

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Haines, Alaska
9 September 24, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
16 Michael Bangs
17 Michael Douville
18 Merle Hawkins
19 Donald Hernandez
20 Joe Hotch
21 Harvey Kitka
22 Lee Wallace
23 Frank Wright
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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Haines, Alaska - 09/24/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning everyone. Can you hear us okay. Fine, okay. In our language, the way we would say that is (In Native), it means good morning. (In Native) means it's good to see you. So we're happy that we have such a good turnout here today.

Can you hear me over there?

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can you turn up your hearing aid?

MR. WARREN: It's up all the way.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's up all the way, uh. How is that, is that better, is it, okay. Before we begin I'd like to call on Joe Hotch to offer an opening prayer for us, if you would do that please.

Everyone please rise.

MR. HOTCH: (Prayer)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm going to call on Harvey Kitka, our secretary, to take the roll.

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Richard Stokes.

(No comments)

MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.

MR. WRIGHT: Here.

MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

1 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, here. Bert
2 Adams.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Here.
5
6 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
11
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.
13
14 MR. KITKA: Nick Davis.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
19
20 MS. HAWKINS: Here.
21
22 MR. KITKA: Joe Hotch.
23
24 MR. HOTCH: Here.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
27
28 MR. BANGS: Here.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Lee Wallace.
31
32 MR. WALLACE: Here.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, we have enough
35 for a quorum.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
38 Just a note. Richard Stokes, you know, is going
39 through some health problems and wasn't able to make it
40 today so I think it's the first one that he's ever
41 going to miss so I hope that, you know, throughout the
42 day we'll have, you know, him in our thoughts and
43 prayers and so forth.
44
45 Floyd Kookesh also is experiencing some
46 health issues and wasn't able to make it.
47
48 Patty is busy with her job as Mayor of
49 Pelican.
50

1 Nick called me the other day and said
2 that he won't be able to make it because he was trying
3 to get his halibut IFQs taken care of.

4
5 So those people, you know, we're sorry
6 aren't able to make it.

7
8 I've also been informed that Mike Bangs
9 and Frank Wright are going to have to excuse themselves
10 tomorrow to return back to their communities.

11
12 MR. BANG: Not me.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is it Mike Douville,
15 you Mike?

16
17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Frank's got to go
18 tomorrow.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Frank's got to go
21 tomorrow. Mike, you, too, do you have to leave
22 tomorrow?

23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: (Shakes head negatively)

25
26 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mike's going.....

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: No, I'm not.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're going to be
31 here for the duration?

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: No. I'll have to leave
34 at some point but I'm not quite sure yet when.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All right. All
37 right. And so we know Frank is going to have to leave
38 tomorrow, but the weather is going to keep you here
39 though.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyhow that's that as
44 far as members of the Council attending this are
45 concerned.

46
47 I'd like to just turn the time over to
48 the Council now for any welcome and instructions that
49 they would have to have and we'll start with Merle and
50 go on down the line here.

1 How are we doing Tina?

2

3 REPORTER: We're fine.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Just a note of
6 interest we are having trouble with the microphones. I
7 guess all of them aren't working and so we're going to
8 take a break at 10:00 o'clock so that Tina can go up to
9 the electronics office and buy some equipment so that
10 we can have some good audio and communication here.

11

12 So Merle, you want to start.

13

14 MS. HAWKINS: Sure. Glad to be here in
15 Haines and it's my first visit to Haines so I'm happy
16 to be here representing the interests.

17

18 I'm happy that Ketchikan got in their
19 comments for the request for reconsideration. We don't
20 have a staff person at our tribe to work on subsistence
21 or cultural issues so we did have to hire an attorney
22 to put our comments together but since we've been
23 working on the subject for years we were able to steer
24 them in the right direction and he just did the
25 research and compiled all the information. So I was
26 happy to get that done and have full support of our
27 tribe and the community.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me, Merle.

30

31 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're just introducing
34 one another at this time.

35

36 MS. HAWKINS: Oh, okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: When we go through
39 Item No. 7 then maybe you can elaborate on this issue a
40 little bit more.

41

42 MS. HAWKINS: Sure.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But we just want
45 people in the audience to be familiar of who we are.

46

47 MS. HAWKINS: Oh, okay. Merle Hawkins.
48 Tribal Council person from Ketchikan Indian Community
49 in Ketchikan, Alaska. I'm on another Regional Advisory
50 Council and that's with the Forest Service that deals

1 with Title I money and there's other -- like they're
2 going to rebuild the Deer Mountain Shelter, we did
3 rebuild the Ward Lake Shelter and other community
4 projects.

5
6 So glad to be here representing my
7 people.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Lee.

10
11 MR. WALLACE: Well, good morning, Lee
12 Wallace. A little error on the title here, I'm not
13 from Ketchikan, I'm from Saxman. We're really distinct
14 and different. I'm the Organized Village of Saxman's
15 president and this is my second meeting here with the
16 RAC and I'm just pleased to be here in Haines, and I
17 was at the IGA store last night and I started talking
18 with local people, which I perceived as local and I
19 told them why we were here and to come on down if you
20 had a chance, we'll be talking about subsistence issues
21 and I hope we have a good local turnout today.

22
23 Thank you. Gunalcheesh.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning everybody, my
26 name is Frank Wright. I'm from Hoonah. I'm the tribal
27 president there. I'm a commercial fisherman,
28 subsistence user. I do halibut, black cod, salmon,
29 smoke and dry fish and I'm from Hoonah.

30
31 Gunalcheesh.

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville from
34 Craig. I'm a full-time commercial fisherman and also
35 city council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.

38
39 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name's Don
40 Hernandez. I'm from Point Baker on Prince of Wales
41 Island. I'm a commercial fisherman. I have a gillnet
42 permit and a troll permit, a little bit halibut IFQ.
43 I'm also a subsistence hunter and fisher. And I'd just
44 like to say I've fished here in waters of Lynn Canal in
45 times in the past, I haven't fished up here gillnetting
46 in about 20 years now but I used to take advantage of
47 this fine Chilkat River chum salmon run and I hope to
48 hear more about that at this meeting and I hope
49 everything's going well for the folks here at Haines.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Don. My
2 name is Bert Adams, Sr., from Yakutat. I wear a lot of
3 hats. Just to let you know it's a pleasure to be
4 serving as the Chairman of this organization at this
5 time.

6
7 Harvey.

8
9 MR. KITKA: My name is Harvey Kitka.
10 I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I represent the Sitka
11 community. I also sit on the Sitka Tribal Council and
12 like Bert, I wear a few other hats besides this one. I
13 work for the State of Alaska, I'm the maintenance
14 foreman at Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

15
16 MR. HOTCH: Thank you, my name is Joe
17 Hotch, I'm from Klukwan and I live in Haines. And like
18 Lee this is my second meeting. There's a lot of
19 difference from previous meetings that I've went to. I
20 remember when the meetings were over you almost had to
21 be ready for a fight.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. HOTCH: And now with this Board
26 here I really feel comfortable. The Board has come a
27 long ways probably within the last 30 or 20 years. I
28 thank you folks for your progress and I continue to
29 support each and every one of you that are here. And
30 I'd like to thank the audience that are here at this
31 time.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. BANGS: Good morning, my name is
36 Mike Bangs. I live in Petersburg. I'm an avid
37 subsistence user. And I'm a commercial fisherman. I
38 fish herring eggs on kelp and Bristol Bay sockeye. I
39 have some halibut IFQs and I also do the dive fishery
40 sea cucumbers and gooey ducks.

41
42 And it's a pleasure to be here in
43 Haines, this is my first time and I'm looking forward
44 to meeting some of the local people and looking forward
45 to the meeting.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
48 That's it for the Council.

49
50 I'd just like, you know, Tina, our

1 recorder, sits there and never says a word, all of
2 these years that, you know, I've been on this Board
3 she's been here. But I'd just like for her to
4 introduce herself and let her know what she does.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the
9 court reporter for the Council, so, thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, and then we'll
12 go with the Federal Staff, we'll start off with Robert
13 Larson here and then we'll go on down the line and then
14 any local people, you know, will follow after that.
15 So, Bob, please.

16
17 MR. LARSON: Good morning. My name is
18 Robert Larson. I am the acting Council's coordinator.
19 I work for the Forest Service and I live in Petersburg.
20 And I will let the rest of the Staff introduce
21 themselves starting with Mr. Kessler.

22
23 MR. KESSLER: Good morning. I'm Steve
24 Kessler with the Forest Service. I'm also on the
25 InterAgency Staff Committee and I live up in Anchorage.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other Federal
28 people, please.

29
30 MS. SWANTON: I'm Nancy Swanton. I'm
31 also on the InterAgency Staff Committee representing
32 the National Park Service and I'm also based out of
33 Anchorage.

34
35 MR. KRON: I'm Tom Kron, happy to be
36 here. I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. JOHNSON: David Johnson.
41 Subsistence Coordinator for the Tongass. And I also
42 have, Mr. Chairman, some programs for the Council
43 members. Most of you know that Bill Thomas passed away
44 this summer and I had the privilege to be at the
45 funeral as pallbearer, and Diana asked that I convey
46 her appreciation and thanks for everyone that sent
47 gifts and cards and various other remembrances, there
48 were many letters, many stories, and I won't go into
49 all those now but there's a lot of good information
50 about Bill that each one of the Council members will

1 receive.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, David.
4 Cal. That next row back there, please.

5

6 MR. CASIPIT: Cal Casipit. I'm the
7 subsistence Staff biologist for the Forest Service in
8 Juneau.

9

10 MR. CHAN: Mark Chan, Forest Service,
11 Juneau.

12

13 MR. BUKLIS: Larry Buklis with the
14 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage and I
15 serve as the Chair of the Staff Committee.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good to see you,
18 Larry.

19

20 MR. VAN ALLEN: I'm Ben Van Alen with
21 the Forest Service in Juneau.

22

23 MS. O'CONNOR: I'm Tricia O'Connor.
24 I'm the wildlife subsistence Staff Officer for the
25 Tongass and I'm in Juneau.

26

27 MR. DICKERSON: Good morning. I'm
28 Larry Dickerson out of the Craig Ranger District with
29 Forest Service and terrestrial wildlife biologist so
30 there's a lot of fish people here today.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. DICKERSON: If you have a bear
35 question or a deer I'll scratch my head and try to
36 answer it.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. REEVES: Jeff Reeves. I'm the
41 subsistence fisheries biologist out at Prince of Wales
42 Island, based out of Craig, Forest Service.

43

44 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning. Terry
45 Suminski. I'm the Forest Service fisheries biologist
46 in Sitka.

47

48 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck
49 Ardizzone, subsistence coordinator and ISC member for
50 BLM.

1 MR. OVIATT: Good morning. I'm George
2 Oviatt from the Bureau of Land Management and I'm very
3 happy to be here. I'm very interested in hearing what
4 this Council has to say about the Makhnati Island
5 issue.

6
7 MS. SYKES: Carrie Sykes for Central
8 Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and
9 I'm the subsistence and sustainable development
10 specialist.

11
12 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, Bureau
13 of Indian Affairs, anthropologist.

14
15 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez. I'm
16 a social scientist for the Forest Service and I work in
17 Juneau.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think that takes
20 care of all of the Federal people. Are there any State
21 people here.

22
23 Please.

24
25 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, my name is George
26 Pappas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
27 program coordinator for the Sportfish and Commercial
28 Fisheries Division on the Liaison Team.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Any
31 other State people.

32
33 MS. STONE: I'm Shannon Stone, regional
34 coordinator for Southeast Alaska for Department of Fish
35 and Game, but I'm also -- wear a couple hats. I work
36 for Board support as well and I help with all the Board
37 meetings.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome. Any other
40 State.

41
42 MR. HOVANISIAN: I'm John Hovanisian
43 and I'm acting regional supervisor for the Southeast
44 Region, Sportfish and research coordinator.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. HARDING: Roger Harding. Fish and
49 Game Sportfish in Juneau, trout research.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we'll go into
6 the community next so anyone from the community of
7 Haines or anywhere else. Hi Kim.
8
9 MS. STRONG: Good morning.
10
11 (In Tlingit)
12
13 Kimberly Strong, English.
14
15 (In Tlingit)
16
17 I want to thank Joe Hotch for informing
18 me of the meeting that was happening here today and
19 also give thanks to all of the support that the Federal
20 Subsistence Board have been giving the subsistence
21 users in Southeast Alaska throughout the years. I know
22 that it's a lot of hard work and a lot of, sometimes,
23 controversy, for you folks to continue to stand up for
24 subsistence.
25
26 I live a traditional Tlingit lifestyle.
27 I do a lot of subsistence. I've heard other people
28 here doing subsistence and commercial and from the
29 halibut to the moose hunting, to the berry picking,
30 all of those things are for your consideration and even
31 the harvesting of roots and things that we do as
32 traditional ways of
33 life.
34
35 I want to, again, thank you for coming
36 here. I welcome you to the Chilkat Valley. I kind of
37 thought some of the Chilkoot and Deshu people would be
38 here but I am the president of the Chilkat Indian
39 Village and I would like to welcome you to Deshu, the
40 beginning of the trail; the end of the trail; the last
41 village of the Chilkat or the first village of the
42 Chilkat.
43
44 Again, welcome.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Kim.
47 Gunalcheesh.
48
49 MS. HOTCH: Gunalcheesh, and good
50 morning. My name is Georgiana Hotch. My Native name

1 is (In Tlingit). I am of the Raven Moiety. I belong
2 to the Dog Salmon Clan and my crest is the woodworm.

3

4 On behalf of the Chilkoot Indian
5 Association I'd like you to welcome you to our land.

6

7 I appreciate our Native -- our Native
8 community appreciate very much the time and the work
9 and the effort that you put into protecting our
10 subsistence lifestyle.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Anyone
15 else. Our tour guide yesterday.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. HOTCH: (In Tlingit)

20

21 Lonnie Hotch is my English name. (In
22 Tlingit) is what they call me in Tlingit. I'm from
23 Klukwan. I am on the Fish and Game Advisory Council
24 there. I serve as the secretary on that Council. I
25 also am an avid subsistence partaker. I put up fish
26 every year and moose meat and berries and even
27 gardening. We depend on the environment in our
28 community, heavily depend on the environment.

29

30 You can't always count on the paychecks
31 but you can count on the fish and the berries.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. HOTCH: And we just wanted to
36 represent our interests here today and listen in on
37 what's going on and learn from all you folks here.
38 Appreciate you all coming.

39

40 Another thing that I do in Klukwan, is
41 I am the director of the Klukwan Traditional Knowledge
42 Camp, which a lot of the folks came and visited
43 yesterday and we teach subsistence skills there as well
44 at our camp.

45

46 Thank you all for allowing us to be
47 here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Mr.
50 Warren.

1 MR. WARREN: I want to thank the Board
2 for taking the time to introduce yourselves. I think
3 it's critical that we talk with one another, that we
4 should know something about each other. And I am who I
5 look like, I'm an elder, 77, that's not my cruising
6 speed.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. WARREN: I want to say I saw
11 something in the agenda that should do away with
12 steelheads. I'd like to speak something about
13 prohibition. Are you involved in prohibition, to the
14 extent of managing the resources -- you don't have to
15 answer that right now. These are concerns I'm looking
16 at.

17

18 I think I like what Joe had to say
19 about the environment of the Juneau Road. I think from
20 the logistics, just this group here has to carry at
21 least 25 percent impact zone, what is required for the
22 environment of our renewable resources. If we don't
23 speak up something will like at 33 Mile Big Boulder,
24 that used to be king salmon, Department of
25 Transportation eliminated the fingers that come out of
26 the river for the -- I call them fingers, where the
27 king salmon spawn. It's not there anymore. Nothing
28 but culverts comes out of there, going through the Fish
29 and Department of Transportation, enhancing personal
30 property at the expense of losing king salmon for this
31 area.

32

33 I'm reminded by my niece that I haven't
34 even introduced myself yet.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. WARREN: When you say, elder, that
39 says everything.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. WARREN: My given name is (In
44 Tlingit). I was born in a log cabin. (In Tlingit)
45 means he who carries. A person like that has
46 responsibility in our culture, no authority, a lot of
47 responsibility. And Edward Thomas Warren, Jr., if you
48 got any IRS men around here.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. WARREN: I'm not making fun of you
2 guys, I'm just burning the candle on both ends here.
3 And that's a concern of the environmental -- when you
4 -- I had some training in hazardous waste in Houston,
5 Texas, was primary contractors, Coast Guard officers,
6 so I have a big picture perspective and I'm concerned
7 about if we don't have -- if this group does not get
8 involved with the environment of our renewable
9 resources, whether it's going to be a boat harbor or
10 there's going to be a highway or, what's another
11 popular project, high-rise projects so I'm not wasting
12 my time on telling you my concerns right now but I do
13 appreciate the way you came across. It is, I think,
14 being a -- to translate the word Tlingit means that's a
15 person and we have a relationship, we have a code of
16 conduct, and I feel comfortable with the Board's
17 conduct.

18

19 (In Tlingit)

20

21 Translate that to a really big thank
22 you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.
25 Gunalcheesh. Anyone else.

26

27 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning. My name is
28 Cathy Needham. I represent the Organized Village of
29 Kasaan, I'm the director of natural resources and we
30 have a number of subsistence projects that we'll
31 probably talk about later during this meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Have we
34 covered everyone, did somebody just come in -- all
35 right.

36

37 MR. ACKERMAN: I'm (Tlingit), that's my
38 Tlingit name. My English name is Tim Ackerman. Born
39 and raised in Alaska. Been here for 48 years.

40

41 A good portion of my meals come from
42 the country and what is available.

43

44 The ocean is the life blood of all the
45 Tlingits on the shore side here and all the Interior
46 people and the Eskimos.

47

48 Gunalcheesh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Tim. I'm

1 glad that you're here.

2

3 Patrick, did you introduce yourself
4 back there, you did, okay. Great.

5

6 With that we'll move on with the other
7 part of the agenda. Let me say just, you know, Merle
8 and Lee and Joe, you know, have been just here with us
9 shortly and I just wanted to express my appreciation to
10 all three of you for, you know, getting heavily
11 involved in the issues that are before us. And I could
12 see, you know, that you're going to be a great value to
13 this organization as we move forward. So I just wanted
14 you to know just how I felt about that.

15

16 Sorry that you're going to have to
17 leave, Frank, but, you know, I think the weather's
18 going to keep you here for the duration.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But anyhow this whole
23 group here, you know, has evolved over the last few
24 years but we have a core group here that I really rely
25 a lot on like Mike Douville, Don Hernandez, Patty, you
26 know, who is not here. Patty is probably the one who
27 has been on this Board for about the longest, in fact I
28 think she should be sitting in this Chair right here.
29 Nick is fairly new but this group, I have found, over
30 the past couple of three years, you know, is one that
31 has a lot of knowledge and information about
32 subsistence resources that we can, I know, be able to
33 come up with real good management schemes or
34 recommendations for management schemes that will ensure
35 us that we can have our subsistence way of life, not
36 only for us but for our grandchildren and their
37 grandchildren and their grandchildren. Native
38 Americans believe that we need to look seven
39 generations ahead and that requires a lot of vision and
40 with your people's help, this group here, I'm sure,
41 will provide that for us.

42

43 So Gunalcheesh. Gunalcheesh to this
44 Council for your dedication.

45

46 You know we're all volunteers. We
47 don't get paid for this, we get a little bit of per
48 diem and travel and all that but as far as, you know,
49 benefitting from it, you know, financially we don't,
50 it's all sacrifice on our part and I just want you all

1 to know that it's appreciated by myself as well as the
2 Federal people that, you know, we are advisors to.

3

4

So Gunalcheesh.

5

6

We're on Item No. 4 now, ladies and
7 gentlemen, so let's review and adopt -- review the
8 agenda. And what I would recommend, as we have always
9 done before is that we adopt the agenda as a guide. We
10 might have to move a couple of issues ahead of time in
11 case, you know, we'd like for you to be here for the
12 Makhnati issue, Frank, as well as the Chatham Straits.
13 So depending on how well we go through the agenda,
14 we're going to make sure that you're here at least for
15 those two issues.

16

17

Are there any others that we need to be
18 concerned about?

19

20

MR. LARSON: And the -- we'll make sure
21 he's here for the Juneau road system.

22

23

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And the Juneau road
24 system. So if anything, you know, if we have to move
25 them we'll move these up tomorrow morning.

26

27

Okay, so my recommendation like in the
28 past, you know, is to adopt the agenda as a guide and
29 then we can shift items around as we see fit.

30

31

MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.

32

33

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.

34

35

MR. KITKA: Thank you. I'd like to
36 adopt -- make a motion we adopt the agenda as a guide.

37

38

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

39

40

MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

41

42

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

43

44

MR. HOTCH: Mr. Chairman.

45

46

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.

47

48

MR. HOTCH: We have a couple concerns
49 that I'd like to add to this agenda before we adopt it.

50

1 It is very important to our community,
2 one is called Proposal 6 5 AAC 96.02.1 This proposal
3 wants to join Skagway, Haines and Klukwan as one
4 community council and we don't really agree with that.
5 We'd like to have some discussion on that.

6
7 And the other one is CHB-85. This is
8 the State wants to organize a Citizen's Advisory
9 Commission on Federal managed areas in Alaska. And to
10 me what we have here has gone a long ways and there's
11 community councils in each community and why organize
12 another commission without directions. In my statement
13 I'm saying protection about my rights is not in there.
14 I'm not going to support anything that does not
15 guarantee that my rights will be protected. It has no
16 direction. If I'm going to organize a little committee
17 here I have to tell that committee what their job will
18 be, but this doesn't even give direction. There's two
19 of them, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Hotch.

22
23 MR. HOTCH: And the other one I don't
24 know if Melinda presented it. But last year I brought
25 in a resolution or documents opposing the high powered
26 use of skiffs in the river, destroying our salmon.

27
28 Is that in the packet?

29
30 MS. HERNANDEZ: The fax you sent me the
31 other day?

32
33 MR. HOTCH: Yeah.

34
35 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'll make copies for
36 everybody and pass that around.

37
38 MR. HOTCH: Okay, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I think the
41 most logical place to put the items that you just
42 described to us, Joe, would be under Item 18.

43
44 MR. HOTCH: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And make that Item 18
47 D, and the CHB, the Citizen's Advisory Committee, we'll
48 make that item E.

49
50 MR. HOTCH: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And the issue on the,
2 what was it you faxed over to Melinda, you want to put
3 that on there too.
4
5 MR. HOTCH: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What will we call
8 that, Melinda, what was the fax about?
9
10 MS. HERNANDEZ: It was the high powered
11 skiffs.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: High powered skiffs.
14
15 MR. HOTCH: Yeah.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other
18 comments by Council.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Joe.
23
24 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Lee.
27
28 MR. WALLACE: One thing I might want to
29 offer as an added agenda item, recently Carrie Sykes'
30 department at Central Council had contacted all the
31 tribal organizations in Southeast Alaska and what they
32 had was they were distributing for opinion, of the top
33 10 subsistence issues in our region, and I thought that
34 may be of some value for this Council to review and
35 almost certain that most IRAs had received the
36 information from Carrie.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carrie, do you have
39 that with you?
40
41 MS. SYKES: Yes, I do and I would be
42 willing to give a short presentation about our
43 activities.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We'll make that
46 Item No. G. Again, you know, we are adopting this
47 agenda as a guide and if it's necessary for us to move
48 some of things around so that they can be taken care of
49 in a timely manner, we have the ability to do that.
50

1 Anyone else.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
8 called for. All in favor, please say aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.
17 Thank you.
18
19 Carrie, the stuff that you have to
20 distribute to the Council, please provide it to Bob
21 Larson here and he will take care of it. If you have
22 that -- do you have that now?
23
24 MS. SYKES: I have -- I'll have to do
25 it tomorrow, is it for today?
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. No.
28
29 MS. SYKES: It towards the end. Okay,
30 I'll have it.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thanks. Okay.
33 The minutes. Before we do the announcements, Bob has a
34 couple -- before we do the minutes, Bob has a couple of
35 announcements -- I almost had that backwards.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Bert. Just two
40 items for the attention of the Council, is that I have
41 travel documents so you should contact me this morning
42 and we'll have those distributed.
43
44 And also before you you have an updated
45 Regional Council Operations Manual, so that's out off
46 the press, this is a new document. It is updated and
47 it has some additional appendices in the back that you
48 might find useful. So review those and I think that
49 will be worthwhile.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Something for everyone
2 to do tonight instead of watching TV.

3
4 Thank you, Bob.

5
6 MR. KITKA: Something to help us sleep
7 better.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Also something to help
10 you sleep.

11
12 MR. HOTCH: What channel?

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If you want to get
17 sleepy that's a good document read.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's go
22 through the minutes. Council members, I think the way
23 that I'd like to handle the minutes is if someone would
24 make a motion to adopt and get a second and then we'll
25 review the minutes and offer any changes or additions
26 or subtractions to it. So if we can handle it that way
27 I'd appreciate it.

28
29 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair. I make a
30 motion to approve the minutes of February 26th, 2007.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Is there a
33 second.

34
35 MR. KITKA: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and
38 seconded and now we're under review and you're free to
39 make any comments or suggestions.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

46
47 MS. HAWKINS: I see a correction that
48 needs to be made.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

1 MS. HAWKINS: Page 22, 17 Tongass Land
2 Management Plan Amendment, talking about Council
3 members who volunteered to review the document, I was
4 on that committee and my name is not listed, so could
5 we add that there.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Add her name to
8 that.
9
10 MS. HAWKINS: I had lots of fun doing
11 that on the ferry home.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I know you did.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Lee was also a part of
20 that.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon.
23
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Lee.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Lee, yeah, of course,
27 he was on that too.
28
29 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Right.
30
31 MR. LARSON: And, Merle, where is that
32 exactly?
33
34 MS. HAWKINS: Page 22, 17 at the
35 bottom.
36
37 MR. LARSON: Okay.
38
39 (Pause)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How are we doing
42 folks?
43
44 (Pause)
45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Call for the question.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called
49 for. All in favor please say aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion's carried. I
8 notice that Joe does not have a Council book, does
9 everyone have a Council book?
10
11 MR. BANGS: Did you get a book?
12
13 MR. HOTCH: No, I don't have it.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Joe, doesn't
16 have one, so Melinda is getting one. Does anyone else
17 need a Council book?
18
19 (Council shakes head negatively)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're all covered,
22 okay.
23
24 Next item on the agenda is the Chair's
25 report. If you'll turn over to Page 24 you'll see a
26 letter, and then all of the issues and proposals that
27 the Council acted upon in our previous meeting is
28 included in that document. I don't know if any of you
29 had a chance to read this or not, if you have any
30 questions I'd be happy to do what I can to answer them.
31 If I can't answer them, I have a policy that, you know,
32 I don't answer hard questions.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So I've got Staff
37 people here that will be able to handle that for me if
38 that's not possible.
39
40 So please feel free to ask any
41 questions on that issue, and then what I'd like to do
42 is move over to the 2006 annual report response from
43 the Federal Subsistence Board, but I'll give you an
44 opportunity to go over this particular issue at this
45 time.
46
47 (Pause)
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The final paragraph on
50 Page 24, it says, if you have any questions regarding

1 the summary of the Board's actions please contact
2 Melinda. So I'm taken off the hook, so she's the one
3 that can answer all the questions for you.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. HERNANDEZ: I think that's a
8 mistake.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are we ready to move
13 on here folks.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.

20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Where are we at, are we
22 discussing these responses then, is that our charge at
23 this point?

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, if you have any
26 questions in regards to the issues on Page 24, that
27 letter, and anything, you know, after that, you know,
28 you've read it and you have concerns or questions, you
29 know, just please ask Melinda and she'll answer them
30 all for you and then we'll move on.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I want you to be sure
35 that you cover that because on the next one, on the
36 Board's response to our request for reconsideration,
37 I'd like to spend some time addressing that.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So unless there's any
42 other concerns or questions on the other issue I'd like
43 to go into that if that's okay.

44
45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Which we will do. If
48 you'll turn over to Page 36.

49
50 This is a letter from Mr. Fleagle to

1 myself in regards to the issues that have been before
2 us the past time, one of the things that it addresses
3 is whether a Regional Advisory Council can submit an
4 RFR or not.

5
6 When the Board decided to join Saxman
7 and Ketchikan together and determine those two
8 communities non-rural, at the close of that meeting, I
9 think it was in December of last year, I kind of warned
10 the Board that we were going to probably, you know,
11 challenge that decision. And I was told by Mr. Goltz
12 that -- he's the attorney from the Solicitor General's
13 office, that we would not be able to do an RFR, that's
14 a request for reconsideration. And I kind of scratched
15 my head and immediately began to wonder why and so in
16 -- when our meeting in Kake took place last year we got
17 together and had some of the Council members do some
18 research on that and they found that Regional Advisory
19 Councils can, indeed, submit RFRs. And when we had our
20 next Board meeting, before I even had a chance to sit
21 down in my chair, Keith came over to me and apologized
22 and said that he was mistaken in giving me that kind of
23 information. And so from that point on, you know, we
24 determined that we were going to follow through with an
25 RFR.

26
27 I also, during the summer, got several
28 telephone calls from Hans Neidig and he was -- he's the
29 assistant to the Secretary of Interior for the Alaska
30 Region and he was really trying to encourage me not to
31 follow through with an RFR. Also informed me that even
32 though we would be able to do so that the Board was
33 going to kind of, you know, rescind that portion where
34 we can and make it possible not for RACs to do RFRs. I
35 thought long and hard about it, and even before he
36 started calling, you know, I kind of -- we started
37 working with Saxman and Ketchikan, assisting them in
38 whatever way we could to help them because they decided
39 they were going to do an RFR on behalf of each of their
40 communities. We also thought it would be more
41 strengthened if the RAC also did one. This was the
42 RAC's position at that time, you know, after the Kake
43 meeting. And so, you know, these things went on for
44 the summer, about three or four telephone calls from
45 Hans.

46
47 As I thought about this I thought -- I
48 says, well, you know, the State, I've seen the State,
49 you know, submit RFRs and they sit on the Board as an
50 advisory to the Board. And I was informed that because

1 we were an advisory to the Board that we could not.
2 Now, why can we not do it and they can and so that's a
3 question that I'm bringing up at this time. Although
4 we may be an advisory to the Board, we also represent
5 subsistence users in our regions. And the thing that
6 they brought out to me was the fact that we are not an
7 aggrieved person. In order for someone to do an RFR,
8 they have to be aggrieved for some reason. And I'm,
9 you know, I'm still scratching my head on that.

