subsistence resources in our community. I'm also a  
5 charter boat operator.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

8  
9 MR. KITKA: Good afternoon. I'm Harvey  
10 Kitka and I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I'm a commercial  
11 fisherman and a subsistence user.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Sofoulis.

16  
17 MR. SOFOULIS: My name is Mike Sofoulis.  
18 I live in Juneau and I currently hold both commercial and  
19 priority use permits with the Forest Service in Unit 4  
20 and operate a guiding outfitting operation there.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd like to thank  
23 the Board members, or I mean Council members, and as you  
24 can see they're a diverse group. We have charter  
25 operators, we have subsistence fishermen, commercial  
26 fishermen, commercial hunters, and I think we have a  
27 pretty well rounded group here. At this time, before we  
28 go to Staff, I would like to have Mr. Adams to do  
29 something that has become a tradition at least since I've  
30 been on the Council, is that we have a story to set the  
31 tone. And you may think of it as an invocation but it's  
32 actually a story of Mr. Adams' choosing.

33  
34 So I will let Mr. Adams have the floor.

35  
36 MR. ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 I apologize for not being here last year. I had to go to  
38 another meeting that turned out to be just a little bit  
39 more important than this one. But I thought about you  
40 often and during the time I was having a good time, you  
41 know, I know that you guys were done here doing some good  
42 business.

43  
44 The story I'd like to share with you  
45 today is not really a story, but are some concepts that I  
46 think that we all need to be reminded about every now and  
47 then. And, you know, I am a student of American History  
48 as well as the US Constitution. And there's some  
49 concepts in the Declaration of Independence that I think,  
50 as I said earlier, we need to be reminded about, and I'd

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1 like to share those with you at this point.

2

3

4           It says in there that we are all created  
5 equal in the eyes of the creator and that among these are  
6 certain rights, and that is the protection of our lives,  
7 our liberties and our pursuit of happiness. And then it  
8 says that for this purpose was this government instituted  
9 among us and that is to protect our lives, our liberty,  
10 and to guarantee us our pursuit of happiness. It also  
11 says maybe in a paragraph or so or a sentence or so  
12 later, that when the government no longer does these  
13 things for us, that is protect our lives, our liberties  
14 or guarantee us our pursuit of happiness, then it is up  
15 to us as Americans to either alter or abolish that  
16 government and to start up a new one based on those very  
17 same principles, and that is to protect our lives, our  
18 liberties and to guarantee us our pursuit of happiness.

18

19           I don't think that we are at the point  
20 where we need to abolish our government just yet but I  
21 think that there is a lot of altering that we can do, and  
22 that is what we are here for.

23

24

25           I think also, you know, that it is  
26 emphasized in there that no law should be made without  
27 the consent of the governed. No regulation should be  
28 made without the consent of those people who are going to  
29 be directly affected by it. And so when we deliberate  
30 here today and the next few days, I hope that we, as  
31 members of this Council, members of the Federal employees  
32 as well as, you know, the people out there in the  
33 audience, we all have an important part to play in the  
34 concept that this Declaration says.

34

35           Now, the Federal government people, you  
36 know, when they get hired they take an oath, don't you?

37

38           (Various Staff nodding affirmatively)

39

40           MR. ADAMS: And that oath is to protect  
41 and uphold the Constitution of the United States. And so  
42 many times, you know, we have a tendency to not remember  
43 that, and I think we need to be reminded about that real  
44 often.

45

46

47           Another part that the Declaration says  
48 that prudence will indeed dictate that when offenses or  
49 assertions become so powerful that we, as natural  
50 citizens of this great country, have a tendency to let  
51 things happen to us. And we failed to remember that it

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1 is our right, it is our duty, it is our responsibility to  
2 correct the assertions and oppressions when they come  
3 upon us. And that message, in particularly, you know,  
4 for the people who is walking on the streets who are  
5 directly affected by the things that we are going to be  
6 doing here today and in the future.

7

8 And so I would like to, you know, just  
9 leave you with those words to ponder and think about as  
10 we do our deliberations today. That there should be no  
11 law made without the consent of the governed, that when  
12 there's any significant evidence that, you know, things  
13 are not going right then it is up to us as natural  
14 American citizens to either make changes where it is  
15 necessary.

16

17 So thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing  
18 me to share this with you, and I hope we can have a good  
19 meeting today and throughout the week.

20

21 Gunalcheesh.

22

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Adams. There's a list of members on Page 1, I believe,  
26 in your book, and Frank Wright, I want to, for the  
27 record, note that he is excused. He had a fishing season  
28 that is a big part of his livelihood which prevented his  
29 attending the meeting. But he is one of our new  
30 commercial members, and I wanted to note that. And there  
31 were several other members who were reappointed and I  
32 don't have all of them. I believe it was Mr. Kitka, Mr.  
33 Stokes and Mr. Kookesh; is that correct, can you help me  
34 there, Dr. Schroeder?

35

36 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Adams, were you  
37 reappointed last year, I believe?

38

39 MR. ADAMS: Pardon?

40

41 DR. SCHROEDER: Were you reappointed to  
42 the Council last year?

43

44 MR. ADAMS: Not that I know of.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Well, anyway, I  
47 think we have new members who have been reappointed and I  
48 want to welcome them to the Council. Because for those  
49 of you that don't know it, the Council members all serve  
50 without compensation, they're paid for their expenses, so

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1 it is quite a -- there's a lot of time here, especially  
2 on the U2 Subcommittee that's been meeting four or five  
3 times, and it's all volunteer work.

4

5 At this time I'd like to ask Dr.  
6 Schroeder to introduce the guests, the local ranger, as  
7 well as any others. If they would like to come forward  
8 and use the mic they could do that, otherwise you could  
9 just lead the introduction of the Federal Staff.

10

11 DR. SCHROEDER: Ranger Grantham, did you  
12 want to say a few words to the Council.

13

14 RANGER GRANTHAM: My walk up here is  
15 going to take about as long as my words are going to  
16 take.

17

18 Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council,  
19 and Staff, welcome to Petersburg. I know that Don and  
20 Mike are going to take very good care of you this week.  
21 It is an honor for the community to be hosting this  
22 event, and we'd like to share a lot of the hospitality  
23 that we're famous for here.

24

25 Mr. Chairman, you touched on something  
26 just a moment ago in regard to members on this Council  
27 serving without any kind of compensation, and that was  
28 something I was going to mention, too, that this is a  
29 real task of the heart and takes a great deal of  
30 commitment out of your personal lives and out of your  
31 working lives to be on this committee, and I would like  
32 to thank everyone for doing that. Some of the users here  
33 in Central Southeast Alaska have benefited tremendously  
34 by some of the actions that this Council has taken, the  
35 Stikine River fishery that we just prosecuted this last  
36 year. Mr. Stokes helped get that going for us, is a  
37 prime example. And I know a lot of people in the  
38 Wrangell and the Petersburg communities are very  
39 interested and engaged in the Unit 2 deer discussions,  
40 too.

41

42 I know you have a big week ahead of you,  
43 I just want to welcome everyone here, if there's anything  
44 that I can do during this week to help you out in any  
45 way, please don't hesitate to call me. I'm going to run  
46 to another appointment right now but I'm going to be in  
47 and out this whole week. Thank you, again, for coming  
48 and I hope you have a good meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You can help me

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1 out with one thing, if you could state your name for the  
2 record before I get any more bad looks from over there.

3

4 RANGER GRANTHAM: I'd be glad to. My  
5 name is Patty Grantham, and I am the District Ranger here  
6 in Petersburg.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

11

12 MR. JORDAN: I'd like to take this  
13 opportunity to point out that Patty Grantham is a former  
14 student of mine, and like a lot of my other former  
15 students has done exceptionally well, and I applaud you  
16 on your career Patty.

17

18 RANGER GRANTHAM: It's all because of  
19 you, Mr. Jordan.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: This is not the  
24 mutual admiration society.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: But anyway, thanks  
29 a lot Patty, I'm glad for your welcome. Dr. Schroeder.

30

31 DR. SCHROEDER: Let's go around and  
32 introduce Federal Staff who are present and who will be  
33 present at this meeting and if you could let us know what  
34 your job is and your reason for attending.

35

36 I'll begin. I'm Bob Schroeder, I'm the  
37 Regional Advisory Council Coordinator and anthropologist  
38 dealing with subsistence issues for Southeast.

39

40 Cal.

41

42 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, good afternoon. My  
43 name is Calvin Casipit. I'm the subsistence Staff  
44 biologist for the Forest Service in Juneau and the lead  
45 fisheries biologist for this Council.

46

47 OFFICER PEARSON: My name is Ken Pearson,  
48 and I'm with the Forest Service Law Enforcement  
49 Investigations.

50

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1 MR. JOHNSON: My name's Dave Johnson, and  
2 I'm the subsistence coordinator for the Tongass.

3  
4 MS. CLARK: My name is Maureen Clark,  
5 public affairs person in the Office of Subsistence  
6 Management.

7  
8 DR. WHEELER: My name is Polly Wheeler --  
9 I don't usually need the microphone on.

10  
11 REPORTER: I don't need it for you Polly,  
12 it's for others.

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 DR. WHEELER: My name is Polly Wheeler,  
17 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management in  
18 Anchorage and I'm anthropologist, and I usually work with  
19 the Fisheries Information Services overseeing the  
20 fisheries research projects, but I'm here this week to  
21 talk to you about that proposal, Proposal 1, the bear  
22 claw proposal, as we're affectionately calling it, but  
23 I'll be here for the whole week.

24  
25 MR. CAPRA: Jim Capra, National Park  
26 Service. I'm the Yakutat District Ranger and subsistence  
27 coordinator for Glacier Bay.

28  
29 MR. KNAUER: I'm Bill Knauer with Fish  
30 and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management,  
31 policy and regulations specialist for them.

32  
33 MS. MCKINLEY: Dianne McKinley, National  
34 Park Service, Anchorage, subsistence program.

35  
36 MR. ALUZAS: Kurt Aluzas, I'm with the  
37 Forest Service in Wrangell. I'm involved in some of the  
38 Southeast Alaska subsistence issues.

39  
40 DR. GARZA: What was your name again?

41  
42 MR. ALUZAS: Kurt Aluzas.

43  
44 DR. GARZA: Thank you.

45  
46 MS. PETERSHOARE: Lillian Petershoare. I  
47 am a tribal government relation specialists with the  
48 regional office for the Forest Service in Juneau.

49  
50 And part of my reason for being here is

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1 to invite you to attend a Tea on March 21st. Goldbelt  
2 Incorporated is sponsoring a tea in celebration of a  
3 Forest Service publication Haa Atxaayi Haa Kusteeyix  
4 Sitee. That publication will be released at that tea.  
5 And I might just add that it's been expanded to include  
6 an audio CD, and 159 food related terms in the  
7 publication are going to be on that audio CD with the  
8 help of Dr. Sibilof, Florence Shaklee and David Katzik.  
9 And if you're in Juneau that week, it's the week of Gold  
10 Medal, we'd love to have you at 2:00 o'clock at Goldbelt  
11 Hotel.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SUMINSKI: Terry Suminski. I'm the  
16 subsistence fisheries biologist, Forest Service, Sitka  
17 and Hoonah Ranger District.

18

19 MR. CHESTER: I'm Dennis Chester. I'm a  
20 wildlife biologist based with the Forest Service based  
21 out of Juneau Ranger District. And I'm here to present  
22 some analysis on Proposal No. 3.

23

24 MR. WATERS: My name is Elijah Waters.  
25 I'm the fisheries biologist and subsistence coordinator  
26 for the Glennallen Field Office of the Bureau of Land  
27 Management and I'm here to present our Alaska Resource  
28 Management Plan, which does manage some land that this  
29 Council has customary and traditional use over.

30

31 MR. BRAINARD: My name is Jim Brainard.  
32 I'm a wildlife biologist here at the Petersburg Ranger  
33 District, Forest Service. And I also will be presenting  
34 a proposal.

35

36 MR. KESSLER: I'm Steve Kessler with the  
37 Forest Service, InterAgency Staff Committee, and I work  
38 out of Anchorage.

39

40 MR. EASTLAND: I'm Warren Eastland, the  
41 wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and  
42 I'm out of the Juneau office and I'm an InterAgency Staff  
43 Committee member of the BIA.

44

45 MR. PROBASCO: I'm Pete Probasco. I'm  
46 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm Tom  
47 Boyd's deputy for the subsistence program.

48

49 DR. SCHROEDER: Ms. Hernandez.

50

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1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez. I'm  
2 Bob's student out at the Forest Service in Juneau helping  
3 the Council out. But I've also been serving on the Unit  
4 2 deer also.

5  
6 DR. SCHROEDER: And Salena.

7  
8 REPORTER: And my name is Salena, or some  
9 of you know me by Tina, and I'm the court reporter. Hi.

10  
11 DR. SCHROEDER: I think that covers  
12 Federal Staff for the present.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Not Federal Staff,  
15 right.

16  
17 REPORTER: I'm not Federal, or State.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other.

20  
21 REPORTER: Yes, other.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 DR. SCHROEDER: Do we have other Federal  
26 Staff who we may have missed.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 DR. SCHROEDER: Mike, are you holding up  
31 the flag for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

32  
33  
34 MR. TUREK: I guess I am.

35  
36 (Applause)

37  
38 MR. TUREK: My name is Mike Turek  
39 with.....

40  
41 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

44  
45 DR. GARZA: If he can speak on behalf of  
46 them we'll have a short meeting.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 MR. TUREK: Ask me no questions I'll tell

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1 you no lies.

2

3

DR. SCHROEDER: Mike, we're glad you're  
4 here as the representative of the Alaska Department of  
5 Fish and Game, and the state of Alaska. Do we have  
6 tribal government representatives today, are there any  
7 people representing tribes or the Petersburg community.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

DR. SCHROEDER: If not, could we go  
12 around and have the members of the public who are present  
13 introduce themselves.

14

15

MR. ARLINGIA: My name is Arlingia, I'm a  
16 resident of Petersburg. I'm a commercial fisherman and  
17 the Chairman of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
18 here, and I sit on the TrounsBoundary River Panel of the  
19 Pacific Salmon Commission.

20

21

MR. WARE: My name is William Ware. I'm  
22 the tribal administrator for Petersburg Indian  
23 Association. And just here as an interested member.

24

25

MR. MARTIN: My name is Pete Martin from  
26 Kake. I'm the newly appointed fisheries representative  
27 for Grand Camp, Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood.

28

29

MR. EMMIN: My name is Scott Emmin. I'm  
30 a resident of Petersburg.

31

32

MR. PAOST: Brian Paost. Petersburg,  
33 from the University.

34

35

MR. SHERMAN: My name is Dave Sherman.  
36 I'm the new organizer for the Southeast Alaska  
37 Conservation Council. It's an honor to be here.

38

39

MR. STAINBROOK: My name is Mike  
40 Stainbrook and I live in Kupreanof, and I came here to  
41 listen and learn and I'd like to pay special attention to  
42 what's discussed about the steelhead subsistence.

43

44

Thank you.

45

46

47

DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you very much for  
48 your introductions. And just to help us out with record  
49 keeping, even though we have you on tape, if we could ask  
50 if everyone who is attending to put your name on the

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1 sign-in sheet at some point in the meeting and then we  
2 know who you are and can record your presence.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, for  
7 attending. I beat you didn't I?

8

9 DR. WHEELER: I'm impressed.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I can do that from  
12 here.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's the only  
17 hammer they give me is this one and the push of that  
18 button.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And the members of  
23 the public, I'd especially like to thank you for  
24 attending. If you've never been to one of these before  
25 we allow testimony at any time. If you're unable to  
26 attend while we're discussing an issue that you want to  
27 talk about, we ask you to fill out a sign-up form and if  
28 you'll give it to Melinda in the back we'll fit you in as  
29 soon as we can and we'll try to make sure that you have  
30 the opportunity to testify.

31

32 One of the charges that is given us in  
33 our charter and also in ANILCA is that we are a forum for  
34 any issues that have to deal with fish and wildlife  
35 resources in the region. So if you want to talk about  
36 fish and wildlife resources or other natural resources,  
37 this is the place to do it, and we can hear it and we're  
38 concerned, of course, with those on Federal lands, but  
39 all issues that have to do with subsistence are fair game  
40 at this meeting.

41

42 We're at No. 4, which is the Council  
43 member ethic's disclosure and that's that big file here  
44 and it's on your desk, and Dr. Schroeder will take care  
45 of this one.

46

47 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 We did give you some supplemental material, and when  
49 we're done with ethic's disclosures, I'd like Melinda  
50 Hernandez to go through what's in this folder. One of

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1 the things that should be on the top of the folder is  
2 suggestive language for making an ethics disclosure. And  
3 just by way of refreshing your memory, ethics disclosures  
4 started to be required as part of our Federal Advisory  
5 Committee Act Charter of about a year or so ago. And the  
6 objective of ethics disclosures is simply to let the  
7 public know of what your involvements are in issues that  
8 may become before the Council. The procedure is a  
9 Council member should make an ethics disclosure and then  
10 I, as the designated Federal official, rule on whether or  
11 not you can participate in issues before the Council.

12

13 So if we could start, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.  
16 Schroeder. My name is John Littlefield and I live in  
17 Sitka, Alaska. I subsistence hunt and fish the Federal  
18 lands and waters under consideration at this meeting. I  
19 do not hold any commercial permits, or conduct any  
20 business activities directly affected by any agenda items  
21 before the Council.