10

11 We assisted in whatever way we could in
12 getting, you know, teleconferences, and meetings
13 together with Saxman and Ketchikan, you know, with
14 their RFR and I think that they've got a real good,
15 both of them, you know, they had real high qualified
16 technical people such as Don Motif, you know, from the
17 University of Alaska who did some background research,
18 you know, for Saxman, Carol Daniels, an attorney who
19 represents, you know, the Alaska Federation of Natives
20 donated their time and these people, you know, did it
21 without pay as well. And a lot of work went into that
22 folks, you know, teleconferences, meetings and emails,
23 you know, you name it, we did what we could to assist
24 Saxman and Ketchikan, you know, to do theirs. And then
25 at the ninth hour I talked with Bob Schroeder, who's
26 last day of work was, I think the end of June, and I
27 was uncomfortable about who we were going to have as
28 the next coordinator, whether that person could put
29 together an RFR for us. I did make a couple of
30 recommendations, you know, who I thought would be a
31 good person to, you know, take Bob's place but that
32 wasn't going to happen right away other than a
33 temporary appointment, which, you know, Mr. Larson took
34 and I'm grateful for that, Bob, but at that time, you
35 know, with Mr. Schroeder leaving in just a few days, I
36 says, okay, we'll do it, as long as you put together
37 the proposal for us or write it up for us and he spent
38 the next day or so, you know, putting together our RFR
39 and we submitted it.

40

41 Again, I want to go back to the fact
42 that this Council represents a host of communities in
43 our region. Like Ketchikan or Saxman, you know, some
44 of those smaller villages will not have the ability to
45 be able to get the technical assistance or the
46 resources or the good people that have been working
47 with these communities to put together an RFR if they
48 need, so who's going to represent them? It's going to
49 have to be us.

50

1 And so, you know, I hope that, you
2 know, Mr. Larson and I and others would be able to put
3 together a real strong challenge to this. The Board
4 did not accept our RFR. And I'm sure, you know, that
5 this issue is going to be a hot one and probably during
6 this meeting. And I'm sure that Mr. Larry Buklis will
7 be able to shed some light on it as well.

8
9 But I just wanted to, you know, bring
10 these issues out, you know, I'm still scratching my
11 head as to reasons why we cannot do it, and I think we
12 can.

13
14 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Bangs, go
17 ahead.

18
19 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
20 believe in this letter here, from what I understand,
21 it's going to clarify this point in the next addition
22 and I can't find it in there where it says anything
23 about what we're -- it doesn't say anything about
24 restricting us from submitting RFRs so if anyone's
25 found that I'd like to be aware of where it -- exactly
26 where it is.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I think we would
29 all like that.

30
31 MR. BANGS: I was disappointed as well
32 when we were talking about who was going to be
33 appointed to take Bob Schroeder's place. I believe at
34 the last meeting we discussed having someone that had a
35 background in subsistence and I don't know if that
36 happened or not.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, Steve is going
39 to give a report on that here toward the end of
40 Wednesday.

41
42 MR. BANGS: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, yeah. Bob Larson
45 is, you know, acting as the interim coordinator at this
46 point. They do have someone identified. And I'm just
47 going to leave that to Steve to, you know, drop the
48 bomb.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The thing that was
2 wrong with the aggregation of Ketchikan and Saxman was
3 the fact that Lee went to that Board meeting, was there
4 anyone else with you Lee from Ketchikan or your area?

5
6 MR. WALLACE: No.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, you were the only
9 one. But he was quite taken by surprise, you know, he
10 went there with the idea that Saxman was going to
11 retain their rural determination and then the Board
12 goes and, you know, they combine the two communities
13 and determined it non-rural. I think that's a process
14 that we can challenge because they were not informed,
15 he did not even have a chance to respond to it during
16 that meeting because, you know, I don't think he was
17 prepared for that kind of announcement. So I think
18 that's one of the things that needs to be brought out.

19
20 He came to this meeting, he wasn't
21 prepared to receive this action at that time so it's a
22 matter of process here that I think is a real big
23 issue.

24
25 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

28
29 MR. WALLACE: Could I just speak about
30 the issue of the Southeast RAC having the ability to do
31 the RFR. Again, when we did our training in Kake we
32 had the old operations manual, which was clearly in
33 black and white, which stated the rights of the
34 Southeast RAC to submit an RFR.

35
36 And, of course, Mr. Larson just
37 announced that this was hot off the press and, yes, it
38 is new, and, yes, if you look at the old one they
39 deleted No. 18, and so you can see there's an error
40 here, it goes from 17 to 19. And they failed to edit
41 it properly and so, you know, 19 should have been 18
42 but 18's just deleted. So someone hurriedly did some
43 editing and just didn't do it right.

44
45 But, clearly, I understood that that
46 would be the next process of the Federal Subsistence
47 Board is to strike that from black and white because it
48 was definitely black and white for everyone to read and
49 to interpret no other way.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you for
2 that Lee. Is there any questions or comments that
3 anyone would like to make as far as our ability to do
4 an RFR is concerned.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think another issue
9 that I will address here, there's a lot here, you know,
10 and if you have any questions about things that I'm not
11 addressing here, please feel to do so and I'll try to
12 do my best to answer the questions.

13
14 But I put an issue on the table during
15 the Federal Subsistence Board about the meeting of the
16 Chairs. If you remember there used to be a meeting of
17 the Chairs before the Federal Subsistence Board met,
18 and for some reason -- well, we all know the reason it
19 had to do with FACA and, you know, public meetings and
20 all that good stuff, but I've talked to some of the
21 other Chairs, you know, during the Federal Subsistence
22 Board meeting and I asked them what they thought about
23 it and they thought it was a good thing. It helped the
24 Chairs, you know, to get familiar with what's happening
25 in their regions and so forth and be better prepared,
26 you know, to address, you know, issues that affect all
27 of the regions in Southeast Alaska and so forth, but
28 the Chair's meeting isn't for the purpose of making any
29 type of decisions and so they said they were going to
30 look at it and I can't remember whether there was any
31 decision as to whether we can do that or not.

32
33 Steve, do you have any comment on that?

34
35 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Steve Kessler with the Forest Service.

37
38 REPORTER: Steve. Steve.

39
40 MR. KESSLER: The Board had a
41 discussion -- actually the Board had a retreat two
42 weeks ago and the Board actually discussed this then as
43 it turned out, rather than at that work session like
44 the letter said.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

47
48 MR. KESSLER: And what they decided was
49 -- well, one of the problems is the way that the sort
50 of the discussion with the Board occurs now is it's the

1 very last thing that happens at the meeting, at the
2 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, and so what they
3 discussed was because many of the Chairs have left at
4 that point and there's not that ability to have the
5 give and take between the Board and all the Chairs of
6 the Advisory Councils there, they talked about moving
7 that discussion up to the very beginning of the meeting
8 instead of at the end of the meeting.

9

10 They do need to have that as public
11 discussion. They still are of the opinion that there
12 cannot be a meeting of the Chairs because that's not
13 allowed under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So
14 sa far as just looking at different ways to deal with
15 it, their plan is to move that discussion of the Chairs
16 to the beginning with the Board and we'll see, I think
17 the intent is to implement that at the next Federal
18 Board meeting in December.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks, Steve, I
21 appreciate that. I remember reading something about it
22 to that effect but I don't have that with me.

23

24 Okay, well, that's about the extent of
25 my report at this point, you know, I've skipped a lot
26 of stuff, if you had time to read it, you have any
27 comments or questions, that's open right now.

28

29 Don, please.

30

31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman. I have one more comment on the request for
33 reconsideration and the ability of the Council to make
34 that request. At that Board meeting, Mr. Wallace, you
35 know, happened to be there and that's not always the
36 case that, you know, people who have a strong interest
37 in these issues can attend Board meetings, you know,
38 they're very difficult to get to and Mr. Wallace,
39 fortunately was there and I also have to commend the
40 people from Saxman and Ketchikan, I think they did
41 submit some excellent request for reconsiderations on
42 their own, kind of a difficult task as you mentioned.
43 But they're not always going to be at these meetings.
44 And things that happen at the meetings, I think in this
45 case, you know, there may be some questionable, you
46 know, procedure and if you're not there to witness that
47 procedure, you don't have a clue as to what went on.

48

49 The Chairman is there as a
50 representative of the aggrieved people and he has a

1 responsibility there and to take that opportunity for
2 the Chairman and the Council to respond with a request
3 for reconsideration, I think is just very unreasonable
4 and I think, you know, what we see written here before
5 us in this letter, in my opinion, is a legal opinion of
6 somebody on the Staff and not necessarily the final say
7 on what this issue should be.

8

9 I think in my opinion what we saw in
10 black and white has more standing than what we see as
11 an opinion after the fact.

12

13 So that's just my feelings on the
14 issue.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Don,
17 appreciate that.

18

19 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

22

23 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, Harvey Kitka.
24 Thank you. I was looking at these two books and these
25 two documents and I looked at the signatories of the
26 agreement and the signatories of this new book are
27 identical to the old book, which means the new book is
28 just a copy of the old book and the people didn't sign
29 it. So this should not be as good as the old one.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Thanks for
34 that notation there, Harvey.

35

36 Anyone else.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, let's move on
41 then.

42

43 MR. CASIPIT: We just wanted to
44 recognize Terry and Ben with the Southeast Fisheries
45 Regional -- Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
46 They also helped out a bunch on statewide issues as
47 well in the plan. And we got -- there was a ton of
48 compliments for their work and I felt the same way and
49 Steve felt the same way, and although this is a little
50 late we have for you a couple certificates of

1 appreciation and I'd just like to read them here,
2 what's on them, and it says:

3
4 For the professional and complete Staff
5 work for the 2008 Fisheries Resource
6 Monitoring Plan and excellent input to
7 the Technical Review Committee of the
8 InterAgency Federal Subsistence
9 Management Program.

10
11 I sit on the Technical Review Committee
12 as a representative of the Forest Service and I have to
13 chime in that they did excellent work and it made our
14 job a heck of a lot easier. So with that I'd like to
15 give them a round of applause.

16
17 (Applause)

18
19 MR. CASIPIT: It comes with a small
20 token of appreciation that they should have already
21 received.

22
23 Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you,
26 Cal, and our appreciation to both Ben and Terry for the
27 good work that they're doing.

28
29 When I first got acquainted with Ben,
30 there's two things that I learned from him; fish like
31 water and fertilization.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, you know, that's
36 valuable information that I can use.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The story goes longer
41 than that.....

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:but, you know --
46 okay.

47
48 Okay, we're at Item No. 7 now, Council
49 members reports.

50

1 Before we do that, and then I'm going
2 to start down at this end here and go down this way
3 first.

4
5 There was a story that I was going to
6 share with you all, I know George likes stories, he
7 likes my stories.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But I called my wife
12 this morning and I wanted to know the name of this
13 individual and then I tried to call her just before the
14 meeting started using Bob's cell phone but she was
15 still looking for it so I'm not going to bother about
16 it, I'm not going to use the name, I'll just tell the
17 story, and maybe Frank or Joe, you know, will recognize
18 -- I know you'll recognize the story and maybe you can
19 tell me the name as well.

20
21 But it's a story about a Hoonah man who
22 married a Kluknaahadi lady from (In Tlingit). (In
23 Tlingit) as you remember in some of my stories is that
24 place where Raven -- is one of the places where Raven
25 did all of his creations in the (In Tlingit) and (In
26 Tlingit) is where he pulled in the large canoe with the
27 house on it with all of the animals in it and then let
28 out all of the fishes and the birds and those animals
29 so that the land could be plentiful for the Tlingit
30 people when they began to migrate there.

31
32 And when the (In Tlingit) area was
33 inhabited by the Tlingit people they had no knowledge
34 of how to hunt and fish and these things, and so there
35 was this man who married this lady from (In Tlingit)
36 and he was walking from Hoonah all the way up to the
37 village of (In Tlingit) and as he did so he met these
38 groups of people and he would teach them how to hunt
39 and how to fish. And one example of that is the
40 eulachons were running and they were trying to catch
41 them, you know, one by one.

42
43 Do you recognize the story?

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: (Nods affirmatively)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And he taught them how
48 to make a dipnet and a basket, you know, a hole dug
49 into the sand and filled with leaves so that the
50 eulachons can be put in there and it will not get sandy

1 and so forth. And so he did this, you know, all along
2 the coast, you know, teaching people how to effectively
3 hunt the animals and how to catch the fishes and how to
4 hunt the birds.

5
6 And so the moral of that story is that
7 we are always looking for effective ways and means of
8 providing for our resources; hunting, fishing or
9 whatever, you know, we need -- we are always looking
10 for better and easier ways to do it, but not at the
11 expense of over using the resources and causing some
12 conservation concerns.

13
14 So I wanted to share that story, I
15 think it would have been more effective if I had the
16 name. Do you know what the name is?

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: Clay (ph).

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Clay.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: Clay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

25
26 But I just thought that would be a good
27 story to share with all of us at this point so that we
28 could think, you know, that there are always better
29 ways to do things but we need to be careful about how
30 we treat the environment and how the habitat, you know,
31 is cared for.

32
33 Our people had ways and means of
34 managing the resources and this Council is very strong
35 on traditional and ecological knowledge.

36
37 A real good example of that is when the
38 East Alsek River sockeye crashed, you know, in the late
39 1900s, the tribe, the Forest Service, National Park
40 Service, city and borough -- everyone concerned, the
41 city and borough, they got together and they tried to
42 figure out, you know, what was happening there and as a
43 result of that about four different proposals were
44 submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management to
45 try to figure out, you know, reasons why that happened.
46 And the very first proposal that was submitted and
47 approved was, of course, a TEK project and we hired a
48 young lady who was born and raised from Yakutat, Judy
49 Ramos, she had a degree in anthropology and we hired
50 her to do that project for us and the challenge for

1 her, and I kept reminding her, even though she was
2 focused on it was, was find out how our people managed
3 their resources a long, long time ago because we did
4 have methods and means of managing our resources. We
5 looked forward to the future, didn't we, we wanted
6 those resources to be there for our grandchildren and
7 their grandchildren and for time and all eternity. And
8 so we were careful in how we managed them.

9
10 I can give you some examples now but I
11 just want to give that point to you is that once those
12 things were documented in our office, whenever those
13 other three or four projects that were going to be
14 funded, then we can take traditional ecological
15 knowledge and bridge it with Western Science, and where
16 can you go wrong when you put these two programs
17 together. You know, they're essentially the same.

18
19 When you look at our elders today, we
20 regard them as the wisdom keepers. They're the ones
21 who know, you know, through experience and many, many
22 years of watching nature produce themselves, they know
23 and science is the same thing. Science, you know, is
24 through experiment. You come up with a thesis or
25 whatever it is and you come to conclusions and the
26 conclusions are always the same, they're always the
27 same. So with that, you know, I just wanted to share
28 that with you and about this man from Hoonah who taught
29 people in the (In Tlingit) area how to hunt and fish.

30
31 So we're going to start with you, Mr.
32 Bangs, on issues that you would like to address, you
33 know, for your area.

34
35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Well, the Petersburg area suffered a large snowfall
37 this last winter, as many other communities did as well
38 and there's some concern about deer mortality from the
39 deep snow. We're not sure how it will affect other
40 animals as well, the wildlife and the streams and what
41 not.

42
43 We did have a good, a fair salmon
44 season, halibut prices were good, everyone's pretty
45 happy about their fishing season. It wasn't above
46 average by any means, but mostly the concern is the
47 effects of this last winter and how it's going to play
48 into our deer, our subsistence mainstay in our
49 freezers. So that's a pretty big concern.

50

1 And there's the growing concern about
2 the halibut stocks by sportfishermen, and guided
3 sportfishermen and so it's making it harder for our
4 subsistence halibut fishermen to get out in their small
5 boats and it's a concern we had last year, last
6 meeting, there was other communities with that same
7 concern, how the charter fleet has grown so much and
8 really taking a toll on our halibut and we're not sure
9 what we can do about it but there's a few different
10 methods that they're trying to come up with and we're
11 hoping that it's resolved so that we can get our
12 subsistence halibut.

13

14 And there's also a concern with the sea
15 otters there, they're getting close to Petersburg,
16 which is quite a ways inland and they're being sighted
17 inside of Frederick Sound now, they're on the south end
18 in Summer Straits and that's a threat to our shellfish
19 stocks as the herds of sea otters have grown
20 substantially in the past few years and it seems to be
21 a snowballing effect. There's a real concern with sea
22 otters.

23

24 So other than that we had a marginal
25 berry picking season but the cranberries look really
26 good. And I'm hoping that people are able to get out
27 and get the cranberries. We saw a lot of unripe
28 cranberries last week so that hopefully can provide
29 some berry mixes in the freezer.

30

31 That's about all we have from
32 Petersburg.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
37 Joe.

38

39 MR. HOTCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 I really believed when the State goes
42 after information through our livelihood, not only here
43 but throughout Southeast, they go to Tlingit and Haida
44 or Sealaska. They don't go to right where the root is.
45 They feel around out there. Those two organizations
46 are good but they shouldn't speak on our behalf. We
47 know how we live in our little villages, in our
48 communities. I find it very harmful, myself, somebody
49 else speaking upon my needs and wants.

50

1 I appreciate those people in Sealaska
2 and Tlingit and Haida, but they're taking information
3 that they get from some other place, they don't really
4 get it from Sitka or any other place, Hoonah, they get
5 it from books and that's what's harming us.

6
7 I remember seeing one fellow come
8 through here. I was eating at one of the restaurants
9 out at One Mile and I was the only one in there and a
10 young man came in and the cook asked him, where you
11 from, where are you going, I'm going up north, I just
12 done a week of fisheries training in Sitka, just one
13 week and he's going up to tell the people up there how
14 to live and use their way of life. I don't appreciate
15 anything like that.

16
17 I want people that know what they're
18 talking about. One week, my elders would call me a
19 baby, you're still a baby, you don't know enough.

20
21 And just think he's up there doing a
22 job, he's getting paid and I don't appreciate that.

23
24 Last year I talked about -- well, there
25 was a conference call coming in from Anchorage by Fish
26 and Wildlife and I asked the question about self-
27 defense, shooting a bear, he said, no, you can't do
28 that, you can't shoot a brown bear in self-defense but
29 this year I find in the Anchorage paper, maybe six or
30 eight articles about a White man shooting brown bear in
31 self-defense. What is the difference, why am I
32 different from the White man. I have to die and the
33 White man saves his life. I think we need to be
34 treated equal. I really believe it and if -- there was
35 one way I wouldn't have believed it if our people
36 didn't welcome the White man into our country, then we
37 would have the same balance but White man was coming
38 through, here to dig gold up north and we fed them what
39 they wanted -- they were running out of food so we need
40 to really balance ourselves to protect our lives.

41
42 Right now I think several of you went
43 up to Klukwan yesterday but in that little village
44 there are three or four brown bears walking around and
45 we have children four to six years old walking to
46 school and we can't shoot a bear in self-defense so
47 that I could save my grandchild, I need equal
48 protection, I need it and this is where I feel I'll
49 get, here, probably not at this meeting, probably the
50 next two or three meetings but we're going to be

1 together and holding hands so that we could survive in
2 this territory.

3

4 I've always said the State of Alaska
5 went from District of Alaska, Territory of Alaska and
6 now State of Alaska and we are, as Natives, are still
7 one government, Eagle, Raven moiety, we still govern
8 ourselves by that traditional way of living and it's
9 not hate, it's liking each other, we always help each
10 other. When one is hungry we make sure that hungry
11 person is fed. Now we have to qualify, it has brought
12 us Native people down a long ways, I have to show
13 myself starving before I could get help and I don't
14 like that, I don't want to live that way, I don't want
15 my children to live that way, I don't want my
16 grandchildren to live that way.

17

18 So this is part of the concerns that I
19 have, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Joe. Mr.
22 Kitka.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 I have some concerns in Sitka that are
27 not all that much different than the previous two
28 speakers. We have the sea otters that have been there
29 for a long time, we watch them come, we watch them eat
30 and we've said goodbye to almost all our seafoods in
31 the area and then we watch them starve to death. And
32 this is because they eat themselves out of house and
33 home and they'll not survive and that's just the thing
34 about them, they have no way to control them.

35

36 Our biggest main concern the last
37 couple of years have been with our herring stocks and
38 Sitka -- the Sitka people have some pretty strong
39 feelings about the herring which go back thousands of
40 years of subsistence harvesting. The harvesting of
41 herring eggs in Sitka has traditionally been a
42 Southeast wide type thing in the Native community.
43 Every community was welcomed and they all came to
44 Sitka. It's been noted at times there have been as
45 many as 10,000 Native people in Sitka Sound harvesting
46 herring eggs. Now you'd never be able to do that.
47 We're lucky to reach out and feed a very few number of
48 people, especially this last year where the State Fish
49 and Game told us that we had a marvelous spawn this
50 last year but for the subsistence people it was very

1 sparse and almost no eggs on the branches and a lot of
2 us that set a lot trees, we found that probably 90
3 percent of our trees had no eggs at all in them. So
4 this is a very big concern of ours.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.

9 I'll go ahead and give my report.

10

11 I'd just like to make a comment about
12 the sea otters as well, they are becoming a nuisance
13 all over the state and Southeast particularly. Many,
14 many years ago I was listening to Richard Dalton talk
15 about the sea otters and he said that our people a
16 long, long time ago used to keep them out on the
17 Fairweather Bench, away from land, away from the
18 islands, and then the Russians came -- I mean, you
19 know, he told a story that when they used to go out and
20 hunt the sea otters, they went so far out into the
21 ocean that you could barely see the top of the
22 mountains, that's how far they went, that's how far
23 they were out there. And so when the Russians came and
24 wiped out all the sea otters, particularly in the
25 Fairweather Bench it was a long time before they ever
26 were introduced into that area again. And I think it
27 was in the 1960s when the Fish and Wildlife Service
28 transplanted sea otters from the Aleutians into the
29 Yakutat area and where did they put them, they put them
30 in the main land and on the islands. And since then,
31 you know, they have been multiplying, you know, really,
32 really fast, I don't know what the last count there was
33 but when you take the fact that a sea otter eats 25
34 percent of its body weight a day and they reach up to
35 100 pounds, you're talking if they're a 500, you know,
36 sea otters in our area for instance, you're talking a
37 tremendous amount of crabs and cockles and clams and
38 sea urchins, you know, that they are taking out of that
39 area and so, you know, in a sense we are competing with
40 them for our subsistence foods. And how to address
41 them, you know, hasn't really been discussed in depth.
42 And I know some of the tribal governments, you know,
43 have been concerned about it, I know Sitka Tribe has a
44 sea otter management plan that I think could be used as
45 a model for other communities to address that issue.

46

47 The issues in Yakutat this year, we've
48 had a lot better berries, you know, I mentioned last
49 year that the berries and I think it was true for all
50 of Southeast Alaska, just weren't there. For us they

1 came late but they were able to -- you know my wife and
2 I were able to get a good bunch of that into our
3 freezer. I mentioned before, you know, that if you go
4 to our home you will look into our freezers and you'll
5 find that 90 percent of the food that we use in our
6 home is subsistence caught food, moose, deer, fish,
7 berries. And last year, you know, we were really
8 wanting for those but this year we were able to fulfill
9 our requirements.

10

11 We were concerned that the heavy snow
12 was going to take its toll on the deer but I've seen,
13 you know, a lot of deer in the area, they're coming
14 right into the community now.

15

16 Sitting in church a couple weeks ago
17 and looked out the window and there was two nice bucks
18 feeding on some vegetation, you know, in our parking
19 lot and it'd been nice if I'd had my rifle.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But, anyhow, you know
24 the berries have come back, it looks like the deer, you
25 know, hasn't suffered from the long and large snowfall.
26 And, you know, I think the salmon, the salmon came late
27 as well. The sockeye showed up late, we were wondering
28 if there were going to be any at all and then all of a
29 sudden they came in and the commercial fishing, you
30 know, was pretty successful. Not so much because there
31 was a great amount of salmon as because of the prices
32 that were being paid, you know, that helped a lot.
33 We're still waiting for a good shot of silvers to come
34 through in the Yakutat area, hasn't showed up yet.
35 But, you know, it's not over yet, hopefully there'll be
36 a good shot there, you know, between now and the middle
37 of October.

38

39 Let me see, I think that's about all I
40 have. I'd like to maybe share a couple stories with
41 you again.

42

43 I used to fish with Herman Kitka when I
44 was just a young whippersnapper and I heard the story
45 about his father, Frank Kitka, who walked up to a Fish
46 and Wildlife guy, wanted to know if it was against the
47 law to kill deer and so the answer was, oh, yeah, it's
48 against the law to kill deer right now, it's July and
49 doesn't open up, you know, until August or thereabouts
50 and he says it's definitely against the law to kill

1 deer, so Frank's reply to him was the bear killed two,
2 go handcuff him.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Joe made mention about
7 the Eagle and Raven Moieties, you know, those were our
8 political factions, you know, in the olden days. And
9 Walter Sobelof made a mention of that several years ago
10 and he says, now, we either have to wear the banner of
11 a donkey or an elephant, you know, in the political
12 arena today. So I thought that was interesting.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll go ahead and turn
17 the time over to, let's start with Merle, and work on
18 down this way.

19

20 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you, Bert. Merle
21 Hawkins.

22

23 Yeah, I had the opportunity to go to
24 our KIC cultural camp with our youth just for a day, I
25 was working for the Forest Service and we had a good
26 time. We did a presentation about the beaver and the
27 ads because the similarities on how the beaver cuts a
28 tree down and the -- it has the exact same angle as a
29 beaver teeth in his skull, so that was a fun day.

30

31 Ketchikan Indian Community, we just met
32 with Denny Bschor and Forrest Cole with the Forest
33 Service on KIC's comments on the Tongass Land
34 Management Plan, our main focus along with Saxman and
35 Metlakatla has been to protect Gravina Island, at least
36 the southern end of it where Bostwick Inlet is and so
37 that was a pretty important meeting for us.

38

39 We have our own hatchery down there at
40 KIC and we try to balance that out with our tourism and
41 also provide salmon for our elders and we just started
42 an elders program about a year ago where the elders, we
43 have a food bank for them where we can get some food
44 for them, mostly salmon right now. They get together
45 and have a dinner once a month.

46

47 And, well, we just heard that our
48 bridge to the airport didn't get funded and that was
49 another important consideration for Ketchikan, we're
50 trying to find that balance between having some land

1 area in the Ketchikan area to build because when I go
2 home on Friday we're opening up our -- having a grand
3 opening for our 24 units that we partnered with Tlingit
4 and Haida for our housing program so 24 units for low
5 income people and so we're pretty excited about that.

6
7 As far as talking about the sea otters
8 I'm not too involved in that but I did go to Sitka in
9 March or April for the traditional ecological
10 conference, was just an awesome conference, and I think
11 the communities that are having that problem should,
12 you know, encourage their members to harvest sea otters
13 because for myself, I don't get an opportunity to get
14 out hunting or I don't have a hunter in my household, I
15 depend on other people so I was able to purchase three
16 sea otter pelts from the Sitka tannery and I was real
17 excited about that so sometime in the future can have
18 an opportunity to make something with those. And also
19 Diane Willard, which is a Ketchikan artist, she got a
20 scholarship and she's going to be making a Raven Tail's
21 robe using sea otter, which was one of the things that
22 the Alaska Native folks did and so that's a pretty
23 exciting project. And I notice in the Ketchikan area,
24 too, they had a lottery for mountain goats on the
25 island. I know they had been reintroduced to Revello
26 (ph) Island and so that was some good news.

27
28 And as far as protecting our food, I
29 was trained a lot by Ester Shey, Phyllis Omgvist and
30 some other elders in my community as far as -- and my
31 aunt, Vesta Johnson, which is Carrie Sykes'
32 grandmother, are related very close, and I'd like to
33 congratulate her on her new position with Tlingit and
34 Haida, I'm very proud of her, going to college and
35 coming back and getting a job with the tribe and
36 representing in that.

37
38 Thank you, Carrie.

39
40 And, you know, the survey that they did
41 to rate the 10 top items for Southeast Alaska. I know
42 our cultural subsistence committee for KIC made sure
43 that we participated in that. And so partnering with
44 those regional tribes is real important, like we did
45 for housing and also I haven't been involved in the
46 Tlingit and Haida Fish and Wildlife Commission because
47 I can't find room to wear any more hats but I keep
48 hoping we're going to train some younger people to get
49 involved in leadership because it's real important. I
50 was very lucky in my youth to be trained by my Aunt

1 Vesta Johnson in how to gather berries and I never
2 realized how many lessons they taught me in just going
3 out and picking berries but they taught me respect for
4 the land, respect for my elders, responsibility to the
5 youth, respect for the animals and so for me, I'm an
6 interpreter for the Forest Service in the summer time
7 and do my best to educate the people that come through
8 town on the cruise ships, we have over 857,000 people
9 and then the independent, so we're looking at a million
10 people that come through Ketchikan every year and I
11 think it's each one of us job to educate people that
12 come through and I do that. You know they were
13 labeling our airport bridge as a bridge to nowhere and
14 I would just tell them it was a bridge to opportunity
15 for our community. So trying to find that balance and
16 opening up land for development and for housing, for
17 industrial use and for recreation is the way I stated
18 it, and then trying to protect our resources in the
19 Bostwick area so trying to find that balance and so our
20 comments from Ketchikan were pretty much the same as
21 Metlakatla, to protect the southern end of the island,
22 although they're already building roads into that area.
23 It was an important subsistence area for the three
24 tribal groups. So we keep pretty busy on the tribal
25 level.

26

27 And just glad to be here to represent
28 the interests of southern Southeast Alaska, and all of
29 Southeast Alaska actually.

30

31 So, thanks.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle. You
34 know I don't want to rush the other four people from
35 making their comments, it's after 10:00 o'clock now,
36 10:13 by my time and Tina needs to go get, you know,
37 some equipment from the electronic store so we'll go
38 ahead and take a break. How much time do you think
39 you'll need, Tina, for a break?