22

23 DR. SCHROEDER: Member Littlefield does  
24 not have any significant financial interests directly  
25 related to matters before this Council at this meeting  
26 and may fully participate. Next person.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If we could go  
29 back to Mr. Jordan, again, and start that way, please.

30

31 MR. JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
32 will try to be on the correct agenda item this time. My  
33 name is Eric Jordan. I live in Sitka. I subsistence  
34 hunt and fish in the Federal lands and waters under  
35 consideration at this meeting. I also hold a commercial  
36 powertrill fishing permit and a ling cod, dinglebar  
37 permit. I also sportfish. I have no financial conflicts  
38 with the proposals or any agenda items before the  
39 Council.

40

41 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Jordan.  
42 Member Jordan does not have any significant financial  
43 interests directly related to the matters before the  
44 Council at this meeting and may fully participate in the  
45 agenda.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez.

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, my name is  
50 Don Hernandez. I live in Point Baker. I am a

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1 subsistence hunter and fisherman. I also hold permits in  
2 the Southeast drift gillnet fishery, halibut longline  
3 fishery and salmon troll fisheries. I do not have any  
4 conflicts with any actions before this committee for this  
5 meeting.

6

7 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.  
8 Member Hernandez does not have any significant financial  
9 interests directly related to matters before the Council  
10 at this meeting and may fully participate.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

13

14 MR. BANGS: Yes, my name is Mike Bangs.  
15 I live here in Petersburg. I subsist hunt and fish in  
16 Federal lands and waters under consideration at this  
17 meeting. I also hold a commercial fishing license in  
18 gooey duck, roe on kelp, halibut, sea cucumber and  
19 Bristol Bay sockeye. But I don't feel any of these are  
20 in conflict with any issues that we're going to discuss  
21 at this meeting.

22

23 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.  
24 Mr. Bangs does not have financial interests directly  
25 related to matters before the Council that would  
26 compromise his actions and may fully participate.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

29

30 DR. GARZA: My name is Dolly Garza. I  
31 live in Ketchikan. I subsistence gather on the Federal  
32 lands and waters under consideration at this meeting. I  
33 do not hold any commercial permits or conduct any  
34 commercial activities directly affected by any agenda  
35 items before the Council.

36

37 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Dr. Garza.  
38 Member Garza does not have a significant financial  
39 interest directly related to matters before the Council  
40 at this meeting and may fully participate.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville. I  
45 subsistence hunt and fish mostly in Unit 2. I own  
46 several fishing permits, including halibut, and black cod  
47 IFQ. I have no financial conflict with any of the agenda  
48 items.

49

50 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Douville.

00018

1 Member Douville does not have a significant financial  
2 interest directly related to matters before the Council  
3 that would preclude his participation and he may fully  
4 participate.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.

7  
8 MR. STOKES: My name is Dick Stokes. I  
9 live in Wrangell. I subsistence hunt and fish in the  
10 Federal lands and waters under consideration at this  
11 meeting. I do not hold any commercial permits or conduct  
12 any business activities directly affected by any agenda  
13 items before the Council.

14  
15 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.  
16 Member Stokes does not have a significant financial  
17 interest directly related to matters before the Council  
18 at this meeting and may fully participate.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

21  
22 MR. KOOKESH: My name is Floyd Kookesh  
23 and I live in Angoon. I operate a guiding business, but  
24 not in any of the Federal waters or lands under  
25 consideration at this meeting.

26  
27 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.  
28 Member Kookesh does not have a significant financial  
29 interest directly related to matters before the Council  
30 at this meeting and may fully participate.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

33  
34 MR. ADAMS: My name is Bert Adams, Sr.,  
35 and I live in Yakutat. I subsistence hunt and fish in  
36 Federal lands and waters under consideration at this  
37 meeting. I also have a handtroll permit as well as a  
38 longline for halibut and I operate a saltwater charter  
39 business, but not in any of the areas under consideration  
40 at this meeting.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Adams.  
45 Mr. Adams does not have a significant financial interest  
46 in matters that will come before the Council that would  
47 preclude his participation and he may fully participate.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

50

00019

1 MR. KITKA: My name is Harvey Kitka, and  
2 I live in Sitka, Alaska. I subsistence hunt and fish in  
3 Federal lands and waters under consideration at this  
4 meeting. I also hold a commercial fishing permit, but  
5 not in any of the areas under consideration at this  
6 meeting.

7  
8 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.  
9 Member Kitka does not have a significant financial  
10 interest directly related to matters before the Council  
11 at this meeting and he may fully participate.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Sofoulis.

14  
15  
16 MR. SOFOULIS: Yeah, my name is Mike  
17 Sofoulis. I hold a commercial fishing permit in Bristol  
18 Bay. I have a commercial use permit with the Forest  
19 Service to operate a guiding outfitting operation in Unit  
20 4 of Southeast Alaska.

21  
22 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Sofoulis.  
23 Mr. Sofoulis' financial interests are not directly  
24 related to matters before this Council such that he could  
25 not participate in the matters before the Council, he may  
26 fully participate in our deliberations.

27  
28 That's it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Could  
31 we go -- could you take us through the remainder of this  
32 stuff real quickly that's in this binder so that  
33 everybody knows what that is?

34  
35 DR. SCHROEDER: Ms. Hernandez, could you  
36 go through what our supplemental materials are and why we  
37 have them there?

38  
39 MS. HERNANDEZ: There's a couple letters  
40 to start off with at the beginning. The majority of the  
41 rest of it is information regarding.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Name for Tina.

44  
45 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez, sorry.  
46 Then the rest of it, there's one page on rural  
47 determination, the majority has to do with the University  
48 Land Transfer. And then the very last part of it is the  
49 update from the Unit 2 Deer Planning Subcommittee, as  
50 well as a sample permit that they've come up with so far.

00020

1 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, we also  
2 included -- there is a copy of a letter that we sent to  
3 Ernesta Ballard concerning an issue that came up before  
4 the Council at our last meeting, and we included this  
5 because this is a good template for resolutions that may  
6 be passed by the Council at this meeting, so I'd urge  
7 Council members if they are planning to submit a  
8 resolution, to follow this format and Staff will work  
9 with you on it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. We're  
14 on Item 5, review and adopt the agenda. A motion to  
15 adopt the agenda as a guide is in order.

16

17 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

20

21 MR. ADAMS: I so move to adopt the agenda  
22 as a guide.

23

24 MR. STOKES: I'll second that motion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved  
27 and seconded to adopt the agenda as a guide. Any  
28 corrections or additions?

29

30 Dr. Schroeder.

31

32 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, we have a  
33 number of small or medium size reports that we'd like to  
34 work into the agenda over the course of this meeting.  
35 Staff would like to speak to the Council concerning a  
36 goat management issue in this region right here. There  
37 will be a short Staff discussion concerning the steelhead  
38 fisheries and progress therein for this coming season.  
39 Mr. Waters talked about the BLM Management Plan. And we  
40 should have an update on Stikine river salmon. And Kurt,  
41 what's your item, excuse me?

42

43 MR. ALUZAS: The Unit 3 check station.

44

45 DR. SCHROEDER: And Mr. Aluzas wants to  
46 talk about Unit 3 check station results. And there may  
47 be other items that have slipped my mind or I'm unaware  
48 of at this time. So we'd like to add those items in  
49 appropriately.

50

00021

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What's the  
2 Council's wishes on that, my recommendation would be that  
3 we go ahead and get these taken care of after Item 8.  
4 Because I know there's some members of the public here  
5 that would like to hear about these issues, and I don't  
6 know how far we're going to get into these proposals, but  
7 once we get into those I know they're going to take up a  
8 lot of time.

9  
10 Does the Council have any objection or  
11 any other alternative suggestions.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is the Staff  
16 prepared to make their presentations say in another half  
17 hour?

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Nobody answered --  
22 okay, well, that's what we'll do, after Item 8, we'll try  
23 to fit in those special reports from Staff that would  
24 like to give their presentations at that time.

25  
26 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, one other  
27 item. Dave Sherman has provided some information to the  
28 Council on pending University Land Transfer Bills that  
29 may affect subsistence users and we'd like to work a  
30 short discussion into the agenda for that item as well.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We're  
33 adopting the agenda as a guide so what we can take care  
34 of today we'll do, adopting it as a guide, let's just fit  
35 you in wherever we can.

36  
37 Are there any other changes, additions to  
38 the agenda.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
43 the question.

44  
45 MR. STOKES: Question.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The question  
48 before you is to adopt the agenda as a guide. All those  
49 in favor, please signify by saying aye.

50

00022

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion is  
5 carried. The agenda is adopted as a guide. We're at  
6 Item 6, review and adopt the minutes of the Juneau SERAC  
7 meeting on September 27th through 30th, and I believe  
8 that's on Page 2 of your book, and a motion to adopt is in  
9 order.

9

10 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

13

14 MR. JORDAN: I diligently did my homework  
15 and read the minutes and noticed that in Section G, Eric  
16 Jordan volunteered.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'm cutting you  
19 off. A motion to adopt the minutes is in order at this  
20 time before we discuss it.

21

22 MR. JORDAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Could I have a  
25 motion to adopt.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: I move to adopt the  
32 minutes of the SERAC meeting of September 27th through  
33 30th, 2004.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

36

37 MR. KITKA: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka seconds.  
40 It's in order.....

41

42 REPORTER: John.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....we'll go back  
45 to Mr. Jordan for corrections.

46

47 MR. JORDAN: I noticed that I was  
48 volunteered to serve on the annual report, and I'm eager  
49 to help with that but so far nobody has contacted me  
50 about participating in that. So anyway, I did note that

00023

1 I had been volunteered and I appreciate the Chairman  
2 thinking of me in my absence.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're welcome.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
9 other corrections or additions to the minutes.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
14 the question.

15

16 MR. KITKA: Question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Question's been  
19 called to review.....

20

21 REPORTER: John.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....or for the  
24 adoption of the minutes.....

25

26 REPORTER: John. John.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....of -- sorry.  
29 The question's been called on the adoption of the minutes  
30 of the Juneau SERAC meeting September 27th through 30th,  
31 2004, all in favor signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed same  
36 sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And hearing none,  
41 the minutes are adopted. We are at the Chair's report.

42

43 Dr. Schroeder.

44

45 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, the purpose of  
46 the Chair's Report is to go through actions that may have  
47 taken place since the last Council meeting, and to  
48 discuss items of concern with the Council at that time.

49

50 I don't have the Item B, we'll need to

00024

1 hold until I get a signed copy of the .805(c) letter  
2 which should be out today from Office of Subsistence  
3 Management.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: On Item A, the  
6 Federal Subsistence Board meeting of January 11th to  
7 13th, is there a handout -- I believe I have a copy of  
8 that, but the Council needs to have a handout so that  
9 they know what action was taken on each of those  
10 proposals; do we have one of those?

11

12 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, that would  
13 be the .805(c) letter, and we don't have an .805(c)  
14 letter at this time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No, I'm only  
17 talking about the list of proposals, the action that was  
18 taken by the Board under Item A.

19

20 DR. SCHROEDER: Staff can help you with  
21 that, we'll have to put something together, we don't have  
22 that in hand right at this moment.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I'll  
25 summarize it. Of the proposals that we recommended for  
26 adoption at the SERAC meeting.....

27

28 DR. SCHROEDER: They're in the minutes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: In the minutes, if  
31 you'll look in the minutes you'll see the proposals that  
32 we submitted. The proposal that took us four hours to  
33 discuss on Page 11 FP05-17 down near the bottom of the  
34 page, this took us about four or five hours to go over,  
35 it took the Federal Subsistence Board only a little less  
36 time, and that was rejected. And there was an offer to  
37 make an amendment, but I felt it was more important for  
38 the Council to do this themselves. And I have a feeling  
39 for what they will accept and I would like to put this,  
40 an identical proposal that captures what I believe the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board will accept FP05-17 forward as  
42 a Council proposal at the end of -- sometime before the  
43 end of the meeting here, and I will write that up with  
44 your help.

45

46 The other proposals that were in the  
47 book, all were accepted, although there were a couple  
48 changes and that's what I need the record for. We've  
49 added some language where there would be -- we made sure  
50 that the Federal land managers had the authority to step

00025

1 in and regulate these, and when we get that we'll know  
2 exactly what they said.

3

4 But for the most part, all of them were  
5 accepted with the exception of 17.

6

7 Council resolutions, C, Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, the Council  
10 passed two resolutions at our last meeting, these are  
11 reflected in the minutes. One concerned our support for  
12 keeping the subsistence halibut fishing regulations  
13 status quo. Our resolution was transmitted on to the  
14 working group that was looking at revising the halibut  
15 regulations at their meeting, both in Sitka and in  
16 Anchorage, and I believe the Chair attended that meeting  
17 so he may be able to report on that.

18

19 We also submitted the letter, which is in  
20 your packet concerning mixing zones to the Commissioner  
21 of Department of Environmental Conservation. I don't  
22 have an update on what action took place on the mixing  
23 zone question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. The  
26 halibut fishing, I have a copy of that on the desk here  
27 and we'll get that run out for all the members.

28

29 But basically what happened, there was  
30 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council agreed to  
31 hold in abeyance in 2006 any more changes to subsistence  
32 changes so we have a little bit of a window. They have  
33 agreed to, in the Sitka Lamp area, impose the  
34 restrictions that were agreed to by the local members,  
35 and so there will be some slight reductions in those  
36 areas, the rest of Southeast Alaska is to remain as is  
37 which is the current regulations will remain in effect.  
38 One thing that I thought was quite important was the  
39 communities of Juneau and Ketchikan were allowed tribal,  
40 ceremonial and cultural permits. We could not get the  
41 votes weren't there for them to have just the open tribal  
42 fishing permits such as other communities have like  
43 Sitka, and those permits are only available in  
44 communities where the general rules do not apply. In  
45 other words, if you can fish with 30 hooks and catch 20  
46 halibut then the community is not eligible for the  
47 community harvest permits. So Sitka, because the  
48 restrictions there are 15 halibut and 10 generally  
49 qualifies for that.

50

00026

1                   So anyway, the Regional Advisory Council  
2 took a position on this, that basically asked for no  
3 change and for the most part that was what took place and  
4 I was happy to see that.

5  
6                   On the mixing zones, also, Dr. Schroeder,  
7 I do not have any additional information on that as well.

8  
9                   Item D -- excuse me, Dr. Garza.

10  
11                   DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
12 my understanding that Naukati was added, they did  
13 approach our Council for support.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's correct.  
16 When we get the printout here that we distribute, Naukati  
17 was added, and I believe the community of Port Tongass,  
18 outside of Ketchikan was not.

19  
20                   Mr. Kookesh.

21  
22                   MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, when you're  
23 done on resolutions, may I speak to resolutions.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Sure. I think  
26 we're done with that right now because I don't have  
27 anything more on the mixing zones. Go ahead, Mr.  
28 Kookesh.

29  
30                   MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, this is just  
31 some housekeeping. One of the things that I've noticed,  
32 I don't know if these resolutions went out the way  
33 they're printed on Page 24, but my comment is when doing  
34 resolutions, for example, as a municipality one of the  
35 things they say is like, the city of Angoon, which is a  
36 municipality, you know, created by -- of the body of the  
37 state of Alaska or something to that effect or like the  
38 tribe is considered, you know, Federally-recognized, you  
39 know, you speak to what you are when you're writing a  
40 resolution, the first whereas. Whereas, the Southeast  
41 Regional Advisory Council is a body created by Public Law  
42 96-487 because I notice, Mr. Chairman, that when we did  
43 our resolutions I don't fault you for jumping right into  
44 the meat of the matter and resolving and getting to the  
45 point, but I believe that when you formally seek by  
46 resolution you have to say who you are and we're not  
47 going through that process when we're on Page 24, those  
48 two resolutions, and we have to formally speak to who we  
49 are.

50

00027

1                                   And that's just housekeeping. Am I  
2 clear.

3  
4                                   DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Floyd, if  
5 Council members could take a look at the supplemental  
6 material and there's a letter to Ernesta Ballard, and if  
7 this is a -- perhaps we could take care of this item  
8 right now this is pretty short.

9  
10                                  CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay.

11  
12                                  DR. SCHROEDER: This is suggested format,  
13 and if Mr. Kookesh or other Council members would like to  
14 change this, that would all be well and good. The  
15 intention is that what we do is address a resolution to  
16 someone and then our description of who the Council is  
17 would read as follows:

18  
19                                  The Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
20 met in, wherever we met, the Council  
21 represents all Southeast subsistence  
22 communities, including Yakutat; the  
23 Council is authorized by the Alaska  
24 National Interests Land Conservation Act,  
25 and chartered under the Federal Advisory  
26 Committee Act to provide recommendations  
27 to the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 concerning regulatory and land management  
29 actions that may affect subsistence uses  
30 of fish and wildlife.

31  
32                                  ANILCA and the Charter also recognize the  
33 Council's authority to "initiate, review  
34 and evaluate proposals for regulations,  
35 policies, management plans and other  
36 matters related to subsistence uses of  
37 fish and wildlife on public lands within  
38 the region, and to provide the forum for  
39 the expression of opinions and  
40 recommendations on any matter related to  
41 the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife  
42 on public lands within their region."

43  
44                                  At our recent meeting, the Council  
45 members were concerned with X.

46  
47                                  And then we'd follow from there into what  
48 the specific resolution would include.

49  
50                                  CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.

00028

1 Garza. Previous resolutions that we've done.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Excuse me, Dr.  
6 Schroeder -- where was I?

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Anyway, previous  
11 resolutions included that language. We had that on the  
12 original halibut one that we did and I agree that that is  
13 the normal format, is to give your bonifide's and the  
14 whereases and as far as I'm concerned it would be very  
15 easily accomplished.

16

17 Are there any other Council who would  
18 like to speak about this.

19

20 Mr. Adams first and then Mr. Jordan.

21

22 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
23 just wanted to make a comment, that before we came to  
24 this meeting, Mr. Kookesh, you know, made a pledge to  
25 some of us that he would not speak, and we couldn't even  
26 get into 45 minutes into this meeting when he had to pop  
27 up and say something.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think I won the  
34 pool.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

39

40 MR. JORDAN: Well, I made a similar  
41 pledge to myself. But I wanted to thank Mr. Kookesh for  
42 bringing this up, and I agree with him, and Mr. Chairman,  
43 do you need a motion or is this just something that's  
44 since it's been brought up will be done?

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No, I don't need a  
47 motion, we could just direct Staff to write these, and I  
48 think they know how to do that, the original part will be  
49 the whereas in the front and we'll just do that for the  
50 record from now on.

00029

1 Any other Council.

2

3 Mr. Kookesh.

4

5 MR. KOOKESH: Then my one last comment  
6 is, in reading the first.....

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. KOOKESH: .....in reading the first  
11 paragraph, the language is in the first paragraph on the  
12 document that Bob was talking to, we just have to move it  
13 into the whereases and then it will come to pass.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, I agree with  
18 you. Mr. Adams.

19

20 MR. ADAMS: You all heard it, one last  
21 comment.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, where are we  
26 -- Council requests for information. Item D. Dr.  
27 Schroeder.

28

29 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, we had  
30 two.....

31

32 REPORTER: Bob. Bob.

33

34 DR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me. Mr. Chairman,  
35 we had two items that came up at our last meeting and we  
36 requested information from the Office of Subsistence  
37 Management. I believe you've had some extensive  
38 discussions concerning reserved marine waters in  
39 Southeast Alaska. And possibly also discussions  
40 concerning the hunting license requirements for  
41 subsistence. This would be a good time to just report on  
42 the status of those and we may have further discussion  
43 later in this meeting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Did you have a  
46 handout on any of this?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Bob.

00030

1 DR. SCHROEDER: We do have some material  
2 on previous Council discussion from the Yakutat meeting,  
3 I believe, four years ago concerning some aspects of  
4 marine jurisdiction, and those copies are available for  
5 review.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder, the  
8 marine waters issue is on the table right now and the  
9 Proposed Rule has been put forward, and it did not  
10 include any reference to lands that had been previously  
11 identified, submerged lands that had been identified by  
12 the Regional Advisory Council in 2001. We received a  
13 report at that meeting from Mr. Jude Pate, as a lawyer  
14 for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. We specifically asked  
15 several things in that meeting, that these maps and all  
16 the supporting data were to be given to every Federal  
17 Subsistence Board member, were to be given to each  
18 Secretary and it was an oversight, it didn't get through.  
19 So what we've got, I believe this handout is in this one  
20 here that has the minutes as well as the information,  
21 part of it.

22  
23 DR. SCHROEDER: The transcript.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, it has the  
26 transcript, it's in your folder. The Sitka Tribe has  
27 also provided me with two copies of their original data  
28 that they gave us in Yakutat as well as their copies of  
29 the minutes, which I cannot give the minutes away, but we  
30 can copy those, of course, the minutes are easy to come  
31 by but we have these two that the Sitka Tribe said that  
32 we could use at the Council's motions.

33  
34 I had a talk with Mr. Boyd on Friday, and  
35 he said that we needed to bring these issues up at this  
36 meeting and we will get an answer for them, because part  
37 of my complaint was that we never received a yea, a nay,  
38 or any recognition of what we'd asked for.

39  
40 So what we're going to do is -- I would  
41 like to do, a little later, we'll fit this in where we  
42 can have some discussion, after you've had time to read  
43 through those minutes because I want you to read through  
44 the minutes and look at the material because -- Dr.  
45 Schroeder you have something?

46  
47 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I spoke in  
48 error. We did make copies of the materials submitted  
49 October 15th through 19th, 2001. So in the Council  
50 supplemental material there's the first part, it says

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1 October 16th, 2001 transcript, this was a discussion at  
2 the Council meeting in Yakutat, Cal Casipit pulled that  
3 out for us, as well as a fair copy of the materials in  
4 support of Proposals 25 and 27 and a recommendation for  
5 extension of the Federal Subsistence Priority to marine  
6 waters within the Tongass National Forest.

7

8                                 So those are the discussion documents.  
9 The Chair may have a better copy or a more complete copy  
10 of the second item.

11

12                                 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.  
13 Schroeder. So later in the meeting I would like to have  
14 a discussion on that, after everyone's had the chance to  
15 review the data that's in that manilla folder.

16

17                                 Does anybody have a suggestion where they  
18 want to do this?

19

20                                 (No comments)

21

22                                 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We've adopted the  
23 agenda as a guide, I guess we'll just look for it on the  
24 third day or something like that so that everybody has a  
25 chance to look at these documents.

26

27                                 The other item that I brought up at the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board meeting was the fact that we  
29 had submitted -- I personally had submitted hunting  
30 license -- a request to the Federal Subsistence Board  
31 that we eliminate the hunting licenses fees, and  
32 subsequent -- and neither of those made it to the Boards  
33 because they were withdrawn by OSM as not being within  
34 our jurisdiction. What I'd like to do is have a  
35 discussion on this also because we know that the hunting  
36 licenses are being proposed to be basically doubled.

37

38                                 You'll go from a hunting, sportfishing  
39 license, and I normally get a hunting, sportfishing,  
40 trapping license, I normally get a king salmon stamp and  
41 a wildlife -- a waterfowl stamp, that's going to cost me  
42 119 bucks if this goes through next year. While I might  
43 be able to pay that, I have serious concerns about  
44 members of these small communities where there is no cash  
45 economy being forced to pay \$120 to go out and harvest  
46 subsistence foods. So I would like the Council to have a  
47 frank discussion on that. We have time to submit a  
48 proposal. And if it's the will of the Council to go  
49 ahead and revive those proposals and submit them again,  
50 I'd like to bring that up at a later time, too.

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1                                   And that's basically where that came up.  
2 Did you have anything to add on that Dr. Schroeder?

3  
4                                   DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, the Council  
5 request for information covered these earlier proposals  
6 that were submitted and then withdrawn because they  
7 weren't noticed for the regulatory cycles that we were  
8 engaged in. The Council requested from Office of  
9 Subsistence Management how it could approach changing  
10 this license requirement, whether through a proposal to  
11 the Federal Subsistence Board or directly writing to the  
12 Secretaries, if this was a Secretarial action. And I  
13 think later on in our meeting when we discuss this, Mr.  
14 Probasco is able to fill us in on what the parameters  
15 are.

16  
17                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Right. We have  
18 Mr. Probasco, as well as Mr. Knauer here who will guide  
19 us of what we can and can't do. But we'll put those  
20 probably, at least, off a day, before we have any  
21 discussion on that so you'll have a chance to go through  
22 these.

23  
24                                   So I believe that concludes the Chair's  
25 report. Item 8, Council member reports. I'm not going  
26 to call on Mr. Jordan, but I'll give him a second chance,  
27 a second bite at the apple. What we normally do here is  
28 because we're all from somewhere, we have some  
29 information that others on the Council and members of the  
30 public may not have, so if you have something you would  
31 like to share with us, this is the time to do it and I'll  
32 go with Mr. Jordan first.

33  
34                                   MR. JORDAN: I think I've shared  
35 plenty, Mr. Chair.

36  
37                                   I am, for those in the public, I'll do my  
38 introduction now. I am a lifelong Southeast resident. I  
39 was born in Wrangell. I have lived in Ketchikan,  
40 Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, and in Sitka since 1976. I  
41 make my living commercial trolling. I also am an avid  
42 sport fisherman. I tie my own flies and pursue  
43 everything from steelhead to king salmon with a fly rod.  
44 And I'm interested in the subsistence resources and the  
45 conservation health of this region from one end of it to  
46 the other, and that's why it's been a real privilege for  
47 me to serve on this Council.

48  
49                                   Thank you.

50

00033

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Jordan, you wore us out. We're going to take about a  
3 five, 10 minute break.....

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....point of  
8 privilege here, and we'll come back with Mr. Hernandez.  
9 A short recess.

10  
11 (Off record)

12  
13 (On record)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's come back to  
16 order, please.

17  
18 (Pause)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're on Item 8  
21 and Mr. Hernandez is next.

22  
23  
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
25 Chairman. I guess for the community report, I'm going to  
26 kind of address my report towards, you know, the people  
27 that I represent out in Point Baker, Port Protection,  
28 I'll leave Mr. Bangs to talk about things for the folks  
29 here in Petersburg.

30  
31 So not being there during the winters,  
32 it's a little harder to keep track of what's going on in  
33 the communities but I was fortunate here this past week,  
34 we had a couple of neighbors come to town and got a  
35 chance to visit and sit down with a good long talk and  
36 talk about things, and in the course of our conversation  
37 there were some concerns that were brought up to me so  
38 I'm glad I had a chance to bring these to the Council.

39  
40 Things are changing out at our little  
41 small, very tiny rural communities out there and people  
42 are a little concerned with what's happening.

43 Development is happening and it could very well affect  
44 people's subsistence uses.

45  
46 There is change happening in the  
47 communities. We're seeing more impacts from lodge  
48 development out there. It seems like land that has sold  
49 recently has tended to be bought by people that are  
50 interested in developing lodges, and some of those lodges

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1 are in the process of expanding their operations. People  
2 are starting to get a little concerned that this will put  
3 added additional pressures on some of the more localized  
4 subsistence resources that people depend on in the  
5 communities.

6

7                   In the community of Port Protection,  
8 there is a proposal for the state of Alaska to sell off  
9 some land that belongs to the State. It's not associated  
10 with the University lands that have been in the news  
11 lately, this is separate lands from that, but it has now  
12 been approved by the Department of Natural Resources and  
13 sounds like this land is going to be sold in the very  
14 near future. And people are a little concerned that some  
15 of this land may also be developed into lodge operations,  
16 that seems to be the trend lately. I guess I should  
17 point out that the land sale did have some support from  
18 some local community members. However, in meetings with  
19 the Department of Natural Resources, when they found out  
20 how the land disposals are going to take place, it looks  
21 as though it might be difficult for local people to  
22 acquire this land when they sell it at a bid price,  
23 people are afraid that there just won't be competitive  
24 bids from local people on this land, it will go to people  
25 that -- even though there are people in the community who  
26 would buy land, they feel their chances are not very good  
27 at getting some of this land, so that's kind of  
28 unfortunate. And like I say, this is a situation that is  
29 also -- people are worried about how other communities  
30 are going to be affected by the University land sales  
31 that are being talked about here in the near future.

32

33                   I did, kind of also just wanted to point  
34 out, there's some positive things that people talked  
35 about. Something I was glad to hear, they mentioned  
36 there were a couple of different people that had left the  
37 community in the last several years and they just got  
38 word that a few of these people are returning to town,  
39 and that always kind of makes a person feel good when you  
40 live out in these small communities, some of the Council  
41 members might have similar situations where people have  
42 left the community and they move away and then they get  
43 to where they're going, maybe down South or larger  
44 communities, bigger towns that they go to and then they  
45 come to find out that maybe the place where they left  
46 really is a good place after all and they want to come  
47 back. And that always gives you kind of a good feeling,  
48 I was glad to hear that.

49

50                   But it kind of made me stop and think

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1 that, you know, when people do leave and they decide that  
2 things are really good where they came from and they want  
3 to come back, they're coming back to those communities  
4 usually for the lifestyle, that's what's important to  
5 them, that's what they miss, that's why they want to come  
6 home. And I guess I think it's important that, you know,  
7 we try and maintain that lifestyle that people find so  
8 attractive out in these small communities, and that's a  
9 lot of the concerns that people have is just the  
10 lifestyle is changing.

11

12 But we all recognize that change happens,  
13 it's just kind of a part of life. Things will always be  
14 changing. I think what makes change a good thing and  
15 people accept change is when they feel they have some  
16 control how that change takes place.

17

18 And in these instances of these State  
19 land sales, I think what really bothers people the most  
20 is they don't feel they have control of what's happening  
21 in their communities.

22

23 This past week I was watching the  
24 television and I happen to turn on the State channel  
25 there and I caught the testimony before the House  
26 Resources Committee, and I listened to a lot of the  
27 testimony from the people in Southeast. And when people  
28 from the rural communities were testifying, the concerns  
29 always mentioned their subsistence lifestyle. And in any  
30 issue like this, when people from the rural communities  
31 have concerns, you will always hear subsistence being one  
32 of their concerns, you can't get away from it. Anything  
33 that happens in the communities, subsistence is what's  
34 most important to people, it's part of the lifestyle.

35

36 And I heard, particularly, our fellow  
37 community of Port Alexander, who we don't hear very much,  
38 they had quite a few people testifying before that House  
39 Committee, and a lot of their concerns were exactly what  
40 I was hearing from my neighbors in Point Baker and Port  
41 Protection.

42

43 So I guess what I'd like to say, you  
44 know, in talking about this whole issue of communities  
45 changing, no matter how much things do change there are  
46 some things that will always remain the same and those  
47 things that remain the same that are most important to us  
48 are our traditions and this Council exists to ensure the  
49 continuance of those traditions.

50

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1                   So for myself, talking to my neighbors, I  
2 really had no answers as to what I felt we could do to  
3 meet their concerns, things that happen with State lands  
4 aren't really our jurisdiction, but as you mentioned, Mr.  
5 Chairman, we are a forum for people to bring their  
6 concerns on any subsistence issue.

7  
8                   So I'd like to ask this Council for any  
9 help or advice that they could give to us as to how we  
10 may have some control over our future.

11  
12                   Thank you.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
15 Bangs.

16  
17                   MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Yes, my name is Michael Bangs here, I live in Petersburg.  
19 And as you can tell by just looking around that this is  
20 definitely a fishing village or a fishing town. And I've  
21 been really busy this winter myself because my fisheries  
22 happen in the winter while a lot of local people go on  
23 vacation and what not, I've been involved in the winter  
24 fisheries, sea cucumbers and gooey ducks, and trying to  
25 fit in the Unit 2 deer meetings in between.

26  
27                   But I'd like to reiterate some of the  
28 points that Mr. Hernandez pointed out that concerns the  
29 community, we're real concerned about the land sales as  
30 well, the Legislature kind of passing the buck so to  
31 speak on funding the University by giving them the land  
32 to take the burden of developing it and putting up with  
33 the outcries of the communities that are going to be  
34 affected. And I think all of our communities in  
35 Southeast are going to be impacted in one way or another  
36 if some of this goes through, but I don't know if there's  
37 an easy answer to that.

38  
39                   But on the up side, we had a tremendous  
40 deer hunting fall. A lot of people here in town had real  
41 good success deer hunting. And the prices of the  
42 fisheries that I participated in were real good. We  
43 found that our products were leaving the area without  
44 being processed so we formed a coop and got one of the  
45 local processors to custom process for us and marketed  
46 them ourselves and did very well that way.

47  
48                   And other than that the community just  
49 seems to be doing real well. I know there is a big  
50 concern over -- phone calls that I've received in the

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1 past month or two, and the issues that we're going to  
2 cover, the bear claw issue, and the issue of subsistence  
3 steelhead fishing. And those two, I'm sure there'll be  
4 some public testimony on because I know there's a big  
5 concern about those two issues.

6

7 And other than that I think that things  
8 have gone well here in our community and that's all I  
9 have.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Dr.  
14 Garza.

15

16 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,  
17 my name is Dolly Garza, born and raised in Ketchikan,  
18 living there now. I only have a couple issues for  
19 Ketchikan, one, of course, is the Unit 2 deer issue. It  
20 seems to be a long drawn out process. We held a Unit 2  
21 subcommittee meeting in Ketchikan which will be reported  
22 on later but the response from Ketchikan residents was  
23 phenomenal, flowing out the door in terms of getting in  
24 line and finding the time to testify so it will continue  
25 to be an issue that Ketchikan have some type of access to  
26 Prince of Wales Island.

27

28 One of the big issues that we will also  
29 be talking about is the 10 year review of urban versus  
30 rural. Ketchikan is technically an urban community.  
31 It's an unfortunate designation because it does cause the  
32 issues that we have on Unit 2 deer. However, I'm not  
33 sure that Ketchikan is unified in wishing to go forward  
34 as a rural community. There seems to be nobody in the  
35 community who is taking it forward. ANB has worked on it  
36 but they haven't been able to get the support from the  
37 city council, so I'm not sure what will happen along  
38 those lines.

39

40 One of the issues that we face in terms  
41 of Ketchikan proving that it is urban [sic] in the past,  
42 ADF&G subsistence studies have been highly relied upon,  
43 however, those studies are specifically to rural  
44 communities, and so the main source of research dollars  
45 to determine a pattern or use of a community is not  
46 available to urban communities, which excludes Ketchikan.

47

48 In terms of the halibut, we probably will  
49 talk about it again later. I know that Ketchikan, again,  
50 is urban so we were denied some of the opportunities that

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1 other communities have been afforded and have heard from  
2 Native and non-Native that Ketchikan should have the same  
3 opportunity as residents from other communities have, in  
4 terms of access to subsistence halibut.