40

41 REPORTER: About 15 minutes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: About 15 minutes.
44 Okay, so we'll come back at 10:30, okay.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll go ahead and

1 call this meeting back into session. Before we get any
2 further, I was told that people in the back can't hear
3 me very well; is that true, okay, I've had people
4 complain about that ever since I started becoming a
5 public speaker so if you have any problems please let
6 me know and I will try to turn up the volume a little
7 bit on my end, otherwise, you know, try to turn up your
8 hearing aids if you have one.

9

10 Before I go any further with the rest
11 of the reports from the Council, I did bring one up
12 here, but Melinda would you hold up one of those blue
13 sheets please, one of those sheets right there if
14 anyone wants to make any comments or offer a testimony
15 pick one of those up and fill it out and then give it
16 to Melinda over there and then we'll have you on
17 record.

18

19 MS. HERNANDEZ: And if everybody could
20 sign their name on the sign in sheet at least once, you
21 don't have to do it every day but just sometime,
22 please.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
27 We'll go now to Lee, please.

28

29 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Lee Wallace from Saxman. Yeah, I hear some concerns,
31 we're back in the Rainbelt, being the southern most
32 village in Alaska so we didn't experience the heavy
33 snowfall like many of our northern villages did. But I
34 do wear many hats, and my other hat I wear is a
35 transportation planner for Southeast Tribal Department
36 of Transportation, which is a consortium of five
37 different tribes in Southeast Alaska. And one of my
38 other planners from the Hoonah area, he was back up in
39 Hoonah doing some inventory on the U.S. Forest Service
40 roads in the Hoonah area and so he seen many dead deer
41 carcasses and he didn't see any live deer. And, of
42 course, Hoonah, Yakutat, Klukwan experienced a real
43 large snowfall this last winter and, yes, there's great
44 concern of deer mortality. And the part of, you know,
45 that's a concern of ours, you know, with our fellow
46 brothers in the different villages.

47

48 And, again, when I met a resident here
49 from Haines I told her what I was up here for and one
50 of her responses to me was where's the fish, you know,

1 it's part of the Fish and Game, is that sometimes the
2 fish are there and sometimes they're not and when
3 they're not we're always very concerned of why and we
4 want to find out answers, you know, why the eulachon
5 run hasn't been there in the southern end of Southeast
6 Alaska for a number of years again and, again, this
7 year was no different, there was very little eulachon
8 runs in our part of the country.

9

10 Again, like many of our other villages
11 we did have berries this year, had a little more
12 sunshine than in the years previous so that was good to
13 have, the availability of harvesting the berries in our
14 region.

15

16 Going back to the U.S. Forest Service
17 roads, being the transportation planner, as many of you
18 know the U.S. Forest Service and the Tongass are taking
19 a drastic budget cut and so that budget cut means
20 reduction of maintenance of roads in their system. And
21 part of us that are involved with transportation, with
22 the Indian Reservation Roads, we could possibly work
23 with some agreements with the Forest Service to help
24 maintain some of those roads if so desired and
25 indicated in our transportation plan but, again, it
26 takes some work and planning with the agency and -- but
27 I do know that the Forest Service is charged to do a
28 large reduction in road maintenance. And why is that
29 important for subsistence, many of our subsistence
30 users use those roads and trails for their subsistence
31 and customary and traditional gathering of hunting and
32 gathering of food. So it's an important topic that we
33 need to be aware of.

34

35 Again, I stated I'm from Saxman and we
36 are distinct from the Ketchikan area. You heard from
37 Merle that, you know, she mentioned the bridge to
38 nowhere.....

39 MS. HAWKINS: To the airport.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. WALLACE: To the airport. You
44 know, most of the Ketchikan residents were for the
45 bridge, and probably a majority of the Saxman residents
46 were against it, totally from the very beginning.
47 Again, what it did with the bridge, if it was built, it
48 was a hard link to Gravina Island. You know hard link
49 means more users to that area since the Bostwick Inlet
50 was termed a bread basket for, not only Saxman, but

1 Metlakatla. And so with the news of the bridge finally
2 going away, Saxman residents were pleased with that.

3
4 And I want to just thank a number of
5 people real quick about the RFR that Saxman recently
6 submitted back in July. Bert did mention a few names.
7 There's Dan Monteith from UAS, Carol Daniel from AFN,
8 Steve Wade from Central Council, Bob Schroeder, the
9 former Council coordinator, and Bert Adams and Merle
10 Hawkins sat in on a lot of the teleconferences that we
11 conducted, you know, since the last meeting that we had
12 and with that great input from many individuals,
13 assisted Saxman in submitting our RFR and I believe
14 it's a good submittal and so the question on Saxman's
15 mind right now is when would the ruling come about and
16 so far I've heard nothing and I guess hopefully maybe
17 we'll have some kind of enlightenment of a possible
18 ruling date from this particular meeting today or the
19 next couple days.

20
21 So with that I'll just close and thank
22 you for your time.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Lee. Mr.
25 Wright. Mr. Wright.

26
27 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. My wife is happy because the berries are
29 back. Last year there was no salmon berries and hardly
30 any blueberries but this year's berries were very
31 abundant and it was good to see that.

32
33 One of the issues that we have in
34 Hoonah is the deer population. Last winter going on a
35 skiff we counted almost 200 dead deer on a beach that
36 died of starvation because of the snow, the snow was
37 very high.

38
39 Another issue is that we have people
40 coming from out of town to drive the roads. We've seen
41 deer with just a hindquarter cut off, the rest of the
42 deer is left so unfortunately those people don't get
43 caught for some reason, I don't know, but when you're
44 leaving a back strap there, that's probably my favorite
45 part of the deer, making deer chops and ribs and all
46 that, it's very disturbing because when people do that
47 it hurts us as a people. We don't believe in wasting.
48 If we put a deer down then we take it. But when people
49 come in and show disrespect for an animal and not use
50 the whole thing sometimes I wish there was something we

1 could do about it and catch them and -- but
2 unfortunately we just don't see them when they do it.

3
4 And then you've got people coming in
5 from out of town that leave Hoonah with just the
6 hindquarters, I mean the whole deer is supposed to be
7 used.

8
9 Another thing is the sea otters,
10 they're coming in close too, I've seen sea otters at
11 Home Shore where we go dig cockles on that back side
12 and they're already going up into Glacier Bay and I
13 wish there was a way we could control them because they
14 devastate a beach, they just take everything, even the
15 king crab. And Port Frederick, we can't go up there
16 anymore because there's a decline in king crab. I
17 thought I heard on the radio this year, last year they
18 didn't have a king crab opening so this year we're not
19 going to have a king crab opening again because of the
20 decline in the stock. Is that because of the sea otter
21 or is it something else. But I know there's king crab
22 in Port Frederick but they won't let us use it for
23 subsistence.

24
25 And the halibut, Icy Straits gets hit
26 pretty hard by sportfishermen, commercial fishermen.
27 Two years ago I staked 15 miles of rope longlining for
28 two sea halibut, 15 miles, got less than 3,000 pounds,
29 that's a lot of hooks trying to find a halibut. It's a
30 good place to fish but when it gets hit like that it's
31 pretty tough on the commercial fishermen.

32
33 And sportsfishermen, I know they need
34 to make a living but it's kind of sad when you see
35 ping-pong paddles coming off the boats, little guys,
36 you could see right through them, when they fillet them
37 you could see right through the fillets. You know
38 that's.....

39
40 And Glacier Bay, I grew up there,
41 that's where I learned how to fish. Because of what
42 the Federal government did was they had some kind of
43 compensation for fishermen that fished up there certain
44 parts of the years. I was a kid, I grew up there, I've
45 hand trolled in there for king salmon in the winters,
46 I've longlined for halibut up there, I've king crabbed
47 up there, I've tanner fished up there but because I
48 didn't fish a certain time period they took that all
49 away from me. I can't go up there.

50

1 Some of the people that fished up
2 there, that are able to fish up there, were fishing
3 certain times so they got a lifetime permit. I can't
4 go in the Bay and commercial fish because I don't have
5 a lifetime permit. I remember the last time I trolled
6 up there, hand trolling, I was in fingers, night time,
7 clear sky, listening to the birds, listening to
8 waterfalls that were coming off the mountains, looking
9 at the water, the moon was out, the water was so calm
10 you could see the mountain on the water. That was one
11 of my last remembrance of a place that I should be at
12 but because of laws I can't be there anymore, it hurts.
13

14 When they do that to the people, you
15 take part of them away, it took me, it took me,
16 something I've witnessed in Glacier Bay as a young man
17 was taken away from me because I can't go up there
18 anymore. They'll let me go up there and look around
19 like a tourist but not to do what I used to do when I
20 was a boy. There's something wrong with this picture.
21

22 Compensation. They pay people -- they
23 pay people that had a bowling alley, they paid a person
24 that had a cab service, that was the kind of
25 compensation that was given out to some people.
26

27 When you -- like I said, when you take
28 something away from a person or -- you're taking their
29 identity. My dad is (In Tlingit) so I am (In Tlingit),
30 my dad was from Glacier Bay and when you take that away
31 then it diminishes you as a person and as a tribal
32 member.
33

34 There are a lot of issues that our
35 people have that hurt us because of laws that doesn't
36 take into consideration of who the people were and who
37 they are. One elder says we were here, who was
38 standing on the beach when they came ashore but we
39 still can't have our rights.
40

41 Thank you for listening.
42

43 Gunalcheesh.
44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr.
46 Douville.
47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 One of the areas of concern we have on Prince of Wales
50 is reforestation. We have thousands and thousands of

1 acres of clear-cut that's growing up and I would like
2 to see the same amount of effort put into reforestation
3 as put into new logging. I got a box the other day in
4 the mail that was a stack that high of books, is the
5 EIS of the proposed logging sale. But I really haven't
6 seen the same amount of effort put into reforestation
7 so I would like to see what the Forest Service has
8 planned, what they're doing, what the future plan is
9 and how they're going to fund it.

10

Other than that, that's it.

11

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Mr.
14 Hernandez, please.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. For the residents on the north end of Prince
18 of Wales Island, we have a couple concerns.

19

20 The rest of Prince of Wales Island was
21 probably spared the worst of the winter weather last
22 year but the north end does get some fairly severe
23 winter weather, a lot worse than it's been in recent
24 history and our hunters are just starting to get out
25 after the fishing season. We're a little anxious to
26 see what we might find in the way of deer numbers for
27 this year, but, we're a little worried because things
28 were a little worse up there than the rest of the
29 island.

30

31 Another concern is we seem to be seeing
32 just sort of a general decline in the local sockeye
33 runs, the local streams over the last several years.
34 It seems to be kind of a region wide problem that all
35 the small sockeye systems just don't seem to be doing
36 real well and I have a lot of questions as to why that
37 might be and maybe we'll hear some more of that in
38 reports on subsistence catches for the season.

39

40 And the main concern that local
41 residents asked me to bring before the Council this
42 year is another lands issue. Residents of Point Baker,
43 Port Protection have always been very involved in
44 planning on use of the Tongass National Forest. We've
45 had both a lot of cooperation with the Forest Service
46 and a lot of adversarial relations with the Forest
47 Service over the years. We've been active in the
48 latest TLMP planning for the Tongass. And now we face
49 a new issue that's kind of just starting to happen,
50 some of you might have heard in the news recently and

1 that's the latest Sealaska land transfers from Federal
2 to Sealaska and we hear that Sealaska is looking at the
3 northern end of Prince of Wales Island for a lot of
4 their acquisitions but we don't -- local residents just
5 really don't know a lot about what is going on. It has
6 a tremendous potential to affect us and how these lands
7 are used, of course, if they go from public ownership
8 into private ownership, some of these lands could
9 possibly be lands that, you know, we've depended on
10 over the years for subsistence uses and the locals just
11 would like to know a lot more -- have a lot more
12 information about just, you know, what's going on and
13 how this might affect us.

14

15 The Council's been involved in this
16 issue in the past and we have found out that we -- the
17 Council can't really have much influence in this issue
18 because eventually it all is a legislative issue, it
19 goes before Congress and we don't have any say over how
20 things go in Congress. But the local residents asked
21 me if I could ask for some support from the Council in
22 at least requesting of the Forest Service that local
23 communities who could be affected by what happens are
24 somehow involved in the process and informed as of
25 what's going on. Right now what we're hearing is a lot
26 of rumors about possibilities of what lands may be
27 involved and not involved and we really would like to
28 be informed and involved in some way, make this more of
29 a public process. Our greatest concern is that things
30 will be decided, you know, out of public view, more in
31 back room negotiations and we don't want to see that
32 happen because we've had a long involvement in how
33 lands surrounding us, which affect us, have been used.
34 So that's a request to the Council.

35

36 And, Mr. Chairman, I might ask that
37 possibly we could draft a letter just making some kind
38 of a request to that regard.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Bob, could you
43 make a notation of that so we don't forget it.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike.

48

49 MR. DOUVILLE: Could I respond to
50 what.....

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, please do.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE: Sealaska has -- and all
4 the corporations had a core area that they could select
5 their timber, which they did, although Sealaska never
6 selected everything that they had coming to them. So
7 much of this timber has been depleted in this selection
8 area so Sealaska wants to go outside the selection area
9 to select the remainder. And in my questioning with
10 Sealaska, would those lands then, they would become
11 private, people accustomed to using them would no
12 longer be able to use them and I disagreed with that.
13 We did have a couple meetings with them, the city of
14 Craig, a couple of years ago and we did not support
15 them going outside the selection boundaries, and I
16 don't believe Craig supports it even now.
17
18 So there is some meeting that was going
19 to happen in Craig between Sealaska and the city
20 council and maybe the general public, I don't know.
21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: But it's upcoming and I
25 would try to inform the other.....
26
27 MR. HERNANDEZ: That would be great,
28 yeah.
29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: But I do believe that
31 subsistence wise it affects the people that live there
32 and I think that this RAC would -- should participate
33 in this issue.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you.
36
37
38 MR. HOTCH: Mr. Chairman.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, go ahead.
41
42 MR. HOTCH: I've heard a few comments
43 of real concern to me. One is the decline on our
44 halibut. And I went to a meeting in Juneau probably in
45 '93 on tour ships, I'm going to hit some sore spots
46 here, and I heard a little bit of comment that Kake,
47 about tour ships, but I went to the meeting in Juneau
48 and there was a Hawaiian and a Canadian that testified
49 at this meeting. And the Hawaiian said since the
50 Canadian boats started coming into Hawaii, their

1 population dropped by 40 percent and their food was
2 destroyed to where they could hardly get their food. I
3 know our Native corporations are into the business of
4 tourism but am I going to support that or my children
5 and grandchildren, where do I stand as a leader, my
6 stand is the future of my children and grandchildren.

7
8 This tour business is harming us
9 dearly. This year we hardly got any good berries. We
10 heard some good berry news from Hoonah, but ours is
11 dry. They say if the ship is in the port and running
12 their engine, their smoke travels 25 miles and it's
13 harming that food in that area. And when I went down I
14 testified at our ribbon seaweed are hard, when they
15 used to -- before the tour ships came they were nice
16 and soft and even the other bottom fish is being
17 harmed.

18
19 That's a long halibut skate 15 miles
20 that caught hardly anything. Are we just going to sit
21 here and not pay attention to that. It's pretty
22 harmful to me even if I'm not in Hoonah. It's his life
23 he's there for, not only him but all the residents of
24 Hoonah.

25
26 And the Canadian got up and said when
27 the ship goes to port in Canada it harms their fish 600
28 miles up river and we're just 20 miles from here, to
29 Klukwan, to see how much damage that is doing. I know
30 a lot of people depend on the tours, tourism, bringing
31 in money, but am I going to end my cultural way of
32 living, traditional way of living by not speaking up,
33 no, I have to speak up, I have to and I'm sure a lot of
34 you feel the same way. I'm not here just for myself,
35 I'm here for the people that's in Klukwan and there's
36 some that's in other schools.

37
38 There's a letter, that little proposal
39 there is saying there's only 100 people in Klukwan,
40 which is true, but you look at that number of 100 out
41 of that 50 to 60 men and women that were in the Armed
42 Services, that's 50 percent of the village. They
43 fought for protection of our community and I know we
44 all feel the same way, your people fought in our armed
45 services, they went to war, some of them didn't come
46 back so we -- I have to say something against the tour
47 ships.

48
49 And the other one is the herbicide.
50 That's harmful, not only to one piece of use, it's

1 harmful to the halibut. The halibut fishermen studied
2 it. They joined in the suit so that they wouldn't use
3 herbicides down in Klukwan, Inc., area. I'm a member
4 of Klukwan, Inc., I'm a member, but I have to say I'm
5 not in support of herbicides in any way. It's against
6 our livelihood, not only as Native people, all the --
7 some children run around and pick berries, that one
8 berry might be the harmful part to a person. But I
9 heard decline in our food so that's why I brought up
10 the Hawaiian and Canadian testimonies.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Joe.
15 Okay, that pretty much covers all the Council comments
16 now. So let me see there was a comment I was going to
17 make.

18

19 MR. HOTCH: Am I getting cut off?

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 REPORTER: No, I'm just moving the
24 microphone a bit here.

25

26 MR. HOTCH: Okay.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, before we go any
31 further I want to welcome Mayor, Mr. Fred Shields, and
32 give him an opportunity to make some comments.

33

34 MAYOR SHIELDS: Thank you. Thank you
35 for allowing me to interrupt your meeting. I just
36 wanted to welcome everyone to Haines for three days of
37 meetings and thank you for coming here and thank you
38 all for doing what it is you do. And if there's
39 anything the Haines Borough can do to help or
40 facilitate, we're here for you. And with that I'll let
41 you go back to your meeting. Maybe I'll come by for
42 lunch, too.

43

44 And, thank you, again, and welcome.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

47

48 MR. HOTCH: Gunalcheesh.

49

50 MAYOR SHIELDS: Gunalcheesh. Ho-Ho.

1 (In Tlingit)
2
3 MR. HOTCH: Oh, (In Tlingit).
4
5 MAYOR SHIELDS: (In Tlingit)
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just on the comments
10 that were made on the lands issue with Sealaska. I
11 think would it be appropriate, Tricia, when you give
12 your land report that you can include some comments on
13 that.
14
15 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes, Mr. Chair, I can.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
18 Another issue that I'd like to bring up on -- when this
19 issue came up -- can you hear me okay back there, am I
20 talking loud enough -- okay. When this issue came up
21 several years ago one of the things that our tribal
22 government was concerned about was what's going to
23 happen with the Native allotments that were, you know,
24 like for instance, you know, the Tongass National
25 Forest, there were 200 Native allotments or so that
26 were closed. And so a movement was begun, you know, by
27 tribal governments throughout the State of Alaska to
28 get those reopened again and to make sure that
29 Congress, you know, saw fit to have those recertified,
30 taken and certified. I haven't heard, you know, what
31 this new movement is going to -- whether they're going
32 to include those or not and I think that's worth
33 looking into as well.
34
35 I don't know whether you have any
36 information, you know, with that part of it or not,
37 Tricia, but if you do, you know, we'd be happy to hear
38 that.
39
40 Okay.
41
42 So let's move on. The next thing is to
43 listen to the Subsistence Fishery -- Item No. 8, Mr.
44 Ben Van Alen. I want to make the Council members aware
45 that in front of you are papers that were put before us
46 during the break from the State of Alaska and it's
47 their comments on issues that will be coming before us.
48
49 Mr. Ben Van Alen.
50

1 Again, anyone in the community who
2 would like to make any comments or testimonies there's
3 a sheet this color over there by Melinda, fill that out
4 and she'll get that to us and we'll make sure you get
5 your say here.

6
7 Ben.

8
9 MR. VAN ALLEN: Where is it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Put it right here.
12 Put it right here.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. VAN ALLEN: Yeah, what I want to do
17 is just give a quick summary of some of our project
18 information from this past year and reflect back on
19 some information from past years and absolutely
20 preliminary.

21
22 I worked with Jan from Fish and Game to
23 get some information, several of our projects are still
24 ongoing. We have weir projects, we have mark/recapture
25 projects still going. The data is absolutely
26 preliminary.

27
28 What we have here is Eliza James, he's
29 Hoonah Indian Association taking a nice bite of out a
30 pink salmon there at Haaktaheen Lake a couple years
31 ago.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. VAN ALLEN: We'll see him again.

36
37 One of our areas is not salmon at all
38 but eulachon in the Unuk River. These areas labeled in
39 red just show where eulachon have been observed
40 spawning in the past. Some places they're easy to see
41 when it's not ice covered or snow covered. Frankly in
42 recent years we haven't seen very many. Very few were
43 seen this last year. The crew was there mostly early
44 March to mid-April and we also didn't see very many in
45 2004, 2005 or 2006. There was a fishery in 2004.
46 We've been closing the subsistence fishery before the
47 season begins in recog -- well, the result of knowing
48 that these runs have been quite small and appear to
49 justify, I guess, even having the expectation that
50 there'll be a commercial fishery until we see

1 abundances increase.

2

3 Questions out there. Have we literally
4 been responsible for this. Have we been over fishing
5 this run. It certainly takes fish to make fish.
6 Hopefully we'll have a project funded where we'll be
7 able to continue to monitor the annual returns knowing
8 where and when they come back and roughly what numbers.
9 That's going to necessarily rebuild the stock but it's
10 very important for us to do this kind of work.

11

12 This is a picture from 2002, some
13 fishing in the Upper Landing Slough, an area where
14 fishing often occurs.

15

16 Here, I think we have Bob Larson
17 holding, what, hopefully isn't the last two eulachon
18 there. I'm half kidding.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. VAN ALLEN: And one reason I say
23 this is because I went and looked at the historical
24 information, this is just on harvest, it has nothing to
25 do really with the actual abundances. Harvest does
26 reflect abundance in most cases, but we have had gaps
27 in the past, basically what was not considered a
28 harvestable surplus in the years under State
29 management. This next year is going to be quite
30 telling. It'll be -- well, we had very few in 2004,
31 '05, '06 and now '07. This will be the fifth year,
32 this coming year, 2008, that there is indeed few or no
33 eulachon I would absolutely be quite, quite concerned
34 on the long-term health of that stock.

35

36 What I'm going to mostly talk about
37 sockeye, results from our sockeye projects. I do have
38 a handout that will be available later when I get
39 copies made.

40

41 Anyway, this is showing some projects,
42 I happen to be able to visit some of them this summer.

43

44 The Klag Weir has been in operation for
45 a number of years. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates
46 it in co-op with Fish and Game and the Forest Service.
47 Here is Mark manning the weir there. This is in July
48 and the weir is still in, they're still counting fish.
49 The last count I heard was approaching 9,000. And, you
50 know, the run has been in the 12 to 27,000 fish level

1 of escapement so it's been probably quite healthy
2 there.

3

4 Move south a little bit to Redoubt
5 Weir. It's not one of our funded projects but there
6 has been a weir in operation there for 25-plus years.
7 And it's great to look at this information and see that
8 we, indeed, have five years of very, very strong
9 returns to Redoubt. The last five years have been
10 phenomenal. It's also been five years resulting from
11 fertilizing of the lake using a dry pellet fertilizer.
12 In the earlier block of years is when it was fertilized
13 using a liquid fertilizer. The low year are
14 essentially the years without fertilization. So we
15 are, indeed, doing a grand experiment and it does seem
16 to be working. Who knows what's in our future. I
17 think one thing that is in our future is no
18 fertilization and, you know, basically due to lack of,
19 in some respects, lack of funding for doing that work
20 and also an interest to know what indeed the effect of
21 fertilizing is.

22

23 But anyway these are all discussions
24 that are happening.

25

26 Here's a weir that's in Excursion Inlet
27 that we, through funding from this project have been
28 operating it since 2002 and in most years we're quite
29 pleased with the annual escapement in there. And
30 before we started the project, even the locals would be
31 surprised if we'd count a thousand sockeye in there and
32 we've been -- well, five to 11,000 in there. This year
33 we're still operating, the counts are dropping off here
34 in the last few days. And it does look it'll be the
35 weakest run observed, this year. This, again, is Eliza
36 from Hoonah.

37

38 Then I move down on Chatham Strait a
39 little bit to Basket Bay, the stock there is Kook Lake,
40 Kook Lake sockeye and we've had this weir in, this is
41 the third and last year of that project. We've been
42 running the fixed picket weir right at the outlet of
43 the lake, right across the bed rock silt at the outlet.
44 We've also been operating what I call a net weir
45 testing how that works and it's been working great.
46 And we've also been counting fish using video cameras,
47 two at the fixed weir and also two where they swim out
48 of the net weir up there. So these are all things that
49 I'm pretty happy with.

50

1 This is the crew that's.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. VAN ALLEN:well, except for Ed
6 Gambell, Jr.'s not in this photo but in the weir set up
7 the black flies are horrendous.

8

9 Marcus, Reggie, Jason and Roger, we all
10 had a good time wearing our hair nets -- head nets.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. VAN ALLEN: So these were the
15 escapement counts. We had 2,000 fish in 2005, half of
16 those fish came after August 24th, kind of late. In
17 2006 there's a fairly -- what I consider a well
18 distributed run, we had the bulk of early run fish
19 spawning in the inlet stream, the cold water in the
20 inlet stream, which is natural and we had the big long
21 protracted later running fish spawning in the lake and
22 the total counts close to 10,000 and that looked really
23 nice. And this year it's moderate with about 3,000
24 fish going in there.

25

26 At Kanalku, this is on Admiralty
27 Island, back -- Kanalku Bay, Mitchell Bay behind
28 Angoon. This project's run by Angoon Community
29 Association with Fish and Game and so this is the first
30 year of having a weir at Kanalku. It is a lake that
31 we've been studying with project funds since 2001. As
32 you know in a couple of those years 2001, 2003 we had
33 very few fish estimated in the lake, numbers less than
34 400 fish, raised the flag of concern and it more or
35 less effectively until -- until now, the subsistence
36 fishery has been either closed through voluntary
37 closures or greatly restricted from reduced harvest
38 limits and delay of the subsistence fishing season. So
39 there really hasn't been much subsistence fishing
40 effort there since, you know, 2001. So from 2002 to
41 now very few fish have been caught, subsistence wise.
42 And unfortunately I was hoping we'd come up with a --
43 be pleasantly surprised with a higher weir count than
44 what our in lake mark/recapture is showing. But it
45 was, indeed, a very poor run this year, 461 fish
46 counted through the weir. The escapement estimate is
47 still preliminary, though, because we do mark/recapture
48 from the weir to the spawning ground.

49

50 Low in the river, just above the

1 intertidal area we operated a stream net weir which we
2 kind of curtailed out across the stream diagonally down
3 stream to intercept the up stream moving fish and get
4 them to swim into this trap near shore so we were able
5 to fin clip them and let them go up stream, we just did
6 this for a couple of days each week over a four day
7 period, kind of marked fish proportionate to their
8 abundance to see what proportion of them can make it up
9 stream and over this falls, which is kind of halfway
10 down the stream. This falls has long been known to be
11 a migrational skills test for the sockeye. It's
12 amazing to watch them attempt and to succeed in
13 ascending this falls. So our work this year, we did
14 mark 35 fish and eight made it to the lake, to the
15 weir. Last year we radiotagged 30 fish and five made
16 it up above the falls. So I don't know, I was hoping
17 these numbers would actually be higher, why, because
18 there's a lot of interest to do work at the falls to
19 improve the fish passage, you know, through fish,
20 whatever, passage efforts from the Forest Service and
21 anyway that interest is definitely there and it might
22 be absolutely needed to, let's say, improve the
23 productivity of the system, the production of sockeye
24 there. You have the falls naturally, bear predation at
25 the falls, there are kokanee in the lake, all these
26 lakes have the potential of having kokanee but they
27 only form when they're able to establish themselves due
28 to hardships of the adults coming back to spawn, like a
29 migration barrier, the adults coming back from
30 anadromous ones or if there's just a pattern of fishing
31 mortality, been heavily fished over the years.

32
33 But, anyway, so it is interesting to
34 know that there are kokanee in the lake. Doesn't
35 appear to be a whole bunch now, it's hard to tell, but
36 that does indicate that the lake is not all that
37 productive for the anadromous sockeye.

38
39 Got on Prince of Wales for the first
40 time this year. Organized Village of Kasaan and Forest
41 Service and Fish and Game collaborated on a weir at
42 Hatchery Creek. This weir was put in above the one
43 falls and the weir count is, well, you see 4,616
44 sockeye. I wasn't personally there, I don't know that
45 much about the project, but it will be going for the
46 next two years.

47
48 We also had steelhead weirs at Ratx
49 Creek Natzuhini. I think I'm getting near the end.
50 Yeah, and so I'll have before the -- I'll have later

1 today a printout of the project results from basically
2 2001 to 2007 available. And all these numbers, again,
3 are preliminary and subject to change, but that's our
4 best estimates for what we have now.

5
6 Are there any questions.

7
8 Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mike.

11
12 MR. BANGS: Thank you. Is there any
13 part of the project where you mark the smolts out or
14 tag them or anything so we know if there's any being
15 intercepted or how many possibly are being intercepted
16 in the commercial fishery?

17
18 MR. VAN ALLEN: No, there's no
19 radiotagging of sockeye that are occurring now. It has
20 been an activity, as you're aware in past years, like
21 in '88/89, and in some other years in some locations.
22 We basically found, I think, most have concluded that
23 it's not a safe effort to do. Handling sockeye
24 juveniles is risky and they are subject to stress
25 induced mortality and so that's definitely a concern
26 with going into that kind of a project.

27
28 There's another potential out there and
29 that would be genetic stock ID, sampling fish from
30 those lake systems and developing a baseline and then
31 sampling fish from a fishery, mixed stock fishery and
32 then apportioning those or estimating what that stock
33 composition in the fishery, that -- in all of our
34 projects we have been collecting genetic tissue samples
35 and sending them to the different labs involved and so
36 in the future, you know, there might be potential for
37 that, particularly in certain areas.

38
39 But, yeah, we're still short of a real
40 good way to mark smolts, I think.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don, and then Mike.

43
44 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I want to get
45 back to the Unuk River eulachons. You know in my
46 tenure on the Council here, I guess I've watched that
47 stock virtually disappear which is pretty disturbing to
48 me and I know how important it is to local residents
49 there. They consider that one of their highest
50 priority foods. And there's some big questions there

1 as to what's happening.