5  
6 Separate from that, Mr. Chairman, I want  
7 to put in two plugs for my job. I do work for the  
8 University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program. Sunny Rice  
9 is the advisory agent here in Petersburg. Friday night  
10 we will be holding a seaweed identification and use  
11 workshop here and so I'll be staying another night and  
12 doing that workshop if you happen to be here Friday  
13 night, it should be a good workshop.

14  
15 Also we are doing the second round of  
16 trade adjustment assistance workshops for commercial  
17 salmon fishermen. If you applied last year you don't  
18 have to take the workshop this year, if you applied this  
19 year and you're new, you still don't have to take that  
20 workshop. Interestingly enough last year we had 4,500  
21 fishermen apply, this year we had under 2,000, and the  
22 number of fishermen that have to be trained in this cycle  
23 is like 300 statewide. So there's been a substantial  
24 drop in the interest in TA, and it's my understanding  
25 that the program is trying to figure out what was done  
26 wrong and how we can help commercial salmon fishermen  
27 because they obviously think that the TA is not doing  
28 what it was intended to do.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
33 Douville.

34  
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 My name is Mike Douville, and I am right in the middle of  
37 the U2 deer controversy. We have people out there who  
38 face competition from Ketchikan, and when the ferry runs  
39 maybe Petersburg and Wrangell. There are a few that say  
40 their needs are not being met as far as getting deer and  
41 they would like to see a higher limit on subsistence  
42 deer. And there's many of them that disagree with the  
43 State's going forward with the raising the fees for  
44 hunting licenses.

45  
46 But other than that, we've got business  
47 as usual.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

00039

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
2 Stokes.

3  
4 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last  
5 year we had a fairly successful sockeye season for the  
6 first time in about 60 years.

7  
8 I was a little concerned about some of  
9 the fishermen, especially the youngsters. Our river was  
10 extra high this year and it runs about 12 knots and they  
11 would tie both ends of the net -- or each skiff had a net  
12 tied to it and they'd drift down the main river, and if  
13 they ever hit a snag, you know, they'd have been gone in  
14 just two seconds, and I tried to tell them but they  
15 seemed to know what they were doing.

16  
17 (Laughter)

18  
19 MR. STOKES: And we're looking forward to  
20 the king salmon this year, and I believe that if the  
21 Council here hadn't pushed for the sockeye season the  
22 king salmon season wouldn't come about. But now they're  
23 going to have a commercial season on the mouth of the  
24 river and I'm looking forward to that.

25  
26 And one of the things that the Wrangell  
27 people are concerned about is the offshore farms that  
28 they're proposing. They're dead set against it and so am  
29 I.

30  
31 Outside of that I don't have anything  
32 else, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

35  
36 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Under  
37 Council member reports, one of the roles we have as  
38 Council members is to represent a region and I believe  
39 that this Council is working towards that. I believe  
40 sometimes -- I do know that when we do stand here and  
41 speak before this body that we do speak for our  
42 communities and there are issues that Southeast Alaska is  
43 an organization we should speak to.

44  
45 But to address community concerns, before  
46 I go to regional ones, Mr. Chairman, one of the documents  
47 that we have in our packet is the subsistence use amounts  
48 and I'd like all the Council members to start thinking  
49 about subsistence use amounts, about whether or not our  
50 needs are being met. And I can speak for Admiralty, the

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1 area that I live in. And when I speak to that, some of  
2 the ideas that I talk about that are successful is the  
3 January hunt, and without a January hunt I don't believe  
4 that we would be meeting our deer amounts, the one that's  
5 required to sustain us.

6

7                   And then from watching the fishery in  
8 Southeast Alaska, I noticed that coho stocks are real  
9 healthy. I know that as a RAC, that we have issues, very  
10 strong issues with sockeye. And as Mr. Bangs mentioned  
11 earlier, steelhead. For those of us that live in  
12 northern Southeast, we're not really affected by  
13 steelhead runs, I believe sockeye is our highest  
14 priority. We do have halibut regs that are helping us to  
15 meet our needs, and I'm glad to see that those kind of  
16 programs are in place, and I believe Mr. Turek is going  
17 to talk to that.

18

19                   I believe just from the fishery I'm  
20 involved in around Angoon, I believe our king salmon  
21 stocks are healthy and I'm glad to see that, to see our  
22 subsistence needs are being met. But for sockeye, I  
23 believe that sockeye is probably one of the ones that  
24 we're probably worrying about the most, probably not just  
25 in Angoon but everywhere else.

26

27                   And that's kind of speaking a little to  
28 Angoon but also a little bit for Southeast. One of the  
29 things I'm glad I talked about, I talked with Mike on the  
30 jet and I was kind of curious why we had no public  
31 comments and Mike said, maybe because everybody's happy  
32 with the way we're doing things, maybe we're making all  
33 the right moves and that's why there's no comments. And  
34 I believe maybe that might be why we're seeing no public  
35 comments.

36

37                   But I listened to the issue on the  
38 University lands, and I don't think that's going to go  
39 far -- in my opinion I think that's kind of becoming  
40 dead, but I think that is a body we should watch and make  
41 sure they don't affect the salmon streams and if there is  
42 some kind of designation occurring that we watch it and  
43 make sure that it doesn't affect the subsistence priority  
44 which is our highest priority as a body.

45

46                   I was involved in a meeting in December  
47 -- or November or December in Juneau, and one of the  
48 discussions that came up, and I know for a body that's  
49 involved in subsistence, I'm wondering if we're ever  
50 going to take a position that the Hoonah Indians have

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1 concerning Glacier Bay because I know we're charged with  
2 subsistence is being our highest priority and yet we  
3 don't seem to be helping our brothers to the north there,  
4 and I'm wondering, there has to be a way we can help the  
5 Hoonah people gain back their right to subsist in Glacier  
6 Bay, and I believe that that's what we're here for also.

7  
8                   So keep in mind that although we're  
9 helping people with their subsistence need there is a  
10 body of water that a Native people is not allowed to  
11 access and we need to support them and make that possible  
12 or we're not doing our job.

13  
14                   Thank you.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
17 Adams.

18  
19                   MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 Well, said Mr. Kookesh, particularly the idea that we  
21 need to assist Hoonah in regaining their subsistence  
22 rights in Glacier Bay. I just came back from a  
23 Subsistence Resource Commission last week and I got home  
24 and I had to take care of a whole bunch of business but  
25 yesterday I started writing out my report to the RAC, you  
26 know, about the meeting and I managed to finish it and  
27 then I emailed it to Mr. Schroeder and he hasn't been  
28 able to pick it up yet and I failed to make a copy of it,  
29 so hopefully we can make an attempt to get that and then  
30 I can give that report later on.

31  
32                   I think what I'd like to talk about a  
33 little bit more today is to give an update on what is  
34 happening with the Hubbard Glacier. As many of you know,  
35 the glacier has been threatening to close off the  
36 entrance of Russell Fjord. And scientists are saying  
37 that there will come a time when it will be permanently  
38 shut off and as a result of that, you know, when it's  
39 happened a couple times before the Russell Fjord would  
40 raise about 12 to 18 inches a day from the run off from  
41 the glaciers around it and eventually, you know, it would  
42 spill off on the other end and flood into the Situk River  
43 and would devastate and damage, you know, the fish  
44 habitat, particularly the steelhead and salmon habitat in  
45 the area in the river.

46  
47                   And so the community has been trying to  
48 address this in various ways. They've come up with ideas  
49 about if it ever closes off, you know, to drop a bomb  
50 there and open it up again, which we think is kind of

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1 outrageous, to causing a diversion to take it away from  
2 the flooding of the Situk River and into some of the  
3 Yakutat forelands towards Ahrnklin River.

4

5 But, you know, I'm the president of the  
6 tribal council, and we have a position, you know, just  
7 let it go and try to deal with the aftereffects of it.

8

9 And, you know, if it ever happens, it's  
10 going to take five, 10, 15 maybe even up to 20 years  
11 before the river rebuilds itself back into a productive  
12 river again. We've got to remember that this happened  
13 150 years ago, same thing, and it make the Situk River  
14 into what it is today one of the most productive  
15 steelhead and salmon rivers, you know, in all of the  
16 world. People from all over the world go there and use  
17 those resources. So the tribal position is to just let  
18 it go naturally and then try to deal with the  
19 aftereffects of it.

20

21 And how we wanted to do this was to do  
22 some research down in the Dry Bay area as far as, you  
23 know, building up the salmon stocks in those areas.  
24 Several years ago from the -- I'd say in the late 1980s  
25 and early 1900s -- 19 -1990s there was a tremendous  
26 amount of sockeye returning into the East Alsek River,  
27 and then all of a sudden there was a big crash and it got  
28 to a point where they closed it off commercially for  
29 many, many years. And so the tribe and some other  
30 organizations in the community such as the Forest  
31 Service, National Park Service, village corporation began  
32 to have meetings to try to figure out how we were going  
33 to look at that system and do any rebuilding or find out  
34 what's wrong and try to fix it. We submitted a TEK  
35 project, and we hired an anthropologist, who is a tribal  
36 member to do the TEK project. And the whole idea, and I  
37 think you probably remember, members of the Council, have  
38 heard me speak on this issue before, the whole idea was  
39 to document the way that our people managed our  
40 resources, you know, many, many years ago because we did  
41 have ways and means of managing our resources, and the  
42 Dry Bay area, particularly, used to provide fish and game  
43 for hundreds and hundreds of people. You had six or  
44 seven tribal houses there and, you know, each tribal  
45 house had 50 or 60 people in it so you're talking 500  
46 people that used to live off of those resources, yet  
47 today it's not capable of handling 100 people.

48

49 Some of the things that have happened is  
50 the State has gone in there and done some projects in the

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1 East Alsek River and we've seen the sockeyes begin to  
2 return up to the point where there was a healthy  
3 escapement last year and then they opened it up for  
4 commercial fishing. The other areas, as well, the  
5 AcqwaItalia River, the sockeye returns have been pretty  
6 healthy there. The Ahrnklin River is a muddy river and  
7 they've figured out how they can monitor amount of fish  
8 going in there by doing what is called a tag and --  
9 catch, tag and recatch program where they would seine,  
10 you know, fish coming into the river or down below and  
11 then they would tag them and then they would try to catch  
12 them again up the river and that is supposed to give them  
13 a pretty good indication of escapement and so forth, and  
14 we see where the sockeye have been returning pretty  
15 healthy in that river as well.

16

17                   So this is the concern of the tribal  
18 council is when the Situk River, you know, is destroyed  
19 by the flooding, where are we going to go for our future  
20 subsistence resources, and the building up of those  
21 rivers is, you know, really important to us.

22

23                   So we're working on continuing to monitor  
24 those rivers and it looks like they're become pretty  
25 productive for us.

26

27                   I don't have anything else, Mr. Chairman,  
28 I just wanted to share that with you and then hopefully  
29 be able to share the Subsistence Resource Commission  
30 Report with you later on.

31

32                   Thank you.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

35

36                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 Harvey Kitka from Sitka, and I wanted to talk a little  
38 bit about the community of Sitka and that one of the big  
39 things this past year was probably the halibut, and we  
40 had meetings in Sitka with the North Pacific, we had  
41 great deal of discussions on what we wanted them to do  
42 and how we wanted to protect our fishery. We wanted some  
43 things and we lost a bit but we got some stuff back, if  
44 you look at it one way. One way was allowing all of  
45 Southeast to get 20 fish a day, and allowing the  
46 community educational harvest permits.

47

48                   And another thing is, one of our concerns  
49 is the herring, which is a yearly thing, it's one of our  
50 concerns. The stocks, even though they say they're

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1 healthy, the amount of whales out in the bay now are  
2 feeding and we have no idea whether they take into  
3 consideration how much they take in per day.

4

5 Another concern is the rural status of  
6 Sitka which is going to come due this year. And also the  
7 road system which is being proposed and like everybody  
8 else, University of Alaska land selections.

9

10 That's all I have.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
13 Sofoulis.

14

15 MR. SOFOULIS: Thank you. I'm Mike  
16 Sofoulis, I'm from Juneau so I don't have a whole lot to  
17 report, Juneau not being a rural community. But I do  
18 know that the halibut fishermen that are partaking into  
19 the subsistence halibut around there are happy to be  
20 doing so and there's quite a few people partaking in  
21 that.

22

23 I also have to mirror Mr. Kookesh's  
24 concern for Hoonah and their subsistence rights in  
25 Glacier Bay that they've been denied for quite awhile. I  
26 hear a lot of talk about being from that part of the  
27 world and of course you all know I have concerns with  
28 subsistence brown bear and it's only mainly a management  
29 concern and I think that if, in the future, if we're  
30 careful we could manage this to where it wouldn't get out  
31 of hand and we wouldn't actually promote any poaching,  
32 and I don't think that's going to happen, but we'll get  
33 into that later.

34

35 That's all I have, thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. I  
38 wanted to touch on a few things that several Council  
39 members have talked about and that's the Hoonah Indian  
40 Association and the Glacier Bay use. I took this upon  
41 myself a couple years ago after listening to David Belton  
42 at one of his first meetings asking me whether we could  
43 do something for them in Glacier Bay and I told him we  
44 could try. And when I researched that I found in the  
45 Congressional record a speech, a paper, presented by the  
46 Hoonah Indian Association in which they stated that they  
47 do not want ANILCA protection for Glacier Bay. So based  
48 upon that and doing some checking with the tribe and  
49 David, being a new employee didn't know that was the  
50 position of the tribe, I backed off of that, and unless

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1 the tribe -- personally, unless the tribe wants us to go  
2 forward on that, I think I'd be reluctant to do so over  
3 their objections.

4

5                   So that's the information I have on that,  
6 maybe there's some new stuff developing, but it's  
7 certainly something we should ask the Hoonah Indian  
8 Association. I believe it would be to their advantage to  
9 do so, there's a personal use fishery in there right now,  
10 there's a sportfishery in there now, but there's no  
11 subsistence, and I think that's wrong. But because they  
12 are the people with the customary and traditional use,  
13 the predominate customary and traditional use, I think we  
14 should ask their permission. And I certainly will be  
15 willing to do that and ask them if they want us to give  
16 them a hand, because I think we can. We have that  
17 ability to do that, but without them we won't go  
18 anywhere.

19

20

21                   And then on Sitka most of those items  
22 have been covered. Under rural determination, the city  
23 and borough of Sitka will be having a meeting tonight at  
24 which time I suspect they will pass the rural  
25 determination request for the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 7-0, I think it's unanimous. And that request is stating  
27 Sitka's desire to be included in the rural program and  
28 also requesting the Federal Subsistence Board to hold  
29 hearings in that community and in any other community  
30 over 7,000 that desires to be -- that has to prove their  
31 bonifide's here as customary and traditional communities  
32 before the initial review comes out. So the local Fish  
33 and Game Advisory Committee has already submitted a  
34 letter requesting that, and that's on the web page at  
35 this time, the last time I looked there were two comments  
36 that were submitted on the review process, and Sitka's  
37 will go in probably this week.

38

39                   License fees, the State Fish and Game,  
40 both Departments Fish and Sportfish as well as Game came  
41 to Sitka and received a less than enthusiastic welcome,  
42 I'll put it that way.

43

44                   (Laughter)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah. They were  
47 basically -- well, they weren't run out of town on a rail  
48 but they had no support there. And the part of the  
49 reason of that is Sitka has a very vibrant hatchery as  
50 well as other resources there and they get zero money

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1 from the State with the exception of funding a trout  
2 derby for children in Swan Lake. And to raise their fees  
3 was kind of an affront to all that I spoke to.

4

5                   Also we'll talk about this a little  
6 later, the doubling of fees of residents and not doing  
7 the same for non-residents didn't go over well.

8

9                   So of course, you saw a lot of testimony  
10 if you watched House Bill 130, but you saw people, a  
11 whole bunch of them from Warm Springs Bay and as Mr.  
12 Hernandez said, there was three or four of them from Port  
13 Armstrong and Port Conclusion, that area, but no one from  
14 Sitka testified even though they signed up and they were  
15 there, I was there at the meeting and so there was a lot  
16 of people on line that never got a chance to testify and  
17 I suspect they will.

18

19                   One of the things that was brought up to  
20 me was the Forest Service road management, which, of  
21 course, we can't handle that but some of the people are  
22 concerned that the Forest Service said they weren't going  
23 to maintain any roads and perhaps if some Staff member  
24 could comment on that, because of lack of funds, that  
25 they were just going to bull doze out, you know, some of  
26 the roads so that the ATVs couldn't get through anymore.  
27 And I told them I would try to find out. I know that's  
28 outside of our purview, but if the Forest Service could  
29 respond to that, it's appreciated.

30

31                   This year we're going to be looking at  
32 possible closures at Salmon Lake sockeye, and coho  
33 because there's a lot of pressure on those fish. They  
34 have to run a gauntlet from out in the ocean right  
35 through some of the heaviest fishing in Southeast, and  
36 they have not been doing extraordinary. At the same time  
37 we're going to be having probably a weak run at Redoubt  
38 where we've had good success the last two years, but this  
39 year is going to be our returns where we only had a  
40 couple thousand fish. So we're looking at some possible  
41 restrictions on sockeye there and that, of course, gets  
42 everybody excited.

43

44                   And as Mr. Kitka and others have spoke,  
45 DNR lands and the Rodner Bay lands are on the agenda at  
46 most every meeting that I've been to lately.

47

48                   So I guess that's all I have on those and  
49 I'll make a note for those that brought up the Hoonah,  
50 I'll talk to those people and see if there's anything we

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1 can do about helping them out.