2

3 And you raised the question, classic
4 case of over fishing. We discussed this at previous
5 meetings and I'm just going to throw this out, you
6 know, to people in the audience, maybe different
7 people, different times might have different opinions,
8 but I keep wondering, are we looking at a classic case
9 of predation and is anybody even looking at that
10 possibility because I see in the, fairly close
11 proximity to the Unuk River, is a very large hatchery
12 at Neets Bay which turns out, I don't know the exact
13 numbers, 10s or maybe even hundreds of millions of
14 smolt every spring, you know, coinciding about with the
15 time that the sea out migration of the eulachon larvae
16 from the Unuk River, that just, to me, raises, you
17 know, that immediate question, is there a possibility
18 that we're seeing predation take place there and is
19 anybody considering that. I didn't see that on the
20 screen, has anybody even thought of that idea?

21

22 MR. VAN ALLEN: Personally I think
23 that's a great observation and definitely we're looking
24 into all those possible ones, and that's just a great
25 connection, that's very likely there. I mean I could
26 go into, let me see, interactions of hatchery, wild and
27 predation interaction but absolutely every fish that's
28 released from a hatchery does increase predation, you
29 know, in some way, it could be the same species and
30 other kinds of species. It might -- predation might be
31 there on returning adults as well as on the eulachon
32 going out.

33

34 So, yeah, no, I think that's -- I
35 absolutely think it's a collective wisdom. None of us
36 is as smart as all of us and it takes some
37 brainstorming and some putting things together to help
38 figure this out. And, yeah, I think that's a great,
39 you know, hypothesis, I guess you'd call it, yeah.

40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, and it has -- you
42 know, what you learn on the Unuk River, of course, has
43 implications for a lot of the other places that have
44 eulachon runs because there's a lot of, you know,
45 possible interactions there.

46

47 MR. VAN ALLEN: And just one piece of
48 that is, you know, we have to look at the broad scale,
49 too. And it's -- like there's been absent -- in
50 eulachon in the Columbia and the Fraizer, central coast

1 B.C., it's been spotty in some places, Natzuhini is
2 still doing okay, the last results -- information I
3 got. At the Berner's River, just south of here, we're
4 doing pretty good, we had a really good run last year.
5 And this is comforting to know and the Yakutat eulachon
6 have generally been good in recent years and so, yeah,
7 it may be more of a localized predation situation --
8 would be more likely when we talk about Unuk run.

9

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: One other question on
11 the report.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: On the Kanalku sockeye,
16 another system that seems to be failing and I know
17 there's been a lot of discussion with Chatham Straits
18 and what not, and at our meeting last year in Kake, you
19 weren't -- you attended on conference phone.....

20

21 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah.

22

23 MR. HERNANDEZ:but you weren't
24 there, and a lot of our discussion at that meeting kept
25 going back to the falls and you mentioned it again, you
26 know, how are the falls affecting that run, and I
27 didn't get a chance to ask you at that time but I get a
28 chance now, my question at the time was in focusing on
29 the falls as a possible explanation for the run
30 failure, I would like to know, you know, how big of an
31 impact do you really think that could be in a system
32 that, you know, essentially is, you know, I don't know
33 the whole history of it, is how the runs go but it
34 sounds like it was a fairly productive system that's
35 been declining. The falls have always been there.

36

37 MR. VAN ALEN: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Is there something
40 about the stream conditions or something that, you
41 know, would make those falls more of an impact now than
42 they were in the past or why all this focus on the
43 falls, maybe it's a way to improve the system but it
44 doesn't necessarily explain the failure. Do you have
45 any comments on that?

46

47 MR. VAN ALEN: Yeah, I think you're --
48 exactly the latter, it's what do you do now after
49 observing some years of very poor escapements. What do
50 we do now to help rebuild this stock so that we can

1 maintain, you know, escapements and subsistence harvest
2 or fishery on it, you know, what do we do now and --
3 and, yeah, so from the meeting in Kake and other work,
4 you know, certainly what's a -- you know, the
5 situation, I think, is what I'm kind of pointing out,
6 is that this lake is not all that inherently productive
7 as it has this migration of hardship on it, you know,
8 as evidenced from, you know, only two ocean fish can
9 make it up, smaller sockeye, kokanee in the lake, you
10 know, things that would reduce the productivity of the
11 lake is lower so when you compare that to other salmon
12 stocks and the others being, fish, that being pinks and
13 sockeye, you know, it's probably not as productive
14 Basket Bay or Kook Lake sockeye or Sitkho or
15 Hasselberg, certainly -- I would say certainly it's not
16 as productive as the local and area pink salmon stocks
17 that are the target of the commercial seine fishery and
18 so I'm just kind of putting it together that, you know,
19 we have to figure out what that does -- mix is in
20 fishing on passing stocks and local stocks so we can
21 maintain the escapements of the weaker sockeye runs
22 and, you know, do the best job of maximizing the
23 harvest of pink salmon. And so I think that's
24 absolutely where we're at. We have to look at the
25 different factors of mortality commercial, subsistence
26 and then these other more natural ones.

27
28 But, I agree, the falls has always been
29 there and I'd be absolutely reluctant to do any work at
30 the falls and this is my thinking, you know, and that's
31 why I kind of said that's kind of disappointing that
32 only less than a quarter of the fish are making it over
33 the falls. I was really hoping that from this years
34 study we had -- we had marked fish that weren't
35 schooled right at the falls like we had the year
36 before. We moved down stream catching fish brand new
37 coming in out of the bay that had never tried to ascend
38 the falls and I was hoping that -- that maybe a high
39 percentage of those would make it. I was thinking last
40 year our study was flawed because we were indeed
41 marking, you know, radiotagging the fish that were in
42 the pool right below the falls, the ones that are
43 trying to make it. Maybe what we were doing is tagging
44 the ones that could never make it, you know, so that
45 was my concern with how our design went last year.

46
47 Anyway, there's a lot of pieces to this
48 and, you know, we can't -- we have to recognize that we
49 have been quite successful, we, being the general --
50 you know, the partner, what not, and rebuilding pink

1 salmon runs in the area and with that comes increased
2 effort, time and area, boats that are fishing on the
3 pink salmon and with that comes an increase in
4 exploitation on the co-migrating species, including
5 these sockeye. And so this is like a flag that's
6 raising each -- every year, especially this year,
7 again, with a very low weir count, it's an
8 uncomfortable situation, is that, one we all need to
9 help figure out how to work it through.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. I'd
12 like to take one more question. Did you have a
13 question, Mike, do you have a question of Ben.

14

15 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, let's take one or
16 two more and then I want to open it up for public
17 comment after we're done before we break for lunch.
18 So, Mike and then Lee.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: You said that funding
21 may go away or is going away for Redoubt Lake, you used
22 a different fertilizer, I assume it's like nitrogen or
23 something.

24

25 MR. VAN ALEN: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: This also -- it's not
28 something foreign you're putting in the water, it
29 occurs naturally, you're just putting more of it in
30 there.

31

32 MR. VAN ALEN: I think it's like
33 industrial fertilizer that you'd buy if you're
34 fertilizing crops or whatever, it's specific for the
35 aquatic setting but, you know, it's a certain mix of
36 nitrogen and phosphorus.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: Is it expensive to do
39 that?

40

41 MR. VAN ALEN: No, it's amazingly
42 pretty inexpensive. It's about \$25,000 a year to buy
43 the fertilizer and to get it helicoptered into the
44 upper end of the lake where we cash it on the lake
45 shore. And then it's the weir crew that boats down
46 every three days or so and slits the bags and dispenses
47 them in the water there.

48

49 The whole thing on funding is, of
50 course I'm kind of new to fishing, I worked for Fish

1 and Game but I'm new to the Forest Service, they just
2 don't do long-term monitoring projects. They get in do
3 something and they get out. And here we've got a weir
4 for 25 years, you know, it's an exception to the
5 overall program so the project manager does, indeed,
6 have to justify that activity each and every year. And
7 especially since it's in this realm of being a
8 subsistence fishery, well, why are we paying for it, it
9 used to be paid for by like this project and that's why
10 I, you know, hesitate, you know, showing the data from
11 it because who knows what's in our future on it. I
12 don't know it's a typical budgeting thing. I think
13 we're pretty safe in that, it'll still be operated for
14 the foreseeable future but I'm also impressed that --
15 how they're able to pull it off, they used two
16 volunteers again this year, they have a graduate
17 student -- two graduate students worked there, you
18 know, we're doing things on the cheap, I guess, in some
19 respects at the same point but the value of having a
20 long-term data set like this where we actually have
21 reconstructed the runs is great, it's amazing, it's
22 what these graduates are doing their Master's on.

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: One more thing. You
25 know like putting a ladder in that system over those
26 falls would certainly help those fish, there's no
27 question about that.

28

29 MR. VAN ALLEN: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: But I think the bigger
32 problem is we have an earlier fishery there that works
33 on those hatcheries and they also let them fish up and
34 down the shore from the hatchery and I think most agree
35 that they are collecting a lot of sockeye that are
36 bound for those systems and until that gets fixed
37 somehow, what you're doing in the river is not futile,
38 but, I don't think it's the real problem to the
39 solution -- or solution, I guess. I think we need to
40 deal with the interception of those fish somehow.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And then, Lee,
43 you've got a question, and then right after that we'll
44 close this portion of it and I want Tim Ackerman and
45 David Strong to be prepared to come up and do their
46 testimony. So, Lee, go ahead.

47

48 MR. WALLACE: Thank you. Ben, my
49 question is related to the falls and that. Based on
50 our discussion and the things that we read in Kake,

1 there was a discussion of -- I believe there was a
2 previously ladder in the stream, in the falls, and
3 being longer, that's what -- but otherwise in that
4 review of the TLMP, when we were on the ferry, there
5 was some documentation on the Forest Service that,
6 yeah, they identified the lake as a possible place to
7 construct a weir and definitely I think the other
8 portion -- the discussion was the transportation part
9 of the whole thing, I think for the Angoon people it
10 meant a shorter run for them to go to that particular
11 stream to harvest the sockeye. I know this past year a
12 friend of mine in Saxman, he went down towards Boca and
13 Quadra (ph) to get his sockeye and he said he was going
14 through like 17 foot waves in his 19 foot Lund and I
15 said, whoa, Chuck, you're kind of daring, I don't know
16 if I'd want to be out in that kind of seas going after
17 my sockeye. So definitely transportation, shorter runs
18 for our users is definitely a better option than longer
19 runs and so definitely if there's a -- the feasibility
20 and finances for maybe putting in a weir or a fish
21 ladder to assist the sockeye getting up to the spawning
22 grounds I would definitely be for that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Ben.

25

26 Mr. Ackerman, please come forward.

27

28 MR. WARREN: Could we have some
29 questions?

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Of this guy -- I will
32 allow it if you keep it short.

33

34 MR. WARREN: Okay, Ed Warren, 77 years
35 old. I'm thinking you're drafting a lot of information
36 out of 36 years of fish creeks, represent oral history
37 and I was thinking we're not the only consumers of the
38 salmon and the eulachon. Do you correlate your
39 findings with Whale Commission, for example. A whale
40 will eat about three or four tons of salmon to stay
41 alive from one hungry period to the next. How does
42 that information correlate with what you have because
43 in 1942 when Joe Hotch and I became boat trollers in
44 commercial fishing there was hardly any fish, just we
45 were lucky to catch -- you know to supplement our
46 groceries so it goes to one extreme to the next. The
47 question I want to know is that are we having a big
48 picture analysis? What does the Eskimos say about it,
49 for example, because they're allowed to harvest twice
50 of what they are allowed today, how much more salmon

1 would we get, I suspect a substantial amount, in
2 tonnage. So I'm glad you're index of 36 years but I'm
3 saying widen your scope for -- I know the environment
4 of salmon, it's not in the rocks, it's in the sand, for
5 example.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Ben, you have a
10 response for that.

11

12 MR. VAN ALLEN: One quick, I think a
13 quip, I guess, is it doesn't matter to the fish,
14 eulachon or salmon or whatever, who catches them where,
15 who eats them where, none of that, it doesn't matter,
16 it matters how many make it back to spawn. And so
17 that's kind of what we're doing in our work, we're
18 trying to estimate the spawning population and much of
19 the other critters that are preying on these are -- I
20 -- useful in terms of the indicators, like we could be
21 doing our eulachon project here but it could be nothing
22 more than counting gulls, sea lions, or seal, you know,
23 whatever, I mean it's -- they're so correlated when
24 they're, you know, predation is directed at the stock.
25 And so I don't know there's -- in my eyes there's
26 nothing wrong with that, in fact, this year we had a
27 really neat thing at Kanalku Falls, we had a camera set
28 up there and we counted how many images throughout the
29 day every 15 minutes, there was a bear in the image but
30 that's all natural and that's -- that's all good and so
31 it's -- so we're literally managing for that terminal
32 area abundance of fish needed to meet the need of the
33 birds and the bears, the spawners in the gravel as well
34 as -- and our uses, the subsistence user. So whatever
35 we can -- I like the big picture with it, but I
36 wouldn't be trying to say we need to -- need to modify
37 other predators to our own advantage.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Ben.
40 Mr. Ackerman, please.

41

42 MR. ACKERMAN: I'll stand over here so
43 everybody can.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You need to get by the
46 microphone over there, please. There's a microphone
47 there, okay.

48

49 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, I'm Tim Ackerman,
50 a subsistence user here in the valleys here in the

1 Chilkoot and the Chilkat side here and I had three
2 things that I wanted to talk about and I'll try to make
3 them as short as possible.

4
5 But have you ever heard of the \$175,000
6 moose hunt.

7
8 I call it the \$175,000 moose hunt
9 because these are things that I noticed in the years
10 that I've been in Alaska. I'll tell you about the
11 \$175,000 moose hunt. First you have to have a \$50,000
12 J3 SuperCub to go spot your moose. There's \$50,000
13 there or more, give or take. Secondly, after you spot
14 the moose you have to have a \$50,000 big Ford turbo-
15 charged diesel truck to pull your \$50,000 jet boat with
16 all your four-wheelers and you're Seiko custom rifle
17 and all your camouflage gear, that's how much it cost
18 to hunt a moose now days.

19
20 Now, I realized this when I was
21 paddling a motorless canoe and I was watching all the
22 traffic go to and fro, jet boats, air boats, airplanes.
23 I watched an airplane fly and spot the moose, land and
24 then 45 minutes later the air boat came up to the
25 designated spot, within 15 minutes the shot rang out.
26 Now, I see I did all the calculations and all the
27 timing and it all kind of added up but I'm not going to
28 say anything else. It's pretty obvious.

29
30 And I don't have all this technology to
31 go a hunt. I'm on foot. I'm paddling a canoe. I do
32 have a state of the art rifle though. Now, what is
33 happening in the state of Alaska amongst the aboriginal
34 people, the competition for our aboriginal food is
35 beyond our technology now. We are competing more and
36 more with outside people in regards to harvest of our
37 aboriginal food. That's why I call it the \$175,000
38 moose hunt.

39
40 It's pretty easy to figure it out.

41
42 Now, I was over in Hawaii, Kauai and I
43 know all the fishermen over there, they are closing
44 places down in Kauai that are being overfished, not by
45 the locals, the local Hawaiians, it's because if I see
46 you trolling in that hot spot I will get in my boat and
47 go there too, it's just, you know, a pretty easy,
48 visual thing, you know, so there's a lot of areas in
49 Hawaii that are being closed down because of the
50 overfishing of the resource.

1 Now, you can kind of see the same thing
2 here happening in Alaska as they talked about the
3 halibut. I was lucky enough to be up in Glacier Bay
4 and make one last set for halibut but trust you, I
5 didn't qualify, I didn't qualify for any halibut
6 quotas, but the school teacher from Nevada that just
7 came up here during the summer for six months filled
8 out all the paperwork, got his quota, 10, 20 bucks a
9 pound now, is that what it sells for on the market,
10 now, I, as the aboriginal was denied the economic
11 opportunity to receive halibut quotas when I'm out in
12 the middle of nowhere, the only job I have is fishing,
13 and it was all denied on your time that you put in
14 regardless -- I didn't have any fish tickets back from
15 1968. There's a lot of people that missed out and that
16 was one of the mainstays of the economic stimulation of
17 the villages, was the ability to catch and sell
18 halibut.

19
20 And unfortunately for people like me
21 that missed out on the opportunity, so we're still
22 scraping and scratching and trying to make a living out
23 in the Bush.

24
25 And also -- I'll just keep it short, as
26 the competition grows and grows more so for harvesting
27 our aboriginal food, we are not sportsmen, we are
28 consumers of the fish and game that we have been doing
29 for thousands and thousands of years, our elders need
30 it for their health. I am not going to eat TV dinners
31 and drink beer and pizza all the rest of my life, that
32 could be detrimental as eating donuts will clog your
33 heart up and what not. So it depends -- the aboriginal
34 people, their health depends on the aboriginal food.
35 When Western Society comes in and changes our diet, it
36 has detrimental consequences to our health.

37
38 And so far as -- that's what I've
39 noticed -- of course it's all scientific, right,
40 everything is scientific. It's just like the bears,
41 everybody wants to be scientific about the bears, but
42 of course the grizzly bear, he'll break every rule you
43 have for it, you know, it's all scientific.

44
45 Now, if I was the king I would let all
46 the salmon in the state of Alaska run their wild course
47 without being harvested, only by the traditional users,
48 is that scientific, and then four years down the way we
49 can see the effects.

50

1 Now, the halibut are grossly over
2 managed, it's all scientific. First if was the
3 draggers, then the longliners, then the Japanese and
4 now everything's being intercepted in the south end as
5 they were speaking. Icy Strait is the best
6 interception place. All the halibut that are
7 migrating, come in through Indian Passage, and some do
8 come up Chatham, now everything is intercepted, we on
9 the north end here are left empty. Go ahead, go out
10 here and try to catch a halibut with a single hook and
11 a herring, you can starve.

12
13 Now, I went back to 1875, 1845, there
14 was a couple German scientists up here then, they
15 stated that they noticed the Tlingits on the northern
16 end here could go out and catch a halibut any time of
17 the year, now that goes back a long ways, how's that
18 for being scientific, you know, that's how they fed
19 themselves up here but now all the halibut are being
20 intercepted on the south end there.

21
22 So it's all scientific, of course,
23 that's just my assumption.

24
25 And also I'll leave you folks with one
26 last thing here, Joe hit on a good thing here, he's
27 concerned about the jet boats on the Chilkat River, you
28 have numerous jet boats, they are two-stroke engines
29 burning and leaving hydrocarbons and sulfur dioxide in
30 who knows what amounts, you'd have to calculate the
31 combustion and the fuel used and the whole nine yards.
32 Now, on that side, up into Skagway we have four or five
33 cruise ships a day, who can tell me how much fuel they
34 consume in one passing up the channel. Sulfur dioxide
35 is the main component of these cruise ship emissions.
36 Now, when you get sulfur dioxide and mix it with the
37 Southeast rain here you get acid rain which raises the
38 PH level in all the water systems throughout the whole
39 of Southeast Alaska. Now, your PH levels get higher,
40 it'll be able to dissolve shellfish.

41
42 It's just something to think about.
43 It's just something that I noticed. Because I used to
44 work for the Fish and Game here in the Valley for two
45 years as a Tech III biologist and guaranteed I seen a
46 lot of salmon and I know how to catch them and I know
47 where all the fry and the smolt are and I have seen
48 some unbelievable sights.

49
50 But anyway that's about all I have to

1 say here but we all have valid and existing concerns
2 and we can study this to death but like I say if I was
3 the king I would let all the wild runs run wild for one
4 season and let the aboriginal people take their normal
5 takes. Now, the state of Alaska has over a \$30 Billion
6 savings account, we could pay all the fishermen for
7 their take throughout the whole year, now, is that
8 scientific or what.

9

10 All right, thanks for your attention, I
11 got to go.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tim. Mr.
14 Strong. And then while he's coming up here, just an
15 announcement, that ANS is doing a fundraiser for lunch
16 so they would appreciate it if you stayed here and
17 helped them out.

18

19 MR. STRONG: Well, thank you for
20 letting me speak here.

21

22 (In Tlingit)

23

24 My name is David Strong in English, (In
25 Tlingit), I'm from the Klukwan Chilkat people here, and
26 I want to say something about what Joe said here about
27 the bears coming through the village.

28

29 Well, it's not only a problem for the
30 children, it's also a problem for the adults. I wonder
31 why we are worried about the bears in the village when
32 we can just deal with the problem when they occur
33 instead of running in your home and worried about the
34 bear outside your door.

35

36 Same thing with the moose in the winter
37 time last year. We had about five moose hanging out my
38 door and everybody else had moose running around their
39 houses. Now, when you get around those mother moose
40 with their little young mooslings [sic] around with
41 them, I'm not the best speaker here, but I'll speak
42 what I have to say, my English grammar's not the best
43 but I'll do my best, you get close enough they'll start
44 charging you. Now, I've been charged and I just hop
45 back in my house and I had to go to work so I had to
46 sit there and stare at the moose, look at him and he'd
47 be looking at me, if he stayed back and went back to
48 eating on the tree then I'd just kind of move my way in
49 and get back to where I need to go down to the hill and
50 that kind of stinks because some days I'd be pretty

1 late for work. And I'm sure if I didn't do this
2 process with these moose every day I probably would
3 have been charged and probably wouldn't be here to say
4 anything about it today, and as well as the bears, I've
5 walked into bears a couple times here. And I know the
6 kids on the top part of the village and the bottom part
7 of the village, they -- they -- I don't know they play
8 out there and have their fun and stuff but I know I've
9 walked into those bears on the bottom part of the
10 village quite a bit and I know they hang out behind the
11 woods there and come down and see what's going on.
12 Also, you know, they get into a lot of our fish that we
13 catch down there, a lot of people lost a lot of fish
14 this year but we don't really want to say how much fish
15 we could have lost because we can get in trouble for
16 that too probably. And that's something else that we
17 probably should be addressing, is, I think, in Klukwan
18 -- this is Klukwan, ancient village, ancient land, this
19 land's always been here and as far as I know since
20 time immemorial, before time immemorial, we've probably
21 been fishing and hunting there and the fish are still
22 coming through and the wild animals are still coming
23 through and it's doing pretty good, in fact, they found
24 a home here in Klukwan and they're taking control of
25 our own homes and I think we should have the right to
26 do what we need to do, when we need to do it and I
27 think it's a big problem right now.

28

29 And thank you for letting me speak.
30 I'd just like to find some solution for this problem.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.
33 Gunalcheesh.

34

35 MR. STRONG: Gunalcheesh.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there some way that
38 you can report these animals in your yard when they get
39 a little too close or dangerous that you think, is
40 there a process that you go through, the police, Fish
41 and Game?

42

43 MR. STRONG: Well, see this is the
44 process that I know. I know the process of like pretty
45 much I'll be like, well, I'm going to go outside and
46 say, well, look out for the moose right there and I'd
47 be like, well, too bad we can't shoot one of them, they
48 look pretty good. Like Mr. Wright was saying, you
49 know, people should eat everything and, of course, most
50 people here eat everything they get and it'd sure be

1 nice instead of being afraid of the moose outside your
2 door, just to take care of business and have good food
3 for the winter, you know. But so as far as reporting,
4 I'd be worried to report that we just took care of a
5 moose that was going, you know, charging family members
6 or children because what is it, 10 years in jail or
7 something, I don't know if that's just an over-
8 exaggeration or not so I'm not aware of this. But what
9 I do know is I don't think we have anybody to report to
10 about it and if I figured we did it probably wouldn't
11 change much of the numbers of these wild animals coming
12 in.

13

14 I think at this point we should be able
15 to what they probably did in the old days. I don't
16 hear too many elders talking about running from moose
17 back into the house, you know, as well as the bears.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 Gunalcheesh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, thank you,
24 David. What we do in Yakutat if a moose, you know,
25 bothers or a bear comes into our yard and it gets a
26 little too rambunctious, we just call the police
27 department and they'll come over and either shoo it
28 away or scare it away or sometimes they have to shoot
29 it, you know, so.....

30

31 MR. STRONG: Well, that's a great idea,
32 I just figure they make it up to 22 miles maybe it
33 might be too late, out to Klukwan.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

36

37 MR. STRONG: Maybe as a safety officer
38 I could do that and I'll take care of it myself.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you.
43 Thank you for your concerns.

44

45 MR. STRONG: Gunalcheesh.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So is lunch ready now.

48

49 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, lunch is ready.
2 It's a fundraiser for the Alaska Native Sisterhood,
3 there's a convention coming up pretty soon and I'm sure
4 they want to raise a few bucks so they can send a good
5 delegation down there. So we'll break for lunch.

6
7 MR. HOTCH: A couple hours, two hours.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. KITKA: Joe said two hours.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Two hours, why don't
14 we just adjourn for the day.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's come back at
19 1:15, okay, 1:15.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, everyone, please
26 take your seats.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we'll go ahead
31 and call this meeting back into session.

32
33 Before we go on with the items on the
34 agenda, I'd like to recognize Marilyn Wilson is here,
35 she's from this area. She also served on this RAC
36 before. Marilyn can you hear me back there?

37
38 MS. WILSON: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you please come
41 up here and we'll recognize you. You wrote out a thing
42 here but because you are a former RAC member, you know,
43 I think we'd all be interested in hearing what you have
44 to say. So if you don't mind, please.

45
46 MS. WILSON: I didn't know you were
47 going to call me so soon.

48
49 (Pause)

50

1 MS. WILSON: I said I was looking for a
2 seat to sit down when.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got one right
5 there.

6
7 MS. WILSON: It's really nice to see
8 all of the Council here again because we met here
9 before and other people met here also from the National
10 Park Service.

11
12 I would like to say welcome. I'm in
13 the ANS but I haven't been doing very much lately. I
14 retired from the Federal Council here a few years back.
15 It was a joy and a lot of work and I sure appreciate
16 and understand how much work and time it takes from
17 your home and your family and we don't get paid for it
18 so that's the difference. The people that care enough
19 about our resources that come and meet and try to come
20 to a conclusion on how many resources -- or how much of
21 the resource, each resource we could use. So I'm very
22 glad that this is happening.

23
24 I used to be on the State Fish and Game
25 Advisory Committee and we never even took care of
26 subsistence then.

27
28 I just wanted to let everybody know
29 that subsistence, when we take care of -- I guess first
30 of all I'd like to say that a long time ago we didn't
31 have that many people after these resources, we only
32 had a few people that came to Alaska and now there's
33 commercial, sports, all the different user groups and
34 more people are after the same resource that we have
35 been using as Natives in our culture for long, hundreds
36 of years, and so the way we deal and look at that word,
37 subsistence, is our cultural and it's our life. So
38 it's something that we do naturally without even
39 thinking.

40
41 And before I got on committees I -- we
42 used to be busy subsisting, as you call it, putting up
43 our fish in jars, smoking it, making eulachon oil,
44 drying eulachons, smoking them, and what else, oh, the
45 seaweed, we trade for seaweed usually and for herring
46 eggs because we don't get that up here. We have red
47 seaweed, we usually trade that, and the berries. And
48 these are things that we have done for years and years
49 and years and now that we have regulations, our people
50 really didn't realize that we needed to go to these

1 meetings to see what we're supposed to do and not do.
2 So many of our people, not long ago, never went to the
3 State Fish and Game meetings and our ANS and ANB got
4 together about 1989 and at that time the State Fish and
5 Game Council was trying to take the subsistence away
6 from Haines and Klukwan area. And so our ANB
7 president, Richard Warren, got the list of all the
8 subsistence users in this area, non-Native and Native
9 alike, and so we almost lost our subsistence usage here
10 in Haines and that was before ANILCA. And so I'm very
11 appreciative of this Council and the time that
12 everybody spends on it because I know it takes time and
13 a lot of reading and a lot of studying and sometimes
14 groups of users get angry with the Council and say why
15 did you do this, you know, you're cutting our user
16 group down or off so -- and I know that the Council
17 does the best they can with the information they have,
18 getting it from the people that use it, the biologists,
19 the State biologists, the Federal Forest Service, and
20 so the more you study and converse with each other and
21 write letters and read the materials, which is hard to
22 do because it takes a lot of time, and I just wanted to
23 say welcome and that I sure appreciate this Council and
24 all the people that work in it.

25

26 I was very happy to serve on it before
27 and I thank my husband and my family for letting me go
28 off on these Council trips. And the one time I tried
29 to get my husband to come, and this was to Angoon and
30 he's kicking himself ever since.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. WILSON: He wished he had gone and
35 so now he knows, now he knows. And I'm very, very
36 proud to be here and speak to you and to meet all of
37 you and work hard.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Marilyn.
40 It's good to see you too. And just for everyone's
41 information when she served on this Council she served
42 as the Secretary for many years, which is what Mr.
43 Harvey Kitka holds right now.

44

45 We've got other testimonies. I see
46 some new faces since this morning. We went through the
47 introduction part of it and I'd like to give an
48 opportunity, you know, for any Federal people who have
49 come in recently to please introduce themselves if you
50 would, so, please, Jim Capra and Dianne.

1 MR. CAPRA: I'm -- is it fine?
2
3 REPORTER: It's fine.
4
5 MR. CAPRA: I'm Jim Capra with the
6 National Park Service, Glacier Bay, out of Yakutat.
7 And I finally made it in this morning. I'd hoped to be
8 here for the start, I apologize for getting here in
9 time for lunch.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: They're going to be
14 serving dinner here too, Jim.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. CAPRA: I'll leave right after
19 that.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dianne, please.
24
25 MS. MCKINLEY: Dianne McKinley,
26 National Park Service, Anchorage. And it's always a
27 pleasure to come back home. I guess I'd be complete if
28 I could take some (In Tlingit) while I'm here but I
29 always look forward to seeing our Council -- listening.
30
31
32 Thank you. Gunalcheesh.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Any
35 other Federal people, new, that came in recently.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How about any Federal
40 people.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No. All right.
45
46 MR. CHADWICK: Bob Chadwick for Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Welcome. Glad to see
50 you, Bob. Anyone else from the community or otherwise.

1 MR. PEEL: My name is Michael Peel and
2 I'm here on behalf of Organized Village of Kasaan and
3 I'm very happy to be here and be a part of this, this
4 is my first time at a meeting of such. I worked for
5 the State for several years but now I work for Kasaan
6 and so I'm looking forward to being here for some more
7 of these meetings and learn how the whole process goes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Glad to see you.