2

3

4 So at this time we're on Item 8 and a  
5 half and 8 and a half was basically to accommodate Staff  
6 that had anything that they wanted to add at this time  
7 that are not on the agenda. Under Item 14 we have quit a  
8 few items that hopefully we'll cover all of these issues  
9 and under Item 14, I think the discussion of marine  
10 waters that we talked about, request for information  
11 earlier, should be on A2 so that we talk about all that  
12 marine waters at one time and don't separate them.

12

13 The hunting license fees as well as the  
14 proposal that Wanda Culp put forward probably should be  
15 in there on 5 so that we discuss those issues all at the  
16 same time.

17

18 I have several corrections on WP05-01, it  
19 lists Dave Johnson as the presenter and actually I've  
20 learned that the presenter there will be Dr. Polly  
21 Wheeler from Anchorage OSM so if you'll put in her name  
22 there. Also on the next page under B, the Forest Service  
23 Law Enforcement Report 2004 as well as priorities shows  
24 Marty Myers, Mary is not here at this meeting, Mr. Ken  
25 Pearson will be making those presentations. So at this  
26 time if there are any members of the Staff or others who  
27 would like to make a presentation on items that are not  
28 on the agenda or they will have to leave, now is the time  
29 to claim your time.

30

31 Kurt.

32

33 And, again, for the record, could you  
34 please state your name before you start or I'll get in  
35 big trouble.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Really.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Can you see that  
45 in the back -- okay, let's run with it there.

46

47 MR. ALUZAS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. Members  
48 of the Council. My name is Kurt Aluzas. I'm a wildlife  
49 biologist with the Forest Service in Wrangell. And I  
50 wanted to talk today briefly about the check stations

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1 that we did in Unit 3 this past hunting season.

2

3

4 For two reasons, number 1, this is kind  
5 of a holdover from some of the proposals that came up  
6 last year during the regulatory cycle in terms of some of  
7 the issues that came up that we wanted to address using  
8 this technique and additionally, you know, there's a  
9 possibility that this same approach could be used or  
10 adopted, modified to perhaps gather some information for  
11 the Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee.

11

12

13 The area we're talking about are both  
14 Mitkof and Zarembo Islands here in Unit 3. And the  
15 rationale behind this were that, again, we did have some  
16 issues the last few years kind of on both sides of the  
17 coin that were driving some regulatory proposals for both  
18 Mitkof and Zarembo, looking at concerns over deer harvest  
19 whether there was too much or perhaps too little,  
20 depending on who it was coming from.

20

21

22 One of the things that was proposed at  
23 that time, at least last year, was the idea of using  
24 antler restrictions to address the issue, or the concern  
25 of overharvest of the yearling age class of deer so we  
26 wanted to look at that. And because we have pretty  
27 limited access points on Zarembo and Mitkof, you know,  
28 one or two roads we're able to put a station on it makes  
29 it real easy to cover those areas so it makes it a pretty  
30 efficient approach.

30

31

32 Okay, our objectives again, we're  
33 primarily looking at the age structure of the harvest,  
34 how many fawns, yearlings and adults we have in the  
35 harvest, and whether or not there's any relationship  
36 between the antler structure of the deer and the  
37 indicated age of the animal and some other basic  
38 biological and subsistence information which I'll  
39 probably skip over in the interest of time right now, but  
40 if there's interest on behalf of the Council, I can give  
41 you more information on that later.

41

42

43 Looking at this as a pilot study,  
44 something we wanted to get started this year but try to  
45 refine for future reference and perhaps for efforts  
46 elsewhere on the Tongass. This was voluntary on the part  
47 of the public, we did not require people to stop, we  
48 didn't have the authority to do that and we weren't  
49 checking tags or anything so it was really trying to get  
50 people to be in the spirit of helping out with this  
51 effort, so another part of doing that was that we

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1 prioritized the type of information we got. We didn't  
2 ask a whole bunch of long winded questions, we tried to  
3 really cut to the quick of what it was that we wanted to  
4 gather, and, again, focusing on age information, antler  
5 configuration, as well as gathering other information  
6 that could be then later used to identify trends.

7  
8                   We set up check stations on Zarembo as  
9 well as Mitkof, and on Zarembo we staffed a period on  
10 kind of both sides of the rut so we could pick up that  
11 heavy harvest. We weren't out there continuously, mostly  
12 on the weekends. And on Mitkof they staffed the weekends  
13 during pretty much the whole season for the rifle season.

14  
15                   We estimated the age of the harvest of  
16 deer two ways. The first way was a field method where we  
17 looked at the number and type of teeth that were in the  
18 jaw of the deer to give us a rough break down of whether  
19 it was a fawn, yearling or an adult deer, and that was  
20 predominately to give us some immediate feedback so that  
21 we could tell the hunters right away and also for the  
22 proposal cycle we'd have some information if it comes up  
23 again. And the second way was to pull teeth, the two  
24 front incisors and send them off to the lab where they  
25 are sectioned and stained and then they count the rings  
26 on the teeth, much like you would could tree rings and  
27 they call that the cementum-annuli process, and that  
28 gives us a real accurate age count, and it would be  
29 especially important for the adult age class where we  
30 find out if it's a two and a half, three and a half, four  
31 and a half and so forth, year old deer. Antler  
32 information on the points and also diameter and other  
33 things that might indicate the general nutrition of area  
34 and then some other questions about residency,  
35 subsistence needs, and other things.

36  
37                   Again, here's just a picture showing the  
38 jaws that we used looking at the number of teeth present.  
39 We looked at the number of premolars and molars and that,  
40 again, let us break it down into whether it was a fawn, a  
41 yearling or an adult.

42  
43                   For our efforts we sampled 92 deer on  
44 Zarembo, 28 on Mitkof and we also had some deer come in  
45 incidentally to the Wrangell Ranger District Office from  
46 folks that just brought them by that we were able to  
47 sample from north end of Edland and a couple from  
48 Wrangell.

49  
50                   On Zarembo, in terms of our field aging

00050

1 techniques, our preliminary results on that, until we get  
2 our cementum-annuli results back, we had no fawns in the  
3 harvest, just a handful of yearlings, seven percent, and  
4 the majority were adult deer that were at least two and a  
5 half years old and that's how I'm defining an adult deer.  
6 So 93 percent of them were adult deer. And, again, I  
7 don't foresee that those numbers will change between  
8 those categories much, if at all, when we get our results  
9 back from the lab but we'll get probably more fine-  
10 grained information on the breakdown of the adult age  
11 class in terms of, again, whether two and a half versus  
12 three and a half, four and a half and so forth.

13

14 Antlers show some general similarities  
15 but a few differences between the two islands. On  
16 Zarembo, quite a number of two-point or forked horn deer,  
17 and on Mitkof a few more three-points. And the only  
18 reason we really look at this antler information, and  
19 we're not out in subsistence management to manage for  
20 trophy deer but antlers are a good indication of the  
21 nutritional status as well as the genetics of the  
22 population so that can give us some indication that way.  
23 You can see there's a few more three-points on Mitkof and  
24 also perhaps coincidentally or not, the Mitkof deer also  
25 had a little heavier field dressed weights as well.

26

27 Breaking this down by age, again, we  
28 didn't have very many yearling deer that we sampled on  
29 Zarembo but if you look at the adult deer, those two and  
30 a half and older, you'll see that there were quite a  
31 number of one and two-point deer that were in that adult  
32 age class and that was a surprise to a lot of folks,  
33 because I think when they brought in these deer that had  
34 spikes or forks they thought for sure it was a yearling  
35 and it turned out that wasn't the case, and so that was a  
36 valuable piece of information.

37

38 We did ask about whether or not their  
39 subsistence needs had been met the prior year and 83  
40 percent of Zarembo hunters that we asked this of had  
41 indicated that it had been met and 17 percent indicated  
42 not. A little different on Mitkof where only 40 percent  
43 said yes and 60 percent said their needs had not been met  
44 in 2003, and some of that is intuitive, I think, because  
45 of the difference in the season lengths and the bag limit  
46 on Mitkof may be part of the reason for that. And these  
47 are, you know, these are one set of data that we got this  
48 past year, so I think that will be a piece of information  
49 that would be important to track over time to make sure  
50 that issue is not coming up over and over.

00051

1                   Okay, again, the yearling harvest was  
2 pretty low, fawn harvest was non-existent, but that's not  
3 to say that it isn't occurring earlier in the season. We  
4 sampled during the rut and by then, you know, most of  
5 those deer may have already been harvested, for example,  
6 the first couple of weeks of August. So I'd caution that  
7 that doesn't mean that they're not being harvested.

8  
9                   Based on the information from Zarembo, it  
10 seems to indicate that antler configuration is not a good  
11 way to predict whether or not you've got a yearling or  
12 not, which is a concern if you're trying to protect that  
13 age class. And, again, we'll get more fine-tuned age  
14 information when we get our lab results back which may be  
15 probably a couple more months. And our plans are to  
16 repeat these efforts in 2005, beginning in August on  
17 Zarembo and our hopes are to sample across the whole  
18 season so that we get a better idea of not only increased  
19 sample numbers but also a better idea of how the age  
20 structure of the harvest is changing across the season.  
21 Like I mentioned, probably the fawns and yearlings are  
22 being harvested the first few weeks most heavily.

23  
24                   The bottom line, again, I think this was  
25 some pretty good information. The first time we've done  
26 this on Zarembo and it had been quite a few years since  
27 they'd done this on Mitkof. It gives us some information  
28 that allows us to track some of these things over time in  
29 subsequent years and see how they change. And it also  
30 allows us to refine our efforts for this upcoming year  
31 and for wherever else we might do this. Because we did  
32 learn that you really have to approach this situation  
33 differently, depending on whether its Mitkof versus  
34 Zarembo versus Prince of Wales Island.

35  
36                   We had wonderful public participation,  
37 and that was a real side benefit of getting people  
38 involved in this effort. People were very excited about  
39 hearing what we had to say and learning the process of  
40 what we were doing. And any time the public is involved  
41 in these kinds of issues is a real good thing.

42  
43                   And, again, although we were not out  
44 there to be a law enforcement presence, formally, just  
45 the fact that we were out there even, I think, indirectly  
46 might have discouraged some of the more blatant type of  
47 activity to some extent. We know that some night  
48 hunting, I'm sure still went on but it certainly seemed,  
49 from what we heard from other folks, be reduced when we  
50 were out there.

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1                   The next step is to -- I want to get back  
2 to the public on this, I think it's real important to  
3 keep the public involved in this so that we can continue  
4 to get good voluntary support. Make sure that they  
5 understand that this information is being used and it  
6 doesn't just go into a black hole somewhere.

7  
8                   I mentioned at the Unit 2 Deer  
9 Subcommittee meeting in Wrangell that if they thought it  
10 would be helpful, I'd be more than helpful to provide a  
11 copy of this report just to look at and see if there's  
12 any similarities in this type of approach that you might  
13 want to use for information gathering for that effort.  
14 And, again, we'll be getting the results back from the  
15 lab probably early summer and incorporate those  
16 informations into the report.

17  
18                   And this is kind of an iterative process  
19 where we want to continue to receive input and refine the  
20 efforts and look at gearing it toward whatever  
21 information needs we think we can get out there. Because  
22 as we all know there's a million information needs for  
23 deer and as an example, one of the things that Fish and  
24 Game recently mentioned is asking if we might be able to  
25 collect a few heads because down south you've probably  
26 heard that there's a big problem with chronic wasting  
27 disease, it's a disease that affects deer in the Lower  
28 48. Well, if we can do some testing up here, we can find  
29 out if we already have it and get a jump on it if we do.  
30 So we'll probably incorporate that into our efforts.

31  
32                   And also if the Council has any concerns,  
33 knowing about the issues that are before you related to  
34 deer in general that we might be able to address and  
35 incorporate into our efforts then we'd be more than happy  
36 to discuss that as well.

37  
38                   And then the bottom line it's just  
39 leading toward starting up these efforts again this  
40 coming August.

41  
42                   So basically this was a team effort in  
43 every sense of the word, between Forest Service folks,  
44 Fish and Game folks who are the ones that are paying for  
45 the lab analysis and did the press releases, little  
46 things like the fact that it was an election year and for  
47 us, the Forest Service, to put out a press release, it  
48 had to go all the way to Washington, whereas I could just  
49 send it over to Rich here in Petersburg and he had it  
50 done in an afternoon, so that's team effort and it really

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1 helps out. And it was also helpful to have the Councils  
2 support on this effort going into this past season  
3 because it helped us prioritize that on our end of things  
4 in terms of the budget, and bottom line is really having  
5 the public behind this effort and participating in it is  
6 really what helps this kind of effort get off the ground  
7 and continue to succeed.

8

9 I know I kind of breezed through that  
10 real quick, but -- and I can provide again, additional  
11 information if you'd like, so if there's any questions  
12 from the Council I'd be more than happy to entertain  
13 them.

14

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any Council.

15

MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.

16

17

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.

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19

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CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up, and

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1 then Mr. Bangs.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: It's interesting that they  
4 would find their needs are being met and I find it  
5 difficult to believe unless they're supplementing with a  
6 higher limit than what you're seeing. Because in Unit 2  
7 some of the people, they say their needs are not being  
8 met with four and they want a higher number, so maybe  
9 they eat more meat out there or whatever. See what I'm  
10 saying?

11

12 MR. ALUZAS: Sure.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: All right, thank you.

15

16 MR. ALUZAS: Yeah, and recognize, too,  
17 some of that could be -- there's a high presence of some  
18 designator hunter and other activities going on on  
19 Zarembo which are perhaps providing those additional deer  
20 that may be helping with that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

23

24 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 Kurt, I know from the experience of living here and the  
26 adjacent island of Kupreanof, that after all these years  
27 of being limited to just a two week hunting season on  
28 Mitkof and Lindenberg Peninsula, which is this -- for  
29 those of you who don't know, Kupreanof, there's a  
30 peninsula that goes right across the narrows and the last  
31 two years it's been open for the entire season. And I  
32 think Rich can attest to this, that I was wondering if  
33 there was data collected on how many deer were taken or  
34 just an estimate because I know there's just been a  
35 tremendous amount of deer taken off that peninsula with  
36 that extended season going into the rut. And I think  
37 that may have played a big part into people being able to  
38 supplement their needs, you know, because of the short  
39 season on Mitkof and the inaccessible, to some people to  
40 get to Zarembo, that Kupreanof played a big part in the  
41 last couple years. And I just wondered if there was any  
42 data that was gathered from the hunting gone on over  
43 there.

44

45

46 MR. ALUZAS: I'm getting an indication  
47 from Rich that that perhaps does not exist at least too  
48 readily at this time. The hunter survey estimates from  
49 past season that Fish and Game puts out won't be  
50 available for probably another, oh, few months, and I'd

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1 have to consult with Rich to see how they break it out,  
2 if they could fine tune it on that basis.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council,  
5 comments, input.

6

7 Dr. Garza.

8

9 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it  
10 sounded like you got fairly good response on this. Do  
11 you have any idea of whether or not that included the  
12 several individuals that may have been harvesting a  
13 number of deer for other people, either through Federal  
14 or State process?

15

16 MR. ALUZAS: Absolutely. We had -- and  
17 again we had to kind of play this very sensitively  
18 because we were trying not to scare people off in terms  
19 of that we didn't check tags to make sure they had those  
20 permits. But just looking in our data base, there were  
21 people that came through with four or five, six deer, you  
22 know, at times, and there were some that came through in  
23 parties of two and three folks that had, you know, 10  
24 deer between them but you know that they were getting  
25 over their regular limit so they had to have been legally  
26 -- they would have had to have been hunting under the  
27 Federal system or, you know, even the State system to  
28 some extent, but most likely the Federal system. And,  
29 you know, I didn't go back and check, on the ones that  
30 did provide personal information, we could probably go  
31 back and cross reference to see if they gave, you know,  
32 Mr. Brainard, you know, the proper permits and so forth  
33 that he would hold on that end, but we do know that at  
34 least some of those are people that are harvesting on  
35 Zarembo multiple deer.

36

37 MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.

40

41 MR. STOKES: Kurt, it seems like the  
42 government could afford better protection for you out  
43 there instead of sitting out there in the wind and the  
44 rain, you know, you can get a good wall tent and when we  
45 come in to check you could give us some hot coffee  
46 instead of offering your thermos bottle.

47

48 MR. ALUZAS: I agree and I support that  
49 100 percent.

50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thanks. That was  
8 a great report and I think the Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee  
9 can certainly use that information as well as the RAC.

10

11 MR. ALUZAS: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
14 other members of Staff present that are not on the  
15 agenda? Mr. Casipit.

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Like you had mentioned before I think most of the  
19 fisheries issues are covered in topics further on the  
20 agenda. However, I did want to mention some of the  
21 consultation meetings that will be going on here  
22 hopefully in the next couple weeks over systems that will  
23 -- steelhead and trout systems that will receive special  
24 protection as well as the permit conditions that will go  
25 on the permit for those fisheries. As you know, there  
26 are three fisheries in Southeast, Prince of Wales  
27 steelhead, Southeast, other than Prince of Wales  
28 steelhead, and then trout throughout Southeast.

29

30 We got word a couple weeks ago that the  
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game can't consult with us  
32 until they've had some meetings among themselves to  
33 decide how they're going to approach this issue of  
34 consultation, and until that happens, we're really not in  
35 a position to consult and to work out what's going to be  
36 on these permits, but hopefully we will. And Council  
37 members should be getting calls from their local Federal  
38 fisheries managers here soon to start those  
39 consultations. Right now, we had a preliminary meeting  
40 for Prince of Wales but we didn't have, as you know, Mr.  
41 Chairman, we didn't have Fish and Game on the phone so we  
42 weren't able to fully carry out that part of the  
43 regulation as of yet but we're hoping to.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any questions from  
46 the Council for Mr. Casipit.

47

48 Mr. Jordan first, and then Dr. Garza.

49

50 MR. JORDAN: I yield to Dr. Garza.

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You can't, you're  
2 first.

3

4 MR. JORDAN: No, Dr. Garza.

5

6 DR. GARZA: It's only because I'm cute.  
7 Question, Cal, so when those meetings are ongoing,  
8 whether or not they include ADF&G, will there be an  
9 opportunity for Council members that are closer to  
10 participate?

11

12 MR. CASIPIT: Correct. The local Federal  
13 manager should be contacting you with dates and times for  
14 -- and phone in numbers for you guys to participate,  
15 we're just not there yet because of where Fish and Game  
16 is.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

19

20 MR. JORDAN: My question has been  
21 covered.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just for the  
24 record I participate in that meeting and we made some  
25 progress, but we obviously can't consult with someone  
26 that's not there. But the effort was made to let them  
27 know that we had to go through with the program and at  
28 least it can't be held hostage just because they don't  
29 show up. So it's my wish and I hope they do show up  
30 because these programs are going forward.

31

32 Any other questions for Staff.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Staff  
37 that would like to add anything at this time.

38

39 Mr. Johnson.

40

41 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, just a  
42 comment on an upcoming conference. I think most folks  
43 know that 2005 marks the 25th anniversary of ANILCA and  
44 President Jimmy Carter is a keynote speaker for a  
45 conference to be held July 6th and 7th in Anchorage. And  
46 one of the sections, tracts in that conference is titled,  
47 ANILCA today, Key Legal Provisions and Challenges, and  
48 the former solicitor U.S. Department Interior Professor  
49 Hastings College of Law John Leshe will be one of the  
50 keynote speakers. It may be something that the Council

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1 may want to have someone there for that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We've been invited  
4 to a tea and also to go see President Carter, but  
5 somebody needs to pay these poor volunteers way.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Staff.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we're back  
14 to Item 9, and this is public testimony -- excuse me.

15

16 DR. SCHROEDER: Jim.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, please, Mr.  
19 Brainard, please come forward.

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Adams.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

24

25 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I need to  
26 excuse myself for a few minutes, I've got a couple of  
27 important telephone calls to make but I promise to be  
28 right back.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Right back, okay.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: For the record,  
35 could you please introduce yourself.

36

37 MR. LOWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Members  
38 of the Council. My name is Richard Lowell, I'm the area  
39 biologist for the Department of Fish and Game here in  
40 Petersburg. And my colleagues with the Forest Service  
41 and I would like to talk to you a little bit about goat  
42 management here on the Unit 1(B) mainland.

43

44 We work cooperatively to manage this goat  
45 herd over here and as I'm sure you're all aware we had to  
46 issue an emergency order closing the goat season in a  
47 portion of registration hunt RG004, and we thought it  
48 would be prudent to come before this body and share with  
49 you our rationale for that closure and to reassure you  
50 that we are taking steps that will hopefully alleviate

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1 the need to issue similar emergency orders in the future.

2

3

4 First I would like to acknowledge that I  
5 do receive excellent cooperation from the Forest Service  
6 and that would be both the Petersburg Ranger Districts  
7 and the Wrangell Ranger Districts. We work very closely  
8 together. I enjoy an excellent rapport and I feel that  
9 we are able to manage the wildlife in the region, not  
10 just goats but all of the species we manage quite  
11 effectively.

11

12

13 As I said before, we had to issue an  
14 emergency order closing the goat season in LeConte Bay.  
15 LeConte Bay because of its proximity to Petersburg is, as  
16 you might imagine, quite popular with local resident  
17 hunters as well as non-residents and non-local Alaska  
18 residents. The Department manages goats based on a  
19 points system which springboards off of our aerial survey  
20 counts. For every 100 goats observed, we issue six goat  
21 points, so effectively our allowable harvest is six  
22 percent of the total population. Billies count as one  
23 point, nannies count as two points because of the  
24 reproductive potential of females, they weigh more  
25 heavily in our pointing system.

25

26

27 During the latter part of -- the late  
28 season last year, right around Thanksgiving, a total of  
29 seven goats had been harvested in LeConte Bay. Based on  
30 our aerial survey counts, we felt that that was the point  
31 at which we should close the season. I'd like to  
32 emphasize to this body that this does not signify a  
33 conservation problem with goats in our RG004 hunt, goat  
34 populations except in rare isolated areas are stable, or  
35 at carrying capacity so this didn't reflect the fact that  
36 we had a declining population in LeConte Bay that we  
37 needed to close the season, this was just a simple matter  
38 of based on the number of goats we observed, the number  
39 of goats that had been harvested, that it would be  
40 prudent to implement emergency closures to avoid the  
41 possibility of a future conservation crises. So that, in  
42 a nutshell is the impetus of our action there.

42

43

44 Now, I should point out while this  
45 obviously was of some inconvenience to subsistence users,  
46 local residents, we don't feel that it was a major  
47 impediment because Thomas Bay and the vast majority of  
48 the RG004 hunt area remained open during this period,  
49 rather than going 14 miles to the south to hunt goats,  
50 locals could go 14 miles to north and hunt healthy goat  
51 populations in Thomas Bay where the season remained open.

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1                   Nonetheless, both the Forest Service and  
2 Fish and Game are committed to finding a resolution to  
3 this, something that would ensure that the rights of  
4 subsistence users to access goats is not infringed upon,  
5 and we'll have to work with some method to limit non-  
6 resident and non-local resident use of these animals to  
7 make that happen, and we are working cooperatively on  
8 that. We have a couple of ideas that we are working on  
9 to see if we can allocate a percentage of the allowable  
10 points for a specific geographic areas to non-residents  
11 and non-locals while preserving the opportunity for  
12 locals to access this goat herd.

13  
14                   Just as a rough overview, the harvest  
15 levels for this hunt are actually quite flat. For over  
16 10 years now the harvest has remained relatively stable  
17 at 20 goats annually. What we have seen is some change  
18 in the allocation of those goats. We've seen increase in  
19 guided non-resident participation. But I will remind  
20 that body that these guides are local residents, they are  
21 all -- those guides operating in RG004 on the mainland  
22 are all residents of Petersburg. The revenue they  
23 generate does contribute to the economy of Petersburg.  
24 Nonetheless, we are committed to finding some way of  
25 dispersing the harvest more evenly across the landscape.  
26 Our problem isn't that we're harvesting too many goats  
27 overall, it's that because of access reason we tend to  
28 concentrate the harvest in certain isolated areas, for  
29 example, LeConte Bay, Thomas Bay, which is just a short  
30 distance across the water from Petersburg, so for that  
31 reason they're similarly popular with our local resident  
32 hunters as well.

33  
34                   Unless my colleagues have anything to  
35 add, I would certainly be willing to answer any questions  
36 you might have. Again, our reason for appearing before  
37 this body is simply to let you folks know that we are  
38 actively working on this situation and we are aware that  
39 it is obviously of concern to this body. And therefore  
40 we are just here to let you know we are working towards a  
41 solution and to take any questions you might have.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You want to go,  
44 okay, Mr. Stokes.

45  
46                   MR. STOKES: What did you say the average  
47 number of animals were on the hill?

48  
49                   MR. LOWELL: Council member Stokes the  
50 average harvest in the portion of Unit 1(B) that's

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1 managed under RG004, and that is from Bradfield Canal  
2 northward to Cape Fanshaw is 20 goats annually. That's  
3 the average take.

4

5 MR. STOKES: Well, is that on the Thunder  
6 Ridge side or across the glacier?

7

8 MR. LOWELL: Well, through the Chair,  
9 it's both sides. It is.....

10

11 MR. STOKES: That took in both?

12

13 MR. LOWELL: I'm a little uncertain  
14 Hungry Ridge, can you refresh my memory, is that the  
15 Stikine?

16

17 MR. STOKES: Well, yeah -- no, when you  
18 go up Thunder Ridge, on that side, how many goats are on  
19 that.....

20

21 MR. LOWELL: Well, based on my aerial  
22 surveys north of LeConte Bay through Thunder Mountain and  
23 Horn Cliffs, I've counted as many as 110 goats there.  
24 Now, that is based on the numbers that I actually see  
25 from the airplane and it's a safe bet to say that I don't  
26 see every single goat that's there. Those of you that  
27 are familiar with goat aerial surveys, sightability is a  
28 problem. If the goats are down in the timber, and at  
29 this point we don't have a correction factor that might  
30 say that on this day at this time when you're flying your  
31 surveys you're apt to see 80 percent of the goats or 40  
32 percent of the goats. So I manage for whatever I see on  
33 those aerial surveys, and it's safe to say that's a  
34 conservative estimate.

35

36 MR. STOKES: How about the across the  
37 face of the glacier in the valley in there, how many  
38 goats are in that area?

39

40 MR. LOWELL: Member Stokes, you've caught  
41 me a little off balance here, I didn't bring my survey  
42 numbers with me. When we wrote the emergency order for  
43 LeConte Bay, which included both sides of the drainage,  
44 extending from, oh, about Japt (ph) Creek at the mouth of  
45 LeConte Bay on the north, around to Kakwan Point on the  
46 Stikine, we had 109 goats that I based the point system  
47 on.

48

49 MR. STOKES: Well, they haven't changed  
50 much in the last 30 years, they're pretty stable.

00062

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. LOWELL: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I have Dr.  
6 Garza and then Mr. Bangs, but before we do that I'd like  
7 to recognize our new member who attended, Ms. Phillips,  
8 we welcome you here. It's always a chore to get her here  
9 from Pelican and I'm glad she made it earlier than she  
10 normally does sometimes.

11

12 So what we've done is we're on 8 and a  
13 half right now, and I'd like to give you the opportunity  
14 when we finish this discussion to go through your Council  
15 reports and introductions, if we can finish this one off  
16 then I'll go back to you.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And Mr. McBride is  
21 here, too, in the back, introduction, welcome.

22

23 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Right now, Dr.  
26 Garza, and then Mr. Bangs.

27

28 DR. GARZA: Go ahead, Mike.

29

30 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. She  
31 was just pointing out that I had my hand up. Yes, Rich,  
32 on your report there, thank you for your report. I was  
33 wondering, when you mentioned that the allocation was  
34 shifting, and you put in the emergency order to close  
35 LeConte Bay, what was the breakdown of the seven goats  
36 that were taken and then you say shift, do you know  
37 whether they were non-resident or non-local or local; how  
38 did that pan out?

39

40 MR. LOWELL: Mr. Chairman. Council member  
41 Bangs. Of the seven goats taken out of LeConte Bay, four  
42 of those animals were harvested by guided non-resident  
43 hunters. The other goats were taken by local residents.  
44 One, of which, took a nanny, which bites pretty hard into  
45 the harvest totals at two points a whack. By and large,  
46 the vast majority of the nannies taken in any given year  
47 are taken by local non-guided hunters, guides have a  
48 greater skill in differentiating between the species --  
49 or excuse me, between the sexes.

50

00063

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council,  
2 questions or comments.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you  
7 for that information. Any other Staff that have a  
8 presentation on items not on the agenda.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And Mr. McBride,  
13 if you could introduce yourself so that everybody knows  
14 who you are for the record.

15

16 MR. MCBRIDE: I'm Doug McBride with the  
17 Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Information  
18 Services, and my spot on the agenda is later on and we'll  
19 be talking about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
20 Program.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you.  
25 Welcome. At this time, Ms. Phillips, you have the floor.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
28 Littlefield. I'm at a handicap here, I didn't get to  
29 hear the other Council comments. I'm Patricia Phillips  
30 and I am from Pelican, Alaska. My mother is Dora Mukpik  
31 Derenof Schaeffer and my father is Eli Derenof. My mom  
32 is from the Barrow area and my father is from Afognak and  
33 they met at Mount Edgecumb Boarding School in Sitka and  
34 decided to raise us kids in Southeast, Alaska. I moved  
35 to Pelican in 1972 and have been there. I finished high  
36 school there and have lived there ever since. I'm  
37 married and raised my sons there, I have one 10 year old  
38 left at home.

39

40 That's an introduction of who I am.

41

42 For Council concerns, did you do Council  
43 concerns?

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Council concerns, I just  
48 came in from Pelican, I left home about noon so I've been  
49 in flight ever since so I'm feeling a little sort of like  
50 I still have my wings on.

00064

1                   We've had a lot of snow, snow, slush,  
2 rain, freeze, snow, slush, rain, freeze, wind type of  
3 winter, it's tough on the deer. I was just out on the  
4 water over the weekend and there are herds of deer on  
5 different beaches where there's a good flow of seaweed  
6 coming in onto the beach, you'll find the deer down there  
7 rummaging through the seaweed to get enough to eat.

8

9                   I did see bear tracks in the snow so  
10 there are some bears coming out of hibernation to do a  
11 walk-through, probably, I'm not really sure why they'd  
12 come out of hibernation, but there were tracks that I've  
13 seen.

14

15                   As far as my primary issue, has been, the  
16 last several meetings is my community has a declining  
17 population and people that are investing into Pelican are  
18 retirees and our population's economy is based on a  
19 seasonal influx of visitors and commercial fishermen and  
20 with our commercial fishing plant shut down making a  
21 livelihood off of commercial fishermen has significantly  
22 diminished because those fishermen are going elsewhere to  
23 deliver, so we have a year-round population which is  
24 significantly diminished that relies more heavily on the  
25 subsistence resources that we have in our area, be it  
26 deer, clams, mostly from the ocean, fish, clams, shrimp,  
27 crabs, you know, but we do take our share, more than our  
28 share of deer and wild plants.

29

30                   One of the issues with this seasonal  
31 influx of part-time residents is how do we categorize  
32 those people, are they qualified as rural residents  
33 because they have a second home in Pelican, if they are  
34 eligible to register to vote in Pelican, are they then  
35 eligible rural residents of Pelican, so those are, I  
36 feel, are issues that are sort of questionable, grey  
37 areas of rural determination.

38

39                   Another area I don't like to discuss too  
40 much because I don't like to create enforcement issues  
41 for my area, because subsistence is a very important part  
42 of our lifestyle and some of the issues that I could  
43 bring up would bring eyebrows up about enforcement issues  
44 but these people need the subsistence resources that we  
45 have in our area because we are the year-round residents  
46 and we are the ones who are sticking it out and trying to  
47 make our community work.

48

49                   So I'm sure there's some other issues  
50 there but I'll stop there.

00065

1 Thank you, Chairman Littlefield.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, as  
4 always it was excellent, glad you're here. Before we go  
5 to 9, we're going to have Elijah Waters, BLM, make a  
6 presentation under Staff reports, not on the agenda.

7

8 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, could I ask  
9 Patty to do her.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips, we  
12 all did the disclosures and it's your turn now and I'll  
13 let Dr. Schroeder tell you what's going on.

14

15 DR. SCHROEDER: Ms. Phillips, we have a  
16 hand out that provides possible statements for ethics  
17 disclosure if you want to take a minute and give an.....

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Do you want me to read it?

20

21 DR. SCHROEDER: .....ethics disclosure  
22 and then we can rule on whether you can participate or  
23 have to go back to Pelican right away.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
28 Littlefield. Thank you, Mr. Schroeder -- Dr. Schroeder.  
29 My name is Patricia Phillips, I live in Pelican, Alaska.  
30 I subsistence hunt and fish in Federal lands and waters  
31 under consideration at this meeting. I also hold  
32 commercial fishing permits for halibut and I operate an  
33 outfitting guide operation but not in any of the areas  
34 under consideration at this meeting.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 DR. SCHROEDER: Ms. Phillips, thank you  
39 for your disclosure. Member Phillips does not have a  
40 significant financial interest directly related to  
41 matters before the Council that would preclude her  
42 participation and she may fully participate in this  
43 meeting.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, did  
48 you have something.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, while the

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1 report is being passed around, there was a request, I  
2 believe at the last Council meeting for information  
3 regarding Cultural and Educational permits as well as  
4 requests for or information regarding harvest of wildlife  
5 for funerary and mortuary ceremonies as well as special  
6 action requests coming before the Office of Subsistence  
7 Management in Anchorage. If you'll look at the report in  
8 front of you, this was compiled by Dan LaPlant in OSM,  
9 and it's pretty self-explanatory with regards to each of  
10 those three categories.

11

12 I'll go through briefly and just  
13 highlight some portions of the report.

14

15 First of all on Page 6 of the Federal  
16 Subsistence Management Regulations for harvest of  
17 wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska, there is a  
18 section that relates to cultural and educational permits.  
19 And unless the Chair would like me to read that into the  
20 record it's in the regulatory booklet.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: (Shakes head  
23 negatively)

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: There was only one request  
26 for a new cultural educational permit in Southeast within  
27 the past year and that was Item No. 3 which is the Sitka  
28 District Ranger the authority to issue a Federal  
29 registration permit to Southeast Alaska Indian Culture  
30 Center to harvest three male goats in Unit 4.

31

32 Also if you'll look on Page 14, you'll  
33 see that there's information regarding the process, if  
34 you will, for harvest of wildlife for funerary and  
35 mortuary ceremonies. And it further explains how to do  
36 that within -- basically you would need to inform the  
37 land manager. You'll note there in the report that it  
38 says OSM has no record of that, the reason why OSM would  
39 not have any record is because all the Federal managers  
40 are the ones that handle that on each of the local  
41 districts in Southeast.