10

11 MR. PEEL: So thank you very much.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Glad to see you,
14 welcome. Go ahead.

15

16 MR. EDWARDS: Larry Edwards from Sitka.
17 I work for Greenpeace. I do a lot of work on related
18 issues of deer, wolves and subsistence.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Larry.
21 Anybody else.

22

23 MS. BERLAND: I'm Nancy Berland and I
24 have a green thing to testify, I don't know if I should
25 do that now or later.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're going to hold
28 you off for awhile.

29

30 MS. BERLAND: Okay. I'm representing
31 myself and also Lynn Canal Conservation.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We have a bunch
34 of these here, we'll go through them, you know, a
35 little bit later on. But I did want to have an
36 opportunity to give to Marilyn to address us since she
37 was formerly on the Council.

38

39 We'll go ahead with the other part of
40 the agenda now which is Item No. 9, Southeastern Area
41 Steelhead. Mr. Harding.

42

43 Mr. Wilson, sure, come forward, yeah,
44 all right, good to see you.

45

46 MR. WILSON: Good to see you Bert. My
47 name is Dwayne Wilson. I'm the ANB Camp 5 president.
48 I just wanted to say a quick welcome to our community
49 and it's good to see you all here. How long are you
50 guys going to be in our community?

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll be here through
2 Wednesday.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Through Wednesday, okay.
5 I know some of you, I don't know all of you, but it's
6 sure good to see you here.

7
8 Currently our ANB hall is under
9 construction, remodeled, sorry it wasn't ready for you
10 guys this year but it's good to see you. And maybe
11 I'll come by tomorrow, but welcome to our community,
12 good to see you here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Spread the word,
15 Dwayne, that, you know, anyone from the community is
16 welcome to come here and watch the process and even
17 testify if they so wish.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Okay, yeah, I'll do that
20 through our CIA office.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Bert.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just for other
27 people's information there's this little slip here that
28 you can fill out if you want to testify on anything.

29
30 MS. WILSON: Dwayne.

31
32 MR. WILSON: Hum.

33
34 MS. WILSON: Introduce your mom and
35 dad.

36
37 MR. WILSON: Oh, okay.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. WILSON: I've just been informed to
42 introduce my mother, Marilyn.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. WILSON: And my dad Paul Wilson, if
47 he would rise.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. WILSON: And my niece, where is
2 she?
3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: She was running around
5 here.
6
7 MR. WILSON: There she is, yeah. All
8 right, thank you very much.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dwayne.
11
12 This gentleman over here, did you
13 introduce yourself this morning.
14
15 MR. PRICE: My name is Wayne Price.
16 I'm on the Council of the Chilkoot Indian Association.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, welcome. Okay,
19 I'm going to turn the time over to Mr. Harding now for
20 his presentation and it looks like he's going to use
21 this, are you?
22
23 MR. HARDING: Yes.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Give us a
26 minute or so and we'll make room here for you.
27
28 (Pause)
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Harvey, the
31 lights, good, go ahead.
32
33 MR. HARDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity
35 to speak with you today on steelhead in Southeast
36 Alaska.
37
38 This is a basic outline of my talk,
39 I'll try and go fairly quickly to cover everything. I
40 have selected these topics because I have heard
41 questions at previous RAC and subsistence meetings and
42 I hope these topics will be of interest to the Council.
43
44 Pacific steelhead distribution.
45 Steelhead range throughout the Pacific northrim from
46 Southern California all the way around through the Gulf
47 of Alaska and are found on the Kamchatka Peninsula in
48 Russia.
49
50 Distribution of steelhead in the Lower

1 48. Steelhead range from Malibu Creek in Los Angeles
2 and historically as far south as San Diego and possibly
3 the Tijuana River in Northern Mexico. For Pacific
4 steelhead National Fisheries Service has delineated
5 distinct population segments or DPS for consideration
6 of the species under the Endangered Species Act. Red
7 in this figure signifies endangered or threatened; blue
8 is species of concern and green signifies that listing
9 is not warranted at this time and that includes the
10 Southern Washington, Southwest Washington and the
11 Olympic Peninsula. This map is a little outdated. The
12 Puget Sound stocks have now been listed as well. And
13 there have been 15 distinct population segments
14 identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

15
16 The status of steelhead in the Lower
17 48. There is considerable concern for the status of
18 steelhead in the Lower 48 as approximately three-
19 quarters of the wild populations are at some level of
20 concern. Either endangered, threatened or species of
21 concern.

22
23 Distribution of steelhead in British
24 Columbia. There's approximately 580 steelhead rivers,
25 a third or larger in British Columbia. These rivers
26 are comprised of about 630 stocks of steelhead.
27 Approximately a third of the rivers are along the
28 remote, mid, and north coast and these rivers are
29 seldom fished and are shown in green and approximately
30 a quarter of the rivers are on Vancouver Island.

31
32 The status of steelhead in British
33 Columbia. Approximately 50 percent of the British
34 Columbia stocks are at some level of concern, either
35 conservation concern or extreme conservation concern.
36 And this is similar to the U.S. Threatened and
37 Endangered listings categories.

38
39 This is -- in British Columbia, the
40 general trend for steelhead status since the late 1990s
41 has been a dramatic decline in steelhead abundance in
42 the southern regions. A less dramatic decline in the
43 central coast regions and relatively stability stocks
44 among those stocks further north. So where the
45 population centers are they've gotten pretty bad, on
46 the west coast of Vancouver Island they're bad and then
47 you get in the north coast there, a little better.

48
49 Steelhead distribution in Alaska.
50 Steelheads are found throughout much of the coastal

1 range of Alaska but are predominately found in
2 Southeast Alaska.

3
4 Some of the larger runs of steelhead in
5 Southcentral Alaska include the Copper River, the Kenai
6 Peninsula Anchor and Deep Creek and Karluk River in
7 Kodiak Island and are some that drain into Bristol Bay.

8
9 Steelhead distribution in Southeast
10 Alaska, there are 309 watersheds listed in the
11 anadromous waters catalog that have steelhead in
12 Southeast Alaska. Of the 309 systems there are 70 in
13 northern Southeast and 239 in southern Southeast. And
14 there's the break for what we call northern and
15 southern.

16
17 The status of the steelhead Southeast
18 Alaska. In summary, steelhead abundance was relatively
19 stable between 2003 and 2005 but there are still
20 systems that have not rebounded from the depressed
21 levels observed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and
22 this is a quote from a report from the Alaska Board of
23 Fisheries of January of last year. Again, this
24 description of status of steelhead in Southeast was
25 based on very limited data.

26
27 So what factors help explain steelhead
28 distribution, escapement levels in Southeast Alaska.
29 One of the primary or keys that we have found is,
30 obvious things, the watersheds which have lakes
31 associated with them, where the larger steelhead runs
32 are found, and so the systems known to regularly
33 produce steelhead greater than 200 are generally
34 associated with lakes and there are, of course, a few
35 exceptions. So, again, the strong relationship between
36 steelhead run size and accessibility to the lake.
37 Throughout Southeast Alaska approximately 46 percent
38 have access to lakes and 54 percent have no access.
39 And I'll point out here in a little bit but you see
40 where a majority of the lakes are.

41
42 In southern Southeast Alaska there are
43 239 watersheds which contain steelhead and, again, it's
44 almost split about 50/50, between those that have
45 access to lakes and those that don't. In northern
46 Southeast Alaska there's only 70 watersheds that
47 contain steelhead but they're more evenly split between
48 lake access and non-lake access. I'd like to point out
49 that the northern Southeast Alaska steelhead is just
50 about the northern limit of the spring run steelhead.

1 I'll get a little bit more into that in a minute. But
2 you see it starts to peter out except for the Yakutat
3 forelands.

4
5 On Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof
6 Islands there's 41 documented steelhead systems, 18 or
7 44 percent have lake access, and on these ABC Islands
8 there's only a few systems believed to have escapement
9 of greater than 200. The steelhead accessible lakes on
10 -- you see a fair amount but nothing compared to what
11 you saw in southern Southeast, as far as watersheds.

12
13 So some discussion points. There is
14 widespread conservation concerns for steelhead outside
15 of Alaska. There are a few steelhead watersheds in
16 northern Southeast, there are a few steelhead
17 watersheds on ABC Islands with annual escapements right
18 in the 200 and steelhead in northern Southeast Alaska
19 or in the northern range or the vulnerable (ph) range
20 of distribution.

21
22 Although stocks with significant data
23 are not at risk, small run size that are typical of
24 most steelhead stocks may be more susceptible to poor
25 land management practices and over harvest in larger
26 stocks and this is a quote from the Forest Service
27 steelhead status document done in 1999.

28
29 Next I'd like to quickly cover the
30 basic biology of steelhead. There's different forms of
31 steelhead in Southeast Alaska, probably the term
32 familiar with most of us are spring and fall steelhead.
33 The different forms of steelhead are categorized by the
34 timing of their entrance into freshwater either spring
35 or fall. Fall forms of steelhead spawn in the spring
36 from late April to early June and there's in
37 approximately 36 or so known fall systems in Southeast
38 Alaska. One of the newest forms that we are kind of
39 describing at Sitkha is a sea-run rainbow, which has
40 similar characteristics to a sea-run cutthroat, they
41 don't migrate to the open ocean and they stay near
42 shores and return to freshwater to over winter, similar
43 to Dolly Varden or, again, sea-run cutthroat. There are
44 probably a few summer run steelhead in Southeast Alaska
45 and I hear rumors occasionally where steelhead enter
46 the freshwater in July or August.

47
48 The general steelhead life cycle, they
49 typically spend two to six years in freshwater and two
50 to four years in the ocean and may spawn more than once

1 and possibly up to four to five times, but multiple
2 spawnings beyond three years is fairly rare.

3
4 The reproductive potential for
5 steelhead is low. I will use an example from the
6 literature, Snow Creek, which is on the Olympic
7 Peninsula and the Keogh River is in Northern British
8 Columbia. Reproductive potential is defined as the
9 relative capacity of a species to reproduce itself
10 under optimal conditions, or another definition is the
11 maximum amount of offspring a female can produce if
12 there are no natural enemies or diseases affecting
13 them.

14
15 So the fecundity, we start with the
16 fecundity or the number of eggs per female and this is
17 highly variable and depends on the length and age of
18 the fish, obviously the bigger the fish the more eggs.
19 From the literature, the Northern British Columbia
20 stock we see that an average size steelhead there, 20
21 inches, has approximately 3,500 eggs, and the point of
22 reference, our average female length at Sitkoh Creek on
23 Chichagof is 32 inches. If we use the fertilization
24 rates from the literature of 97 percent to get
25 approximately 3,400 and this range may be lower in
26 northern Southeast. For reference, cohos have
27 approximately 2,500 to 4,500.

28
29 Egg to fry survival range from 1.8 to
30 11.5 percent, the mean, again, from Northern British
31 Columbia is 6.5 percent so this yields approximately
32 220 fry per female, 3,400 times 6.5.

33
34 The next stage, fry to smolt survival,
35 the range is three to 22 percent with a mean of about
36 12.5 percent so this means we're getting about 30 smolt
37 per female. And I just notice that we -- at Sitkho
38 Creek we're finding that this number is a lot lower,
39 significantly lower than this.

40
41 Smolt to adult survival, ocean survival
42 can be highly variable, it ranges from eight to 15
43 percent in northern B.C., there's one study that has 28
44 percent in Washington on average it's about 7.3 and
45 this is in line with what our preliminary estimate at
46 Sitkho is, which is about 70 percent, so per female
47 this yields about two to four adults. And this
48 reproductive potential of an individual steelhead may
49 be similar to coho salmon but the magnitude of
50 difference is in their escapement. And this exercise

1 does help illustrate the importance of repeat spawning
2 have in maintaining the populations.

3

4 The basic biology. We have looked at
5 examples from the literature, so how does this relate
6 to the real world of steelhead in Southeast Alaska.
7 We're trying at Sitkha to come up with age of smolts,
8 ranges and percentages and from our studies at Sitkha
9 Creek we hope to further define these parameters
10 including smolt to adult survival, ocean ages, repeat
11 spawners and then we're working also on marine survival
12 between spawning.

13

14 So the size range of steelhead smolt in
15 Southeast Alaska is approximately six to 11 inches and
16 I might note that these are the minimum size limits for
17 our State regulations, these fish are protected under
18 the State regs, our minimum size limit.

19

20 Sitkha Creek, freshwater smolt age, the
21 freshwater age of steelhead were more complex and
22 diverse than previously thought. This data comes from
23 examination of scales but we're trying to cross
24 reference these through the otolith. Age three was the
25 dominate age in British Columbia and it was always
26 thought that that was the dominate age in Southeast,
27 but we see that approximately 47 percent are age four.
28 Of course common sense tells you the longer they live
29 in freshwater the chance of predation and everything
30 else, mortality, goes up. So the fish range from two
31 to six, we have had a couple over six years old.
32 Pretty interesting fish. The predominate age is age
33 three and four.

34

35 The Sitkha Creek ocean ages, this data
36 comes from recovery of unique tags. And for the first
37 time in Alaska this is not a result of scale aging but
38 actual hard data. The percentage of repeat spawners
39 shown here is 24 percent, it may be higher because some
40 strain of fish in the nearby streams was observed. So
41 this is a minimum percentage of the fish that we tagged
42 that came back was a minimum of 24 percent repeat
43 spawners. The literature or previously thought was 25
44 to 33 percent for repeat spawners.

45

46 The other thing is that there is a
47 possibility for five ocean but our project has not been
48 run long enough to detect that. Repeat spawners are
49 predominately on their second spawning run and here,
50 again, this is kind of unusual, we didn't think that

1 the majority would be three ocean, spending three years
2 in the ocean before spawning, we thought they would be
3 predominately two and we -- it's kind of been debatable
4 whether there was one ocean spawners or not and after
5 four years of looking we've only -- we first saw our
6 first one ocean fish in 2007, so fairly rare.

7
8 Post-spawning steelhead can move
9 quickly back to the ocean. On anecdotal information we
10 have was a steelhead tag in 1989 at Chartae River, it
11 was tagged as it left the Chartae River in late May or
12 early June, it was recaptured approximately three weeks
13 later by a Japanese research vessel on the high seas,
14 so they can move fairly quickly off shore.

15
16 Steelhead may be longer lived than
17 previously thought. This is an example of a tagged
18 fish from the Situk River where it spent five years in
19 fresh water, six years in the ocean for a total of 11
20 years, and this compares to some of our king salmon
21 which seven years is kind of the maximum. Previously
22 believed that they were two to three year freshwater
23 and one to three in the ocean. So we are finding out
24 that they are older than we thought.

25
26 Again, new discoveries in steelhead.
27 Live longer than previously believed. Possibly fewer
28 repeat spawners. We're still working on that. It's
29 hard to correct for the strain rate. There's more
30 diverse freshwater age structure. And the estimates
31 used in the hypothetical life history model may be
32 high. Again, production may be lower in the northern
33 most range of the steelhead distribution.

34
35 And I'd like to go over real quickly
36 the development of our trout and steelhead sportfishing
37 regulations. The Department went through an extensive
38 public process and went throughout in developing the
39 current conservative trout regulations, there was a lot
40 of concerns at the time that these were developed when
41 steelhead stocks were not doing well throughout the
42 range. And the limited information we had available
43 reinforced the importance of developing conservative
44 regulations.

45
46 Real quickly our general regulations,
47 I'm sure you're familiar with these. Open year-round,
48 36 inch minimum size limit, bait prohibited, two a day,
49 and there is bait also prohibited in some of the fall
50 run system. Again, the limited information on

1 steelhead reinforces the importance of developing
2 conservative regulations.

3

4 There was a nine member -- 1994 the
5 regs were passed by the Board of Fish, prior to that a
6 nine member committee was selected, these included
7 anglers from across the state and I think there was
8 actually one former member of the RAC on this committee
9 as well. They developed a questionnaire which was
10 mailed to approximately 1,700 anglers, we had about
11 half returned, we had extensive public meetings in 14
12 of the different communities.

13

14 And the results back ranks the reason
15 you fish for steelhead, we asked anglers that. Here
16 they liked to fish and they enjoyed the outdoors. The
17 point I want to point out here is that the harvest for
18 anglers on steelhead was relatively the last of the
19 lowest priority that they had for fishing.

20

21 If there is a harvest, how should we
22 manage this fishery. The people responding to this,
23 the highest priority was to restrict the gear and
24 seasonal bag limits. And the clear message was here,
25 the permit, they did not want to have any kind of
26 restrictions to their access. If more stipulations are
27 necessary, most refer the catch and release scenario.
28 And they recommended this as a primary tool for
29 protecting the steelhead harvest.

30

31 So current regulations, a 36 inch
32 minimum size. When we did get to the Board of Fish it
33 was a compromise at that meeting. The original
34 proposal that the State went in with in their trout
35 plan was for catch and release only, however, the
36 compromise was reached because anglers wanted an
37 opportunity to harvest a once in a lifetime steelhead
38 and there really wasn't a biological reason for the 36
39 inches. What this does, though, it allows that the
40 estimates are that less than five percent of the
41 steelhead in Southeast are available for sport harvest.
42 So anglers wanted to be able to keep a once in a
43 lifetime fish.

44

45 The bait restrictions were primarily
46 adopted to protect cutthroat trout and steelhead smolt.
47 The literature shows that the mortality of cutthroat
48 caught with bait may be as high as 48 percent.
49 Secondarily protects all the adult steelhead and the
50 bait ban was expanded to protect the fall run

1 steelhead, the 36 system in Southeast, this is a small
2 component of most of those systems and we don't know
3 much about them and so it made prudent sense to protect
4 them.

5
6 I'll go over some miscellaneous topics.
7 Hatcheries, hook, mortality and genetics. Steelhead
8 hatcheries, there is just overwhelming evidence that
9 hatcheries can reduce the fitness of wild steelhead and
10 I think all the states and provinces have recognized
11 this. The steelhead hatchery production in Southeast
12 has been phased out for the most part with the
13 exception, I think of one, possibly two research sites.

14
15 Steelhead hooking mortality is low.
16 Fisheries managers use 10 percent and five percent when
17 developing models or estimates of harvest. But
18 realistically the hooking mortality of sport caught
19 steelhead approximate one to three percent. So with
20 bait, less than 10 percent ranges from three to 11. It
21 changes a little bit with the hook type, barbed,
22 barbless, but it is generally considered less than five
23 percent with no bait, live is less than one percent,
24 artificial lures it's three percent. And so typically
25 five percent with no bait is what we are looking at and
26 it's probably more realistic, closer to one to three
27 percent. These estimates may be complicated by
28 multiple captures and the added stress of acclimation
29 to freshwater. For example in Southeast Alaska many of
30 the fisheries occur just above the intertidal area and
31 steelhead are more susceptible to hook and release
32 mortality as they are acclimating to freshwater just as
33 they're leaving the ocean.

34
35 Steelhead genetics. Samples have been
36 collected from around Southeast Alaska, all the weirs
37 we've been running in the last six or so years and
38 there's -- I bring this -- I include this topic because
39 there was an FIS proposal to investigate the genetics
40 on Prince of Wales Island steelhead but it was not
41 funded. Hopefully some day we can do some more work
42 with this. And a metapopulation may be defined as a
43 group of spatially separated population of the same
44 species that interact at some level and currently we
45 don't know anything about that.

46
47 And concluding remarks. There is
48 limited information on Southeast Alaska steelhead,
49 which reinforces the importance of protecting the
50 critical freshwater habitat. Again, if they're going

1 to live in freshwater for two to six years it's
2 important to protect that habitat. Conservative
3 regulations are also important because of limited
4 information and there is a need for a long-term data
5 set to evaluate the trends.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Is
10 there any questions anyone might have. Don.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: You're a State
13 biologist?

14

15 MR. HARDING: Yes, I am.

16

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. I don't know if
18 you can answer this but maybe you have some ideas. Why
19 are steelhead not listed as a species of concern in the
20 Tongass Land Management Plan, do you have any input on
21 that?

22

23 MR. HARDING: I don't, but that's a
24 good question. I can't answer that. I'm not -- well,
25 I used to be -- in a former position I was more
26 involved with the Tongass -- the first Tongass TLMP,
27 but I have not been involved to know. I think that the
28 two indicated species were, what, cutthroat and coho.

29

30 MR. HERNANDEZ: I believe so, yeah.

31

32 MR. HARDING: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, appreciate
39 it. Okay, we've nothing more for the State guy, Cal,
40 you're the Fed guy so come forward.

41

42 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Cal Casipit, Subsistence Staff biologist, Forest
44 Service, Juneau, Alaska.

45

46 A couple of things in your book that
47 I'll be speaking from. Specifically would be Table 4
48 on Page 45, that report, Federal Subsistence Steelhead
49 Harvest from 2003 to 2007, again, that's Table 4 on
50 Page 45. And on the following page beginning on Page

1 46 there's a summary of the regulatory language for
2 each of the years and any kind of permit conditions or
3 restrictions that were placed on those permits by our
4 fisheries managers for those years.

5
6 The reason this is before you, I think
7 we committed at your last meeting that we would provide
8 you, the Council, this information in a summary form
9 for you so that -- for your consideration and
10 deliberations and for the future.

11
12 So, anyway, I just wanted to briefly
13 outline the information in front of you.

14
15 Fairly small amounts of steelhead have
16 been harvested over the years, never anything more than
17 50 per year. The highest harvest occurred in 2006 with
18 49 steelhead regionwide in Southeast Alaska, that also
19 includes Yakutat by the way. So you can see it's a
20 fairly moderate harvest that's occurred from our
21 opportunities that we've provided in Federal
22 regulations.

23
24 One of the other interest areas and we
25 talked about it in the annual report, I'm not going to
26 go over that section of the response from the annual
27 report, it's a couple pages long -- let me find it here
28 -- the response to the issue identified in the annual
29 report starts on Page 39 and it runs through Page 41,
30 actually 42, but I'm not going to go over that, that's
31 already been written and you're free to read that.
32 What I wanted to do was just briefly go over kind of
33 the history of where we -- how we've gotten here.

34
35 But basically the first subsistence
36 fisheries under State regulations began in 2003. It
37 was specific to Prince of Wales Island only. There was
38 the provision -- there was provisions for a winter
39 fishery and a spring fishery. Council members are well
40 aware that there was a five fish annual limit household
41 in the spring fishery and a two fish annual limit in
42 the winter fishery.

43
44 We did -- the local fisheries manager
45 did put permit restrictions on 21 small road accessible
46 streams. That list of streams appears on Page 46 in
47 the middle of the page.

48
49 For the winter fishery in 2003/2004,
50 two streams, Runaway Creek and Dog Salmon Creek were

1 restricted with minimum size limits of 36 inches, two
2 fish annual limit and possession on the use of spear --
3 prohibition on the use of spears.

4
5 For the 2000 [sic] spring fishery those
6 21 small road accessible systems had a 36 inch minimum
7 size limit, two fish annual limit and prohibited the
8 use of spears.

9
10 For the year 2004, based on regulatory
11 proposals, the Kosciusko Island was added to the Prince
12 of Wales Island fishery. Basically for the spring
13 fishery three streams were added to the 2003 list,
14 those were Cable Creek, Chocadaro Creek, and Talmal
15 Creek. The same restrictions, minimum size limit, two
16 fish annual limit and prohibition on the use of spears
17 was included that year as well.

18
19 For the 2004/2005 winter fishery no
20 restrictions beyond the Board passed regulation was
21 implemented.

22
23 2005 brought a change to our
24 regulations again. Not only was a subsistence fishery
25 recognized for Prince of Wales and Kosciusko Island but
26 we also added steelhead regulations for the rest of
27 Southeast Alaska.

28
29 For the remainder of Southeast Alaska
30 the -- we had a season of January 1 to May 31, daily
31 and household possession limit of one with an annual
32 household limit of two and we had a list of gear there
33 and then there also was a requirement that we consult
34 with Fish and Game -- Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game to determine if any additional special
36 restrictions were needed for conservation reasons in
37 various places.

38
39 So for -- again for the 2005/2006
40 Prince of Wales winter season no restrictions beyond
41 the background regulations was on the permit, however,
42 you can see on Page 47 the middle of the page in 2005
43 there's the list of additional permit restrictions
44 based on geographical areas. The Prince of Wales small
45 road accessible systems in the spring season, that was
46 the same -- that list of 24 streams was the same as was
47 in 2004, the same harvest limits and then methods.

48
49 For the rest of Southeast we did
50 restrict streams on the road systems of Ketchikan,

1 Juneau, Wrangell, Petersburg, Petersburg Creek and
2 Sitka, and you can see the restrictions there that were
3 on the permits and the number of streams that those
4 restrictions applied to. I want to point out that the
5 majority of the streams there -- 300 or so streams
6 didn't have any restrictions beyond what was in the
7 background regulations passed by the Federal
8 Subsistence Board.

9
10 2006, again, we were working with, you
11 know, what we had in the past except that 2006 brought
12 the allowance of bait in these fisheries. That was,
13 again, another regulatory proposal that was proposed
14 and was passed so basically the regulatory language was
15 the same except that we allowed the use of bait.

16
17 For the 2006/2007 Prince of Wales
18 winter steelhead season, the permit did restrict the --
19 did prohibit the use of bait by permit restriction for
20 that fishery. For the spring season for 2006/2007 you
21 can see the restrictions there, basically much the same
22 as in previous years except with the addition of not
23 allowing the use of bait in those small systems on
24 Prince of Wales road system and the Ketchikan, Juneau,
25 Wrangell, Petersburg Road and Petersburg Creek systems,
26 and Sitka, I should say.

27
28 So basically that's a real brief
29 overview of the regulations and restrictions on the
30 permits for steelhead. I have to say that I think they
31 were appropriate for the streams that we did have those
32 restrictions on based on conservation concerns
33 expressed to us by Fish and Game and others. Fairly
34 moderate harvests. Under our regulations, I think
35 people who wanted steelhead were able to get them,
36 people who didn't want to kill steelhead didn't. But
37 for folks that did want to eat steelhead, we did
38 provide that opportunity and folks that wanted it used
39 them. Again, fairly moderate harvests.

40
41 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions of Cal
44 from the Council.

45
46 Go ahead Don.

47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'd like to ask Cal the
49 same question I asked Mr. Harding. There seems to be a
50 lot of concern about general, you know, steelhead

1 stocks in general everywhere, how come they're not
2 mentioned in the Tongass Land Management Plan as a
3 species of concern for habitat considerations, do you
4 have any insight into that?

5
6 MR. CASIPIT: It's been awhile since
7 I've worked on the Tongass Forest Plan, it's been well
8 over 10 years. I know when we were working on -- when
9 I was working on the plan, when we were looking at
10 management indicator species or species of concern or
11 whatever you want to call them, it was hard to choose a
12 species that wasn't -- that was only in a very small
13 percentage of the rivers or streams that are out there,
14 we're only talking, you know, 300 or so -- 300 to 400
15 streams when there's probably 6,000 streams on the
16 Tongass and it's hard to pick species -- a management
17 indicator species unless it's in all the watersheds
18 that you may be managing or looking at, so that
19 probably had something to do with it.

20
21 I know Steve -- Steve Kessler was
22 assistant team leader of the Tongass Land Management
23 Plan, perhaps he might have some additional perspective
24 on that, you know, I don't remember any specific
25 conversations about why steelhead might have been
26 excluded or not. We had many discussions about
27 management indicator species, I know that, but.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Harvey has a
30 question, unless you had a follow up, Don.

31
32 MR. HERNANDEZ: That's fine, yeah, no.
33 I'll just take it at that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

36
37 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Cal. I just had
38 one question and basically it was the size on the
39 summary, I thought it was a couple of years ago we
40 passed there was no size on subsistence. Is there a
41 reason why there's a size limit on that.

42
43 MR. CASIPIT: Right. The general
44 background regulations for steelhead is that there is
45 no minimum size limit. However, based on conservation
46 issues identified for road systems, certain road
47 systems, there were some minimum size restrictions put
48 on the permit as a permit condition for only those
49 streams, like, for instance, in 2005 Ketchikan and
50 Juneau road systems had a minimum 30 inch -- 30 inch

1 minimum size limit on it. But that was only applied to
2 streams on the Ketchikan and Juneau road system, if you
3 went somewhere else there was no minimum size limit.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up Harvey.

6

7 MR. KITKA: Yes. Well, I see on the
8 Sitka road system it says all streams and that.....

9

10 MR. CASIPIT: Well, in that case, for
11 2005, what that meant is that no retention in 2005,
12 you couldn't keep any fish on the Sitka road system in
13 2005.

14

15 MR. KITKA: Would that be all road
16 systems in the Sitka area or all streams in the Sitka
17 area?

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: That would be all streams
20 crossing the Sitka road system, correct. If you
21 weren't on the Sitka road system then there was no
22 minimum size limit and the background regulation of two
23 fish of any size. And that kind of changed based on
24 some advice that we received, that changed in 2006/2007
25 and we did -- the local manager just instituted the --
26 basically just the State sportfishing regulations on
27 the Sitka road system, which was a 36 inch minimum size
28 limit.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thanks Cal. I'm
35 going to take a few minutes here and offer an
36 opportunity for three people here who would like to
37 come forth and testify and then we'll go into the
38 Makhnati Island issue.

39

40 So Wayne Price are you here.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's not here.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Nancy Berland, is she
49 here, come on forward, please, madame, please, thank
50 you. Is it Nancy Berland?

1 MS. BERLAND: Berland.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, I must have had
4 beer on my mind.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. BERLAND: I'm here representing
9 myself and also Lynn Canal Conservation. And the
10 Chilkat River is an incredible subsistence resource,
11 not only for the village of Klukwan but for all Haines
12 and most households in our area do harvest subsistence
13 salmon.

14

15 And we have a very serious concern
16 about the management of the Chilkat River. Right now
17 the habitat that supports the fishery is being damaged
18 by incremental cumulative damage by large high powered
19 commercial jet boat tours. Most people that use the
20 river have small jet boats, engine size 35 to 50
21 horsepower, and these large boats are fully loaded with
22 32 passengers, they have twin 150 jet engines and
23 because of decisions made by the agency responsible for
24 managing the Chilkat River, which is basically the
25 Department of Natural Resources, these boats are now
26 allowed to go over and through some of the best
27 spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Chilkat
28 River. And the change in management was over the
29 objection of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
30 biologists, the change happened in 2005 and the habitat
31 damage is measurable, there's erosion pins that have
32 been put in the river and, you know, it's really a
33 shame to have this damage happening and nobody is able
34 to stop it essentially.