42

43 And lastly the only special action  
44 request to come before the Federal Subsistence Board was  
45 the closure of the goat season that was being discussed  
46 here earlier in LeConte Bay of Unit 1(B).

47

48 That concludes my report.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, any

00067

1 questions from the Council.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I know for a fact  
6 that there were wildlife and mortuary ceremony permits  
7 but OSM, like you said, wouldn't know about them, but I  
8 know that they did take place.

9

10 Other Council. Mr. Stokes.

11

12 MR. STOKES: You say there you can get  
13 one deer, can it be either sex?

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. Mr.  
16 Stokes. Chairman. Council. Actually basically the  
17 process for a mortuary funerary ceremony is that it  
18 doesn't even require a permit, it simply is an  
19 information exchange between the Federal manager and the  
20 person that's requesting or the tribe that's requesting  
21 or planning to do a funerary, mortuary harvest, and  
22 unless there's a conservation concern there's really no  
23 other need to inform the land manager except also from  
24 the law enforcement standpoint, just so law enforcement  
25 officials know that someone's going to be out there  
26 harvesting one or more animals for this particular  
27 ceremony.

28

29 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let me tell you  
36 what we're going to be doing here, we're going to take a  
37 short break at which time when we come back from recess I  
38 would like to give a former member of this Council, Mr.  
39 Harold Martin, who just walked in, the opportunity to say  
40 a few words and then we will go -- and then we have a  
41 couple other members who walked in, I'd like the  
42 introductions when we come back, Ms. See is here from  
43 ADF&G, and we'll catch anybody else that's here, Mr.  
44 Lopez, we'll get those introductions done, and then we'll  
45 go to the BLM report.

46

47 So right now let's take a few minutes and  
48 welcome Mr. Martin here.

49

50 (Off record)

00068

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Take your seats,  
4 please.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Before we go to  
9 Mr. Waters, there's some new members of the public as  
10 well as State and Federal Staff who have just shown up  
11 that I'd like to give them the opportunity to introduce  
12 themselves at this time. If you want to say something  
13 you can, come forward to the mic, and if you don't want  
14 to just please if you'll introduce yourself. We'll start  
15 off with -- work our way back, it looks like you're first  
16 Mr. Martin.

17

18 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 Members of the Council. My name is Harold Martin. I'm  
20 vice-president of the Southeast Intertribal Fish and  
21 Wildlife Commission. I do have a brief report but I'm  
22 not ready for that right at the present.

23

24 MS. MARTIN: I thought I was hiding very  
25 well back there. I'm Jackie Martin, Bureau of Indian  
26 Affairs and I'm very happy to be here Mr. Chairman and  
27 Council members.

28

29 MR. LOPEZ: My name is Mike Lopez. I'm  
30 Chairman of Petersburg Indian Association and I'd like to  
31 welcome you all, and Council members and Staff and  
32 friends, and my aunt, my uncles, mom's and brothers, but  
33 anyways, welcome.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, was  
36 that Velkomen, or.....

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thanks for  
41 welcoming us, we appreciate that. And then we have  
42 several members of State Staff. Mr. Larsen.

43

44 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
45 RAC members. My name is Doug Larsen. I'm with the  
46 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife  
47 Conservation and I serve as the regional supervisor for  
48 the Division here in Southeast Alaska. It's great to be  
49 here, we made it on the first try, which a few weeks ago  
50 it wasn't the same, it's nice to be here.

00069

1 MS. SEE: Marianne See with the  
2 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division, and  
3 also work with other Staff members in the Department when  
4 we present comments to the Council for your  
5 consideration. It's always a pleasure to be here and  
6 it's nice to get back to Petersburg, I haven't been here  
7 in a long time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Welcome. Mr. Turek  
10 was feeling lonely, now he has reinforcements.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
15 other members of the public or Staff who came in after  
16 the fact.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we're at Mr.  
21 Waters. What we're going to do tonight, is we're not  
22 going to go into proposals tonight. We'll go over the  
23 process and then tomorrow morning we'll start off with  
24 Proposal No. 1.

25

26 Mr. Waters.

27

28 MR. WATERS: Good afternoon, Mr.  
29 Chairman. Council members. I do want to qualify this  
30 before I start, is we are on the agenda for later and I  
31 will do this only I hear that there's going to be a crab  
32 feed tomorrow, so as long as I'm still invited to the  
33 crab feed tomorrow night, I will accommodate the Council  
34 and give this presentation, but if you won't let me eat,  
35 I'd prefer to have my place on the agenda.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Proceed.

40

41 MR. WATERS: With that, I'm going to give  
42 you a brief overview of the East Alaska Resource  
43 Management Plan. For the people who didn't catch my  
44 introduction the first time, my name is Elijah Waters,  
45 I'm a fish biologist and subsistence coordinator for the  
46 Bureau of Land Management in the Glennallen Field Office  
47 in Glennallen of course. And we're going through our  
48 planning process, our current plan is over 20 years old  
49 and so it's obviously time to update it.

50

00070

1                   The purpose, as I said, to give you a  
2 brief overview and to present some of the major decisions  
3 that could affect subsistence users. ANILCA requires us  
4 to any option in the planning process that may affect  
5 subsistence users, we have to go through a series of  
6 public hearings and different things and that's what I'm  
7 going to try to do today is present those alternatives,  
8 and this doesn't constitute the public hearings as  
9 required by ANILCA, we don't even have our draft plan in  
10 a format that we can give to the public yet, but we're  
11 getting close.

12

13                   The first question that will come to mind  
14 is if this guy is from Glennallen why is he down in  
15 Southeast Alaska. Well, this map and it's small so if  
16 you need to come closer to look, feel free, but we  
17 actually do manage some land that's affected by the  
18 Southeast Council. If you look, the northern, and,  
19 again, this map, if you need to come closer feel free,  
20 but kind of the yellow looking color there is the  
21 unencumbered Federal land that's managed by the Bureau of  
22 Land Management by the Glennallen Field Office, and if  
23 you look that actually goes all the way down to Icy Bay  
24 and borders some of that Park Service and Corporation  
25 land down in Icy Bay, and also that large block at the  
26 bottom of the map, that's the Bering Glacier region too,  
27 and residents of Unit 5 and 6 do have customary and  
28 traditional use determinations for that. The majority of  
29 the unencumbered land, the rest of it, is up in the --  
30 this is the area I'm talking about, the Bering Glacier  
31 Region, and then the Icy Bay, the majority of the land is  
32 up in the Nelchina Basin or the Copper River Basin, this  
33 is the northern most extent of it, Delta Junction would  
34 be just slightly off of the map, Paxson is right here,  
35 our land goes all the way over to Cantwell, right here,  
36 here's the Denali Highway, and Glennallen is right here,  
37 right in the middle of the Copper River Basin and then we  
38 do have some land in down in Valdez, Unit 6, that's  
39 mostly inaccessible. So we do have some land that  
40 affects these Council members.

41

42                   That total if you look, I'll go again,  
43 this is the unencumbered lands, the State selected land  
44 is still managed by BLM, that's this light blue and also  
45 the Native selected lands, which there's a lot of left,  
46 it's mostly been conveyed, and then the dual selected  
47 land, that's also managed by us at this time but it's not  
48 open to Federal subsistence hunting because it has an  
49 encumbrance on it. That total area is over 33 million  
50 acres, seven million of that is managed by BLM, that

00071

1 includes that State and Native selected lands and of that  
2 1.5 are the unencumbered lands. It includes the Delta  
3 and Gulkana Wild and Scenic Rivers and then that large  
4 Bering Glacier, and what's very important, and I'll get  
5 to later is that portion of the Pipeline utility  
6 corridor, and even though that doesn't affect this area,  
7 that's where we come up with the significant affect to  
8 subsistence users.

9  
10                   The planning process, and especially you  
11 agency people I'm sure you're familiar with it and  
12 probably most everybody else, you know, we have a series  
13 of public meetings, you know, announce to the public that  
14 we're going through this planning process and just ask  
15 the public what are the issues that you would like to see  
16 addressed during this planning process and we had an  
17 exhaustive schedule of public meetings all over the  
18 Copper River Basin as far down as Cordova, Anchorage,  
19 Fairbanks because, you know, we are a high use area there  
20 for urban users as well, and we took all of those  
21 concerns that people had and we categorized them and came  
22 up with the issues. And some of those issues were agency  
23 driven as well, things that we see as issues that, you  
24 know, possibly the BLM or the Department of Interior  
25 sees, and we use those issues to come up with  
26 alternatives, and we come up with four alternatives. The  
27 no action or the existing plan; then a preferred  
28 alternatives; two others, one a resource development  
29 alternative and a resource conservation alternative.

30  
31                   Then we took those alternatives back to  
32 the public and presented those in another series of  
33 public meetings to present those alternatives to the  
34 public.

35  
36                   Where we are currently is we're working  
37 on the draft environmental impact statement, that should  
38 be out sometime next month, mid to late March, we will  
39 have that draft EIS out on the street for public comment.  
40 At that point we will have a public comment period and  
41 also at that time starts our clock ticking for our  
42 requirements to meet ANILCA as far as having the public  
43 hearings, based on the alternatives that may affect  
44 subsistence use.

45  
46                   The issues that we came up with and I'll  
47 read them for the people in the back who can't see them,  
48 travel management. And this includes OHV use, or the off  
49 highway vehicle use, four-wheeler use, snowmachine use  
50 and also access. Recreation, you know, very popular

00072

1 recreation in our area. Protection of natural and  
2 cultural resources. The next one it says what area is  
3 available for mineral leasing or locatable mineral entry,  
4 and that's, you know, when ANCSA, most of that land was  
5 withdrawn for mineral entry and with the President's  
6 energy development plans, you know, we need to relook at  
7 those and see which areas of those need to be lifted, if  
8 any. Land tenure, this is specific, mostly to the Slana  
9 area, if anybody's familiar with that. Vegetation  
10 management, mostly that deals with fire, how we'll manage  
11 fire, wildland fire or prescribed burns, and then all of  
12 these -- and I want to point out that subsistence, even  
13 though it's at the bottom, it certainly wasn't the least  
14 important, but everything above affects subsistence use  
15 so we always look at it last, even though in reality we  
16 feel that it's probably the most important up there. But  
17 everything else affects that. And during our series of  
18 public meetings it was very clear that the people felt  
19 like subsistence was very important and how we were going  
20 to manage that, what we were going to do to affect that.

21

22                   And with that we come up with these  
23 alternatives, and I'm not going to really go through the  
24 no action alternative in detail just because that's  
25 existing management, so it would be status quo of what we  
26 have.

27

28                   Alternative B was the resource  
29 development alternative, and I'm going to go through each  
30 one of those in a little more detail. In travel, under  
31 the resource development alternative there would be no  
32 travel restrictions whatsoever, so anybody, sport users,  
33 subsistence users, recreational, urban, rural, whatever,  
34 could take a four-wheeler or an ATV or anything anywhere  
35 on BLM managed lands that they wanted to, there would be  
36 no restrictions whatsoever, other than if there was  
37 specific resource damage and under emergency orders we  
38 could close or limit something.

39

40                   Recreation. We would build increased  
41 facilities to meet the increased demand. There wouldn't  
42 be a plan, there wouldn't be a certain area set aside as  
43 back country areas or non-motorized, you know, we would  
44 just build increased facilities to meet the increased  
45 demand, whether that be boat ramps or toilets or  
46 whatever.

47

48                   Natural resource protection would be --  
49 continue as is. We wouldn't have any special areas. The  
50 only thing that would change would be the required

00073

1 operating procedures would be more stringent than under  
2 what we have now which is called standard stipulations,  
3 there would be required operating procedures for any kind  
4 of any natural resource protection that would be more  
5 stringent than what we have now.

6

7                   Lands and realty, again, that mostly with  
8 Slana, but there's two things under lands and realty that  
9 I need to point out. One is the all ANCSA D1 withdrawals  
10 would be revoked, and the ANCSA D1 withdrawals where  
11 specifically the areas that were withdrawn from mineral  
12 exploration or mineral extraction including oil and gas.  
13 And in ANCSA those were originally withdrawn because the  
14 land selection process went through and, you know, all of  
15 that had to be sorted out over who got what and those  
16 areas were withdrawn from mineral and oil and gas  
17 exploration because, you know, the Federal government  
18 didn't want to extract those resources and then give the  
19 land to the State or extract those resources and give  
20 that land to the Native corporations so those were  
21 withdrawn early on that we couldn't do that. Well, now,  
22 as we're getting further along in the conveyance process  
23 and we're nearing completion of that, especially to the  
24 Native Corporations and the State's overselected, so now  
25 as we're near that completion process, you know, the  
26 Department of Interior says well maybe we need to relook  
27 at those and lift some of those because we know a lot of  
28 that land is -- or may remain in long-term Federal  
29 management. The other thing, the biggie, that we will  
30 get to, that I'll discuss at length at the end is this  
31 says allow conveyance of pipeline utility corridor to the  
32 State, well, that would actually -- what that would  
33 consist of would be to revoke Public Land Order 5150.  
34 And Public Land Order 5150 was established in 1970 or '71  
35 that withdrew the existing pipeline utility corridor from  
36 Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, it withdrew that from land  
37 selection and the reason being was that was to facilitate  
38 the building of the TransAlaska Pipeline. We just felt  
39 like it would be easier to build that TransAlaska  
40 Pipeline if that land was under Federal management as  
41 opposed to private management or State management. So  
42 one of the things we're looking at is revoking that,  
43 which would allow that TransAlaska Pipeline Corridor to  
44 be conveyed to the State and that's what we'll talk about  
45 later.

46

47                   Vegetation, this is going to be pretty  
48 much the same under all alternatives, including the no  
49 action. We would continue, you know, in a let burn  
50 policy for areas that didn't threaten structures or

00074

1 certain resources and do prescribed burns as we see fit  
2 for improvement of wildlife habitat.

3

4 And then minerals, this gets back up to  
5 the ANCSA D1 withdrawals and PLO5150, it would just let  
6 more of that land be open to mineral exploration or  
7 extraction.

8

9 And subsistence, and here's the biggie,  
10 and it would result in a loss of 435,000 acres available  
11 for Federal subsistence hunting, and that's where we get  
12 into the may significantly affect subsistence, but I'm  
13 going to come back to that later.

14

15 Alternative C is the resource  
16 conservation alternative, and this, I'm just going to  
17 point out some of the differences. The travel, we would  
18 designate all of the BLM managed land as limited, and  
19 what that means is what we would say ATV use,  
20 specifically four-wheelers, not snowmachines, but ATV use  
21 is open to existing trails. So anywhere there's an  
22 existing trail you could take your ATV but we don't want  
23 to encourage new trails. And if you're familiar with the  
24 Interior, you know, the proliferation of ATV trails is  
25 really kind of getting out of hand, it's been a big issue  
26 for several years and this is our first step at trying to  
27 manage that proliferation of use.

28

29 Recreation. We take some of our high use  
30 areas and we're trying to set a spectrum of experiences  
31 on it. We've had, you know, a big back country user  
32 group, people who like, you know, back country skiing,  
33 cross-country skiing, we have a lot of heli-skiing areas,  
34 we have snowmachine areas, Arctic Man, and we're looking  
35 at setting different areas for different levels of use,  
36 you know, taking certain areas and saying we want to  
37 emphasize in this area, we want to emphasize non-  
38 motorized use so the people who like to cross-country ski  
39 without having to compete with snowmachiners, here's your  
40 area. People who like snowmachines, here's your area. We  
41 want to start to manage recreation in that sense.

42

43 Natural resource protection. We would  
44 designate three ACECs and an ACEC is an area of critical  
45 environmental concern, so we would take specific areas,  
46 for example, the Nelchina calving grounds, Nelchina  
47 Caribou calving grounds and call that an area of critical  
48 environmental concern and that would give a little  
49 additional protection to that as well as it would be a  
50 body for funding, you know, to get funding for research

00075

1 or for habitat enhancement or that kind of thing. And  
2 one RNA, and an RNA stands for research natural area, and  
3 that's what we're proposing for the Bering Glacier area,  
4 there's a lot of world wide research going on in that.  
5 If you're familiar with that Bering Glacier it's a very  
6 dynamic glacier, it surges and retreats on a scale, I  
7 guess, you know, unlike any in the world and it makes for  
8 a really unique research opportunity to study some of the  
9 vegetation secession and the other, just a seed source  
10 (ph) that's been frozen for years, there's just a lot of  
11 research going on in that area.

12

13 Under the research conservation  
14 alternative, PLO5150 or the Pipeline Utility Corridor  
15 would be maintained as is, and there would be -- as far  
16 as the ANCSA D1 withdrawal, some would be lifted and some  
17 would be maintained in some of the areas that we feel are  
18 critical for management of other resources.

19

20 Vegetation would be pretty much the same.  
21 The minerals, getting back to those ANCSA D1 withdrawals,  
22 there would be some areas that those would be lifted,  
23 some areas wouldn't, again, based on resource protection,  
24 resource values. Subsistence management would be managed  
25 as is, no change.

26

27 Alternative D is our preferred  
28 alternative.

29

30 And under alternative D there's no  
31 difference under travel or how we would treat ATV use, we  
32 would still designate everything as limited and then we  
33 would look at, you know, limiting those two existing  
34 trails and making changes, you know, down the road  
35 through an implementation level plan if we felt like  
36 there was specific resource damage occurring. Also  
37 there's differences in here on the, you know, ATVs versus  
38 snowmachines. Because a snowmachine you don't have the  
39 kind of impact that you do with ATVs, but we'd look at  
40 possible, some snowmachine, limiting those to existing  
41 trails in some cases as well.