35

36 I know that commercial fishing
37 organizations have expressed concerns, sportfishing
38 organizations have expressed concerns and as I
39 understand nit you are the voice of the subsistence
40 users. And so it's an incredible resource, it's being
41 damaged and I have a lot of information and I'd be
42 happy to share anything that I have. Be happy to
43 answer questions but that is my concern.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Some of us
46 Council members were taking a tour, you know, to the
47 cultural camps in Klukwan yesterday and we were also
48 taken over there where there's a lot of erosion.

49

50 MS. BERLAND: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we're pretty much
2 aware of it. We've got it as a part of our agenda,
3 towards the conclusion part of this meeting.
4
5 MS. BERLAND: So is there a time slot
6 for that that I could know when I could be here, I
7 wasn't aware of that.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I wouldn't, you know,
10 be brave enough to say, you know, whether it's going to
11 be -- it's probably going to be Wednesday sometime.
12
13 MS. BERLAND: Okay.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It's toward the
16 end of the agenda.
17
18 MS. BERLAND: Okay, thank you very
19 much.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We just want to thank
22 you, and if you just want to keep track of what's
23 happening here, if you have to leave for some
24 reason.....
25
26 MS. BERLAND: Okay.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:you know you'll
29 probably get the message.
30
31 MS. BERLAND: Okay, thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Questions.
34 Please sit, he's got a question for you.
35
36 MS. BERLAND: Okay.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're on the hot seat
39 now.
40
41 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I just -- you're real familiar with all the problems
43 that are happening with erosion. I guess my question
44 would be, do you or any of the groups that you talk to
45 have any like solutions you'd like to propose?
46
47 MS. BERLAND: Well, I would like to go
48 back to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game habitat
49 area biologist's recommendations, which is to
50 seasonally restrict the boats from certain high value

1 areas. They had a May restriction in one area and a
2 September restriction. May to protect the emerging and
3 the outmigrating smolt and the September to protect the
4 actual spawning. And then they identified a couple
5 high value areas where they required a no wake zone to
6 prevent the waves from further eroding the shoreline
7 and that's not being enforced. So there's enforcement
8 issues and, you know, restrictions and, you know,
9 basically until the balance of power is restored in
10 State management system where the Department of Fish
11 and Game is on equal footing with the Department of
12 Natural Resources, I don't foresee any of that
13 happening in the near future.

14

15 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions
18 for Nancy. Go ahead, Mike.

19

20 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 So the Department of Natural Resources is the managing
22 agency or is just Fish and Game or.....

23

24 MR. BERLAND: Okay, I guess I need to
25 explain it better. This is inside the Alaska Chilkat
26 Bald Eagle Preserve and statute has the Department of
27 Natural Resources being the main agency responsible for
28 issuing commercial use permits and for monitoring and
29 enforcing regulations.

30

31 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
32 by statute, is required to manage the fish and wildlife
33 habitat, however, with the move of the Habitat Division
34 from Fish and Game to Natural Resources, it created a
35 power shift and so Fish and Game acquiesced to
36 decisions that were made by DNR and has yet to reassert
37 their authority and the upper management has yet to
38 back up their biologist in the field. And it's not
39 just one biologist, there's like -- I could name like
40 seven biologists that have been through here that are
41 saying the exact same thing. And the documentation
42 that's happening now shows that the initial
43 precautionary management that the Fish and Game
44 biologists recommended was right on target, you know,
45 that erosion continues to happen. And one of the big
46 problems is that McKie Campbell, when he was
47 Commissioner of Fish and Game, he basically said that
48 until sufficient evidence exists we're going to go
49 along with this new recommendation. And the way it
50 used to be, the fish used to get the benefit of the

1 doubt. Precautionary management was the rule and if
2 they needed more information they would continue to use
3 precaution until they got the answers. Now it's the
4 other way around. And there's no money for definitive
5 studies so they're playing this game where they say we
6 don't have sufficient evidence but we're not going to
7 put sufficient money in to get the sufficient evidence
8 we need.

9
10 So that's how I would characterize
11 what's going on.

12
13 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Interesting. Any
16 other questions of Nancy.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

21
22 MS. BERLAND: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate it. So
25 keep track of when this issue comes up towards the end
26 of the agenda.

27
28 MS. BERLAND: Okay, thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The next person I want
31 to call up is Paul Wilson, the other (In Tlingit).

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And then we will be
36 ready to go into the Makhnati Island issue.

37
38 MR. WILSON: I'd just like to say that
39 I'm here because my lawyer told me to come up here and
40 speak.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. WILSON: But I'd like to speak on
45 my Canadian tribal members in the Whitehorse area and
46 up there. Part of our tradition is eulachon fishing,
47 at one time their ancestors were here, and they try to
48 keep up the tradition, it's a survival food, it has the
49 oil content and it makes you very healthy, if you can
50 get past the smell, you know, it's very good for you.

1 And a few years back they were
2 restricted not to fish anymore, I don't know what
3 agency done that, I have a feeling it was just the
4 city's decision to do this and I would like to see it
5 restored because like I said at one time they had all
6 the privileges we have but they put the Canadian border
7 there and then all of a sudden in just a period of time
8 they're treated like foreigners, you know, but they are
9 Chilkat and Chilkoot members. I would like to see this
10 harvest of Canadian Natives restored. So I don't know
11 what else is going to happen but it seems to be a
12 trend, the Natives lose their privileges little by
13 little and pretty it's all gone, you know, and it's
14 because people don't testify. That's what my lawyer
15 told me anyway.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. WILSON: So I'm speaking here on
20 behalf of the Canadians, that they be allowed to come
21 across the border and harvest eulachons like they
22 always did before. I can't put the blame on anybody
23 because I just don't know who did it. But anyway I
24 notice Canadians don't harvest eulachons anymore and
25 it'd be a big favor if they were allowed to. Their
26 culture is fast faded away too and I'd like to keep it
27 so that once they get educated in Ph.d's and culture,
28 you know, they'll regain their status -- they will have
29 their status back again.

30

31 That was my only concern. That's all I
32 have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Paul.
35 Is there any questions the Council might have for Paul.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Chuck you are on.
44 This is a hot issue, ladies and gentlemen and Chuck is
45 going to do his best to try to clarify our mind and put
46 everything in perspective for us so it's all yours.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good afternoon, Mr.

1 Chair, RAC members.

2

3 I'm here today to present the summary
4 from the meetings for the subcommittee of the RAC on
5 Makhnati Island. First of all I'd like to thank
6 everyone who participated in the subcommittee. I think
7 everybody came together in the spirit of cooperation
8 and actually got some things accomplished. We were a
9 little worried in the beginning but I think things
10 turned out okay, we came up with some recommendations
11 and I'll present a little bit of what happened.

12

13 Well, the subcommittee was formed at
14 the request of the Federal Subsistence Board and it was
15 related -- it was formed to discuss the issues related
16 to commercial sac roe herring fishing.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me, Chuck.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, sir.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do all of the Council
23 members have a copy of your report -- anyone who
24 doesn't have it -- do we have some extra copies Chuck?

25

26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Robert should have some
27 extra copies of this in the folder there.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll take a minute at
30 ease here to distribute those.

31

32 (Pause - At Ease)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, go ahead.

35

36 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay, I'm sorry, I
37 should have asked if everybody had it out.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's fine, go ahead.

40

41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay, the subcommittee
42 was formed by the RAC at the request of the Federal
43 Subsistence Board to address issues related to the
44 commercial sac roe herring fishing and subsistence egg
45 harvest in the Makhnati Island waters, which are under
46 Federal jurisdiction near Sitka.

47

48 The subcommittee met on September 5th
49 and again a brief teleconference on September 19th.
50 Attachment 1, which is on Page -- right after Page 7

1 shows the meeting attendance, who was there, the
2 subcommittee members were Mr. Bert Adams, Mr. Harvey
3 Kitka, Mr. Mike Miller and Mr. Ron Porter and then
4 there was other Staff present at the meeting. There
5 were some other people invited to be on the
6 subcommittee, however, they did not attend.

7
8 And after attachment 1 is attachment 2,
9 which is the meeting agenda, it's the last page of your
10 handout.

11 The objectives of the meeting were to:

- 12
13
14 1. Discuss issues related to
15 commercial herring sac roe
16 fishery and subsistence egg
17 harvest in the Makhnati Federal
18 waters.
19
20 2. To review and understand
21 technical information relevant
22 to the regulatory proposals and
23 underlying issues.
24
25 3. Explore and discuss key issues
26 of concern and, if possible,
27
28 4. Outline any next steps
29 recommended by the
30 subcommittee.

31
32 A little background on why we had the
33 subcommittee. In January 2007 the Federal Subsistence
34 Board considered two proposals regarding subsistence
35 egg harvest in the Makhnati Federal waters. Both
36 proposals would close Makhnati Federal waters.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Chuck, let's have this
39 situation taken care of here, I was kind of distracted.

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Uh-huh.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, go
46 ahead.

47
48 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. So we had two
49 proposals last year that addressed it, closing the
50 waters, Federal waters to commercial fishing and the

1 proponents believed that these closures would be a step
2 towards ensuring subsistence needs for herring eggs
3 would be met in that area.

4
5 The waters around Makhnati under BLM
6 jurisdiction and management, however, the U.S. Forest
7 Service are the in-season managers for that area since
8 they're more local.

9
10 These proposals were a continuation of
11 requests for regulatory changes that began with the
12 Sitka Tribe's proposal to the Alaska Board of Fish in
13 2002, which was to avoid concentrating Sitka Sound
14 commercial sac roe harvest and traditional egg
15 harvesting areas.

16
17 Later today or tomorrow, or I guess the
18 day after, you'll hear more about this proposal from
19 last year that was submitted to the Board was deferred
20 until this year and it's come back up again, and I
21 think it's Proposal 18, I believe.

22
23 At the time that the Board deferred
24 this proposal they asked the RAC and hopefully the
25 subcommittee to consider recommending criteria to
26 govern decisions whether to open or close the
27 commercial fishing in the Makhnati Federal waters, but
28 also left it open for additional or alternative
29 solutions other than closing the waters totally.

30
31 So I'll go over some agency
32 presentations and some relevant information and data
33 that was presented to the subcommittee.

34
35 Mr. Terry Suminski summarized the
36 background information relative to the proposals from
37 the January meeting in 2007. He noted that the Forest
38 Service in-season manager has delegated authority to
39 close the Federal waters to non-subsistence uses for 60
40 following the criteria, which are found in ANILCA Title
41 VIII Section .815 and those criteria are:

42
43 For conservation of healthy populations
44 of fish and wildlife;

45
46 Continuation of subsistence uses of
47 such populations; and

48
49 For the protection of public safety or
50 pursuant to other applicable laws.

1 I guess the Forest Service manager down
2 there, as the Board requested is looking for some
3 criteria that would help guide the manager and reasons
4 or situations where the waters around Makhnati should
5 be closed. And I don't know if we got there at the
6 subcommittee meeting but we did come up with some
7 recommendations.

8
9 Mr. Bill Davidson from Fish and Game
10 presented data from the commercial and subsistence
11 herring fisheries in Sitka Sound and he also stated
12 that the State does not believe that closing the
13 commercial herring fishing in the Federal waters is
14 warranted under ANILCA.

15
16 Currently there is a memorandum of
17 agreement between the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and ADF&G
18 and the conduct of the commercial and subsistence
19 herring fisheries. ADF&G works to distribute the
20 location of the commercial openings to minimize effects
21 of subsistence egg harvest areas. Mr. Davidson noted
22 that there are many different variables that may affect
23 the success of subsistence harvest. And then there's a
24 number of key points that ADF&G provided that -- I'll
25 just go through them there's a little bit of laundry
26 list of things.

27
28 They presented there's 5.6 nautical
29 miles of shoreline in the Makhnati Island Federal
30 waters area for potential herring spawning.

31
32 The average spawn mileage in Sitka
33 Sound, as a total, has been 57.1 nautical miles.

34
35 Over the last 31 years there's been
36 some spawn in the Makhnati area occurring.

37
38 The Makhnati Island area was open for
39 commercial fishing for eight seasons during the period
40 of 1981 to 2007 and the only significant commercial
41 harvest was 2,000 tons in 2006 but during that same
42 year there was 200,000 tons harvested throughout the
43 Sound.

44
45 Since 1979 the run size for herring has
46 ranged from a low of 19,568 tons in 1994 to a high of
47 83,986 tons in 2006.

48
49 The average commercial harvest since
50 1979 has been approximately 15 percent of the total run

1 size.

2

3 The Alaska Board of Fisheries has set
4 amounts necessary for subsistence for herring eggs in
5 Sitka Sound area 105,000 to 158,000 pounds.

6

7 Subsistence harvest fell within that
8 range in 2002 and was above it between 2003 and 2004
9 and 2006. So I guess that means in 2005 it was below
10 that harvest ANS level.

11

12 And the ADF&G believes that the herring
13 conservation is effectively built in its in-season
14 management plan to account for commercial harvest and
15 subsistence harvest.

16

17 Then I'll move on to some key points
18 presented by the subcommittee members.

19

20 Mr. Mike Miller from the Sitka Tribe of
21 Alaska presented that there is concerns regarding the
22 Makhnati subsistence egg harvest.

23

24 In 2001 the Tribe became concerned that
25 the subsistence herring egg harvest was substantially
26 down and in 2005 the subsistence harvest was only
27 75,000 pounds.

28

29 Preliminary survey numbers from 2007
30 indicate that the subsistence harvest was only 65,000
31 which is down again. These harvests are much lower
32 than traditional harvest levels and below the State
33 determined ANS.

34

35 The subsistence egg harvest in Sitka
36 Sound has been low in three of the past seven years.
37 The Tribe is very concerned and is asking State and
38 Federal managers to help the cause and employ effective
39 management actions to ensure that subsistence needs are
40 met.

41

42 The Tribe feels that ADF&G is not
43 satisfactorily responding to these recent low
44 subsistence harvests.

45

46 The proposal to close the commercial
47 fishing in Makhnati Federal waters is one step to
48 address these concerns. The Tribe feels that the
49 closure would provide a meaningful preference for
50 subsistence in Federal waters and also feels that

1 providing an area where herring are not seined would
2 increase the run size.

3

4 The Sitka Tribe of Alaska is also
5 concerned with the MOA, that it does not have enough
6 teeth. They feel that, although there's wording in
7 there that ADF&G should follow, it's not required --
8 it's at the discretion of ADF&G, I guess, and also at
9 times there's been miss-communications between Fish and
10 Game and the Tribe.

11

12 Another member of the subcommittee, Mr.
13 Ron Porter, from the SacRoe Seiners expressed interest
14 of the commercial fishery. He complimented the high
15 quality and effectiveness of ADF&G herring fishing
16 management and he felt that the 20,000 ton threshold
17 for opening the commercial fishery is effective in
18 conserving herring resource. And the seiners do not
19 support the complete closure of Makhnati Federal waters
20 to commercial fishing. He encouraged the subcommittee
21 to consider criteria to guide management of the area
22 and improve communication between agency managers and
23 the Tribe.

24

25 Okay, I think I'll skip right down to
26 the subcommittee recommendations.

27

28 There were three recommendations that
29 the subcommittee reached consensus on.

30

31 The first was that:

32

33 The Federal government should become a
34 party of the MOA that provides for in-
35 season consultation between fisheries
36 managers and harvesters.

37

38 Fishery managers and participants in
39 the MOA need timely annual data on the
40 subsistence egg harvest in Sitka Sound
41 for better management.

42

43 Agency fishery managers and biologists,
44 the Sitka Tribe, representatives of the
45 commercial seine fleet and others with
46 knowledge of the Sitka Sound herring
47 population and fisheries should work
48 together to determine what may have
49 been the cause of the low subsistence
50 harvest in three of the past seven

1 years.

2

3 Those are the three recommendations
4 that were reached by consensus.

5

6 There was an alternative regulatory
7 proposal discussed, to close the commercial fisheries
8 in the Makhnati Island Federal waters. This
9 alternative would provide specific criteria to guide a
10 Federal decision to close the area to commercial and
11 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users under
12 specific conditions.

13

14 The proposed regulatory language is on
15 Page 6 of your handout. I'll just read it briefly.

16

17 The Federal waters of Makhnati Island's
18 area near Sitka as described in the
19 CFRs are closed to the harvest of
20 herring and herring spawn when the
21 forecast of spawning biomass for the
22 Sitka Sound herring spawning area is
23 less than X number of tons, except for
24 subsistence harvest by Federally-
25 qualified subsistence users.

26

27 At the meeting, the subcommittee
28 discussed this concept and the current threshold is
29 20,000 tons where the State would halt commercial
30 fishing, and I think the number of 30,000 pounds was
31 discussed at the subcommittee, a cut off to close
32 commercial fishing around the Makhnati Island waters.
33 However, the subcommittee members, specifically the
34 Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the SacRoe Seiners felt that
35 it was important to return to their organizations to
36 brief the members and get their input on this concept,
37 thus the teleconference which we had on the 19th.

38

39 So after the seiners and the Tribe had
40 to gather and make their recommendations we met, via
41 teleconference, and in general the subcommittee was
42 supportive of the three recommendations listed above.

43

44 The Tribe felt that the Federal
45 managers should be added to the MOA with the State and
46 that the current MOA is basically a good document.

47

48 The seiners stated that the
49 organization supported eliminating the current MOA and
50 developing a new agreement with all parties

1 represented, and felt that the document has not worked
2 as well as it could be.

3
4 Discussion addressing the concept of
5 adoption of a higher biomass threshold for the
6 commercial fishery around the Makhnati Island waters
7 did not end in consensus agreement.

8
9 Mr. Miller stated that the Tribe's
10 herring committee recommended a 40,000 ton commercial
11 fishing threshold to apply to the Makhnati waters,
12 however, the number had not yet been, I guess, approved
13 or discussed with the full Sitka Tribe of Alaska
14 Council.

15
16 Mr. Porter stated that the SacRoe
17 Seiners did not support any changes to the 20,000 ton
18 threshold, even if it only applied to Federal waters.

19
20 So based on the response of the SacRoe
21 Seiners, Mr. Miller felt that the Tribe may no longer
22 recommend the specific biomass threshold for commercial
23 fishing in Makhnati Island waters.

24
25 So the final action of the
26 teleconference meeting was to agree that this report
27 should be presented to the RAC and thus I'm here.

28
29 One footnote as I did talk to Mr.
30 Miller and that on September 20th the Sitka Tribe of
31 Alaska Council endorsed the proposal of a 40,000 ton
32 minimum biomass threshold for Sitka Sound herring
33 spawning prior to allowing commercial fishing in
34 Federal waters and the Council also supported any
35 Federal managers to the MOA.

36
37 If there's any questions I'll try and
38 answer them.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Council members have
41 any questions for Chuck.

42
43 Frank, go ahead, please.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, my name is Frank
46 Wright. I was wondering about this MOA, it says at one
47 part, the Sitka Tribe's concerned that the MOA does not
48 have enough teeth and then over here it says the MOA is
49 basically a good document; what's that mean?

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: I hate to speak for the
2 Tribe, maybe Mr. Kitka can answer that question.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

5

6 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, thank you.
7 Basically the meaning of the MOA not having enough
8 teeth was actually brought on by the Board of Fish at
9 the Ketchikan meeting with the Board of Fish in one of
10 their committees, one of their subcommittees, the head
11 of that committee said that this document didn't have
12 enough teeth to even mean anything to the Tribe, and
13 that's basically what it says.

14

15 But we felt that the MOA was a fairly
16 good document it just needed more work on it and we
17 were hoping that we could make it work and use it as a
18 guide to improve the communications with the State Fish
19 and Game and all of the parties concerned. We were a
20 little shocked that the State Fish and Game would go
21 and tell another body that it was a bad document and
22 they couldn't work with it. We were kind of shocked at
23 that, that's between the Tribe and the State.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thanks for that,
26 Frank. I saw that too and I'm glad you asked the
27 question. Does that answer your question.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah. So, Mr. Chairman,
30 does the Tribe want the Feds to be involved with this,
31 is that the purpose or -- because of that one small
32 area?

33

34 MR. KITKA: Yes, they want the Federal
35 government involved with this because the waters there
36 are Federal waters and they want them to be a party to
37 the MOA.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: So i'm just a little
40 confused why the State is involved when it's Federal
41 waters then.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Chuck, go ahead.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Wright.
46 I think the original MOA was between the State and the
47 Tribe because at that time we didn't have any
48 jurisdiction on Federal waters down in that area. I
49 don't think it was until 2005 where we actually gained
50 jurisdiction in that area. I think we had it, or

1 should have had it all along but it didn't come to
2 light because of land transfers and things like that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay?

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: (Nods affirmatively)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

17

18 MR. ARDIZZONE: I believe the Council
19 also has some other handouts.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

22

23 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to make
24 sure you had those.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Yeah, we do
27 have a letter from Sitka Tribe, there's one here from
28 Mr. Porter and then we have another one from the
29 Herring Association. Those three letters have come in
30 regards to this. I'm just trying to figure out where
31 we're going -- yeah, I think I have a question, too,
32 Chuck, on Page 4.

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Way down on the bottom
37 it says, I believe it's when Mike Miller was making his
38 comments. Mike noted that the Tribe has conducted
39 research on Sitka Sound herring stock characteristics,
40 health and survival and so forth, and maybe this would
41 be more appropriate, you know, for Harvey to answer,
42 but I'm just wondering, you know, do we have this
43 documented in our possession now or is it still in the
44 works.

45

46 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not aware of -- I
47 was at the meeting and I remember Mike speaking to this
48 but I don't have any documents, maybe Harvey or Robert
49 are more familiar with what the Tribe's research is.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, this is part of
2 this report, on Page 4.....

3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:that that
7 statement was made. So I'm kind of curious about where
8 that might be.

9
10 On Page 5 the upper part there, it says
11 the proposal to close commercial fishing in the
12 Makhnati Federal waters is one step to address these
13 concerns and I was just wondering if maybe somebody has
14 come up with any other options other than, you know,
15 that particular one. It's just a thing that I want to
16 pop out and if you want to answer it, fine, if not,
17 it's okay.

18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'm not
20 aware of any other options than what are listed here.
21 It'd be nice if the Council could come up with some
22 other options.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Another thing
25 that I wanted to bring out was that Mr. Porter, during
26 this committee meeting, made a statement that many of
27 the -- when the weather's bad, you know, and it's
28 almost impossible for subsistence users to go out, you
29 know, subsistence fishers to go out and harvest their
30 eggs, that they would be able to donate their
31 commercial vessels in order to provide for the
32 subsistence users, and it was his comment, you know, I
33 think that this would help, you know, meet the
34 subsistence needs in the Sitka area, and I was just
35 wondering how accurate that was, that it was a
36 statement that came from him but it appeared to me that
37 it only came from him and that there wasn't any other,
38 you know, commercial fishermen on board. Maybe you
39 might shed some light on that, if you could.

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I remember
42 him making that statement at the meeting, I'm not aware
43 of how many fishermen would be willing to do that,
44 obviously he said he would be willing to help in
45 inclement weather, to help pull branches and trees and
46 but I'm not sure how many others would be -- I know
47 there was some concern about insurance issues, but I
48 guess we could check back with Mr. Porter and see if we
49 could get some names.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Yeah, I'd like
2 to see that happen, too. Okay. I'm done with
3 questions if anyone else has any more.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I'd just like
8 to take a couple minutes at ease here and see where we
9 go -- how we go through this process here, so let's
10 talk it over.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, ladies and
17 gentlemen, could we take our seats and we'll proceed.
18 We are ready to start so let's come and take our seats.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tina, testing one,
23 two, three.

24
25 REPORTER: Yep, I can hear you fine.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, back there, can
30 you hear me?

31
32 MR. LARSON: Nope, they can't.

33
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Nope.

35
36 REPORTER: Okay, try now.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Testing one, two,
39 three, way in the back.

40
41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe they're ignoring
42 us.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Testing one, two,
45 three, can you hear me -- are you paying attention.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. KESSLER: Do you want me to go back
50 there and straighten them up.

1 MR. JOHNSON: If you say a hundred
2 dollars to the next person that shuts up I'll be they
3 can hear you.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, let's begin,
8 there's just people back there that aren't paying
9 attention then.

10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Right.

12
13 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are going to call
16 this meeting back to order, ladies and gentlemen,
17 please take your seats.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we're back in
22 session. Mr. Hotch, are you going to come and join us.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I just want to take a
27 second or two and thank Chuck for getting together that
28 subcommittee. When it was decided that this was going
29 to be done the responsibility was put on his shoulders,
30 I was there when George did that.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I just want to thank,
35 you know, Chuck, for all his work, you know, I know you
36 struggled to try to get people, you know, interested
37 and together but, you know, the committee did meet in
38 Sitka and I think we came out with a good meeting.

39
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And right now we're
43 ready to go into Council deliberations on this issue.

44
45 What we need to do, it's simple, I
46 think it's a lot simpler than what I thought it was
47 going to be when I thought about this before we took a
48 break, but we're just going to take a motion to accept
49 the report, we need a second and then that will do it
50 for that, right at that point, and then we go down to

1 the proposals and we will look at details when we come
2 to the proposal.

3

4 So at this point, you know, I would
5 entertain a motion to accept the committee's report.

6

7 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

10

11 MR. KITKA: I move that we accept the
12 subcommittee's report on Makhnati Island.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second.

15

16 MR. BANGS: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Michael Bangs
19 seconded. Okay.

20

21 MR. HOTCH: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to -- no,
24 think about it, somebody might want to have -- do you
25 have a question?

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Are there any
30 questions that any Council members would like to have
31 or any discussion on this issue before we say yes or
32 no.

33

34 Don.

35

36 MR. HERNANDEZ: I have question. Is
37 this the end of the subcommittee, have they concluded
38 their work?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: They've done their
41 job, this will now become the Council's property.

42

43 Any other questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Hearing none,
48 all in favor of this motion, please signify by saying
49 aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.
4
5 (NO opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, the
8 motion carries. Thank you. And thank you to the
9 subcommittee for work well done, and, again, to Chuck
10 for making this happen.
11
12 I don't have any more people -- Melinda
13 is there any more of these blue/green slips.
14
15 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, Wayne came back.
16 You called him when he was gone, out of the room.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Wayne.
19
20 MS. HERNANDEZ: Wayne Price.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Wayne Price, please.
23
24 MR. PRICE: Hello.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hello.
27
28 MR. PRICE: I'd like to welcome all of
29 you, personally, to Haines, and apologize for not being
30 here a little earlier, been doing some running and
31 stuff. But I'm really glad you're all here in Haines
32 and the issue of subsistence very, very near and dear
33 to my heart, personally.
34
35 Personally, I live 100 percent
36 subsistence lifestyle, all year-round, and whatever the
37 season is you'll probably see my skiff out gathering
38 and at that this time you're right in the middle of my
39 moose hunt.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. PRICE: The moose hunting is a
44 little slow, the weather seems to be a little warm.
45 But when I heard about you coming into town I was
46 thinking last night, I said, what does subsistence mean
47 to me. And I couldn't answer it right away because it
48 seemed to go a lot deeper than something, a phrase I
49 could say right off the top of my head, it goes very
50 deep. And the more and more that I thought about it

1 last night was that it's a cultural connection that
2 goes way, way back before contact was even made, was
3 our right, and it's our birth right and it's a God
4 given right for us to gather food from the land.

5
6 And the issues that you folks have to
7 work with and deal with are great and many, and I
8 couldn't answer all of them here today. But just in
9 the short time that I've been involved with the Council
10 (In Tlingit) Association and my own personal lifestyle
11 and recovery is that what I see today is the rising
12 unemployment in the villages of -- there's no work, the
13 trees have been logged, the fishing is down, the demand
14 on the subsistence lifestyle is more and more important
15 every day in the villages and that my pledge is to
16 speak and represent any or all of them, or my own,
17 would be to protect these rights. What the hunters I
18 see are dealing with now is higher costs of motors,
19 higher costs of gasoline and no economy and so it's
20 bunching groups up and causing probably a greater risk,
21 you know, they're going out in shorter, faster spurts
22 and taking bigger risks with the water and, you know,
23 it's the hunters and the gatherers that have to be
24 remembered, they're the ones going out there and being
25 on the land, climbing through the mountains, gathering
26 the deer and gathering the fish to feed their families.
27 And I, personally, gather for several families. I'm a
28 seal hunter every year, last year I was provided with
29 10 seal and not one of those was wasted, the meat and
30 oil was brought to town and it was all used, either in
31 this village or the village of Klukwan. And that is,
32 as long as I am able to load my boat and be out there
33 and to gather, that is what I want to do and that my
34 plea to you folks is to remember all of us out there
35 that are doing this and that the reasons for your work
36 is very important and that it does reach down all the
37 way to the people that have to gas up and get their
38 bullets and load their boats and go out on the water to
39 gather and subsist, and that it does seem like the
40 pressures of commercial living and, you know, that
41 space between commercial and subsistence is -- it's not
42 going to go away today and I don't know the answers.

43
44 But my plea is to be sure and protect
45 all these people that do go out there, it is our right,
46 this is our right to go out and gather food from the
47 land and that, you know, the whole system of going to
48 Safeway or to Fred Meyers is an introduced system, it
49 is not how it was done and all the elders I know that
50 are still here and I speak for those we've also lost,

1 but, you know, they would rather have deer meat or seal
2 meat or moose meat or goat meat or halibut or sockeye
3 or king salmon and that all has to be gathered so that --
4 and as I get past my time to be on the water, that I
5 hope there will be a younger one that comes up and
6 subsists and to be able to -- and has the right to go
7 out and gather from the land and from the water, you
8 know, in this great state of Alaska.

9
10 So you say, what does subsistence mean
11 to me, it is a cultural connection that goes deep and
12 way back but also now today it belongs to everybody. I
13 watched a DVD last night on subsistence that I picked
14 up from the library just so I could get a taste of what
15 people are doing elsewhere around the state. And
16 whether you're Indian or White or wherever you're from,
17 it seems that the connection with the land belongs to
18 everybody so that, you know, I just, you know,
19 encourage all of you to make the right decisions so
20 that subsistence can be here tomorrow for my great-
21 grandchildren and your great-grandchildren so that they
22 can all have the right to go out and catch fish and
23 subsist and gather from the woods and get that feeling,
24 that deep feeling that's in my heart when I'm out there
25 and I know that I'm providing, I'm taking care of my
26 family, our other families that can't go out there and
27 gather.