42

43 I want to point out that regardless of  
44 what happens, either Alternative A through Alternative D,  
45 that these ATV restrictions would not affect subsistence  
46 users because ANILCA provides for traditional access and  
47 reasonable access and under all of these alternatives  
48 under travel management we're specifically saying that  
49 you can still take an ATV or a snowmachine in pursuit of  
50 traditional subsistence activities.

00076

1 Yes.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Could I entertain a question  
4 here.

5

6 MR. WATERS: Certainly.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: ANILCA identifies the types  
9 of vehicles that can be used, you know, for purpose of  
10 subsistence, and Section All identifies both snowmobiles  
11 and motorized boats, I guess it is, and other types of  
12 vehicles for public purposes. And one of the questions  
13 that we've been considering, you know, at our SRC  
14 meetings as well as in Yakutat are four-wheelers, are  
15 they considered traditional?

16

17 MR. WATERS: We consider them traditional  
18 only because nobody's ever said they weren't traditional,  
19 you know, as opposed to aircraft, I know there's some  
20 areas that have said aircraft wasn't traditional. In our  
21 area and, you know, I don't think it says how long  
22 traditional has to be, but there's certainly a history of  
23 using ATVs for access in Unit 13 which is a majority of  
24 this is going to apply to.

25

26 MR. ADAMS: Okay.

27

28 MR. WATERS: The recreation, it would be  
29 very similar to the last one, we'd designate for SRMAs,  
30 those are special recreational management areas, and if  
31 land is retained based on State selections, maybe a fifth  
32 one would be created in the Denali Highway region.

33

34 The natural resource protection, we would  
35 adopt that Bering resource natural area, which is no  
36 different from that other, and in the preferred  
37 alternative, we wouldn't be designated those ACECs, or  
38 those areas of critical environmental concern. Those  
39 would go away. We would protect the specific things that  
40 those were put in place to protect, we would protect  
41 those with additional required operating procedures and  
42 additional stipulations, but we wouldn't designate them  
43 as areas of critical environmental concern. I think part  
44 of that, you know, there's a public perception, whether  
45 it's right or wrong, you know, that when you start to  
46 call something an area of critical environmental  
47 concern, I guess the word, critical and concern, it just  
48 has kind of a negative perception by the public, even  
49 though in reality it'd be very few differences over  
50 managing this way.

00077

1                   The lands and realty. This would be a  
2 mix similar to Alternative C, a mix of certain areas that  
3 those ANCSA D1 withdrawals would be implemented and some  
4 they wouldn't, again, based on resource protection. More  
5 of those would be lifted than under Alternative C, but  
6 not as many as Alternative B, so this is kind of a mix of  
7 the two.

8  
9                   The vegetation would be practically no  
10 difference.

11  
12                   The minerals, you know, the same back up  
13 in the lands and realty.

14  
15                   And the subsistence, it will be the same,  
16 you know, it would be status quo, the lands that are open  
17 now would remain open. We would also look for  
18 opportunities for consolidation working cooperatively  
19 with the State, but, you know, that's probably -- you  
20 know, the State, the lands that would really allow us to  
21 block up some of that have already been conveyed so  
22 that's probably not a real valid statement.

23  
24                   Now, the next part I'm just going to  
25 focus on what's critical to the Southeast or the people  
26 of this area, the Bering Glacier. That little block of  
27 land around Icy Bay, it'd be no change on that. And if  
28 anybody knows where I'm talking about, it's pretty much  
29 ice and rock and we don't think that there's any  
30 subsistence use or any other kind of use going on on  
31 that. But any withdrawals, the ANCSA D1 withdrawals,  
32 those would be lifted. So that would allow that, if  
33 there was, you know, if somebody wanted to go in there  
34 and explore for oil or coal or whatever, they would be  
35 able to do that but we feel like that's a very low  
36 priority. Some of the exploratory work that's been done  
37 before really doesn't suggest that there's anything  
38 there.

39  
40                   But on the Bering Glacier this whole  
41 thing, you know, OHV's would be limited to designate  
42 trails consistent with the Yakutat State Game Refuge, and  
43 again if you're familiar with that area, the only ATVs  
44 that are in there are generally, there's a few hunting  
45 guides that have some ATVs in there and the State and  
46 Federal land managers doing work have ATVs in there, so  
47 we don't think it would be a big issue.

48  
49                   The last thing, this map, this kind of  
50 focuses on that area, the Bering Glacier area, the Icy

00078

1 Bay area, but this, we would propose to maintain the  
2 withdrawals for mineral entries or exploration in this  
3 area that's in the red right here, so the rest of this  
4 area would be open to mineral exploration. And the Icy  
5 Bay area and then this large block of the Bering Glacier.  
6 That's the big changes for what's affected -- or what  
7 would affect users of this area in Units 5 and 6.

8

9 Now, we don't think this is a significant  
10 affect to subsistence users at all. However, I want to  
11 go back to -- you know, where we really want to make sure  
12 we get the word out to the public on this is the plan  
13 overall, that revoking Public Land Order 5150, which  
14 would allow the State to validly select and receive  
15 convenience of the Pipeline Utility Corridor, that does  
16 have a significant affect to subsistence users that have  
17 a customary and traditional use determination for Unit  
18 13, and that's people in Unit 13, Unit 11, 12 and 20.

19

20 But what that is, is this area right  
21 here, that's Pipeline Utility Corridor, and this area,  
22 that's Pipeline Utility Corridor, and this large block  
23 here, and what that comes to, total, that comes to 63  
24 percent -- I want to point out, nobody has customary and  
25 traditional use determination for this, this is some of  
26 that land in Valdez which is not considered a rural area  
27 so nobody has a customary and traditional use for that,  
28 so that's not open. Unit 13 cuts off about right here  
29 and cuts off of, you know, the tip of this. But Unit 13,  
30 all of this is in 13, all of this is in 13, and if Public  
31 Land Order 5150 is revoked, then all of that land would  
32 leave the area open to Federal subsistence hunting. That  
33 comes out to 63 percent of the land that's open to  
34 Federal subsistence hunting in Unit 13 would cease to be  
35 open to Federal hunting. 63 percent. Out of that 63  
36 percent, 80 percent of the harvest -- 80 percent of the  
37 moose and caribou harvest in Unit 13, the Federal moose  
38 and caribou harvest in Unit 13 occurs on that 63 percent  
39 of the land, so that's where we get the may significantly  
40 affect subsistence users, and that's the message that,  
41 you know, this forum, we need to get that message out.  
42 Because in the original alternatives that wasn't in the  
43 original alternatives.

44

45 When we took the four original  
46 alternatives, when we took those to the public back in  
47 October that wasn't on the table at the time. It got  
48 added later, so we want to make sure we get that message  
49 out and that's why we're coming down to Southeast to make  
50 sure that, you know, this word's out, you know, because

00079

1 we don't want the people of Southeast to be reading in  
2 the newspaper that the BLM's proposing something that's  
3 going to affect subsistence users knowing that other  
4 areas are affected to you guys.

5  
6 That concludes what I have to say. I'll  
7 be glad to answer any questions that anybody has.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any questions,  
10 Council.

11  
12 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
17 Littlefield. Why wasn't it included in the original  
18 alternatives and what happened that it was added later?

19  
20 MR. WATERS: Okay, that's a very good  
21 question. The BLM didn't propose that. The Bureau of  
22 Land Management didn't propose that. We developed these  
23 alternatives based on our public meetings. The public  
24 never suggested that or anything. Then during our  
25 drafting of the alternatives, or once we went to the  
26 public, we presented it to the Department of the  
27 Interior, you know, saying which -- you know, if you're  
28 familiar with the hierarchy, you know the BLM answers to  
29 the Department, we presented it to the Department. The  
30 Department of the Interior said we would like for you to  
31 consider this. So the timing of the thing, you know, we  
32 weren't ever trying to hide anything, it just got added  
33 by the next higher level after we had already went to the  
34 public. And so once we found that out, that's why we're  
35 going to such great lengths to get the word out.

36  
37 But very good question.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other  
40 comments. Mr. Stokes.

41  
42 MR. STOKES: I was just wondering how it  
43 was accepted up there?

44  
45 MR. WATERS: How it was accepted in Unit  
46 13?

47  
48 MR. STOKES: (Nods affirmatively)

49  
50 MR. WATERS: Well, the first public forum

00080

1 that this was put out was at the SRC last week that Mr.  
2 Adams was attending and I think it's being accepted with  
3 shock, and quite a negative response.

4

5 Now, I do want to point out one other  
6 thing, originally Public Land Order 5150 withdrew a lot  
7 more land, that has been -- parts of it has been revoked  
8 prior to this, in prior land use plans, and it was viewed  
9 very negatively then, and at the time it wasn't  
10 considered to be a significant affect to subsistence  
11 users because it was prior to Federal management, so now  
12 a little different set of circumstances.

13

14 But, you know, once after that initial  
15 presentation was made to the SRC last week, we've had  
16 some additional requests to go to some of the villages  
17 and some of the other subsistence users and give them a  
18 more in-depth explanation of what's going on.

19

20 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just  
25 have a couple questions. The first question, the  
26 proposed gas pipeline, is this going to be a part of this  
27 also?

28

29 MR. WATERS: It's not going to be part of  
30 our plan. I think that possibly those are related  
31 somehow, you know, that proposed gas pipeline may, you  
32 know, parallel and follow that, and I think that this is  
33 kind of looking at additional State revenue that would be  
34 based on that gas pipeline. I think they're related but  
35 they're not going to be dependent on one another.

36

37 MR. KITKA: Okay. Then question number  
38 2, is, has to do with the safe guards on the Pipeline,  
39 who is going to be held accountable for any spillage or  
40 anything?

41

42 MR. WATERS: That's a good question. And  
43 this is only for the area that's in the Glennallen  
44 District and there's still a significant amount of the  
45 Pipeline that's still would be managed under the  
46 Fairbanks District of the BLM, so I think there would  
47 still be that joint State/Federal oversight, but I'm not  
48 sure how that's going to play out down in this area. I  
49 think there would still be a Federal presence, at least,  
50 in Valdez.

00081

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other  
2 questions. Dr. Garza.

3

4 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have  
5 two questions, and thank you for your presentation; make  
6 sure you give the pointer back to me, though.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 DR. GARZA: First question is a matter of  
11 Icy Bay, when BLM looks at that area, I'm kind of  
12 curious, I mean if you've got glaciers there, how do you  
13 determine where Federal land ends and the ocean and State  
14 land begins, considering that that is likely shifting?  
15 So that's one question.

16

17 The second question is if it looks like  
18 there will be lands taken away from subsistence  
19 harvesters, primarily in the northern part, has there  
20 been consideration given into providing them  
21 opportunities in other areas in terms of remediation to  
22 ensure that they have continued harvest of resources?

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. WATERS: Okay, the first answer is  
27 the land status is based on a latitude and longitude, and  
28 that's not going to change regardless if the glacier  
29 shifts, what's going to change is whether you're on dirt  
30 or whether you're on ice or water. So that's not going  
31 to change. We don't have any of those, you know, the  
32 water, for example.

33

34 DR. GARZA: So you don't have mean high  
35 water anywhere in your definition?

36

37 MR. WATERS: Well, there's ownership of  
38 subsurface rights and other stuff and I'm not sure how  
39 that plays in, I'm not the best one to answer that  
40 question, but as far as that Icy Bay area, you know,  
41 that's a legal description of that dry land anyway,  
42 that's not going to change regardless. Now, I mean  
43 obviously if sea level rises then there would be land  
44 that we wouldn't have anymore.

45

46 The other question was, is there -- has  
47 there been talk of anything, any exchange, if you will,  
48 the reason the planning process includes selected lands  
49 is because the State of Alaska is overselected.  
50 Statewide, they're overselected on their selections, and,

00082

1 you know, they were allocated a certain amount based on  
2 ANILCA and, you know, the corporations were allocated  
3 certain selections and the State was very overselected  
4 statewide, so at some point -- currently the only lands  
5 that are open to Federal hunting are lands that are  
6 unencumbered or lands that don't have a valid selection  
7 on them, and most of the lands that don't have a valid  
8 selection on them were areas that were withdrawn for  
9 selection for whatever reason, because the Wild and  
10 Scenic Rivers or administrative reasons, or the Pipeline  
11 Corridor.

12

13 Now, as we near the conveyance -- as we  
14 near final conveyance, in fact, there was legislation  
15 that was just passed to speed up that final conveyance so  
16 as that happens there will be additional lands come back  
17 that will be managed in the long-term by the BLM which  
18 will become open to Federal hunting. But those two  
19 processes are completely independent.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

22

23 MR. ADAMS: I think it was Senate Bill  
24 1466 that Lisa Murkowski introduced last year or, you  
25 know, thereabouts that speeded up the acceleration of the  
26 -- or accelerated land transfers to State and  
27 corporations. So if those lands are turned over, you  
28 know, in a short while then management of those lands  
29 would come under State jurisdiction, correct?

30

31 MR. WATERS: Right. That's correct.

32

33 MR. ADAMS: Okay.

34

35 MR. WATERS: That won't reduce the amount  
36 of Federal hunting lands, however.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other questions.

39 Mr. Jordan.

40

41 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chairman, I've been  
42 invited to dinner at my mother's at 5:00 o'clock so --  
43 but that brought to mind the question I had. What  
44 chances do you think the Interior officials that were  
45 responsible for this would have of being invited to a  
46 subsistence caribou dinner in that area?

47

48 MR. WATERS: What chances would they have  
49 of being invited to one?

50

00083

1 MR. JORDAN: To a subsistence caribou  
2 dinner, right?

3  
4 MR. WATERS: Probably pretty slim.  
5

6 MR. JORDAN: Right. Well, probably about  
7 the same as getting invited to a Southeast subsistence  
8 crab dinner.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MR. JORDAN: But I'm sure your friendly  
13 presentation and stuff will keep your invitation open.  
14 But, Mr. Chairman, I do remind you that I'm invited to  
15 dinner with my mother five minutes ago.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We've only got a  
18 minute to go here, we're going to clean this up. Any  
19 other questions.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And Mr. Waters,  
24 I'd like to say that, you know, the BLM is part of the  
25 Department of Interior and I believe they're subject to  
26 the same definitions that are in Title 26, is it, for  
27 Interior, Section 26, or CFR -- right, so the same mean  
28 high water and all that other, it applies to the BLM as  
29 well, too. And also BLM is a voting member of the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board and so I want to make sure that  
31 you attend that crab feed tomorrow night.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, and with  
36 that we're on Item 9, which is public testimony.  
37 Tomorrow we'll come in and we'll get the ground rules for  
38 how to do public testimony and we will get a hand out on  
39 the criteria that we use for making our decisions, and  
40 we're going to go with Proposal No. 1 in the morning, Dr.  
41 Wheeler, you'll be up.

42  
43 With that.....

44  
45 DR. GARZA: Wait.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we got to go  
48 to dinner here, but Dr. Garza.

49  
50 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

00084

1 Just for the benefit of the public, we might want to let  
2 them know what the plans are for tomorrow, that they can  
3 testify as each proposal comes up, some of them may not  
4 have been here earlier when you stated if they have to  
5 testify at a certain time that we will make it available  
6 to them.

7

8 In addition, tomorrow night, it's my  
9 understanding from 4:30 to 6:00 we will take testimony in  
10 regard to Unit 2, Prince of Wales deer hunting and that,  
11 of course, should be of interest to Petersburg people.  
12 So I just wanted them to know for planning purposes.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
17 I'll try not to repeat all that because I think you  
18 understood most of that. But anyway we're going to start  
19 at 8:30 tomorrow morning with public testimony, and  
20 throughout the whole meeting. If you need to testify,  
21 we'd like you to fill out one of the comment -- or one of  
22 the blue forms in the back that Melinda has and turn that  
23 in, but we're not going to require that, if you need to  
24 come in to testify right away and you only have an hour  
25 testify we're going to try to accommodate you as best we  
26 can. So any time that you need to testify, if you could  
27 please let Ms. Hernandez know and we'll get you fit in.

28

29 8:30 tomorrow morning. That's it. Dr.  
30 Schroeder, did you have anything?

31

32 DR. SCHROEDER: No, Mr. Chairman, except Council  
33 members should make sure they see Melinda for paperwork  
34 if they haven't done so already.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Can we leave our  
37 stuff here?

38

39 DR. SCHROEDER: And it's fine to leave  
40 your stuff in the room, we'll be locking the room up this  
41 evening. There are a limited number of places open this  
42 evening for dinner. We have three or four Forest Service  
43 vehicles and Staff will be able to run you out to the  
44 places that are available.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams, you  
47 have the last word.

48

49 MR. ADAMS: In regards to dinner, why  
50 don't we just follow Eric over to his mother's house.

00085

1                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I said we were  
2 invited to dinner but he didn't pay any attention, so  
3 okay, let's put a lid on it and we'll meet here tomorrow  
4 morning again, 8:30.

5

6                   Thank you.

7

8                   (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

00086

1

C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 )ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for  
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix  
9 Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 85  
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME  
13 I, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
14 COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on  
15 the 22nd day of February 2005, beginning at the hour of  
16 1:00 o'clock p.m. at Petersburg, Alaska;

17

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

22

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

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26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of March  
27 2005.

28

29

30

31

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 \_

32

33