28
29 I really appreciate coming forward
30 today, having the chance, an opportunity to talk to you
31 and welcome to Haines and hopefully you get up to see
32 some eagles or see some of the fish, see some of the
33 stuff that's going on here.

34
35 So just touching on a couple of small
36 things. And I'd like to thank you for the work that
37 you're doing for keeping this very important issue
38 alive in the state of Alaska, so thank you very much.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Any
41 questions from Council members.

42
43 MR. HOTCH: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.

46
47 MR. HOTCH: I don't have a question but
48 he touched something in his testimony that was told to
49 us as youngsters, (In Tlingit).

50

1 When you put your food away for the
2 winter, it's just like having money, that's the way we
3 were told long ago so this is what this young man is
4 doing. He's trying to help, not only his family but
5 others, I know, I've received some meat from him at
6 times. But that's important to our culture, if you
7 have something, food put away for the winter, it's just
8 like having money. That's before money came around.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Wayne.

13

14 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I just want to make a
21 comment.

22

23 You know when Raven pulled that real
24 big canoe in from the ocean, it had all of these
25 animals in it, the fish and all of the birds and when
26 he got it to the land he let them all out, this story
27 comes from (In Tlingit) or the Dry Bay area. And then
28 this opened up the opportunity for the Tlingits to come
29 in and occupy those lands. And this house that was on
30 top of this large canoe, he took it and he put it about
31 halfway up the Aukei River (ph) and this is a place
32 known today as (In Tlingit). And he named it (In
33 Tlingit), far out house, because he pulled it in from
34 far out on the ocean. And then there were other tribal
35 houses that followed.

36

37 But he left what we know of today, a
38 very important Tlingit value:

39

40 No. 1 is to respect everything.
41 There's life in everything. There's life in this
42 table, there's life in the trees out there, there's
43 life in the grasses and the pavement. And what I think
44 he meant is respect everything, is that those things
45 will respond to us if we manage our resources in the
46 proper way. When we mismanage them then those things
47 are going to start going away.

48

49 And we see things, you know, happening
50 both ways. We see, you know, plenty at times and it's

1 because we have learned how to manage and then
2 sometimes, you know, we mismanage and then they do
3 start disappearing.

4
5 Another thing he told us is not to
6 waste, you know, use everything and you've heard other
7 people, you know, on this panel, you know, say the same
8 thing. That was how they were taught.

9
10 So another thing that he said was to
11 share, to share your resources. In the (In Tlingit)
12 area the animals and the fishes and the fowls of the
13 air, you know, there was aplenty there and people from
14 all over came there. People from this area went down
15 there and they hunted and fished. I got a real good
16 story, I won't tell it now, about that. And one of the
17 things that they always did is they provided a guide,
18 you know, first you go to the leader, you negotiate how
19 much fish you want, how many seal you're going to take
20 and then we provided a guide so that you would have a
21 successful hunt and successful fishing. And then once
22 you got your quotas and everything then you were
23 allowed to go back to your community, the same way with
24 the people from the Interior that came over the
25 mountains or came down the Alsek River. So that place,
26 you know, was very plentiful in resources and we did
27 share. I can tell many, many tribal houses in that
28 area and there are more today, the Alsek River there,
29 used to provide fish and game and fowls of the air for
30 hundreds and even thousands of people, yet, today, that
31 area can't even supply subsistence needs for 100
32 people.

33
34 You know so those are -- and I'll
35 repeat it, Tlingit values is to respect everything, do
36 not waste; use everything and to share.

37
38 And I just wanted, you hit, you know,
39 me in a real soft spot here when you were doing your
40 testimony and I appreciate that, but I just wanted to
41 share that with you as well.

42
43 Gunalcheesh.

44
45 MR. PRICE: Gunalcheesh.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other testimonies,
48 Melinda.

49
50 MS. HERNANDEZ: Not for today, no.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So we'll go
2 into fisheries proposals. Why don't we take a little
3 break. It's 20 after, let's be back here in 10
4 minutes, okay.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (On record)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Ladies and
11 gentlemen, let's take our seats please.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay,
16 we're at the fisheries proposals now and the first one
17 is -- oh, just for the Council's information the
18 presentation procedure for proposals and for the
19 audience, as well, I'm going to have the proposal
20 introduced and we'll provide the analysis and all of
21 that good stuff with it and then we're going to have
22 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game make comments,
23 other Federal, State and tribal agencies will make
24 comments, InterAgency Staff Committee comments, Fish
25 and Game Advisory Committee, if there's any Fish and
26 Game Advisory Committees in this community, that's when
27 they can come forward and make a comment, then we'll
28 have review of summary of written public comments,
29 anyone who wants to testify on any of these proposals,
30 that will be during the public testimony part of it;
31 and then we will go into Council deliberations. We'll
32 go in that order.

33
34 And right now we are on Proposal FP08-
35 01.

36
37 Cal is Bob Larson.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Cal.

42
43 MR. CASIPIT: I will be making this
44 presentation for your esteemed coordinator.

45
46 The executive summary for this proposal
47 begins on Page 49, the actual analysis begins on Page
48 50 and I'll be briefly reviewing this with you.

49
50 This proposal, FP08-01 was submitted by

1 the Organized Village of Kake and Alaska Department of
2 Fish and Game. It asks to rescind the closure and
3 allow non-Federally-qualified users to harvest sockeye
4 salmon from streams draining into the Bay of Pillars,
5 in this case, Kutlaku Lake and Creek.

6
7 I think the Council is well aware of
8 regulatory issues surrounding this area. We've
9 discussed them over the years since the year 2000.
10 There's been -- that's initially when this closure was
11 put in place. It was a subject of an RFR a year later.
12 And the Federal Subsistence Board did uphold the
13 original closure.

14
15 Let's see, Kake is the only community
16 with a positive customary and traditional use
17 determination for sockeye salmon in the stream so
18 that's the community that we're talking about here and
19 as I said before the Organized Village of Kake is one
20 of the co-proponents on this proposal.

21
22 I briefly discuss the regulatory
23 history on this and I don't think I'll get into that
24 unless there's questions at the close of this.

25
26 Recently the summer, the Federal
27 Subsistence Board approved a request by the Department
28 of Fish and Game for a special action, that special
29 action was Fisheries Special Action 07-02 to allow non-
30 Federally-qualified users to harvest sockeye at Kutlaku
31 Lake during the 2007 season. That special action was
32 effective for 60 days beginning on July 6th, '07.

33
34 A little on biological background,
35 we've operated a stock assessment program at Kutlaku
36 Lake in 2002, 2003, 2005 and in 2006 we operated a
37 weir. The 2002, '03, '05 assessment was done with a
38 mark/recapture technique.

39
40 But based on those various stock
41 assessments we believe that the escapements from 2000
42 [sic] to 2005 likely range from 8,500 to 12,000 sockeye
43 salmon based on the mark/recapture work we did
44 validated against the weir work that was done in 2006.
45 So we feel that -- Federal Staff feels that things are
46 going pretty well at Kutlaku Lake and that the stock is
47 generally in a healthy condition.

48
49 The harvest history, Table 2 on the top
50 of Page 53 shows the reported sockeye harvest for

1 Kutlaku from the years 1985 to 2005. In 2006 there
2 weren't enough permit reporting and based on
3 confidentiality we're not reporting harvest of 2006
4 because not enough permits reported.

5
6 The effect of this proposal would be to
7 rescind the restrictions for Federally-qualified users
8 to harvest -- the proposal would rescind the
9 restriction for non-Federally-qualified subsistence
10 users to harvest sockeye in the waters under Federal
11 jurisdiction at Kutlaku Creek and Lake. All users
12 would be able to harvest sockeye salmon under the
13 appropriate Federal and State regulatory programs
14 allowing Federally and non-Federally-qualified users to
15 harvest sockeye salmon draining into the Bay of Pillars
16 would not produce a conservation concern.

17
18 Our preliminary conclusion is to
19 support Proposal FP08-01. Our justification is that
20 the Kutlaku Lake salmon stock has been the subject of
21 five years of population assessment surveys. The
22 number of non-Federally-qualified users harvesting
23 sockeyes from this area has been reduced due to the
24 closure of the logging camps nearby, and there is a
25 consensus among management agencies and users, the
26 stock of sockeye salmon is healthy and the closures to
27 non-Federally-qualified users is no longer necessary.

28
29 Adopting this proposal allows both
30 Federally and non-Federally-qualified users the
31 opportunity to fish for sockeye salmon in the Bay of
32 Pillars without concern for Federal jurisdictional
33 boundary.

34
35 With that, I'd be happy to answer any
36 questions.

37
38 Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. Any
41 questions of Cal.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I've got one Cal.

46
47 MR. CASIPIT: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: On Page 52 at the
50 bottom, it says sockeye salmon returning to the Kutlaku

1 Lake are caught incidentally in Chatham Strait
2 commercial purse seine fishery which targets pink and
3 chum salmon. The number of Kutlaku Lake origin sockeye
4 salmon caught is not known. The sportfish harvest is
5 unknown, but thought to be low. And so I have a
6 concern about, you know, lack of information here and I
7 was wondering if, you know, there's any light that can
8 be shed on why that is so and what can we do to get
9 more accurate information about the fishery.

10

11 MR. CASIPIT: Well, I don't want to
12 speak for the State but I'll do my best.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: We'll take care of it.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. CASIPIT: They'll take care of it,
21 I'm sure. As far as the commercial purse seine harvest
22 and how many sockeye of Kutlaku Lake origin that's in
23 that commercial harvest, that's a pretty difficult
24 question to get at. I think Ben talked about it
25 earlier in his presentation where we could use maybe
26 genetic stock identification. But we're still building
27 -- there's still a baseline being built and a genetic
28 baseline being built and that it's probably not ripe
29 for use yet until that database gets filled out a
30 little bit more.

31

32 As far as the sportfish harvest, there
33 has to be a minimum amount of fishing to occur in a
34 specific location and reported on these mail outs for
35 it to show up on the Statewide mail out harvest survey.
36 So basically there's not enough people reporting
37 fishing on the mail out surveys for it to show up in
38 the statewide harvest estimate of sportfish. So, you
39 know, it's -- the resolution of it, it just doesn't --
40 there's just not enough of it going on there for it to
41 rise to the level where it's going to get reported in
42 the statewide harvest surveys, that's why that is.

43

44 I mean one of the major things I want
45 to bring out here is that no matter what the commercial
46 interceptions are or what the sport harvest may be in
47 saltwater or what have you, we still feel like we're
48 seeing some fairly good escapements into Kutlaku Lake
49 and that, you know, the escapements of 8,500 to 12,00
50 sockeye salmon to that lake, we feel that's healthy and

1 no matter who's catching them it seems like there's
2 enough fish getting back to make more in the future, so
3 we feel confident that we can lift the closure.

4

5 On top of that it's obvious that
6 Organized Village of Kake feels okay about opening up
7 the closure because of the work that's been done there
8 and the coordination between Fish and Game, Forest
9 Service and, you know, the tribe, community, so we feel
10 okay about lifting, you know, we feel good about
11 lifting the closure.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Okay, thank
14 you, that it kind of goes along with what Ben Van Alen
15 said, it doesn't matter who's catching as long as.....

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: Enough get back, right.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:enough are coming
20 back. Any questions from the Council members.

21

22 Harvey.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Realizing there must be a policy in place in case it
26 does go the other direction real suddenly that you
27 would be able to close it again.

28

29 MR. CASIPIT: That's always an option
30 for the Council and our in-season manager. If we do
31 see things going gunnysack, we do -- the local manager
32 has the option to do a special action to close as well
33 as a regular proposal through the regular process to
34 come to this Council and to close as well if things go
35 bad.

36

37 I hope they don't. I mean I don't
38 think they will but, you know, but that option is
39 always open in the future.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Thank
42 you, Cal.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, did Cal do
47 okay on your behalf.

48

49 MR. LARSON: He did just fine.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Cal.
4 You had a question, Mike.

5

6 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 So your in-season management you think could take care
8 of any problems that may come if there wasn't enough
9 escapement in the near and far future?

10

11 MR. CASIPIT: That's correct. We --
12 you know, our in-season manager still has the authority
13 to close for conservation or to continue the
14 subsistence season.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: So you really wouldn't
17 see us having to go through RAC process or
18 anything.....

19

20 MR. CASIPIT: Well.....

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE:to take care of
23 this down the road -- the reason why I ask this is
24 because we're on a different cycle now, so it takes
25 longer to address something like this when it comes up.

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I don't want to
28 steal Larry's thunder when he talks about going to the
29 two year cycle, but yeah we still have our special
30 action authority that's valid for 60 days and we can
31 institute a closure which would be most of the fishing
32 season in that area. For a regulatory closure, though,
33 it still would have to -- a closure in regulation, that
34 would still have to come through this body and go
35 through the Board. But we still have our special
36 action authority as well.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: But we'd all have to
39 understand that it's going to take twice as long to do
40 anything like that.

41

42 MR. CASIPIT: Well, and then probably
43 if it was -- unfortunately -- well, if it was in a off
44 year when we were not addressing fisheries proposals,
45 yeah, you're right, we would have to have a special
46 action one year and then a follow up special action the
47 next year to make that happen.

48

49 Steve just corrected me, but if we have
50 a public hearing we can make that effective for the

1 whole year, a special action for the whole year.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're excused, Cal.
6
7 MR. CASIPIT: Thanks.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Department of
10 Fish and Game.
11
12 MR. PAPPAS: Well, thank you for
13 inviting me to this meeting. I have in front of me the
14 Department comments. They're preliminary comments.
15 And it's been.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sir, would you say
18 your name.....
19
20 MR. PAPPAS: Excuse me, sure.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:for Tina and the
23 record, please.
24
25 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, my name is George
26 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Liaison
27 Team. And I'm here to present the Department's
28 preliminary comments to the Regional Advisory Committee
29 here about the eight proposals that we have in front of
30 us.
31
32 Basically I handed out to everybody
33 here a set of seven documents, the first document has
34 Proposal No. 1 and No. 2 in it, and I've been
35 instructed to read these into the record, so bear with
36 me, if I speak too fast, please give me a swift kick,
37 sir.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, happy to do
40 that.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. PAPPAS: The Organized Village of
45 Kake and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
46 submitted this proposal to the Federal Subsistence
47 Board to rescind the Board's closure on the Bay of
48 Pillars subsistence fishery to non-Federally-qualified
49 users. Salmon stocks returning to the Kutlaku
50 watershed is not a conservation concern and the return

1 provides a harvestable surplus available to all users.
2 Special Action Request FSA07-02, approved by the Board
3 on July 5, 2007, temporarily lifted this closure to
4 sockeye salmon fishing in streams draining into the Bay
5 of Pillars, which is the Kutlaku Lake and Stream to
6 non-Federally-qualified users for 60 days effective
7 Friday July 6th.

8

9 The impacts of this proposal on
10 subsistence users. During the six years that the
11 Federal closure was in effect, no sockeye salmon were
12 ever reported harvest on Federal permits. Reopening
13 the freshwaters of the Kutlaku drainage to non-
14 Federally-qualified users will have no impact on
15 subsistence users by -- use by Federally-qualified
16 users and will improve the opportunity for all
17 subsistence users and other users while reducing
18 unnecessary conflict, conflicting Federal and State
19 regulations.

20

21 Data collected from the joint Forest
22 Service and Department projects at Kutlaku Lake
23 indicate that harvest from the Federal subsistence and
24 other users is proportionately low relative to the
25 escapement and well within the range of sustainable
26 use, including a potential small increase in harvest
27 that may result from reopening of these freshwaters to
28 non-Federally-qualified users. Department statewide
29 harvest surveys for the Bay of Pillars indicated very
30 low angler effort has been expended in recent years.
31 Information collected in the mandatory freshwater
32 sportfishing guide logbook program, which required
33 beginning in 2005, indicated no sockeye salmon were
34 harvested during 2005 or 2006 by guided anglers. The
35 Department will continue to monitor this harvest
36 information by all users.

37

38 As for the opportunities provided by
39 the State. Subsistence fishing occurs in marine and
40 inland waters of the Kutlaku Lake drainage and Bay of
41 Pillars. On December 5th, 2000, the Federal Subsistence
42 Board closed all freshwaters to non-Federally eligible
43 users and established a Federal possession limit of 15
44 sockeye salmon per individual and 25 per household.
45 These limits mirrored the harvest limits already in
46 place for the Department of Subsistence permits for all
47 users -- subsistence users in fresh and marine waters.
48 Federal and State analysis at the time found no
49 evidence of a conservation concern. In response to the
50 March 5th, 2002 request by Kake community

1 representatives, the Department increased the daily and
2 annual sockeye salmon harvest limits to 50 sockeye
3 salmon on the State subsistence salmon permits for the
4 Bay of Pillars area prior to the 2002 season. All
5 harvest in the area by both Federally-qualified and
6 State subsistence users was taken under State fishing
7 permits in marine waters. No harvest was reported
8 under Federal subsistence permits in the freshwaters of
9 the Kutlaku drainage. State subsistence fishing
10 regulations -- excuse me -- regulations in this area
11 provide for harvest of salmon with gaffs, spears, beach
12 seines, dipnets, drift gillnets and cast nets. Under
13 the State permit systems managers have the authority to
14 establish or change open fishing periods, possession
15 limits and annual limits each year, and legal gear
16 configurations or type, as well as take in-season
17 actions to open and close time and areas by emergency
18 order to provide for escapement for a basis of
19 sustainable harvest of surplus returns. The
20 harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon available in
21 recent years warranted a liberalization of the State
22 subsistence fishery, so in 2007, the Department
23 extended the sockeye season in the Kutlaku Creek and
24 Bay of Pillars for 15 days through August 15 by permit.

25
26 And also on this page you'll see it's
27 attached, basically a repeat of what's included in the
28 Federal analysis. And I just wanted to point out there
29 that this Table 1, has annual fishing efforts, numbers
30 of permits and subsistence harvest for sockeye salmon
31 reported on the State subsistence permit -- by State
32 subsistence permit holders.

33
34 And that's what I have for that
35 particular proposal and try to field any questions if
36 possible.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions of
39 George.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No questions. Thank
44 you, sir.

45
46 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Other Federal, State
49 and tribal agency comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone from tribal
4 organizations, community, whomever.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: None. InterAgency
9 Staff Committee. Mr. Kessler.
10
11 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Steve Kessler with the InterAgency Staff Committee.
13
14 On all of the proposals that you'll be
15 deliberating on, the Staff Committee did not have any
16 comments to provide to you. So it's your choice if you
17 want to bring me up here.....
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. KESSLER:for every proposal
22 or.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We've been through
25 that before.
26
27 MR. KESSLER:let me sit by the
28 side and you're welcome to call on me if you have any
29 questions at any point that maybe I can provide.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.
32
33 MR. KESSLER: You're welcome.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Fish and Game Advisory
36 Committee members.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: None. Any written
41 comments.
42
43 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, there are no
44 written comments other than the State's comments that
45 you've heard.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Public testimony.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone. Anyone who
2 wants to get up here and say something please do so.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're in
7 Council deliberations.

8
9 Remind the Council members that we're
10 going to use those four criteria that we've gotten in
11 the habit of using when we consider proposals.

12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: Could we review those.

14
15 MR. LARSON: Do you want me to repeat
16 them.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, please.

19
20 MR. LARSON: Yes, Bert. I'd like to
21 remind the Council that there are two justifications
22 for a recommendations that you need to keep in mind.

23
24 The first recommendation is that -- the
25 justification is that the recommendation would better
26 serve subsistence needs than the current regulations.

27
28 The other justification is that the
29 recommendation can't threaten the health of fish and
30 wildlife populations.

31
32 The way we do that is we need to answer
33 four questions. The four criteria that we could
34 address with the question is:

35
36 Is there substantial information;

37
38 Will this action result in conservation
39 of fish and wildlife populations;

40
41 What are the affects on the subsistence
42 users; and

43
44 What are the affects on the non-
45 subsistence users.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.
48 That's the criteria that we've gotten in the habit of
49 using and I just wanted us to review it so we can
50 continue to use that as we go through deliberations.

1 We are now into the Council deliberations on Proposal
2 FP08-01.
3
4 What's the wish of the Council.
5
6 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.
9
10 MR. BANGS: I move to adopt Proposal --
11 what's the number on that thing -- Proposal FP08-01 as
12 written.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
15 Do I hear a second.
16
17 MR. KITKA: I'll second.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Discussion.
20 Discussion by the Council.
21
22 Mike.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Is your motion to accept
25 to include the modification to rescind the closure of
26 Falls Lake but maintain the closure of Gut Bay?
27
28 MR. BANGS: No, it's the first one.
29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh.
31
32 MR. HERNANDEZ: 01.
33
34 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh, excuse me.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any others.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would anyone like to
41 call for the question.
42
43 MR. KITKA: Question.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called
46 for. All in favor of this motion, please signify by
47 saying aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.
6 We're now on Proposal FP08-02. Mr. Bangs.
7
8 MR. BANGS: I believe, don't we have to
9 go over those -- read those four criteria into the
10 record.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's right. I
13 reminded him to remind me and now you're reminding me
14 again.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we need to
19 address those, you know, when we make the motion.
20 Whoever is making the motion should go over those
21 criteria, you know, is there a conservation concern; is
22 it going to affect any subsistence users or non-
23 subsistence users; is there substantial data, you know,
24 to support the proposal. I think when you're making
25 your motion you should address those in that manner.
26
27 And we do need to do that, we do need
28 to do that for the record.
29
30 So Mr. Bangs would you be willing to
31 offer that since you brought it up.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. BANGS: Yes. Yes, I will. I don't
36 have a copy of the four and I haven't got them all
37 written down.
38
39 There is substantial evidence by the
40 data presented to us by both the State and Federal
41 agencies.
42
43 There doesn't seem to be a conservation
44 concern.
45
46 And it will have a beneficial effect
47 for all users, including subsistence users.
48
49 And what's the fourth one?
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does it have any
2 affect on non-subsistence users.
3
4 MR. BANGS: And it will have a positive
5 effect on non-subsistence users.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
8 For the record that, you know, is going to be entered
9 in that manner. And we passed it, too, didn't we.
10
11 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So, Tina, just
14 for the record we'll insert that into that proposal.
15
16 REPORTER: Okay, it's on the record.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's getting late in
19 the afternoon.
20
21 Okay, 08-02, and Mr. Cal is going to be
22 representing himself here.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
27 Cal Casipit, Forest Service, Juneau, and this one is
28 mine so I take full responsibility for it.
29
30 The executive summary, it appears on
31 Page 55 of your book and the actual analysis begins on
32 Page 56. Proposal FP08-02 was submitted by the Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game and requests that the
34 closure to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users be
35 rescinded at the three locations Falls Lake, Gut Bay,
36 and Pillar Bay drainages in Southeast Alaska. This
37 document addresses rescinding the closures at Falls and
38 Gut Bay Lakes and the closure at Pillar Bay is
39 addressed by FP08-01, which you have just taken care
40 of.
41
42 So for purposes of the discussion.....
43
44 REPORTER: Sorry.
45
46 MR. CASIPIT: For purposes of the
47 discussion that's coming we're only going to be talking
48 about Falls Lake and Gut Bay.
49
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1 states that it s not necessary to retain closures at
2 Falls and Gut Bay Lakes to the harvest of sockeye
3 salmon by non-Federally-qualified users to ensure the
4 continued viability of these sockeye salmon
5 populations. In addition the Department states that
6 the small amount of additional sockeye harvest that
7 would result from rescinding the closures at these two
8 locations would have little, if any, effect, on the
9 health of the sockeye salmon populations at both
10 locations.

11
12 While there is information on stock
13 status of sockeye salmon at Falls Lake, the Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game has provided no data
15 concerning the stock status of the Gut Bay Lake sockeye
16 salmon population. In addition no community
17 discussions regarding the use and status of sockeye
18 salmon at Falls Lake or Gut Bay such as that occurred
19 for Kutlaku Lake in 2006 have occurred for these
20 locations.

21
22 Again, the community of Kake has the
23 positive customary and traditional use determination
24 for sockeye salmon in the Falls and Gut Bay Lake
25 drainages.

26
27 The Federal regulatory history for this
28 one is much the same as the regulatory history we
29 discussed for Kutlaku Lake, Bay of Pillars. Again, the
30 original proposal was addressed in year 2000 to be
31 effective in 2001, these closures had a request for
32 reconsideration that the State of Alaska submitted in
33 2001, and as I said before the RFR was rejected by the
34 Board. At the time of the rejection of the request for
35 reconsideration, the Board clearly expected that the
36 affected agencies would act to develop new information
37 for subsequent evaluation.

38
39 The reason for rejecting the State's
40 request for reconsideration noted:

- 41
42 1. The uncertainty in the
43 escapement data.
44
45 2. The potential for interference
46 with subsistence fishing
47 activities by other users.
48
49 3. Opposition to removal of the
50 closures by the Council, this

1 Council, Organized Village of
2 Kake and the city of Kake.

3
4 I just wanted to go briefly over State
5 regulatory history. Table 1 provides actions, this was
6 provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
7 this shows actions taken by Department of Fish and Game
8 at both locations, Gut Bay and Falls Lake. You can see
9 over the years that various things have occurred there
10 to address conservation and subsistence needs.

11
12 For biological background. There is a
13 lack of sockeye salmon stock assessment data for Gut
14 Bay Lake. In 2002 an attempt was made to generate a
15 spawning grounds mark and recapture estimate for Gut
16 Lake. That effort was unsuccessful due to the physical
17 characteristics of the lake and the investigator's
18 inability to capture sockeye salmon spawning and
19 milling in the lake even though many sockeye salmon
20 were present. It appears that a weir is the only
21 technique that would generate a reliable escapement
22 estimate but due to the remoteness of the site, costs
23 and other considerations, the Technical Review
24 Committee has not recommended funding for this project.

25
26 Little subsistence or sportfishing
27 occurs in areas under Federal jurisdiction in the Gut
28 Bay Lake area. That is most of the subsistence fishing
29 occurs in marine waters under jurisdiction of the
30 State.

31
32 We've operated a weir, a partial weir
33 at Falls Lake in cooperation with Fish and Game and the
34 Organized Village of Kake. It's basically a partial
35 weir with a mark and recapture estimate for the past
36 years and beginning this year it's purely just a
37 spawning grounds mark and recapture estimate. And that
38 commitment for funding is -- we have a commitment for
39 funding that project as a spawning grounds
40 mark/recapture through fiscal year 2009.

41
42 Sockeye salmon escapements have ranged
43 from a little over a thousand to 7,000 during the 1981
44 to 2006 period, that appears in Table 2. You can see
45 of the years which was actual weir count and which were
46 mark/recapture as to full lake mark and recapture
47 estimates.

48
49 In 2006 Falls Lake had a large return
50 of sockeye salmon and the subsistence harvest rate was

1 not excessive for that level of escapement, and you can
2 see the harvest in 2006, the reported harvest for Falls
3 Lake was 1,500 -- a little over 1,500 fish.

4
5 Federal Staff feels that this salmon
6 stock is relatively healthy and that there isn't
7 overharvest occurring there at this time.

8
9 For harvest history, you can see --
10 again, I call your attention to Table 3, it shows the
11 subsistence harvest for both Falls Lake and Gut Bay
12 Lake. The reported subsistence sockeye catch from 2001
13 to 2006 for Falls Lake and Gut Bay Lake has averaged
14 1,700 -- a little over 1,700 fish for Falls Lake and a
15 little over 400 fish for Gut Bay Lake.

16
17 Annual subsistence use has generally
18 been increasing at Falls Lake and stable at Gut Bay
19 Lake. Most of the subsistence harvest that occurs at
20 Falls and Gut Bay Lake is taken by residents of Kake.

21
22 Again, as far as the commercial
23 fisheries and sportfisheries, I just wanted to mention
24 that, again, similar to Kutlaku, it's difficult to
25 quantify the exact numbers of sockeyes caught in the
26 commercial and sportfisheries, for commercial fisheries
27 because of, you know, they're mixed in with the seine
28 fishery and we don't have the tools at this time to
29 estimate that contribution, the contributions of Falls
30 Lake and Gut Bay to those fisheries. Again, for
31 sportfishing, their mail out surveys, again, the level
32 of effort there does not rise to the level for the
33 scale needed to obtain the estimates of use of those
34 two systems. But based on data collected by the weir
35 crew at Falls Lake over the years, sports harvesters --
36 sport harvest are likely low and competition between
37 subsistence and sport users do not appear to be a
38 problem in marine waters at Falls Lake.

39
40 Adopting this proposal would allow the
41 retention of sockeye salmon by non-Federally-qualified
42 users in the Federal public waters of Falls Lake and
43 Gut Bay Lake watersheds. No adverse effects to
44 subsistence users from sportfishers are expected at
45 Falls Lake since very few sportfishers have been
46 observed in that location.

47
48 So our preliminary conclusion is to
49 support Proposal FP08-002 with modification, to rescind
50 the closure at Falls Lake but maintain the closure at

1 Gut Bay Lake.

2

3

4 Our justification is that the stock
5 status of sockeye salmon at Gut Bay Lake is unknown,
6 much the same as it was back in 2000 when the original
7 closure was put in place and in 2001 when the RFR was --
8 request for reconsideration was addressed by the
9 Board.

9

10

11 Subsistence harvests are low at Gut Bay
12 Lake compared to Falls Lake and no stock status
13 information has been collected for Gut Bay Lake. It
14 appears that in 2006 Falls Lake had the greatest return
15 of sockeye salmon reported for the system while the
16 reported subsistence harvest was substantial at 1,400
17 fish it was not the greatest reported and did not
18 appear to be excessive in relation to the escapement.
19 There has been a long-term Fisheries Resource
20 Monitoring Program study funded in cooperation with the
21 Forest Service, Organized Village of Kake and Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game and that funding commit
23 exists through 2009 and this information allows
24 fisheries resource managers to avoid conservation
25 issues and provide harvest opportunities for all users
26 at Falls Lake.

26

27 Based on observations by the field crew
28 at Falls Lake weir there appears to be little or no
29 competing competition in marine waters between sport
30 and subsistence users at Falls Lake. We, Federal
31 Staff, we're especially interested in hearing from the
32 Council and the public regarding the issues we've just
33 talked about for Gut Bay Lake.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tina's going to turn
39 up my microphone. Thank you, Cal. Any questions of
40 the Council for Cal.

40

41

42 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

44

45

46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Cal,
47 I know this is probably not a question for you but I
48 need to ask it anyway. Since 2001 through the present
49 time, has there been commercial openings in that area,
50 I just was curious because it seemed like the stock has
suddenly started taking a jump upward and knowing that

1 commercial fisheries has a big impact on fishing, it
2 could change if they start opening that area during the
3 time of the runs.

4

5 MR. CASIPIT: Perhaps Ben can help me
6 here, but I believe, you know, there are commercial
7 openings in the area, generally, commercial openings in
8 the area. I know that in the year 2006 there weren't
9 as many as -- there weren't as many openings in the
10 area as there had been before. I'm not sure about the
11 openings this year, in 2007. Not sure about the
12 escapement in Falls Lake in 2007 because we converted
13 to spawning grounds mark and recapture estimates so
14 that work is occurring as we speak, or the past two
15 weeks until now, so we really don't have that estimate
16 for 2007 available yet.

17

18 What you see in the analysis is the
19 information that we have at this time and as far as the
20 openings, I know there's openings that occur in the
21 area but I couldn't tell you how many days or how many
22 boats or anything like that, that would be a better
23 question for the Department to answer.

24

25 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'd just like to make
32 a comment if I might. I get kind of disturbed when I
33 hear things like the sockeye status -- the stock status
34 of sockeye salmon at Gut Bay is unknown. Even though
35 sport and subsistence users, as indicated in the report
36 do not seem to be in competition be with another, it
37 seems to me like it would be a good idea to have a
38 better handle on what the sport industry is taking out
39 of here, you know, I've heard a lot of comments made
40 by, you know, people on the street, you know, they see
41 sportfishermen taking a tremendous amount of our
42 resources out of here and I think it would be a -- or
43 maybe the State guy can handle that, too, as well, but
44 I think it's worth looking into and if we could keep
45 that in the, you know, in the radar for the future, it
46 would be good for us to know all that stuff.

47

48 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
49 a Technical Review Committee member, you know, I -- I
50 can't speak for everybody on the Technical Review

1 Committee but, you know, I have been interested in
2 seeing something happen at Gut Bay. Like I say, we did
3 try to do something there early and it just didn't work
4 out. You know, the only other technique we have is a
5 weir and those are pretty expensive and especially in
6 terms of, you know, to fund, and up until now we just
7 haven't had the funding to do everything that we've
8 wanted to do.

9

10 You know we've taken kind of a -- the
11 way I view this is that when this first came up, Falls
12 Lake was the biggest issue with the community of Kake
13 and with our local managers and we attacked Falls Lake
14 and I think we've generated some pretty good
15 information there. There's these issues at Pillar Bay
16 and we bit the bullet and found some money and did some
17 work there, and did some good work there and came up
18 with some estimates that we feel pretty good about, you
19 know, maybe it's time we move on to this third place
20 and do the same thing. I think we were very fortunate
21 at Falls Lake to have a weir crew there that was
22 willing to go out and do some extra work and look at
23 sportfish use at Falls Lake Bay. Perhaps we can get
24 the same thing going at Gut Bay and get the issue of
25 sport use there addressed.

26

27 But, again, without adequate funding
28 it's hard to do these kind of things. And hopefully in
29 the future that will change but we are where we are so --
30 but that was a good question. I don't know if I
31 answered it but I did the best I could.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I think my point
34 of bringing it out, Cal, is that let's not lose track
35 of it, you know, let's keep it in the radar screen so
36 that maybe we can figure out, you know, how we can
37 determine those numbers or, you know, quotas a lot
38 better.

39

40 Any other questions from the Council.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.

45

46 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Pappas. George,
49 please.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, again, for the
2 record, it's George Pappas, Department of Fish and
3 Game. And basically this is the back page and a half
4 of the first hand out I had there, that has Department
5 comments on it. Let's see if I can't shorten this up a
6 little bit.

7
8 Basically Proposal FP08-01 dealt with
9 the Kutlaku situation, the Bay of Pillars, so this
10 particular proposal, folks, is just on Gut Bay and
11 Falls Lake and that's what we're just going to focus on
12 since you've already voted on the first half.

13
14 The Department also requests the
15 Federal Subsistence Board to rescind the fishery
16 closures for non-Federally-qualified users in the
17 freshwater drainages of Falls Lake and Gut Bay. The
18 intent of this proposal is to reopen these areas to
19 users because information confirms that a conservation
20 issue for sockeye salmon does not exist, at least for
21 Falls Lake. In addition, the fact that few, if any
22 sockeye salmon are harvested from the freshwaters in
23 these areas by Federally-qualified subsistence users
24 despite the closure to non-Federally-qualified users
25 confirms the closure was not necessary in order to
26 continue subsistence uses. The Department supports
27 Federal actions to rescind unnecessary closures of
28 fisheries to other user groups consistent with Section
29 .815 of ANILCA.

30
31 On December 25th -- excuse me, December
32 5th, 2000 the Board closed freshwaters of Falls Lake
33 and Gut Bay on Baranof Island and the Bay of Pillars to
34 the harvest of sockeye by non-Federally-qualified users
35 in response to the several proposals. Southeast
36 Regional Advisory Council supported the closure of the
37 non -- to non-Federally-qualified users, the Federal
38 InterAgency Staff Committee recommended rejecting this
39 proposal on the basis that sport harvest constituted a
40 very small portion of the total harvest in the waters
41 where Federal regulations are claimed to be applied.
42 Federal Staff at the Board meeting cited a lack of
43 substantial evidence to support closing waters to non-
44 Federally-qualified users and stated that such a
45 closure was unnecessary and that was from the
46 transcripts of the meetings. Despite lack of
47 substantial evidence of a conservation concern the
48 Board adopted the Federal closures to non-Federally
49 eligible users and established a Federal possession
50 limit of 15 sockeye salmon per individual and 25 per

1 household annual limit. These limits mirrored harvest
2 limits in place on Department of Subsistence permits at
3 the time.

4
5 Fish and Game placed a RFR 01-07 of the
6 Board action that was taken in respect to this
7 proposal, the original closure proposal, the RFR
8 claimed that the Board violated ANILCA and its
9 implementation -- implementing regulations by enacting
10 an unnecessary closure that did not follow its own
11 regulations and acted arbitrarily and capriciously when
12 it closed areas to other users based on ill-defined
13 conservation concern and not supported by substantial
14 evidence. The State requested that the Board reverse
15 its action, rescind the regulation and postpone further
16 regulatory action until the proponents provided
17 substantial evidence in support of the request. The
18 Board rejected the RFR despite the Federal Staff
19 analysis indicating there was no clear evidence for a
20 conservation concern at that time.

21
22 Proponents of the original proposal
23 indicate the harvest and activities of unguided and
24 guided sport anglers were largely the source of
25 competition, and anglers would displace or -- would
26 displace or interfere with Federally-qualified
27 subsistence users. Statewide harvest surveys for the
28 Falls Lake Bay and Gut areas [sic] indicated very low
29 angler effort in recent years and no sport harvest of
30 sockeye salmon in either location. Historically, the
31 number of sockeye salmon harvested in the sportfishery
32 is small and due to the limitations in the statewide
33 harvest survey, which we can talk more about after this
34 -- after this presentation here, cannot report
35 separately for Falls Lake and Gut Bay drainages. The
36 average estimated Falls Lake Bay marine sport harvest
37 from the on-site creel survey was about 54 sam -- 54
38 sockeye salmon per year and the saltwater guided angler
39 logbook data also indicates that the sportfishery
40 harvested in marine waters in District 109-20, which
41 includes both Falls Lake and Gut Bay have averaged less
42 than a dozen salmon annually in recent years.

43
44 Opportunity provided by the State.
45 Currently the State subsistence regulations in this
46 area provide for a harvest of salmon of gaff, spears,
47 beach seines, dipnets, gillnets -- drift gillnets,
48 excuse me, and cast nets. Harvest limits for Falls
49 Lake Bay are similar to those Bay of Pillars allowing a
50 limit of 50 sockeye salmon both in possession and

1 annually and at Gut Bay the harvest limits are more
2 restrictive to allow possession of 10 salmon per year,
3 sockeye salmon that is, with a 20 annual limit. Under
4 the current permit conditions there are sufficient
5 opportunities for the harvest of salmon for subsistence
6 purposes in this area. State managers also have the
7 authority to establish a change, open fishing periods,
8 possession, annual limits, gear types and
9 specifications and in-season actions to open and close
10 times and areas. The purpose of such management
11 actions is to provide for an escapement as a basis for
12 sustainable harvest of surplus returns when they occur.
13

14 The 2001 through 2006 State subsistence
15 harvest from Falls Lake Bay average approximately 1,700
16 sockeye salmon per year, an average of 40 sockeye
17 salmon are taken annually at Gut Bay. An average of 61
18 State subsistence permits were reported in Falls Lake
19 Bay fishery and an average of 30 subsistence permits
20 were reported at the Gut Bay subsistence fishery during
21 the same years.
22

23 As for conservation issues. The Falls
24 Lake weir project contributes substantially to
25 answering the current question about Falls Lake sockeye
26 salmon stock. From 2002 to 2006 an average of
27 approximately 4,000 sockeye salmon entered the Falls
28 Lake system. The Falls Lake sockeye salmon stock is
29 healthy, stock productivity appears to be consistent
30 with the size of the lake and there is enough
31 escapement information to manage this system to avoid
32 conservation issues and provide appropriate harvest
33 limits for all users.
34

35 The Gut Bay drainage does not currently
36 have an accurate stock assessment program, but recent
37 subsistence harvest levels have been moderate and
38 steady. It is unlikely that a significant increase in
39 harvest will reserve -- result in the Gut Bay drainage
40 if this proposal is adopted.
41

42 The State approaches this situation
43 conservatively and will continue to monitor harvest
44 information from all users, as well as to coordinate
45 with the Federal land managers.
46

47 As for jurisdiction issues. Currently,
48 the State's subsistence fishery harvest in this area
49 occur within marine waters and is not subject --
50 subject to Federal regulations. This proposal -- if

1 this proposal is adopted, the State fisheries would
2 resume in freshwaters currently closed where the
3 Federal government claims jurisdiction, however, most
4 fishing occurs in the marine waters.

5
6 And, again, will answer any questions
7 if possible.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions of
10 George.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, you had a
15 question earlier about the statewide harvest survey.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. PAPPAS: I had some of my Staff --
20 do you want to step up to the -- well, the statewide
21 harvest survey, the information necessary for a
22 threshold to expand from to get a real tight estimate
23 is, what is it, 12, 15 responses.

24
25 MR. CHADWICK: Mr. Chair. Bob
26 Chadwick, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish
27 Division. I'll take the opportunity here. 13
28 responses will let you identify trends, to actually
29 form an estimate we're looking at 23 to 32 actual
30 responses. So.....

31
32 MR. PAPPAS: That gives us a -- this
33 comes up in a lot of areas in Southeast where there's
34 small systems, there's not going to be people
35 participate in the area and when you look at that
36 allocation of funds for a study of putting in a creel
37 survey or having somebody on-site to have more accurate
38 information is expensive, it is remote and I would
39 assume unless it's a really challenging situation where
40 we have to have the information, they're going to
41 allocate the money and fundings to other areas.

42
43 Additionally, in small localized salmon
44 runs in Southeast, a lot of times in small areas or
45 neighboring systems, they seem to either do well
46 altogether or not do well altogether. And in
47 accordance with the information collected from Falls --
48 the Falls Lake project, which is just down the way, it
49 seems to be doing well at this time, and it's also
50 reflected in the subsistence harvest, if everybody's

1 doing well or everybody's not doing well and that's
2 some of the justification for the Department's not
3 having a conservation concern for the Gut Bay drainage.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thanks for that
6 clarification both of you.

7
8 Any other questions of these gentlemen.

9
10 MR. CHADWICK: May I?

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

13
14 MR. CHADWICK: There is one other piece
15 of information that is, for these closures, that we do
16 collect, and that would be information specific to
17 guided -- guided -- freshwater guides, we do have
18 freshwater guide logbooks that we can monitor when we
19 look at these areas. And when we first -- when these
20 closures were first implemented, sportfish, you know,
21 we took a -- you know we weren't sure exactly what was
22 going on there, we had a management concern, we
23 actually did reduce the bag limit within a 500 yard
24 radius of these streams and -- for the sportfishery.
25 So when we look at some of that decreased harvest in
26 the marine waters, I just wanted to clarify that there
27 was a management action that was taken there.

28
29 But appreciate the opportunity.

30
31 MR. PAPPAS: One more clarification for
32 logbooks, the logbook program is both salt and
33 freshwater and I believe every guided client has to
34 have information -- it'd be their catch released or
35 harvest amount effort, what have you, is recorded and
36 in a database and they're in the process of making that
37 information available and so that will change a lot of
38 everybody's interest -- excuse me -- that will answer a
39 lot of questions of how many fish are taken out of this
40 bay, how many fish are taken on this week, et cetera,
41 so that information should be available soon.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that
44 clarification, appreciate it.

45
46 Council members. Mike.

47
48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Is the State considering any genetic work on their
50 commercial take?

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
4 Bangs. At this point I can't answer that question but
5 we could get the answer for you here probably by
6 midmorning tomorrow. Exactly what's going on there.

7

8 MR. BANGS: The reason I asked it is we
9 discussed this at the last meeting in Kake, it was
10 brought up by the director of Commercial Fish, that he
11 was hoping that the Federal Fisheries Monitoring
12 Program could come up with some genetic work on the
13 stocks, especially from the Chatham Strait purse seine
14 fishery and it was my idea that maybe the State could
15 come up with some money because that's a real valuable
16 fishery, the purse seiners and there's a lot of money
17 involved there and if these stocks are -- if it's
18 uncertain where these fish are going that they're
19 catching in the purse seine fishery it might be worth
20 it to at least join or match funds or something to come
21 up with some kind of stock analysis.

22

23 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Bangs. I
24 know there is a concerted effort, different
25 organizations, or different agencies to create a
26 genetic baseline of every system that salmon return to.
27 I'm not sure how advanced it is in Southeast, in this
28 particular area, you need to start up in the spawning
29 beds, to complete the entire baseline to see if there's
30 genetically detectible differences between, say, one
31 bay and the next, before you go out and sample the
32 commercial fisheries themselves. I know they're
33 working on that in many parts of the state, I'm not
34 sure how advanced they are down here but we will get
35 that answer for you.

36

37 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great, thank you.
40 Harvey.

41

42 MR. KITKA: Thank you. We just got a
43 letter from the Organized Village of Kake and in it, it
44 states that you guys did not meet with them on this
45 proposal, you only met with them on the other one that
46 we passed. And to go back, I just wanted to know why
47 you didn't meet with them on this, didn't bring this up
48 at that meeting.

49

50 MR. PAPPAS: I don't have the answer

1 for that, sir, I'll find out. I know that, yeah, the
2 Department did submit FP08-02 on their own and did not
3 submit the -- I'm not sure on the consultation. I'll
4 have to talk to the folks that were working at the time
5 that it happened.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you'll get back to
8 Harvey on that question.

9

10 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anybody else.

13

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Don.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: I have a question on
19 this logbook program, which I think is great, I think
20 that's a real improvement, you know, in your
21 information gathering. But I think, once, again, the
22 sportfishing industry may be one step ahead of you. I
23 don't know if your new logbook program captures the --
24 what's now becoming kind of a new industry of the, I
25 guess you'd call it sport outfitting of boats, which is
26 essentially people who are in the guiding business but
27 they also rent out skiffs and we're starting to see
28 this happen in my community. There's one lodge that
29 operates, he has a boat, you know, where he takes
30 people out guiding but he also has like four skiffs, so
31 he rents out the skiffs to people so technically
32 they're not guided but it's like, you know, follow me
33 we'll all go fishing together, you know, so he's, you
34 know, essentially more than doubled his capacity, you
35 know, for taking people out and, yet, I don't think all
36 those people are subject to your logbook program.

37

38 I don't know if you're, you know, aware
39 of that or have taken any measures to try to capture
40 that information as well.

41

42 MR. CHADWICK: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

45

46 MR. CHADWICK: Bob Chadwick. Mr.
47 Hernandez. You're correct, in that, that individual,
48 people that are bare boat chartering, I'll refer to
49 them as bare boat charters, would not fill out a
50 logbook. We have looked into this and there are some

1 bare boat charters that we found were not actually bare
2 boat charters, and that they were helped in the field
3 and so they were required to get logbooks.

4
5 Now, if this fishery continues to grow,
6 this is where the statewide harvest survey would start
7 to pick up this kind of activity because the response
8 rate would be higher and so that's how we look at that --
9 look at that effort, would be through the statewide
10 harvest and then in the communities where we have creek
11 programs.

12
13 But we are aware of bare boat charters
14 and that is one way to grow, even if we do limit the
15 charter industry.

16
17 Thank you for your time.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. That
20 brings to mind a question that I have, you know, a lot
21 of these lodges, particularly I'm aware of this in
22 Yakutat, have, you know, their little Lund boats that
23 they rent out to their clients. How are they
24 monitored, is there a way that they report, you know,
25 their catches, do they take a logbook out with them or,
26 you know, what's the process there?

27
28 MR. CHADWICK: The only activity that's
29 covered under a logbook would be guided sportfishing
30 and since 2005 that included both freshwater and
31 marine.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. CHADWICK: The law is that the
36 Lunds, you know, if someone rents a boat and they're
37 operating under their own, you know, they're operating
38 by themselves, they're not being instructed in the
39 field and in the field is the key word there, they
40 would not be required to have a logbook. But our
41 sampling in Yakutat, under -- are they in the harbor
42 there, they return back to the port and they would be
43 picked up by the creek program in Yakutat and their
44 effort would be estimated and their catch of harvest.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Also, to build upon that,
49 if you're referencing a remote lodge that has five or
50 six boats and lets everybody go on their way every

1 morning without a guide, they just provide a bed and
2 breakfast service and have rental boats, they would
3 surface on the statewide harvest survey. We don't have
4 a direct mechanism to evaluate specifically those
5 individuals.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Um. Go ahead, Donald.

8

9 MR. HERNANDEZ: That's, you know, the
10 situation I'm seeing, you know, where we're remote, the
11 industry is growing in these remote areas, there are no
12 creel censuses, there's no way to capture this
13 information, however, you know, they are paying guests
14 at a lodge, it seems like you'd require if anybody
15 staying as paid guest at a lodge to fill out a logbook,
16 that might be a possibility. So that's the situation
17 that's happening out there and I think there's floating
18 lodges, you know, going in. I think that was one of
19 the concerns from the people at Kake, that there was a
20 possibility of a floating lodge activity going on in
21 Bay of Pillars that they were worried about so, you
22 know, that's -- that's why these -- received some of
23 these proposals as, you know, situations like that,
24 that, you know, people worry about and maybe not, you
25 know, we don't always see all the pertinent information
26 because it's not always captured. So, you know, all
27 the best information that we see here is not
28 necessarily all the information that's out there, too,
29 so, it's something for us to keep in mind, you know, we
30 don't know everything that goes on out there, actually,
31 even though we make our best efforts sometimes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, you know, this
34 particular situation is an element in the sport
35 industry that I think, as Donald has indicated, has a
36 tendency to grow and, if so, you know, I think it's
37 pretty good vision for us to be able to look forward in
38 how we're going to handle that in the future. Bob, did
39 you have something else.

40

41 MR. CHADWICK: Just one last word and
42 not to be adversarial here at all. But the statewide
43 harvest survey, it's a large -- you know when you start
44 getting large numbers of effort or, you know, increased
45 numbers of effort, you know, we do have the resolution
46 there to start to track that. And if you start to have
47 growth in your communities, you know, and you think
48 we're not capturing it, please contact, you know, your
49 area managers in sportfish, and just say, hey, I don't
50 think you're capturing this what do you think, and we

1 can look at that. And I'm not talking out my neck
2 here, I really want to work with you guys.

3

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, well, Mr.
5 Chadwick, you know, I'm not saying we have an
6 adversarial relationship here, we do have to work
7 together, you're right and I think that, yeah, it's
8 something we just all have to realize that, you know,
9 information is very critical to the decisions we make
10 and I think it's important, you know, that you hear
11 from, you know, folks like us what's going on out there
12 so that we can just make the best efforts to get the
13 best information so we could all make good decisions on
14 these issues. So I think that's what's important here.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: George and Bob, thank
21 you, we appreciate your presence here.

22

23 MR. CHADWICK: Thank you, sir.

24

25 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Other Federal, State
28 and tribal agency comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. InterAgency.

33

34 MR. KESSLER: (Shakes head negatively)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I know Steve.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I just wanted to give
41 you an opportunity to shake your head.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Fish and Game Advisory
46 Committee comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any public comments,

1 written public comments, Bob.

2

3 MR. LARSON: There are no written
4 public comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Public
7 testimony.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we are now in
12 Council deliberation. Let me remind you this sheet was
13 passed out -- distributed.....

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS:to the Council
18 members for a reminder that when you, you know, make
19 your motion please cover these four points, if you
20 would, as you do that. And then that will satisfy the
21 core criteria.

22

23 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am -- I mean,
26 yes, sir -- it is getting late. Yes, sir.

27

28 MR. LARSON: It is getting late. And I
29 was actually reviewing a written public comment as I
30 was telling you there wasn't any written public
31 comment.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. LARSON: So there was no other
36 written public comments that were delivered to the
37 Office of Subsistence Management. There was one public
38 comment that was faxed to us and I believe all the
39 Council members have a copy of this and it's a letter
40 from the Organized Village of Kake and it's dated
41 today, and in there, there is comments regarding
42 Proposal 01 and 02.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. So we all have
45 that in front of us.

46

47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48

49 MR. LARSON: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, so let's move
2 on. Steve.
3
4 MR. KESSLER: Can you summarize that
5 for us.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you please, Bob.
8
9 MR. KESSLER: Or just read it.
10
11 MR. LARSON: I could read this document
12 into the record.
13
14 It's from the Organized Village of
15 Kake. And it is signed Nick Davis, Southeast RAC
16 member, he's also a member of the Village Tribal
17 Council.
18
19 It reads:
20
21 I am sorry that I could not attend the
22 meeting at Haines. I met with the
23 Organized Village of Kake's Council
24 during their regular meeting on the
25 21st of September to address Proposals
26 FP01 and 02.
27
28 We all agreed that we approved the
29 opening of Kutlaku Lake to allow sport
30 and subsistence opportunities in all
31 waters draining into Pillar Bay.
32
33 Kutlaku Lake is the only proposal that
34 we engaged in talks with ADF&G and the
35 Federal Subsistence Staff about the
36 findings of adequate sockeye in the
37 Kutlaku Lake system.
38
39 OVK has not talked formally with any
40 ADF&G or Federal Subsistence Staff
41 about the detailed findings regarding
42 Falls Lake or Gut Bay drainages with
43 regard to sockeye salmon populations.
44
45 Kake people are the only ones who have
46 used Kutlaku Lake, Falls Lake and Gut
47 Bay for sockeye customary and
48 traditional use in the past and are
49 using them today and going to be using
50 the streams in the Future. OVK is not

1 convinced of adequate stalking [sic] of
2 sockeye in the Falls Lake and Gut Bay.
3 The populations of the three sockeye
4 lakes are not adequate for the Kake
5 people. The possession limit is 10
6 sockeye salmon per household is too
7 small. The sockeye salmon
8 interception, within upper and lower
9 Chatham Strait by commercial fishermen
10 should be eliminated so that there more
11 sockeye salmon can return to Kutlaku,
12 Gut and Falls Lake and the possession
13 limit is increased for the customary
14 and traditional use gathers of Kake. A
15 trip to all three lakes are a major
16 undertaking by the Kake people that
17 invest in time, boat and gas,
18 acceptable weather and most of all
19 adequate sockeye salmon in the three
20 lake drainage systems when the Kake
21 people get there.

22
23 OVK proposes to do a community
24 gathering permit of sockeye at all
25 three lake systems, Kutlaku, Falls and
26 Gut Lake. The purpose of that would be
27 to conserve time and fuel, it would
28 mean that a larger boat would be used
29 that will lend itself to safety issues
30 and be able to stay over night. The
31 OVK Council is on record opposing
32 Proposal FP08-02 for the reasons stated
33 above. There is another variable that
34 plays into the amount of sockeye salmon
35 returns, including all other fish
36 species, is global warming and what
37 effects this has on the population of
38 sockeye returns to our three lakes.

39
40 I hope the meeting in Haines is
41 productive.

42 Sincerely,

43
44 Nicholas Davis.

45
46 Southeast Alaska RAC member.

47
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's read into the
50 record. Do you have any more that you kind of

1 overlooked.

2

3 MR. LARSON: (Shakes head negatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's it, okay.

6 We're now in Council deliberations. And, again, I
7 remind you the four criteria, please address that when
8 you make your comments.

9

10 What's the wish of the Council on this
11 proposal.

12

13 Mr. Hernandez.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll move to adopt
16 Fisheries Proposal 08-02 as written on Page 55 of the
17 meeting book.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is there a
20 second.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
27 Discussion. Mr. Hernandez.

28

29 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I think
30 we need to discuss the proposed modification by the OSM
31 Staff and also I think we need to talk about that
32 modification in light of, you know, that letter we have
33 from the Organized Village of Kake as well.

34

35 I don't think I'd be prepared to vote
36 in favor of the proposal without some modification but
37 I think we need to discuss, you know, what's the best
38 way to modify that.

39

40 So I haven't decided in my own mind
41 quite yet but that was sort of new information to me
42 but maybe we could have some discussion on that, if
43 anybody else has anything to add.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Why don't we
46 just -- you know, does anyone else have any comments to
47 make on this and then we can go back to your points.

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Right.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But in the meantime,
2 you know, the wheel's are turning.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey.

5

6 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
7 comment is, and I will not support this because the
8 original proposal FP01-31 had -- stated in there that
9 subsistence needs were not being met by Kake and to
10 change that without their permission doesn't seem like
11 we should do.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other Council
16 comments. Thank you, Harvey.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: There's a little
21 caucus going on over there.

22

23 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

26

27 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 If you look at the geographics of where these two
29 systems are, they're pretty far away from any lodges or
30 any -- it's not really a place where most
31 sportfishermen would go. And I think that's why
32 they're going to a larger vessel to go to the three
33 places, whereas, the Kutlaku area where they're talking
34 -- or, no, it's not Kutlaku, the one we lifted the
35 closure on for non-qualified subsistence users to fish
36 there, that is more reasonable to sportfish at. And I
37 think these other two systems, I just don't see where a
38 lot of people would be going over there sportfishing.
39 I'm sure there are some large charter boats that would
40 pass by there and possibly fish but we don't have any
41 literature to say how many, you know, there's no record
42 really so it's -- to me it wouldn't seem like a big --
43 an issue if it remained closed, because I don't see
44 where it's a real popular sportfishery but I could be
45 wrong, but I don't see any evidence that it's a real
46 popular spot where they would fish there. So I don't
47 see that as a big issue.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.

2

3 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
4 to make a comment on the Kake letter.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Lee.

7

8 MR. WALLACE: Reading their second
9 paragraph in their letter there, they had the concern
10 of the commercial fishery, both north Chatham and south
11 Chatham, just recently being involved in subsistence
12 activities in Hetta and Eek most recently, we were
13 gathering our -- we were subsistence fishing and the
14 next day they had the commercial opening and the
15 opening was right up at the Eek Point and we had purse
16 seiners right there at the point and you don't have to
17 be a rocket scientist but guess what happened to the
18 subsistence fishery, it was gone, it was scooped up.
19 And so I'm saying that in understanding of how the Kake
20 people are feeling about the escapement of the sockeye.

21

22 And if you look at the map there, you
23 look at where the situation of where Kake is and where
24 Falls Lake and Gut Lake is and you could understand
25 their reasoning of wanting to do a community harvesting
26 because, you know, how -- everybody knows how quickly
27 the weather changes and going across Chatham Strait,
28 you know, it could be a dangerous situation for a Lund
29 skiff to cross that straight, and definitely I could
30 see why they would want a community harvest activity.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seems to me like
35 there's some issues here, like maybe a modification
36 that maybe Don wants to ingest in this proposal. I'm
37 not sure.

38

39 Mr. Hernandez, are you prepared to
40 offer something here?

41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, I can't say I am
43 quite yet, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It's almost
46 5:00 o'clock, why don't we sleep on this for the night
47 and pick it up first thing in the morning and maybe
48 we'll be able to come with some fresh ideas.

49

50 In the meantime, you know, Donald, you

1 can talk with some of the Council members if you want
2 and see if what you come up with in the morning.

3

4 Does that sound all right?

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So let's
9 adjourn until tomorrow morning.

10

11 MS. HERNANDEZ: Bert, do you want me to
12 make the announcement about meals?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No.

15

16 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, go ahead,
19 Melinda, please, do.

20

21 MS. HERNANDEZ: I just wanted to let
22 everybody know what's happening with meals this week
23 for those of you who aren't familiar with the Council,
24 we really like to do fundraisers and present
25 opportunities in the communities we visit. So the ANS,
26 Camp 5, they did lunch today, and they're doing dinner
27 tonight. They're doing lunch tomorrow and also dinner
28 on Wednesday. So the only meals we're on our own for
29 is dinner tomorrow night and lunch on Wednesday, so if
30 folks want to go and try out restaurants. And then
31 also the refreshments this week, there's a group here,
32 a youth group that's taking 20 kids and five adults up
33 to Anchorage to a youth convention so the parents have
34 put out all the refreshments and stuff, and they'll be
35 doing that all week so any donations would be
36 appreciated. Just to let you guys know what's going
37 on. And all the meals, the ANS ladies are going to
38 serve right here for us.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Melinda.
41 And, yeah, we'll take this up first thing in the
42 morning and if you can be prepared to do something,
43 Don, then we shouldn't spend too much time on this and
44 we'll move on, okay.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we're now
49 adjourned, or recessed until tomorrow morning.

50

1
2
3

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

